



EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School
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Volume XXVII, Issue 2

October, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct. 13
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 14
NO SCHOOL
- Nov. 10
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 23
Early Dismissal
1:00 p.m.
- Nov. 24-25
NO SCHOOL
- Dec. 8
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 22
Early Dismissal
1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 3
NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 4
School Resumes

Lights, Camera, Action!

Get ready...the Digital Media Class is setting the stage!

The Digital Media class is creating a lip dub as a project to do with the whole school during Homecoming Week. What is a lip dub you may be asking yourself? According to Wikipedia, a lip dub is a type of video that combines lip synching and audio dubbing to make a music video. It is made by filming individuals or a group of people lip synching while listening to a song or any recorded audio then dubbing over it in post editing with the original audio of the song. The Digital Media Class has chosen to do this with the song *19 Something* by Mark Wills and hope to shoot the video in one or two takes.

The planning process has included developing a route to use around the school along with props and students to use in the various paths along the route. They have also developed a presentation to sell the idea to administration and inform teachers and eventually other students about what a lip dub is. An outline was also created to associate song verses with props, students, and the route. We will use MovieMaker to combine the audio and video and in the meantime have learned about different file formats that they can and cannot use.

We hope all of our work and the planning process will enable our student body to enjoy their participation in this video experience and add to our homecoming festivities. Be watching for the video to be posted on the school website and look for it on YouTube sometime the week after Homecoming!



Nash Schindler adjusts the camera settings to prepare to video the Lip dub.

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



Wonderful World of Water

by Mrs. Walsh



Students work together to gather lake water for their testing.

On a chilly and windy day, twelve Elgin Public students braved the elements to take part in the annual Wonderful World of Water sponsored by our local NRDs. The six sophomores completed one track of hands-on activities while the six freshmen attended the other hands-on sessions. One of the students' favorite sessions was "Water and Wetlands" where students learned about wetlands, their importance, and their conservation. They were treated to "beast of the wetlands"—a dish cooked up from a mystery wetlands animal (could be skunk, beaver, goose, etc), with a side of arrowhead (another wetlands plant).

Each team also each created a water rocket to take part in the water rocket challenge. The sophomore team's rocket, "Survivor"

won the 'creative design' challenge! As part of the day, there are also quizzes and a water quiz bowl competition in which the students take part. Each team competed against five other teams in the quiz bowl rounds and both teams won in their divisions.

At the end of the day, the sophomore team came in 2nd place overall. Other than the cold weather, it was a great day with a lot of learning experiences!

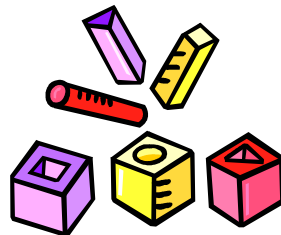
Students that attended were: sophomores—Ivy Prater, Hannah Kerkman, Brett Kinney, Madi Voborny, Hunter Thramer, Abbi Couch; freshmen—Tanner Welding, Sharla Schindler, Hayley Stamp, Tera Henkenius, Christopher Bush, and Ethan Fischer.

Enjoy all the pictures from the day at www.elgineagles.org.

KINDERGARTEN IS TAKING SHAPE

The kindergarten class has 13 awesome students. Sitting tall, using inside voices, and answering on signal were some of the first skills to master.

In math we have sorted by color, shape, and size. We have named solid geometric figures; cubes, cones, rectangular prisms, and spheres, and distinguished them from a group of figures. Students are now working on the shapes; squares, triangles, rectangles, and circles.



We are using the Reading Mastery Language Arts series. Skills practiced so far are following directions, answering in complete sentences, and following a left to right order.



In handwriting students have been formally introduced to writing the letters Ll, li, Tt, Aa, Oo, Dd, and Cc. We will continue to learn how to form the rest of the letters and practice!

Students are doing well in Reading Mastery. We are learning letter sounds and how to 'sound out' small words.

The kindergarten students will have second grade partners that they will do activities with throughout the year. They think that sounds like fun. For our first activity Mrs. Beckman prepared a promethean board activity about apples, and the students sampled several types of apples.



Hannah Kerkman retrieves samples for the group.

