



EAGLE UPDATE

Phone (402) 843-2455
Fax (402) 843-2475
www.elgineagles.org

Elgin Public School
P.O. Box 399
101 N. 4th St.
Elgin, NE 68636-0399

Volume XXIII, Issue 5

December, 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER



Dec. 3
Fall Activities
Banquet 7:00 p.m.



Dec. 13
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m.



Dec. 17
Christmas Music
Program 7:00 p.m.



Dec. 20
Last day of semester
2:00 dismissal



Dec. 27 & 28
Holiday BBall
Tourney at Elgin



Jan 3.
School Resumes



Technology Students Build "Spike" the Scorpion



Lexi Sanderson and Cordell Waterbury work together to build and program "Spike".

The junior high technology students are closing the semester with some exciting LEGO Mindstorm projects. The latest design is of a scorpion-like robot that can sense and strike a target. Most if not all of the students are sad to see the class come to an end. At the beginning of the semester I set some objectives for this course and am extremely happy with the students' progress. They are:

1. Students will be interested and excited about working with technology.
2. Students will be comfortable working with and experimenting with technology.
3. Students will apply math and science concepts to technological design.

The first objective was rather simple to achieve due to the nature of the equipment purchased by the school, so I credit the administration for the program's success thanks to their vision. The second objective was achieved shortly after building the first robot. Students spent more time troubleshooting their own problems than asking me for help. They are becoming independent problem solvers when it comes to technology. At the heart of technology is the application of math and science concepts. As we worked through different designs we addressed the circumference of a wheel to determine distance traveled, concepts of light and reflection when using the light sensor, turning rotational motion into linear motion, and many other concepts. It has been a great experience for all of us and I look forward to more next year!

To view video of "Spike" in action, click on the story on our website www.elgineagles.org.

For the most current news and calendar, go to www.elgineagles.org.

Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

FA LA LA LA NEWS

Who is faster than a speeding reindeer? Why...it's...SuperClaus!!! That is the musical grades 3-6 will be performing at this years Christmas concert. Something happens to Santa as he tries to fix the broken assembly machine just days before Christmas. Come to the concert to find out what happens. Santa is played by Brett Kinney, Mrs. Claus is Ivy Prater and Dr. Brainpain is Travis Grosserode. They will be joined by a host of elves and reindeer in this musical sure to bring a laugh or two.

The concert will also feature the Pre-school and Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, cadet band, concert band and the high school choir. The date is Monday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. It will be in the gym. Please join us for a night of Christmas merriment and entertainment to start off your holiday season!



TIMED TESTS SUCCESSFUL

In elementary math news: All 9 sixth grade math students have already completed timed tests for the year! Way to go!

21% of the fifth graders are done for the year, Kyle, Logan, and Tera. Fourth graders are working hard, many of them are taking the multiplication and division timed tests already.



IMPACT WORKSHOP

Elgin FFA Members attended an IMPACT Workshop in Stuart on November 13, 2007. The Nebraska State FFA Officer team conducted the workshop. Students learned time management, leadership, and team building skills while at the workshop. Ben Beckman an Elgin FFA Alumni and the 2007-2008 Nebraska State FFA Secretary was one of the presenters at the workshop.



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.

CVA DONATES SIGNS



The Central Valley Agricultural Cooperative donated two road signs to the Elgin FFA Chapter. Be watching for the welcome signs on the outskirts of Elgin in the near future. Pictured are Karl Hensley-CVA, Jessica Morrison-Elgin FFA Member, & Phil Simpson – Elgin FFA Advisor.



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.



EPS
Christmas
Concert
December 17th
7:00 p.m.

A showcase of holiday talent from grades Preschool thru High School

Come and Join in the Fun!

BODE ATTENDS NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERS CONFERENCE



Senator Ben Nelson meets with Linsey Bode in Washington D.C.

