



EAGLE UPDATE

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

Volume XXV, Issue 6

January, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER



Jan. 4
School Resumes
8:15 a.m.



Jan. 14
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m.
in ITV room

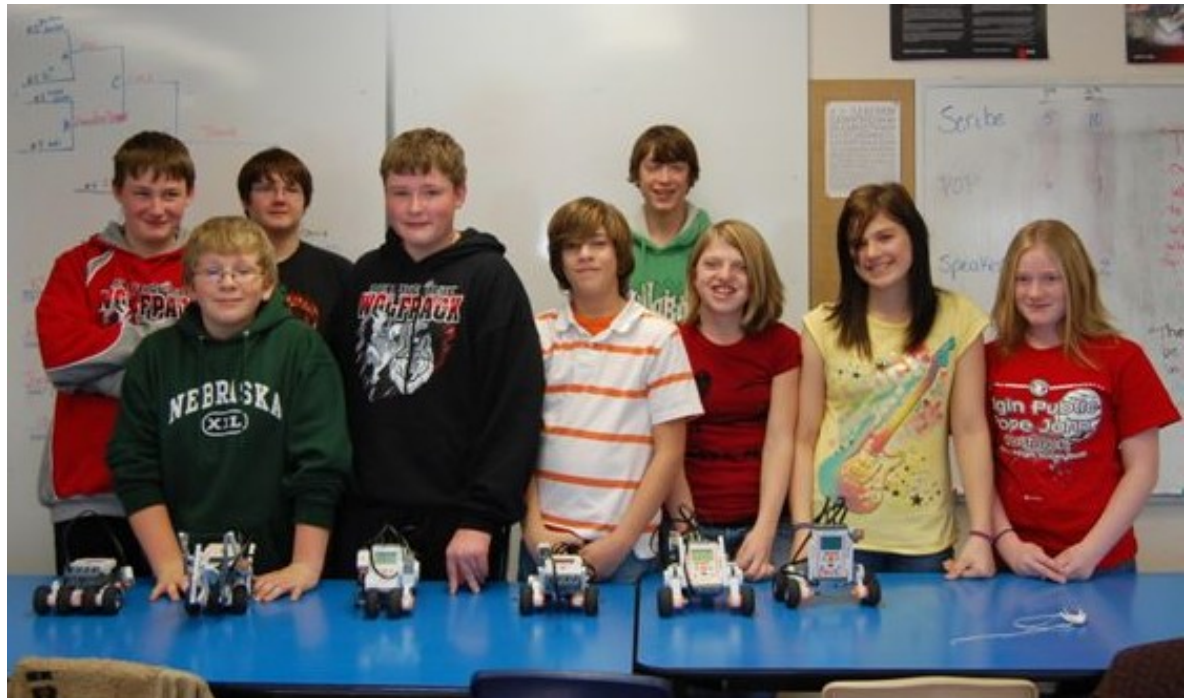


Jan. 20
LATE START
10:00 a.m.



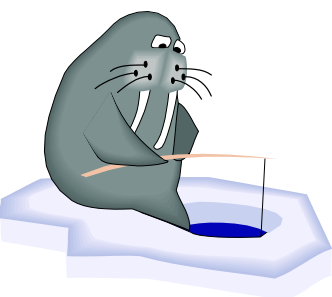
Jan. 30
NVC Basketball
Tourney begins at
Elgin Public Gym

ROBOTICS TUG OF WAR



JH Exploring with Technology Class members are: Front Row: Travis Grosserode, Kyle Heithoff, Christian Dunn, Abby Couch, Hunter Thramer, & Victoriah Fangman. Back Row: Tanner Welding, Korban Palmer, & Jordan Dietz.

The Exploring with Technology class has been working with the LEGO Mindstorm robots and programming kits all semester. Three weeks ago they were tasked to design, build, and program their own robot to compete in a Tug of War competition. At first, many were overwhelmed with the task but with some encouragement and trial and error, each group succeeded in building a competitor. There were several requirements placed on the design such as the number of motors used and the triggering mechanism. This taught students that constraints and requirements are all part of the design process. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving was the big competition with a double-elimination tournament. Congratulations to the winning team of Travis Grosserode and Logan Niewohner. The students enjoyed pitting their designs against each other and sharing lessons learned.



