



# EAGLE UPDATE


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


Volume XXIII, Issue 7


February, 2008


## DATES TO REMEMBER

 Feb. 4  
**Bloodmobile hosted at EPS Gym**  
 9:00 - 3:00


 Feb. 7  
**Student-Led conferences**  
 4:30-9:00 p.m.

 Feb. 8  
**NO SCHOOL**

 Feb. 13  
**School Board Mtg.**  
 7:30 p.m.

 Feb. 15  
**NO SCHOOL**

 Feb. 20  
**Late Start 10:00 a.m.**

 Feb. 29  
**NO SCHOOL**



## AHEC GRANT FUNDS HEALTH CAREER SPEAKERS

For those students interested in entering the health care field, this year will be an informative and educational experience. Through an AHEC (Area Health Education Center) grant written by Barb Bode and Sara Walsh, many new opportunities will be available to the EHS students. Initially, some of the grant money was spend to purchase a curriculum that will help to incorporate a health focus into many of the science classes. This will provide students with a real-life connection to the science material being taught, as well as set the stage for a possible future career.



*Emily Vanis, Chrissy Starman, Stacy Hoefer, and Whitney Sprout served as a guest panel of former alumni who are studying in a health career field.*

The next phase of the grant was to invite a “guest expert panel” to speak with the high school students interested in entering health care. The panel of speakers included recent Elgin High graduates who are currently in the educational phase of their health care preparation. Participants included

Whitney Sprout ('04), a senior majoring in pre-vet at UNL and currently applying to graduate schools; Stacy Hoefer ('04), a senior in the radiology program at St. Luke's through Briar Cliff University; Emily Vanis ('05), a junior majoring in pre-dentistry at Chadron State; and Chrissy Starman ('07) a freshman at Northeast Community College pursuing a nursing degree. They spoke to about 20 high schoolers about their current training, what to expect when entering college as a health care major, and gave tips to the students regarding preparations they can make while still in high school.

Another focus of the grant was to bring in more speakers who currently work in a health science field. Dave Cinco, a nurse anesthetist at the Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD was the speaker for January. He spoke of the education required to become an anesthesia provider, other nursing specialties, a description and requirements of the job, pay, and further opportunities within his job.

Other speakers lined up for the upcoming months include a medical technician, a genetics research computer programmer, and a research monitor for pharmaceutical drug testing. The grant will also cover future field trips to medical facilities.



*Dave Cinco, nurse anesthetist, spoke to students about his career.*

For the latest in news, check out our website: [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)

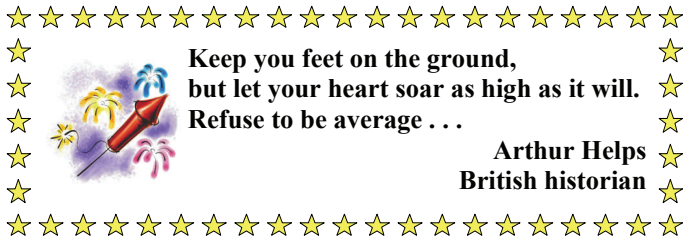


## Plasma Cutter is Operational

The plasma cutter, stand, and computer have arrived and been installed! The excitement is building as students prepare to use the system.

The CAD students are currently learning some background information about drafting and design. This requires a great deal of precision and visualization skills as they practice drawing 3-dimensional objects on 2-dimensional sheets of paper. Soon we'll be repeating the process with the AutoCAD program and then selecting projects to actually make using the plasma cutter system.

The Ag Mechanics class will also use the system to learn about automated cutting procedures and the Entrepreneurship class will use it design, build, and market products. This equipment will provide our students the opportunity to learn valuable skills they can apply in our high paced, technologically packed world.



Keep your feet on the ground,  
but let your heart soar as high as it will.  
Refuse to be average . . .

