



EAGLE UPDATE

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Volume XXIII, Issue 4

November, 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER



Nov. 6
 NVC Choral
 Clinic



Nov. 8
 Veteran's Day
 Program
 11:00 a.m.

School Board
 Mtg. 7:30 p.m.



Nov. 14
 LATE START
 10:00 a.m.



Nov. 21
 Early Dismissal
 2:00 p.m.



Nov. 23
 NO SCHOOL



ALL STATE CHOIR – HEADED TO LINCOLN!



Nathan Niewohner

Last October 13th was a nerve-wracking day for two of us in the music department. Nathan Niewohner and Mrs. Jones traveled to Norfolk for auditions for the Nebraska All State Choir. This is the second year Nathan has auditioned, so he knew what to expect but was a lot more nervous at the same time. He was a member of the choir last year and that puts a lot more pressure on yourself to be accepted 2 years in a row. Knowing there were 41 basses vying for the same spots doesn't calm your nerves any!

Waiting 9 days for results doesn't help your nerves either! We found out on Tuesday (Oct. 23) that Nathan has been accepted to sing in the 2007-08 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 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!

Nathan will be rehearsing with the All State Choir November 15-17 in Lincoln. The highlight of the weekend will be the concert performance at the Lied Center on Saturday. The All State Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band will also perform at that time. It is a highlight of a student's high school memories that they will NEVER forget! Congratulations Nathan – Elgin Public Schools is proud of you!!!



MILITARY PHOTOS WANTED

Elgin Public School would like to gather photos of currently serving military personnel from the area to be used for a slide show at the Veteran's Day program. We are requesting 2 photos of the military person (perhaps a formal photo and an "at work" photo). Please send the person's name and branch of the military with photos.

Photos can be dropped off at the Elgin Public School office or mailed to Elgin Public School, Attn: Paula Jensen, P.O. Box 399, Elgin, NE 68636. The picture will be scanned and returned to you. If you have digital pictures, you may e-mail them to jensenp@esu8.org. We need your photos by NOVEMBER 2nd.



If you had to live as a pilgrim.....

Mrs. Score's Kindergarten class is studying about the pilgrim children in social studies. Each student completed this sentence with their own thoughts.

"If I had to live like the Pilgrim children, I would miss . . . "

- Dawn Barnes - a warm bed
- Jamie Chisholm - going to school
- Adam Dreger - fun toys
- Beau Hawn - playground equipment
- Cade Heithoff - soccer games with other teams
- Noah Niewohner - water in the house
- Wyatt Renner - watching TV
- Emily Secora - cartoons & electricity
- Emily Walsh - McDonald's
- Talena Woodard - stuffed animals
- Mrs. Lierman - a dishwasher
- Mrs. Score - a washer & dryer



Is there money in your lunch account?

Now you can find out online!

We have purchased the Wordware Web-Email module to add to our Lunch Cashier System. This module will automatically send emails to families with low balances and update our website with account balance information for parents to securely view.

Over 60 percent of families now have email and Internet access from their homes or their work places.

Elgin Public Schools will soon be able to take advantage of this low-cost and reliable communications avenue to alert our families electronically to low-balances in family meal accounts. Additionally you will be able to access your current account information online-anytime.

Specifics on the Web-Email module are as follows:

- ⇒ Printed Letter Statements will be replaced with emails, for families that have supplied the school with an email address and release form. E-mails can only be sent to those who have a signed release form on file.
- ⇒ Emails are processed and sent out at 6:00 p.m. each evening
- ⇒ This is a secure site; only specific personnel with the correct user-ID and two specific passwords may access this information
- ⇒ Families must know their family ID and PIN to access family account information. Your family ID appears on the printed statements. The school will provide you with a PIN, or you can request that a different one be used. If you do not know your family lunch account ID, please call the school.

If you would like to receive an email statement, please sign and return the email release form you received in the mail. You may simply return the release form with your child or through the mail. Please put attention Andrea on it.

If you have any questions, please email Andrea Fisher at afisher@esu8.org or call me at school. We are very excited about this addition to the lunch program!


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 Andrea Fisher 843-2455 or afisher@esu8.org

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.



Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

MUSIC IS IN THE AIR!

The Niobrara Valley Conference choir students are warming up the vocal chords for the annual clinic and concert that is sure to be one of the best ever. Students from the schools in the east half of the conference will perform together with five selections. The schools involved are: Elgin Public, Pope John, Clearwater, Orchard, Wheeler Central, Ewing, Verdigre, Niobrara and Santee.

