



EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School
P.O. Box 399
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Elgin, NE 68636-0399

Volume XXV, Issue 7

February, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER



Feb. 8
Student-Led
Conferences
4:30 - 9:00 p.m.



Feb. 12
School Board
Mtg. 7:30 p.m. in
ITV room



Feb. 17
LATE START
10:00 a.m.



Feb. 19
NO SCHOOL
(teacher 1/2 day
inservice)

ALERT NOW SERVICES TO LAUNCH SOON



Elgin Public Schools will soon be launching an automatic calling system to alert parents, students, and staff in the event of emergency closures, late starts, or early dismissals. This system will also be an important communication tool in the event of a school lockdown. Alert Now rapid communication services have been contracted to perform the automatic calling for us.

The Alert Now system will use the phone numbers, cell numbers, and e-mail addresses listed in our Schoolmaster student information system. After initial contact is made by school officials, Alert Now calls and e-mails everyone on the list within minutes. This system will also leave voice mail on cell phones or a message on home answering machines. The number 411 will show on your caller ID for all emergency notifications. This effort should result in quicker notification for all involved.

The Alert Now system can also be used for non-emergency situations. If a non-emergency notification is sent, the school's telephone number will appear on your caller ID. Perhaps the third grade is taking a field trip and a message can be sent to all 3rd graders to remind them to bring their permission slip. In the event that the One-Act sponsor is sick and morning practice needs to be cancelled, a message can be sent to all cast & crew members. Sometimes general messages will remind parents of parent-teacher conferences or student registration night. As the Alert Now system becomes commonplace, many more uses will become apparent.

Because the system will be using the information on our computerized information system, it is very important that we have current phone numbers for all parents, students, and staff. Soon a phone number confirmation letter will be sent to all parents. This letter will list the contact information that is imported into the system. It is very important to double-check the phone numbers and e-mail addresses that we have listed for your child and make any corrections to our listings. Return this letter to the school as soon as possible so we can update our information.

School staff is being trained in the system and when it is ready to be implemented, a test message will be sent. This will be a good indicator of incorrect phone numbers or numbers that you do not wish to have on the list.

The ultimate goal is that this notification service will result in more accurate and reliable communication between school and home.



For the latest in news, check out our website: www.elgineagles.org



FCCLA SOUP SUPPER



*Feb. 1st
during NVC Basketball Tourney
EPS Gym*

Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup
crackers, cheese, beverage, & desserts
Serving starts at 5:30 p.m.



SCIENCE FAIR PREP BEGINS

It's science fair time once again! The date has been set for March 8th from 7 -9 pm. Everyone is welcome to learn more about how a person's color vision in the dark, if food/tobacco/

drink choices affect mouth bacteria, how glass can be etched using acid, and much, much more!

The first and most crucial step of the science fair has been completed—choosing a topic! Students have since stated their problems and are currently working on their research. It won't be long before they make a hypothesis—only then can testing begin! For a thorough project, it is important for each student to complete each step so they can have a valid set of results and draw meaningful conclusions.

And as in past years, eight-graders may also have the option of taking their project to the regional Health Science Meet held in Norfolk. If chosen, these students may attend the 3-day state meet during the summer in which they participate in hands-on health science activities.

This year *all* students will complete each step and submit their progress over ANGEL, the digital network that allows documents to be sent, graded, and returned with comments—all on-line. This will further help to reduce the amount of paper used since students will only print off their final versions. Students are also encouraged to use technology in their testing and displaying of material.



STUDENT LED CONFERENCES PLANNED



During the 3rd quarter of the spring semester, all students will participate in Student-Led Conferences with their parents. Students will be required to complete a portfolio each year that will include various pieces of work from each of their enrolled classes. Teachers will be available during the Student-Led Conferences, but the main goal of the conference is for students to lead a discussion regarding their school performance with their parents.