*One person can make a difference --
and every person must try.*

*John F. Kennedy
35th U.S. President*



"Note"able News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Autumn is a busy time in the music department. **Deli International** sales will begin in October. There are many delicious food items to choose from. If that is not your cup of tea, we offer a catalog of gift items just in time for Christmas! If you do NOT get approached by a band member, please contact Mrs. Jones (843-2455) and she will see that you get what you want to order. To all those who order product from us – THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

ALL STATE CHOIR

October 15th is an anxious day for some of us in the music department. Ashlyn DeWald, Juliana Dunn, Madison Voborny and Mrs. Jones will travel to Norfolk for auditions for the Nebraska All State Choir. This is the first year these students auditioned, so they really don't know what to expect when they step into that audition room with only the judge. 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! 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. 450 voices will be chosen for the choir. That makes the acceptance really special! We hope someone from Elgin Public Schools will be among them.

MUSIC BOOSTERS – JOIN US!

We will have a music booster meeting on Thursday, November 3rd at 5:30 p.m. in the lunch room. **Note the change in time.** We hope to have more parents attend this way.

NVC VOCAL CONCERT AT VERDIGRE

The NVC schools will rehearse songs together for a concert on Monday, November 7, 2011. 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 students will perform 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 Verdigre 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 **Friday, November 11, 2011 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.

CHRISTMAS TIME IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The Christmas concert is Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the gym. It would be wonderful to have a big audience – there is surely some Christmas cheer to bring for all of you to enjoy! The little children (Pre-school through 2nd grade) will be singing some familiar carols and some new songs with a slight twist. The concert band and high school choir will perform Christmas songs with something new and bouncy for all to hear. Grades three – six will be performing a musical. At this point, we don't have the musical or the cast chosen, so you will just have to come to the concert and find out what it is. We hope to see all of you there. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!



Thank you to all who supported EPS magazine sales this year. Your magazine purchases help fund many of our class activities. Thank you for your contributions!



Have you ordered your picture folder for 2012? Single students are \$15 and families are \$20. Send Mrs.

Heithoff an email to order yours.
rheithof@esu8.org

Researchers, Directors, Poets, Detectives, Authors . . .

EPS English Students Wear Many Hats

by Mrs. Shoe



Time sure flies when you're having fun! I'm sure this is *exactly* what EPS English students are thinking now that we are halfway finished with the first quarter. During these fast and furious first weeks, there has been much to keep us busy in good ol' room 206.

After a brief 9-12 review of literary genres that resulted in a mad rush to the library in search of quality 20 Minute Read books, Mrs. Shoe's classes began to branch off in different directions.

The Seniors have been spending time getting to know Mr. Mark Twain. After a competitive scavenger hunt in search of facts about their newfound friend, they began to delve into the wonderful world of research-based writing. Using credible websites and MLA citation, the Seniors are penning a mini research paper on Twain's life and its impact on his writing. Next on the agenda will be *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and some polishing and fine-tuning of their scholarship essays. When the applications begin to roll in, these Seniors will be ready!

After hounding Mrs. Shoe repeatedly about watching the movie *Romeo & Juliet* (which we ran out of time for last year) the Juniors finally reigned victorious. During the viewing, the class was to focus on two items: 1) features which either added to or detracted from

the movie and 2) the target audience the more modern movie was geared toward, which, of course, was teenagers. The features became the focus of their first descriptive essay of the year. The target audience concept led to their first project of the year. Dividing themselves into four groups, each group drew for a target audience: teenage boys, teenage girls, small children, or the elderly. Their mission: To design a movie poster advertising a version of *Romeo and Juliet* geared toward their target audience. The project also consisted of a scene revision and a profile of the target audience. Highlights included Betty White's being cast as Juliet, as well as cameo appearances by Steve-O and Barbie. This activity paved the way for our advertising unit.

Roses are red, violets are blue, the Sophomores claimed they couldn't write poetry, and we found out that this simply is not true! It's rhyme time in English 10. Though somewhat reluctant at first, the class is beginning to find their way around the poetry unit. From studying some of our more recognized poets and their pieces to learning the jargon of this age-old craft, the students are immersed in verse each day. Along with studying various poetic devices, these future poets are also creating original works, all of which will become permanent reminders of their

newfound skills compiled in their poetry notebooks.

The freshmen have been busy playing detective this year. Using their finely-tuned CSI skills, they are searching for clues and looking for meaning throughout the short story unit. While studying some of our most renowned authors and titles, they are also gaining valuable comprehension skills and becoming familiar with the elements of fiction as well as common literary devices.

And finally, Creative Writing students have been . . . well . . . writing creatively! Along with daily journals and weekly writing calisthenics, the four-man/woman crew has been creating their first publication. Sure to be a best-seller, the collaboration features the adventures of a frog named Mardi Gras. An up-and-coming highlight is a Creative Writing outing to the Homestead National Monument in Beatrice for a day of writing and poetry slams with poet Matt Mason.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR ON WEBSITE



Do you want to know what time the concert starts or if the ballgames have been postponed?

