



EAGLE UPDATE

Phone (402) 843-2455
Fax (402) 843-2475
www.elgineagles.org

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

Volume XXII, Issue 6

January, 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER



Jan. 3
Classes Resume



Jan. 11
School Board
Meeting 7:30 p.m.



Jan. 12
Senior Class Soup
Supper



Jan. 13
FCCLA Winter
Formal 7:30 p.m.



Jan. 17
Late Start 10:00 a.m.



Jan. 23
Post Prom Soup
Supper

Up On the Housetop.....



Mr. Fisher goes to the roof for the cause!

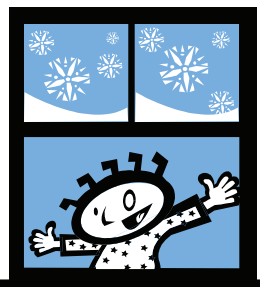
It's not every day that our principal, Mr. Fisher, wants to go up on the roof of the school to work, but he did this for a good cause. He challenged the students and they came through.

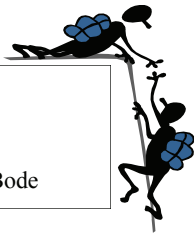
Elgin Public School was challenged by Ewing Public School to raise food items for the local food pantry. Who can gather the most food? The winning school will be served ice cream by the losing school's National Honor Society.

In an effort to get more students to participate in the food drive, Mr. Fisher told the 7-12 grade students that if they brought in 700 cans by Friday at 10:00 a.m. he would spend the afternoon on the roof of the elementary building. The students brought in over 1000 cans and they are still coming in!

Our custodians got a desk, chair, phone, and electricity to the roof and Mr. Fisher grabbed his laptop so he could conduct business as usual. The afternoon was spent answering a lot of phone calls, waving at passersby, and watching/talking with elementary students at recess. With the temperature of about 40 degrees and a southeasterly breeze, Mr. Fisher was happy to add the Santa hat for extra warmth!

The final results have been tabulated in the food drive contest. Ewing collected nearly 500 cans and Elgin collected 1349 cans! Great job to all students who participated and we know that the biggest winners of all will be the people who receive all of this food!





FINANCIAL AID . . .

Applying for financial aid isn't difficult *if you're prepared*. Follow these steps to determine how you'll pay for college.

Step 1. Learn what types of financial aid are available

Scholarships come from private donors or from your college and are not repaid. Some are based on criteria such as academics, community involvement or athletics while others are based on financial need.

Grants are based on financial need and you don't repay them. They include:

1. Pell Grants (range: \$400 - \$4,050)
2. Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
3. State grants
4. College-based grants

Work-Study, also based on financial need, allows you to earn money while attending college. You get paid for hours worked so don't expect money up-front to pay tuition. Work-study earnings will not affect future financial aid eligibility.

Loans are a type of financial aid you must repay. [Several types of loans are available for students and parents.](#)

Step 2. Apply for scholarships

Start looking for scholarships in your junior year. Use free resources including:

1. Your high school guidance counselor
2. The college financial aid and admission offices
3. [ScholarshipQuest](#) with over 1,300 local and statewide scholarships
4. Websites such as www.fastweb.com, www.fastaid.com and www.srnexpress.com

Don't ever pay for scholarship or financial aid services! If you receive offers, check with your guidance office or financial aid office before you reply.

Step 3. Request a PIN

Request a Personal Identification Number for you and one for a parent at www.pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the electronic FAFSA. Keep your PIN for future years.

Step 4. Complete the FAFSA

Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The colleges you list on the application will receive the results.

1. Gather [the required items](#) to complete the FAFSA.
2. Apply before your college's priority deadline to get the best financial aid package.
3. Complete the FAFSA every year you're in college.
4. If you need help completing the FAFSA, contact the EducationQuest office nearest you.

Step 5. Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR)

The Federal processor will send you a SAR which summarizes your FAFSA information and provides your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). If you need to make FAFSA corrections, use your PIN online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or contact the college financial aid office.

Step 6. Expect a financial aid award letter from the colleges you applied to

The colleges will use your FAFSA results to award you financial aid. Your financial need determines the amount and type of financial aid you will receive.



