



EAGLE UPDATE


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Volume XXIV, Issue 6

January, 2009


DATES TO REMEMBER

 **Jan. 5**
School Resumes

 **Jan. 6**
Fall Activities Banquet
7:00 p.m.

 **Jan. 12**
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m.

 **Jan. 17**
FCCLA Winter Formal

 **Jan. 21**
Late Start 10:00 a.m.

ONE-ACT PERFORMANCE IS A CLASS ACT



Drama Coach, Sara Walsh, with cast and crew members: (l. to r. standing) Briann Grosserode, Jeff Bush, Eric Shoemaker, Nathan Niewohner, Ryan Meis, and Amber Hoffart. (l. to r. seated) Ayli Carrero, Kara Zegers, and Carlie Redding.

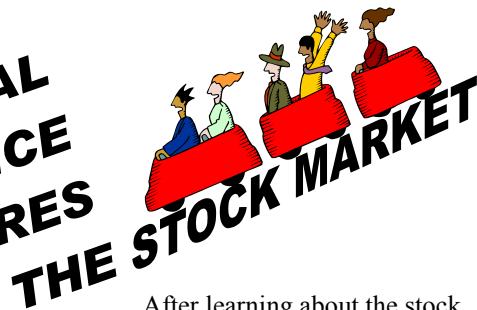
There will be no more pirate-speak and screaming as this year's One-Act season has come to an end! For their presentation of "Jolly Roger: King 'O the Pirates" the team earned a 3rd place rating at their district competition in Butte on December 2. As a team, the students earned a "Superior" rating. Individual awards were given at both conference and district levels as follows: Eric Shoemaker (NVC and districts), Kara Zegers (NVC and districts), Nathan Niewohner (districts), and Jeff Bush (districts). We thank *everyone* who helped us with costumes and set. I also would like to thank the team for a great season; we'll miss the seven outgoing seniors and look forward to building a new team starting with out two returning members!



Eric Shoemaker & Kara Zegers



PERSONAL FINANCE EXPLORES



After learning about the stock market in class, the Personal Finance class has been playing an on-line stock market simulation the last few weeks. Using

\$100,000 in virtual money, the students researched and chose the stocks they wanted to invest in and then purchased shares in companies. Since they started on November 19, they have watched their stocks either gain in value or decrease, selling and purchasing stocks along the way. Setting up a game situation allows the class to see how they are doing compared to their classmates. It also lets them track who is making the most money and on what stocks.

Currently, Mrs. Selting is leading with her investments, followed by James Lierman and Gabe Wiegand. Travis Dozler has gone from the top to 4th place, followed by Eric Powell. Eric is determined that some of his stock choices will increase in value over time and has not sold many of his initial investments. Will his strategy pay off? We will find out on December 19 when we end our game and see who the savviest investor in Personal Finance is!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 3RD GRADE?

The Third Graders are going to be trying out our technology skills with podcasting! Each week a student from our classroom is going to be the "Roving Reporter." He or she will take notes on the current week's events in our classroom. After that, they will create a podcast (a digital recording) of their notes.

Visit our website and listen to the podcast done by Mrs. Eisenhauer about the events and learnings that took place during the month of December. Stay tuned to the website as the students begin podcasting in January.



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!



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**. 8 out of 15 possible 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 – against each other.

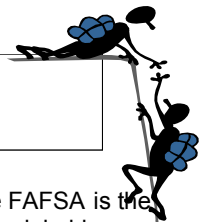
The results are in and 7 students will represent Elgin Public Schools! Two girls were chosen to sing in the Women's Choir: Caitlin Mortensen and Briann Grosserode. Three students were chosen for the Festival Choir: Kara Zegers, Gabe Wiegand and Devin Brown. Top honors go to Nathan Niewohner and Bethany Kallhoff 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 26, 2009 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.

Where can you find over 700 youthful voices making music together? At the **Boone Central Choral Clinic** on Monday, January 15, 2009. 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. Kurt Runstad from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. The students are sure to have a wonderful musical experience. It will be a concert you won't want to miss. So.....drive over to Albion on January 15th for an evening of music!

