



EAGLE UPDATE

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

Volume XXII, Issue 7

February, 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER



Feb. 5
Bloodmobile at EPS Gym



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

School Board meets
7:30 p.m. in ITV room



Feb. 9
NO SCHOOL

Wrestling Districts begin



Feb. 10 - 11
EPS Alumni Tourney



Feb. 12
Girls Subdistrict Bball Tourney begins



Feb 19 - 23
National FFA Week



Feb. 19
Boys Subdistrict Bball tourney begins

"Dew It For Your School" Program Reaps Success



Randy Snodgrass of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Norfolk presented a check in the amount of \$1,446.79 to Principal Corey Fisher this week. Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Norfolk sponsors the "Dew It For Your School" program for area schools who purchase their products for vending machines and concession stands. Each year Pepsi-Cola rebates money to schools to be used to enhance our school. In the past this money has been used toward the purchase of the marquee sign, a digital camera for the elementary, and a portable scoreboard. This year's check for will be used to purchase optima projectors for classrooms.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES PLANNED

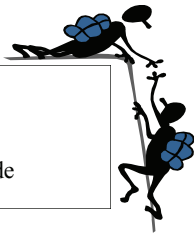
During the 3rd quarter of the spring semester, all students will participate in Student-Led Conferences with their parents. Students will be required to complete a portfolio each year that will include various pieces of work from each of their enrolled classes. Teachers will be available during the Student-Led 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 on February 1st. Please call the school if you need to have your conference time rescheduled.



Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



It's FAFSA Time!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is 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 deadline. (Contact the colleges you applied to and ask about their priority deadlines.)

Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA:

Step 1: Request a PIN

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

Step 2: File your taxes early

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

Step 3: Gather required items

You'll need these items to complete the FAFSA:

- 2006 federal tax returns and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2006 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, bond, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding retirement accounts
- Value of business or investment-farm
- 2006 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2006 ADC/TANF welfare benefits
- 2006 Social Security payments received from SSI or SSDI
- 2006 Workers compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2006 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 www.fafsa.ed.gov. The colleges you list on the application will receive the results. For free assistance with the FAFSA, make an appointment with EducationQuest. Call the Kearney office at 800-666-3721, Lincoln at 800-303-3745 or Omaha at 888-357-6300. Call **now** as appointments are quickly filling up.

February "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during February to stay on the right college planning track.

Seniors:

- ___ Apply for a Department of Education PIN for you and a parent
- ___ Complete student and parent 2006 tax returns
- ___ Complete the FAFSA
- ___ Continue to apply for scholarships

Juniors:

- ___ Register by February 2 for the March 10 SAT
- ___ Register by March 9 for the April 14 ACT



Campbell's Labels Have New Requirements

We Don't Need The Label -----
We Need the UPC Code



Campbell's Labels for Education program has made a change in what part of the product label or container is required in order for us to receive compensation through their program.

Clip and send in UPCs.
See the examples shown below:



In the past, the front panel of the label of most products was required, but now that part of the label will not be accepted. Instead, they now require the part that contains the

UPC code and the labels for Education symbol next to it. On some products (Prego, Campbell's Ready To Serve Soups, V8 drink, V8 Splash, and V8 V-Fusion) the lid is what we need to send to them. Collection boxes are located in the elementary hallway or you can drop them off in the main office.

The BoxTops Program is a separate program and those requirements remain the same. You just need to bring in the BoxTops from those products and put in the collection box in the elementary or main

"Today I shall behave as though this day is the one by which I shall be remembered."

-- R.A. Twerski

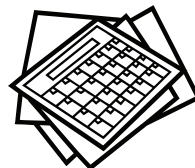
Math Standards



Soon all juniors and eighth graders will take the on-line assessments for mathematics. There are seven required standards that must be met (STARS). For more

information about these tests check out our web page.

www.elgineagles.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
February 8, 2007
Student-Led Conferences
4:30 - 9:00 p.m.