This is a summary of the week that Linsey Bode spent in Washington, DC at National Young Leaders Conference. It sounds like an exciting week and we are glad she shared this summary with us. -----Paula Jensen

November 13 – 18 I had the opportunity to join 350 high school students from across the nation in attending the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. The entire experience was amazing.

I arrived on Tuesday at Ronald Reagan International Airport, and from there I rode on a shuttle bus along with some of my fellow conference members (I'd become good friends with over the next 5 days) to the National 4-H Center, where I would be staying for the week. Upon checking in we were split into groups of around 20 students, with whom we would spend the vast majority of our time with and partake in our simulations of the 3 branches of the government.

Wednesday morning we completed our "If I Were President" simulations, where we had to deal with and solve a foreign policy crisis. After which we prepared for our judicial simulation. That afternoon, we ate lunch at Dupont Circle, and visited the Korean, Lincoln, and Vietnam memorials. Then in the evening I attended the *Faces of Homelessness* leadership workshop, where I listened to two previously homeless people account their journey from having a home and family to becoming homeless, and to where they are now.

Thursday morning we boarded the buses and headed to Capitol Hill, where we got to sit in the gallery of the House of Representatives and watch them go over the morning's business. After which we separated to tour Capitol Hill and meet with

our state's senators and representatives. Some students were not able to meet with all three however I was fortunate enough to get to do so. Ben Nelson was gracious enough to come out of a committee hearing just to visit with me, answer my questions and take a picture with me; he also brought along Ted Kennedy a senator from Massachusetts. I also met with Chuck Hagel and Adrian Smith, who both took a picture with me and sent a signed copy to me. That evening upon returning to the center we completed our "Testing the Constitution" simulation, were briefed on the Model Congress, and watched a performance of the theatre group "The Capitol Steps."

We started Friday morning bright and early with a bus ride to the Marriot Metro Center Hotel where we had breakfast with the press. Chip Reid, with *CBS News*, A.B. Stoddard, Associate Editor of *The Hill*, Clarence Page, Columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*, and Nancy Ambrose, who previously worked for *CNN* and *ABC news*, served as mediator. They briefed us of their careers before the floor was opened to questions about current events from NYLC students. After breakfast we visited the FDR and Jefferson memorials. That afternoon we completed a Town Hall Discussion about current governmental issues affecting the nation. That evening we started our "Model Congress" simulations, where we testified for our groups/caucus's amendment to a bill, and then concluded with lobbying for our amendment.

Saturday morning, we had a quick White House photo opportunity, and then completed the rest of our "Model Congress" simulation, where we actually simulated the House of Representatives, and voted on specific amendments to the bill. (My caucus's passed... by a slim two votes.) We concluded the evening with a farewell dinner dance.

Sunday was our last day, where we received our completion certificates, and attended a commencement ceremony.

I found it so amazing how you can get to know so many kids in such a little time, and it was hard for me to say goodbye to people that you knew you never see again. I was able to makes friends with kids all across the nation (I was the only one from Nebraska) and even several who lived over seas on a military base. The experience was something I will never forget, I was able to learn so much about our government. I'd like to thank Mrs. Heithoff for nominating me for a once in a lifetime experience.

Elgin Public School is collecting photos of veterans for a slide presentation at next year's Veterans Day program.

Please bring this completed form and a military picture to Elgin Public School office or e-mail the information and picture to jensnp@esu8.org. Photographs will be scanned and returned to you immediately. If you have any questions, call Paula Jensen at Elgin Public School 843-2455 or home 843-5977

NAME OF VETERAN _____
 BRANCH OF MILITARY _____ DATES SERVED _____
 KILLED IN ACTION (circle) Yes No

Senior Interviews . . .



