



EAGLE UPDATE

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Volume XXIII, Issue 9

April, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER



April 12
Jr./Sr. Prom



April 15
Kindergarten
Round-up 7:00 p.m.



April 16
LATE START
10:00 a.m.



April 18
District Music
Contest in Neligh



April 22
High School Spring
Concert 7:30 p.m.



April 24
FFA Banquet
7:30 p.m.



NHS INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS



New members of the National Honor Society are : (front row) Ayli Carrero, Carlie Redding, Nathan Niewohner, Alisha Anderson, and Rebecca Schindler. Existing members are (back row) Jennifer Bush, Amanda Hemenway, Linsey Bode, Jenna Schindler, Jeff Bush, Suzanne Hoefler, Brett Mahnke, and Tyler Reestman.



Induction ceremonies for the Dr. W. W. Graham Chapter of the National Honor Society were held on Wednesday, March 26th in the Elgin Public School gymnasium. The ceremony offers an opportunity to honor those students who excel at leadership, scholarship, character, and service.

New members inducted into the NHS chapter this year are seniors, Alisha Anderson and Becki Schindler, and juniors, Ayli Carrero, Carlie Redding, and Nathan Niewohner. They join current members, Jenna Schindler, Jennifer Bush, Amanda Hemenway, Suzanne Hoefler, Tyler Reestman, Linsey Bode, Brett Mahnke, and Jeff Bush.

Students are eligible to be placed on the ballot with a GPA of 3.0. Then the selection committee ranks each student on the criteria of leadership, service, and character.

It is truly the highest honor that a student can receive at Elgin High School. No other honor represents or carries with it this much prestige. Congratulations to our newest members of the Dr. W. W. Graham Chapter of the National Honor Society.

April Showers Bring May Flowers!





ART NEWS

April will be a busy month for the Elgin Public Art students with four art shows. Their first show is the 8-12 Keya Paha Invitational at Springview on April 2nd.

The elementary work will be on display at the K-8 Elementary ESU #8 Invitational from April 11th-16th at Neligh. The high school students compete at the High School ESU #8 from April 21st-23rd. The last show for the junior high and high school students will be the NVC Art Show at Verdigre on April 25th. The elementary Art students will prepare their artwork for the County Fair in May. Check out the school website "Activities-Art" for more details about the shows and when they are open for public viewing.

Mrs. Rita Heithoff

"I think we all have a little voice inside us that will guide us...if we shut out all the noise and clutter from our lives and listen to that voice, it will tell us the right thing to do."

Christopher Reeve



Wayne State Math Contest

Elgin Public Schools will be attending Wayne State Math Contest again this year. It marks our 32nd year attending WSC! There are 5 areas tested: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-

Calculus and Calculus. Over the last few years, WSC has included a Math Jeopardy Game in which teams from different schools compete! These games are fun to watch and compete in. This year's team has not been assembled yet, but will be in the next 2 week. Wish us luck!



Elgin Early Learning Preschool is now accepting enrollments for the 2008-2009 school year.

Developmentally appropriate classes are held Monday through Friday 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

- For children 3 or 4 years of age (must be 3 years old by October 15).
- Breakfast & Lunch available.
- State accredited preschool
- Awaiting verification of National accreditation.
- Certified teacher endorsed in Early Childhood with 10 years experience.

Tuition is \$40 per month unless you qualify for free/reduced lunch program.

To register your child, please call Sue Vanis at school 843-2455.



ALUMNI ALERT!

Check out the new alumni page on the school website! We are collecting information about EPS alumni and entering it on a database. Current contact information and a little news about what you have been doing since graduation can be submitted for other alumni to view. We hope to help alumni stay in touch with other classmates that they may have lost track of. Submit your information in time for the Alumni Banquet!

Don't have the Internet? You can still submit your information to us. Get one of your children or grandchildren to print off a form for you to mail in or have them submit your information online for you. It's a great way to keep in touch with classmates.



DON'T THROW AWAY THAT EMPTY INK CARTRIDGE! BRING IT TO SCHOOL!

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. Our school will receive \$2.00 for each cartridge turned in. Bring in your empty cartridges (use a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) to the office recycle bin.

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

Pericles



Noteworthy News

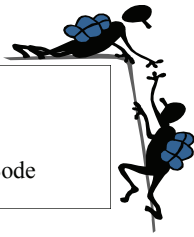
By Mrs. Deb Jones

District Music Contest is right around the corner for the jr-sr high students in band and choir. We have been rehearsing songs in band and choir for the past several weeks to "polish" our performances and we hope to be ready by districts. Elgin Public will have 13 entries this year. The concert band, choir, girls vocal ensemble, boys vocal quartet, two vocal duets, vocal trio, girls vocal quartet, three instrumental solos and two vocal solos. District music contest will be held in Neligh at the high school on Friday, April 18th. It would be great to see some of you cheering us on in the performance rooms. Wish us luck!

