








DATES TO REMEMBER

 **May 8**
 Activities/Academic
 Night 7:00 p.m.

 **May 12**
 Senior Graduation
 6:00 p.m.

 **May 14**
 Preschool Graduation
 6:30 p.m.
 Elementary Spring
 Concert 7:30 p.m.

 **May 17**
 Kindergarten
 Graduation 7:00 p.m.

 **May 18**
 Last Day of School
 Early Dismissal
 2:00 p.m.



Students Showcase Artwork



Featured work includes (l. to r.) Jessica Heithoff's mask, Paige Redding's Cowboy, and Briann Grosserode's Cat.

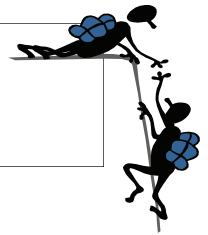
The Elgin Public Junior and Senior High students competed at the Keya Paha Invitational Art Show on Wednesday, April 28th. The high school students won 92 ribbons while the 8th Grade won 45 ribbons for a total of 137 ribbons. This total included six (purples) Judge's Merit Awards for Outstanding work. Paige Redding won two Judge's Merits for painting and charcoal drawing. Shane Voborny and Cody Mork each brought home a purple for photography. Jessica Heithoff's purple ribbon was for her sculpture and Briann Grosserode won hers in the clay category.

The Elgin Public Art students competed at the ESU #8 Spring Invitational Art show in Neligh April 23rd-25th. The 9-12 students brought home 47 ribbons which included two Judge's Merit awards (purple), 17 Superiors (blue), 22 Excellents (red) and 6 Honorable Mentions (white). Paige Redding earned both Judge's Merit awards for EHS for outstanding work in painting and charcoal drawing. She was one of three students earning more than one purple ribbon at the show. In addition to her two purples, Paige earned 5 Superiors, 4 Excellents and 1 Honorable Mention.

This show included over 850 pieces of artwork from 15 schools. Schools competing at the show were Norfolk Public, Elkhorn Valley, Battle Creek, Neligh-Oakdale, O'Neill Public, Plainview, West Holt, Stanton, Clearwater, Elgin Public, Ewing, O'Neill St. Mary's, Orchard, Pope John and Verdigre.

The students next competition will be the NVC Art Show held on April 27th at Clearwater.

Driver's Education Classes - June 5, 6, 7, 8, & 11



Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

The financial aid award letter you received from your college indicates the loans you qualify to borrow. They may include loans you borrow directly from the school (Perkins), from a lender (Stafford Loans), or from the federal government (Direct Loans). In addition, your parents may qualify for the PLUS loan. Your college will provide borrowing procedures.

Before you borrow, estimate your future monthly loan payments using our *Student Loan Repayment Calculator* at www.educationquest.org/calc.asp.

The key is to borrow WISELY. Think about how debt may affect your future lifestyle. We talked to a former college student who graduated with a teaching degree, but can't afford to be a teacher because he's paying off \$30,000 in student loans! He offers these tips to help you avoid his mistakes:

Carefully research the college you plan to attend to make sure it's a good fit. This student transferred to three different schools, which added additional years of school and loan debt.

Estimate your future salary and compare it to the amount of student loans you think you will need.

Work while you go to college and use that money to pay living expenses.

Use your student loan money *only* for tuition, books and fees.

Keep track of your student loan debt. This student said he didn't pay attention to his debt accumulation until his junior year, and then said, "It was a shock!"

Newsletter will help seniors transition to college

Watch your mailbox for our *College Prep News – Transition to College* newsletter. This eight-page publication will help you prepare for your freshman year of college by explaining these topics:

- Wrapping up your senior year
- What to expect in college
- Adjusting to a roommate
- Selecting a major
- Time management
- Personal finances / realities of student loan debt

Summertime is planning time for juniors

Juniors...summer is the time for serious college planning. Here are your assignments:

- Start narrowing your college choices. Tour a few schools this summer. Visit EducationQuest and search the Internet for information about colleges that interest you.
- Update your [Activities Resume](#) on the EducationQuest web site. Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards and part-time jobs.
- Identify teachers, coaches and counselors who will write letters of recommendation for you—you'll need them for admission and scholarship applications. Give them a copy of your *Activities Resume* so they can include some of that information in their letter.
- Look for scholarships. Free resources include your guidance counselor and *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org, which has over 1,500 local and statewide scholarships. Pay attention to the scholarships seniors are earning.
- Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses. Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

May "To Do" List

Seniors

- ___ Apply for student loans, if necessary
- ___ Register for freshmen orientation
- ___ Start a list of dorm room essentials

Juniors

- ___ Register by April 27 for June 2 SAT
- ___ Register by May 4 for June 9 ACT
- ___ Continue campus visits
- ___ Get a summer job and save for college

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD

The Elgin Public School Board held a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday evening, April 12, 2007. The new facility will house: preschool, kindergarten, first grade, special education, the school nurse and speech pathologist. Active construction is scheduled to begin on April 16, 2007 and will be completed before the beginning of the next school term.

