








## DATES TO REMEMBER

 Dec. 5  
 7th Grade Business Fair during BBall games

 Dec. 9  
 FFA Winter Ceremonies  
 7:30 p.m.

 Dec. 11  
 School Board mtg.  
 7:30 p.m. in ITV room

 Dec. 15  
 Christmas Concert  
 7:30 p.m. Grades Prek - 12

 Dec. 19  
 End of 1st semester  
 2:00 dismissal

NO SCHOOL  
 Dec. 20 - Jan. 4th



# Veterans Day Salute

Elgin Public Schools hosted the annual Veterans' Day program on November 11, 2008. People attending the event were able to watch a slideshow by Paula Jensen of the area veterans, when they served and what branch of the military they were in before the program. This slideshow is available at our website: [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)

The VFW and American Legion advanced the colors to open the program. Principal, Corey Fisher led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Elgin High Band playing the Star Spangled Banner. Elgin Public senior, Linsey Bode gave the Invocation.

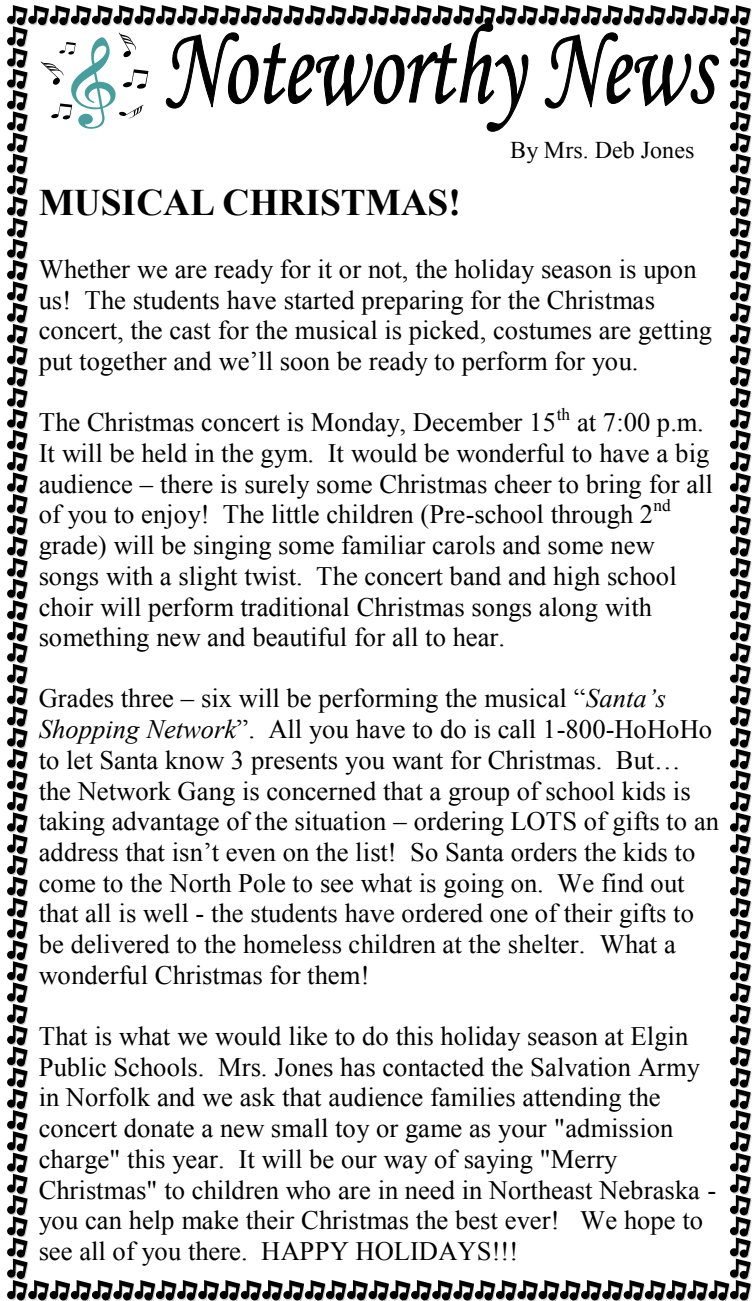
The Elgin High Band played "Anchors Away" and "Gallant Marines March" for the large crowd. Nathan Dierks of Pope John presented a patriotic reading followed by a "Welcome and Recognition of Veterans" by Corey Fisher. Colonel Roma J. Amundson of the Nebraska Army National Guard gave the Veterans' Day Address. She presented examples of several of the flags that have flown over our country since revolutionary times and gave a brief history of each with the assistance of the Seventh Grade.