Sign Up For News Update!

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, www.elgineagles.org. 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!

Junior Journalists Debut in NDN "Below 20" Page



EPS Junior Journalists include: (front L to R.: Kevin Schindler, Courtney Meis, Christi Getzfred, Breanna Bode, Nathan Anderson, Jessica Heithoff, Michelle Bauer, Rose Fangman, Sebastian Janssen, Jennifer Rhoads, Briann Grosserode, AJ Braband, Allen Miller, Anthony Hemenway.

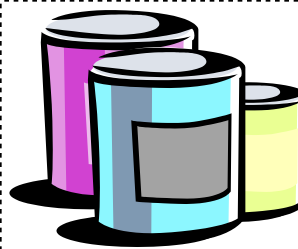
It is said that during a lifetime, everyone experiences fifteen minutes of fame. That fifteen minutes for Elgin Public students occurred just before Christmas break. Readers can see their bright, smiling faces in the Tuesday, December 22 issue of the *Norfolk Daily News*.

Each year, one class submits articles and features for the "Below 20" page, which features the work of student writers. This year's lucky participants were members of the Junior Class.

As a part of the writing unit in English 11, students delved into the wonderful world of journalism. They were first asked to develop and agree upon a manageable topic. The sports co-op seemed a timely issue. Though this topic had been addressed previously, it was decided that our situation is unique due to the location of the two schools involved.

Students then gathered information from sources and began collaborating to finish by the deadline. Numerous drafts and a couple of snow days later, they were complete. The end result was one main story over the co-op, another story over the origin of the new mascot and colors, a "Man on the Street" feature, and another feature entitled "What's Going on at Elgin Public Schools."

Great job, Juniors, and thank you to everyone for your input for the stories.



Food Drive Set For January

The first grade class is asking for your help. We will be collecting items for the local food pantry in the month of January. Items may be brought to the office or first grade room. Please help us make our drive a success. Thank you.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

We still collect BoxTops For Education and Campbell's Soup UPC Labels. BoxTops and Labels can be dropped off at the school at anytime. Thanks!



FFA DECEMBER NEWS

On December 7, 2009 the Elgin FFA Chapter left bright and early for their trip to Ainsworth for District LSE's. LSE's stands for Leadership Skills Events. At LSE's you can compete in a variety of competitions. We had teams competing on the AG Demo teams. In AG Demo teams demonstrate an AG related activity. Our teams both received red ribbons.

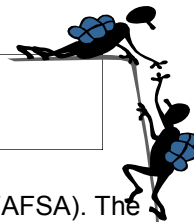
Elgin members competed in Creed speaking which is where a freshman has to say the creed in front of judges and then answer questions about it. Three members competed and were awarded red ribbons.

In the parliamentary procedure event, the team is given a parliamentary act to perform in the correct manner. Elgin Senior Parliamentary Team competed in this event.

After returning from competitions, we held our winter ceremonies that evening. Many members received their Green Hand and Chapter Degrees. Congratulations!

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



It's time to prepare for the FAFSA!

Preparation is the key to successfully completing and filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. Even if you don't think you'll qualify for need-based financial aid, you should complete the FAFSA to qualify for low-interest student and parent loans.

Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA and the financial aid process:

Contact the college(s) you applied to and ask for their FAFSA priority filing date. Because some types of financial aid are awarded first-come, first-served, it's important that you submit the FAFSA before that date.

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and one for a parent at pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the online FAFSA.

Complete your 2009 taxes early as the FAFSA requires current tax information.

