



# EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School  
P.O. Box 399  
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Volume XXV, Issue 5

December, 2009

## DATES TO REMEMBER



Dec. 9  
School Board  
Mtg. 7:30 p.m.  
in ITV Room



Dec. 14  
Christmas  
Concert  
7:00 p.m.



Dec. 17  
Fall Sports  
Banquet  
7:00 p.m.



Dec. 22  
(note change  
of date)  
Early Dismissal  
2:00 p.m.



Dec. 23 - Jan. 3  
**NO SCHOOL**  
(school resumes  
Jan. 4th)



Dec. 29 & 30  
Burwell  
Basketball  
Holiday Tourney



## Ag Students Survey The Future



Students Shane Vanis and Allen Miller with ag teacher, Mr. Beres.

Allen Miller and Shane Vanis are learning the fine art and science of land surveying, with engineering transits, Philadelphia rods, tapes, and compass.

They are skilled at setting and leveling the transit, have surveyed interior and exterior horizontal and vertical angles, measured length by Stadia Measurement as well as tape.

Instructor Patrick Beres records their findings.



## FFA NEWS

The Elgin FFA went to Impact in Stuart on November 10, 2009. Impact is a leadership conference that is hosted by the State FFA Officers. During the workshop they broke into sessions to help them improve their leadership in their school, community, and FFA chapter.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> the Elgin FFA Chapter will be competing in District LSE's in Ainsworth. LSE's are Leadership Skills Events. At the LSE's the members will compete in a variety of contests. Some examples are parliamentary procedure, speaking contests, and quiz bowl. Then that night we will have our Winter Ceremonies at the school gym at 7:00pm.

At Winter Ceremonies we will present the first year members with their Green Hand Degrees. And the second year members will receive their Chapter Degrees. Also any of the members that competed at District LSE's will present that night.

For the most current news and calendar,  
go to [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org).

# Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

Whether we are ready for it or not, the holiday season is upon us! The students have started preparing for the Christmas concert, the cast for the musical is picked, costumes are getting put together and we'll soon be ready to perform for you.

The Christmas concert is Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the gym. It would be wonderful to have a big audience – there is surely some Christmas cheer to bring for all of you to enjoy! The little children (Pre-school through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) will be singing some familiar carols and some new songs with a slight twist. The concert band and high school choir will perform traditional Christmas songs along with something new and bouncy for all to hear.

Grades three – six will be performing the musical “*The Christmas Program*”. The kids at Elgin Public Schools are getting ready for the final show for the holidays when suddenly Grandma and Grandpa come early for the concert!!! Where will they go and what will they do until the concert begins? And.....before the concert even starts, some bad boys cause all sorts of problems for their teachers. Come find out what happens next. We hope to see all of you there. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

# TURKEY TALK



Colby adds color to his turkey drawing.

The Kindergarten, First and Second grade Art students have been busy learning about turkeys. Not only have they been learning how to draw a turkey using shapes and lines but also about some of their body parts. Did you know the piece of skin that hangs off the turkey's beak is called a “snood”? The skin underneath is the “wattle”. Check out the school website to see pictures of their turkeys. More will be added as they finish.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR ON WEBSITE



Do you want to know what time the concert starts or if the ballgames have been postponed?

Check out the Activities Calendar on our website, [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org). This easy-to-use tool:

- provides up-to-date school activities and events
- allows you to view and print a daily, weekly or monthly list of calendar events
- includes a search option to find a specific event
- sends you e-mail reminders for events you select

## Students Meet Math Timed Test Goals



As students hear almost daily . . .

learning the basic facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, makes everything else they do in math SO much easier! Timed tests are a routine part of math studies in 4th thru 6th grade. Fifth and sixth graders get 2 and a half minutes to complete about 66 problems and fourth graders get 3 minutes.

Students having met their timed test goals for the YEAR are sixth graders: Dylan B., Morgan, Sawyer, Hayden, Tiarra, Alois, and Dylan W. Three very quick fifth graders have already met the yearly goal: Jaime, Luke, and Kelsey. The fourth graders are working hard and getting closer every day.

## Don't Throw Away That Empty Printer Cartridge! Bring it to school!



Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and re-manufactured. 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.