The conferences will be held at the school and each student will be assigned a time to review their portfolio with their parent(s). The conference must take place at the school and all efforts should be made to attend during the assigned time. Students are required to participate in the Student-Led Conference.

Student-Led Conferences will be held February 8th from 4:30 - 9:00 p.m. Schedules will be sent out to parents soon. Please call the school if you need to have your conference time rescheduled.

FCCLA CandyGrams For Sale

Balloon with candy delivered in Elgin with a special message for your Valentine!



Large mylar balloon/candy \$5.00

Small latex balloon/candy \$3.00

Kinds of Poppables available:

Snickers, Reeses, Skittles, Nibs,

Plain or Peanut M & M's, Hugs & Kisses, Starbursts

Place your order by February 11th with any FCCLA member or call the school 843-2455.

Payment must accompany your order.

Order forms are available on the website.



RHONDA MILLER

BENEFIT RAFFLE

FEB 4th

during NVC Basketball Tourney games

Our bus driver experienced a house fire on January 5th. A variety of baked goods and other items will be raffled.

All proceeds of this raffle will go to help this family.

Please stop by and purchase a raffle ticket!

Free will donations are also being accepted in the collection can in the main office and during the games.



Justine Meis

Full name: Justine Marie Meis
Parents: Jayne Meis
Brothers: Ryan Meis
Sisters: Mary Meis
Pets: Chocolate lab (Tippy) 2 Chihuahua's (Rascal, Sally)
Favorite School subject: Child Development
Favorite teacher: Mr. Jones
School activities: Track, FCCLA, FFA, Dance, class secretary, PALS
Greatest honor during school: Qualifying for state track
Favorite school activity: Watching football because high school football is more entertaining than the NFL.
Most educational experience: 5th grade field trip to the Olsen Nature Preserve
Most inspirational person: My Grandma, Betty
Favorite color: blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: being with friends, watch movies, and just have fun
Pet Peeve: People who chomp their food
If I could go back in time I would go to: 1920's because all the cool styles and everything was going good in the 20's
Favorite saying: "Intense"
Something most people don't know about me: My brother and I are the same age for a week each year!
Favorite movie: Out Cold
Dream car: 1976 Camaro
Favorite food: Shrimp Alfredo
Favorite school lunch: Chicken fried steak
Favorite pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV show: George Lopez
Favorite type of music: anything but country
Future plans after graduation: Attend Northeast Community College and then Wayne State College to become a P.E. Teacher

Full name: Justin Joseph Reestman
Parents: Ken & Joyce Reestman
Brothers: Tyler Reestman
Pets: Buddy, and several cats
Favorite School subject: Weights
Favorite teacher: Mr. Wells
School activities: basketball, track, FFA
Greatest honor during school: Being a part of the 2007 state football team
Favorite school activity: basketball because I like to play it
Most educational experience: Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall
Most inspirational person: Grandpa Reestman
Favorite color: orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: Play basketball and be with friends
Pet Peeve: When the sophomores say "huh" all the time.
If I could go back in time I would go to: the baseball game when Babe Ruth called his shot.
Favorite saying: "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in t he dog."
Something most people don't know about me: I only have one kidney
Favorite movie: Wedding Crashers
Dream car: '69 Dodge Charger
Favorite food: steak
Favorite school lunch: Sloppy Joe
Favorite pop: Mountain Dew
Favorite TV show: Sportscenter
Favorite type of music: Rock
Future plans after graduation: Attend Northeast Community



