



EAGLE UPDATE


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Elgin Public School
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Volume XXII, Issue 5


December, 2006


DATES TO REMEMBER


 Dec. 5
Fall Activities
Banquet 6:30 pm.


 Dec. 7
FFA Winter
Ceremonies 7:00 pm.

 Dec. 14
School Board
Meeting 7:30 pm.

 Dec. 16
Little Eagles Dance
Camp

 Dec. 18
Christmas Concert
7:00 p.m.

 Dec. 22
Early Dismissal
2:00 pm.

 Jan. 3
School Resumes



FCCLA ATTENDS CLUSTER IN ST. LOUIS



Elgin students attending National FCCLA Cluster Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri November 17-19 were (front, l. to r.) Teri Kittelson, Justine Meis, (middle l. to r.) Jenna Schindler, Becki Schindler, Alisha Anderson, Bethany Kallhoff, Jennifer Bush, Ayli Carrero (back l. to r.) Jonathan Gunderson, Gabe Wiegand, Caitlin Mortensen, Allie Schiltmeyer, and Jeff Bush. More details of their trip can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.



EPS
Christmas
Concert
December 18th
7:00 p.m.

A showcase of holiday talent from
grades Preschool thru High School

Come and Join in the Fun!



7th Grade
Hosting Business
Fair

The 7th grade entrepreneur class will be hosting a business fair to display and sell the items their businesses have made during the first semester.

The fair will be held during the basketball game with Clearwater Dec. 1st. at EPS gym. Stop in and see their selection of homemade products.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

BoxTops For Education goals have hit a new high! Last school year we turned in enough BoxTops to receive a check for \$235.00. Over the summer and this fall, our students turned in enough BoxTops to earn \$232.50

Many thanks to Mrs. Lori Widger who volunteers to coordinate the efforts of the elementary students to collect those box tops.

In November the elementary class that brings in the most BoxTops will enjoy hot chocolate and donuts with Principal Fisher.

Need the e-mail address of a teacher? www.elgineagles.org

Parent Involvement Conference

On October 16th, Darline Warner, Lori Widger, and Mrs. Eisenhauer attended the Statewide Parent Involvement Conference in Kearney. Parents and Mrs. Eisenhauer were able to enjoy lunch and listen to speaker, Mrs. Jacquelyn Meyer on the topic of School: It's Not Just for Kids Anymore. Mrs. Meyer discussed the research that shows children's school performance is enhanced when parents and teachers cooperate. Roadblocks to this team performance were identified and creative approaches were drawn up to build a positive working relationship between parents and teachers.



The parents and Mrs. Eisenhauer were also able to choose many different informative sessions to attend throughout the day. The types of sessions varied from helping your child with reading all the way to understanding ADD and ADHD. The parents found the conference to be interesting and helpful in many issues.

Is there money in your lunch account?
Please call the school 843-2455 or e-mail the lunch account bookkeeper Pat Beckman (pbeckman@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!



It's Trebuchet Time!



Physics students have success in trebuchet building

The physics students have been working for 2 weeks on building their medieval devices of destruction--the trebuchet! The trebuchet uses only the force of gravity to pull down a weight which then swings an arm around, therefore launching the projectile into the air.

Unlike the real trebuchets that launched boulders at fortress walls, our launched marbles through the science room. Student groups attempted a variety of methods when building their devices. When building, students had to take into consideration the sling length, attached vs. removable sling, attached vs. movable base, arm length, and release points, to name a few variables.

It was an exciting time launching our creations. Our farthest distance was obtained



**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.

Need the most current calendar? www.elgineagles.org

One-Act Play Performs

The Elgin One-Act team recently held their matinee and community performances. These were the first performances *ever* for many of our team members. Despite the nervousness and first-time jitters, both presentations went exceptionally well!

The One-Act team then traveled to Wheeler-Central on Monday November 13th to compete in the NVC competition. Out of eight teams, they placed 5th, with Ben Beckman and Wes Prater receiving honorable mention outstanding actor awards.

