



## DATES TO REMEMBER



November 11  
 School Board Mtg.  
 7:30 p.m.



November 11  
 Veteran's Day  
 Program 11:00 a.m.  
 at St. Boniface Gym



November 18  
 LATE START  
 10:00 a.m.



November 25  
 Early Dismissal  
 2:00 p.m.



November 26 & 27  
 NO SCHOOL

## English Class IS a Little Bit of Fun and Games



*Ashley Bode & Ben Wiegand design their Scooby Doo story board.*

Students in English 9 and 10 have been busy learning this year . . . and, well . . . teaching! As a part of the writing unit, the students have begun to review some important grammar concepts before delving into more advanced subject matter.

In order to accomplish this task, the students were divided into groups, assigned a topic, and given one simple objective. Each group was responsible for coming up with a new and creative method for teaching the given topic to the class. The results were not only impressive and original, but effective as well.

In order to impress upon their fellow students the parts of a sentence, the Sophomores utilized a Scooby Doo story board, a competitive and riveting game of match, athletic cartoons featuring Cleveland and Bert, a children's story featuring the characters CS (complete subject), CP (complete predicate), and the always lovable SENTENCE!

Likewise, the Freshmen proved to be just as inventive and entertaining while reviewing the parts of speech. The classroom set the stage for Alex Trebek's *Verb Jeopardy*, a visit from Super Pronoun, a noun-fueled race around Candyland by Ford and John Deere tractors, *Who Wants To Be an Adjective Millionaire?*, and *Wheel of Adverb!*

Both classes did a terrific job of fulfilling the expectations of the project . . . and seemed to have a little bit of fun along the way.

*For the most up-to-date information, please check our website:  
[www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)*





## Noteworthy News from the Music Dept.

By Mrs. Deb Jones

### ALL STATE CHOIR – DEVIN IS HEADED TO LINCOLN!



*Devin Brown*

October 10<sup>th</sup> was a nail biting day for two of us in the music department. Amongst snowy roads, Devin Brown and Mrs. Jones traveled to Norfolk for auditions for the Nebraska All State Choir. This is the first year Devin has auditioned, so he didn't know what to expect when he 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 tenors 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 (10-20) that Devin has been accepted to sing in the 2009 Nebraska All State Choir!! Mrs. Jones is very proud of his hard work and dedication and it has paid off. 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!

Devin will be rehearsing with the All State Choir November 18-20 in Lincoln. The highlight of the weekend will be the concert performance at the Lied Center on Friday at 4:30 p.m. The All State Jazz Band will also perform at that time. The All State Band and Orchestra concert will follow at 6:00 p.m. This performance and honor is a highlight of a student's high school memories that they will NEVER forget!

Congratulations Devin – Elgin Public Schools is proud of you!!!

### NVC VOCAL CONCERT IN BUTTE

The Niobrara Valley Conference schools will rehearse songs together for a concert on Monday, November 9, 2009. All the schools in the NVC will be involved in the days' activities. The clinician is Mr. Sean Vogt from Mt. Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota. 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 women's choir. There is no charge to go to the concert. It will begin at 7:00 pm in the West Boyd High School Gym in Butte. We look forward to seeing you there!



### VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

The Veterans Day Program will be held at the St. Boniface Gym on **Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 11:00 am**. This is a change in the place from where the program is usually held due to the bleachers being replaced in the EPS gym.

The program will include the American Legion and Auxiliary members, music from the Elgin Band and the Pope John/Elgin combined Choir, readings from students and a keynote address. The community is encouraged to attend this program to honor our Veterans in a special way.



### THIRD GRADE NEWS

The 3rd graders have been busily working towards goals during this first quarter. All students worked to set Accelerated Reading goals with Mrs. Eisenhauer at the beginning of the quarter. The 3rd graders set a goal of earning 97 total points as a class for the first quarter. They exceeded this goal by earning 130 points! Each student also met their individual AR goal for the quarter. They were treated to a snack from Mrs. Eisenhauer and were also able to visit Mrs. Jensen and Mr. Dennis in the office for a treat after meeting their individual goal.

