



EAGLE UPDATE

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

Volume XXIV, Issue 7

February, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

★ Feb. 4
Bloodmobile at EHS

★ Feb. 11
Special School Board
Mtg. 6:00 p.m.

★ Feb. 12
Student-Led
Conferences
4:30-9:00 p.m.

★ Feb. 12
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m.

★ Feb. 18
LATE START 10:00
a.m.

★ Feb. 20
NO SCHOOL



Lincoln



Washington

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UNDERWAY



The Board of Education at Elgin Public Schools, along with the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) is currently conducting a search for a full-time Superintendent of Schools to begin duties July 1, 2009.

In July of 2008, the board hired Mr. Lee Hall to serve the district as School Superintendent on an Interim basis as then

current School Superintendent, Dr. Gayla Fredrickson worked through health complications. Dr. Fredrickson resigned from the position in October 2008 as a result of her continued health complications. At that time, the board then voted to extend Mr. Hall as Interim Superintendent of Schools through the remainder of the school year.

The search is being conducted by the School Board in collaboration with the NASB. The position has been advertised in media around the state and applications are currently being taken by the NASB. Once the application deadline is reached, the School Board will determine the candidates it wishes to interview for the position. The tentative timeline is to have a Superintendent hired by the end of February 2009.



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 12th 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.

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



LET US TELL YOU ABOUT OUR WEEK.....

Third grade students are becoming news reporters in their classroom. Each week, a student prepares a diary of the events in their classroom. The students then prepare a recording or what they are learning in each subject and the main events of the week. Mrs. Eisenhower posts these recordings on their webpage for everyone to hear.

Check out their recordings at www.elgineagles.org. Click on the elementary, then third grade. Select the Roving Reporter news item and hear all about the news from the third grade.

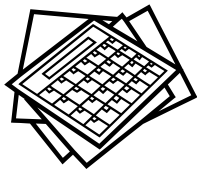
Students Prepare for Science Fair



The EPS science fair has been set for March 17th from 7-9 pm in the Elgin Public gym. Students have begun to prepare for the annual fair by brainstorming and selecting a topic. Student groups have started working on their projects which will help them understand the scientific method as well as learn more about a specific area of science. Some of the topics include heart rate monitoring, testing the 5-second rule, DNA testing, and the nature of color and light. We encourage parents to support the students' efforts and perhaps even become a "test subject."

In an attempt to reduce paper use, Mrs. Walsh and Ms. Rethmeier are experimenting with using a digital drop box. Rather than having students print out rough drafts of each step, they will be electronically submitted to the teacher; the teacher can then either approve or make suggestions to the submission and return it to the student—all electronically. Now students will only need to print off a final copy. The business department already utilizes this technology and it has cut down on unnecessary printing!

The EPS website has a lot more information including the list of science fair "rules," steps of the scientific method and a description of each, pictures from past science fairs, grading rubrics, a calendar of due dates, and much more.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
February 12, 2009
Student-Led Conferences
4:30 - 9:00 p.m.



Elgin FCCLA Members: Jessica Heithoff, Eric Shoemaker, & Ayli Carrero

Elgin FCCLA Students Compete at STAR

Three members of the Elgin FCCLA Chapter competed at the District 8 STAR competition on January 21 at Wayne State College. Competing from Elgin was Jessica Heithoff in Health and Wellness and Ayli Carrero and Eric Shoemaker in Family Challenges and Issues. Jessica came home with a gold medal and district championship for her speech entitled "From Zzzz's to A's" – teenagers and sleep. Jessica will represent Elgin and District 8 at State FCCLA STAR in April. Ayli and Eric earned a gold runner up placing for their presentation on the "Wii".

Approximately 180 students competed in twenty different STAR events. Accompanying the students from Elgin were FCCLA Adviser Barb Bode and Pam Heithoff who served as a judge for several events.



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.

FOOTBALL AWARDS

The annual fall activities award banquet was held on Jan. 6th, 2009 to honor the student athletes in fall sports. The following football awards were given:

Those receiving Letters were:

Ryan Meis
Nash Schindler
Shane Vanis
Kevin Schindler
Travis Dozler
Eric Vanis
Tyler Johnson
Justin Kallhoff
Noel Voborny
Eric Powell
Chris DeWald
Eric Shoemaker
Jeff Bush
Nathan Niewohner
Alex Kinney
Brett Mahnke
Andrew Bauer
Tad Henkenius
Austin Stamp
Tyler Reestman
Clint Meis

Participation Certificates awarded to:

Hoyt Meis
Tre Henkenius
Dustin Carman
Dean Braband
Nathan Anderson
Sebastian Janssen
AJ Braband
Devin Brown