ONE-ACT WRAP-UP

After months of hard work and preparation, the One-Act season ended on November 28 at the district competition in Stuart. Following a near perfect performance, the Elgin One-Act team earned a district runner-up trophy, beat only by Stuart due to a narrow margin of points.

At the NVC competition held earlier in the season, the team placed 5th. Individual conference awards went to seniors Wes Prater and Ben Beckman. In our 2nd place finish at districts, again Wes Prater and Ben Beckman earned acting awards along with senior Dana Uhrenholdt and junior Kayla Hoffart.

The members assessed this season as a great success, not only because of their awards, but also because of the level of participation. Everybody involved gave their best effort and worked tirelessly to help each other. Every practice was fun and energetic and the team will hold many great memories of the season!

The team will miss the graduating seniors Dana, Ben, Wes, and thanks them for their years of participation in One-Act as well as their support, assistance, and the ability to make every practice memorable!

Cast: Jeff Bush, Ben Beckman, Jennifer Bush, Amanda Hemenway, Kayla Hoffart, Teri Kittelson, Nathan Niewohner, Wes Prater, Dana Uhrenholdt

Crew: Justin Reestman, Tyler Reestman, Tonya Wiegand, Jonathan Gunderson, Amber Hoffart

*The miracle is this --
the more we share, the more we have.*
Leonard Nimoy
American actor, director and writer



FFA Winter Ceremonies

The Elgin FFA Chapter held its annual Winter Ceremonies Meeting on December 11, 2006, 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 48 members present at the meeting along with numerous parents and family members as guest. Sixteen first year members received their Greenhand Degrees and twenty one second year members received their Chapter FFA Degrees.

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



Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

November was a busy time for the music department. We had deadlines for honor groups in which we needed to prepare audition music to record on tape. The first was the UNK at Kearney Honor Choirs. 13 out of 23 students in choir made audition tapes – that was awesome! There were over 1000 tapes sent in for the judges to listen to and decide which students to place in each of the three choirs. Students are competing for spots from all classes of schools – A, B, C and D.

The results are in and 9 students will represent Elgin Public Schools! Four girls were chosen to sing in the Women's Choir: Jenna Schindler, Bethany Kallhoff, Mikayla Hoffart and Kara Zegers. Two guys were chosen for the Festival Choir: Ben Beckman and Anthony Kittelson. Top honors go to Dana Uhrenholdt, Nathan Niewohner and Nathan Codr for being selected to the HONOR CHOIR.

Congratulations to all of you! They will rehearse with the choirs all day and conclude with a concert on Monday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health/Sports Complex on UNK campus. It will be a great musical experience for these students and hopefully they can come back to the Elgin choir with some positive things to share.

Boone Central Choral Clinic is Monday, January 15 – a day in which over 700 choir students get together to make music happen. They will rehearse songs, which each individual choir has prepared ahead of time with the clinician during the day. They will perform these songs on the concert that evening at 7:00 p.m. There will also be performances by small groups from individual schools. The clinician this year is Mr. Paul Gulsvig. He was the Nebraska All State Choir Director several years ago and the students had a wonderful musical experience. I am expecting this to be another incredible learning experience for the students. It will be a concert you won't want to miss. So.....drive over to Albion on January 15th for an evening of music!



Full Name: Christine Marie Starman
 Parents: Dennis and Teresa Starman
 Brothers: Timmy
 Favorite School Subject: Any science class
 Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Walsh
 School activities: Volleyball, basketball, FCCLA, PALS, Choir
 Greatest Honor during school: Offensive player of the year award for volleyball during my junior year
 Favorite School Activity : Playing sports because I love to be active; especially volleyball since that is my favorite sport.
 Most educational experience: Groundhog job shadow day--made me more experienced with nursing duties and make sure I wanted to do that.
 Most inspirational person: my Aunt Tina
 Favorite color: pink and red
 Favorite thing to do in spare time: Spend time with friends and family; staying busy and having fun!
 Pet peeve: Jeans tucked into your shoes, and collars on shirts not folded straightly
 If I could go back in time I would go: back to meet my relatives I never got the chance to meet
 Favorite saying: "I'm not gonna lie..."
 Favorite movie: Friday Night Lights, Coach Carter, How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days, Super Troopers, & many more.
 Dream car: Grand Am GT
 Favorite Food: Mexican and Chinese
 Favorite School lunch: Pizza Hut pizza
 Favorite Pop: Dr. Pepper
 Favorite TV Show: Laguna Beach, The Hills, Parental Control, mostly any MTV show.
 Favorite type of music: Pop, rock, hip-hop, country
 Future plans after graduation: attend NECC & UNMC and major in nursing