Arthur Helps  
British historian

## ALL-STAR FOOTBALL SELECTION



*Matt Anderson*



*Jonathan Gunderson*

Matt Anderson and Jonathan Gunderson were recently selected to play in the Sertoma 8-Man All-Star Football Game. The game will be played during June at Hastings College in Hastings, NE.

It is quite an honor for these two athletes to be selected to play in this event. Congratulations!

Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

Abraham Lincoln



## Academic Decathlon Team Attends Regional Competition

Congratulations to the Academic Decathlon team for their performance and participation in the Regional Competition in Valley, Nebraska on January 19<sup>th</sup>. This year the topic was the Civil War and the students spent time watching videos and discussing specific aspects of the Civil War era including art, literature, science, music, economics, and math.

Bringing home medals were James Lierman for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in economics and 3<sup>rd</sup> in math, Jennifer Bush for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in science, and Amanda Hemenway for the team's top score.

Participants in this year's Acadeca Team were James Lierman, Amanda Hemenway, Jeff Bush, Jessica Morrison, Brandy Suhr, and Jennifer Bush.

## 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.

Order forms are available on the website.

## STUDENT LED CONFERENCES PLANNED



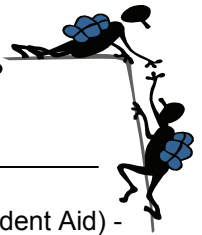
During the 3rd quarter of the spring semester, all students will participate in Student-Led Conferences with their parents. Students will be required to complete a portfolio each year that will include various pieces of work from each of their enrolled classes. Teachers will be available during the Student-Led 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 7th from 4:30 - 9:00 p.m. Schedules have been sent out to parents. Please call the school if you need to have your conference time rescheduled.

# 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 about their priority date.)

### New tools will help you prepare

EducationQuest has new online tools that will help you and your parents with the FAFSA.

- **Guide to College Funding Video** (*coming soon!*) – explains the types of financial aid and how to prepare for, and file, the FAFSA
- **FAFSA Checklist** – provides a comprehensive list of all documents you need to gather for the FAFSA
- **FAFSA Tutorial** – provides user-friendly clarification of each FAFSA question.

You'll find these tools in the “**Completing the FAFSA**” section at [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org).

### Watch for FAFSA postcard

In addition to the tools listed above, your parents will receive [a postcard from EducationQuest](#) with FAFSA information.

## 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 [www.pin.ed.gov](http://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 these student and parent items:

- 2007 federal tax returns and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2007 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 or investment-farm
- 2007 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2007 ADC/TANF welfare benefits
- 2007 Social Security payments received from SSI or SSDI
- 2007 Workers' compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2007 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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The colleges you list on the application will receive the results.

If you have questions about the FAFSA or need help, call the EducationQuest Kearney office at 800-666-3721, Lincoln at 800-303-3745 or Omaha at 888-357-6300. Call **now** as appointments for February are quickly filling up. All services are **free**.

## 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](#) (one for you and one for a parent)
- \_\_\_ Complete student and parent 2007 tax returns
- \_\_\_ Complete the FAFSA
- \_\_\_ Continue to apply for scholarships

### Juniors:

- \_\_\_ Register by January 29 for the March 1 SAT (SAT Reasoning Test only)
- \_\_\_ Register by March 7 for the April 12 ACT

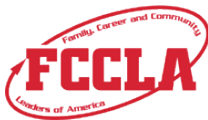


# Celebrating 100 days of school.....



*Students in Kindergarten and First Grade celebrated their 100th day of school on Jan. 22nd.*

On January 22, 2008 the Kindergarten and First Grade celebrated the 100th day of school. We listened to a story called 100th Day Worries and made 100 day glasses together. The rest of the day was spent doing other activities with the number 100.



## MEMBERS ATTEND FCCLA STAR

District 8 FCCLA STAR

(Students Taking Action with Recognition) competition was held January 16 at Wayne State College. Competing from the Elgin chapter was Jennifer Bush with a presentation in the Illustrated Talk Sr. division entitled "Media's effect on Body Image". Jennifer received a gold medal.