Kindergarten Students Celebrate 100th Day of School

Mrs. Score and the Kindergarten class celebrated 100 days at school on January 18, 2007. A fun day was had by all with a cake, 100 day book, Reading and Writing worksheets. All students brought in 100 items and sang the 100 Day Song



Get your
**Elgin Eagles Spirit Wrist
Bands today!**

Each wrist band is orange and printed
with "ELGIN EAGLES".

Wrist bands sell for the low price of:
1 for a \$1.50
or
3 for \$4.00

Wrist bands are for sale in the main office and at all home sporting events or you can contact Todd Heithoff or Randy Eisenhauer. Proceeds to benefit Elgin Youth Basketball.

**BUY THEM TODAY!
SHOW YOUR EAGLE SPIRIT!**

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds you plant."
--Robert Louis Stevenson*

"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up."

--Babe Ruth



**SIGN UP FOR
NEWS UPDATES**

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

Sign up for News Update by calling school or e-mailing Paula Jensen (jensenp@esu8.org) or signing up on our website. On the left side of the front page of our website, click on "Sign up for the News Update". Put in your e-mail address and you will be sent an e-mail. **You must reply to that e-mail in order to be placed on our e-mail list.** Whenever there are postponements or cancellations, an e-mail will be sent with the information.

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

Sign up today and be sure to tell your friends!

Senior Closeups . . .



Tyrell Friese

Full Name: Tyrell James Friese
Parents: Angie Friese
Favorite School Subject: Ag Mechanics
Favorite Teacher: Ms. Butterfield
School activities: Football, Basketball, Golf
Greatest Honor during school: Academic letter and awards
Favorite School Activity : Basketball, because I enjoy playing it
Most educational experience: Kindergarten graduation
Most inspirational person: Don Friese
Favorite color: Purple
Favorite thing to do in spare time: go hunting and fishing and hang out with friends
Pet peeve: people smacking their gum
If I could go back in time I would go: to the 1960's
Favorite saying: "Cut me some slack Jack"
Something most people don't know about me: that I like the color pink
Favorite movie: Remember the Titans
Dream car: 1949 Willy's Coupe
Favorite Food: Tombstone Pizza
Favorite School lunch: Sloppy Joes
Favorite Pop: Mountain Dew
Favorite TV Show: Family Guy
Favorite type of music: Rock/Pop
Future plans after graduation: go to college

Full Name: Travis Charles Sprout
Parents: Craig & Merry Sprout
Sisters: Whitney Sprout
Pets: 2 dogs (Zoey & Ruby)
Favorite School Subject: Ag Mechanics
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Simpson
School activities: football, basketball, track, student council, class Vice Pres., FFA, band, choir
Greatest Honor during school: Honorable Mention for football
Favorite School Activity : FFA because of all the places you go and the people you can meet.
Most educational experience: My trip to Washington D.C.
Most inspirational person: My Dad
Favorite color: metallic orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: hang out with friends, hunt, mess around on computer.
Pet peeve: People that pull out in front of me when I am late for school.
If I could go back in time I would go: Back to early 70's to buy some of the old cars real cheap.
Favorite saying: Nice . . .
Favorite movie: Super Troopers
Dream car: 1995 Ford Festiva
Favorite Food: Steak
Favorite School lunch: Tater Tot Casserole
Favorite Pop: Mountain Dew
Favorite TV Show: Family Guy, The 70's Show
Favorite type of music: don't have a favorite
Future plans after graduation: Go to college



Travis Sprout

Senior Closeups . . .