Full Name: Meghan Lynne Schindler
 Parents: Kenneth and Julie Schindler
 Brothers: Kevin (EPS 8th Grader)
 Pets: dog (Ginger)
 Favorite School Subject: History
 Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Walsh
 School activities: Danz, FCCLA, PALS, Art, Yearbook
 Greatest Honor during school: honor roll every year in high school
 Favorite School Activity : Art, because it gives you a chance to use your imagination and be creative.
 Most educational experience: I don't have one because every day teaches you something different and you learn from everything you do
 Most inspirational person: My parents
 Favorite color: purple
 Favorite thing to do in spare time: Spend time with friends and family
 Pet peeve: People who bite their nails
 If I could go back in time I would go: Back in the 1800's just to see how hard life actually was and thus giving me a better appreciation of everything I have
 Favorite saying: "The best things in life aren't things."
 Something most people don't know about me: I have really bad "road rage"
 Favorite movie: Crash
 Dream car: Lamborghini
 Favorite Food: Anything Italian
 Favorite School lunch: Spicy grilled chicken
 Favorite Pop: I don't drink pop
 Favorite TV Show: The O.C.
 Favorite type of music: Hip-hop, R & B, and some country
 Future plans after graduation: Attend college, get a job, and overall try to be a successful person





Full Name: Christina Day Weidner
 Parents: Noreen and David Weidner
 Brothers: Nestor Conato, Nick and Jack Weidner
 Sisters: Kerri, Cammie, and Alicia Weidner
 Pets: Ticky and Blondie
 Favorite School Subject: English
 Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Walsh
 Greatest Honor during school: Quiz bowl contestant
 Favorite School Activity: Lunch
 Most educational experience: Hastings Museum in 2002
 Most inspirational person: Bob Marley
 Favorite color: Black and silver together
 Favorite thing to do in spare time: Listen to music
 Pet peeve: silence
 If I could go back in time I would go: early '70's
 Favorite saying: "To Thine Own Self Be True"
 Something most people don't know about me: I have 14 piercings
 and 2 tattoos
 Favorite movie: Grandma's Boy
 Dream car: Black Mini Cooper
 Favorite Food: TV Dinners
 Favorite School lunch: Mashed potatoes
 Favorite Pop: Dr. Pepper
 Favorite TV Show: Aqua Teen Hunger Force
 Favorite type of music: Hard Rock
 Future plans after graduation: Get a bachelor's degree in Electronic
 Media (Broadcasting)

Full Name: Brandon Eugene Grosserode
 Parents: Don & Diane Grosserode
 Brothers: Travis (EPS 5th Grade)
 Pets: dogs (Spike and Red)
 Favorite School Subject: Math
 Favorite Teacher: Miss J.
 School activities: Football, FFA, Track, Acadeca
 Greatest Honor during school: Getting onto Superior Honor Roll
 Favorite School Activity : Football because we can hit someone
 and its legal
 Most educational experience: Going to FFA National Convention
 in Louisville, KY
 Most inspirational person: my parents
 Favorite color: blue and yellow
 Favorite thing to do in spare time: play football with my little brother
 Pet peeve: people who don't know how to drive
 If I could go back in time I would go: back to 1988 to see what life
 was like the year I was born
 Favorite saying: "Git 'R Done"
 Something most people don't know about me: I have a bad temper
 Favorite movie: Gridiron Gang
 Dream car: 2006 Ford Mustang Roush
 Favorite Food: Pizza Hut Pizza
 Favorite School lunch: Tator Tot Casserole
 Favorite Pop: Wild Cherry Pepsi
 Favorite TV Show: CSI: Miami
 Favorite type of music: Country & Rap
 Future plans after graduation: Go to college, get a good job, and have
 a family of my own.