A side note: the NVC band clinic that was scheduled for March 17th had to be postponed because of weather. As of now, it has not been rescheduled. Check the website for further updates.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors ... it's decision time!

Attention seniors: It's time to make the big college decision and determine where you'll spend the next 4-5 years of your life! As you make your decision, have a heart-to-heart talk with your parents to make sure you pick your college for the right reasons, not because it's where your friends - or your girlfriend or boyfriend - are going. Talk about:

- **Location.** Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If travel costs are prohibitive, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.
- **Cost.** Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond the freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships?
- **Academic program.** Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors—does the college offer other programs of interest?
- **Amount of loans required.** If you borrow the maximum Stafford loan amount each year for four years, you're looking at \$19,000 in loans – and that means a future monthly payment of nearly \$220 per month. You should also calculate how much your parents will need to borrow in PLUS loans. Use the [Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#) at www.educationquest.org to estimate future student loan payments.

The EducationQuest website features other tools that can help you make the final decision including the [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#) and the [College Comparison Calculator](#).

Juniors ... start looking for scholarships

Thousands of scholarships are available to help students pay for college. Students who earn the most scholarships complete *at least* 30-40 applications. Here's how you can be one of those students ...

- **Start searching!** In addition to your guidance office, check out free sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at www.educationquest.org. Note the awards current seniors are receiving - they're often listed in your local newspaper. Other sources might include your parent's employer, your employer or local service organizations.
- **Create files** and place scholarship applications in deadline order.
- **Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service.** This is a critical component on most scholarship applications – and is the only criteria on some.
- **Earn the best possible grades and entrance exam scores.** These factors are especially important for college-based scholarships.
- **Determine if you will qualify for need-based scholarships** by completing the [College Funding Estimator](#) at www.educationquest.org.
- **Talk to colleges** about specific scholarships they offer.

Scholarship warning...

As a junior or senior, you'll receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services. If they charge a fee, investigate them thoroughly. EducationQuest will help you complete financial aid forms for free and will guide you to free scholarship search resources. For more information, talk to you guidance counselor or call EducationQuest at 800-666-3721.

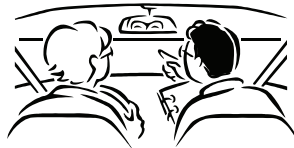
April "To Do" List

Seniors

- ___ Expect your college financial aid award letters
- ___ Continue applying for scholarships
- ___ Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid sticker shock in August
- ___ Start looking for a summer job

Juniors

- ___ [Register by April 1](#) for the May 3 SAT
- ___ [Register by May 6](#) for the June 7 SAT
- ___ [Register by May 9](#) for the June 14 ACT
- ___ Schedule campus visits while schools are still in session
- ___ Start looking for scholarships



Driver's Education Sign-up

Registration for
Driver's Education at Elgin Public
School has begun. Students must
be 14 by October 1st of this year
in order to register. Classes begin after Memorial Day and
driving times are scheduled during that time. Fees for the class
are \$175 per student and must be paid on the first day of class.
Class size is limited so please call the school office (843-2455) to
sign-up soon.



OID TRAVELS TO STATE SPEECH



The Oral Interpretation of Drama (OID) team, consisting of Nathan Niewohner, Jeff Bush, Eric Shoemaker, Linsey Bode, and Jennifer Bush, qualified for the state speech meet by placing 2nd at the District competition on March 12th. The State meet was held at the University of Nebraska-Kearney on Wednesday, March 19th.

The team received Superior ratings in both preliminary rounds. One judge commented that the team "had fun, and so we had fun watching you!" Even though the team didn't place at state, they learned a lot about speaking and gained valuable experience.



FFA NEWS

Monday, February 25th, found the Elgin FFA Chapter at the 2008 District 10 Career Development Events. Northeast Community College hosted the event. The Elgin FFA Chapter had members compete in a variety of events. The members spent many hours working hard, preparing for their event.