Also attending STAR and serving as event and scoring assistants were Alisha Anderson, Elgin District Representative, Barb Bode, Adviser and parents Joann Anderson and Esther Bush who served as judges.



## Attention Senior Parents!

It's time for Senior Ads! Go onto the school webpage ([www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)) . Click on "Activities" and then "Yearbook". You will find an article about the ads and the form. Please fill out the form and either mail or drop it off at school with a check and your photo(s). Make sure your child's name is on the back of the photo(s) so they may be returned to you. This is especially important if it's a baby picture.

The ads are \$20 for a quarter page and two photos or \$10 for an eighth of a page and one photo. Contact Mikayla Hoffart or Mrs. Heithoff to purchase yours.



## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

February--this month is so full of holidays, it just has to be full of fun! The Kdgn. students will begin their money unit and discover the significance of Lincoln and Washington along with other presidents faces on coins and bills. We will read and discuss a story about Mr. Ground Hog. February is Dental Health Month so we will be talking about proper dental care as well as watching a video on the Adventures of Wiggly Tooth! Students are excited for Valentine's Day and are busy decorating their Valentine Bags for their party. Happy Valentine's Day to All!

If you think you can,  
you can.  
And if you think  
you can't, you're right.

Mary Kay Ash  
American businesswoman

## Senior Interviews . . .



*Shane Voborny*

**Full Name:** Shane Jennings Voborny  
**Parents:** Leon & Penny Voborny  
**Sister:** Tonya, Amanda  
**Brothers:** Noel & the late Luke Voborny  
**Pets:** cat  
**Favorite School Subject:** anything with history  
**Favorite Teacher:** Mr. Jones  
**School activities:** football, wrestling, basketball, one-act  
**Greatest Honor during school:** lettering in football and art  
**Favorite School Activity:** study hall because of pop pass  
**Most educational experience:** county government day  
**Most inspirational person:** Mrs. Kamphaus  
**Favorite color:** pink  
**Favorite thing to do in spare time:** driving around with Billy Bob & Joey  
**Pet peeve:** When someone is talking to me and then at the drop of the hat change the subject before the original subject was done.  
**If I could go back in time I would go:** 9/15/07 to talk to Andrew and hang out with him just one more time  
**Something most people don't know about me:** I don't like onions, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, pickles or any vegetables like that.  
**Favorite movie:** Grandma's Boy  
**Dream car:** '71 Dodge Charger 440 with a Mag  
**Favorite Food:** fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, and corn  
**Favorite School lunch:** Pizza Hut pizza (when they had it)  
**Favorite Pop:** Mountain Dew  
**Favorite TV Show:** Stargate SGI  
**Favorite music:** alternative rock/country  
**Future plans after graduation:** college and getting a job I like

**Full Name:** Jessica Alydthe Morrison  
**Parents:** Aaron & Alice Morrison  
**Brothers:** Tom & Danny  
**Pets:** horses - Misty, Snickers, Shady, Cowboy dogs - Snoopy, Skippy  
6 cats, 1 cow, and all animals  
**Favorite School Subject:** ag mechanics  
**Favorite Teacher:** Mrs. Kerkman  
**School activities:** FFA, FCCLA, PALS, one-act, speech, acadeca, band, chorus  
**Greatest Honor during school:** most improved speech team member  
**Favorite School Activity:** FFA because we travel everywhere and meet new people everywhere we go  
**Most educational experience:** Don't let cousins talk you into anything  
**Most inspirational person:** my uncle, Kevin Morrison  
**Favorite color:** baby blue  
**Favorite thing to do in spare time:** riding horses, talking on the phone  
**Pet peeve:** dirty dishes on the floor  
**If I could go back in time I would go:** where there was hardly any electricity  
**Favorite saying:** "It's all good" "my bad"  
**Something most people don't know about me:** I love to shop and hang out with family  
**Favorite movie:** Grumpier Old Men  
**Dream car:** 2002 Diesel Ford 4-door F-350 pickup  
**Favorite Food:** homemade pizza  
**Favorite School lunch:** hot ham and cheese sandwich  
**Favorite Pop:** Mountain Dew  
**Favorite TV Show:** Reba  
**Favorite type of music:** country  
**Future plans after graduation:** attend NECC then go to UNL to major in Vet Tech and get a DVM