We are eagerly looking forward to the addition to our campus!

ELEMENTARY SPRING CONCERT



Students in pre-school through sixth grade will perform on the Spring Fling Concert on Monday, May 14th at 7:30 pm. We will feature a variety of songs to entertain anyone who likes music. We hope to see you there!



Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

District Music Contest was held Friday, April 20, 2007 at Neligh – Oakdale High School. Elgin Public Schools entries had an excellent day and the students performed fantastically! We received 13 Superiors and 1 Excellent!!!

The results are as follows:

Concert Band - Superior
Choir - Superior
Girls Ensemble - Superior
Boys Ensemble - Superior
Mixed Vocal Quartet (Dana U, Mikayla Hoffart, Nathan Codr, Jeff Bush) - Superior (1+)
Girls Vocal Quartet (Jenna and Becki Schindler, Caitlin Mortensen, Kara Zegers) - Superior
Mixed Vocal Duet (Dana Uhrenholdt and Nathan Niewohner) - Superior
Girls Vocal Duet (Tonya Wiegand and Teri Kittelson) - Excellent
Boys Vocal Duet (Wes Prater and Jonathan Gunderson) - Superior

Solos: Dana Uhrenholdt – Vocal Solo – Superior (1+)
Nathan Niewohner – Vocal – Superior (1+)
Wes Prater – Vocal Solo – Superior (1+)
Dana Uhrenholdt – Flute Solo – Superior
Nathan Niewohner – Alto Sax Solo – Superior (1+)

A 1+ rating means that they scored a 7 on their performance, which is a perfect score!!!

Those groups and solos receiving superiors at District Music also performed a concert at Elgin Public School's Gym on April 24th. Congratulations to all participants on a job well done!

QUIZ BOWL COMPETES

The Elgin quiz bowlers had 2 competitions. The Jr. High competed in the ESU8 quiz bowl on April 3rd. The members on the team were Nathan Anderson, Anthony Hemenway, Taylor Ivers, and Briann Grosserode. They were very competitive in their match losing by a final score of 35-15.

The Sr. Hi. Team also competed in the annual ESU8 competition on April 12th. The members representing Elgin High were Dana Uhrenholdt, Paige Redding, Linsey Bode, and Michael Miller. Their loss was to eventual champion Norfolk High. The team competed in the Pope John competition on April 16th. We had two teams entered. They both competed very well. The "B" team on one match and lost two, while the "A" team won 3 and lost two and finished 4th place. Representing the "B" team were Wes Prater, Michael Miller, Brett Mahnke, Brandon Anderson, and Teri Kittelson. The "A" team was represented by Ben Beckman, Paige Redding, Dana Uhrenholdt, and Linsey Bode.

The teams did a great job of representing our school. We had a good time and gathered some experience and memories that can be taken beyond the high school years.

"Today I shall behave as though this day is the one by which I shall be remembered."

R.A. Twerski

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP ATTRACTS TWELVE STUDENTS



Kindergarten round-up was held April 1st in the kindergarten classroom of Elgin Public School. Mrs. Janie Score, the kindergarten classroom teacher, met with the students and parents. The students had their eyes tested and were weighed and measured by the school nurse, Mrs. Gwen Kinney. If you have a student who is eligible for kindergarten next fall, please call the school to register them.



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.



The Revolt of Mother

Did you ever read a story that stayed in your mind for a long time. Even without rereading, there are some stories I can recall. Take for instance, "A Rose for Emily" (William Faulkner), I'll never forget my shiver when I read the sentence about the investigator lifting the long gray hair from the pillow next to the corpse; or "The Lady and the Tiger" (Frank Stockton), what kind of ending is that to ask us the readers, "Which came out the lady or the Tiger?"

