May 2011

From the desk of Ellie Burns, ETS Assistant Director:

It is hard to believe we are looking at the end of yet another school year! The close of the academic year is a time to reflect on the studying, discovering, and growing we have done. It is also a time to acknowledge how we can prepare for next year. The ETS team has been working hard at this for quite a while! In December, we submitted an application for the renewal of our grant. As of now, we are awaiting news. Every five years, ETS programs throughout the country submit a grant proposal to the US Department of Education. With the recent cuts in education funding, we are sitting on the edge of our seats in anticipation of our renewal.

If we are refunded for another five year, services will continue. You will have the opportunity to continue in your ETS program, college visits, overnight trips, meetings, and picnics will all be offered as they are now. If the ETS program is not refunded, it will be devastating. Over 1,000 students will stop receiving the benefits of the ETS program. You can have an impact on the funding of your ETS program and programs throughout the country. I encourage you to talk to your ETS coordinator about what you can do to ensure the government continues to fund these vital programs. We sincerely hope to see you next year and we look forward to offering exciting and fulfilling opportunities for you and new ETS students! Enjoy your summer and keep in touch!

Ellie Burns
ETS Assistant Director
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Family Spring Picnics Coming Up!

All students and their families are invited to a Family Spring Picnic to celebrate the end of another school year. Please come for a free meal and a chance to meet ETS staff and have fun with your family.

There will be two picnics—one in Des Moines for all of the metro-area families, and then another in Oskaloosa for families from Oskaloosa or Eddyville-Blakesburg.

Be looking for more information to come and make sure to RSVP so we can have enough food for everyone!

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**Family Spring Picnics**

**DES MOINES**

(for DMPS and Saydel students)

**OSKALOOSA**

(for Oskaloosa and Eddyville-Blakesburg students)

**DES MOINES**

Tuesday May 24
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Pete Crivaro Park
Des Moines, IA

**OSKALOOSA**

Thursday May 26
5:00—6:30 pm

Edmundson Park
Oskaloosa, IA
Many parents wonder what kind of topics we cover in our ETS meetings. Please review the lists below to see what topics we have covered so far this year!

We try to change our curriculum every year based on the needs of students and current issues that are important to address. Our overall goal is to empower students to recognize their potential, maximize their opportunities, and utilize their acquired skills for the purpose of going on and graduating from college.

**Middle School Meetings**

Middle school students have group meetings with their coordinator twelve times throughout the school year. Here is what is covered at each of those meetings:

**Visit #1**
Welcome Back Meeting
*Contact info update
*Calendar of Events
*Meeting Schedules

**Visit #2**
College Planning
*College Jenga
*Core Classes for High school

**Visit #3**
Study Skills
*What is your learning style questionnaire
*Study Skills Bingo

**Visit #4**
Communication
*Zoom – group activity to put a picture book in order

**Visit #5**
Attitude Toward Work and School; Respecting Differences
*Bullying Awareness Packet and Activity

**Visit #6**
Communication, Decision-making, Attitude
*Taking ownership of actions and behaviors
*Re-writing “victim” statements into “creator” statements

**Visit #7**
Study Skills Development
*How to improve reading skills
*Study Skills Pictionary

**Visit #8**
Stress Management
*Stress Quiz
*10 ways to de-stress

**Visit #9**
College Awareness & Planning
*College Football Game

**Visit #10**
Financial Aid Information
*Financial Aid Guide Scavenger Hunt
*How to pay for college worksheet
*Different types of colleges handout

**Visit #11**
Self-esteem Development
*Self-esteem inventory
*What are your values survey

**Visit #12**
Year Wrap-up
*Evaluations
*College Cranium Game

**High School Meetings**

High school students have group meetings with their coordinators about once a month. They may also occasionally meet one-on-one with the coordinator as well.

**September**
Welcome Back Meeting
*Contact info update
*Calendar of Events
*Meeting Schedules

**October**
Goal-setting, Motivation, Study Skills
*Study Smarter Board Game
*Success Pyramid
*College Applications (Seniors)

**November**
Budgeting & Decision-Making
*Planning a monthly budget
*Reading a pay stub
*Balancing a Checkbook
*Credit Cards

**December**
Financial Aid for College
*Financial Aid Basics
*Financial Aid Matching Game
*Scholarship Tips
*FAFSA

**January**
ACT Preparation
*ACT Family Feud Game
*ACT Jeopardy Game
*How to register for the ACT

**February**
Listening Skills
*Telephone Game
*Listening Skills Packet

**March**
Time Management & Stress Management
*Relaxation Techniques
*Weekly Planner
*Prioritizing

**April**
What you need to know about going to college
*How to apply
*What kinds of colleges are there
*How to read a financial aid award letter
8th Grade Fun Day!

All 8th graders should mark their calendars for Saturday, June 4th for a 8th Grade Fun Day!

All current 8th graders are invited to attend this event. It is a one-day event held on the campus of Central College in the city of Pella. Students will have the opportunity to meet new friends, participate in lively activities, and learn skills that will help them be successful in high school. The day will also include a trip to the Pella Aquatic Center.

Please be on the lookout for more information to come. All food and transportation will be provided. Ask your coordinator if you have any questions!

