



EAGLE UPDATE


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Elgin Public School
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Volume XXVI, Issue 5


November, 2010


DATES TO REMEMBER

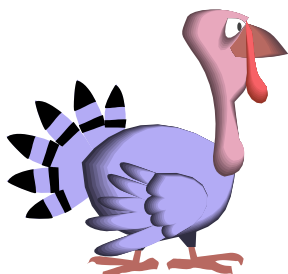
 **November 10**
 School Board Mtg.
 in ITV room
 7:30 p.m.

 **November 11**
 Veteran's Day
 Program in
 EPS Gym
 11:00 a.m.

 **November 24**
 Early Dismissal
 1:00 p.m.

 **November 25 & 26**
NO SCHOOL
 Happy
 Thanksgiving

 **November 30**
 FBall & Vball
 Wolfpack Awards
 Night at KC Hall
 7:00 p.m.



NEW DESIGN FOR WEBSITE

The Elgin Public School website is sporting a new look! After four years of our last website template, we decided it was time for a change. The new webpage offers a new format and features that weren't available on our old site.

On our new website, the sections that were listed on the left-hand side of the page are now at the top in a drop-down format. The easy buttons that were located on the right-hand side of the old website are now listed under "Quick Links" on the right side.

A new feature that we like is that the week's calendar is now located at the bottom of the front page. It also gives easy access to view the entire month.

With our new website, we will be able to feature more stories on the front page with the addition of the rotating highlights section on the right. The new wider format enables visitors to view more of the article without extensive scrolling. We will still be able to scroll important announcements in the 2 marquee signs and the pictures that rotate in the masthead can be changed to feature different happenings at the school.

We hope you enjoy the new website. Please let us know if you are unable to find something or if you would like to have something new added to our site. You can e-mail Rita Heithoff (rheithof@esu8.org) or Paula Jensen (jensenp@esu8.org) with your comments.



Nebraska Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program



of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables as healthy snack options.

The Nebraska FFVP is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is managed through the Nebraska Department of Education, Nutrition Services, in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nutrition and Activity for Health Program.

Participating schools are also given materials and resources to promote fresh fruits and vegetables through classroom lessons, activities, food service and community partnerships. By increasing fresh fruit and vegetable eating opportunities and promoting consumption, students and staff are supported to improve their diets during the school day.

The Nebraska Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides all children and staff in participating schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. It is an effective and creative way

Lions, Tigers, and Leaders - Oh my!

Noteworthy News from the Music Dept.

By Mrs. Deb Jones

November is a busy time in the music department. We will have a music booster meeting on Tuesday, November 9th at 5:30 p.m. in the lunch room. Note the change in time. We hope to have more parents attend this way. Check out the events going on in November and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

ALL STATE CHOIR RESULTS



October 9th was a nail biting day for some of us in the music department. AJ Braband, Jennifer Rhoads, Christina Getzfred, Briann Grosserode and Mrs. Jones traveled to Norfolk for auditions for the Nebraska All State Choir. This is the first year the students had auditioned, so they really didn't

know what to expect when they stepped into that audition room with only the judge. Being a senior doesn't help your odds either, especially since this is your first time. Knowing there are many talented vocalists vying for the same spots doesn't calm your nerves any!

Waiting 10 days for results doesn't help either! We found out on Tuesday (10-19) that AJ Braband has been accepted to be an alternate for the 2010 Nebraska All State Choir. Mrs. Jones is very proud of his hard work and dedication to practice. Each year, over 3000 students all over the state audition for a spot in the choir, band or orchestra from schools in all classifications. So the small schools go up against the big schools in this competition. That makes the acceptance even more special! Congratulations AJ – Elgin Public Schools is proud of you!!!

NVC VOCAL CONCERT IN O'NEILL AT ST. MARYS

The NVC schools will rehearse songs together for a concert on Monday, November 8, 2010. Schools involved are: Clearwater, Ewing, Elgin Public, Niobrara, Pope John, Verdigre, Chambers, Keya Paha, West Boyd, Rock County, St. Mary's, Stuart, Wheeler Central, Lynch and Orchard. The clinician is Ms. Celeste Ditter, a teacher of vocal music at Columbus Middle School. The students will perform five songs with the mass choir from all the schools as well as individual school performances at the concert. Elgin Public Schools will be performing a special number with our choir. There is no charge to go to the concert. It will begin at 6:30 pm in the St. Mary's School Gym. We look forward to seeing you there!

