



EAGLE UPDATE

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Volume XXVI, Issue 10

May, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

EHS CAPTURES ESU #8 QUIZ BOWL CROWN



May 5
 Wolfpack Awards
 Night 6:00 p.m.
 in St. Bon Gym

Eagle Activity/
 Academic
 Awards Night
 7:30 p.m.
 in EPS Gym



May 12
 School Board Mtg.
 7:30 p.m. in ITV
 Room



May 14
 Graduation 7:00 p.m.
 in EPS Gym



May 17
 Elem. Spring
 Concert 7:30 p.m.



May 18
 Preschool
 Graduation 6:30 p.m.

Kindergarten
 Graduation 7:30 p.m.



May 19
 Last Day for
 Students
 Early Dismissal
 11:00 a.m.



Quiz Bowl Members shown with the championship trophy are: (l. to r.) Dean Braband, Angela Richart, Anthony Hemenway, Ashley Bode, and Brett Kinney.

On Wednesday, April 13th, the Elgin High Quiz Bowl team went to Neligh to participate in the ESU #8 Quiz Bowl. There were 22 teams competing at the Quiz Bowl held at the Legion Hall.

In the first round the team faced off against Ewing and won by a decent margin. In the next round they faced Plainview and again they won by a significant margin thanks to a lot of math questions. When they started the next round O'Neill took an early lead. But, then in the last three questions Elgin rebounded with a solid comeback to get the win. Next up was Norfolk Catholic. The team clinched the win by correctly answering the question "What did Doc Holiday die from?". The team went on to defeat Chambers for the championship.

Team members are; Dean Braband, Angela Richart, Anthony Hemenway, Ashley Bode and Brett Kinney and Sponsor Mr. Doug Jones.

They will compete in the state competition at Holdrege on April 27th.



Check our website:
www.elgineagles.org
**for the most current news
 & calendar.**

**ALUMNI BANQUET -
 June 25, 2011**



State FCCLA Conference

On Sunday, April 3, 2011, Ivy Prater, Michelle Bauer, Stephanie Bode, Connor Kinney, and Ashley Bode along with Mrs. Bode and Shelley Bode traveled to Lincoln for State FCCLA Conference which was held at the Cornhusker Marriot Hotel. Because Ivy received first at District 8 STAR, she had the opportunity to present her speech at state. She was awarded a gold medal. Michelle completed Power of One and was also recognized for her hard work.

On Monday, there were various sessions they could choose to attend. Connor, Ashley, Stephanie, and Shelley attended DNT TXT N DRV. At this session, the Brown family told their story of losing there seventeen year old daughter in a car accident that was caused by texting while driving and by not wearing a seat belt. That night everyone attended the General Opening Session. The State Officers put on a skit that pertained to the theme of this year's conference. Senator Kate Sullivan addressed the Nebraskan FCCLA chapters.

The keynote speaker this year was Patrick Grady. His presentation was called "Who Packs Your Parachute?" His main focus was how having a positive attitude can help you reach your full potential. On Tuesday, Ashley attended the District Officer Leadership Seminar. She, along with the other District 8 representatives, discussed new ideas for next year's District Conferences. During this time, the others took part in the Dare to Be Different Session that was put on by the keynote speaker. In this session they played games that allowed them to meet new people. They also sat in on "Nobody's Business" which is a theatre dramatization followed by a question and answer segment about the dangers of dating violence and sexual assault; this was presented by Revolution.

The District 8 Meeting was held over lunch on Tuesday. The theme for next year's conference was voted on and "Just Keep Leading, Just Keep Leading" with a Nemo theme was selected. The Elgin FCCLA Chapter would like to thank Shelley Bode for being a sponsor on our trip and Mrs. Bode for taking us and for all of her hard work.



Attending State FCCLA Convention were (l. to r.) Stephanie Bode, Connor Kinney, Michelle Bauer, Ashley Bode, and Ivy Prater



2011

YEARBOOKS

2011 Yearbooks are on sale until the end of the year. Only \$30 for a lifetime of memories! Go to www.elgineagles.org, "Activities-Yearbook" to download an order form.