## Elgin Public PASS System



Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:

[www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)

Click on Schoolmaster and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.

# Elgin Punkin Chunkin

# ART NEWS



On a beautiful Friday afternoon, Elgin Public School hosted a Punkin Chunkin competition with Pope John. Both schools, including St. Boniface, came out to watch two trebuchets go head to head to see who could launch a 10 lb pumpkin the farthest.

The Introduction to Engineering class at EPS had about six weeks to design and build a trebuchet. The design team includes Devin Brown, Anthony Hemenway, Justin Kalhoff, and Justin Reestman. Through their design research

the students learned the difference between a catapult and a trebuchet and decided the trebuchet would provide the greatest launching power and distance. The first design was scrapped due to insufficient materials but some leftover metal structures intended for the dump were modified for the base of the trebuchet. Most of the rest of the materials came from scrap wood and iron at the student's houses or farms. The resourcefulness of the students proved to be big money and time savers. Overall the students spent less than \$10 to build their trebuchet.

The Pope John trebuchet was from previous years with modifications for the competition. The competition was close but Pope John walked away the winner this year. All of the students involved in the competition learned a great deal about the design process and should be proud of their efforts!

The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary Art students have been busy printmaking in November. The first step was to create a design with a lot of line and pattern. That design was transferred to foam board, inked and printed. The students were required to print their design several times. They started with black ink on white paper, graduated to black ink on colored paper and finally could use colored ink on any color of paper.

After printing was finished they had to assess their prints and choose their best prints. These prints were the ones that were neatly printed and all of the design showed.

Those prints were set aside to be matted later. The rest of the prints were divided into three categories; pretty good-prints that had a few, minor flaws, the okay prints; prints that had some parts that printed and some that didn't, and last the "it just didn't turn out"

category. These were the prints that either had too much ink and it filled in the design or didn't have enough ink and were too light.

The "pretty good" and "okay" prints were used for the collage part of the project. Students could cut them apart and glue them back together into a whole new design or just glue different colors over the original design. They could draw on the design with markers or colored pencils, or they could use a combination of the two. The assignment was to use their imagination and create something unique and interesting out of something that hadn't quite turned out right.



## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Do you search the web? Try using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) for your search engine. If you designate Elgin Public School on the opening page, we get paid a penny each time you search. This will certainly add up if everyone is searching with goodsearch!

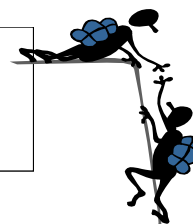


*Avenley rubbing the ink into her paper.*

Check out the website under "Academics-Art" to see the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade's progress. More photos will be posted as the students finish the project.

# Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



## Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay for college

EducationQuest is conducting statewide financial aid programs that explain the types of financial aid, how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), how colleges award financial aid, and the student loan process. The programs are free and open to the public. To find the program nearest you, visit [EducationQuest.org/fap.asp](http://EducationQuest.org/fap.asp).

## Check out our financial aid videos!

Another way to learn about paying for college is by viewing the [Guide to College Funding video](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org). The video features a family going through the financial aid process. To learn about completing the FAFSA, view [The FAFSA Made Easy](#).

## How to estimate your FAFSA results

If you're a college-bound senior, you will soon complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in financial aid.

To estimate your FAFSA results now, use the [College Funding Estimator](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org). The program will ask for 2009 income tax information. You may estimate your tax information to complete the Estimator but should use your completed 2009 tax returns when you submit the actual FAFSA.

## Seniors...have you submitted your college applications?

If you haven't submitted your admission applications yet, it's time to get serious! Contact your top college choices to determine application deadlines and procedures. Ask if the admission application is also the application for college-based scholarships. If not, ask about the scholarship application process.

## Learn money management skills and earn a chance to win a \$500 scholarship!

EducationQuest encourages you to visit [Financial Literacy Online](#) - a free online learning center that will teach you the basics of personal money management. EducationQuest is partnering with NSLP to administer monthly drawings in which Nebraska high school juniors and seniors who complete a *Financial Literacy Online* course can win one of 26 \$500 college scholarships!