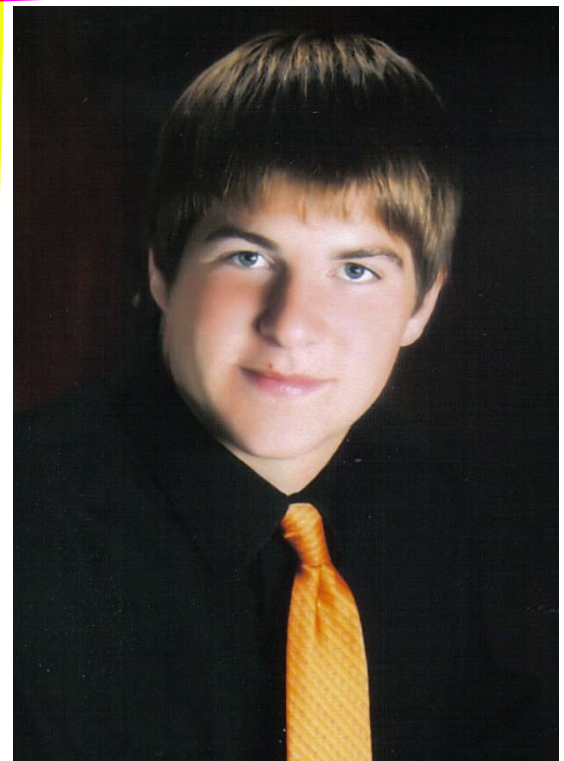
Justin Reestman



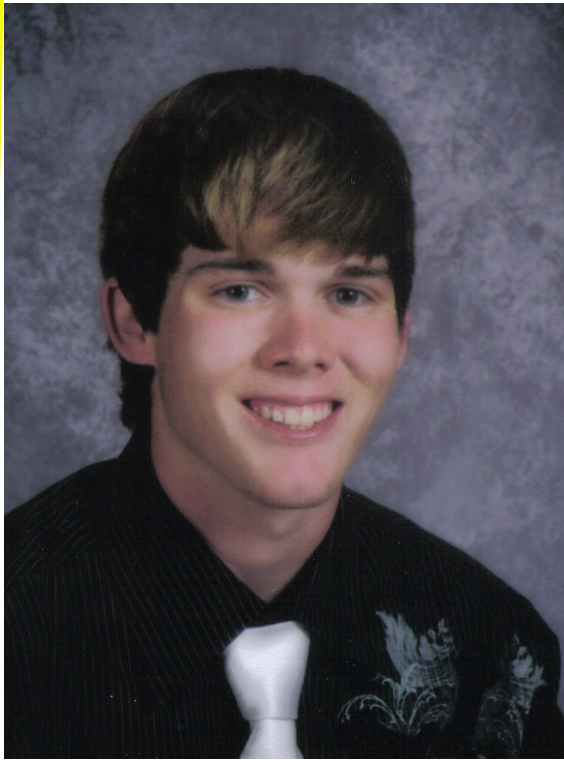
Noel Voborny

Full name: Noel L. Voborny
Parents: Leon & Penny voborny
Brothers: Luke, Shane
Sisters: Tonya, Amanda
Pets: Fred
Favorite School subject: Ag mechanics
Favorite teacher: Miss J.
School activities: football
Greatest honor during school: art awards
Favorite school activity: football because it releases frustrations
Most educational experience: Freshman Year
Most inspirational person: My father, Leon
Favorite color: Orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: work on vehicles
Pet Peeve: stupid people
If I could go back in time I would go to: 1968 for the muscle car era
Favorite saying: If you can't laugh at yourself, you can't laugh at anybody.
Something most people don't know about me: I like some country music
Favorite movie: Dazed and Confused
Dream car: 1968 Dodge Charger
Favorite food: Fried chicken
Favorite school lunch: breakfast pizza
Favorite pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV show: That 70's Show
Favorite type of music: Metal
Future plans after graduation: college

Full name: Eric Dean Vanis
Parents: Randy & Sue Vanis
Brothers: Adam, Shane
Sisters: Emily
Pets: Dog (Bentley)
Favorite School subject: Spanish
Favorite teacher: Mr. Wells
School activities: FFA, football, basketball, track
Greatest honor during school: Superior honor roll
Favorite school activity: Football because I love a challenge and the chance to get better.
Most educational experience: psychology class
Most inspirational person: my father
Favorite color: black & orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: be with friends and hunt or fish
Pet Peeve: pencils with no eraser
If I could go back in time I would go to: cowboys & Indians era
Favorite saying: knock it
Favorite movie: Fox & the Hound
Dream car: Chevy Camaro
Favorite food: Casey's pizza
Favorite school lunch: mini corn dogs
Favorite pop: Mountain Dew
Favorite TV show: NCIS
Favorite type of music: Country or rock & roll
Future plans after graduation: attend NECC and major in electrical construction