- The Meats Judging team of Jared Scholl, Bryan Bode, Austin Kerkman and Curtis Childers won the Meats contest, qualifying them for State.
- The team of Tyler Reestman, Jessica Morrison, Sam Janssen, & Ashley Dittrich placed 5th in the Livestock Management contest and the team of Jake Schindler, Macaib Hoefler, Josh Beckman, and Austin Mitchell finished 8th overall.
- The Ag Sales team of Linsey Bode, Nathan Niewohner, Matt Anderson, and Chris Dewald, placed 4th overall.
- The Welding team of Kyle Childers, Michael Miller, and Jonathan Gunderson placed 2nd, and will represent District 10 at the State FFA Contest.
- In Floriculture the team of Allie Schiltmeyer, Carlie Redding, Jennifer Bush and Amanda Hemenway, placed 2nd and qualified for State.
- The Nursery and Landscape team of Becki Schindler, Jenna Schindler, and Alisha Anderson received 4th place.
- The Agriscience team of Anthony Hemenway, Briann Grosserode, and Nathan Anderson placed 8th and the team of Jessica Heithoff, Breanna Bode, Michelle Bauer and Allen Miller received 10th.
- The Envirothon team of A.J. Braband, Justin Reestman, Tyson Lodge, Sebastian Janssen and Nathan Wabs finished 15th overall.

Individually Jared Scholl was the overall Champion in the Meat Judging contest. Anthony Hemenway finished 4th on the Agriscience test. Amanda Hemenway finished 4th individually in the Floriculture Contest. Jonathan Gunderson finished second overall in the Mig (wire) Welding Contest, Michael Miller finished second in Oxy-Acetylene welding, and Kyle Childers was the District Champion in the Arc Welding event.

The next Major event for the Elgin FFA Chapter is the State FFA Convention to be held in Lincoln April 2-5, 2008. The chapter has several teams and individuals qualified for contest and are hoping to have a great showing at this years State FFA Convention.



GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY



Students visit with medical helicopter staff.



Students explore with surgical cameras.

On March 4th, 10 students attended the annual Groundhog Shadow day in Norfolk, sponsored by the Northern Nebraska AHEC. The students gathered at Faith Regional Health Center and attended morning sessions hosted by health care professionals that sought to give students a “hand-on” feel for various areas of health care. Students were challenged to use the laparoscopic tools and camera and pick up candies in order to simulate laparoscopic surgery. They also were able to speak with the LifeNet crew and inspect the emergency helicopter. A new activity was that of a crime scene simulation—students were to use clues left at a crime scene to try to pinpoint the criminal. After lunch students had the opportunity to shadow a health professional in the field. Some participants shadowed in the areas of dental hygiene, optometry, veterinary medicine, and occupational therapy, while others gained experience by following a nurse practitioner, a pediatric nurse, an EMT, a recreational therapist, and an anesthetist. It was a great experience for the students to be able to be involved in this activity since it gives them a glimpse of what the health care profession truly entails. Students involved included Jennifer Bush, Becki Schindler, Amanda Hemenway, Mikayla Hoffart, Ayli Carrero, Amber Hoffary, Kara Zegers, Caitlin Mortensen, and Tonya Wiegand.



SCIENCE FAIR PREPARATIONS



The EPS science fair is drawing near! Students have completed testing, have tallied their information, and are ready to draw conclusions about their results. Many student groups have found that their outcomes are not what they had predicted. But that’s no problem at all because in science, that’s what we call LEARNING! Be sure to join us to find out how much force hardhats can withstand, the affects of differing amounts of alcohol on heart rate, if students can calculate visitors’ weight based on mechanical advantage and much much more!

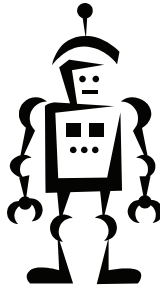


James Lierman with guard dog.

Technology Students Design Mindstorm Robots

The high school technology class spent the beginning of the semester becoming familiar with the LEGOs Mindstorm kits and following detailed instructions to build and program different robots. The time has come for them to design, build, and program their own robots. Requirements include using at least one motor for motion and at least two sensors to dictate the action of the robots. The four sensors available for use are a light sensor, touch sensor, sound sensor, and ultrasonic sensor.

Some of the designs include a roadster vehicle that uses a gear system and senses sound and objects, a guard dog that responds to intruders and different light settings, and a catapult system that automatically launches when approached. Students love to imagine strange and unique robots or mechanical systems. The Mindstorm kits help to bring some of these ideas to a reality and also teach students that actually designing, building, and programming even a simple system can be a challenge. Students have come to appreciate many of the complex mechanical systems that use technology in their everyday lives.



First & Fourth Graders Celebrate Dr. Seuss

On February 28, the first and fourth grade pals celebrated Dr. Seuss Day. The day started with green egg and ham casserole, juice, and toast served by Mrs. Gunderson and Ms. Siems. Pastor Michael Davis also joined us for breakfast. Then we played Pin the Egg on the Plate. Later that morning Pastor Davis read Horton Hears a Who.