Mrs. Heithoff



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!

Children are apt to live up to what you believe of them.

Lady Bird Johnson
Former First Lady of the United States



FFA NEWS



Receiving their FFA State Degree at conventions were: (l. to r.) Alex Dierks, Ben Pelster, Sebastian Janssen, Nathan Anderson, and Kyle Knievel.

Elgin FFA Chapter – 2011 State FFA Convention & Banquet

35 Members of the Elgin FFA Chapter attended the State FFA Convention held in Lincoln April 6-8. While at state most members competed in contests and every member attended general sessions and leadership workshops featuring guest speakers such as Josh Shipp, Governor Dave Heineman, Kurt Tomasevicz, Hypnotist, Steve Meade, the Nebraska State FFA Officers, the National FFA President, Riley Pagett and other National FFA Officers, as well as many others who support agriculture and FFA.

Highlights of the convention were the five boys earning their State FFA Degree. Also, Juliana Dunn received a GOLD placing on her Jr. Public Speech about the importance of Honeybee's to agriculture in Nebraska and the U.S. and the Agri-Science team received a red ribbon for their contest, with Brett Kinney, Allison Koenig and Mallory Fangman getting a blue ribbon for their efforts on that team.

Here are complete results of the Convention:

Agri - Science: Brett Kinney, (Blue) Allison Koenig, (blue) Mallory Fangman, (blue) and Corin Pelster (Team - Red)

Meat Judging: Blake Anderson, AJ Braband, (Red) Brady Dierks, and Alex Grosserode

Welding: Arc: Tyler Childers, MIG: Garet Schindler, and O/A: Allen Miller (Red)

Agronomy: Alex Dierks (Red), Ben Pelster, Kyle Knievel, and Caleb Pelster.

Jr. Livestock Judging: Devon Baum (Red), Tyler Childers (White), Michael Braband, and Ross Schindler (White)

Sr. Livestock Judging: Sebastian Janssen, Grant Beckman (Blue), Jared Seier, and Shane Vanis

Natural Resources: Lee Bartak (Red), Ross Schindler, Austin Heying (Red), and Shane Beckman

Creed Speaking: Brett Kinney (Bronze)

Jr. Public Speaking: Juliana Dunn (Gold)

Delegates: Justine Meis and Tre Henkenius. Delegates sit in on "official" meetings to discuss and vote on issues concerning the FFA in the state in Nebraska.

Chorus members: AJ Braband, Briann Grosserode, and Kix Payne.

State FFA Degree: They were: Nathan Anderson, Alex Dierks, Sebastian Janssen, Kyle Knievel, and Ben Pelster.

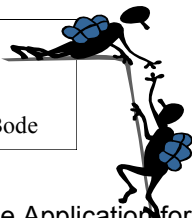
We would like to sincerely thank Anne Meis and Connie Kinney who were the sponsors and also to Rhonda Miller who drove the activity bus down for us.

The Elgin FFA Chapter also held their annual banquet on Thursday, April 28th. Many members were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments throughout the year. Alex Dierks was awarded the Star Farmer plaque and Brett Kinney was awarded the Star Greenhand plaque. Also, Brett & seven other freshmen members received their Chapter Greenhand Degrees. Mr. Jimmy Feeney III was presented with the Honorary Chapter Degree for his support of the FFA Chapter the past couple of years. New officers for 2011-2012 were also announced. The officer team is President – Caleb Pelster, Vice President- Justine Meis, Secretary- Grant Beckman, Treasurer – Devon Baum, Jr. Advisor – Brett Kinney, Reporter – Juliana Dunn, and Sentinel – Alex Grosserode. Many thanks go out to the parents who helped at the banquet and throughout the year!

Next up for the Elgin FFA Chapter is COLT (Chapter Officer Leadership Training) in Aurora at the end of May.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

If you completed and submitted the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Loan), and have been accepted into college, it's time to determine if you need to borrow student loans and, if so, how much. The financial aid award notification you received from your college indicates the type and amount of student loans you qualify to borrow. In addition, your parents may qualify for a PLUS loan to help pay for your college expenses.