Many of the schools will also perform a special song featuring a vocal group from their school at the concert. The feature of the night will be the clinicians. They are an a capella singing group of men from the University of Nebraska called "Rocktavo". Some of the members will be the clinician for the conference event while others will participate with our students and give great singing advice.

The event will be hosted by Pope John at the St. Boniface gym this year - we are excited to have this concert in our hometown! We hope that will bring lots of you out to watch this wonderful performance that showcases our young peoples' talents. Tuesday, **November 6th** is the date - **7:00 p.m.** is the time - **St. Boniface gym** is the place - please join us!!!



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.



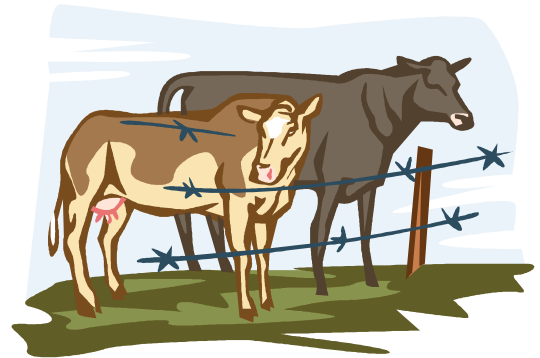
STATE RANGE JUDGERS COMPETE AT AINSWORTH

Fourteen members of the Elgin FFA Chapter attended the State Range Judging Contest in Ainsworth on October 2, 2007 and had another successful day.

In the senior division, Amanda Hemenway finished 7th, Kyle Childers, finished 19th, Michael Miller finished 27th, and Tyler Reestman finished 29th. These individuals all placed within the top 25% of all competitors and received green ribbons for their efforts.

The Elgin FFA team of Amanda Hemenway, Michael Miller, Linsey Bode, and Tad Henkenius placed 6th in the state while the second team of Kyle Childers, Tyler Reestman, Carlie Redding, and Nathan Niewohner finished 12th.

In the Professional division Mr. Simpson topped the field and was the Grand Champion Judger at the 2007 State Contest.



ELGIN FFA HOSTS DISTRICT LIVESTOCK JUDGING



The senior division livestock judging team of Tyler Reestman, Linsey Bode, Michael Miller, and Amanda Hemenway placed 2nd in the District competition.

Area FFA students from Valentine, Ainsworth, West Holt, Stuart, West Boyd, Elgin Public, Elgin Pope John, Elkhorn Valley, and O'Neill High schools participated in District X Livestock Evaluation on October 16th at Neligh.

The Elgin FFA Chapter (including students from Elgin Public, Pope John, Elkhorn Valley, and O'Neill) had 13 out of the top 25 individual finishers. Linsey Bode placed second, while Matt Anderson and Tyler Reestman placed 4th & 5th respectively. In the junior division, Nathan Anderson finished 21st.

Elgin FFA had the second, third, and fourth place teams behind Valentine FFA. The second place team consisted of Linsey Bode, Tyler, Reestman, Michael Miller, and Amanda Hemenway. Matt Anderson, Carlie Redding, Tad Henkenius, and Jessica Morrison place third while Macaib Hoefler, Jake Schindler, Josh Beckman, and Kyle Childers placed fourth.

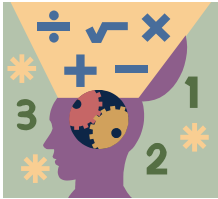
TOP RANGE JUDGER AT STATE COMPETITION



Elgin FFA Advisor, Phil Simpson took 1st place at the state range judging competition in the professional division. Congratulations, Mr. Simpson, on a job well done.

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JUNIOR MATH GOALS

Math on-line assessments have begun. These tests are reported electronically to the state to assess how our students are performing. The following items are the STARS assessment that must be reported.

- 12.2.1 Students will solve theoretical and applied problems using numbers in equivalent forms, radicals, exponents, scientific notation, absolute values, fractions, decimals, and percents, ratios and proportions, order of operations, and properties of real numbers.
- 12.4.1 Students will calculate perimeter and area of two-dimensional shapes and surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes.
- 12.4.6 Students will apply geometric properties to solve problems.
- 12.5.1 Students will select a sampling technique to gather data, analyze the resulting data, and make inferences.
- 12.5.3 Students will interpret theoretical probability to represent problems, solve problems, and make informal decisions.
- 12.6.1 Students will graph and interpret algebraic relations and inequalities.
- 12.6.2 Students will apply and solve problems involving equations and inequalities.

Students are allowed one re-take of an on-line assessment if the standard was not mastered the first time. As sophomores, they took 12.4.1 and 12.4.6 since these assessments are primary about Geometry. The rest of the assessments were introduced in either Math 8 or Algebra I. Some assessments were expanded on in Geometry. Finally, in Algebra 2, the assessments are mastered and tested! Good luck to the class of 2009!