To enter, you must successfully complete at least one course on *Financial Literacy Online* between November 1, 2009 and May 31, 2010. Students who complete more than one course will receive additional entries for each course successfully completed. Course topics include Budgeting, Contracts, Identity Theft and Financing Education.

Winners will be chosen monthly. An announcement will be delivered to the winners and to the high schools they attend.

There is no purchase necessary. Simply visit [www.nslpflonline.org/nebraska](http://www.nslpflonline.org/nebraska), register and begin taking courses.

## Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- **Don't pay for scholarship searches.** Free scholarship search sites are available on the Internet including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) which has over 2,000 state and local scholarships.
- **Visit your guidance counselor weekly** for information about local scholarships.
- **Get organized.** Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local awards and college-specific applications deserve top priority because you're more likely to earn them.
- **Continually update your activities, honors and volunteer or paid jobs** using the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org).
- **Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exam in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.
- **Use quality references** such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.
- **Get an early start on essays.** Describe your interests, hopes for the future, and leadership abilities.
- **Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness.** Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

**December "To Do" List** ----- Complete these tasks during December to stay on the right college planning track.

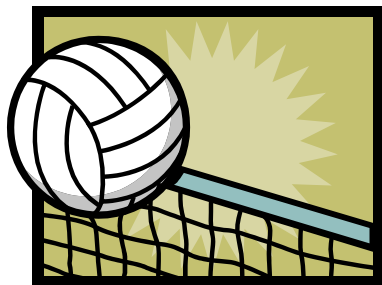
### Seniors:

- \_\_\_ Submit college applications.
- \_\_\_ Estimate FAFSA results using the [College Funding Estimator](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org).
- \_\_\_ Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
- \_\_\_ Continue to apply for scholarships.

### Juniors

- \_\_\_ Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
- \_\_\_ Research college choices.
- \_\_\_ Search for scholarships.
- \_\_\_ Register by December 15 for the January 23 SAT.
- \_\_\_ Register by January 5 for the February 6 ACT.

## 2009 Volleyball Season



In 2004, NSAA made a change to the High School game of Volleyball. Instead of side outs and serving points, it now is rally scoring and instead of only going to 15, now it goes to 25. Another change was instead of only 2 out of 3 sets, teams can play the best 3 out of 5.

The 2009 volleyball team broke a lot of the Elgin Lady Eagles' records that have been set since 2004.

The 2009 Lady Eagles had the best season record 8-15.

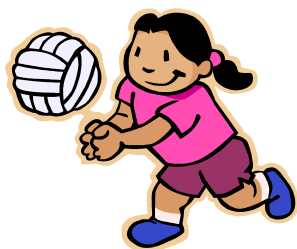
Most Points in Career	Jamie Bode	423
Most Points in Season	Jamie Bode	254
Most Points in Single Match	Jamie Bode	30
Most Ace Serves in Career	Jamie Bode	49
Most Ace Serves in Season	Briann Grosserode	tied 38
Most Ace Serves in Match	Briann Grosserode	10
Most Attacks in a Career	Michelle Bauer	1,032
Most Attacks in Season	Michelle Bauer	539
Most Attacks in Match	Michelle Bauer	60
Most Kills in a Career	Michelle Bauer	350
Most Kills in a Season	Michelle Bauer	185
Most Kills in a Match	Michelle Bauer	19
Most Sets in a Career	Jessica Heithoff	2,778
Most Sets in a Season	Jessica Heithoff	1,228
Most Sets in a Single Match	Jessica Heithoff	114
Most Assists in a Career	Jessica Heithoff	584
Most Assists in a Season	Jessica Heithoff	232
Most Assists in a Single Match	Jessica Heithoff	17
Most Blocks in a Career	Michelle Bauer	144
Most Blocks in a Season	Michelle Bauer	77
Most Blocks in a Match	Michelle Bauer	11
Most Ace Blocks in Career	Michelle Bauer	56
Most Ace Blocks in a Season	Ashley Bode	28
Most Ace Blocks in a Match	Michelle Bauer	5
	Ashley Bode	5
Most Digs in a Career	Michelle Bauer	275
Most Digs in a Season	Michelle Bauer	151

Post Season Honors already awarded to the Lady Eagles

NVC 1<sup>st</sup> Team:  
Michelle Bauer

NVC 2<sup>nd</sup> Team:  
Jessica Heithoff

NVC Honorable Mention:  
Jamie Bode  
Ashley Bode



"It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome."