Colonel Amundson's talk was followed by a patriotic reading by EHS senior, Chris DeWald. The combined choirs of Elgin Public and Pope John sang "Song for the Unsung Hero" and "Before You Go" under the direction of Mrs. Deb Jones and Mrs. Pat Miller.

The program concluded with the playing of Taps by EHS band members Gabe Wiegand and Nash Schindler. The American Legion and VFW retired the colors.



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



# Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

## MUSICAL CHRISTMAS!

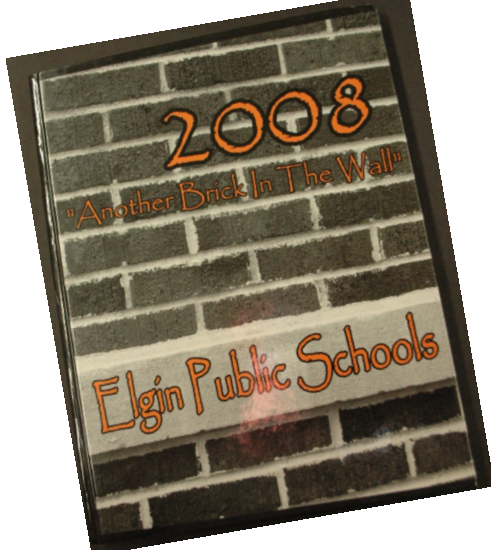
Whether we are ready for it or not, the holiday season is upon us! The students have started preparing for the Christmas concert, the cast for the musical is picked, costumes are getting put together and we'll soon be ready to perform for you.

The Christmas concert is Monday, December 15<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 beautiful for all to hear.

Grades three – six will be performing the musical “*Santa’s Shopping Network*”. All you have to do is call 1-800-HoHoHo to let Santa know 3 presents you want for Christmas. But... the Network Gang is concerned that a group of school kids is taking advantage of the situation – ordering LOTS of gifts to an address that isn’t even on the list! So Santa orders the kids to come to the North Pole to see what is going on. We find out that all is well - the students have ordered one of their gifts to be delivered to the homeless children at the shelter. What a wonderful Christmas for them!

That is what we would like to do this holiday season at Elgin Public Schools. Mrs. Jones has contacted the Salvation Army in Norfolk and we ask that audience families attending the concert donate a new small toy or game as your "admission charge" this year. It will be our way of saying "Merry Christmas" to children who are in need in Northeast Nebraska - you can help make their Christmas the best ever! We hope to see all of you there. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

# YEARBOOK AWARD



**Congratulations to the 2008 Yearbook Staff!** Their yearbook was entered in the annual Nebraska High School Press Association yearbook evaluation. The staff earned an "Award of Merit" for a Class D yearbook and a "Golden Kernel Award" for excellence in photography.

**Congratulations to Mrs. Heithoff, Mikayla Hoffart, Sam Janssen, Alex Kinney and Shane Voborny for recognition of their hard work!**



**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.



## Is there money in your lunch account?

Please call the school 843-2455 or e-mail the lunch account bookkeeper Andrea Fisher (afisher@esu8.org) or school secretary Paula Jensen (jensenp@esu8.org) if you would like to find out. All students with an account balance of -\$10.00 will not be allowed to charge seconds or extra juice. When an account balance reaches -\$25.00, students will not be allowed to charge at all. Please help us to keep all accounts current!