Christopher Borer

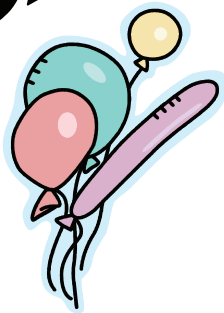
Full Name: Christopher John Borer
Parents: Chuck & Deb Borer
Brothers: Lukas Borer
Sisters: Jennifer Borer
Pets: 2 dogs (Abbey, Sadie)
Favorite School Subject: Government
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Jones
School activities: wrestling
Greatest Honor during school: Honor roll
Favorite School Activity : Prom because I am able to be with all my classmates
Most educational experience: My Junior year
Most inspirational person: My dad
Favorite color: Blazed Orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: Hunting, fishing, being with friends, being outdoors
Pet peeve: Never quit
If I could go back in time I would go: I would go to California during the Gold Rush
Favorite saying: R do it
Something most people don't know about me: I have never broken a bone before.
Favorite movie: Too Fast Too Furious and Tokyo Drift
Dream car: Mustang
Favorite Food: Steak
Favorite School lunch: Pizza
Favorite Pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV Show: Family Guy
Favorite type of music: Rap
Future plans after graduation: Go to college to get my general studies

Full Name: Dana Marie Uhrenholdt
Parents: Richard & Donna Uhrenholdt
Brothers: Heath
Sisters: Carissa, Rachel
Pets: dog (Peca')
Favorite School Subject: Art - I enjoy working on the independent projects and it allows me to express creativity.
Favorite Teacher: Ms. Klein - she kept things interesting and it was fun watching her yell at Wesley
School activities: volleyball, basketball, track, FCCLA, AcaDeca, dance team, One-act, speech
Greatest Honor during school: Being selected for All-State Chorus
Favorite School Activity : Speech because you get to meet so many people at the meets
Most educational experience: Girls State - it opened my eyes to a lot that is going on in my own state.
Most inspirational person: Maya Angelou
Favorite color: turquoise
Favorite thing to do in spare time: Read, write, play guitar, sleep, shop
Pet peeve: People tapping their foot on your chair
If I could go back in time I would go: to the 1920's
Favorite saying: "I'm not even kidding...." "But seriously guys..."
Something most people don't know about me: My arm is double-jointed.
Favorite movie: Finding Forrester; How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days; Talladega Nights; The Ballad of Ricky Bobby.
Dream car: '69 Shelby Mustang
Favorite Food: Homemade Cream Puffs with homemade vanilla pudding
Favorite School lunch: Homemade pizza
Favorite Pop: Code Red or Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV Show: House or CSI: Las Vegas
Favorite type of music: I like about anything but my favorite has been alternative rock lately.
Future plans after graduation: I plan on continuing my education at a 4-year college or university in Nebraska. I will probably major in music performance with a possible minor in journalism.



Dana Uhrenholdt

100th DAY



The 100th day of school was celebrated by the first grade on January 18, 2007. We spent the entire day doing activities with the number 100. Some of the activities were writing 100 words we could read, a dot-to-dot to 100, drawing a picture of what we would look like when we are 100 years old, and finding 100 dots hidden throughout the classroom with our fourth grade pals. We also brought a project from home where we created something out of 100 things. It was a fun day!



Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

Elgin Public Has Hastings Honor Choir Participant!

Dana Uhrenholdt has been selected to sing soprano in the Hastings Honor Choir February 3, 2007. The choir has 100 singers - 25 each in the soprano, alto, tenor and bass sections. The committee from Hastings College listened to over 300 voices from Class A through Class D schools and selected the choir from those live auditions. According to the panel, there were a lot of talented students to choose from and some will not be participating.

Dr. Fritz Monford, a professor at Hastings College will be the guest clinician for the event. The choir will rehearse for 2 days before giving the concert on Saturday, February 3rd at the Kiewit Gymnasium at 3:00 p.m. There will also be performances at the concert by the Honor Band and Honor Orchestra. Dana has accomplished wonderful things as a musician during her high school years. This is one of those she can be very proud of - I know I am!

The Music Boosters have a meeting scheduled for Monday, February 5th at 7:30 p.m. in the school lunch room. We would like to see a lot of parents there - please come!!!