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 your home and 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 Workers' Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2009 such as housing/food/ living allowances for military and clergy

Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Be prepared to answer these FAFSA questions that relate to grant eligibility:

1. Did you or anyone in your household receive any of the following federal benefits?
Supplemental Security Income; Food Stamps; TANF; Free or Reduced Price Lunch; WIC
2. Did you complete at least two Advanced Placement courses with a passing test score of 3 or higher?
3. Did you complete and pass the following high school courses?
4 years of English 3 years of math (Algebra I and above) 3 years of science (2 of 3: Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
3 years of social studies 1 year of a language other than English

Complete and file the FAFSA electronically at fafsa.gov before your college's priority date. For user-friendly clarification of any FAFSA question, see the [FAFSA Tutorial](#) at EducationQuest.org.

Expect a Student Aid Report acknowledging that your form was processed.

Expect Financial Aid Award Notifications in the spring from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA. The notifications will detail the assistance the colleges are offering (could be a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans).

Apply for student and parent loans (if necessary) in the summer through your college.

Check out these free FAFSA tools and resources

Visit the "[Completing the FAFSA](#)" section at EducationQuest.org where you'll find:

"FAFSA Made Easy" video – demonstrates that the FAFSA isn't as difficult as it may seem

FAFSA podcasts – explain what the FAFSA is – and how to apply

FAFSA Checklist – provides a complete list of items you need to gather before you complete the FAFSA

College Funding Estimator – estimates your FAFSA results

FAFSA Tutorial – explains each FAFSA question

Financial Aid Video – describes the types of financial aid and how to apply

If you are filing a FAFSA for the first time and would like free personal help, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to make an appointment. Contact the Kearney office at 308-234-6310 or 800-666-3721; Lincoln at 402-475-5222 or 800-303-3745; or Omaha at 402-391-4033 or 888-357-6300.

Elgin Public Schools

Annual Report 2008-09

This annual report is intended to keep patrons of the Elgin Public Schools District #18 informed about the school system as well as meet requirements of the Nebraska Department of Education and the Elgin Public Schools Board Policy. We are very proud of the many accomplishments our students have achieved along with the help of teachers, staff members, parents and patrons.

The Elgin Public Schools District is located in Antelope, Boone and Wheeler counties and covers approximately 252 square miles. A Class III district, Elgin is fully accredited by the State of Nebraska. The school is a member of the Northern Tier Interlocal and the Niobrara Valley Conference.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

A six member Board of Education governs the District. Board meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of every month but may be rescheduled to avoid calendar conflicts. Members of the Board of Education are: Steve Heithoff, President; Mary Bauer, Vice President; Laurie Waterbury, Secretary; Stan Heithoff, Treasurer; Kim Wells and Ryan Reestman, Members.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Elgin Public Schools	Steve Dennis, Superintendent/Elementary Principal	402-843-2455
101 North 4 th Street	Jimmy Feeney III, High School Principal/AD	402-843-2457
PO Box 399	Paula Jensen, Secretary	402-843-2455
Elgin, NE 68636		

MISSION STATEMENT

The Elgin Public Schools exists to serve and nurture the experiences of the students in a manner which will allow them to function competently in all facets of society. The School's responsibility is to ensure that students gain the skills and knowledge to function as creative, discerning, and productive members of a global society.

ENROLLMENT

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pre-K	9	11	20	7	7	3	10
K	9	2	11	8	5	9	14
1	4	5	9	9	2	8	10
2	9	7	16	10	10	6	16
3	4	5	9	11	4	9	13
4	8	7	15	12	9	16	25
5	3	7	10				
6	8	6	14	Total	37	51	88
Total	54	50	104	Dist. Tot.	91	101	192

DISTRICT PROFILE

<u>District Data</u>	<u>District Statistics</u>	<u>State Statistics</u>
Free & Reduced Lunch Percentage	48.13%	38.35%
Special Education Percentage	17.47%	15.21%
School Mobility Rate	16.27%	12.02%
High School Graduation Rate	100%	89.74%
Attendance Percentage	95.78%	94.84%
High School Teachers Endorsed Percentage	96.95%	94.50%

STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

<u>CTB Test</u>	<u>4th Gr National Percentile</u>	<u>8th Gr National Percentile</u>	<u>11th Gr National Percentile</u>
Reading	68.0	58.0	68.0
Language	62.3	70.0	67.0
Mathematics	36.0	70.0	72.5
Science	75.0	70.0	65.0
Total Score	48.3	60.7	72.5

LOCAL STANDARDS ASSESSMENT

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Grade 4 Proficient</u>	<u>Grade 8 Proficient</u>	<u>Grade 11 Proficient</u>
Reading	100%	92.86%	100%
Mathematics	100%	92.86%	100%
Science	100%	100%	100%

STATE WRITING ASSESSMENT

<u>Grade 04</u>	<u>Grade 08</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>
66.67%	92.86%	100%

ACT RESULTS

<u>District Average</u>	<u>State Average</u>	<u>National Average</u>
20.50	22.10	21.10

RECEIPTS

<u>Source</u>	<u>Receipt</u>	<u>Local %</u>	<u>State %</u>
Local	\$1,855,550	70.21	52.05
County	\$20,269	0.77	0.81
State	\$576,808	21.83	38.01
Federal	\$190,117	7.19	7.73

EXPENDITURES

	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Local %</u>	<u>State %</u>
All Instruction	\$1,817,771	63.42	60.37
Support Services – Pupils	\$235,197	8.21	6.90
Support Services – Staff	\$7,377	0.26	3.16
Central Administration	\$198,272	6.92	5.60
Office of the Principal	\$104,263	3.64	5.38
Maintenance & Operation	\$336,893	11.75	10.26
Federal	\$105,642	3.69	6.76
Other	\$61,000	2.13	1.57

ASSESSED VALUATION

<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>
\$174,154,251	\$199,658,933	\$218,977,502	\$216,044,913	\$268,159,971

TAX LEVY

	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>
General Fund	0.8533	0.8679	0.8667	0.8548	0.7120
Building Fund	0.0580	0.0430	0.0470	0.0491	0.0377
Total	0.9113	0.9109	0.9137	0.9039	0.7496

This annual report is intended to keep patrons of the Elgin Public Schools informed about the school system. More information can be found on the Elgin Public School website at (www.elgineagles.org). A link to the 'NDE State of the School Report' is available on our website. Also feel free to contact the Office of the Superintendent, 402-843-2455.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLASS TAKES FIELD TRIP

On December 3rd, a cold and blustery day, the Environmental Science class took a field trip to learn more about renewable resources and how our choices affect the earth. The students visited four locations: Siouxland Ethanol, L.L.C. and L.P. Gill Landfill (both in Jackson), Gavin's Point Power Plant in Yankton, S.D., and lastly the Elkhorn Ridge wind farm in Bloomfield. To prepare for the event, the students researched the areas to be visited, created models of how electricity is generated using renewable methods, and recorded a list of questions they had regarding each site. Below is a report of each site from the students. More pictures can be found at www.elgineagles.org.

L.P. Gill Landfill—Lots of junk! I was impressed with how much trash was there. We drove through the landfill as they were crushing it. It was interesting that they were still covering old trash with dirt as they were digging a new hole for more trash. There is over 3 million tons of trash and each site has a GPS to track what goes in and what goes out. There are also methane wells that reach into the ground and pump out all the methane after the trash is buried; it is then piped to the ethanol plant to be used as fuel. It was just amazing how much trash was at that place. by Tyler Johnson

Siouxland Ethanol, L.L.C.—I learned a lot from the ethanol plant. There were very big fermentation tanks that are kept warm so the yeast can eat the corn. Each part of the corn is used in the ethanol-making process. The sugars are used to make the ethanol; the non-sugar parts are ground up and made into cattle and chicken feed. At this plant they use 55,000 bushels of corn per day.

by Ryan Meis

Gavin's Point Power Plant—The Gavin's Point Dam was my favorite. I didn't know that somebody had to be in the control room 24 hours a day, every day of the year. I thought it was amazing how thick the floors were. They have three generators. The spillway had 14 gates. Overall I enjoyed the Gavin's Point Dam the most. by Morgan Pelster (PJ)