ART STUDENTS COMPLETE MURAL



Jenna Schindler and Brandy Suhr are among the art students putting the final touches on a mural for the concession stand at the EHS football field. Mrs. Heithoff's art class hopes to have the mural completed and in place before the football playoffs begin.

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 www.educationquest.org. In many cases, you can simply print your resume and include it with 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 www.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 www.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://msep.mhec.org>.

Visit an EducationQuest location in Lincoln, Kearney or Omaha and use our free college search resources.

Meet with college representatives who visit your school.

Once you've narrowed your choices, **schedule campus visits**. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while college classes are still in session.

November "To Do" List

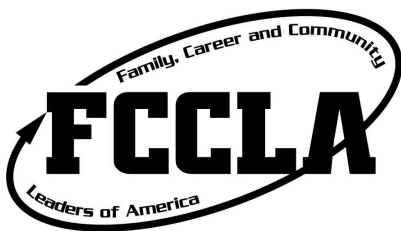
Juniors and seniors...complete these tasks in November to stay on the right college planning track.

___ Seniors, register by October 30 for the December 1 SAT.

___ Seniors, register by November 2 for the December 8 ACT.

___ Juniors and seniors, apply for scholarships. Visit free sites such as *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org, www.fastweb.com, www.fastaid.com and www.srnexpress.com.

___ Juniors and seniors, meet with college representatives who visit your school.



Elgin FCCLA Attends District Leadership Conference

Twelve members of the Elgin FCCLA Chapter traveled to Norfolk to attend the 2007 District Leadership Conference. The theme for this year's conference was "Life is a Highway On the FCCLA Road." Members had the opportunity to hear keynote speaker, Jay Sutcliffe, professor at Chadron State College address nutrition and eating trends in a presentation entitled "Better Grades, More Energy, Less Acne!" The students also attended breakout sessions on credit card usage, jazzercising, food preparation/chef and FCCLA round tables. Michelle Bauer participated in the freshman creed speaking contest, placing 4th. Power of One certificates were awarded to: Jessica Heithoff, Ayli Carrero, Jennifer Bush, Teri Kittelson and Justine Meis. Also during the conference, "Celebration Bags" were presented to a representative of Health and Human Services as part of the district's community service project. The conference ended with door prizes being awarded as well as drawings for winners of the bucket auction.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK CELEBRATED.....



Duane Miller, Elgin Fire Dept. volunteer, visits with students from Mrs. Gunderson's 1st grade class during their tour of the Elgin Fire Station. The tour included a ride on the fire truck with the sirens blaring.

THINGS ARE EXPLODING IN THIRD GRADE



During their study of rocks, minerals and the Earth's surface, the 3rd graders watched a volcano exploding in their classroom. The class learned about how the landscape around us can change both slowly and quickly. The students loved the volcano and took home a recipe on how to make their own volcano at home.

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dr. Gayla Fredrickson



Superintendent's Goal: Reading

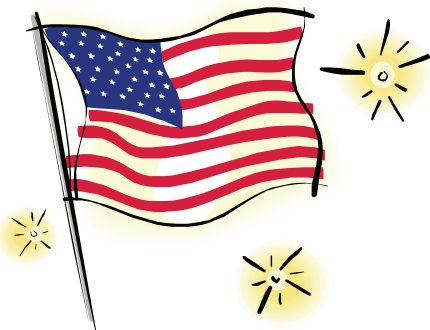
Several months ago I addressed the goal that the board and I set for the area of technology. This month I would like to address the goal we set in the area of reading. Elgin Public School wants ALL students reading on grade level by the end of their third grade year.

Now this may seem like an easy goal to reach but it really isn't. In the typical third grade classroom a teacher will have approximately five levels of readers: Those that are reading well above grade level, those reading slightly above grade level, students reading right on grade level, students reading slightly below grade level and finally those reading well below grade level. The research on reading achievement has found definite evidence to show that students reading on grade level by the end of third grade are programmed for academic success while those reading below grade level will continually struggle with academics and those significantly below grade level will have major struggles with their academic workload.

Now do not misunderstand, Elgin Public Elementary staff has always done an excellent job of teaching reading. But, students are changing and so is reading methodology. After monitoring our students closely with the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Learning Skills (DIBELS) we determined that we should implement a different basic reading program in our school. Therefore, this year we began the Reading Mastery program. Reading Mastery's difference lies in the fact each student is given a diagnostic reading test to determine their correct level of instruction. They are then put into a small group of students that are working at that same instructional level. An elementary teacher is assigned to their group. The teacher may have a paraprofessional working with her and the paraprofessional may also work with a group of students. The program is one of direct instruction and very fast paced. Students have to stay on task, and there is no room to hide errors. Since the children are working in small groups it is easier for the teacher to know immediately when a student is not getting a concept and responding incorrectly.