Follow these tips to avoid unnecessary debt:

- ◆ Use your student loan money *only* for tuition, books and fees.
- ◆ Work while you go to college and use that money to pay living expenses.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at nslds.ed.gov so you're not surprised by the amount when it's time to graduate.

To learn more about the types of student loans, see the [Student Loan section](#) at EducationQuest.org. Use the [Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#) to estimate future loan payments.

Money Rules! video will help you manage your money

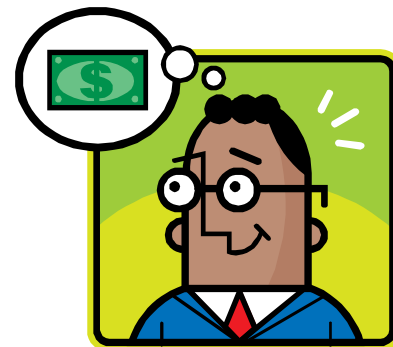
NSLP, an affiliate company to EducationQuest, has partnered with the Student Money Management Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to produce a video that will help you manage your money during college and beyond. The video, *Money Rules!*, covers topics that include:

- ◆ *Debit or Credit...Know the Difference?*
- ◆ *Free Yourself! Learn to Budget*
- ◆ *Think You're the Only College Student Working? You're Not.*

Money Rules! is presented by Bill Pratt, a college instructor at East Carolina University who teaches personal money management to hundreds of college students each year.

Money Rules! will air on NET2 on the following dates:

- Sunday, April 17 at 1:30 p.m. CDT
- Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. CDT
- Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. CDT
- Sunday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. CDT



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

If you're a high school junior, summer is the time to do some serious college planning. Here are your assignments:

- ◆ **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 websites.
- ◆ **Watch some videos.** The ["Video"](#) section at EducationQuest.org features two videos that will help you find the right college. *"Find the Right Fit"* features two high school seniors who go through the process of finding colleges that match their career interests. The *"Go.Visit.College!"* video features college students and college representatives who provide campus visit tips.
- ◆ **Update your [Activities Resume](#)** at EducationQuest.org. Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards and part-time jobs.
- ◆ **Look for scholarships.** Check out ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org, which has over 2,000 local and statewide scholarships. You should also 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 at your college.
- ___ Start a list of dorm room essentials.
- ___ Get a summer job to help pay college expenses.

Juniors

- ___ [Register](#) by May 10 for June 4 SAT.
- ___ [Register](#) by May 6 for June 11 ACT.
- ___ Continue campus visits.
- ___ Get a summer job and save for college.

EHS SPEECH TEAM



EHS Speech Team Members are: (back row, l. to r.) Christi Getzfred, Michelle Bauer, Briann Grosserode, and Jessica Heithoff. (front row, l. to r.) A.J. Braband, Danny Smith, and Sebastian Janssen.

This year's speech season was filled with some ups and downs, but, as always, it was also filled with a lot of laughter. Co-coaches Jessie Reestman and Stacy Shumake-Henn led their troops into many a competitive battle this season.

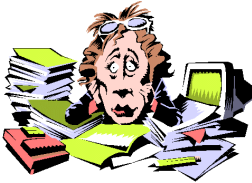
At the Cedar Rapids meet, one of the toughest meets of the season, the duet team of A.J. Braband and Danny Smith earned 4th place medals. Jessica Heithoff turned in a superior performance in poetry, and both Christi Getzfred and Briann Grosserode received excellent ratings poetry and humorous prose respectively.

At Lindsay Holy Family, the duet and Briann earned superior ratings, and Christi earned an excellent. At the Pope John Speech Invite in its season debut, the OID of Michelle Bauer, A.J. Braband, Briann Grosserode, Sebastian Janssen, and Danny Smith placed 3rd overall. Duet, Jessica, and Briann received superiors, and Christi received an excellent.