Second Grade Student Teacher



The Second Grade would like to welcome a new teacher to our room this semester. Lacy Leifeld is a student teacher in the second grade. She will be with us until May. We are happy to have the extra helping hand. She will soon be planning and teaching subjects.

The second grade is also learning cursive this semester. It will be a few months before we can write many words, but we are learning the letters. Everyone needs to be practicing their money counting; soon we will be working with money in Math. The class has been working hard on reading skills and will continue working on them the rest of the school year.



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

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. 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.



A Most Annoying Oxymoron

We all have our pet peeves whether we wish to acknowledge them or not. I have one that has been festering under my skin for the past several years. It is an oxymoron: when contradictory terms are brought together. For example my oldest daughter picked up the movie *Brokeback Mountain* because she thought by the picture that it would be a good western. Her sisters and I queried if she had any idea about the main focus of the movie. No, she didn't. Upon being told that it was about homosexuals, she stated in disgust, "Gay Cowboys! That's an oxymoron!"

I well remember when I first heard the oxymoron that has been festering in me every since. I had taken students to the Practice Academic Decathlon Meet at Creighton Prep. I was quietly minding my own business when I tuned into the conversation of several nearby coaches. They were discussing how they didn't like going to the practice meet out in Hastings. One of them exclaimed, "It's in OutState Nebraska!"

OUTSTATE NEBRASKA! What contradiction is that? One is either in Nebraska or out of it. Alas, I fear that for too many of our urban neighbors we are out of it. It appears that many of them truly believe that Nebraska consists only of Lincoln and Omaha and maybe, just maybe if they're in a charitable mood they might consider South Sioux City or Grand Island as being part of the state.

Last week I was at a meeting where one of my colleagues used the dreaded term. I confess, I slapped my hand on the table and said, "That is the most annoying term." She looked at me and quietly amended, "Rural Nebraska." I will agree that I live in rural Nebraska but I don't live in OutState Nebraska.

I think we rural people should begin to refer to the rest of the state as *Inner City Nebraska*. It smacks of the same type of patronizing, sort of look down your nose phrase as you say it, as does the one they apply to us.

Unfortunately, we in rural Nebraska have more important things to occupy our minds than contemptuous phrases. I have noted with alarm that the Education Committee is composed almost entirely of *Inner City Nebraskans*. This leads me to wonder what could be in store for rural schools if and when these legislators ever solve the Omaha Problem? Some of the bills proposed don't thrill me either: LB 66 would force all schools to offer Driver's Education within the school day; LB 241 would make all teachers employees of the state with a statewide negotiating team (It would also cost a considerable amount of money). I'm certain there will be other bills of like ilk in the offing.

One item to be watched in February is that NCEEA will finally get to present our arguments about rural education and the lack of adequate and equitable funding to the Supreme Court. The date to hear the arguments has been set for February 6, 2007. I understand that Gov. Heineman has called for this lawsuit and others to be withdrawn until the legislature can act. I personally would vote against any such action. Gov Heineman has been in place for the past several years as have many of the legislators. They have had the opportunity to grasp the concerns about rural education as so far have not addressed the issues expressed in the NCEEA lawsuit. It is time to see what the judicial system believes the Nebraska Constitution means regarding education for our young people.

**BLOODMOBILE AT
EPS GYM FEB. 5**

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 \$2.50

Kinds of Poppables available:

Snickers, Reeses, Skittles, Nibs, Plain or Peanut M & M's, Hugs & Kisses, Starbursts

Place your order by February 12th with any FCCLA member or call the school 843-2455.

Payment must accompany your order.



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!

Please help us to keep postage costs down by paying your lunch account in advance or calling the school to find out your balance.

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

Mr. Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



Well, the month of January is all but over. As I had predicted last month, I am already falling short of my personal New Year's resolutions. For those of you who have seen me around town, I am not quite where I had hoped to be in regard to the whole Arnold Schwarzenegger physique thing. I know it was a real stretch to even think that it was possible, but hey, it was the thought that really counts...right? Anyway, the 2nd semester is off and running. With the recent snow and ice storms we have had, spring seems so far away.