Check out the Activities Calendar on our website, www.elgineagles.org. This easy-to-use tool:

- provides up-to-date school activities and events
- allows you to view and print a daily, weekly or monthly list of calendar events
- includes a search option to find a specific event
- sends you e-mail reminders for events you select

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 the winter sporting event programs. If you would like to sponsor an ad, please contact Mrs. Rita Heithoff 843-2455.

Students Experience Hydroelectric Power in Action

On the last day of summer, the Designing with Technology students toured Gavin's Point Power Plant to better understand hydroelectric power, electricity, and electromagnetism. Due to the recent flooding, all of the gates were still open which provided a dramatic scene for most of the students who had never visited the dam before. We learned that the river has enough force to spin massive turbine blades (approximately 8 ft by 10 ft each) which turn the electromagnets and produce enough electrical energy to power the entire facility and for approximately 65,000 people annually. Students had the opportunity to feel the containers where the electromagnets spin and watch the shaft spin that's connected to the turbine blades. The tour was the highlight of our electricity studies which also included building a speaker using electromagnet concepts and experimenting with the effects of voltage, current, and resistance.



Designing with Technology Students are: Cody Currah, Levi Kerkman, Shane Vanis, Garet Schindler, & Michael Braband.

Hydroelectric power is just one mission of the dam. Others include flood damage control and managing the ecosystems both upstream and downstream in conjunction with other dams along the Missouri River. We also spent some time watching the many and varied fish that we don't see very often like the paddlefish and sturgeon. The tour was a great experience on a beautiful September day.



Andrew Heithoff and Danny Smith rehearse a fight scene.

One Act Season Underway

Twenty-six students have chosen to take part in the Elgin Public one-act team this year! Their play is entitled *Frumpled Fairy Tales* and consists, in part, of *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Rapunzel*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*. These students have undertaken a big commitment, as the team depends totally on each individual to fulfill his/her role. They rise early for morning practices and put in a great deal of time outside of rehearsal learning lines, gathering props, building the set, etc.

This year in addition to our traditional performances, we will hold a "Parents' Sneak Peek" on Saturday November 5th. This will not only allow the parents to get a peek of the upcoming play, but also a glimpse into the practice routine of their child! We hope to have some activities for the parents that day as well!

Mark your calendars to come support the one-act team on the following dates!

Performance dates:

Parent's Sneak Peek at EPS gym-- November 5th

NVC at Pope John--November 15th

Matinee at the EPS gym-- November 23 at 12:00 noon

Community Performance-- November 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Districts at Cedar Rapids --November 29th

Team members: Ryan Meis, Danny Smith, Shane Vanis, Tre Henkenius, Dean Braband, Cody Currah, Andrew Heithoff, Juliana Dunn, Ashlyn DeWald, Alex Grosserode, Michael Braband, Hunter Thrasher, Hannah Kerkman, Abbi Couch, Bailey Carpenter, Allison Koenig, Ivy Prater, Tyler Smith, Christopher Bush, Tera Henkenius, Sharla Shindler, Madison Voborny, Lisa Dohmen, Kelsey Shoemaker, Hayley Stamp, Tanner Welding. Coaches: Sara Walsh, Amy Klein



Elementary Fitness Test:

The Elgin Elementary Students completed their fitness test for Physical Education. Each student in first through sixth grade participated in four fitness test. The students must achieve at least a 50th percentile in three of the four events. The events are Push – ups, sit – ups, Flexed arm hang and Distance runs. The first and second grade do a 400 meter run, the third and fourth grade do a 800 meter run and the fifth and sixth grade do a mile run. The standards are based on a school population fitness survey, by means of comparison with a large nationwide sample collected. Some of the outstanding performances for each grade are listed below.