Brandy Suhr

Full Name: Brandy Jordan Suhr
Parents: Thomas Suhr & (late) Jennie Suhr
Brothers: Robert & Marcus Suhr, Stephan Weston
Favorite School Subject: Anatomy
Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Jones & Mrs. Walsh
School activities: basketball, track, PALS, AcaDeca
Greatest Honor during school: Honor Roll
Favorite School Activity : Basketball because it gives me a chance to do what I love to do.
Most educational experience: visiting the Vietnam Wall Memorial
Most inspirational person: Michael Jordan
Favorite color: Purple/blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: listen to music, hang out with friends
Pet peeve: when someone says one thing and does another
If I could go back in time I would go: probably back to when times were really hard just to see all that we take for granted today.
Favorite saying: Today is a privilege , so live today like tomorrow isn't happening.
Something most people don't know about me: I have a little brother that's only two years old and lives in Oklahoma City, OK
Favorite movie: Coach Carter
Dream car: 80 Style Mustang
Favorite Food: pasta
Favorite School lunch: cheesy tuna noodles
Favorite Pop: Pepsi
Favorite TV Show: Family Guy
Favorite type of music: pretty much anything
Future plans after graduation: finish my military training in Virginia and then come back and go to college of choice and study physical therapy or sports medicine

Full Name: Rebecca Jo Schindler
Parents: Laurie & Chris Waterbury
Brother: Cordell (7th)
Favorite School Subject: Child Development because it's extremely interesting and because it's fun to watch Chris's reactions to the things we experience during the class
Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Walsh because she lets you have fun while you learn.
School activities: FFA, FCCLA, band/choir, volleyball, student council, PALS, dance team, yearbook
Greatest Honor during school: making the All "A" Honor roll in my senior year because I had never done that before.
Favorite School Activity: watching basketball and football games because I love the atmosphere.
Most educational experience: NLS during my sophomore summer because I met a lot of awesome people
Most inspirational person: I have yet to meet this person
Favorite color: pink & lime green
Favorite thing to do in spare time: chat and mess around on Facebook on the computer
Pet peeve: When people burp and then blow it in my face.
If I could go back in time I would go: to my childhood because back then I didn't have the stresses I do now.
Favorite saying: "Gangster Please"
Something most people don't know about me: I'm a complete slob!
Favorite movie: Sweet Home Alabama
Dream car: Mustang
Favorite Food: Subway
Favorite School lunch: burritos, mashed potatoes
Favorite Pop: Mt. Dew
Favorite type of music: RNB, hip hop, rap
Future plans after graduation: go to college to pursue a career in psychology



Rebecca Schindler

Senior Interviews . . .



Amanda Hemenway

Full Name: Amanda Jo Hemenway
Parents: Alan & Deb Hemenway
Sister: Melisa
Brothers: Ryan & Anthony
Pets: 1 dog & 6 cats
Favorite School Subject: science
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Jones
School activities: FFA, PALS, band, choir, one-act, volleyball
Greatest Honor during school: National Honor Society
Favorite School Activity: One-act because we get to mess around and act crazy without getting in trouble
Most educational experience: van trips with Mrs. Walsh & her "detours"
Most inspirational person: Andrea Schmidt
Favorite color: green
Favorite thing to do in spare time: hang out with family & friends
Pet peeve: when people chomp on their gum
If I could go back in time I would go: The Roman Empire
Something most people don't know about me: When I was little I was scared of dogs.
Favorite movie: Wild Hogs
Dream car: 79 Ford pickup that runs and is in good condition
Favorite Food: deer jerky
Favorite School lunch: cheesy tuna & noodles
Favorite Pop: Diet Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV Show: Two and a Half Men
Future plans after graduation: attend college and become a RN or Physical Therapist