You can also check your lunch account balance online. You just need to enter your lunch acct. number and PIN on our website. For more information, please call the school.



**The Art classes are running low on ice cream buckets and lids. We could use either one if you have some to spare. You can drop them off at the art room or send them with your kids. Thanks!**

# Sutures, anyone?



*Sam Janssen is practicing her suturing techniques.*

“What do you want to do when you grow up?” This question is often asked of students, and the pressure only mounts as one enters high school. Four students, hoping to answer this question, attended Groundhog Shadow Day this November 4 in Norfolk. This annual event, sponsored by our local AHEC, provides students with a glimpse into various health care professions and allows them the opportunity to shadow in one specific area of interest. In the morning, students attended an interactive activity entitled “It takes a Team,” which highlighted the necessary cooperation in an ER. They also took part in a surgery session where students learned about surgical tools, used laparoscopy equipment, and had a chance to suture. Other sessions included a tour of the LifeNet helicopter and conversation with its crew, and a discussion with two students currently in the RHOP program.

In the afternoon the students shadowed at various health care sites throughout Norfolk. Students attending and their areas of shadowing are: Clint Meis—physical therapy, Sam Janssen—medical lab, Justine Meis—pharmacy, Justin Kallhoff—physical therapy. The shadowing allowed these students to get a better picture of what is involved in each job, therefore making the decision of “what do you want to do when you grow up” a little bit easier.



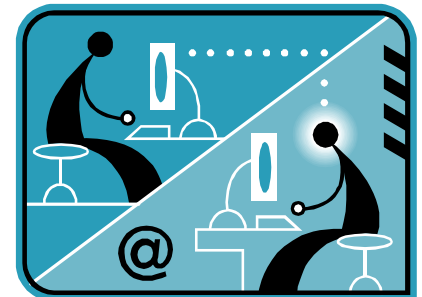
## Do You Have “NetSmartz”?

The Designing with Technology students have started a project that addresses the use of technology in our society. Kids, as well as adults, are often unaware of the risks and dangers tools of technology can present. The objectives of the project include teaching students the following:

- Responsible use of the internet
- Risks and dangers through the internet
- Consequences of improper or irresponsible use of technology

We are not teaching students how to use sites such as YouTube, MySpace, Tagged, or Facebook, the fact is they already know how. Rather we are discussing the rules, risks, and consequences of using such sites. In addition, the class has collected data about the use of technology among the student body here at Elgin Public. Other topics include cyberbullying and case studies. The project will conclude with the production of presentations, tailored to specific age groups, including parents, to be given at the end of the project.

Technology can be a wonderful tool if used responsibly and with respect for all. We hope you as parents or guardians take this opportunity to also learn about the risks and dangers technology



can present and discuss them with your children. The ultimate goal of this project is to keep our children safe and teach them to be responsible users of technology. The following website has very informative and important videos all parents should watch as well as age appropriate videos and games about internet safety for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade: [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

Please stay tuned for a parent presentation to be offered by the class soon. Do you know what your children are doing on-line?