I read "The Revolt of Mother" (Mary E. Wilkins Freeman) when I was in the seventh or eighth grade. It made quite an impression on me and I can still recall the story. Farmer John was proud of his farm, he had made a good living from it; he decided that the way to impress all of his neighbors was to build a new barn. Not just any barn, mind you, but an outstanding barn that would be the envy of all around. His wife tried to point out to him that the house was in disrepair and not a fit place to live. Shouldn't they fix those things instead? Farmer John was not dissuaded. He brushed her concerns aside and built his barn. He was so pleased when it was completed. Why it quite dwarfed the rest of the farmstead. He went off to Vermont because His brother had written about a horse he was interested in. He was gone several days. Imagine his surprise when he entered his kitchen after his return and a milk cow greeted him! He went searching for his family and found them enjoying life in the barn. "Mother" explained that she and the children were tired of always getting overlooked and the new barn was much better than the house in which they had been living. They were staying!

If you listened to Commissioner Doug Christensen on PBS' Lehrer Hour several weeks ago you were able to enjoy a modern version of "The Revolt of Mother". Christensen was quite emphatic about No Child Left Behind. The testing that is being required is interfering with some of the main purposes of education. He stated that he didn't know of one school district that could improve the scores of another school so why was NCLB so intent upon comparing student scores. I was proud of Dr. Christensen and am thankful for the stand he has taken. He is right about NCLB.

The only way to improve schools is for each district to take the job seriously and to look at their individual issues. Five years after NCLB the states and federal government are still arguing over "Proficiency" and what it means. At Elgin Public we determined what "proficiency" was on our local tests and we pursued having all students meet that goal. If they didn't, then they attended tutoring in the summer to review those areas not mastered. In my opinion the local tests developed by the teachers are still the "gold standard". These tests do the best job of telling the teacher if he/she has been successful in imparting the knowledge required to meet the state standard.

In the final analysis, education must be about much more than testing and gaining "proficiency" ratings on tests. It must be about preparing today's students to handle the problems of our society, to learn and understand the concepts of democracy and citizenship, and to prepare them to be productive in the global economy.

NCLB is up for reauthorization. If it is ever to achieve its stated goals of leaving no child behind then it has to become something beyond a testing mandate. It is time for the educators and state leaders to "revolt" and demand that sound educational principles come into play. Upon reflection, I believe the ending of The Lady and the Tiger is quite appropriate for this essay, "The question of her decision is one not to be lightly considered, and it is not for me to presume to set myself up as the one person able to answer it. And so I leave it with all of you: Which came out of the opened door - the lady, or the tiger?"

You can read 'The Revolt of Mother' at: www.geocities.com/short_stories_page/freemanrevolt.html

"A Rose for Emily" at: www.ariyam.com/docs/lit/wf_rose.html

"The Lady or the Tiger" at: www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/LadyTige.shtml



Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who contributes news items for this newsletter. Also thanks to the many people who help stuff, fold, label, and bundle the newsletter to get them ready for mailing. This monthly newsletter would not be possible without all of your help!

*Paula Jensen
Secretary*

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 or use the link on our website 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!



Students Attend WSC Language Arts Festival

Three seniors and one Language Arts teacher got up early on Thursday, April 19, to hop in the school car and drive to Wayne State College.

Hours later, the students were telling their teacher how much fun they had writing.

Christina Weidner, Nathan Codr, and Meghan Schindler, accompanied Mrs. Lori Newcomb to some unique workshops run by WSC faculty and students: one was about bumper sticker slogans, one required them to wear a hat and write a poem from the perspective of a person who would wear the hat, and one (their favorite) involved writing and recording a radio play in the campus radio station.

Christina, Meghan, and Michelle Oppliger (who was unable to attend) all had stories or poems published in the Festival's anthology, which was presented to them on the day of the workshop.

Christina wrapped up the day this way: "I figured I'd have fun, because I like to write, but I didn't realize it would be this much fun!"

SCIENCE MEET



Briann Grosserode has been selected as one of the top 15 entrants in the annual AHEC Health Science Meet! Both she and Taylor Ivers have been selected to attend the state meet, but only a handful of the more than 350 students participating statewide are chosen to display their projects in Omaha. Both girls will stay in Omaha and participate in Health Science events at the UNMC Medical Center from June 7-9.

Briann's project involved taking water samples from the toilets and ice from various restaurants. She then plated and grew the bacteria from each sample. Her results were surprising! Briann was able to use this information and draw some surprising and disturbing conclusions about the sanity of our food.

*"The only way to have a friend is to be one."
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

MODERN WOODMEN SPEECH CONTEST



The annual Modern Woodmen Speech contest was held April 19th in the Elgin Public School lunchroom. There were ten speeches given on the topic of "A Great American Leader." The speeches were all delivered very well! The judges stated that it was a very hard decision as there were many great speeches.

Congratulations to the top three winners: Michelle Bauer-1st place, Briann Grosserode -2nd place, and Taylor Ivers-3rd place.