The judge's comments were very positive; the team will continue to work hard on some improvements to make it even better before the district competition on Tuesday November 28 at Stuart. Visit www.elgineagles.org to view pictures from the performances!



From the Activities Director.....

The following information was taken from the NSAA Sportsmanship Manual. The manual, in its entirety can be found on the NSAA website (www.nsaahome.org).

Parent's Role in Interscholastic Athletics

Communicating with your children

- Make sure that your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

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As we begin the winter seasons, please make a strong effort to support our student-athletes. I do not know of one student in our school that does not want to give their best, win each game and enjoy the experiences. Remember that they are kids and they do not participate for our enjoyment and satisfaction. They participate because they enjoy what the activities have to offer. Coaches have a responsibility to educate our students through competition. We expect our student athletes to represent our school and community with dignity and class. The attitudes and behaviors of adults, whether it is coaches or fans, go a long way in setting the example for our students. Enjoy the activities and athletics this coming winter season and remember...



"A gold medal is a wonderful thing, but if you're not enough without it, you'll never be enough with it."
 --Irv Blitzer (actor John Candy), From the Movie "Cool Runnings"

Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones



CHRISTMAS? CONCERT?? ALREADY???

The Christmas season is upon us, it's hard to believe it is here already! We, at the music department, are busy getting ready for the big celebration at the annual concert. The Pre-school and Kindergarten classes will perform some cute new holiday songs, while the first-second graders have some fun songs up their sleeves. The third-fourth graders are practicing hard to be the chorus for the musical this year. And.....the fifth-sixth grades are the cast for the musical: **IT'S CHRISTMAS, CAROL!** The cast is set and they are having fun putting it all together. Please remember to help them memorize lines and songs at home so this can be an awesome concert!

The high school choir and concert band are also busy getting ready for the holiday concert with several selections from each group. With the limited practices, we have to make each rehearsal count. We hope to get you in the holiday spirit with some traditional songs as well as some new ones to entertain you. The concert is December 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. We hope to see all of you there to cheer on all the talent in Elgin Public Schools! Happy Holidays from the music department!!!!



Senior Closeups . . .



Michelle Oppliger

Full Name: Michelle Lea Oppliger
Parents: Greg Oppliger & Lorie Bergman
Brothers: Kyle (Soph. At Columbus H.S.)
Sisters: Stephanie (2004 graduate from Columbus H.S.)
Zoey Bergman (2nd grader at EPS)
Pets: 2 dogs (Bobo & Blaise)
Favorite School Subject: History
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Jones
School activities: FCCLA, PALS Program, Art, Yearbook
Greatest Honor during school: making the honor roll
Favorite School Activity : yearbook, being able to pick the pictures that will be in a yearbook forever is pretty awesome
Most educational experience: None, because you learn something new every day
Most inspirational person: my sister
Favorite color: blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: hangout with friends, read, spend time with family or just watch TV
Pet peeve: Slow & bad drivers
If I could go back in time I would go: the Civil War
Favorite saying: "Sweet" "Awesome"
Something most people don't know about me: I am actually a shy person
Favorite movie: Benchwarmers
Dream car: '66 Corvette
Favorite Food: Anything Chinese
Favorite School lunch: Chicken nuggets or tuna noodle
Favorite Pop: Pepsi
Favorite TV Show: Desperate Housewives
Favorite type of music: any
Future plans after graduation: Go to college and get a job