In addition to investing in new reading materials, the Northern Tier Schools contracted with Educational Resources Incorporated to provide instructional coaches in the use of Reading Mastery. We had our first session with the instructional coach, Pricilla Brown, the last week in September. As a coach, Ms. Brown's job is to watch the teacher teaching and then to offer suggestions on how improvement can be made in the lesson delivery. While Ms. Brown found that our instructional staff was doing an overall good job implementing the program, she had some suggestions to make the sessions even more productive. Finally, she worked with students we had questions about and suggested placement at their level of performance.

The progress monitoring that the teachers are doing with the students is very encouraging. Students are showing steady gain as they work through the reading lessons. Some students who have been struggling readers are also feeling more confident in their reading skill, "I'm getting to be a better reader. I can tell!" one young student assured me. That's what I want to hear and such a feeling of achievement is why we chose this program and invested in professional reading coaches.



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM SET

NOVEMBER 8, 2007

11:00 P.M.

EHS 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!



We are in the beginning weeks of the 2nd quarter and it is going to be time to get the snow gear out and ready to go. Winter always sneaks up on me and since I really dread the cold weather months, I find myself trying to stretch every little bit out of the warm days we have had. Oh well, as my father always used to tell me, "Toughen up...there is always someone out there that is a little worse off than you." When you think of the men and women serving in past and current military conflicts, the experiences that they have been through give credit to his words of wisdom.

With the arrival of November, it can mean a lot of things for a lot of people. For some, it is the time when harvest is coming to an end, although with the wet fall, many will still be in the field with the end a long way away. For others it means post-season play for fall sports and I am certainly pleased with the efforts of our student-athletes at Elgin Public Schools. The volleyball team has had its ups and downs this season. Hopefully, they will take the experiences from both the good and bad times and be able to grow and apply them down the road. The football team continues to excel. In making the playoffs, they look to be one of the top teams in their class. They are district champs and ended their regular season a perfect 8-0! While many people may find this time of year to mean so many different things, I would like to share with you why I really look forward to November each year.

November 11th is the day we celebrate Veterans Day. I look forward to this day each year. The schools come together to observe this day and participate in the annual Veterans Day program held each year in the Elgin Public Gymnasium (this year it will be on November 8th due to the weekend so that all can attend from both schools and the community). I believe that of all of the things that we do throughout the school year, this program is the most important. It is important for several reasons. First, no one can be allowed to forget the cost for our freedoms. I believe we have a responsibility in schools to not only teach about our history, but to also celebrate it. The veterans who come to this program each year all have stories to tell of their time serving our country and for some, those stories are difficult to share. Still, their faces show that they are proud to have been a part of defending our freedoms. Second, the traditions of this day are marked with salutes to those who have served in the past and to pay tribute to those currently fighting abroad. Perhaps though, the most important reason I feel so strongly about this time of year and this program is the fact that I, along with most all of the teachers from all three schools, have been privileged having taught several students who have grown and responded to the call of duty. Young men and women who I once knew as young kids and are now overseas laying it all on the line for you and I. I recently read an article in the Omaha World Herald about a young man, Danny Pelster, who grew up in our community, graduated from Pope John, and is now in college playing football at UNO. This young man served a tour of duty in the current war in the Middle East. In the article, he explained how he views the tough days at college and playing football and how his military experience has shaped how he faces challenges today. I remember coaching that young man for one summer baseball season. He was a solid young man then and he is a hero today.

I also have the privilege to correspond through e-mail with several former students I taught here at Elgin Public Schools who are now serving our country. I often think back to the day when I wondered about where some of them would end up. Some have been a great surprise and some you just knew they would make an impact. I am sure some of their folks would agree. Jim Score, Mike Schmitt and Troy Moore, to name only a few that I have taught, are currently or have recently been engaged in the war in the Middle East. To hear of their experiences and what they have or are currently enduring makes me feel very proud of them. The common characteristic that I see among these young men and those men and women who served in the past is that they are very humble people. They do not seek major recognition and praise. If you ask them, they will most likely tell you that they were simply doing their job. We all know it is and was more than just a job.

Make plans to join us at Elgin Public School on Thursday, November 8th at 11:00 a.m. as we celebrate both current and past service men and women. It is always a great program and an opportunity to say Thank You to those who have given of themselves for the freedoms we enjoy today.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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