The team used their home court advantage to "keep home" a few medals at the NVC Speech Meet. The OID was name conference runners-up. Briann earned a 4th place medal and Jessica earned a 3rd place medal. The duet received a superior rating, and Christi earned an excellent rating.

At the district meet at Hartington, Briann earned a 5th place medal, just missing state qualification by two places. Christi and Jess both turned in superior performances.

Throughout the season, the coaches were pleased to see so much improvement in both the group and individual events. The dedication, determination, and fun loving ways of this group of kids will be missed.



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 17, 2011 at 7:30 pm
Where: Elgin Public Schools Gym

SEE YOU THERE!

NHS INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

The Dr. W. W. Graham Chapter of the National Honor Society held an induction ceremony to welcome new members to the society. The ceremony was held in the Elgin Public Gym on Monday, March 28th at 2:00 p.m.

This year's inductees are: Blake Anderson, Andrew Heithoff, Nick Heithoff, Tre Henkenius, Angela Richart and Nash Schindler.

The current members are: Nathan Anderson, Breanna Bode, Ashley Bode, Briann Grosserode, Jessica Heithoff, Anthony Hemenway and Connor Kinney.

To be selected to this elite society, a student must be evaluated by a panel of teachers based on scholarship, character, leadership and service. In order to be eligible, a student must be a sophomore, junior or senior and must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Then a committee of 5 teachers, who are kept confidential, are asked to rate each candidate in the other three areas. As you can see, this is a tremendous honor that is earned through a student's great dedication to excellence and is reflective of someone who is considered to be of great integrity.

Congratulations to our new inductees into the National Honor Society!



New members of the NHS are: (l. to r.) Nash Schindler, Andrew Heithoff, Nick Heithoff, Blake Anderson, Tre Henkenius, and Angela Richart.



Noteworthy News

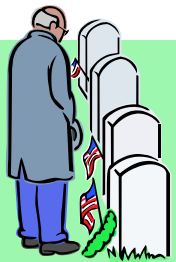
By Mrs. Deb Jones

DISTRICT MUSIC CONTEST RESULTS

District Music Contest was held in Elkhorn Valley Schools Friday, April 15, 2011. Elgin Public Schools had 9 entries performing. The concert band received an Excellent. The choir entered as an ensemble received a superior. Our vocal soloist, AJ Braband received an excellent. The vocal ensembles scored as follows: Girls Duet – Christina Getzfred, Brienne Grosserode – good, Girls Quartet – Madison Voborny, Ivy Prater, Hannah Kerkman, Stephanie Bode – excellent, Girls Duet – Juliana Dunn, Ashlyn DeWald – superior, Mixed Duet – Christina Getzfred, AJ Braband – good. Mixed Quartet – excellent, Mixed Ensemble – good. Elgin Public finished the day with 2 superiors and 4 excellents and 3 goods.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG – MAY IS HERE!

The elementary spring music concert is Tuesday, May 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. The concert will feature all elementary grades. The cadet band will perform the selections they received a Superior 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 songs - which they love performing along with the characters they portray in their vocal songs. AND.... the pre-school and Kindergarten will perform some of their favorite songs from this year that we know you will love too. It is sure to bring a smile to your face! Please come join us for an evening of fun, music and entertainment!!



Memorial Day is Monday, May 30th.

The Elgin Band members will play at the cemeteries for services.

Students please meet at the band room at 8:45 am to rehearse before we go to Park Church. We also play at Elgin's cemetery at 11:00 am and should be finished for the day around 11:30 am. We will be taking a bus. Thank you, students, for paying tribute to our loved ones.

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Steve Dennis
sdennis@esu8.org



The 102nd Nebraska Legislative Session is well underway. The education proposals are always closely monitored by schools. We always anticipate, wonder and worry about what new legislation and subsequent requirements we will need to address. Among the bills involving schools this year are: LB 204 which requires blood lead testing prior to enrollment; LB 509 which raises retirement rates; LB 397 involving the CIR and LB 235 which deals with school finance.