Another goal that some of the 3rd graders have met is passing all addition and subtraction time tests. Addition and subtraction time tests range from 0's-18's. The students are given 2 1/2 minutes to complete fifty problems. They must get at least 49 out of the 50 problems correct to pass on to the next fact. So far there are eight students who have passed all of the addition facts and two students who have passed both addition and subtraction! The students were presented with certificates in class by Mrs. Eisenhauer. Way to go 3rd graders! Keep up the hard work!

### YEARBOOK ADS

Have you sponsored an ad in the yearbook yet? What a terrific way to support our school. Besides the advertisement for your business in the yearbook, your name is also listed in every home sporting event program. If you would like to sponsor an ad, please contact Mrs. Rita Heithoff at 843-2455.

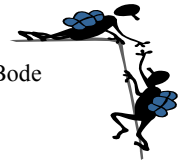


*Thank you ELGIN FIRE DEPT. for the awesome tours of the safety house during fire prevention week!*

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

# 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.

## 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 Midwest colleges. If you're interested in going to an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program at <http://msepmhec.org>.

**Meet with college representatives** who visit your school, and then visit the Web sites 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

Juniors and seniors...complete these tasks in November to stay on the right college planning track.

- \_\_\_ Seniors, register by October 31 for the December 5 SAT.
- \_\_\_ Seniors, register by November 6 for the December 12 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, 2009  
11:00 P.M.  
ST. BONIFACE 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](http://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](mailto:beckmana@esu8.org)

# Little Red Wagons, Basketweaving Prepare Speech Students for the Inevitable



*The crowd looks on as Tyler Johnson flies his imaginary kite.*

“The brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born and never stops . . . until you stand up to speak in public.” Just the thought of public speaking can be terrifying for many. However, the students in this year’s Personal Communications class are taking baby steps to prove that it’s really not that bad.

So far, the students have been studying different aspects of the communication process. In order to transition into being center stage, they have delivered a number of smaller, more informal speeches. These included impromptu speeches, an introductory speech, and a personal experience speech. The highlight, thus far, has been Devin Brown’s story of a little red wagon his siblings used to haul him around.

As a culminating activity for the unit on paralanguage, adjusting the voice

to communicate more than just the

obvious message, each class member read to the kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students. This proved to be entertaining for both parties involved.

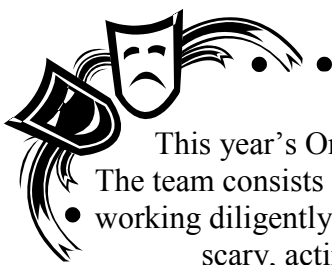
Once the mini speeches, pantomimes, animal noise matching game, verbal symbol sketches, and circle improves were finished, the students began preparing for their demonstration speeches.

Though Tyler Johnson backed out of his initial topic of underwater basket weaving, he did come through with an impressive speech about snowboarding. Other topics included, doing the pretzel, making brownies and pound cake from scratch, using jumper cables, taking apart and putting a carburetor back together, fishing with set lines, lifting weights, making candles, and shooting a free throw.

Next on the list is informative speaking and persuasive speaking.



*The restaurant waiter, Justin Kallhoff, reacts to Devin Brown proposing to Justine Meis during this pantomime.*



## ONE-ACT PREPARES FOR COMPETITION

This year’s One-Act team has been busy preparing for their play “Anna and August” by Don Zolidis. The team consists of 9 members, with all but two being new to the team this year. Members have been working diligently to learn their lines, find their costumes and props, as well as practice crying, being scary, acting obnoxious, and super-cheesy—depending on the part. We look forward to our upcoming performances and competitions and hope that you can join us!

Matinee—Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>, EPS gym

NVC contest—Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, Verdigre

Community performance—Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>, EPS gym

District contest—Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup>, Cedar Rapids

Team members are: Devin Brown, Briann Grosserode, Sebastian Janssen, Christi Getzfred, Ryan Meis, Harley Janssen, Juliana Dunn, Alex Grosserode, Ashlyn DeWald

# Administratively Speaking . . .

By Steve Dennis  
sdennis@esu8.org



I remember my grandpa telling me many years ago, “In Nebraska if you don’t like the weather one day just wait until the next.” In other words you just never can guess what will happen with the weather. Our cool summer, no days over one hundred degrees, has turned into an unseasonably cool fall. I am sure hoping that it doesn’t continually get colder and colder and colder as winter makes its appearance!