Eric Vanis



Devin Brown

Full name: Devin Joseph Brown
Parents: Jerome and Joy Brown
Brothers: Jerome Brown Jr.
Sisters: Amity
Pets: dog (Bruiser)
Favorite School subject: shop
Favorite teacher: Mrs. Vaughn
School activities: FFA, FCCLA, Wrestling, Choir
Greatest honor during school: Attending All-State Choir
Favorite school activity: Wrestling because chicks dig it
Most educational experience: Rebuilding my first engine
Most inspirational person: my parents
Favorite color: blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: work on old cars
Pet Peeve: two-faced people
If I could go back in time I would go to: the 60's & 70's for the cars and the music
Favorite saying: let 'er rip tater chip
Something most people don't know about me: I used to ride steers
Favorite movie: The Fast and the Furious 4
Dream car: 1967 Shelby Mustang GT500
Favorite food: Homemade Runzas
Favorite school lunch: hot ham-n-cheese or breakfast pizza
Favorite pop: Mountain Dew Voltage
Favorite TV show: That 70's Show
Favorite type of music: Classic or New Rock
Future plans after graduation: Attend College and get a degree in Automotive Tech

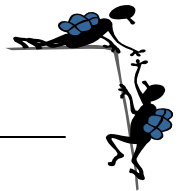
Full name: Jamie Lauraine Bode
Parents: Charlie & Shelley Bode
Brothers: Chad Bode
Sisters: Ashley Bode
Pets: 2 big black dogs (Lila & Cash)
Favorite School subject: weightlifting
Favorite teacher: It's a toss up because I like a lot of my teachers.
School activities: volleyball, basketball, FCCLA, student council, FFA, track
Greatest honor during school: Homecoming queen and sports awards
Favorite school activity: basketball, I just like the game
Most educational experience: Freshman year
Most inspirational person: My dad because he's a hardworker
Favorite color: orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: spend time with friends and play sand volleyball in the summer.
Pet Peeve: when someone can't have a conversation without gossiping about another person.
If I could go back in time I would go to: (I probably wouldn't be go back in time.)
Favorite saying: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the strength to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."
Something most people don't know about me: I HATE being tickled, I have nightmares about it all the time.
Favorite movie: My Best Friend's Girl
Dream car: A new, big 4-door pickup
Favorite food: strawberries
Favorite school lunch: Chili cheese dogs
Favorite pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV show: That 70's Show
Favorite type of music: Rock
Future plans after graduation: Go to college in Lincoln



Jamie Bode

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



It's FAFSA Time!

If you're a college-bound senior, it's time to get serious about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. February is typically the time to apply as many colleges have a March 1 priority filing date. (Contact the colleges you applied to and ask for their priority date.)

Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA...

Step 1: Request a PIN

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and one for a parent at pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the electronic FAFSA and is used to track your financial aid application.

Step 2: Complete your taxes early

The FAFSA requires current tax information so complete your taxes early.

Step 3: Gather these student and parent items:

- 2009 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2009 W-2 forms
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate.)
- 2009 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2009 Worker's Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2009 such as veteran's benefits, housing/food/living allowances for military and clergy
Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens



Step 4: Complete and file the FAFSA

Complete and file the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. The colleges you list on the application will receive the results.

If you're filing the FAFSA for the first time and need help completing the form, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to set up an appointment. Call the Kearney office at 800-666-3721, Lincoln at 800-303-3745 or Omaha at 888-357-6300. All services are *free*.