Students listed meet 3 or more of the 50th percentile:

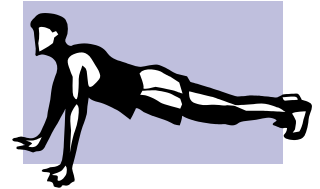
First Grade & Second Grade

Name	400 m run	Sit-ups	Flexed Arm Hang	Push-ups
Jamie Dozler	2:01	27	17 sec	35
Connor Wells	2:02	39	15 sec	35
William Heilhecker	2:36	33	13 sec	38
Cyrus Wells	1:41	50	30 sec	40
Colton Wright	1:44	38	16 sec	23
Norman Grothe	1:47	31	37 sec	28



Third and Fourth Grade

Name	800m run	Sit-ups	Flexed Arm Hang	Push-ups
Theana Dunn	3:50	41	13 sec	16
Jasmine Dozler	4:49	45	42 Sec	17
Colby Sehi	4:06	41	16 sec	19
Haley Walsh		40	44 sec	18



Fifth and Sixth Grade

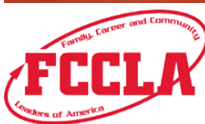
Name	Mile run	Sit – ups	Flexed Arm Hang	Push-ups
Anna Heilhecker	7:59	51	63 sec	37
Joseph Bailey	7:18	46	51 sec	33
Garret Behnk	7:54	49	37 sec	39
Emma Kerkman	9:07	45	52 sec	15



If you would like to see how your child finished, please stop in a see me.
Great Job!



1. Save your LAND O LAKES caps from Milk, Orange Juice and Chocolate Milk
1. Bring the caps in to school
2. Your school will receive a check!



FCCLA Officers installed are: Ashlyn DeWald, Stephanie Bode, Ashley Bode, Connor Kinney, Ivy Prater, and their advisor Mrs. Barb Bode.

FCCLA HOSTS FAMILY NIGHT

On Tuesday, August 30, the Elgin FCCLA chapter hosted a family night to introduce the start of the 2011-2012 school year. Highlights of the evening included: a slide show of all of our different activities and fun from 2010-2011, Installation of the 2011-2012 officers, FCCLA Scavenger hunt, desserts, followed by our business meeting. Officers for this school year are: President- Ashley Bode, Vice-president- Ivy prater, Secretary/ Treasurer- Connor Kinney, News Reporter- Stephanie Bode, and District Rep. - Ashlyn Dewald. During our business meeting we discussed activities, fund raisers, and community service we were going to take part in throughout the upcoming school year. This semester we are planning on having another pancake feed, bank feed and kids shopping night. We are also going to have a traveling supper and exchange presents with our secret Santa's. Our chapter will be attending districts and cluster.

By: Stephanie Bode

THIRD GRADE NEWS

We are off to a great start for the 2011-2012 school year in third grade. All of the students have been working very hard in and out of the classroom to learn all that they can in third grade.

In math we have been working on place value up to the hundred thousands place and we will be moving into addition and subtraction soon. The students have been taking timed tests for addition and subtraction too. So far we have two students who have passed all of their addition facts! We will start multiplication and division in

November. Remember to keep practicing math facts at home. Keep working hard third graders!

The students have become rock detectives in science this year. We have been learning about the three types of rocks, the rock cycle, and minerals of the Earth. In social studies the students are learning the four regions of the United States. We are concentrating on the Midwest

region currently. The students are learning the states of the Midwest region on maps and also learning about life in the Midwest.

All students are participating in the Reading Mastery program for reading and language arts. The language arts program is new this year and we have set a goal in our classroom to get a lesson done each day. The students have really been working hard and we have been meeting our goal each day! Remember to keep reading aloud at home from AR books! Keep working on all of the skills needed to be a great student every day third graders!



EPS LIBRARIES BECOME AUTOMATED

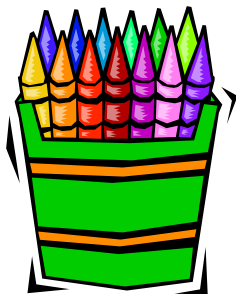
The libraries of Elgin Public School have taken a big step into the world of

technology. We have joined a web-based automated system which enables students to use the computer in the library for their circulation needs. Students all have a login and are able to scan the barcodes on the books so they can check them in and out. The majority of the books we have are in the system at this time. Throughout the year, work will continue until all the books are bar-coded and cataloged into the system.

Elaine Meyers
emeyers@esu8.org

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson
American poet*



Art News

The Art students have been busy the first month of school working on the color wheel, color mixing and color schemes. They learned about the 3 primary colors of red, yellow and blue and how you can mix those colors to create the secondary colors of orange, green and purple. Now take those six colors and mix them together to create the tertiary colors of red-orange, red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green, yellow-green and yellow-orange and you have twelve colors from three. They were only allowed to use the primary colors and had to mix the other nine colors from the original three.