As inclement weather arrives we are faced with the decision on what should we do with school. Do we close for the day, have a late start or let out early if the students are already here? As you are aware Mother Nature doesn’t usually make the time convenient or the duration and intensity of the storm readily available. We have to look at the information we have and make what we feel is the best decision keeping the safety of students in mind.

Information regarding school closing or late starts will be broadcast as early as possible. You can hear this information on KBRX, US-92 & 94.7/KNEN, WJAG/KEXL and KZ-100. Notice will also be announced on KOLN/KGIN 10/11 and KLKN TV. Information can also be found on the Elgin Public Schools Website ([www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)). You can also sign up for news updates and an e-mail will be sent when cancellations or postponements are made.

Weather can vary greatly in a short distance. Should the decision be made for the school to remain open you still have the ultimate decision as the parent to keep your child home. Communication and cooperation during this time is very important.



**Jamie Bachmann, an outdoor education assistant from the Nebraska Game & Parks office, spoke to the class about water pollution and taught them stream testing basics.”**

## WATER TESTING UNDERWAY

Fall is normally a great season to perform stream tests. Students can monitor changes in the stream’s biotic life, chemical composition, and the discrepancies in air and water temperatures.

However as this year’s Environmental Science class soon realized, this fall hasn’t followed the normal weather patterns! After a few chilly attempts at collecting stream data, the class decided to stick to the topic of water, but test water collected from wells rather than brave the elements of the stream. Students collected many water samples from various places around Antelope County and, by using an electronic colorimeter, were able to test the nitrate levels of the water. They then

discussed possible explanations for the trends they saw. Were the differences attributed to soil types? Topography? Use of nearby land? The students proposed many potential theories based on what they had learned about what nitrates are and how they enter the groundwater.

Throughout this study, a greater understanding of human involvement in the water cycle was reached. Students in the Environmental Science class include: Tyler Johnson, Ryan Meis, Emily Fischer (PJ), Arielle Kerkman (PJ), and Morgan Pelster (PJ).



The second part of my message to students on the first day of school was Respect & Kindness.

*Respect: to show regard or consideration for*

Respecting oneself and acting in a way that you are proud of. Having respect for each other, treating your classmate or your neighbor like you treat a teammate or a friend. Being respectful in your actions, striving to do the right thing because everything has an impact

*Kindness: of a good nature or disposition, desiring to help others*

Kindness is as simple as holding the door for the person behind you, not throwing trash in the halls knowing someone has to pick it up, or lending a hand when someone is struggling. Kindness is not joking with someone about something they care about.

My push to the students is to Be Present in what we do and act with Respect & Kindness. If we show consideration for others and are of a good nature, our choices will be positive ones and we will be more likely to be successful in our actions.

To be respectful and kind is not always easy, but can be seen at any of our sporting events. For an athlete, it is shaking the hand of the player he/she wanted nothing more than to beat only minutes earlier. For parents, it is standing and applauding after a game regardless of the outcome.

Everyone has choices to make and a lot can be learned from a poor one. Hindsight is 20/20 and we often look back with regret. I challenged the students not to regret.

A poor choice that gives us knowledge is only a mistake. A poor choice that we gain no knowledge from becomes a failure. For example, a student chooses not study for a test and fails. This choice is a mistake if the student asks for help and studies for the next test to achieve a passing grade. This choice becomes a failure if the student does not study for the next test and achieves a similar result.

In an ideal world, each decision would be the correct one and no mistakes would be made. The reality is that mistakes will happen and poor decisions will be made. My intentions for the year are not to have a year without flaws or failures. My goal is that we grow in our mistakes and continue to improve through our decisions. To Be Present wherever we are and to act with Respect & Kindness!



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