Online FAFSA enhancements make it easier to complete. As you and your parents prepare to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), be aware of some enhancements to the online form that may make it easier to complete. They include:

- better "skip logic" which skips unnecessary questions based on individual answers
- a new "help and tips" tool that follows each question
- clearly defined parent and student sessions

EducationQuest has several online tools that also make it easier to complete the FAFSA. They are available in the "[Completing the FAFSA](#)" section at EducationQuest.org.

- "[Guide to College Funding](#)" video – explains the financial aid process and the FAFSA
- "[FAFSA Made Easy](#)" video – demonstrates, in a humorous way, that the FAFSA isn't as difficult as it seems
- [FAFSA Checklist](#) – provides a list of items needed to complete the FAFSA
- [FAFSA Tutorial](#) – explains each FAFSA question
- [Podcasts](#) – explain the FAFSA - and how to prepare

February "To Do" List

Seniors:

- ___ Apply for a [Department of Education PIN](#)
(one for you and one for a parent).
- ___ Complete student and parent 2009 tax returns.
- ___ Complete the FAFSA.
- ___ Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors:

- ___ Register by February 4 for the March 13 SAT
(SAT Reasoning Test only).
- ___ Register by March 10 for the April 10 ACT.

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Steve Dennis
sdennis@esu8.org

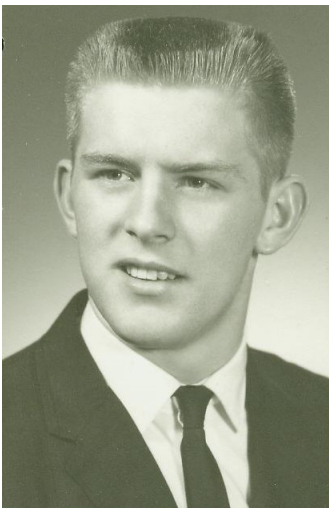


The weather continues to be an enigma! The scary part is there are predictions that there will be more rough spots before spring arrives. In order to inform parents about school starts due to weather, schedule changes, meetings and other school news in a more timely manner we are in the process of installing a new telephone notification system, Alertnow. Alertnow will enable us to send a mass calling to parents, teachers and other selected members of the Elgin Public School district. You will get the information at your designated telephone number(s). This will require you to make sure we have current working telephone numbers than we can incorporate into the calling system. Please double check with Paula at school to make sure we have your current information.

The annual "Reorganization of the Board of Education" was completed at the regular January school board meeting. Included in this is the election of board officers. Results of the election were: Steve Heithoff, President; Mary Bauer, vice president; Laurie Waterbury, secretary; and Stan Heithoff, treasurer. The remaining board members are Kim Wells and Ryan Reestman. Each member also serves on two of the following committees: Negotiations, Insurance, Athletics, Building and Grounds, Transportation and Americanism. Committee assignments will be made at a upcoming board meeting. Should you have a desire to serve your district as a school board member now is the time to be thinking along these lines. Incumbents Mary Bauer, Ryan Reestman and Steve Heithoff must file at the court house by February 15. The filing date for non-incumbents is March 1, 2010. If you have questions concerning serving on the school board, please call or stop in the office.

There are 180 student days scheduled for the school year. This puts well over the number of hours the state requires, 1080 hours. Even with the number of days we have missed we still exceed the 1080 hour minimum. However, should we miss more days due to weather we may need to add additional days. Days we presently do not have school scheduled that we could use for this purpose are: Easter Monday, April 5; Girls' State Basketball, March 5; Boys' State Basketball, March 12 and State Wrestling on February 19.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



**Bill Kuester,
Class of 1968**

Elgin Public Schools is proud to release the name of the recent inductee to the Elgin Public School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Bill Kuester, a 1968 graduate of Elgin Public School, will be inducted February 9, 2010, at the Elgin Public School/ Pope John basketball game. Kuester received numerous letters and several distinguished awards throughout his involvement in football, basketball, and track at EPS. He also held a variety of records in many sports.

