






DATES TO REMEMBER


 **May 6**
 Activities/Awards
 Banquet 6:30 p.m.


 **May 8**
 School Board Mtg.
 7:30 p.m. in ITV
 Room

 **May 10**
 Senior Graduation
 7:00 p.m.

 **May 13**
 Preschool
 Graduation
 6:30 p.m.

Elementary
 Spring Concert
 7:30 p.m.

 **May 15**
 Kindergarten
 Graduation
 7:00 p.m.

 **May 16**
 Last Day of School
 for Students



Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4 - 10



UNITY

By Cleo V. Swarat

I dreamed I stood in a studio
 And watched two sculptors there,
 The clay they used was a young child's mind
 And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher:
 the tools she used were books and music and art;
 One was a parent
 With a guiding hand and gentle loving heart.

And when at last their work was done,
 They were proud of what they had wrought.
 For the things they had worked into the child
 Could never be sold or bought!

And each agreed she would have failed
 if she had worked alone.
 For behind the parent stood the school,
 and behind the teacher stood the home!



Elgin Entrepreneurship Class 'Metal Art' Project



With the school year winding down, the Elgin High entrepreneurship class is ending their productive year by making and selling metal art. Students in the class are learning aspects of running a business, such as production, sales, design, advertising, and record keeping. Much work has been done in developing and cutting out the signs and the students are excited about the project.

After conducting a survey and developing different designs to show school spirit for both schools in the community, the class took their design to the plasma cutter and made their creations come to life. When the creations were cut and grinded down to perfection, they were each painted their respective school colors. Designs can also be painted with a clear coat to keep the bare metal effect without becoming rusted if a person would like.

Each design is cut out of 11-gauge steel and have different dimensions. There are two different Eagle designs, with both dimensions being approximately 15" long x 12 tall". There are also two different Crusader designs, one measuring 17" long x 8" tall, and the other measuring 14" long x 4.5" tall. Each design will be priced at \$15 a piece.

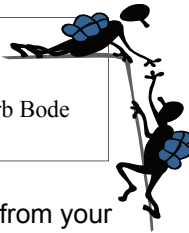
If you would like to customize your order it is possible as well. Some orders that have been customized have included people's names, home addresses, and special dates. For custom orders prices you will need to contact Mr. Simpson.

Design's can be seen on the Elgin Public Schools web-site at www.elgineagles.org Order forms are available in the High School Ag room or on-line on the EHS Web-Page. These forms can be dropped off at the Ag Room or e-mailed to psimpson@esu8.org

For more information or to place and order contact Mr. Simpson at 843-2455 or psimpson@esu8.org.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

The financial aid award letter you received from your college indicates the loans you qualify to borrow. It may include loans you borrow directly from the school (Perkins), from a lender (Stafford Loan), or from the federal government (Direct Loan). 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 named Brad 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. Brad 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. Brad said he didn't pay attention to his debt accumulation until his junior year, and then said, "It was a shock!"

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.
- **Look for scholarships.** Free resources include your guidance counselor and [ScholarshipQuest](#) at www.educationquest.org, which has over 1,700 local and statewide scholarships. Pay attention to the scholarships seniors are earning so you can apply for the same awards.

Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses.

Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

PERFECT MARKS FOR ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT DISTRICT MUSIC!

District Music Contest was held Friday, April 18, 2008 at Neligh – Oakdale High School. Elgin Public Schools had 11 entries in the event. It was an unbelievable day for us! I had many comments from other schools, administrators, parents and hosts from Neligh about the wonderful performances our students had that day. Our students are to be commended for their efforts. I have taught many years (more that I want to mention!) and to get ALL Superiors is a first for me.