—William James

## WSC Field Trip Alleviates Research Paper Stress



**EPS seniors take a quick research break to pose with one of the mall's Christmas displays.**

Twas the middle of November and all through the school, not a student was complaining; all seemed to be cool. No heads were hung low, no late assignments did they dare; just quietly waiting for Christmas break to get there.

The Seniors were working, their brains nearly dead, as visions of diplomas danced in their heads. When suddenly, out of nowhere, there arose such a problem; they heard from their teacher that research paper time was upon them . . .

Each year when the senior research blues set in, there seems to be only one cure: Road Trip!

On Tuesday, November 17, members of the senior class and Mrs. Shoe traveled to the Wayne State College library. Upon arrival, they were given a tour of the facility by reference librarian Valerie Knight.

Following the tour, students were given the opportunity to research their paper topics with individual assistance from Knight. As they worked, she also shared tips for using Google, as well as alternative and advanced search methods. In addition, she spoke with them about differentiating between reliable and unreliable internet sources. A definite highlight of the trip was discovering that the library houses a snack shop that serves Starbucks beverages!

The day concluded with a brief stop at the Sunset Plaza for lunch, where Justin Kallhoff proved once and for all to Mrs. Shoe that the Imperial Palace serves the best Chinese food.



**Don't Throw Away That Empty Printer Cartridge!  
Bring it to school!**

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and re-manufactured. 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.



*Elgin FCCLA members pictured are: (l. to r.): Juliana Dunn, Harley Janssen, Ben Wiegand, Connor Kinney, Ashley Bode, Michelle Bauer, Briann Grosserode, Jessica Heithoff, Devin Brown, Christi Getzfred, Allen Miller, and Ashlyn DeWald.*

Elgin Public members of the Nebraska Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) joined other District 8 chapters at the District Leadership Conference held October 21, 2009 at Northeast Community College. This year's theme was "Taking A Chance With FCCLA". Keynote speakers, Milt and Janet Bemis, talked with members about their story entitled the "The Gift of Life". They shared their experience involving the tragic death of their son and the life of the girl he saved through organ donation. Breakout sessions attended by the students included internet/facebook safety, FCCLA program involvement, leadership, self-defense and the Japanese exchange program. State officers were on hand to bring the district updates from the state level. State peer education team members were also in attendance to speak with district members. The district outreach project "Blue Jeans for Bucks" raised over two hundred dollars to donate to the Children's Miracle Network. The basket auction was also successful in raising money to help students attend National FCCLA in July 2010. The conference closed with the announcement of the state officer candidates, awards and door prizes.

On October 19, 2009 the chapter once again hosted our annual Family night. Along with installation of the new officers everyone enjoyed a slide show of our yearly activities as well as some family games. New officers installed for 2009-10 were: Michelle Bauer – President, Jessica Heithoff – Vice President, and Allen Miller – District Rep. Briann Grosserode and Breanna Bode were absent due to illness.

Fundraising has also been a part of the fall program. Poinsettias were sold by many members and will be delivered in the early part of December. Money raised through fundraising is applied to leadership conferences and competitions that FCCLA members attend during the year.

December activities planned include working at Kids Shopping Night to be held Dec. 2 at the KC Hall and secret santas. Many members have also been working on their STAR projects to be presented at the district competition in January.



## SIGN-UP FOR NEWS UPDATE

You won't want to be left out in the cold! When the weather changes our plans, we want to make sure you are the first to know.

Sign up for News Update on our website, [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org). On the left side of the front page of our website, click on "Sign up for the News Update". Put in your e-mail address and you will be sent an e-mail. **You must reply to that e-mail in order to be placed on our e-mail list.** Whenever there are postponements or cancellations, an e-mail will be sent with the information.

News Update will also be used to draw attention to new items on our webpage so periodically you will receive an e-mail with headline news in it. (We promise not to flood your e-mail inbox and we won't give out your e-mail address to anyone!)

Sign up today and be sure to tell your friends!