NEWS FROM THE KINDERGARTEN

We're listening to Christmas carols, the bells are ringing, decorations are hung and Santa will be arriving soon! The Kindergarten class is studying Christmas traditions "Around The World". In the U.S. it is the custom to cut out cookies and frost them for this festive season! Here we see the



students doing just that and later enjoying them for their snack! In France, Santa fills the children's shoes with candy and gifts. Further South, the children in Mexico break open the pinata. In African countries they prepare special foods and wear masks for some of their songs.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

From the Activities Director.....



NSAA Fan's Fair Play Code

(As found in the NSAA
Sportsmanship Manual)

1. I will remember that young people play sports for THEIR enjoyment, not to entertain me.
2. I will not have unrealistic expectations and will understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. I understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
3. I will respect the official's decisions and will encourage all participants to do the same.
4. I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide activities for our young people.
5. I will encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. I will show respect for my team's opponents because I realize there would be no game without them.
7. I will not use bad language and will not harass athletes, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
8. I will always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.



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.



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!

NEED HELP WITH HOMEWORK? TRY COSMEO!

**Now There's Help AND...It Can Be Fun! Try
www.cosmeo.com/lau**

Elgin Public School is pleased to announce our participation in Learning Adds Up (LAU), a unique partnership with Discovery Channel. LAU promotes student achievement with the Discovery Channel's new homework help tool, COSMEO, while raising money for our school.

We are all interested in providing our children with productive activities, that promote learning. I believe that this program is a great opportunity to help your child and our school.

Here are some of COSMEO's great features:

- Equivalent of an encyclopedia, instructional television, and tutoring all rolled into a single, **SAFE** place on the Internet
- Consists of 30,000 video segments, plus Brain Games and much more
- Provides opportunities for children to watch videos, go on scavenger hunts, and experience all the things young people enjoy with media while learning
- Endorsed by teachers who use it every day and who refer to it as an effective educational resource
- **SAFE place where children can spend time online**

As a result of our participation in the Learning Adds Up program, our school will earn back up to 25% of your child's COSMEO subscription.

Please visit www.cosmeo.com/lau to take advantage of this program and our partnership with Discovery Channel. The site will provide all the information you need to sign up for this valuable learning resource. Your subscription to COSMEO will help our school while providing students the opportunity to become year-round learners at school and at home.

TAKE A LOOK! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?



Unused Potential

Once in awhile it's fun to read the newspapers of communities in which I have worked. I was doing this last week when an article entitled "Grand Jury indicts Four" caught my eye. I began to read and with a sinking heart realized that I knew two of the men listed in the kidnapping and assault indictment. Their faces rose in front of me, not like they are today, but like they were as elementary children. They were bright little boys who came from a broken home that had very little structure. One could be a little mischievous once in awhile, but neither was ever in serious trouble during the years I worked with them. Both of these young men had serious potential to offer our society.

It grieved me to read the words of the judge to one of the other two gentlemen involved. He warned that the charges of kidnapping and assault could lead to four lifetime terms plus seventy years and a fine of \$14,000. This, of course, would be if the people indicted were convicted.

Who or what failed these young people? If my mental calendar tallied correctly I believe the young men are about 24 and 26. Now, if convicted, taxpayers will pay throughout the rest of their lives to keep them incarcerated. Incarceration costs in 2002 (the last year I could find costs for in the federal system) were \$21,601 per year per inmate. I'm certain they have risen significantly in the past four years. Let's estimate they are \$25,000 a year. If we project that the 26 year old might live to be 76 years old then we would arrive at a current cost of \$1,250,000. The younger brother could easily cost \$1,300,000+.

By contrast if these young men had gone on to college and entered professional life they would have helped our society considerably. Consider that a college graduate was estimated to earn \$834 a week in 2000 versus \$507 per week for the high school graduate. The percentage of unemployment was 3.5% for high school graduates in 2000 but only 1.8% for those having a bachelor's degree. As for high school drop-outs: They are projected to earn \$200,000 less in a lifetime than high school graduates and \$800,000 less than college graduates. Any of the three groups, drop out, high school graduate, or college graduate are more productive and add more to our national capacity than the incarcerated person. Let's take the \$507 a week figure for a high school graduate. This would lead to an annual income of \$26,364 a year. Off this income, the person would pay taxes, social security, medicare, etc. In general they would contribute just like you and I do. For society there is a \$51,364 differential from the positive to the negative when such a person becomes incarcerated.