Student Managers

Nick Heithoff
Andrew Heithoff
Kyle Heithoff
Michael Braband

Team Awards

Defensive MVP Tad Henkenius
Offensive MVP Andrew Bauer

District Awards

Honorable Mention
Clint Meis

Second Team

Austin Stamp
Chris DeWald
Tyler Johnson
Tyler Reestman
Andrew Bauer

First Team

Andrew Bauer QB
Tad Henkenius LB
Justin Kallhoff NG
Brett Mahnke OL
Nathan Niewohner

Special Team awards (weightlifting 40 days)

Andrew Bauer,
Jeff Bush
Chris Dewald
Tad Henkenius
Alex Kinney
Brett Mahnke
Clint Meis
Nathan Niewohner
Eric Powell
Tyler Reestman
Eric Shoemaker
Austin Stamp
Travis Dozler
Tyler Johnson
Justin Kallhoff
Eric Vanis
Kevin Schindler
Tre Henkenius
Dustin Carmen
Ryan Meis
Nash Schindler
Shane Vanis

Every player received a State playoff certificate.

Lincoln Journal Star

All State Honorable Mention—Justin Kallhoff, Nathan Niewohner, Austin Stamp
First Team- Tad Henkenius, Brett Mahnke, Andrew Bauer,
Andrew Bauer Captain

Omaha World Herald

Honorable Mention- Justin Kallhoff, Nathan Niewohner,
First Team- Tad Henkenius, Andrew Bauer, Captain

Norfolk Daily News, Top 20 Andrew Bauer

Eagle Lifter of the Year -

Justin Kallhoff



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

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.



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Several elementary and high school students witnessed a moment of history as President Barack Obama was sworn in as our 44th President of the United States and the first African American to hold the office.

If you want children to keep their feet
on the ground, put some responsibility
on their shoulders.
~Abigail Van Buren

Our children need your presence more
than your presents.

~Jesse Jackson



1st Grade and Kindergarten Celebrate 100 Days of School

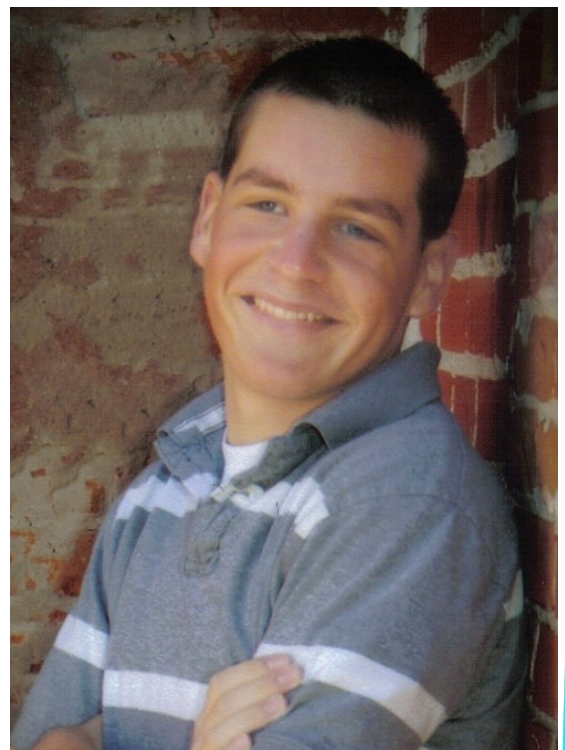
On Friday, January 23rd, the kindergarten and 1st grade classes celebrated 100 days of school. Several fun activities were enjoyed by the students including making fun glasses, creating Froot Loop necklaces and much more. These students really are "100 days smarter."



Nathan Niewohner

Full name: Nathan Dale Niewohner
Parents: Steven & Jane Niewohner
Brothers: Craig Niewohner
Sisters: Lisa Meers
Favorite school subject: Choir
Favorite teacher: Mrs. Newcomb
Activities: football, basketball, track, One-Act, speech, band, choir
Greatest honor in school: being inducted into National Honor Society
Favorite activity: speech because I can be goofy and get rewarded for it.
Most educational experience: National FFA Convention
Favorite color: orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: listen to music
If I could go back in time I would go: when my siblings were in high school
Favorite saying: Live like its your last or it may never happen.
Something most people don't know about you: made State Speech 3 years and All-State Choir 2 years
Favorite movie: National Treasure
Dream car: Mercedes Benz
Favorite food: Chinese
Favorite school lunch: weiner roll-ups
Favorite pop: Mt. Dew
Favorite TV show: Family Guy
Favorite type of music: Rock
Future plans after graduation: Attend school for computer networking, but undecided which school