These are the results:

- Concert Band (critiqued by 3 judges) received a Superior.
- Mixed Choir (critiqued by 3 judges) received a Superior. One judge gave the choir a perfect score! The choir also received a plaque for getting a 1 rating from all 3 judges.
- Girls Ensemble received a Superior.
- Boys Quartet (Gabe Wiegand, Jonathan Gunderson, Jeff Bush, Nathan Niewohner) received a Superior.
- Girls Vocal Quartet (Jenna Schindler, Delphine Bataille, Kara Zegers, Caitlin Mortensen) received a Superior.
- Mixed Vocal Trio (Jenna Schindler, Caitlin Mortensen, Nathan Niewohner) received a Superior.
- Girls Vocal Duet (Tonya Wiegand, Jennifer Rhoads) received a Superior.
- Snare Drum Solo by Eric Shoemaker received a Superior.
- Flute Solo by Bethany Kallhoff received a Superior.
- Alto Sax Solo by Nathan Niewohner received a Superior.
- Vocal Solo by Nathan Niewohner received a Superior.

Congratulations to all of you!

KINDNESS COSTS NOTHING!



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.



FCCLA members are (back row l-r) Breanna Bode, Gabe Wiegand, Briann Grosserode (front row l-r) Michelle Bauer, Ayli Carrero, Jessica Heithoff.

FCCLA Members Swing to Success

Members of the Elgin FCCLA (Family, Career, & Community Leaders of America) Chapter attended the FCCLA State Leadership Conference, April 7-8, in Lincoln. **SWING TO SUCCESS** was the theme of the two-day meeting for over 1275 family consumer sciences students and advisers representing 124 chapters in Nebraska. The students were motivated by a variety of leadership experiences during the conference, making FCCLA *The Ultimate Leadership Experience*. Delegates also explored several careers related to family and consumer sciences, and were encouraged to take advantage of opportunities for developing leadership skills for their family, career, and community lives.

Attending from Elgin were the 2008-2009 officers, including Ayli Carrero - President, Gabe Wiegand - Vice-president, Michelle Bauer - Secretary, Briann Grosserode - Treasurer, Jessica Heithoff - Newsreporter and Breanna Bode - District Rep.

The keynote speaker was David Coleman. Mr. Coleman's message emphasized three factors that separate winners from losers, as well as excusers from producers. These three factors were Preparation, Attitude and Effort. He challenged delegates to use these factors to not only become more effective leaders but also better members of both our families and communities.

Conference delegates were also actively engaged in workshops and discussions about leadership and current teen issues. Among the topics discussed were leadership skills, making your relationships count, first impressions, leading with your strengths, and choosing a career path. Members participated in Leader Labs to enhance their personal and chapter leadership skills and to prepare for their multiple roles in family, workplace and the community.

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

Hellen Keller



KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP ATTRACTS FIFTEEN STUDENTS

Kindergarten round-up was held April 15th in the kindergarten classroom of Elgin Public School. Parents completed information forms while 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.

"I think that education is power."

Oprah Winfrey

Optics of the Eye

Are you nearsighted or farsighted? Do you know why? How do optometrists correct it? These are some of the many questions the physics students can now answer after studying the optical characteristics of lenses and mirrors.

The students have spent the past month experimenting with light and the images produced by different shapes and sizes of mirrors and lenses. In addition to eyeglasses, we also applied the concepts to cameras, microscopes, telescopes, holographic images, fiber optics, and polarized sunglasses. The many and varied applications of optics provided the students a lot of hands-on and real life examples of how physics can improve our lives. Ask them about some!



Carlie Redding investigates the "microscope".

Fourth Graders Explore Careers



On April 7, the fourth graders dressed as professionals showing a career choice they had researched with Mrs. Bode during guidance class. Each student then presented information they had found about their chosen career such as personal skills and education needed, projected earnings and job growth for the future. Jobs chosen were singer, architect, nurse, vet, patrol officer, chef, air traffic controller, truck driver, archaeologist, and teacher. It will be interesting to see how many follow their chosen career path from fourth grade.

QUIZ BOWL COMPETES



The Elgin quiz bowlers had 2 competitions. The Jr. High competed in the ESU8 quiz bowl on April 2nd. The members on the team were Tre Henkenius, Levi Kerkman, Nick Heithoff, and Angie Richart, and Blake Anderson. They were very competitive in their match.