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

The Veterans Day Program will be held at the Elgin Public School Gym on Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 11:00 am. The program will include the American Legion and Auxiliary members, music from the Elgin band, elementary choir of Elgin Public/Pope John students; the Pope John/Elgin combined high school choir, readings from students and a keynote address. The community is encouraged to attend this program to honor our Veterans in a special way.



Connor Kinney, Ivy Prater, & Michelle Bauer display their awards.

The District 8 FCCLA Leadership Conference was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2010. The Elgin FCCLA members had a fun and successful day. Every year, each chapter in the district brings an object that represents their chapter to exchange with someone they don't know. We chose to exchange lion, tiger, elephant, and zebra finger puppets; they were a big hit. The keynote speaker was John Baylor. He is a native of Lincoln. He developed John Baylor Test Prep which helps juniors and seniors prepare for the ACT and SAT. "Get into the Best College at the Lowest Cost" is his goal. The members also got to attend two sessions.

Speakers for the day included the Child Advocacy Center, Children's Miracle Network, Brad Lewon (burn victim), and Jim Horn (Native American Customs. District 8 chooses an outreach project every year. The Nebraska Cancer Coalition was District 8 choice for the annual outreach project. The FCCLA chapters raised \$289 for the organization.

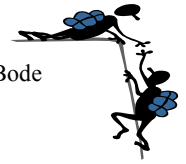
Ivy Prater received second in the Creed Speaking contest. Michelle Bauer was recognized for completing all five modules of Power of One. The Elgin FCCLA chapter's received first in the scrapbook competition. The scrapbook was completed by Connie and Connor Kinney. Michelle Bauer, Jessica Heithoff, Ashlyn Dewald, Connor Kinney, and Juliana Dunn won door prizes.

All in all, the chapter had a fun and successful experience at the leadership conference. Submitted by Ashley Bode

Nothing worth gaining
was ever gained without effort.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors...it's time to start the admissions process!

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

- ⇒ **Contact your top college choices NOW** and ask about deadlines and the process for applying for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid.
- ⇒ **Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline.** Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay, and an interview.
- ⇒ **Update your *Activities Resume*.** Because extracurricular activities are an important part of the admissions application, keep them up-to-date by using the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#). In many cases, you can simply copy and paste your resume information into the application.
- ⇒ **Contact your admissions representative periodically** to stay informed about deadlines and campus activities.

Go.Visit.College!

EducationQuest, Governor Heineman and education leaders recently [kicked off the Go.Visit.College! campaign](#) to promote the importance of campus visits. [Check out this brochure](#) for campus visit and college selection tips. A campus visit is a vital step in finding the college that's the right fit for you!

Improvements to the Activities Resume

Counselors and students requested changes to the [Activities Resume](#), and EducationQuest was listening. We made several improvements so it's easier to record your activities and part-time jobs. And, we'll store your resume indefinitely as long as you update it at least **every nine months**. Don't worry...we'll send you email reminders.

◆ Here are some of the new features:

- * Unlimited entries for each category
- * Spell check
- * Ability to "drag and drop" items within a category and to rearrange categories on the page
- * Four options for layout

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn college funding options

Juniors and seniors - to learn about financial aid and other college funding options, attend an upcoming **Financial Aid Program** with your parents or an adult who can help you with college planning. To find the date and location of the program at your school or in your area, ask your guidance counselor or see the [Upcoming Events](#) section at [EducationQuest.org](#).

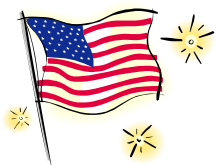
Juniors...start researching colleges

If you can narrow your choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

- * **Review [College Profiles](#)** at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country. If you're interested in going to an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program at <http://msepmhcc.org>.
- * **Meet with college representatives** who visit your school, and then visit the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn more about the schools.
- * Once you've narrowed your choices, **schedule campus visits**. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session.

November "To Do" List

- ___ Seniors, register by November 5 for the December 4 SAT.
- ___ Seniors, register by November 5 for the December 11 ACT.
- ___ Juniors and seniors, apply for scholarships. Visit free sites such as [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).
- ___ Juniors and seniors, meet with college representatives who visit your school.