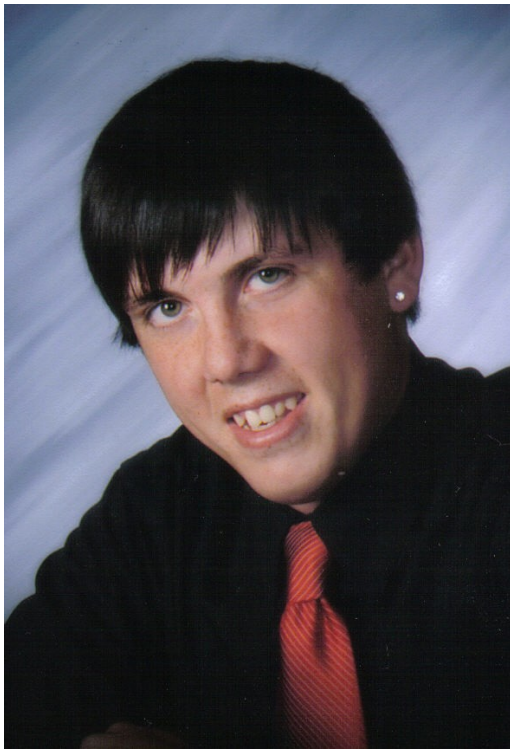
*Carlie Redding*

Full name: Carlie Janene Redding  
Parents: Jim & Chris Redding  
Sisters: Paige Redding  
Pets: Shanghi & stitches (cats)  
Favorite school subject: Engineering  
Favorite teacher: Ms. Rethmeier  
Activities: FFA, FCA, Volleyball  
Greatest honor during school: National Honor Society  
Favorite activity: FFA, because of all the characters and the way we pass time waiting for competitions  
Most educational experience: bird walking in science class  
Most inspirational person: Jim Butcher  
Favorite color: blue, black, red  
Favorite thing to do in spare time: read & type  
Pet Peeve: When people go down/up the wrong side of the stairs  
If you could go back in time where would you go: medieval times for the joust  
Favorite saying: Eagles may soar but ferrets don't get sucked into jet turbines.  
Something most people don't know about you: I'm not a people person  
Favorite movie: Pirates of the Caribbean  
Dream car: Mini Looper  
Favorite food: my mom's enchiladas  
Favorite school lunch: spaghetti  
Favorite pop: Barq's root beer  
Favorite TV show: Bum notice  
Favorite type of music: bluegrass  
Future plans after graduation: get a job with a magazine

Full name: Thaddeus John Henkenius  
Parents: Don Henkenius & Tonya Thompson  
Brothers: Tre Henkenius  
Sisters: Tera Henkenius  
Pets: 2 dogs, 1 horse  
Favorite teacher: Mr. Jones  
Activities: Football, wrestling, track, FFA, PALS  
Favorite activity: football because you can take your anger out on people  
Most educational experience: Moving Vietnam Wall  
Most inspirational person: my parents  
Favorite color: Deep Blue  
Favorite thing to do in spare time: go hunting  
Pet Peeve: when people drive right behind me  
If you could go back in time where would you go: back to when gas was really cheap  
Favorite movie: 8 Seconds  
Dream car: any classic muscle car  
Favorite food: stir fry  
Favorite school lunch: tater tot casserole  
Favorite pop: Mountain Dew  
Favorite TV show: Family Guy  
Favorite type of music: any type of rock  
Future plans after graduation: go to college and get a degree in ag production or ag business



*Tad Henkenius*



*Eric Shoemaker*

Full name: Eric Michael Shoemaker  
Parents: Brian & Dianne Shoemaker  
Sisters: Megan & Kelsey  
Pets: Shelby (dog)  
Favorite school subject: band  
Favorite teacher: Mr. Jones  
Activities: band/choir, FFA, FCCLA, football, wrestling, track  
Greatest honor during school: Superior Honor Roll  
Favorite activity: History classes with Mr. Jones, he opens your mind up to all the possibilities.  
Most educational experience: band trip to St. Louis  
Most inspirational person: Grandpa Randall  
Favorite color: red  
Favorite thing to do in spare time: play my drums, listen to music, spend time with my girlfriend  
Pet Peeve: intolerant people  
If you could go back in time where would you go: World War II  
Favorite saying: Go Shoe-e  
Something most people don't know about you: I'm obsessed with my hair.  
Favorite movie: School of Rock  
Dream car: 1969 Chevy Camaro Z28  
Favorite food: Chinese food  
Favorite school lunch: spaghetti  
Favorite pop: Mountain Dew  
Favorite TV show: Family Guy  
Favorite type of music: alternative/dance  
Future plans after graduation: attend UNK, major in music business and hope to become a successful musician