After they mastered color mixing, it was on to color schemes. A color scheme is a way to use colors together. Depending on grade level, we reviewed five to seven different color schemes. The students were given a worksheet with a design printed four times on it. They had to color two to four different color schemes on the worksheet. We discussed how the colors affected the design and which color scheme they liked the best. We also discussed how color schemes are used from everything to choosing an outfit to decorating a house someday.

The elementary are branching out to begin still life drawing with pencils and charcoal while the high school students have just finished theirs. The Art I students will begin painting their still life for their next project. Advanced Art students will begin independent projects (with teacher approval).

The 8th graders are continuing their paper mache sculptures. They are in the final phases of decorating the sculptures. Their last projects for the quarter will be still life drawing and painting.

Click on www.elgineagles.org to view articles and slideshows on the various Art projects throughout the school year. They will be posted under "Academics-Art".

Mrs. Heithoff rheithof@esu8.org

Magazine Sales by Miss J



This year our magazine sales met our goal (>325) with 333 orders sold. These sales included orders sold on the internet. For the second year in a row, the Class of 2014 sold the most magazines! Since this is the only major fund-raising event for the classes, it was very important! Top salesperson was Victoriah Fangman with 25 orders! Orders sold: Seniors: 83; Juniors: 69; Sophomores: 103; Freshmen: 78. Students who sold magazines will be encouraged to sign up for prizes.

This marks the 34th year in which I have sponsored magazine sales. The magazines have changed, the companies have changed but the benefits for EHS continue. Thank you for supporting us!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Just a reminder that we are still collecting Box Tops For Education. That money is used for misc. items in the elementary and field trip fees. Please keep saving those Box Tops and send them to school with your student or drop them off in the office. Thanks for your help!

Check out their website <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> to sign up your e-mail and receive great coupons and savings for products that have the box tops on them. Plus you can sign up daily for sweepstakes to win more money for the school.

2011 Elgin Public yearbooks are still available for \$30.00 Make checks payable to "Elgin Public Schools".

JOB WELL DONE!

On the first days of school, Elgin Public Teachers had a variety of In-services to start the new school year. One of the sessions dealt with the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment scores from the 2010-2011.

Carol Jessen and JaLena Slack from ESU8 guided the staff in the review of last year's results. MAP is a nationally norm reference test used to see how Elgin Public School students score in relation to other students across the nation. The test also will show individual levels of performances. The purpose of the in-service was to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of our school and its curricula. The scores were looked at as a whole and to see student growth throughout the school year. The MAP testing assesses students in grades 3-11 and in 5 different areas: Mathematics, Reading, Language Arts, Science, & Science Concepts and Processes.

After reviewing the test scores the staff was very excited to see Elgin Public students scored higher than the National Norm and were above regional students in a vast majority of grade level and categories! The staff felt a great deal of pride in these findings and are ready to continually challenge EPS students to do their best for the 2011-2012 school year.

Congratulations to the students on a job well done! Also a special thank you to parents and community members for your continued support!



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

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and re-manufactured. 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.

Second Graders & Kindergarten Share Activities



The second grade and kindergarten will be meeting once or twice a month to do various activities. It is a great way to learn new things at different ages and to get along with different people. We had our first meeting Monday September 19 and talked about how apples grow and tasted different kinds of apples. It will be a fun year together!



REMINDER: The State of Nebraska has a new immunization requirement starting this school year for all students K-12. All students are required to have TWO vaccinations for the chicken pox disease or have documentation from a parent/guardian that the student has had the chicken pox disease.

Goldenrod Hills Immunization Clinic is a resource available to families whose children need the second chicken pox (varicella) immunization. You can schedule an appointment for one of their monthly clinics by calling 402-529-3513 or 1-800-445-2505. They hold clinics in Neligh and Norfolk as well as other area towns. You may also schedule an appointment with your local physician for the necessary vaccinations.

Thank you for your assistance for this requirement. If you have not given this information to the school, please send the documentation, including the immunization dates or date (year) that they had the disease, to the school as soon as possible.

Gwen Kinney RN
ESU #8 School Nurse



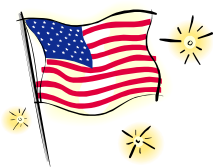
My Child Is Absent-- Does the School Need a Note?

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.



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM SET

NOVEMBER 11, 2011
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!