Full Name: Paige Lorraine Redding
Parents: Jim and Chris Redding
Sisters: Carlie (Soph. at EPS)
Pets: cats (Strider, Pippin) horses (Ace, Mars) bucket calf (Sir Reginald)
dogs (Roy, Joe, Tank, Ruth)
Favorite School Subject: Sociology
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Simpson
School activities: FFA, FCA, Volleyball, Art, Quiz Bowl
Greatest Honor during school: Being 4th in the state for my FFA SAE project
Favorite School Activity : FFA, it prepares me for the future, provides me with unlimited opportunities, and we have way too much fun
Most educational experience: working for White Deer Ranch this past summer, I learned a lot.
Most inspirational person: Ron Brown
Favorite color: scarlet
Favorite thing to do in spare time: write fantasy novels and read
Pet peeve: people touching my stuff without asking
If I could go back in time I would go: Wyoming in 1880
Favorite saying: "Boo-Yah"
Something most people don't know about me: I do a lot of leather work and have completed my own saddle. I have won awards for my work.
Favorite movie: Sahara, The Lord of the Rings, Trilogy, Shrek 2
Dream car: Black C6 Corvette
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite School lunch: Chicken fajita
Favorite Pop: Pepsi
Favorite TV Show: M*A*S*H*, and Psych
Favorite type of music: country
Future plans after graduation: to attend South Dakota State University and major in animal science with a minor in either range science or equine science



Paige Redding

Senior Closeups . . .



Bryttanie Nelson

Full Name: Bryttanie Nichole Nelson
Parents: Rick and Kim Fangman, Kevin Carson
Brothers: none
Sisters: Bridgette Nelson, Rose and Victoria Fangman
Favorite School Subject: Any science class
Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Walsh
School activities: Jr. Right to Life, speech, basketball
Favorite School Activity: Basketball because I enjoy the sport
Most educational experience: Groundhog Job Shadow Day in Norfolk
Most inspirational person: Julie Beckman
Favorite color: blue or pink
Favorite thing to do in spare time: Talk on the phone or play softball
Pet peeve: pants tucked into shoes, when people chew with their mouth open, collars that aren't the right way
If I could go back in time I would go: probably to meet and remember my great-grandpa
Favorite saying: "yeah buddy"
Favorite movie: Hardball, Coach Carter, Glory Road, Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle, Monster House, The Goonies
Dream car: Eclipse
Favorite Food: Mexican
Favorite School lunch: Pizza Hut Pizza
Favorite Pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV Show: anything on ESPN, CSI
Favorite type of music: Rap, Country, or Alternative rock
Future plans after graduation: NECC or ANL for Physical Therapy

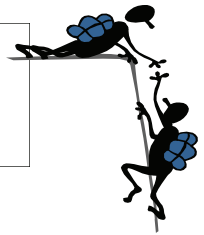
Full Name: Jarred R. Mortensen
Parents: Lance & Stephi Mortensen
Brothers: Justin
Sisters: Caitlin (EPS Soph.)
Pets: dog (Gizmo)
Favorite School Subject: History
Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Kamphaus
School activities: Band, Chorus, Football, Basketball
Greatest Honor during school: honor roll
Favorite School Activity: assemblies, because you get out of class and learn about interesting things.
Most educational experience: 6th grade field trip
Most inspirational person: my father
Favorite color: blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: Play Ps2, listen to music, drive around with friends, work on old cars with family
Pet peeve: My sister always on the computer.
If I could go back in time I would go: Early '70's
Favorite saying: "What the Deuce"
Something most people don't know about me: I went to Rodeo Bible Camp when I was younger.
Favorite movie: World's Fastest Indian
Dream car: 1960 Chevrolet Biscayne 2 dr. hardtop
Favorite Food: Cheesy potatoes
Favorite School lunch: Nachos
Favorite Pop: Root beer
Favorite TV Show: Family Guy
Favorite type of music: Rock
Future plans after graduation: go to college; major undecided



Jarred Mortensen

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Countdown to College Call-In Show airs December 6

Get expert advice on college planning, admissions and financial aid during the eighth annual *Countdown to College* call-in program **Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm CT (6:00 MT)** on NET Television.

During this one-hour program, college-planning experts will answer viewers' questions on the air. You can submit questions now or the evening of the show by calling 800-666-3721 or e-mailing them to countdown@educationquest.org. You'll receive an answer on the air or via e-mail.