In the afternoon Ms. Siems read 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins. The students made beautiful hats, decorated with feathers, rhinestones, yarn, and buttons. We paraded around the high school to show off our creative masterpieces. We enjoyed listening to Caitlin Mortensen read Hop on Pop and Ayli Carrero read The Foot Book and Great Day for Up. Using bubble wrap we went outside and “hopped on pop”. Then Miss Davis read Green Eggs and Ham in Spanish. We ended our day with green egg cookies and juice. It was another successful Dr. Seuss Day.



NATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCE MEET

In its sixteenth consecutive year of existence the Nebraska Health Science Meet was held in Norfolk, NE. This event encourages 8th graders to get involved with science and learn more about future careers in the health science area. Students are to complete a project, either experimental or research-based. They are to write their procedure following the scientific method, then create a visual depiction of their work. The students were then interviewed by judges about the particulars of their projects. At the event, students were also able to talk to professionals in different fields within the health science area as they attended sessions in various areas of health science. A session with the physical therapist allowed the students to be hooked up to electrodes; when the electricity was turned on, their muscles would contract. Regardless of their efforts, the students could not overcome the induced muscle stimulation! They also dissected pig eyes to learn the various parts. Only a portion of the 8th graders from around the state will be chosen to attend the 3-day state Health Science Meet in Omaha during June. The state event includes many visits with health professionals and the opportunity to take part in many hands-on events. Students attending this event are able to experience many more advanced activities than schools are able to provide. Participants will be notified in the near future if they have qualified for the state meet.

Two students took part in this event. Shane Vanis completed a project to test whether one’s ability to concentrate was effected by distractions. To do this he had subjects play *Guitar Hero* while other students took turn distracting the player. The player then played the same song but with no distractions. The procedure was repeated with a new song, but the participant played with first with no distractions, then with distractions. His findings may surprise you! Ryan Meis completed a project called “Salty Fungi.” He tested whether salt would preserve a slide of bread, not allowing mold growth. In a rare happening, no mold would grow on either side of bread before the meet! However he did have some interesting findings on the condition of the bread. He will continue to try to grow mold for our local meet. These projects will be displayed at the junior high/high school science fair. Be sure to check out their hard work!



Circadian Rhythms

Still having a little trouble adjusting to the Daylight Savings Time? It's not your imagination; it's your circadian rhythms. Circadian rhythms are part of our biological clocks that carry the genetic instructions on producing protein. The level of these proteins rises and falls in a rhythmic pattern. These biochemical signals control various life functions, including when we sleep and rest, and when we are awake and active. This internal rhythm regulates our blood, body temperature, heart activity, metabolism as well as many other functions.

In humans the circadian rhythm is reset as soon as morning light hits the eyes. One of the genes that is very important to our natural rhythm is the PER gene, which produces the PER protein. PER levels are highest during early evening and lowest early in the day (Why breakfast is such an important meal to all of us). Each of us has this genetic clock within us that keeps us on an even keel day after day. Scientists are still researching the different "clock genes" to determine exactly how the body is effected and controlled by these genes.

I have concluded that communities also have a Circadian Rhythm of sorts. There will be times in the community when it is very apparent that community building is going on and other times when it appears that nothing much is happening. In smaller communities like ours it may be that the "light" has hit a certain group of workers and they are energized to do "good" work for the community. Almost invariably controversy soon follows the beginnings of this work. Sometimes the controversy reaches such a level that the workers decide to quit: It just isn't worth all the effort. For example, three or four years ago Jim and Julie Dickerson and my husband and I spent an entire day (and then some) working on the plantings around the Welcome to Elgin sign. We dug out all the grass that was encroaching in the flowers, put down black plastic fabric, and filled the top area with wood chip mulch. We thought we had completed a "good" community service, but almost immediately someone came along and began to criticize the way we had completed the project. We should have done this, and this, and this. . . . well, I haven't worked on the sign since.

This example is just a microcosm of what happens in our community all of the time. Workers within organizations will do "good" work on behalf of the organization and community. But after awhile the criticism, negative comments and fatigue begins to wear on them and their PER protein goes into the rest format. If enough community workers go into rest format the well-being of the community becomes at risk. One can often see signs of this lack of PER protein during city, school and county elections. People are not willing to run for these positions because the time and effort required is greater than the reward people receive from completing these services for the community. One will hear comments such as, "I've done my time", "Let someone else do that!" Numerous times I've heard people justify their position by telling a story much like the one I related above.