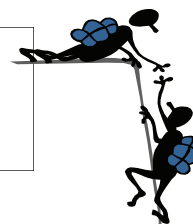
Full Name: Mikayla Rea Hoffart
Parents: Darline Warner & Kelly Hoffart
Brothers: Alois & Ryan Warner
Sisters: Amber Hoffart
Pets: Dog (Sadie)
Favorite School Subject: being Miss Davis's teacher's aide
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Jones
School activities: One-act, speech, track, band, choir, PALS, FFA
Greatest Honor during school: Best Female actress for one-act 2006-07
Favorite School Activity: football games because they're fun!
Most educational experience: tripping while marching I learned the lesson that you should always watch where you are marching and don't make fun of the floats in the parade.
Most inspirational person: Grandma Durre
Favorite color: blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: listen to music, hang out with friends
Pet peeve: when people touch my ice.
If I could go back in time I would go: the beginning of September to hang out with Andrew Spaulding as much as I could
Favorite saying: R-Do it.
Something most people don't know about me: I'm actually very sensitive.
Favorite movie: Super Troopers
Dream car: 1968 Shelby Mustang
Favorite Food: pizza
Favorite School lunch: Chilli
Favorite Pop: Mt. Dew
Favorite TV Show: Family Guy
Favorite type of music: alternative/rock
Future plans after graduation: to be a pet-facilitated therapist



Mikayla Hoffart

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Countdown to College Call-In Show airs December 11

Get expert advice on college planning, admissions and financial aid during the ninth annual *Countdown to College* call-in program **Tuesday, December 11 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.

Watch your mail for a postcard with more details.

If you miss the show December 11, watch for a rebroadcast on NET Thursday, December 20 at 10 pm CT

The show will also be rebroadcast on NET2:

Friday, December 14 at 9 pm CT (8 pm MT)

Saturday, December 15 at 7 am CT (6 am MT)

Sunday, December 23 at 10 am CT (9 am MT)

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

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 www.educationquest.org/fap.asp.

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 2007 income tax information. *You may estimate your tax information to complete the Estimator but should use your completed 2007 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 www.educationquest.org which has over 1,600 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 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.

Seniors:

- ___ Watch the Countdown to College Call-In Show December 11 on NET.
- ___ 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

Juniors

- ___ Watch the Countdown to College Call-In Show December 11 on NET.
- ___ Attend the Financial Aid Program in your area.
- ___ Research college choices.
- ___ Search for scholarships.
- ___ [Register by December 26](#) for the January 26 SAT.
- ___ [Register by January 4](#) for the February 9 ACT.

From the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dr. Gayla Fredrickson



School Pride

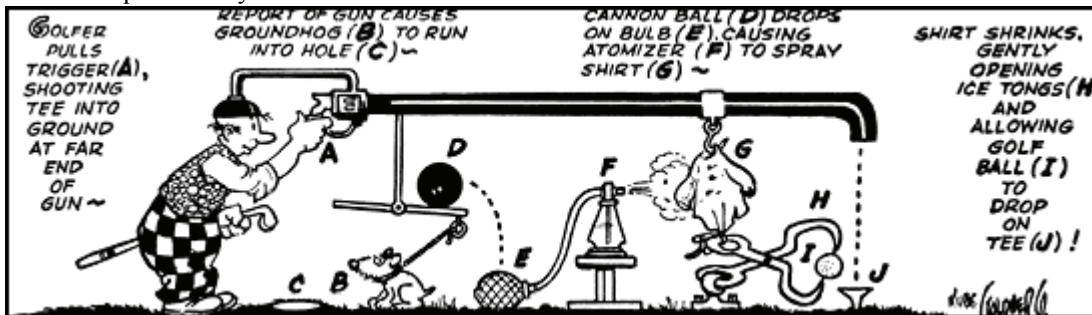
As the superintendent of Elgin Public I want to state that I am extremely proud of the 2007 football team members and coaching staff. I believe President Roosevelt expressed occasions like this most eloquently:

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy course; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Engineering Students Apply Mechanical Concepts Creatively

Rube Goldberg Machines developed by the Introduction to Engineering students have recently taken over the vacated kindergarten building. Before starting on this project, students spent some time researching Rube Goldberg, a Nobel Prize winner for political cartooning. You might ask what cartooning has to do with engineering. Mr. Goldberg was an inventor of sorts. He drew very complex and often absurd machines that turned an ordinary, simple task into an overly complicated one. The cartoon illustrated is just one example of many.