Full name: Nicholas Alexander Carman
Parents: Sheryl Wooton
Brothers: Brandon Cruz, Dustin Carman
Sisters: P.J. Dowdy, Lindsay Carman
Pets: Sparky, my teddy bear
Favorite school activity: football games
Most educational experience: seeing Vietnam Memorial Wall in Verdigré
Favorite color: blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: I go trucking with my brother-in-law
Pet Peeve: when people chew with their mouth open
If I could go back in time I would go: travel the west coast again.
Favorite saying: "What up cuz."
Something most people don't know about me: I brush my teeth in the shower.
Favorite movie: Gone in 60 seconds
Dream car: BMW
Favorite food: pizza
Favorite school lunch: nacho grande
Favorite pop: Mountain Dew
Favorite TV show: South Park
Favorite type of music: Rap, or pretty much anything
Future plans after graduation: attend Fresno State University to take engineering



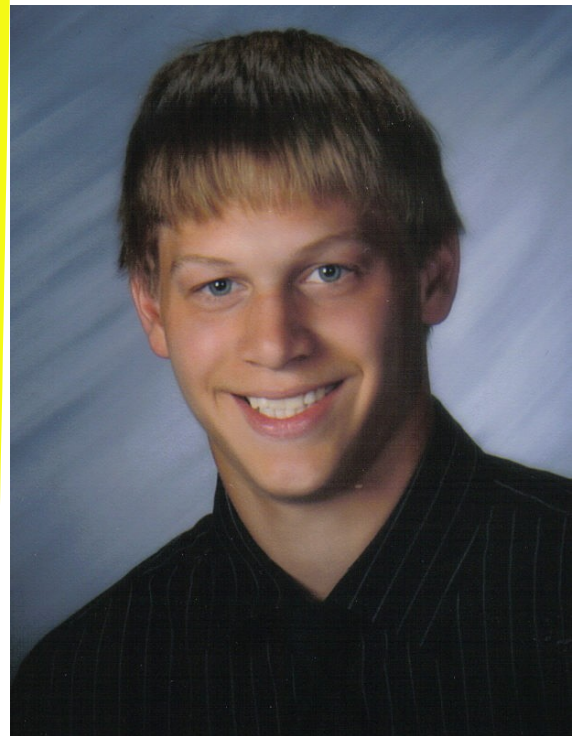
Nick Carman



Bethany Kallhoff

Full name: Bethany Rose Kallhoff
Parents: Jerry & Betty Kallhoff
Brothers: Josh Kallhoff
Sisters: Shauna Fulsaa
Pets: my kitty, Babe
Favorite school subject: English
Favorite teacher: Mrs. Bode
Activities: FCCLA, FFA, FCA, Band, Choir, Volleyball, Danz, PALS
Greatest honor during school: my accomplishments I've made in band/choir
Favorite activity: Band because I love pep band
Most educational experience: FCCLA Cluster in St. Louis
Most inspirational person: my parents
Favorite color: Green
Favorite thing to do in spare time: Read, be with friends, play with my nephews
Pet Peeve: pointless conversation
If I could go back in time I would go: when my brother and sister were in high school
Favorite saying: We'll worry about it in the morning
Something most people don't know about you: I was born at my house.
Favorite movie: Never Back Down
Dream car: Mustang
Favorite food: homemade pizza
Favorite school lunch: chicken nuggets
Favorite pop: Cherry Pepsi
Favorite TV show: That 70's Show
Favorite type of music: just about everything
Future plans after graduation: Attend Southeast Comm. College and finish my generals and pursue further education in geology

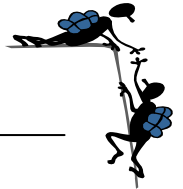
Full name: Alexander Jon Kinney
Parents: Tom & Connie Kinney
Sisters: Connor Kinney
Brothers: Brett Kinney
Pets: 1 dog --- black lab named Coco
Favorite school subject: History class
Favorite teacher: Mr. Jones
Activities: FFA, football, basketball, track
Greatest honor during school: Playing in the state football finals
Favorite activity: football, because it is a great contact sport.
Most educational experience: when I went on a field trip my Jr. year for environmental science class.
Most inspirational person: my parents
Favorite color: orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: play video games and be with my friends.
Pet Peeve: When someone has a mouth full of food and is talking at the same time.
If I could go back in time I would go: to New York City during the 9-11 attack.
Favorite saying: "Don't count down the days, make the days count."
Favorite movie: Never Back Down
Dream car: 2008 Dodge Charger with white racing stripes
Favorite food: shrimp fried rice
Favorite school lunch: weiner roll-ups
Favorite pop: Mountain Dew
Favorite TV show: Friends
Favorite type of music: Rock
Future plans after graduation: I will probably attend a 2-year college and get a degree to be an electrician



Alex Kinney

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.)