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 2008 taxes early** as the FAFSA requires current tax information.
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 Workers 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
- **Be prepared to answer these FAFSA questions which relate to grant eligibility:**
 1. Did your student or anyone in the household receive any of the following federal benefits?
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Food Stamps
 - TANF
 - Free or Reduced Price Lunch
 - WIC
 2. Did your student complete at least two Advanced Placement courses with a passing test score of 3 or higher?
 3. Did your student 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.ed.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 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** – provides user-friendly clarification of each FAFSA question
 - **Financial Aid Video** – explains 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.

January "To Do" List

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

Seniors:

- ___ Ask the college(s) you applied to for their FAFSA priority date.
- ___ Attend the [Financial Aid Program](#) at your school or in your area.
- ___ Apply for FAFSA Personal Identification Numbers at pin.ed.gov.
- ___ Complete your taxes early as you'll need that information for the FAFSA.
- ___ Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors:

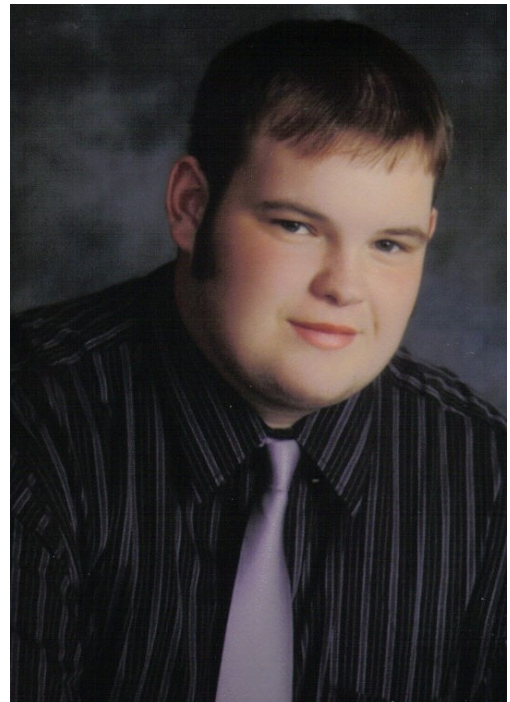
- ___ Attend the [Financial Aid Program](#) at your school or in your area.
- ___ Register by January 4 for the February 9 ACT
- ___ Continue to research colleges.
- ___ Start setting up college visits.