Farm Safety Week Demonstrations

by Mrs. Schwartz

September 19-23 was farm safety week and on Friday the agriculture classes presented instruction and demonstrations to elementary students from Elgin Public schools and St. Boniface. Elementary students learned about how to be safe around many different types of farm and ranch machinery and animals. Tractor and grain safety was the focus at one station as the students learned about staying safe around large tractors and also about grain safety as a grain cart was present. Four-wheelers were also there and students were told about how to always wear the proper safety equipment. Ewe lambs, buckets calves and a colt were at another station and the students were told about how to move and talk around livestock. They also were taught about the importance of giving livestock vaccinations and the dangers of being around animals that have just given birth. Students were also able to feel wool that had been sheared off a lamb. Some thought it was pretty cool, while others were kinda skeptical about touching it!

The main attraction was a demonstration given with the weed eater. The ag students demonstrated how dangerous a weed eater could be when they stuck a hotdog in the machine. Students saw what happened to the hotdog and were very surprised at how dangerous they can be!

At the end of instruction and demonstration each class had a chance to win some prizes and all students went home with either pencils, stickers, or bookbag reflectors. The agriculture students enjoyed teaching the younger kids about being safe on the farm and ranch and hope all the elementary students learned something new about staying safe around livestock, machinery, and other equipment.



Cordell Waterbury & Shane Vanis discuss with the second graders the proper safety rules around a riding lawn mower.



Kindness Retreat Held

Monday September 19 the Elgin Public 5th and 6th grade students attended a Kindness Retreat held at the Stuart Auditorium in Stuart, NE. The students joined approximately 100 other 5th and 6th graders from Lynch, Niobrara, West Boyd, Stuart and Ewing for a fun filled, high energy day of activities and speakers promoting "kindness" at school.

The program was delivered by Youth Frontiers, a nonprofit organization that has been providing programs to schools for over 20 years that build positive school communities and help young people realize the importance of respecting themselves and others. Their vision is to change the way young people treat each other in the hallway, lunch line, and classroom of every school in America so that today's young people can make tomorrow's world better. Last year, Youth Frontiers worked with nearly 100,000 students and educators throughout the country. The Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat helps build a more caring school community by engaging students in activities that demonstrate the painful effects of bullying and emphasize the value of kindness. Elementary school students experience the positive effect of the kindness boomerang during a high-energy day with classmates. Students learn that, like the golden rule, if they want to catch kindness, they've got to throw the kindness boomerang out there!

Also attending were several National Honor Society students who served as group leaders and facilitators for the day. Helping out were senior Nash Schindler, and juniors Nick Heithoff, Andrew Heithoff and Blake Anderson. The group was sponsored by Mrs. Bode, Guidance Counselor. Throughout the weeks and months ahead the 5th and 6th grade students will be doing follow up activities to reinforce and build the character trait of "kindness" in our school.



Garet Schindler shows Corbin Kinney the safety rules of riding in a tractor.

Elgin Public PASS System



Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:

www.elgineagles.org

Click on Schoolmaster under "Quick Links" and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.

Test Taking/ Studying Skills

By : Gina Ohnesorg (School Psychologist)

Here are some tips to help you study for your next test:

- ◆ Organize class notes
- ◆ Schedule daily and weekly reviews
- ◆ Talk out loud when you study
 - ⇒ Read notes aloud
 - ⇒ Explain key concepts to someone else
- ◆ Make flash cards and use them to study
- ◆ Use SQ3R
 - * Survey – read the title, introductory paragraph, all headings and subheadings, captions
 - * Question- turn the parts you read during survey into questions, preview the teacher given questions you need to answer
 - * Read – answer questions as you read , carefully read underlined, italicized, or bold printed words - reduce speed on difficult parts - stop and reread unclear parts
 - * Recite – read aloud important parts - read notes aloud - recite definitions and answers to questions
 - * Review – page through material and remind yourself - reread notes - do on a daily basis
- ◆ Write possible test questions and their answers
 - ⇒ Studying material in a question/answer format can help you remember material better
- ◆ Highlight key ideas in notes and worksheets
- ◆ Get enough sleep
- ◆ Think positively



From the Desk of the Activities Director

by Adam Patrick



The Fall activities have been going full speed ahead! A kick off night was held for the Fall sports August 26th with the Wolfpack tailgate. The volleyball and football teams both held scrimmages. Along with the sports action spectators we able to enjoy brats and burgers!

The volleyball team has been very busy lately playing several games a week most weeks. They played a most exciting matching against Stanton in which they won in dramatic come from behind fashion! The Wolfpack currently has a record of 4 -6.

The football team started its season off with a dramatic win over the then top ranked Creighton Bulldogs. The Wolfpack has since reeled off two more wins running their record to 3-0. The Wolfpack is currently ranked as high as number 3. Wolfpack Fall Sports Awards night will be held November 29th.