The Sr. Hi. Team also competed in the annual ESU8 competition on April 9th. The members representing Elgin High were Linsey Bode, and Michael Miller, Amanda Hemenway, and Anthony Hemenway. Their loss was to eventual champion Norfolk Catholic. The team also competed in the Pope John competition on April 7th. We were represented by Brett Manke, Micheal Miller, Amanda Hemenway 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.

Driver's Ed classes are June 3, 4, 5, 6, & 10th from 8:00 - noon.



Is there money in your lunch account?

Your balance must be \$0.00 before you check out of school on the last day. Let's help to keep our costs of postage down by paying in advance for meals. Thank you!

Making School a Priority

With spring right around the corner, it can be hard to keep children focused on learning. What can you do to make school a top priority for your kids? Keep these simple ideas in mind--they're useful at any time of the year.



- ◆ **Make attendance job #1.** Let your youngsters know that unless they're sick, they must go to school. Try to schedule routine dentist and doctor appointments after school hours. If possible, take family vacations during school breaks. *Tip:* Give awards for perfect attendance each month. Try a "Job Well Done" certificate or a coupon for a night of bowling or a movie.
- ◆ **Show you care.** Want your children to know that you're interested in their learning? Talk about their school activities and projects. Attend as many school events as you can. If homework and after-school activities conflict, speak up: "I know you have baseball practice this evening, but homework comes first. After you finish, I'll take you to practice."
- ◆ **Keep it upbeat.** Try to set a positive example for your children, even when your own day has been difficult. Instead of saying, "I had a hard day at work. I'll never get my project done," try, "Work was hard today, but I made some progress on my project." If you show a positive attitude about your work, your youngsters may feel better about their own.



Ag Ed Students Compete Well



During the 80th Nebraska State FFA Convention, numerous State Ag Education Career Development Events (CDE) and Leadership Skills Events (LSE) were held to determine statewide champions in various areas.



Receiving State FFA Degrees at convention were: (back row) Michael Miller, Jared Scholl (middle row) Allie Schiltmeyer, Amanda Hemenway, Jessica Morrison (front row) Matt Anderson, Kyle Childers.

Ag Ed students from the Elgin FFA competed very well and many received honors as individuals and teams.

The CDE's are the equivalent of scholastic contests except these contests are related to curriculum areas taught in agricultural education. Students are not merely taking a test at these contests, they have to demonstrate skills that they have acquired along with a written knowledge test. For example in the Floriculture contest, students take a 50 question written test, identified 25 flowers/plants, make a boutonniere or corsage individually. Then as a team they design and assemble a table centerpiece arrangement and do a pricing activity. Only the top 1/2 of the contestants and teams in each event are recognized with ribbons, so ribbon winners truly are the best of the best among ag students from class A – D2 schools across the state.

Here is a list of teams and ribbon winning students from the Elgin FFA:

Agriscience (general Ag knowledge for 1st year members) –

Team 1: Beau Henn (blue), Jessica Heithoff (blue), Breanna Bode (red), and Michelle Bauer (red); Team finished 11th overall out of 77 teams.

Team 2: A.J. Braband (blue), Nathan Anderson (blue), Anthony Hemenway (blue), and Briann Grosserode; Team finished 16th overall out of 77 teams

Sr. Livestock Selection –

Team 1: Linsey Bode (Purple – 9th in state out of over 250 individuals), Tyler Reestman (blue), Carlie Redding (white), and Matt Anderson; Team received a blue and finished 11th out of 65 teams at state.

Team 2: - Jake Schindler (blue), Josh Beckman (blue), Kyle Childers (blue), and Macaib Hoefler (blue); Team received a Blue 8th out of 65 teams at state.

Welding –

Michael Miller, Oxy-Acetylene, Kyle Childers, Arc Welding (blue and 10th overall), Jonathan Gunderson, Mig (wire) Welding; Team received a white ribbon.