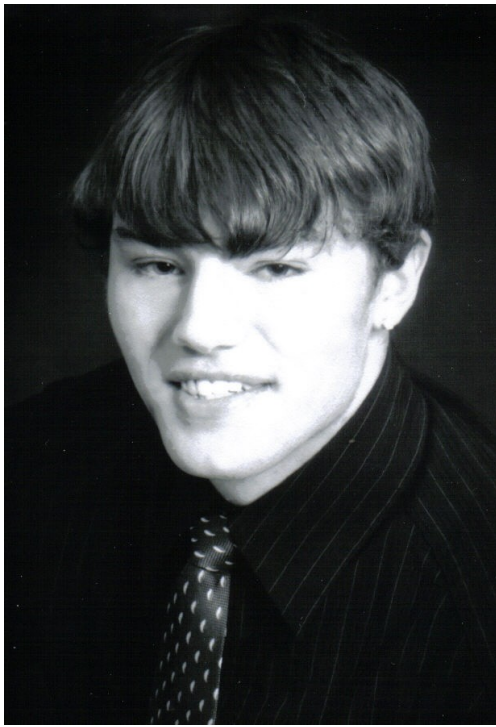
Amber Hoffart

Full name: Amber Lynn Hoffart
Parents: Alton & Darline Warner, Kelly & Shelly Hoffart
Brothers: Alois & Ryan Warner
Sisters: Mikayla Hoffart
Pets: horse, dogs, cats, fish, sheep, and chickens
Favorite school subject: Art
Favorite teacher: Mrs. Walsh
Activities: FFA, FCA, volleyball, basketball, one-act
Favorite activity: One-act because it is a lot of fun
Most educational experience: Groundhog Job Shadow day when I shadowed a vet
Most inspirational person: My parents
Favorite color: green
Favorite thing to do in spare time: watch TV
Pet Peeve: chewing with your mouth open
If I could go back in time I would go: to horsebuggy & wagon days
Favorite saying: "here, we love ya!?"
Something most people don't know about you: I sprained my neck twice when I was little.
Favorite movie: Over The Hedge
Dream car: T-Top Chevy Corvette
Favorite food: Chicken Fettuccini
Favorite school lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes & gravy
Favorite pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV show: Family Guy
Favorite type of music: Punk Rock
Future plans after graduation: Go to school at Northeast Comm. College to be a vet tech.

Full name: Eric George Powell
Parents: George & Lajeane Powell
Sisters: Amanda
Pets: Dog, 15 goats
Favorite school subject: Weights
Favorite teacher: Mr. Jones
Activities: football, golf, track
Favorite activity: football because you get to hit people
Most educational experience: seeing the Vietnam memorial
Most inspirational person: My dad
Favorite color: orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: watch movies
Pet Peeve: People that drive slow
Favorite saying: That just happened!
Favorite movie: Stepbrothers
Dream car: Any classic muscle car
Favorite food: pizza
Favorite school lunch: pizza
Favorite pop: mountain dew
Favorite TV show: Family Guy
Favorite type of music: Rock, Rap
Future plans after graduation: go to college



Eric Powell



Clint Meis

Full name: Clint Thomas Meis
Parents: Lloyd and Coleen Meis
Brothers: Nick Meis, Hoyt Meis
Sisters: Cortny Meis, Mandy Wolff
Pets: dog named Snoopy
Favorite school subject: Weights
Activities: Football, Track
Most inspirational person: My parents, because they work all day everyday and don't complain
Favorite color: blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: I like to go ride dirtbikes
Pet Peeve: People chewing with their mouths open.
Dream car: Black Viper
Favorite food: pizza
Favorite pop: mountain dew
Favorite type of music: Rock
Future plans after graduation: Go to college and run track

Full name: Tonya Rose Wiegand
Parents: Vince & Tammie Wiegand
Sisters: Lynnette Wiegand
Pets: 2 dogs, 4 horses, cats
Favorite subject: Art
Favorite teacher: Mrs. Jones
Activities: FFA, speech, One-act, volleyball, band/choir
Greatest honor received during school: Honor roll during every quarter of high school.
Favorite activity: FFA because you get out of a lot of school
Most educational experience: National FFA Convention
Most inspirational person: my parents
Favorite color: lime green
Favorite thing to do in spare time: be with my friends
Pet Peeve: people who get mad over nothing
If you could go back in time where would you go: back to when the Native Americans lived here before white people settled
Something most people don't know about me: I'm super sensitive.
Favorite movie: American Pie movies
Dream car: Dodge Cummins Diesel
Favorite food: steak
Favorite school lunch: homemade pizza
Favorite pop: mountain dew
Favorite TV show: The Simpsons
Favorite type of music: any
Future plans after graduation: undecided



Tonya Wiegand

PERMISSION TO PARENT

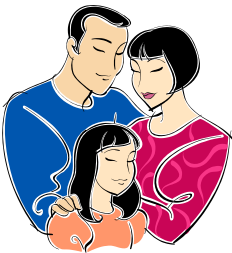
By Corey Fisher

The article titled "Permission to Parent" was sent to me some time ago. I don't know who originally wrote it but I have seen it other places as many of you may have also. I think it really says it well. Brings back some childhood memories for me, that's for sure! Seems like my parents took the permission to parent me and my siblings very seriously and looking back on it now, I am thankful for that. Enjoy...



PERMISSION TO PARENT

As odd as it may sound, sometimes parents need to be reminded that as parents, they have the right to parent their child/children. What does this mean? Children can become excellent manipulators. They can whine and cajole their parents into thinking that the parents are being unfair or that the child really *needs* this thing when that is not the reality. Sometimes a suggestion to a parent will again *give them permission* to parent their child.