FFA has also been very active at the start school year. There major undertaking lately has been range judging. They competed at districts on the 14th of September and will compete at state on October 3rd and 4th. They will be competing at district livestock judging October 26th. The Agricultural classes are also presented demonstrations about safety around the farm.

If you have been out and about around one o'clock you may have heard the marching band! They have been preparing for a couple of parades this fall. The first parade is going to be held in Norfolk Saturday September 24th. The second parade is the Harvest of Harmony in Grand Island held Saturday October 1st. A couple other dates relating to the Music department are November 7th which is the NVC choral clinic and November 16-18 which is All State Music Convention. Finally the Christmas concert will be held December 15th.

One-Act play production has also started its season. This year they will be performing *Frumpled Fairy Tales*. District One-Act competition will be held November 29th.

FCCLA kicked their year off with Family Night August 30th. They have also installed their officers, who then attended a leadership conference. Their Fall leadership conference will be held October 19th and the Cluster Meeting will be held November 11th.

Do not be alarmed if you see some people taking pictures at various school activities, it is probably a member of the Yearbook team. They have been busy snapping pictures at all the events this year. They are also working with new software to try to make the 2011-2012 Yearbook the best one yet!

The Art students have also been diligently working on their projects for the year. The students are creating projects for their competitions coming next spring.



Smile..It's Contagious!



SIGN-UP FOR NEWS UPDATE

You won't want to be left out in the cold! When the weather changes our plans, we want to make sure you are the first to know.

Sign up for News Update on our website, www.elgineagles.org. On the left side of the front page of our website, click on "Sign up for the News Update". Put in your e-mail address and you will be sent an e-mail. **You must reply to that e-mail in order to be placed on our e-mail list.**

News Update will be used to draw attention to new items on our webpage so periodically you will receive an e-mail with headline news in it. (We promise not to flood your e-mail inbox and we won't give out your e-mail address to anyone!)

Sign up today and be sure to tell your friends!

STUDENTS SALUTE CONSTITUTION DAY

On Friday September 16th, students of Elgin Public Schools gathered around the American flag to take time to honor the United States Constitution. This was an opportunity for students to reflect on the document that has guided the United States for the last 224 years.

The ceremony began with a reading by members of the 11th grade American Government class. They read a choral reading by Loraine Griffith concerning the Preamble to the Constitution. The American Government students then spoke on the need for recognizing the importance of the constitution. To conclude the ceremony, the preschool led the entire student body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

We feel it is important to take time to develop awareness for the important documents that have served our country and to develop a greater appreciation for them.

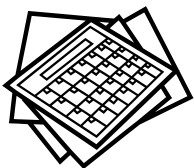
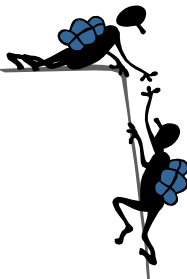


Mr. Jones leads the American Government Class as they honor the Constitution of the United States of America. Shown l. to r. Mr. Doug Jones, Andrew Heithoff, Nick Heithoff, Ashlyn DeWald, Levi Kerkman, Cordell Waterbury, Blake Anderson, Alex Grosserode, Garet Schindler, Juliana Dunn, and Angela Richart.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode

- ⇒ Planning Bulletins published by Education Quest will be posted on our website www.elgineagles.org each month for parents and students to use as a resource for all post secondary planning. The bulletins are also located on the EducationQuest website www.educationquest.org Click on "Resources for High Schools".
- ⇒ Senior Parents: Mark your calendar now for a webcast meeting at Elgin Public School Distance Learning Room on November 30th. The information presented will assist you in preparing financial aid papers for college bound students. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.
- ⇒ College Rep. visits are listed in the bulletin.
- ⇒ Check the "Guidance>scholarships" section of the website for up-to-date scholarship application opportunities.



The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination.

*Tommy Lasorda
American baseball manager*

Setting Goals for Improvement

In Miss Boyle's room this semester, the spirit of friendly competition and teamwork is in the air.



During the week of September 26-30, all the students took the online Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests in order to help teachers gauge which topics within subjects students have a good grasp on, and which topics need to be discussed further in class.

Before her 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Math students took the tests, Miss Boyle set forth a challenge for them. The goal for each class was to improve their scores from the previous year. She offered treats to the class that most improves their scores as a whole, compared to last year's scores. She stressed to the students that this requires them to work together as a team, and to try their hardest for the good of the whole class.

Now they are just waiting on the results to determine the winner. May the hardest-working class win!