Natural Resources –

Austin Mitchell (blue), Eric Vanis, Sam Janssen, and Tyson Lodge.

Meat Evaluation

Curtis Childers (blue), Jared Scholl (blue), Tyson Lodge, Austin Kerkman; Team received a blue and finished 11th out of 64 teams.

Ag Communications –

Becki Schindler (blue), Jenna Schindler (white), Alisha Anderson (red), and Carlie Redding (red); Team received a blue and finished 5th out of 26 teams in the state.

Floriculture –

Allie Schiltmeyer (blue), Amanda Hemenway (red), Linsey Bode (red), Jennifer Bush (white); Team received a red and finished 10th out of 38 teams

Highlights for Elgin Ag students were the performance of the Senior Livestock Selection teams. In 2008, there were 65 District qualifying teams from schools as large as Grand Island Northwest, Norfolk, Norris and Blair competing in the Senior Livestock Selection Career Development Event. For Elgin FFA members to have the eighth and eleventh place teams in the State is a tremendous accomplishment. The Ag Communications team finished 5th in the state and represented our school well. Along with the judging teams Linsey Bode's ninth place finish in Livestock Judging, Becki Schindler's fourth place finish in the Ag Communications contest, and Kyle Childers's tenth place finish in the ARC welding contest are noteworthy achievements.

The Elgin FFA had nine teams competing in various contests at state. Of these nine teams only one did not ribbon, one finished 28th out of 63 teams, one finished 16th out of 77 teams and the rest finished in 11th place or higher. Way to go Elgin FFA members on your success at State.

CHECKING UP ON YOUR CHILD!



The Schoolmaster PASS system that has been in place for a couple of years now has proved to be an excellent tool for teachers and parents. Below are a few reminders about what to keep in mind as you are viewing the information on the system for your child.

- ⇒ **When checking grades, always scroll all the way down to see the overall grade for your child. Sometimes there is a test grade, a quiz grade, a daily assignment grade and then the overall grade. It is important to see all information provided for each class.**
- ⇒ **If it appears that no grades have been uploaded, most often it may be a result of a class project that week and did not involve graded work. It may be a situation; such as we are seeing this time of year, that many kids are gone on different days attending various activities making it hard for a teacher to progress when not all students are present. That, in turn, makes it impossible to cover as much material as a teacher would like thus resulting in fewer assignments over a period of time.**
- ⇒ **On occasion, a teacher may not correctly put in the dates for the assignments to upload correctly. As with all technology, user error can and does happen. At the same time, we expect teachers to be aware of this step and not allow it to happen very often.**
- ⇒ **It can also be the case that students have not actually completed the assignment and until it is completed, the assignment does not show up on the system.**

Please make sure you are visiting with your child often as to what they are doing in school. They should be able to explain if assignments are being done in class or if there is a reason for little that may show up on the system. Some teachers also put their lesson plans on the school website. If you are wondering what is actually going on in some of your child's classes and those teachers utilize the website for their lesson plans, that too can help you see what is taking place in the classroom. If all else fails, please feel free to contact the teachers and ask your questions. In most all cases, there is a perfectly good explanation and not that nothing is happening in the classroom. So communicate with your child. If they cannot answer your questions, please feel free to contact the school and visit

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.

EARTH DAY FIELD TRIP



Students tour bales of garbage at Vermillion solid waste dept.

The Environmental Science students spent Earth Day learning firsthand how our waste management and energy choices affect the earth. Students had the privilege of taking part in a comprehensive field trip to various sites in the area.

The first leg of the trip was to northeast Nebraska to visit the Siouxland LLC ethanol plant. Prior to the trip the students had studied the process of ethanol production as well as its pros and cons. During the visit they were able to see the machines in action.

The next stop was the nearby L.P Gill Landfill, the largest landfill in the area. Our local trash eventually ends up in this landfill. The mountains of trash are hundred of feet high and take up acres of land.

The ethanol plant and this nearby landfill are actually working together to create a cleaner environment. As landfills age and wastes decompose, they release a great deal of methane gas. Currently about 25% of the ethanol plant's energy needs are met by the methane gas.