The comprehensive school finance bill LB 235 has been watched closely as it recalculates the amount of state financial aid each equalized school district receives. Due to the loss of ARRA funds the amount of money available for state aid was reduced from \$950 million to \$822 million. A number of schools are faced with a significant reduction in state aid money. As the levy limit is \$1.05, without an override vote, you may have heard of the proposed reductions in staff and loss of programs in various districts.

Elgin Public School on the other hand is a non-equalized district. This loss of state aid does not affect us as calculated by the TEEOSA, the state's funding formula. Again, a district may levy up to \$1.05 to fund the district's budget. There are approximately 250 public school districts presently in the state of Nebraska. While looking through a 2010-11 Nebraska Department of Education printout I counted 9 schools that had a total levy of less than 80 cents. Elgin is one of those districts. On the other end of the spectrum I counted 13 schools with a levy more than \$1.30. You can see we are very fortunate to have one of the lower levies.

Many districts are looking to make reductions in staff, programs, etc. due to their property levy cap, little valuation growth and the cut in state aid. Presently none of those three effect us. However, the state also has established a spending authority, in other words how much you can spend. There has been a consistent decrease in the amount our budget can be raised. For this school year we could increase our budget \$25,259. The 2010-11 increase in insurance for the district was over \$26,000. The \$25,259 covered most of the insurance increase but did not cover the increases in salaries, textbooks, supplies, etc. Our anticipated allowable growth for the 2011-12 school year is less than \$20,000.

The Elgin Public Schools has always provided a quality education with a variety of opportunities for its students. The continual increase in expenses and the limited budget growth allowed by the state may put us in an inevitable position where we may soon have to make some choices on what we need to do to remain within our spending authority. As salaries are typically 80% of a school district's budget, a reduction in staff is one avenue considered in holding the line on expenses. In small school Nebraska a reduction in staff typically means the loss of a program as most of our programs are one person departments. I wish the article in the Omaha World Herald which stated, "...hardest hit would be districts that are at or near the state-imposed property tax levy cap and have little valuation growth", was correct. But as Senator Greg Adams has said many times they, "... want everyone to feel the pain". I don't like pain.

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.



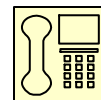
Don't Throw Away That Empty Printer Cartridge! Bring it to school!

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.

AlertNow Update

- Does the school have your current phone numbers and e-mail address?



- In order to use our AlertNow calling system, we must have current numbers. If your phone number, cell phone, or e-mail has changed, please call the school to update our information.

THANKS!

Enjoy Your Summer





NeSA assessments are complete! These tests hold a high value in the image of a school at the State level. I was very pleased to see student's concentration and focus throughout the process. Elementary students began the process in the start of April with the junior high and high school students finishing prior to the break. The results of the NeSA tests will not be made available until later this Fall.

Next week, we will complete the MAP assessments. The MAP assessments are used to measure growth throughout the year. They are different than the NeSA test. NeSA compares schools and MAP measures growth. These assessments will begin and end the week of May 2nd-6th. All students in grades 3rd-11th will take the assessments in reading, language, math and science. Students were assessed using the MAP assessments in September, so we will have growth scores for each student this Spring.

This is the assessment season and I have been pleased to see the effort from students. I have also enjoyed a few conversations I have had with parents about their role in student success. I am reminded of an article I read last year from the U.S. Department of Education website. It gives many great recommendations for parents about how to positively support students. Hopefully revisiting these tips will be of benefit to you:

Show That You Think Education and Homework Are Important

Set a Regular Time for Homework

Pick a Place

Remove Distractions

Provide Supplies and Identify Resources

Set a Good Example

Be Interested and Interesting

Monitor Assignments

Be Available

Look over Completed Assignments

Monitor Time Spent Viewing TV and Playing Video Games

Provide Guidance

Help Your Child Get Organized

Encourage Good Study Habits

Talk about the Assignments

Watch for Frustration

Give Praise

Talk with Teachers to Resolve Problems

Tell the Teacher about Your Concerns

Work with the Teacher



Last day for students --- May 19 (Early dismissal 11:00 a.m.)