*Jessica Morrison*



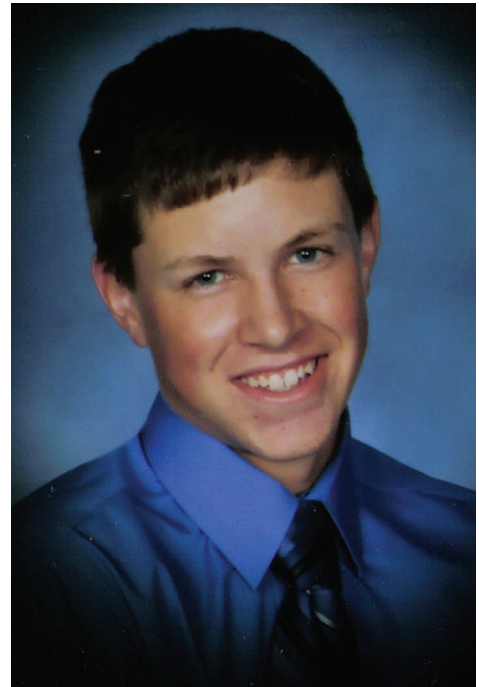
## Senior Interviews . . .



*Jennifer Bush*

**Full Name:** Jennifer Leona Bush  
**Parents:** Dwight & Esther Bush  
**Brothers:** Jeffery, Christopher, Kenneth  
**Pets:** countless cats  
**Favorite School Subject:** Anatomy  
**Favorite Teacher:** I like all my teachers, but my favorite are Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Bode, and Mr. Jones.  
**School activities:** FCCLA, FFA, Acadeca, one-act, speech, track, volleyball, PALS, band, choir  
**Greatest Honor during school:** being inducted into the National Honor Society  
**Favorite School Activity:** FCCLA because I have had the chance to travel and run for a state officer  
**Most educational experience:** Cornhusker Girls State  
**Most inspirational person:** Joshua Shipp - the motivational speaker at FCCLA state convention 2007  
**Favorite color:** orange  
**Favorite thing to do in spare time:** read a Nicholas Spark book  
**Pet peeve:** waking up to someone else's alarm clock and having to get out of bed to shut it off because they aren't there  
**If I could go back in time I would go:** I would go to Spooner, Wisconsin and meet my Grandpa Bush  
**Something most people don't know about me:** I dread shopping unless I go to Hot Topic or Deb  
**Favorite movie:** Phantom of the Opera and a lot more  
**Dream car:** an orange grand am or grand prix  
**Favorite Food:** Chicken Alfredo  
**Favorite School lunch:** Cheesy Tuna Noodles  
**Favorite Pop:** Dr. Pepper  
**Favorite TV Show:** Grey's Anatomy  
**Future plans after graduation:** Attend NECC for two years then transfer to UNK to gain a major in nursing.

**Full Name:** Michael James Miller  
**Parents:** David & Ruth Miller  
**Brothers:** Allen  
**Favorite School Subject:** Ag classes  
**Favorite Teacher:** Mr. Simpson  
**School activities:** FFA, band, basketball, track, football, cross country  
**Favorite School Activity:** FFA  
**Favorite color:** green  
**Pet peeve:** people who spell my first name wrong  
**If I could go back in time I would go:** 1870's  
**Favorite movie:** Longest Yard  
**Dream car:** TransAm  
**Favorite Food:** pizza  
**Favorite School lunch:** chicken sandwich  
**Favorite Pop:** Mt. Dew  
**Favorite TV Show:** Red Green  
**Favorite type of music:** country  
**Future plans after graduation:** attend UNL



*Michael Miller*



# FFA WINTER CEREMONIES & LSE

The Elgin FFA Chapter held its annual Winter Ceremonies Meeting on January 7, 2008, in the Elgin High School Gymnasium. The ceremonies meeting is a special monthly meeting held for three reasons: One, to give special honor to those members receiving degrees. Second, to allow parents and guests the chance to see a working FFA meeting, and third to give recognition to those members who have successfully competed in FFA events so far this year.