What do we do about these situations as a community? Unfortunately, sometimes the light has to hit our community sensor before we can activate the community workers we need. These incidences often arrive in the form of a crisis, and people respond to "right" the situation and return the normal flow to the community. However, if we were the intelligent beings we were created to be, it would seem that we could arrive at a better method of community development and sustainability than the rhythm I just described. Perhaps we could all start by being thankful for the community workers we have and reminding ourselves to be less critical of those trying to do "good" for the community. Even better we could reexamine what we have done for the community lately and resolve to be part of continued positive development of the place we call home.



Jr. - Sr. Prom will be April 12th. The Juniors are busy creating the decorations and getting everything ready for the big night. Check out the school website "Activities-Prom" to check the schedule of events..



2008 YEARBOOKS

Have you ordered your 2008 yearbook yet? They're only \$28 for a lifetime of memories! Contact Mrs. Heithoff to place your order or check out the school website, "Acitivities-Yearbook".

Kindergarten Round-up April 15th

Kindergarten round-up will be held Tuesday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Kindergarten room that is located in the metal building behind the high school building.

One parent should be present to fill out the registration form. Please bring your child's immunization record, birth certificate and social security number. We are required by state law to have a copy of your child's birth certificate on file.

If you plan to register your student in Kindergarten at the Elgin Public School, please attend the round-up on the evening of Tuesday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. If you cannot attend the round-up but intend to enroll your kindergartener in our school, please contact the school office at 843-2455.



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND!

The following was taken from the March 24, 2008 edition of the ASCD Smart Brief...

"One of NCLB's (No Child Left Behind) stated aims is that 100% of U.S. students will reach academic proficiency by 2014, but with that deadline drawing nearer, many schools -- especially those with a large number of learners from low-income households or those who have special learning needs or only a basic understanding of English -- are still struggling to make yearly gains."

I know that the year 2014 may seem like a long way away from April 2008. However, here are a few things to ponder...1.) The No Child Left behind Act of 2001 (Passed into law on January 8, 2002) is already 6 years old. By my calculations, that leaves only 6 more years to accomplish what this Federal Act was expected to do. 2.) In those 6 years, we will see a new President elected into office. How will a new President impact the NCLB Act? 3.) Have we put ourselves in a position to be at 100% in 2014? How can we tell?

As an educator, the three items listed above are only a small portion of my concern. Quite frankly, I do not have the space available to list all of my concerns. I am here to tell you that I do believe that the NCLB Act was a great idea. No school should expect anything less than to have, as its goal, to see all of its students succeed at 100% proficiency. In a similar scenario, we expect the Nebraska football team to win the National Championship every year...right? We all know that there are a few factors that can keep that from happening. Bad officials. Bad weather. AND OK...for some of you out there...maybe substandard coaching??? Right??? It is just not going to happen each and every year but the goal remains the same. Back to the topic at hand...It has been a growing concern for nearly every school in the US as to how to meet this expectation given the many concerning factors present in our country today. The concerns stated above (in regard to education and not Husker football) are very real and very present in our small community. The number of low-income households is continuously growing. The number of students with special learning needs is also increasing and while most of the students attending our school here in Elgin do speak English, one does not have to travel far in any direction to find small schools with students having a limited understanding of the English language.

I am very afraid of what the future holds for education in the U.S. I also have a feeling that in January 2014, there are going to be a lot of disappointed state and national leaders who may finally realize that this Act (some would call it an unfunded mandate) may have been great had each child in America been raised in a middle to upper class, English speaking home and lived in a country where there were no drugs, alcohol abuse, terrorism, a weak economy and adequate educational funding provided to address all of the issues in education today.

Here at Elgin Public Schools, efforts have been made for many years even prior to 2001 to continuously improve the quality of education that students are being offered and I am very proud to be a small part of that. Don't get me wrong here...NCLB has done some real good. It has forced schools in America to seriously take a look at what they were teaching and improve in areas found to be weak. It has forced schools to be more accountable and more aware of the performance of their students. I can tell you that I am not aware of any school where 100% of its students are academic proficient. I am not even sure I can tell you what that would look like! We may not be at 100% and maybe we will not ever be at 100%. BUT...at Elgin Public Schools, if a child comes to school with the intention to learn and succeed and parents support them in their efforts to earn a great education, I can guarantee, with 100% certainty, that that child WILL NOT BE LEFT BEHIND!

**ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 399
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STOP, before you throw me away as junk mail! If you are receiving this newsletter with your name and address on it and do not wish to, please call us at 402-843-2455 or return the page with your mailing address to the school at the above address and you will be removed from our mailing list. Also, if you know of someone who would like to have information regarding Elgin Public Schools, please have them contact the school to be added to our mailing list.