Throughout his football career, he was a four-year letter winner. He was also named an all-state football player in '67 and '68 by the *Omaha World Herald*. Kuester was also named to the Top Twenty Northeast Nebraska Football by the *Norfolk Daily News* and was a two-year all conference football player. In addition, Bill Kuester helped lead his teams to two conference championships, an undefeated season in 1968, and a number one ranking in Class D Football. Finally,

Kuester was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl as a member of the North Team.

On the basketball court, Kuester also played an integral role as a four-year letter winner. He played on the 1968 conference champion basketball team and helped lead his team to an undefeated regular season and a trip to the state tournament. In addition, the 1968 basketball team was listed as a top 10 final placing.

In track and field, Kuester excelled in the shot and discus. He was a two-year conference champion in shot and discus. To top off his amazing high school career, Kuester was the 1968 state champion in the discus.

Bill Kuester's athletic career continued into college. He attended Chadron State College, where he competed in football. He received many honors. He was a four-year letter winner, three-year starter, and two-year all conference selection.

Kuester went on to graduate from Chadron State College with a degree in teaching. The past 36 years he has taught, coached and served as an administrator.

H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINATION SCHOOL CLINICS WELL ATTENDED

The North Central District Health Department, based in O'Neill, offered two free H1N1 influenza vaccination clinics at Elgin Public Schools.

The first free clinic was held on December 18th, the vaccine was available to all students, preschool through 12th grade, plus the general public, from 8:30am to 10:00am. There were 78 school children and 53 from the general public that received the vaccine.

The second free clinic was held on January 13th, the vaccine was again offered to all students from 2:30pm to 3:30pm and also to the general public from 3:30 to 6:30pm. There were 29 school children and 82 from the general public that received the vaccine.



F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Jimmy Feeney
jfeeney@esu8.org



Statewide Assessments

The state of Nebraska is transitioning into standardizing assessments for all schools. In the previous system, schools were required to report scores, but not necessarily from the same assessment. The current set-up will require schools to assess reading, writing, math, and science through a statewide assessment.

The transition to the statewide assessment has begun. In this school year, 2009-2010, reading and writing will be reported through a statewide assessment, while math and science will be reported through an outside assessment chosen by the individual districts. By the 2011-2012 school year, the statewide assessments will be required in all four content areas. There will continue to be a requirement to report a national assessment as there is now.

In education, terms like “measurable,” “data driven,” and “accountable” have motivated many of the decisions that will impact the future. Some people are against the idea of “high-stakes testing,” a term commonly used for tests of this magnitude. The arguments are often reasonable: too much comparing, too much emphasis, and too much teaching to the test. Whether true or false, it is important to remember these are merely a byproduct, and not the purpose, of the assessments.

The statewide assessment is intended to serve as a positive tool for schools and for the state. Tests scores can help schools identify areas for growth and areas of strength. It gives teachers feedback as to the effectiveness of their teaching. Scores give us a baseline that will allow us to track growth throughout the years. Ultimately, the scores serve as a tool for improvement. Transitioning into a statewide assessment will allow schools to compare apples to apples when looking at data.

It is my intention that parents and students understand the purpose of the tests. The tests serve as an accurate assessment of where we are while allowing us to speak a common language. As we move to statewide assessments, I hope that the students of Elgin are ready for the challenge. It is time to see the rewards of hard work and the product of years invested in learning. Assessments will take place for the different content areas beginning this month. I hope the assessments are viewed as an opportunity.

These are a few simple things students can do to ensure they have the best chance to show their knowledge through these tests:

- Sleep at least eight (8) hours the night before the test.
- Eat a protein as part of breakfast.
- Do something active prior to the test.

We are getting close to that time of year - I hope we are ready to put our best foot forward!

Student-Led Conferences Feb. 8th
4:30 - 9:00 p.m.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 399
Elgin, NE 68636

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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POSTAL PATRON