*Elgin FFA Greenhand Degree Recipients*

There were 36 members present at the meeting along with numerous parents and family members as guest. Fifteen first year members received their Greenhand Degrees and eleven-second year members received their Chapter FFA Degrees. The students receiving their Greenhand Degrees were: Nathan Anderson, Michelle Bauer, Breanna Bode, Bryan Bode, A.J. Braband, Curtis Childers, Briann Grosserode, Jessica Heithoff, Anthony Hemenway, Beau Henn, Sebastian Janssen, Austin Kerkman, Brittany Kubert, Justine Meis, and Allen Miller. The members receiving their Chapter degrees were: Josh Beckman, Jamie Bode, Ashley Dittrich, Macaib Hoefler, Sam Janssen, Tyson Lodge, Austin Mitchell, Justin Reestman, Jake Schindler, Eric Vanis, and Miles VanUden

On Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> the Elgin FFA Chapter traveled to Butte to compete in the District 10 Leadership Skills Event Contest. The Elgin FFA Junior Parliamentary Procedure team of Michele Bauer, Jessica Heithoff, Sebastian Janssen, Breanna Bode, Allen Miller, Briann Grosserode, and A.J. Braband received a blue ribbon. The Agricultural Demonstration team of Allie Schiltmeyer, Jonathan Gunderson, Kayla Hoffart, and Amber Hoffart gave a demonstration on Floral Arrangements and received a red. The Agricultural Demonstration team of Justin Reestman, Matt Anderson, Chris DeWald, and Tyson Lodge gave a demonstration on Freeze Branding and received a red. Jennifer Bush and Amanda Hemenway both competed in the Job Interview LSE. Jennifer received a red and Amanda received a blue.



*Elgin FFA Chapter Degree Recipients*

Ashley Dittrich gave a Junior Public Speech on the FFA emblem and received a blue and Linsey Bode gave a Senior Public Speech on Nebraska's Wineries and received a blue. Carlie Redding presented an extemporaneous speech and received a blue award. Anthony Hemenway and Nathan Wabs both presented the FFA Creed and received red awards.

## WEATHER CANCELLATIONS!



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 on our website. Whenever there are postponements or cancellations, an e-mail will be sent with the information.

Television and Radio stations are notified when we need to make a change or cancellations, so be sure to stay tuned. Also, the banner on the front page of our website will scroll information of cancellations or postponements.

Check it out at: [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)



**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.



## STAMP HONORED WRESTLER



Austin Stamp of the Elgin/Clearwater wrestling team received the honor of being selected as the "Star Athlete of the Week" by KEXL radio. Austin is a junior at Elgin High School.

On Friday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> Elgin hosted a four-team tournament. Austin recorded 1<sup>st</sup> period pins in all three of his matches. He pinned T. Hart of Elkhorn Valley in 1:10, H. Jensen of Palmer in :56, and M. Shoop of Osmond in 1:16.

On Saturday Elgin hosted their invitational tournament. Austin placed 1<sup>st</sup> while pinning all his opponents. He pinned D. Mendoza of Grand Island in :36, N. Schrunk of Aurora in 1:20, J. Davis of Nebraska Christian in :28, Z. Metterich of Grand Island in 1:02 and won the championship by pinning N. Schrunk of Aurora in 5:06.

Austin is currently 26-1 on the season. He was recently selected as one of two outstanding wrestlers at the Neligh-Oakdale tournament. Austin broke our team record for consecutive pins with 21 pins in a row. Derek Reich held the old record. Jeremy Poulsen, 3-time state champion, held the record for most wins in a row. Austin won 23 matches in a row to claim the new record.