Middle School College Visits

It has been a busy spring full of college visits! Each of the middle schools have taken a college visit with 7th and 8th graders to either Wartburg College, Iowa State University, William Penn University, or Simpson College. This is what students had to say about their visits:

I loved everything about our trip to William Penn. I had been there before, but liked being able to see everything I hadn’t seen before.

—Jillian Miller, 7th grade, Eddyville-Blakesburg

“The trip was fun, it was nice to see what Wartburg was like and I love their sports and fitness center!!”

—Sadhika Patel, 7th grader @ Woodside Middle School

“I like that Simpson has soccer and ton of fun things for students to do all together. It seemed like a really cool friendly college.”

—Emily Hoover, 8th grade, Oskaloosa

Iowa TRiO Day at the Capital

Did you know that ETS is a TRiO program? TRiO programs help thousands of students across the nation achieve their dreams. Other TRiO programs include Upward Bound and Student Support Services.

Select ETS students had the opportunity to join other TRiO students from Iowa to go to the capital and tell their stories. The group is pictured here with State Representative Curtis Hanson.
Attention current sophomores and juniors: Below are the dates you can take the ACT test during the 2011-2012 school year. We recommend that every student take the ACT test twice—once during the spring of their junior year and once in the fall of your senior year. ETS can provide you with two ACT fee waiver that allow you to take the test twice for free! Be aware of the deadlines and make sure to talk to your coordinator to get a fee waiver in time. Once you have a fee waiver, you can register online at www.actstudent.org.

<table>
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<th>Test Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 10, 2011</td>
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<td>March 9, 2012</td>
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<td>June 9, 2012</td>
<td>May 4, 2012</td>
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**Juniors: Get Reimbursed for College Visits**

If you are a junior and have not used your $150 college visit travel reimbursement, there is still time! You may still get reimbursed for the visits you take during the summer, but you must remember the following three things:

1. Print off a form before you go on the visit, find it at www.central.edu/talentsearch
2. You must mail it to the Talent Search office within 30 days of the visit
3. All forms must be mailed in by August 31, 2011; forms mailed in September cannot be honored!

**Iowa Private College Week**

Iowa Private College Week happens every year during the first week of August. This year, it falls on the dates of August 1-5. IPCW is a great opportunity to visit any of Iowa’s fantastic private college and universities. Each college will have a visit scheduled in the morning and afternoon of that week, making it very easy to visit multiple colleges in a short time. To learn more about IPCW, please visit www.thinkindependently.com.
Congratulations!

IA-MAEOPP Scholarship

Alexis Brandt, Eddyville-Blakesburg High School, was one of eight TRIO students in Iowa to be awarded a scholarship from IA-MAEOPP, an organization of TRIO professionals. To qualify for this scholarship, Alexis had to demonstrate academic achievement, community involvement, and active TRIO participation. She was nominated by her coordinator and had to write an essay.

NROTC Scholarship

Alex Furman, Saydel High School, was granted a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Scholarship and will attend Iowa State University this fall. To qualify, Alex had to be a top qualifier in the fitness test, write two essays, be interviewed by two officers, and demonstrate financial need within his major, mechanical engineering. Additionally, Alex will be required to attend Officer Candidate School the summer after his junior year, and upon graduation from ISU, enter into a six month program with The Basic School followed by Military Occupational School, where he will train in a military-specific occupation.

MVP Award

Gabriela Davila and Eduardo Acosta, both of Lincoln High School, were awarded a Multicultural Vision Program (MVP) Award from Iowa State University.

The MVP Award grants full-tuition for eight semesters to one hundred incoming students of color each year. The scholarship is open to high school seniors of color, who are residents of the state of Iowa and who demonstrate academic potential in ways that go beyond class ranking or test scores.

Freshmen Build Leadership Skills

On March 25-26, freshmen participated in the annual Freshmen Leadership Weekend.

The event began on Friday with lunch at Central College and then an afternoon of leadership activities and speakers. The students then traveled to Honey Creek Resort in Moravia, IA where they enjoyed going out to eat, going to a waterpark, and enjoying free time in cabins. The event concluded on Saturday with everyone participating in a service project—helping clean up the resort.

Students had a fantastic time and had great things to say about the event:

“I liked the presenters at the college. The cabins were really nice and I loved the coordinators,” said Hope Star of Eddyville-Blakesburg.

Jennifer McCombs of Oskaloosa, said, “I thought it was amazing. It was a blast and I’d do it again anytime.”

Sophomores Going to Kansas City

On May 13-14, sophomores will head to Kansas City for a trip that will include a college visit, a cultural event, and a fun activity.

On Friday, May 13 students will visit the campus of Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, Missouri. Northwest is a mid-size public university. Students will have a chance to tour the campus, learn more about academics and activities at Northwest, and also eat lunch there.

On Friday evening, students will go out for dinner and then attend Symphonic Quixotic, which is show that combines music, dance, aerial acrobatics, and contemporary design.

After spending the evening in a hotel, students will enjoy spending Saturday at Worlds of Fun!
Mark Your Calendars!

- **Tuesday, May 24:** Spring Family Picnic for Des Moines area students
- **Thursday, May 26:** Spring Family Picnic for Oslosa and Eddyville-Blakesburg students
- **Saturday, June 4:** 8th Grade Fun Day
- **August 1-5:** Iowa Private College Week (not an ETS sponsored event)
- **ACT Dates:** do you know when you are taking the ACT? Check out the available dates inside!