Many of these suggestion work best if started early in the child's life. It then becomes a pattern. However, it is never too late to get permission to parent. It may come at a difficult time or be centered around a difficult issue, but with perseverance, it can be done!

One of the very important rules to teach a child is to accept "no" as the answer. **NO WHINING OR DISCUSSION!** For some things, the answer is just plain no. And as the parent, don't use "no" when the answer could be "yes" or "maybe." If you say no, stick to it; don't say it if you are going to change your mind.

Other situations that come up may include:

- Permission to look in your child's room, especially if you have a gut feeling that they may be hiding something. Let your child know that you will do this on occasion...when you are picking up, getting the laundry together, or when their behavior suggests you need to do this. They are living under your roof and as a minor and you are responsible for them. Therefore, you need to know what they are involved in.
- Permission to contact parents of your child's friends. Call to see if the kids are really at their house. Do the parents know there is a party planned at their house on the weekend? Will they be there and be actively monitoring the party? What are their attitudes about alcohol and drug use? What will the kids be doing?
- Permission to grant and deny privileges based on behaviors. Have regular discussions with children about how they earn privileges and what kind of behavior can result in restrictions. Be fair, age appropriate, and consistent.
- Permission to let a child suffer consequences of their behavior. As much as parents want to save their child from painful experiences, children need to learn to be accountable for their actions. Parents don't need to "fix" everything for their kids. Let the kids figure out how to "fix" it.
- Permission to tell your child you are the parent and "this is not a democracy." Some decisions and rules are made unilaterally
- Permission to set and enforce rules and boundaries. Kids need them, and even though they would never admit it, they want them. Restrict screen time . . . both TV and computer. Curfews are good. Vehicle use is a privilege. So is cell phone use.
- Permission to be a parent, not a friend. Children will not like many of your decisions and, in turn, think they don't like you. But friendship with your children will develop in later years and will come out of a strong foundation based on respect and understanding.
- Permission to ask question. You have the right to know
- Permission to demand respect for yourself, other family members, other adults and others in general.
- Permission to not share everything with your child. Many children are put in the position of taking on lots of adult worries and concerns. Some things are better not shared with kids.
- Permission not to be "guilted" into giving in.
- Permission to listen to your "gut instinct," not your child's.

Parenting is one tough job. It takes time and commitment to be consistent and set and enforce rules and boundaries with your children. But it is okay, and necessary, even though you may fall out of favor with your child and be "the only mom or dad in the world" to say or do what you know you need to. If you aren't sure what you are doing, ask someone, like another parent, a school counselor, or your faith leader. You'll be surprised at how much support you have!

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Lee Hall
lhall@esu8.org



It is that time of year to start thinking about your 2009 New Year's Resolutions. This year let us focus on our children and the future we are creating for them.

Forget this year, for the sake of this article, the standard old ones like; losing weight, being more fiscally responsible, attending church more frequently, getting your taxes done on time, or getting some more exercise in your weekly routine. Instead, let me suggest a few sample Resolutions that could change your life forever.

Resolution #1: During the school year resolve to have at least one meal a day together. This would require at least 30 minutes and a table to seat the entire family. In the summer resolve to have two meals a day in this fashion instead of one. This simple resolution allows the children to talk about their day with their favorite people. It allows them to share their worries and concerns as well as their achievements and victories. The parents can use both cases to support behaviors and reinforce the positive things that are taking place in the child's life. Praise and understanding from mom and dad are a number one priority for your children.

Resolution #2: Resolve to have an uninterrupted reading time everyday. Thirty minutes is a great number here also. This will keep skills fresh during the holiday season and allow for a smooth transition back to the school routine. It is a practice to keep handy year round as it the most important skill that your child will ever need. Resolve to take part in that 30 minute read yourself. Model the behavior you wish your children to pattern themselves after. Read to the younger ones and let those who can read to you do so. If you have several readers in the family take turns or have them read to each other. Time spent with your children is always a positive and then tack on the reading skills and you are doubling the good times for all.