The class then left the state to visit the Vermillion Solid Waste department. Here the students viewed both the recycling and "balefill." They viewed the numerous machines used to prepare wastes to be sent to facilities where they will be remade into new products.

We then traveled to the balefill outside of town. The director stated that about 40%-50% of the wastes thrown away in this landfill could be recycled if the users would take the time to dispose of them properly.

Our last stop (and most the students' favorite) was the power plant at Gavin's Point Dam. We were given an inside tour of the dam and its workings. Near the end of the tour the dam superintendent spoke to the students about future opportunities with the Corps of Engineers and on-the-job training at locations such as the dam.

The students were able to learn a great deal about where our wastes go and why it's important to recycle. All in all, it was a very eventful and educational day! To see all the pictures from the trip, visit the website and look under "Science."



Changes and More Changes

Even as we get ready to close out another school year we are aware that change is taking place around us. Some current employees will no longer be with us and so the search is on to find the best possible replacements. Darla Butterfield is getting married and will be working on the farm with her husband. Lori Newcomb will become an instructor at Wayne State College and will also be in charge of Wayne's student teachers. We want to wish both of these teachers the best as they leave us.

Seniors will be graduating and we've already had kindergarten roundup so that we know how many we need to plan for next fall. One always thinks as the seniors cross the stage about how the school will miss them for their unique characteristics. But we know that life is sometimes lived in stages and that the K-12 stage is over for them and it's time to enter the "adult stage".

Some changes we know are coming, but we don't yet know how they will affect us. For example, we know that LB 988 was passed by the legislature but the State Aide Certification will not be sent to us until May 10, 2008. Even more troubling for our school district is the part that deals with budget authority. This particular section is causing the school board members and myself anxiety because we have no idea how it will affect next year's budget. LB 1157 passed and so we know the testing system in Nebraska will change but much like the budget we have no idea what format the test will take: will it be paper and pencil or computerized; will it have a one time a year test for all standards or will the standards be tested separately throughout the year? The Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening Standards are changing also. We now have the rough draft of the proposed changes but the final format won't be available until August so that is another important item that will change but we're still uncertain as to how or how much.

In the Northern Tier there will be significant change. There will be leadership changes in some schools (at least 3 at this time). Indeed, as I write this, it appears that one school district may no longer exist when school resumes next fall.

In the field of administration Paul Houston (The outgoing executive director for the American Association of School Administrators) observed, "There was a time when successful superintendents were good at the "killer B's" - buildings, buses, books, budgets and bonds. Today, superintendents have to be good at running all those things and more. They must be masters of the C's - communication, collaboration, community building, child advocacy and curricular solutions."

I googled the subject and found the research on knowledge and change. From 1 AD until 1500 knowledge only doubled. The next doubling took 250 years. By 1900 it had doubled again. The doubling of knowledge has now reached 1-2 years. No wonder we're all having some trouble keeping up in our fields.

Because of knowledge doubling so quickly we are seeing a specialization of people. Here the urban environment has the advantage. It can expand its force as people try to control and limit the size of the information pool they are responsible for. In the rural environment we are stretched ever thinner as we try to cover our working environments with the same number or even fewer people than we had before. At some point we will reach "the tipping point" when this is no longer possible which brings me back to LB988 and its formula for school budgets facing little to no change.

Along with knowledge doubling comes the stress. With stress comes burnout. Burnout is often caused by the following: Unclear requirements (I think that was paragraph two), impossible requirements. (see paragraph two), High-Stress Times with no "Down Time (like having to have a budget in August with no direction until May at the earliest), Big consequences for failure (NCLB), Lack of personal (or local) control (more state and federal mandates).

Yes, change is constant. It is a time of change—let's hope it isn't also a time of "burn-out" or our children will suffer and our community will be the poorer for it. One attribute we do control is that of "recognition". May has a week in it for teacher appreciation. Please take the time to acknowledge those educators who are working or have worked with your children. Public praise and appreciation go a long way in keeping morale high and in helping employees feel job satisfaction.