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM SET

NOVEMBER 11, 2010
11:00 P.M.
EPS GYMNASIUM

Please join the local veterans organizations, school students, and the Elgin community as we pay tribute to our present military personnel and the veterans who have served in past years.

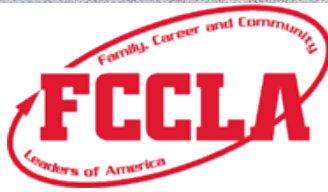
Hope to see you there!

TO CHECK YOUR LUNCH ACCOUNT ONLINE:

- ⇒ Go to the school website www.elgineagles.org
- ⇒ Click the "Lunch Account Balance" button on the right-hand side of the home page.
- ⇒ Enter your family ID number and PIN (If you do not know your family ID or PIN, please call the school)
- ⇒ Your lunch account balance will be shown. If you would like to see a detailed statement, scroll to the bottom of that page and click on a detailed version.

If you have any difficulties with access or questions about the program, please contact Anney Beckman 843-2455 or beckmana@esu8.org

IONAL SERVICE UNIT 8



FCCLA members attending District Conference were:
 (back row l. to r.) Ashley Bode, Tre Henkenius, A.J. Braband, Allen Miller, Briann Grosserode,
 Harley Janssen, Ben Wiegand, Stephanie Bode. (middle row l. to r.) Hunter Thramer, Ivy
 Prater, Connie Kinney, Michelle Bauer, Jessica Heithoff, Ashlyn DeWald, Madison Voborny.
 (seated l. to r.) Allison Koenig, Juliana Dunn, Abbi Couch, Hannah Kerkman



HEALTHY HAND WASHING

If you have not done so already, now is a good time to help your child develop healthy hand washing habits.

Proper hand washing can prevent the spread of many communicable diseases. Water alone, however, won't kill germs. Soap is needed too.

Drying the hands with a disposable paper towel will help stop the spread of germs.

Here are some appropriate occasions for your child to practice hand washing:

- ⇒ When he comes into the house after playing outdoors.
- ⇒ After using the toilet.
- ⇒ After petting an animal.
- ⇒ Before eating food.

Good habits--learned early--can last a lifetime. So, help your child develop the good habit of washing his hands.

It's impossible to be who you're not,
 so why not just be who you are?



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.

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Steve Dennis
sdennis@esu8.org



Attending school every day counts for a successful future! Each day in school is another chance for a child to learn something new. Most children need to repeat something new at least seven times before they learn it properly. Missing a day of school makes it more difficult for them to learn. They may be able to make up the work but miss out on the important instruction, feedback and class interaction. One missed day of school can mean two days of falling behind for your child. Regular school attendance is important to keep your child learning and on track to graduate.

At a recent meeting I attended Dr. Roger Breed, our Nebraska Commissioner of Education, provided an interesting presentation about education in Nebraska. Included among the statistics he provided was that in 1970 there were approximately 90,000,000 jobs and 72% of those jobs required a high school education or less. In 2010 there are approximately 150,000,000 jobs and 41% require a high school education or less. He also stated that all U.S. job growth in the last 40 years occurred in jobs requiring at least some college or a college degree.

Education is very important. It is the key to numerous opportunities in the future. As I walk the halls and visit classrooms I am excited by the great educational experience our staff is providing to our students at the Elgin Public Schools. In ever changing times we need to continue to consider what is best for students and work to meet that challenge. To do this effectively requires input and collaboration from students, parents, school staff and the board of education. Again, we are all in this together and need to do the best we can for our students. They are our future.

Finally, the 2009 – 2010 State of the Schools Report was released by the Nebraska Department of Education October 22nd. Included in this report is our performance on the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) Reading. Overall our student performed well on this statewide test. We also met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for Federal Accountability. Again, if you visit our school website we have a link that will take you directly to the State of the Schools Report.



My Child Is Absent-- Does the School Need a Note?

It is very important that the school knows the whereabouts of all the students during the school day. The school has a responsibility to keep track of all students for their safety during the school day. Your child is expected at school each day that school is in session. If your child will not be attending school, parents should call the school (843-2455) right away in the morning to tell us why your child cannot attend. We should still receive a handwritten note or e-mail from the parent when the child returns to school. All notes are filed in the student's file for the entire year. If there is ever a question about an absence that is reported on our computer system, we have that note or e-mail to verify the information.