Resolution #3: In this stressed economic time resolve to give your family the greatest present of all, "your time and attention!" No child wishes more than to be with their parents or care givers. In 18 years as an administrator I have asked countless candidates the question, "who is a contemporary or historical person that you admire most?" In this day and age of sports icons and television personalities who would guess that the number one answer would be my mom or dad. Our children want their parents to be their heroes. They need to be able to touch base with you and to count on you in all situations. They need to know that you have responsibilities but when all is said and done that they are your number one priority.

These three resolutions can make a successful 2009 for your children. They are easy and inexpensive but so very important to your family. Find the time to be with your children, to direct their reading skills, and to set standards for them that show them they are the single most important thing in their lives. If you can accomplish these three things and do it the entire year you will have mentally strong and healthy children who know you care.

I wish each of you the best of holiday spirit and for a great 2009.

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



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.

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

Mr. Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



I recently read an article in the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Principal's Update. This is a daily e-mail that includes current educational topics from around the country. One article in the update related has been highlighted on several television and radio news channels including ABC News this past week. The article was titled "Are Students Coddled? Schools Get Rid of F's." and you can read the article in full at the following CBS web address: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/Story?id=6395403&page=1>

I believe in the old adage of "what you see is what you get" or the "it is what it is" kind of mentality if you will. It's simple; it's easy to understand and I have found that there is seldom any gray area with that philosophy. I like that kind of mentality because I believe that you get out of anything exactly what you put into it or what you don't put into it. The article in part, explained that for some schools across America, the grading alphabet now ends at the letter grade of "D" and that as school districts eliminate policies that allow children to be given failing marks for failing work, students are instead given a grade of "H" (for Held) until they improve their grade sometime in the time of up to 12 weeks. The "H" gave the students the opportunity at a 2nd chance on work that was not up to par. I do feel that on occasion, when a student does not demonstrate successful work that perhaps the teacher needs to evaluate as to why the work was unsatisfactory and if an area of weakness on that topic can be found, it most certainly should be addressed. However, to make that a blanket rule or philosophy in a school is, in my opinion, not good practice and I believe we hinder our children in a major way by sending the message that it is OK to fail as long as you do it right the second time around.

In the article, Alan Kazdin, a professor of psychology and child psychiatry at Yale University stated that he "believes that schools that veer away from giving children the grades they have earned – even when it's a zero or an "F" – aren't doing anyone any good." Kazdin also stated that "The fact is children are failing yet we don't want to call it that." A parent Alison Rhodes, also known as TV's "Safety Mom", says that "a little disappointment may not be so bad for the generation that has become accustomed to an "everyone is a winner" lifestyle." Rhodes feels that "...we're setting these kids up for failure and unrealistic expectations because there is a consequence for not trying your best." Perhaps she said it best when she said "[A system where] there are no zeros or "F"s is coddling them and sending them the wrong message" and that "a dose of reality and tough love is what they need."

As a high school principal I see both sides of the argument in that I do feel that in some situations, 2nd chances are necessary and needed. If a student legitimately gives their best effort and does not demonstrate the ability to understand and learn, that is not "failing". That is more along the lines of "not comprehending". I feel students must understand the importance and the expectation we have at Elgin Public School of doing their best the first time. Failing is not and should not ever be an option. If they choose to give a failing effort, then the grade they earn is a failing grade. In the article, one superintendent stated "I never see anyone doing anything but punishing kids." I disagree! Punishment, to me is not at all what is taking place when a student earns an "F". As a teacher, I never gave a failing grade nor did I give a passing grade. The resulting grade was what the student had earned and it reflected the effort and/or performance that had been given. How is that punishment? Why would I deprive a student of something they had earned? Call it what you want, failing is failing no matter how you word it or how you try to disguise it. Growing up, my mother would try and dress up beef stew a lot of different ways. Add vegetables, eliminate vegetables, add more hamburger, take out the peas or she would even try to change its name...you name it and she tried it. No matter what she did, when you sat there at the table staring it down...it was still stew! Failing is not something you can disguise, just like mom's stew!

As we near the holiday season, I would like to wish all of you a great holiday season and the very best for 2009.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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