EducationQuest tools will help you prepare

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

- **Guide to College Funding Video** – 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 [EducationQuest.org](#).

Check out our new podcast!

To *hear* about the FAFSA, listen to EducationQuest's new [College Prep News podcast](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#). Check back often as we'll add new podcasts on a regular basis.

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: File your taxes early

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

Step 3: Gather these student and parent items:

- 2008 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2008 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.)
- 2008 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2008 Worker's Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2008 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.ed.gov](#). The colleges you list on the application will receive the results.

If you have questions about the FAFSA, see the ["Completing the FAFSA"](#) section at [EducationQuest.org](#).

If you're filing the FAFSA for the first time and need help completing the form, you can 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**.

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 2008 tax returns.
- ___ Complete the FAFSA.
- ___ Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors:

- ___ Register by February 10 for the March 14 SAT (SAT Reasoning Test only).
- ___ Register by February 27 for the April 4 ACT.



FFA WINTER CEREMONIES & LSE



Elgin FFA Greenhand Degree Recipients

as guest. The Greenhand FFA degree was awarded to 16 first year members, these members were: Zach Baker, Grant Beckman, Dean Braband, Alex Dierks, Tre Henkenius, Derek Henn, Kyle Knievel, Kelsie Kuhlman, Justine Meis, Evan Parks, Ben Pelster, Caleb Pelster, Corey Schindler, Drew Schindler, Jared Seier, and Shane Vanis

The members receiving their Chapter degrees were: Nathan Anderson, A.J. Braband, Curtis Childers, Briann Grosserode, Jessica Heithoff, Anthony Hemenway, Sebastian Janssen, Austin Kerkman, Brittany Kubert, and Allen Miller

Members who would be competing at the District FFA Leadership skills events in Ainsworth the next day recited their speeches, the FFA creed, and did demonstrations on Parliamentary Procedure for the audience in attendance.

On Wednesday, December the 10th the Elgin FFA Chapter traveled to Ainsworth to compete in the District 10 Leadership Skills Event Contest. The Elgin FFA Blue Junior Parliamentary



Linsey Bode, District Champion in Job Skills Event.

Procedure team of Briann Grosserode, A.J. Braband, Dean Braband, Shane Vanis, Derek Henn, Zach Baker, and Caleb Pelster received a blue ribbon for their Demonstration. The Elgin FFA Gold Junior Parliamentary Procedure team of Justine Meis, Grant Beckman, Jared Seier, Alex Dierks, Drew Schindler, Kelsie Kuhlman, Evan Parks, and Corey Schindler also received a blue award for their demonstration.

Ashley Dittrich competed in public speaking with her topic being the history of Poinsettias. Ashley received a blue and is the alternate to State from District 10. Carlie Redding presented an extemporaneous speech and received a blue award for her speech. Carlie was also selected as the alternate to state from District 10 in this extemporaneous speaking event. Grant Beckman and Justine Meis both presented the FFA Creed at the event. Grant received a blue ribbon and Justine received a red ribbon for their presentations.

Linsey Bode competed in the Job Skills LSE and was selected as the District Champion in this event. Linsey will represent The Elgin FFA Chapter and District 10 in this event at the Nebraska State FFA Convention in April.

The Elgin FFA Chapter held its annual Winter Ceremonies Meeting on December 9, 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.

There were 38 members present at the meeting along with numerous parents and family members



Elgin FFA Chapter Degree Recipients

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Lee Hall
lhall@esu8.org



The waning days of January and the early part of February mark the longest stretch of the year for our students. Add the weather conditions to the mixture and it makes for what we call a long winter. As parents of school age children there are several things you can do to help keep the long days of winter from becoming a problem.

Following a long holiday season it is important to get your children back into the school routine. Late nights and early mornings are not conducive to a good day at school. Look at how much sleep your children are getting. They need at least eight hours of sleep daily. If you can squeeze more sleep into the schedule all the better. Start each day with a good breakfast. Rested and food in the stomach make a great starting point each day.

When your children return home have a set time for them to study or do homework. If you take the time to go over their day at school with them it will show them you care. Look at their homework and share their day's events as you fix supper. Talk about what happened and if anything or anybody new was at school. In general your child will enjoy the attention and the time you are spending with them.