The entire wrestling team is enjoying a successful season so far. We have 7 wrestlers competing. Here is a list of the wrestlers and their current records. Sebastian Janssen 1-3, Nathan Anderson 13-9, Anthony Hemenway 9-12, Austin Stamp 26-1, Eric Kruger (Clearwater) 17-12, Tad Henkenius 5-2, and Miles VanUden 7-10.

Keep up the good work!!!



## The 2nd & 3rd Graders are Ready to Get Active!

Starting February 1st, the 2nd and 3rd grade classes will be participating in N-Lighten Kids. N-Lighten Kids is a physical activity and nutrition program aimed at promoting healthy living. The program is sponsored by the Nebraska Sports Council, UNL Cooperative Extension and the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. The students will form a team and earn points for physical activity both at school and home. Events are being planned that will demonstrate and inform the students about the benefits of physical activity and healthy eating habits.

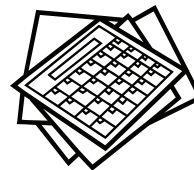
Several of the staff members at Elgin Public are also participating in the N-Lighten program so the students will be able to encourage the staff as well. Good luck students and get moving!



*A healthy attitude is contagious,  
but don't wait to catch it from others.*

**BE A CARRIER.**

*Tom Stoppard  
British playwright*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**February 7, 2008**  
**Student-Led Conferences**  
**4:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

## BASKETBALL TEAMS SUCCESSFUL IN HOLIDAY TOURNEY



*The Elgin Eagles wrapped up the holiday break with two wins to bring home the championship of the Elgin Holiday Basketball Tournament. The Eagles beat Rising City in the opener 77-42 and then won the championship game with a 55-43 victory over Cedar Rapids.*



*The Lady Eagles basketball team had a second place finish in the Holiday Tourney. Their first game was a victory over Rising City 55-43 and the last game they lost to Cedar Rapids 44-33.*



# F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

Dr. Gayla Fredrickson  
gfredric@esu8.org



It was a dark and stormy night.....No, that's Snoopy. It was a cold and blustery day.....Yes, that's more like it. Sometimes though it feels like I've fallen into a cartoon strip or the netherworld, surely not reality. I had one of those feelings last week when I received the outline of Senator Raikes Proposal to take the responsibility for assessment, and the content standards away from the Department of Education and the State School Board and replace them with a commissioner appointed by the governor and a five member board (three of whom would be citizens with no educational background and two with educational backgrounds). What, is this for reals (that's the term kids still use)?

Yes, unfortunately, we now have public policy being proposed because Dr. Christensen will not kow-tow to the politicians like Raikes. I, for one, am certainly hopeful that the legislature will see through this proposed policy, kill the bill and move on to issues that do need discussed. Please don't saddle us with more bureaucracy just because two strong minded individuals are at loggerheads.

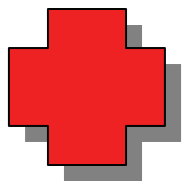
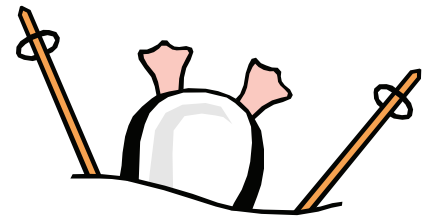
Now that I've gotten that out of my system, I want to share some of Jeff Foxworthy's humor with you.

## You might be from Nebraska:

- If you consider it a sport to gather your food by drilling through 18 inches of ice and sitting there all day hoping that the food will swim by, you might live in Nebraska.
- If you're proud that your region makes the national news 96 nights each year because it's the coldest spot in the nation, you might live in Nebraska.
- If your local Dairy Queen is closed from November through March, you might live in Nebraska.
- If you instinctively walk like a penguin for five months out of the year, you might live in Nebraska.
- If someone in a store offers you assistance, and they don't work there, you might live in Nebraska.
- If your dad's suntan stops at a line curving around the middle of his forehead, you might live in Nebraska.
- If you have worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you might live in Nebraska.
- If your town has an equal number of bars and churches, you might live in Nebraska.
- If you have had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you might live in Nebraska.