The Nebraska Dept. of Education requires each school to report excessive absences each month. These requirements are an attempt to cut down on the number of student absences. NDE feels that greater accountability will result in better attendance.

The North Central District Health Dept. does a weekly surveillance with schools. School surveillance is a state-wide effort that is used for early recognition of disease outbreaks throughout Nebraska in order to treat the diseases, such as influenza, promptly and stop the spread of the disease as quickly as possible.

By calling the school and sending a note when your child is absent, you are assisting the school in keeping top-notch attendance records.



LOCAL STUDENTS TO WALK IN FOOTSTEPS OF U.S. LEADERS

Dylan Widger and Alois Warner, 7th graders at Elgin Public School, attended the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. in late October.

Over 250 outstanding middle school students from across the United States will take part in this extraordinary leadership conference this fall.

The Junior National Young Leaders Conference introduces young people to the rich tradition of leadership throughout American history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills.

*Doing your best is more important than
being the best.*

Shannon Miller



*Thank you ELGIN FIRE DEPT. for
allowing us to visit the fire hall
during fire prevention week!*

*Thank you for the job you do for
our community!*



Wolfpack Fall season has started with a bang!

The Wolfpack football team is the D1 District 8 Champions! The district consists of Burwell, Clearwater-Orchard, Niobrara/Vertigre, North Central, West Boyd, and the Wolfpack. We are currently 6-2 and preparing to host the first playoff game in Wolfpack history. The Southwest Rough Riders will come to town for a 3:00PM kickoff on Thursday, October 28th. The football team finished the season ranked 13th in D1 power points and seeded 5th in the West side of the D1 playoff bracket.

The volleyball team finished the regular season with an 11-14 record. We head into the Niobrara Valley Conference tournament as the 4th seed facing off against North Central in our first match. Sub district seeding for volleyball will be announced by the NSAA on Thursday, October 28th. Currently, the Wolfpack is in 2nd place in our sub district that consists of Crofton, Neligh-Oakdale, Plainview, West Holt, and the Wolfpack. The other side of our district has Arapahoe, Burwell, Ravenna, Shelton, and South Loup. Our sub district games will be played at O'Neill High School on November 1st and 2nd.

Homecoming took place the week of October 11th-15th. It was a busy time on campus as students were competing on the court and field, working in the classroom to complete the first quarter, and taking part in the may Homecoming activities. The Wolfpack worked together to sponsor many of the activities while both schools crowed their own King and Queen. Congratulations to Nathan Anderson and Jessica Heithoff, the Elgin Public 2010 Homecoming King and Queen. The student Council hosted a points competition for the classes throughout the week. Students received points for attending activities, taking part in dress-up days, cheers, posters, billboards, and more. There were many creative and fun ideas by all of the classes, but at the end of it all, the Seniors placed 1st, the Juniors placed 2nd, and the Freshman placed 3rd.

Throughout the week of October 18th, students completed our fall testing cycle of MAP (Measure of Academic Progress). We adopted MAP last spring for a few reasons. First, the test results are instant. Students see preliminary scores when they are finished and teachers can access final scores in 24 hours. Another is the type of data the test provides. Most tests are called tests of "mastery," meaning they say that "you completed 80% correct" or "you are proficient for your age level." MAP gives a RIT scores that states at what level the student is ready for instruction. The RIT scores show the point the student is ready to learn as opposed to the percent they completed correctly. Additionally, MAP tests measure growth. We will use the tests twice each year to compare where a student was in the past and where they are currently. This will allow us to set goals and target learning points for individual students. Finally, the MAP test is aligned with Nebraska State standards, meaning the breakdown of scores will directly coincide with our curriculum. Overall, we are very excited to have such a valuable tool in our building and look forward to using the data to help our students succeed in the future.

A lot has been accomplished this fall and I am very proud of all of the efforts that have gone into make it a success. The staff has been diligent and the students dedicated. I look forward to the remainder of the Wolfpack Fall sports seasons, the start of the Winter seasons, and what our second quarter has in store!

*For the most up-to-date information, please check our website:
www.elgineagles.org*

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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