After supper find some time to read. Read to them, with them, or listen for them to read. Reading skills are the single most important thing in education for elementary students. That is why we are spending 90 minutes a day teaching those skills. The more opportunity your children have to practice the better they are going to be at it. When reading with your children make it a teaching moment as you model the skills for them. If they say a word wrong correct it or if they are reading in a choppy manner stop them and show them how it should sound. Modeling correct habits is very important.

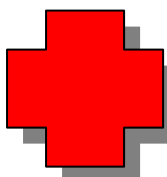
Just before bed time is a really good time to review what needs to be ready in the morning. Is my homework finished, papers signed, bags packed, and etc. Make sure that your children know you love them and that a good night's sleep will be a great start to a new day tomorrow.

Hope your holidays were everything you wanted them to be and that on the 14th cupid is good to you also. Welcome to 2009!



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.



**BLOODMOBILE AT
EPS GYM FEB. 4**

* If I had my child to raise all over again, *
* I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later. *
* I'd finger-paint more, and point the finger less. *
* I would do less correcting and more *
* connecting. *
* I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with *
* my eyes. *
* I'd take more hikes and fly more kites. *
* I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play. *
* I would run through more fields and gaze at *
* more stars. *
* I'd do more hugging and less tugging. *
* *
* ~Diane Loomans, *
* from "If I Had My Child To Raise Over Again" *

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

Mr. Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



A common phrase we hear in all walks of life these days is “GO GREEN” or simply “GREEN”! We see it in print everywhere and many television and radio ads/commercials are using “Green” as its aim as it promotes their product, promotes a cleaner environment or reminds us of the dangers facing our environment and natural resources to name a few. What does “Go Green” or “Green” mean exactly? To put it simply, the concept “Go Green” or “Green” is reflective of the world-wide movement to preserve the earth, its natural resources and our environment. While I am certainly not an expert in this area, the basic thought that I believe we are to have is for all to join together and work to preserve the earth and all things natural.

On Wednesday, January 21, 2009, the 9-12 grade students at both Elgin High and Pope John Central joined in the EHS gym to participate in a program sponsored by Central Valley Ag. (CVA). Several key CVA representatives were on hand to offer their knowledge to the students on the importance of agriculture and the role it will play in the future. A spokesman for CVA gave a short presentation on what CVA is all about and its visions for the future as they relate to preserving the future. The various branches of the CVA were shown and the presentation showed how rapidly the population of the world is growing and how that rapid growth is posing serious problems that must be addressed now. The CVA representatives provided a base of knowledge for the students and shared with the students their vision for joining in the “Green” movement.

The keynote speaker of the program was Mr. Jim Welch. Mr. Welch is the founder of “The Growth Leader, Inc.” and a consultant to businesses leaders all over the world. His message to the students was clear as he talked to them about being leaders for positive change and placing more value on the resources we currently have available to us in order to protect them for those in the future. He talked about the characteristics our leaders of tomorrow will need in order to promote change. Both Mr. Welch and the CVA speakers addressed the rapid population growth that our world currently has. I recently was given the following website that I believe to be incredibly fascinating. If you do nothing more with this article, you have to check out this site. You will be amazed!
<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf>

Mr. Welch and the CVA representatives explained that so many scientists and experts are keying on the areas of technology and energy. While they are definitely concerning factors, they are not the most alarming and immediate. Many often tend to neglect that perhaps the biggest concern is the basic essentials of human life...food and water! As was explained during the program, it is a shortage of food and water that are proving to be our biggest and most immediate crisis. The program that was brought to us by CVA and the message from Mr. Jim Welch was outstanding and very real. For the youth in attendance that day, the problem is one that they will soon inherit and both Mr. Welch and CVA challenged them to be active in leading positive change. It was definitely a message that all youth in this generation need to hear.

Going Green is not hard to do and is the only way we will save our planet. Bottom line...we must do a better job of conserving the natural resources that are available to use today or there will nothing left for those who inhabit this planet in the future! To do that, all human inhabitants of this earth must work “to adopt an environmentally friendly lifestyle by recycling, buying local, reusing, minimizing driving, etc.” That statement was found on the Internet by our own secondary science teacher, Mrs. Walsh and submitted to me for use in this article. The author is unknown.

Here at Elgin Public Schools and also at Pope John and St. Boniface, students and staff have made a commitment to do their part in leading positive change. Recycling and making “Green” a priority is evident each and every day. At Elgin Public Schools, you will find this evidence all over and it is a concept that is growing with each passing semester. So now, the question is...what role will you play in protecting the resources for those of the future? Our survival in years to come will depend on the choices we make today.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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