If you miss the live program December 6, watch for rebroadcasts on NET2:

Friday, December 8 at 10:00 am CT (9:00 MT)

Friday, December 8 at 3:00 pm CT (2:00 MT)

Saturday, December 9 at 12:00 pm CT (11:00 am MT)

Friday, December 15 at 9:00 pm CT (8:00 MT)

A Spanish-voiceover version will air in late January or early February (date and time to be announced).

Countdown to College: a Nebraska Connects Special is a co-production of EducationQuest Foundation and NET Television.

Financial Aid Programs cover college funding options

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 www.educationquest.org. The program will ask for income tax information. *You may estimate your 2006 tax information to complete the Estimator but should use your completed 2006 tax returns when you complete and submit the FAFSA.*

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- **Don't pay for scholarship searches.** Use free resources including *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org; www.fastweb.com; www.fastaid.com and www.srnexpress.com.
- **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 www.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

Seniors:

- ___ Submit college applications.
- ___ Estimate FAFSA results using the *College Funding Estimator* at www.educationquest.org.
- ___ Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
- ___ Continue to apply for scholarships.
- ___ Make a FAFSA appointment at EducationQuest if you need help with the form.

Juniors

- ___ Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
- ___ Research college choices.
- ___ Search for scholarships.
- ___ [Register by January 5](#) for the February 10 ACT.

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dr. Gayla Fredrickson



“Teachers now are expected to staff the permanent emergency rooms of our country’s dysfunctional social order. They are expected to compensate for what families, communities and culture fail to do. Like our soldiers in Iraq they are sent into urban combat zones, on impossible missions, under inhospitable conditions, and then abandoned by the politicians and policy makers who have already cut and run, leaving teachers on their own.” Bill Moyers in a speech given to the Council of Great City Schools in San Diego earlier this fall.

Moyer’s words were strongly spoken and written. This article is worth the time of the thoughtful reader. I was stuck by his thoughtful analysis of American life today and of the dangers we, as a democratic people, should be aware and wary of. In order to share this article with you I am going to post it on the school’s website under administration. I would like your feedback on the article after you finish reading it. The web address is:

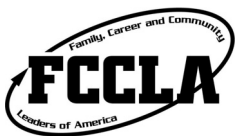
www.elgineagles.org

Now I don’t believe teachers in Elgin or Ewing, Nebraska feel that they have been thrown into a combat zone and given an impossible mission unlike many of their urban counterparts. However, as a superintendent I am feeling fatigued from the immense amount of paperwork and forms that we are expected to fill out in each of our schools. These forms and paperwork are the direct result of politicians and policy makers. Several weeks ago at both Elgin and Ewing we received a notice that we had failed to fill out the 7% form. “The 7% what?” we asked the state office. We were told that we were sent a form and were to have returned it. Neither office had seen such a form so we asked for a duplicate copy. Each set of bookkeeping personnel dutifully filled out the form and sent it back. Imagine Nancy Harpster’s surprise when she received another call. “There’s an error on your report. One person is entered twice” Nancy replied that she hadn’t entered the people only supplied the salary information after the peoples’ names. “Oh,” came the reply, “It must be an internal error.” CLICK.

Teachers are feeling fatigued, too from the testing and paperwork required by NCLB. Each of our schools is to be reviewed in January to prove that we are teaching, administering, and reporting all of the state (or local) standards correctly. These requirements are the direct result of the federal enactment of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). At both Ewing and Elgin we have begun to review our paperwork to make certain we will pass this review. Preparing for this review will take up valuable time. Just today, we were informed that some of the online test questions didn’t pass reliability standards and that we must take immediate action to rectify the problem. (More time and more paperwork)

One teacher asked me in frustration when they were going to be able to just “teach”. I think under NCLB the answer might be in the song, “Until the 12th of Never and that’s a long, long time!”

