



EAGLE UPDATE


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Volume XXIV, Issue 10


May, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

 May 12
Activities/Athletics
Awards Banquet
6:30 p.m.


 May 14
School Board
Meeting 7:30 p.m.

 May 16
Senior Graduation
7:00 p.m.

 May 19
Preschool
Graduation
6:30 p.m.

Elementary
Spring Concert
7:30 p.m.

 May 20
Kindergarten
Graduation 7:00
p.m.

 May 21
Last Day of School
Early Dismissal
2:00 p.m.



EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

The school/town clean-up and beautification day held at Elgin Public School on April 21 was a great success! The high school students recovered numerous bags of trash from around the town, while the



elementary did their part capturing litter from the school grounds, including the practice and football fields. Working together, students in a variety



of grades helped to clean out the school flower gardens—cleaning out the old plant debris and planting new flowers. The area around the school looks like an entirely different place now!

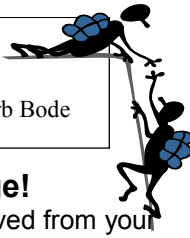
After the clean-up students were treated to drinks donated by the Post Prom committee as well as ice cream. The ice cream and flowers were paid for through funds generated by the school's paper and aluminum recycling projects.

We thank the Keep Nebraska Beautiful Foundation and corporate sponsors for their donations of trash bags and informative literature and other supplies. We also thank Shamrock's Nursery for their assistance in obtaining flowers for the event. Also, thank you to Vic Miller for helping us coordinate this with the city's clean-up event this weekend!



Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

The financial aid award notification you received from your college(s) 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 a PLUS loan. Your college will provide borrowing procedures.

Before you borrow, estimate your future monthly loan payments using our [Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Follow these tips to avoid unnecessary debt:

- ◆ Carefully research the college you plan to attend to make sure it's a good fit. Transferring to a different college can add additional years of school and loan debt.
- ◆ Compare the estimated starting salary of potential careers to your estimated college debt to ensure you can afford future loan payments.
- ◆ 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 throughout college at [nsls.ed.gov](#) so you're not surprised by the amount when it's time to graduate.

Juniors...use the summer to prepare for college!

- ◆ **Start narrowing your college choices.** By the fall of your senior year, you should have narrowed your choices to three or four schools. Visit some college campuses this summer and check out college Web sites.
- ◆ **Update your [Activities Resume](#)** at [EducationQuest.org](#). Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards and part-time job.
- ◆ **Look for scholarships.** Check out [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) which has over 2,000 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.
- ___ Get a summer job to help pay college expenses.

Juniors

- ___ Register by May 5 for June 6 SAT.
- ___ Register by May 8 for June 13 ACT.
- ___ Continue campus visits.
- ___ Attend a spring college fair if there is one in your area.
- ___ Get a summer job and save for college.

Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

The elementary spring music concert is Tuesday, May 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. It will follow pre-school graduation. The concert will feature all elementary grades. The cadet band will perform the selections they received a 1+ rating for at solo-ensemble contest. The fourth graders will break out in song with their recorders! What a treat!! Grades 3 -4 and 5-6 have prepared some fun songs they know you will enjoy. The 1-2 graders have a song - Concertschtick - that is a medley of lots of recognizable tunes from long ago. AND.... the pre-school and Kindergarten will perform a musical entitled "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". It is sure to bring a smile to your face! Please come join us for an evening of fun, music and entertainment!!



Enjoy your
Summer!



KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP ATTRACTS TWELVE STUDENTS

Kindergarten round-up was held April 16th in the kindergarten classroom of Elgin Public School. Parents completed information forms while the students were weighed and measured by the school nurse, Mrs. Gwen Kinney. The students enjoyed an activity with their new teacher, Mrs. Simpson. 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.

Elgin FCCLA Members Attend State Leadership Conference



Elgin students attending FCCLA State Convention were Briann Grosserode, Jessica Heithoff, Michelle Bauer, and Allen Miller.

Approximately 1,250 delegates from 109 chapters attended the Nebraska Family, Career and Community Leaders of America State Leadership Conference April 6-7 in Lincoln, NE. Attending from Elgin were Michele Bauer, Jessica Heithoff, Briann Grosserode and Allen Miller. They were accompanied by FCCLA adviser Barb Bode.