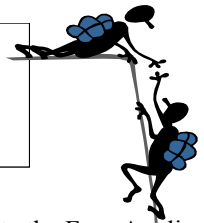
Full name: Caitlin Jean Mortensen  
Parents: Lance & Stephi Mortensen  
Brothers: Justin & Jarred  
Pets: Gizmo  
Favorite school subject: psychology  
Favorite teacher: Mrs. Bode & Miss J.  
Activities: band/choir, FCCLA, FFA, basketball, volleyball  
Greatest honor during school: all of the things from both band & choir (i.e. majorette, small groups, etc.)  
Favorite activity: band/choir contests because I truly enjoy music  
Most educational experience: AHEC day  
Most inspirational person: my dad  
Favorite color: blue/brown  
Favorite thing to do in spare time: talk, Facebook  
Pet Peeve: people who continuously stop a conversation to text  
If you could go back in time where would you go: to the late 50's to meet Marilyn Monroe  
Favorite saying: F'sho  
Something most people don't know about you: Until I was 14 years old, I had 2 grandmas, 2 grandpas & 2 great-grandmothers  
Favorite movie: Miss Congeniality  
Favorite food: Mom's pizza or her lasagna  
Favorite school lunch: Breakfast pizza  
Favorite pop: Dr. Pepper  
Favorite TV show: Jon & Kate Plus 8; What Not To Wear; Ace of Cake  
Favorite type of music: anything that I can sing along with  
Future plans after graduation: attending college and receiving my bachelors degree in nursing



*Caitlin Mortensen*

# 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 the Financial Aid Video!

Another way to learn about paying for college is by viewing the [Guide to College Funding video](#) at EducationQuest.org. The video features a family going through the financial aid process.

## 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.

## 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 2008 income tax information. You may estimate your tax information to complete the Estimator but should use your completed 2008 tax returns when you submit the actual FAFSA.

## 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 which has over 1,800 state and local awards.
- **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.
- **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 26 for the January 24 SAT.
- \_\_\_ Register by January 6 for the February 7 ACT.



# Administratively Speaking . . .

By Lee Hall  
lhall@esu8.org



Remember why we celebrate Thanksgiving?

The story goes like this; we moved in, had little success, were helped out by locals, became successful and shared the bounty.

I know this is a short version of a great story but I am looking for a connection to the education and the way it works.

Education is very much the same, we start at various levels, have some struggles, get some direction, and enjoy the fruits of our labor (graduation).

Our programs at Elgin are set around that philosophy. We get students at all levels of academic preparedness and create a path for those children to progress from where they start to reach the goal of graduation. This process is no simple matter as each of our 184 students is unique and has their own skills to use in the progression. Our task as a school is to make it possible for the children to follow their path with as much help as needed to be successful.

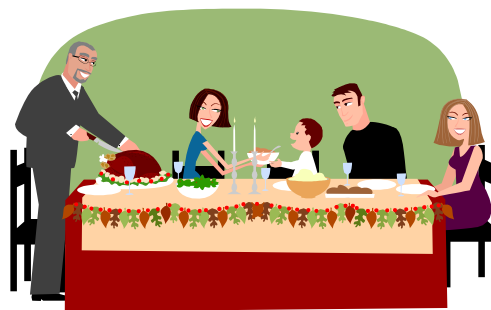
Here at Elgin we start with interventions as early as age two and continue to age 21 for some children. We have the standard K – 12 program and offer several modifications to fit the needs of students. We have also extended our offering to the college level classes in some areas so our students have the opportunity to graduate with college credits. It is currently possible for our students to have completed between one half and all of their first years required hours. We currently offer a curriculum that exceeds what the state requires. One that enriches students at all levels and reinforces learning to students who require additional help. We have a staff that is trained in the process of identifying the special needs and talents of our children. We build individual programs for students one at a time to insure successful school experiences for students at Elgin.

Elgin is a small school with the curriculum that larger schools would be proud to offer. We offer a pre-school program for three and four year olds and advanced level classes in Math and Science. We continue to offer classes in the performing and visual arts areas. Our students have a healthy variety of academic areas to select attractive class schedules from.

To relate to my opening Thanksgiving story I would use this analogy; we start students at all levels, intervene with trained and qualified staff, create individual programs, and direct success stories for our children.