On a more positive note, I enjoyed watching the Ewing girls at State Volleyball. They represented Ewing and the Niobrara Valley Conference very well. The fan support from the community was awesome and the young men of the school supported the ladies on the court with their cheering. It was a very positive event. Even with the loss in the final round I was very proud of the team and the coaching staff.



FCCLA Students Gain Valuable Information From Conference

Students from Elgin Public chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) recently participated in a weekend leadership conference held November 17-19, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Attendees participated in a weekend of trainings and sessions that challenged, informed, and motivated members and their advisers to become leaders through FCCLA. Along with more than 4,700 other members and chapter advisers, Elgin's FCCLA chapter adviser, Barb Bode, accompanied 13 members to the meeting.

The "LOL :) Live Out Loud!" theme was reinforced in the Opening General Session by guest speaker Matt Glowacki who addressed how to tackle ignorance and accept diversity.

Saturday's agenda included training in FCCLA's peer education programs such as Community Service and STOP the Violence--Students Taking On Prevention. The March of Dimes, KP Education Systems, i-Safe America, and Disney also presented collaborative project ideas.

Keynote speaker Justin Boudreau closed out the meeting by inspiring attendees with his motivational message, "Be YOUUnique," and encouraging attendees to make the most of their powerful leadership potential.

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

By Corey Fisher



Each year on November 11th, millions of people across the United States celebrate a national holiday called Veteran's Day. Veterans Day is a time to join as a community and as a country to remember those who have served this great country in wartime and in peacetime. It is a time to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives with the hope that by doing so, our country would remain strong and free in the face of aggression and threat.

On November 10, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at Elgin Public Schools, we joined the millions nation-wide in honoring our local Veterans right here in Elgin. This program is one that I look forward to the most each year. We were tremendously honored to have PFC Joey Cornett of Oakdale, Nebraska and a member of the Nebraska National Guard's 189th Transportation Company, as the guest speaker for this year's program. Mr. Cornett recently returned from serving a tour of duty in Iraq and shared some of his experiences with the audience. I always get chills and a sense of admiration for those serving in our country's armed forces. They are all heroes and deserve more recognition than they will ever receive. At the conclusion of Mr. Cornett's speech, a story was told by National Guard Sergeant, Ryan Thompson about how Mr. Cornett had saved a fellow American soldier's life. Of all the things that Mr. Cornett spoke about during his speech, he never once mentioned the fact that he had earned a medal for saving a life. Not once. That in itself exemplified what a true hero really is. The humble attitude that Mr. Cornett demonstrates is something you will find with most military men and women. They view their service as something that is a privilege. Not something that they should be owed special recognition for doing. That is, to me, true patriotism.

I have been fortunate to know several young men and women who once walked our school's hallways, participated on our school's athletic teams, and were students in my classes. Watching them grow up and be a part of who they have become is a special thing to me as I am sure it is with most of our teachers and staff here at EPS. Seeing them as adults and especially as service men and women in the military gives me a deep sense of pride. When they return home and stop in to visit, it reminds me why it is so important to honor our Veterans and celebrate the accomplishments that they and our country has achieved. I appreciate and respect them all. Seeing our older or retired Veterans each year march into the gym and sit together; to see the pride in their faces is something one has to observe first hand to witness and understand their pride. As Mr. Cornett explained, without those Veterans throughout history, there would not be a country to serve and defend. For these reasons, we will continue this time-honored tradition of honoring all Veterans here at Elgin Public Schools.

Although our country only formally recognizes all Veterans once per year, I encourage all of you to take time and pay tribute to those who are currently or have served our great country throughout the years. Thank them when you see them. Throughout history, our country has united together when times were toughest and it should be no different now. It is my hope that years from now, we will still be able to celebrate our country's Veterans and still be able to enjoy the protection and freedoms we have today.

Thank you Veterans.

Corey Fisher, Principal
cfisher@esu8.org



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