Elgin Public PASS System

Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:

www.elgineagles.org

Click on Schoolmaster and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds you plant."*

Robert Louis Stevenson



FFA NEWS

Fifty Members of the Elgin FFA Chapter attended the 79th Nebraska State FFA Convention March 28-31, 2007. Members competed in numerous contest and leadership activities throughout the week. Ben was elected as the 2007 - 2008 Nebraska State FFA Secretary and will have a year packed full of activities as he serves as a State FFA Officer.

Jake won the top award for his Proficiency Application in the Emerging Agricultural Technologies Category. Jake's Proficiency was working for his families ultrasounding business throughout the year. Jake will represent the Elgin FFA Chapter and the Nebraska FFA Association at the National FFA Convention next October.

Nine Members of the Elgin FFA Chapter were awarded the Nebraska State Degree during Friday nights ceremony. The State FFA Degree is the highest honor that a person can earn in the Nebraska FFA. Recipients of this Degree were: Ben B., Jake B., Paige R., Travis S., Brandon A., Brandon G., Steven B., Luke B., & Wes P. The Elgin FFA Chapter was also recognized with the Governor's Agricultural Excellence Award during the Thursday night general convention session



Is there money in your lunch account?

Please call the school 843-2455 or e-mail the lunch account bookkeeper (pbeckman@esu8.org) or school secretary Paula Jensen (jensenp@esu8.org) if you would like to find out. All students with an account balance of -\$10.00 will not be allowed to charge seconds or extra juice. **When an account balance reaches -\$25.00, students will not be allowed to charge at all.** Please help us to keep all accounts current!

From the Principal's desk . . .

Mr. Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



One of the premier programs at Elgin Public Schools is the Agriculture Education program. For many years, Elgin High has been fortunate to be able to offer a dynamic agriculture education program for those students interested in that field of study. Currently, Mr. Phil Simpson, EHS agriculture education instructor and FFA sponsor leads one of the top programs in northeast Nebraska. I also believe that his program is one of the top high school agriculture programs in the state of Nebraska. Often small schools may not be able to offer the same opportunities as the larger schools due to budget restrictions and differences, limited resources and numbers of students involved. I am excited to say that our school's FFA program and agriculture education opportunities are strong, thriving and proven to be one of the elite that is leading the way in Nebraska. There are other FFA and agriculture education programs in several of Nebraska's high schools that are equally as strong. In Nebraska, it is imperative that those leading schools continue to provide these opportunities to its youth. We are an agricultural state that must continue to promote these opportunities so that the next generation will be able to prosper.

In late March, Elgin High School was extremely well represented at the State FFA Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. While I do not have enough space in this article to reflect on each of the accomplishments of the students who attended, I would like to address two EHS senior students who, through their hard work and efforts the past four years, earned recognition as two of the best in Nebraska. Jake Bode earned 1st place for his Proficiency Project he completed over a four-year period of time. There were three finalists in Nebraska and Jake was recognized as being the best of those three individuals. Keep in mind, that competition was between all sizes of schools and not just with other students from small schools. Ben Beckman was among the finalists of those running for a state FFA office. To even be considered would mean that you are one of the top young agriculture students in Nebraska. Following an intense interview and selection process, Ben was named as the State FFA Secretary for the upcoming year. Both of these young men dedicated many long hours over the past four years in order to achieve at the highest level. To put it in perspective, one could say that these accomplishments are the equivalent to earning a state championship in any individual athletic event.

There were numerous individual and team achievements recognized during the state convention involving nearly all of the students that are involved in the EHS FFA program. Congratulations to all of those students. Congratulations also to Mr. Simpson. Maintaining a top program is not an easy task. The Elgin FFA program is a first class program and is continuously sending young men and women on into post-secondary agriculture programs. I believe that the future of Nebraska's agriculture industry is in good hands.

With the end of the school year drawing ever closer, I encourage all parents to remind your kids to finish strong. At the time of this writing, I am extremely pleased with the academic performance of the students in grades 7-12. Now is the time to communicate with your kids. Make sure you are on top of their academic status and communicate with their teachers if you have questions. I remind our students daily that failing is unacceptable. With the strong teaching staff we have at Elgin Public Schools, those who come ready to learn, will learn from the best.

Corey Fisher, Principal

**ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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POSTAL PATRON

STOP, before you throw me away as junk mail! If you are receiving this newsletter with your name and address on it and do not wish to, please call us at 402-843-2455 or return the page with your mailing address to the school at the above address and you will be removed from our mailing list. Also, if you know of someone who would like to have information regarding Elgin Public Schools, please have them contact the school to be added to our mailing list.