Elkhorn Ridge—The Elkhorn Ridge wind farm that we went to was very interesting. So far, they have 27 wind turbines put up in Bloomfield. From the base of the turbine to the gear box is about 262 feet tall. The blades are 148 feet long. If the speed of the inside of the blade reaches as high as 56 mph, then the turbine will automatically shut itself down. It only takes one turbine one hour to produce enough energy to power a house for a month's worth of electricity. Overall, I thought the wind farm was pretty cool. by Arielle Kerkman (PJ)



(l to r) Morgan (PJ), Tyler, Arielle (PJ), Ryan standing in front of the "leftovers" from the ethanol-making process. This product will be used to make cattle or chicken feed.



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.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR ON WEBSITE

Do you want to know what time the concert starts or if the ballgames have been postponed?

Check out the Activities Calendar on our website, www.elgineagles.org. This easy-to-use tool:

- provides up-to-date school activities and events
- allows you to view and print a daily, weekly or monthly list of calendar events
- includes a search option to find a specific event
- sends you e-mail reminders for events you select

Welcome to Brain Gym!

When a teacher begins working on his/her master's degree, students often worry. The concerns are varied: "Great, my teacher will be crabby due to all of the extra work he/she has to do." "Oh, no, what kind of projects/homework ideas are transpiring there?" "Are we going to be victims of a lot of busy work so his/her coursework can be completed on time?" Or in the case of Mrs. Shoe working on her master's, "Here we go, she's going to use us as guinea pigs again."

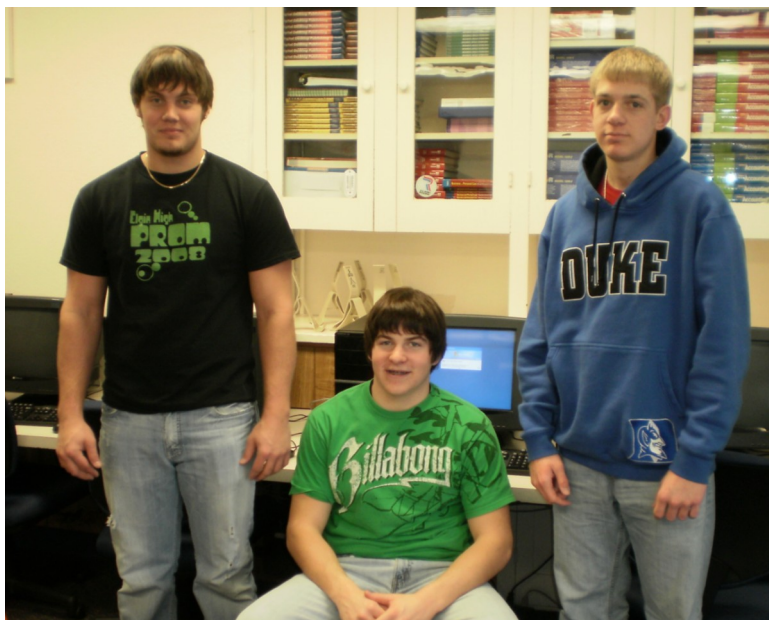
Recently, one of Mrs. Shoe's classes entertained a guest speaker. Her informal title is "The Brain Lady." The Brain Lady's main premise is that individuals will find more success in any task if they are utilizing the left and right hemispheres of the brain consistently. In order to foster this concept, she demonstrated a variety of simple exercises/activities that students can practice in order to strengthen this skill.

As usual, upon return to her classes Monday morning, Mrs. Shoe began implementing some of the activities. These consisted of optical illusions and some cross lateral exercises including yoga and training opposites. The students also discussed the "brain benefits" of staying hydrated. The end result was some challenging activities that some students are still trying to master, some giggling, and a little groaning along with the typical response: "You had class again this weekend, didn't you?" Regardless of the outcome, the activities have given the students a little insight on how their brains operate.