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*

ELEMENTARY SPRING CONCERT

Who: Pre-school through 6th grade

What: A concert sure to make you smile :)

When: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Where: Elgin Public Schools Gym

Why: Because 'We Are The Music Makers' !!!

SEE YOU THERE!

From the Principal's desk . . .

Mr. Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



As the 2007-2008 school year comes to a close, I think it is appropriate to reflect back on a year that was anything but ordinary or routine. Each fall, I always have so much excitement and anticipation and before you know it, you are at the midpoint in the semester and wham, the winter holidays are staring you in the face. Then, after you return for that long, cold 3rd quarter, in the blink of an eye, graduation and summer are here. How can so much happen in such a small amount of time?

This school year was a year of extreme highs and lows. The year started off really well. Students were doing very well in the classrooms, a new program and a new teacher were introduced and we welcome several new staff members in various areas around campus. Homecoming was a great week for the students seeing both the volleyball and football teams earn victories. Following that exciting homecoming week, we woke up on a cool Saturday morning to the tragic news of one of our senior students. Andrew Spaulding had lost his life in a car accident that past night. The sad news made for some hard days for the students and staff here at Elgin Public Schools. The month of September sure had some extreme highs and lows but somehow we did move forward. As we moved into the 2nd quarter, it appeared that the Eagle football team was destined for a run at the D2 state title. On a balmy morning in Lincoln, Ne, the Eagles took the field at memorial Stadium to play in what proved to be an instant 8-man football classic. The Eagles, after leading conference foe Chambers most all of the game, came up short on the final play of the game and ended the magical season as district champions and the class D2 state runner-up. The trophy is in the case and the banner is on the wall and while it was hard for the team and coaches to fall just short of their goal, the season was a great success and proved to be an extreme high point in the school year and came at a much needed time. Without a break, it was time for winter sports. Austin Stamp, a junior wrestler for the Eagles, set the school record for most consecutive pins (23) along with a number of other individual wrestling records. A great season for him and anyone who watched him knows he is a serious contender heading into his senior season. The boy's basketball team and EHS speech team both enjoyed strong seasons and the speech team qualified its OID team for state competition. The boy's basketball team had a great season with 15 wins and a holiday tournament championship for the 3rd straight year. As we headed into the 4th quarter, it was apparent that there was going to be some real changes to the staff at Elgin Public Schools. With several staff and teachers not returning next year, much time has been spent planning and interviewing so that a strong staff remains in tact for the 2008-2009 school year. At this time, there will be new faces in Kindergarten, 3rd grade, Title I/JH Language Arts, Business, and 9-12 English. This does not include a new custodian that has yet to be hired (but will be before long), 2 new bus drivers that were hired earlier this year (who are doing a fantastic job I might add) and perhaps a few other changes that we may be making before next year. It is always hard and what I consider a low point to say good bye to those staff members who are outstanding, I also look towards the next year with much optimism and excitement to see the school and staff change and accept the challenge of upholding the high standard that has been built over many years.

I could go on and on! How about the stress AND excitement of moving into a new building after the year had begun, and then the frustrations caused by harsh Nebraska winter weather. I did not even mention the fact that we have been privileged to watch recent alumni shine on the brightest of stages throughout the year. It is always a source of pride for any teacher and administrator to see their former students achieve at the highest level!

Indeed, this school year was in many ways a great year and in a few ways very hard and some things really played on the ol' emotions both in good ways and in some not so good ways. I have always lived by the philosophy that trying times only make us stronger and if we choose to remain focused on doing what is best . . . things will be fine. Trying times also help one to be humbled and appreciate those times when you find yourself enjoying success and living the great moments. No matter if you were on the edge of your seat watching the final pass in the state football championships or sitting in the gym attending a numbing funeral of a teenager, it is those experiences that help us learn and grow. All I know is that I am proud and honored to be a part of all of it!

**ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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Elgin, NE 68636**

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