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Steve Dennis
sdennis@esu8.org

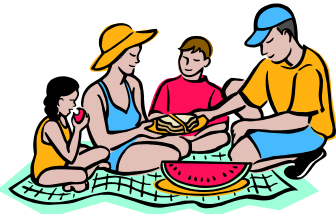


The 2011-12 school year is well under way. K-12 enrollment at Elgin Public Schools for the 2011-12 school year is 153 students, which compares to 155 students at this time last year. We have three new additions to our staff. They are: Meghan Boyle, 4th grade; Amy Klein, Spanish and Adam Patrick, 7-12 Principal/AD.

During Administrator Days in early August Dr. Roger Breed, Nebraska's Commissioner of Education, addressed administrators from across the state of Nebraska. I would like to share some information I thought was interesting from his presentation. First, Dr. Breed stated that last year there were 251 schools districts in the state of Nebraska. This year there are 249. Of those districts 137 have less than 390 students. This is significant in that districts with less than 390 students typically have one teacher per academic area. District enrollment ranged from 48,769 students in the Omaha district to 83 students at a district in the sandhills.

In a previous newsletter I have stressed the importance of attendance. Dr. Breed stated they did a study of NeSA reading testing from last spring for 11th graders. They found that 11th grade students missing more than 20 days of school had an average scaled score of 72. The average scaled score for students missing less than 20 days was 102. Quite a difference!

The 2010 – 1011 State of the Schools Report will be released by the Nebraska Department of Education on October 19th. This report will include our performance on the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) Reading, Math and Writing tests. We have a link on our school web site, www.elgineagles.org, which will take you directly to the State of the Schools Report. There is a lot of valuable information on our school website. I encourage you visit our site.



Area Substance Abuse Prevention

Developmental Asset #22:

School Engagement—Young person is actively engaged in learning.

The Search Institute® has identified building blocks of healthy development known as the Developmental Assets®. These assets help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

Underage Alcohol Use

Helping kids steer clear of alcohol involves more than simply warning them of the dangers; it involves helping them feel safe, supported, and free to talk about anything on their minds. It also requires building a strong relationship with your children and nurturing their personal values and skills to help them make smart decisions.

Did You Know?

Among parents in north-central Nebraska with a child between 13 and 20 years old living at home, 71% would be extremely concerned if they found out their oldest child (between 13 and 20) drank beer or wine regularly. This compares to 81% of parents statewide. ¹31% of adults in north-central Nebraska feel that typical parents in their community have great influence over whether or not their child(under21) will drink alcohol. ¹

Take Time to Connect with Kids

- Set aside a spot for “Hero of the Month” news on your bulletin board or refrigerator. The hero can be a public figure, a neighbor, a teacher, a friend, or anyone who inspires your child.

Even though it may not seem like it, you are the strongest influence in your child's life. You can do a lot “behind the scenes” to help them stay healthy, strong, and safe.

For more information on how you can become involved in your community, contact Veta or Camille at 1-877-336-2406 with North Central Community Care Partnership

1. Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2007, North Central District Health Department, Profiler Report

“This project is made possible through funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant of NE”

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Adam Patrick
apatrick@esu8.org



The year is off and running! We are now a little over a month into the school year. The year started off when I got to meet the parents and students for the first time at our Registration/Handbook night back in August. The staff had a couple of workdays to prepare for the arrival of students. On August 17th students arrived and we began our journey through the 2011-2012 school year. Since then students and teachers have been diligently working on all their classes.

We have several important dates and activities occurring during this time of the year. Parent Teacher Conferences were held September 20th. I again enjoyed the opportunity to visit with parents and talk a little bit about how their children were doing. The first of our MAP testing weeks will be conducted from September 26-September 30. MAP tests are standardized tests to help us assess how our students and school are performing relative to other schools across the country. One of the aspects I am excited about with MAP is the growth goal it helps students set. The MAP program takes your fall score and grade level and tells you how much other students have improved who are starting at the same point. This gives students something to shoot for.

Now for a look ahead at some important school-related dates coming up for the rest of the semester. October 13th marks the end of the first quarter. An important week coming up is the week of October 17-October 21, Homecoming week! We will be holding many festivities typically associated with Homecoming. On November 11th we will be hosting our annual Veteran's Day Program, I hope to see many of you attend and show your appreciation for the sacrifices our veterans have made for us. On November 23rd students will be dismissed early for Thanksgiving break and will have the 24th and 25th off. Finally, December 22nd is the end of the second quarter and first semester classes will resume January 4th.



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