Mrs. Shoe and students are exercising both side of their brain in the brain gym!

PERSONAL FINANCE CLASS EXPLORES THE STOCK MARKET



Are you prepared for retirement? How diversified is your portfolio? Do you have stocks, bonds, or mutual funds? Maybe you have invested in land or a vacation home! All of these options are things the Personal Finance class have been learning about as they think about their futures. Retirement may seem like a long way off to them, but the importance of planning is a lesson they can see will someday pay off!

One of their favorite activities as they have been learning about their future investments has been investing in the stock market. Playing a virtual stock market game, the students could invest \$100,000 of virtual money in stocks that they chose. The students started out researching stocks and then bought shares based on their findings. On November 20, they started purchasing those shares and have watched their stocks either gain in value or decrease, selling and purchasing more stocks along the way. Setting up a game situation

allowed the class to see how their investments have been doing compared to their classmates. It has also let them track who is making the most money in the stock market.

Currently, Tyler Johnson is leading with his investments, followed by Justin Reestman, Mrs. Selting, and Eric Vanis. What has turned into a very competitive game, we look to see what investments can be made in these last few days to pull ahead of each other. Who will be the savviest investor? We will find out on December 22, when we end our game! Hopefully the end results aren't as volatile as the stock market has been!

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Steve Dennis
sdennis@esu8.org



Our first semester of school ends on December 22, 2009 at 2:00 PM. This first semester has flown by very quickly for me. I believe this is because of the outstanding staff, students, parents and patrons of our community. I have found all to be positive as we work with our district's greatest asset, our students. It does indeed take the cooperation of everyone to provide the best learning opportunity for our children.

Included in this newsletter is copy of the Annual Report for the Elgin Public Schools. This report is a quick glance at some of the aspects of our district. More information can be found on the district's website www.elgineagles.org. Please visit this site regularly as it is continually updated with new happenings and current information. Paula has added a link on our website that will take you directly to the 'NDE State of the School Report' from the Nebraska Department of Education.

As 2009 fades into 2010 I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

First Graders Meet Reading Challenge



The first graders joined Super Bowl MVPs Peyton and Eli Manning and Scholastic Book Clubs to help donate one million books to disadvantaged children. We pledged to read 100 books as part of Scholastic Book Clubs' Classrooms Care program. We joined "Team Eli" and kept track of our books read in class. We reached our goal of 100 books on December 18. Students are : (front l. to r.) Hailey Walsh, Kane VonBonn, Theanna Dunn, Joey Getzfred, Jerikka Simpson. (back l. to r.) Haiden Sleister, Claire Kerkman, Jasmine Dozler, Lilly Reel, and Skylar Reestman

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Jimmy Feeney
jfeeney@esu8.org



Welcome Back

As I look at the calendar, I am surprised to see we are already beginning the second semester. It seems like only yesterday I was asking Paula to come to Registration Night to help calm my nerves as I realized I only knew three students, five teachers, and a few faces around town.

Looking back, it is nice to reflect on the relationships that have been built, the successes that have been celebrated, and foundations that are being built for the future. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the student's and am impressed by their efforts in the classroom. Students, parents, teachers, coaches, and sponsors should be proud of the time and energy they have invested in activities. The transition to Wolfpack sports has been awesome. Students are having fun while parents seem to be feeding off that energy as there is a noticeable buzz in the gym at events.

Joelle and I welcomed Jack James into our lives and have been humbled by the amount of support we have felt from the community. He has been nothing but fun for us (well, except for a couple late nights and a little unexplainable crying). This has been a great community to bring Jack into.

As we saw our family and friends over break, I was excited to talk about 70% of students making an Honor Roll, the buzz of 8-man football, a quality staff, Homecoming (All Orange – All the Time), and # 9 (2009, 9 seniors, 9th man at football games, 9 volleyball players, 9 choir singers, and 9 one-act performers). I look forward to 2010 and the experiences of the second semester!



Happy Holidays!
School resumes January 4th



ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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