# Guidelines For Keeping Sick Children Home From School

Each day, many parents are faced with a decision: should they keep their sick children at home or send them off to school? Often the way a child looks and acts can make the decision an obvious one. Keeping him home may protect him from further infection and avoid spreading the illness to other students. It also allows the child the opportunity to rest and recover.

***The following guidelines should be considered when making the decision:***

- **Fever** – if your child's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, he should remain at home. The child can return to school after he/she has been fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Motrin).
- **Diarrhea/Vomiting** – a child with diarrhea and/or vomiting should stay at home and return to school only after being symptom free for 24 hours.
- **Flu** – If your child catches the flu, keep him/her home until symptoms (body aches, high fever, chills, congestion, sore throat and/or vomiting) subside.
- **Conjunctivitis/Pink Eye** – Following a diagnosis of pink eye, the child can return to school 24 hours after the first dose of prescribed medication or when a physician certifies him non-infectious.
- **Mononucleosis** – Keep at home until fever free and able to resume normal activities.
- **Strep Throat/Scarlet Fever** – Your child is not contagious after he's been on physician-prescribed antibiotics for at least 24 hours.
- **Colds** – Consider keeping your child at home if he/she is experiencing discomfort from cold symptoms, such as nasal congestion and cough. A continuous green discharge from the nose may be a sign of infection. Consider having the child seen by your health care provider.

***Remember the three keys to preventing illness:***

1. Teach your child to wash his hands thoroughly and often and to use waterless hand cleanser when water isn't available.
2. Give him disposable tissues; remind him to use and discard them.
3. Discourage him from sharing food, plates, cups or utensils.



## RECYCLING CONTINUES AT EPS

"Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water."

From October of last year to October of this year, EPS has sent roughly 17 TONS of paper and cardboard to GreenFiber to be reused. According to the facts above, that would be equivalent to saving 289 trees that would occupy 51 cubic yards of landfill space, among the other recycling benefits.

This year, the entire student body has become more involved in the recycling project. As in the past, each individual is responsible for choosing to throw papers in the recycling box rather than the trash can. However this year, the study halls rotate students emptying the boxes once a week. This has spread the workload around and has allowed the emptying to become more consistent.

EPS students have still been recycling their aluminum cans as well. Since this summer, around 120 pounds of aluminum have been brought in to be recycled.

The school also earns money for the GreenFiber recycling. This money has been put towards beautification efforts at the school. The total raised so far has been \$340! Check out the recycling graphs on our webpage to see the monthly recycling total.

The students have reason to be proud of their efforts! Every little bit they can do for the environment now will make it a better place for the future!



# F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Jimmy Feeney  
jfeeney@esu8.org



The Wolfpack has Arrived!

The much anticipated Wolfpack season is upon us. Student-athletes are practicing, meetings have taken place, and games are fast approaching. It is an exciting time of year!

The most exciting part for me is how competitive our teams will be. Both Elgin Public and Pope John have exceptional students. Seeing the two groups come together has been rewarding. Students support each other, push each other, and are ultimately building a foundation for the future. The positive attitudes students have brought with them to Wolfpack practices are outstanding.

Within the excitement comes many different emotions. There are challenges that both schools will face as the seasons progress. In combining schools, the number of athletes on each team has grown, and so too has the skill and talent levels of our teams. Unfortunately, the number of minutes on the court or mat has not, so we have added C Team games to the schedule when possible. The great news is that we will have athletes competing to win and coaches coaching to win at all levels.

It is hard to drop past traditions to build new ones as it is difficult for our athletes to compete with students they recently competed against. Through the highs and lows of the season, please support the Wolfpack. My father ingrained in me that you always support the coach. It was so ingrained in me that I never questioned it. Looking back, I now realize that if I had come home to my family questioning the coaches' decisions, I would have begun to do the same. Had I begun to question the coach, it would have inhibited my ability on the court. My family being positive supporters of the program allowed me to show up to practice ready to earn a spot. No complaining or making excuses, just earning a spot to play for my coaches. Help your athletes earn minutes on the court – support the athletes, coaches, and teams.

Hopefully we will follow our student-athletes lead, because the future looks bright.

Go Wolfpack!



*Dec. 22 - Early Dismissal 2:00 p.m.  
Happy Holidays!*



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