I would like to stress that the holiday season is a good time to get closer to your family. Time should be put aside to do just that. I hope that each of you has a great holiday season and that your family time is planned with special attention to your children. Reading and math games are easy and fun for your children and it keeps them in practice. Most importantly the season provide plenty of opportunity for you to spend time with your children.

Happy Holidays



**If you haven't purchased your 2009 yearbook ad, there's still time to send it in. Not only is your ad in the 2009 yearbook but on our website and all home game programs. Purchase yours today!**

# F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

By Corey Fisher  
cfisher@esu8.org



One of the great traditions at Elgin Public School is the annual Veterans Day Program. This year, that tradition again brought many in the community of Elgin together to celebrate and thank those military veterans who were able to be with us and also to remember those who were not able to be in attendance. I am so proud and feel very privileged to be a part of this annual program. Of all the activities, programs and events we participate in each year; this program alone gives us the chance to thank those people publicly that have made it possible to enjoy all of the things we do each school year. One of the things that I look forward to most is the end of that program when trumpets play “taps”. The feeling I get at that moment is indescribable. The hairs on my neck raise and I always get goose bumps. It is because of the sacrifices of those who have served our country that give me the opportunity to have that feeling. It is so special because that feeling is called ***PRIDE!***

By definition, the term *pride* can mean the following: A feeling of self-respect or personal growth, Satisfaction with your (or another's) achievements and The trait of being spurred on by a dislike of falling below your standards. I also believe ***PRIDE*** means something else...and that is just a good ol’ fashioned; gut wrenching, blue-collar, intense feeling of wanting to be great. To not be afraid to get your hands dirty and be the best one can be and be willing to do whatever it takes to be our best. That, to me, is what *pride* really means.

Unfortunately, *pride* is sometimes missing in some of our students here at Elgin Public Schools and it is sometimes missing in some of our parents of EPS students. Those two groups do go hand in hand. If parents don’t take *pride* in themselves, in their work, in their families and in their children’s education, their kids will most often do the same. They too will have a lack of pride in all that they do. I sometimes see it happening in some of our students and the problem seems to be growing. Even though it is a small number of those students and parents at EPS, it is still present. The majority of EPS students and parents take a great amount of *pride* in what they are doing and in their education. However, it is the minority that always stands out. Instead of *pride*, some students and parents are regularly making excuses. They may talk a good game but these who fall into this minority of people seldom back up what they say. When kids come to school not prepared, their homework not done or they are late for school, they do not have the *pride* to be their best and when it is addressed, the comments and excuses made by the students are so often the same as is made by the parents. I truly enjoy it when a parent supports the school and takes control of the concern when it comes to a matter of a student not taking *pride* in what they do. I have found that many of our parents do expect their children to take *pride* in their education and to those parents...you are benefiting your kids more than you know! Keep it up!

Now don’t go thinking that this is only a concern for us here at EPS. It isn’t. It is the same concern that many school administrators will share with you in all sizes of schools. So, how do those with little pride improve and change? How do we incorporate more *pride* into the youth of today and the adults of tomorrow? In this principal’s opinion, I think we take a look at the lessons we have learned of those Veterans we celebrated on November 11<sup>th</sup>. We rise to the challenge! We take the blue collar approach to improving in any area we see as needing improved. It starts with parents. Expect children to do things right. Expect them to be accountable. As adults, we must demonstrate what it means to take *pride* in all you do and the kids will follow! Expecting anything less will result in just that...less. If our service men and women operated with a lack-of-*pride* mentality throughout our history, I shutter to think of where we might be today. Our veterans share a deep sense of *pride*. What we need to ask ourselves is... where will we be tomorrow?...and...will we be ***proud*** of what we see?

I am also very proud of the EHS football team and the manner in which they represented themselves, their families, our school and our community. They fell short of their goal of a state championship but I am proud of the successes and the *pride* they brought to our school. More importantly, I am *proud* of who they are as young men and the manner in which they faced their challenges and adversity. Talk about true champions. Great job Eagles!

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**ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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