The theme for this year's conference was "A person's a Person no matter how small – FCCLA is for Every and All." While attending the conference the students attended sessions on getting fit, community service, and leadership styles. They also attended the keynote address by Justin Boudreau entitled, "Be YOUUnique". The state STAR competition was held in conjunction with the conference. Representing Elgin in the Senior Health and Wellness category was Jessica Heithoff. She received a silver medal for her presentation on teenagers and sleep. The four students attending will be inducted into office next fall during the annual FCCLA Family Night.

Art News



The Elementary Art students are busy preparing their work for the County Fair this summer. Each student chooses their best artwork to be matted and tagged. Every student is responsible for filling out and attaching their own tags to their work. Grades 3-6 are also responsible for matting their work as well.

After the matting and tagging is completed the art piece is stapled to a county fair card and is ready to be delivered to the courthouse. The work is displayed at the Neligh Park Pavilion from July 28th to August 2nd.

Check the school webpage for Art show results! Go to "Activities-Art" to see the results from our first four shows! The 8-12 students had a great start with the Keya Paha Invitational by



2009

YEARBOOKS

Have you purchased your 2009 Yearbook yet? They're only \$30 for a lifetime of memories! Check out the school webpage, "Activities-Yearbook" to order yours. Personalization is no longer available.



Is there money in your lunch account?

Your balance must be a positive balance 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!

Elgin Youth Basketball Holds All Night Lock-In



April 9th was the night that Elgin Youth Basketball held its second annual lock-in at the EHS gym. Coach Eisenhauer and Coach Heithoff were joined by 45 kids who participated this year in the youth basketball program along with 20 members of this year's boys and girls Eagle basketball teams. The kids were in the gym all night and picked up the following morning. Activities included different basketball games, dodge ball, kick ball, line tag, playstation, movies, and sleeping (but not much for most)! Everyone had a great time and we look forward to another year of youth basketball next year. By the way, what does 14 large pizzas, 12 gallons of gatorade, and 75 bags of chips get you??? Until about 2:00 in the morning is all! Thanks again to all the kids for another great year!



Alex Grosserode measures Blake Anderson's shadow.

Indirect Measurement Lab

In 8th grade math class we have been studying similar figures and using proportions to find missing dimensions. To help illustrate this concept with an application I asked the students how we could determine the height of the water tower without actually climbing it. Though I had several volunteers willing to scale the tower, that was clearly not an option. Using the known height of a student and the length of the shadows we created similar triangles and indirectly calculated the height of the water tower and several other tall objects. The weather finally cooperated for us and we had a nice sunny morning to take our measurements. Here are some sample calculations. If more than one group measured an object, we found the average.

Water Tower	35 m
Well's Pine Tree	17 m
High School Building	10.3 m

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Lee Hall
lhall@esu8.org



I would like to address the assets of Elgin Public Schools in a “did you know format.” I hope to take this opportunity to share with the patrons exactly what they have at EPS.

Outside the obvious and numerous awards this year we have a storied history of successes both academically and athletically. State Championships both individually and team wise are apparent as you survey the trophy cases.

It is what is not so obvious that I wish to mention that makes Elgin different from the rest. The use of the Curriculum Coordinating Council has developed into a parent/community member group with the support of broad policy that has driven change in the areas of math, reading, science, and most recently business.

Let’s take a minute to explore some of the curriculum and the advantages it has for our students.

First, the school offers pre-school for three and four year olds. At present we limit the number to twenty students. The pre-school is fairly common but in our case is district owned. We pride ourselves on the fact that it is a five day program and helps the children become use to a routine.

Second, the Reading Mastery Program was adopted at mid term last year. If you would like to see the results stop in and listen to a kindergarten student read to you. The goal of the program is to have all readers reading at grade level by the end of first grade. The program itself is identified as a “Best Practice” in Reading. The staff in grades 1 – 3 plus Title I teachers have been provided appropriate and meaningful training to help meet the goal listed above.

Third, the CCC has just taken an interest in the K – 6 math and will adopt the elementary teacher’s recommendation of the series from Sadlier – Oxford so it will be on hand for the beginning of the 2009 – 2010 school term. Like the reading listed above the series is research based and categorically recognized as a “Best Practice” series. The series if filled with interactive lessons where the computer is used to enrich and enhance the students and on-line assessment. Currently, the copyright of our series is 1984.

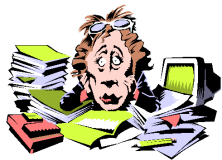
Fourth, our FFA Program continues to d raw interest and students to Elgin Public Schools. Mr. Simpson and his charges have racked up numerous awards at the state, local, and national level. His charges have received many awards and compete in a variety of activities and procedure contests. Our students are well rehearsed and versed on the areas that they compete in. 20of our students join us on a yearly basis from Pope John Central Catholic High School and one from Elkhorn Valley.