I've thought about these two young men all week. I can honestly say I did my very best by them when I was their elementary principal. The teachers did their best by them in the classroom. It just wasn't enough to overcome the home environment and the culture of the community. If it takes a village to raise a child then it also takes a village to fail a child. Looking at the figured unearthed in my research it becomes obvious that NONE of us can afford to fail a child. If we are not to fail children, then community members, parents, social workers, teachers, school administrators, pastors, and law enforcement need to work in the best interest of every child to help them grow up to be productive citizens. Let's do whatever it takes to ensure that every child in our community gets our collective best. Then we can all enjoy reading about their successes rather than our failures.

WWW.GOODSEARCH.COM

What if Elgin Public School earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Elgin Public School as the charity you want to support. Just 100 supporters searching the internet just twice a day = \$730/year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

On Thursday, December 14th, the 3rd graders were treated to hot cocoa and donuts from Mr. Fisher. The 3rd graders earned this special breakfast by winning the November "Box Top" competition. The K-6th graders brought a total of 543 Box Tops, worth \$54.30, to school in November. The winning class was served breakfast by Mr. Fisher. Way to go 3rd graders, and a big "THANK YOU" to Mr. Fisher for the donuts and hot cocoa.

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

Mr. Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



It is hard to believe that the year 2006 has nearly expired, as while I am writing this article we are only 10 days away from ringing in the New Year. Many people, both young and old will take the time to reflect back on the events that occurred in 2006 and then use those experiences to make their resolutions for 2007. Ah yes, those wonderful New Year's resolutions! Every year, I make resolutions and tell myself that "this is the year" that I will follow through and every year it is the same old story where after only a few hours into the new year, I am usually well on my way to detouring away from what I had set out to do. This year is different (I think I said that last year too) as I am really going to do it this time. While I may have several personal resolutions that come to mind, including working out tirelessly in the weight room turning this increasingly rounding body into a chiseled, Arnold Schwarzenegger physique... OK you can stop laughing... I thought I would also set 3 resolutions that relate to my position as the high school principal here at Elgin Public Schools.

My Top Three 2007 Elgin Public School New Year's Resolutions...

1. **Raise School Spirit and Pride:** I believe that in a world where so many of our youth are constantly on the move, it is becoming increasingly important to make sure that students who attend our school understand the pride and history of Elgin Public Schools. More focus needs to be placed on maintaining and improving an atmosphere that reflects the tradition of our community and our school. I can still recite, word for word; my school fight song from my high school days! I believe that when students and staff have a deep sense of pride for the school they attend or work at, the more dedicated they will be. It is much more than sports. Students who have great pride in their school take better care of school property and are committed more to their own education. It is my goal to take the spirit and pride we currently have and build on it so that students become even more aware of what it takes to be successful here at Elgin Public Schools
2. To improve the spectrum of classes that is offered here at Elgin High School. Right now, students have the opportunity to graduate with numerous college credits. We are currently offering credit from Northeast Community College and The University of Nebraska, Lincoln for students who choose to take advantage of this opportunity. With the capabilities of the new Nebraska Distance Learning technology, it is my expectation that utilize those capabilities to bring in classes that only add to the strong offering we currently have. With the wireless technology we currently have in nearly every classroom and the mobile laptop labs, this should easily be something that we can offer to our students.
3. The transition to a new facility has brought some strong discussion in our community. The board's decision to build a facility to house the Early Childhood Pre-School, Kindergarten and 1st grade programs and Special Education should be a positive for our school. It is obvious to me that our board is committed to providing the best education possible for the youth in this district. Following their lead, I expect that I also work to build upon the already strong foundation that those before me have laid so that we can continue to offer what is already a great education and give ourselves the opportunity to be strong and survive for a long time. If legislation and mandates require that we someday have to change the way our school functions, at least we will be in a position to give ourselves the best possible opportunity to survive.

My resolutions will not be easy. They will not be one to happen right away and will most likely take longer than one year. Although, they may still be easier than the whole Schwarzenegger thing! Hey at least one can dream! These resolutions will take the help of many and my attitude will need to be reflective of someone who is committed to helping our school be the best it can be. It is my hope that all of our students and parents will be supportive in helping me with my three EPS resolutions.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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