## YOU KNOW YOU ARE A TRUE NEBRASKAN WHEN:

1. "Vacation" means going east or west on I-80 for the weekend.
2. You measure distance in hours.
3. You know several people who have hit a deer more than once.
4. You often switch from "heat" to "A/C" in the same day and back again.
5. You can drive 65 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard, without flinching.
6. You see people wearing camouflage at social events (including weddings).
7. You install security lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked.
8. You carry jumper cables in your car and your girlfriend knows how to use them.
9. You design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.
10. Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.
11. You know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction.
12. Your idea of creative landscaping is a statue of a deer next to your blue spruce.
13. You were unaware that there is a legal drinking age.
14. Down South to you means Kansas.
15. A brat is something you eat.
16. Your neighbor throws a party to celebrate his new pole shed.
17. You go out to a tail gate party every Friday.
18. Your 4th of July picnic was moved indoors due to frost.
19. You have more miles on your snow blower than your car.
20. You find 0 degrees "a little chilly."
21. You actually understand these jokes, and you tell them to all your Nebraska friends.



**BLOODMOBILE AT  
EPS GYM FEB. 4**



## Is there money in your lunch account?

Please call the school 843-2455 or check your account online. If you have questions or problems with our new online account, please let us know.

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



As a parent, daily communication with your child is essential. You have a great responsibility to stay informed as to what your child is doing both here at school and during times outside the regular school day. Most students, especially in grades 7-12 are extremely busy and constantly on the go making it much more difficult for parents and children to find the time to communicate with one another. One concern that is steadily becoming a real issue here at school is the amount of phone calls per day that come from parents wanting to talk with their child and the amount of calls from students here at school calling their parents at home or at work for non-emergency or non-essential matters. The concern here at the school is that this is becoming an increasing problem and causing some real distractions in some cases.

It is important that parents and students both make strong efforts to communicate openly with one another at home before and after school. Communicate plans for the day and for the week. Parents must spend the time at home to really involve yourself with what your child is doing. By not communicating in person, face to face, parents and students lose that opportunity to really listen and be involved. Communication with your child or with parents should not strictly be a matter of communicating to find out general information (game times, after school plans, how well you did on a test etc.), it is communicating to be involved and a part of what your child or family is doing.

It is also important to remember that when students call parents and the call is long distance, it is a cost to the district. Emergency or essential calls are understandable and not at all a problem. Office personnel will quickly assist students and parents in the event that they need to make an emergency or essential phone call or if a parents needs to be in contact with their child here at school. Many schools now document whom you are calling, the reason for the call (emergency/essential or non-emergency/non-essential), the number called and then charge that family for the call. When students use the school phone to call a parent, many times they are calling a cell phone number or work number that are not local numbers. This results in a cost to the district for each call. That does add up! Many times a parent will call wanting to have their child taken out of a class or study hall. When that student is summoned, the class or study hall is often disrupted resulting in a loss of class time for all students as a result of the distraction.

It must be noted that there needs to be a determination with students and parents between emergency/essential and non-emergency/non-essential. Sometimes, calling the schools to talk with a child is necessary and cannot be avoided. There is never a problem with that. Office personnel have been instructed to ask of the nature of in-coming calls so that they can make a determination as to is the interruption of a class is necessary. Notes can be delivered to students between classes and return calls can be made during lunch period as long as it did not become an everyday thing.

If parents and students make the efforts to communicate at home of the events of the day or week, fewer contacts will be necessary when students are in school. To me, it is just good ol' fashioned time spent as a family! Talk; look ahead at the week to come. It is my expectation that as the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester continues, that there is a noticeable reduction in the number of non-essential phone calls being made to and from the school on a daily basis. Remember, as stated by John Powell, "Communication Works For Those Who Work At It".

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