Fifth, Heidi Rethmeier a graduate of the Air Force Academy and the University of Illinois is offering a course called Introduction to Engineering. Engineering is certainly not a common class offering for Class C and D Schools in Nebraska but an example of how Elgin is a special place to garner your education.

Sixth, our business department has just been approved for a total restructuring of classes and content. New staff member Amy Selting was charged with the creation of a 21st Century business Program and she has delivered a program that will do just that. Personal finance will be immediately useful as we look at the future. The credit card offers come everyday in the mail and without understanding the risks of having one of the can be a real problem.

Seventh, three years ago Sara Walsh was given the same challenge as the business department only in the area of science. The results are the same, we have a lab based program where the students are excited and challenged at the same time. As electives her numbers indicate that her methods are successful. I would also suggest you attend a Science Fair Expo yearly to check on the student projects.

Elgin is a community that has a great deal to be proud of. The people have not only their community but their school districts both public and parochial. Elgin has great people that are great supporters of the school systems in town, and an understanding of the need to maintain their district. I have enjoyed all aspects of the school and community of Elgin and I will leave with the greatest admiration of what Elgin Public Schools does for it students. The staff, faculty, and Mr. Fisher make this district hard to compete with.



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 19, 2009 at 7:30 pm

Where: Elgin Public Schools Gym

SEE YOU THERE!



With all of the recent attention and focus that has been placed on the sports cooperatives, I am glad to report to you that we have indeed been doing more around here than just focusing on sports! It hit me a few days ago that we must make sure we do not lose sight of the “whole” picture with the school year coming to an end rather quickly.

Recently, our students in grades 7-12 participated in the annual Elgin High School Science Fair that was held in the EHS gym. For those who attended this event, I am sure you would echo my thoughts that it was truly amazing! I was extremely proud of the work and thought that each of the students put into their projects and even more proud of the manner in which they presented their projects. The evidence of the learning that took place during the research and testing procedures is incredible and I am sure that I am not alone in saying that I walked away that night with more knowledge than when I arrived. If you missed it, you really missed out.

Students at EPS have also been engaged in completing the Statewide Writing Assessments, CTBS Testing and STARS Assessments for this school year, along with the numerous Art Shows, Quiz Bowls, Music Contests and other Academic events that include the Wayne State College Math Contest. Indeed, one would find it hard to find a week where our students were not actively participating in activities other than sports or other NSAA events. All this, while still maintaining the high academic standards in the classroom on a weekly basis. Most may not realize it but on average, more than 75% of the students in grades 7-12 maintain honor roll status at EPS. Heck, right at 84% of the senior class are honor roll students this year and over half are or have taken a college credit class these past couple of years. I guess what I am trying to say is that with all the focus and attention being placed on sports; it is very gratifying to know that our students and staff continue to do a great job in the classroom.

The Elgin FFA Chapter recently celebrated their year's achievements at their annual FFA banquet. I am always so amazed at what the students involved in that organization accomplish in one year and I left that program highly motivated and proud of those who excel as a part of the FFA. In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate the accomplishments of those students in grades 7-12 at the annual Awards Night Banquet. It is during these events that I always reflect and realize why we are here and why it is so important to maintain an expectation for excellence.

We ask a lot of our students and staff here at EPS. My philosophy is that we cannot expect too much. Why not set the bar high and make it a challenge every single day. Students that want to excel...will. Students that want to achieve at the highest level...will. It is that simple. Our society has fostered a kind of attitude that in many ways supports a lack of success. There is plenty of blame to go around for the faults in our society and in our country today. However, if we maintain the high expectations that have come to be the standard here at EPS, then we can only expect that those who graduate from here will be prepared to handle the challenges that they will face in the future. Which I might add will be harder challenges than perhaps we have ever known. So that is why perfection will remain the goal. Should the goal ever be anything else? If you still have doubts, check out this website:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-ZVCjfWf8&feature=related>

I think it will help make it all make sense! Our youth is our most valuable asset so we need to understand the importance of educating them today.

We will soon say farewell to an outstanding senior class. When I began my career in education here at EPS, these seniors were only 2nd graders. Looking back, these seniors have provided all of us with some great memories that will not soon be forgotten. They have certainly raised the bar this past year on their watch as seniors. Best wishes to each and every one of the class of 2009.

**ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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