The students were placed in teams and asked to decide on a simple task then design and build a machine with at least eight steps to complete the task. Some tasks include putting toothpaste on a toothbrush, stapling papers, and opening a shade. At first they had a difficult time brainstorming ways to use everyday materials in unique and inventive ways, but after viewing some examples they developed their own creative ideas. We will keep the projects up for awhile if you would like to see them in action.



Eric Powell, Brett Mahnke, Michael Miller, and Kara Zegers work on their Rube Goldberg machines.



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 Dec. 7th at EPS gym. Stop in and see their selection of homemade products.



In the August/September edition of the NSAA Bulletin in his "Beyond The Game" column, Dr. Jim Tenopir, Executive Director of the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA), stated that "The classroom we call "high school activities" provides a great setting for students to develop many life skills: work ethic, commitment, teamwork, fair play and leadership." He also explained that in that setting, high school coaches, sponsors and administrators are "professors" in the classroom and that students are learning from the examples set by those individuals. It is not very often that I use this forum to talk about our schools athletics or how athletics and activities are a major part of the total education experience here at EPS. Please indulge me the opportunity to share with you some final thoughts about the 2007 Elgin High Football Team and my view of its importance to the total educational process here at EPS.

Many would agree that the 2007 EHS football season was one that included so many awesome memories. It was perhaps one of the most exciting seasons on record at Elgin High School. This year's team finished the season with a 12-1 record and earned the title as the Class D2 Runner-Up. Perhaps the reason it was so exciting, especially late in the playoffs was that both schools in the community were enjoying the same great excitement and success. The community was certainly a little more united as a result. While all of that is tremendous and provided life-long memories for all who were involved, I would like to take it a step further.

I believe that our school and community were so well represented by the play of this year's EHS football team. The sportsmanship was first class it became a regular occurrence for administrators and coaches from opposing schools to comment on the sportsmanship and class the team displayed. Over the years, I have observed teams from other schools from time to time that may win the game but did not reflect the kind of positive representation of themselves, their school or community that one would expect to be associated with winning. I have always told our coaches here at EHS that I would rather lose with class than win and have others feel we were anything less than a great representation of our school. Sometimes, student-athletes can get caught up in the heat of competition and briefly display a lack of self-control or poor sportsmanship. It can even happen to coaches. Players and coaches are all only human and it can happen. To me, during those times, it is imperative for the coaches and administrators to address the issue and re-define the expectations for the team and the school. While it seldom happened with this year's football team, it was always addressed and student-athletes were "taught" the correct manner in which to compete.

The coaches for this year's football team, to me, understand the importance of teaching correct behavior along with the fundamentals of the game. Coach Wells, Coach Eisenhauer, Coach Simpson and Coach Heithoff did a fantastic job this season. They have built a reputation that is reflective of great sportsmanship and they are teaching about life through the game of football. They are first-class individuals and they take a lot of pride in making sure the entire team understands what it means to compete in a manner that reflects only the highest of integrity. I personally enjoyed every minute of watching the interaction between the players and coaches and feeling a sense of pride because things were being done the right way. These coaches stress the importance of academic success. They support that students must be successful in the classroom before competing on the field. With these coaches, academics are certainly a priority. What I find really exciting is that I have observed this kind of behavior for many years here at EHS. It is not just something that these coaches have emphasized when their teams are winning. Coach Wells and his assistants have set this expectation for many years including a few years back when the team lost eight out of eight games.

Winning a state championship was certainly the goal for this year's football team. I believe that this team played in a manner that reflected their goals and to come up a little short was heart breaking to say the least. Life is full of high and low points for everyone. Being a person of positive character and integrity, allows one to face adversity and grow. As is engraved on the outside of historic Memorial Stadium "Not the victory but the action; Not the goal but the game; In the deed the glory." At EHS, winning is great and always the goal. Winning and losing with class however, is always the expectation.

Have a great holiday season.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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POSTAL PATRON