While I am on the topic of weather, I have been asked a few times as to the process that takes place when determining a late-start or cancelling school as a result of winter weather. Several things take place in making that determination and I will do my best to give some insight as to how we arrive at making a decision. **First**, it is important that we keep a close eye on the weather when we know that there is a possibility of severe storms moving through our area. I have found that sometimes as many as 3-4 days ahead of time; one can have a pretty good idea if our area of the state is going to be effected. I must hand it to those weather people; they do a good job of at least informing people of the possibilities of storms that are coming. The **second** and possibly the most important phase of the process is communication between the schools in the Elgin community so we can put a plan in place. Mr. Heitz, principal at Pope John high School, Mrs. Getzfred, principal at St. Boniface, Dr. Fredrickson, our superintendent and myself usually communicate as much in advance as possible so that we can notify radio and television stations and give notice of any late-start or school closing. While it is impossible to predict the weather, we are usually pretty accurate in our assessments of the weather. Once Dr. Fredrickson and Mr. Heitz make a decision for their respective school systems, I usually call in the late-start or school closing to the radio stations for all three schools in our community (Elgin Public, Pope John and St. Boniface). Our goal is to arrive at a decision that is the same for all of our schools so that there is no miscommunication to the students and parents of our schools. It usually takes about 5-10 minutes to call all news and radio stations. Dr. Fredrickson and Paula Jensen then start the Elgin Public Schools staff calling tree to inform all staff of the late-start or closing for that day. For parents and students of Elgin Public Schools, the announcement is always immediately placed on the schools website as a scrolling banner at the top of the site. If you sign up for News Update on our website, you will also receive an e-mail with that weather related information.

On occasion, it is necessary for roads and conditions to be checked early in the morning before busses go out. While it does mean getting up a bit earlier, I do kind of enjoy this process. When this phase is necessary, Mr. Heitz and I take out Ol' Red (that is what I call my pick-up) and try to get a good idea of what the driving conditions are like. On occasion, we manage to get ourselves into a little more than Ol' Red can handle. I do recall a time when we were both, at around 5:15 a.m. in the morning, digging snow out of the fan with a very small window scraper. Evidently we tried to go through one too many snowdrifts. It was fun, but I think we would both agree that perhaps it is best to stay on task at hand and save the 4-wheeling fun for non-school related times. Otherwise, it may be necessary to have a bigger snow scrapper and a flashlight. We later had a good laugh, but we were a little worried that morning as to our chances of getting back to town.

I firmly believe that with the good communication that we have between all three schools and the ability to obtain very accurate weather information, we make the best decisions possible for our students and staff at all three schools. Safety is always important and the highest of priorities. On occasion, it may seem like we error and maybe the weather is not as bad as we may have thought. I guess I am willing to take that risk and try to error on the side of safety. It is great for all of our administration at all three schools to be able to communicate so well. It makes difficult situations much easier to handle especially when dealing with that ever-changing Nebraska weather! For those who are wondering, I now have a good flashlight and bigger ice scraper just in case it is needed.

Our athletic teams continue to be competitive as the winter sports seasons move along. Our boy's basketball team is 10-4 as I write this article. Our girl's basketball team is 5-10 with several close losses on the season and our wrestling team has done well at their recent tournaments. It looks as though our 140-pound wrestler is one of the best in the state as he has beaten several of the top wrestlers in class D at 140 pounds. Something tells me that there could be some real excitement as sub-district and district competitions are right around the corner. I also want to let it be known that if you have not attended a home basketball game yet, you are missing the opportunity to hear the Elgin High School Pep Band. WOW! They have done a great job all season long. They continue to be one of the top bands in the area and they make the atmosphere one of the best around!

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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