



EAGLE UPDATE

Phone (402) 843-2455
Fax (402) 843-2475
www.elgineagles.org

Elgin Public School
P.O. Box 399
101 N. 4th St.
Elgin, NE 68636-0399

Volume XXVI, Issue 3

October, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER



Oct. 13
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m.
in ITV Room



Oct. 15
Early Dismissal
1:00 p.m.
Teacher Inservice

Homecoming

End of 1st Quarter



Oct. 19
LifeTouch Studios
Retake Pictures
8:15 a.m.



Oct. 31
HALLOWEEN



WOLFPACK HOMECOMING



Elgin Public School and Pope John Central Catholic are gearing up for their 1st Homecoming as a Wolfpack Sports Cooperative. The student councils from both schools have collaborated on the events that will be held for homecoming this year during the week of Oct. 11-15.

The theme for Homecoming is "Commercials".

Dress-up Days

- Monday, Oct. 11 – Sports Injury Day
- Tuesday, Oct. 12 – Camo Day
- Wednesday, Oct. 13 – Inanimate Object Day
- Thursday, Oct. 14 – Character Day
- Friday, Oct. 15 – Wolfpack Day!

Elgin Public School will be dismissing at 1:00 on Friday for a teacher inservice, so the homecoming parade this year will be held on Thursday at 2:00 in downtown Elgin. Both schools will be participating in the parade and pep rally that follows.

Thursday evening, each school will hold coronation at 7:30 p.m. at in their respective gyms. Then the Wolfpack fans will all come together for a bonfire and pep rally at the Pope John practice field.

Friday's sports competitions will include volleyball vs. Niobrara-Verdigre in the EPS gym. C-team will play at 4:00 p.m., JV at 5:00 p.m. & Varsity Volleyball at 6:00 p.m. The Wolfpack football team will challenge the Niobrara-Verdigre Cougars at 7:30 p.m.

Following the games, grades 9-12 will gather in the EPS gym for a pizza party.

Come and be a part of the 1st Ever Wolfpack Homecoming Week!



GO GREEN: Save water by turning the faucet off while you brush your teeth.

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

Elgin Public PASS System



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

www.elgineagles.org

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



"Note"able News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

NEBRASKA ALL STATE CHORUS: WILL AN ELGIN STUDENT BE THERE???



Each year over 3000 students audition live for a spot in the Nebraska All State Choir, Band and Orchestra. It is indeed an honor to be a member. It takes long hours of practice and preparation to successfully be selected. There are 6 pieces that each choir student

must prepare for auditions. These are the selections that will be performed at the concert with the 450 singers chosen. Each audition takes 6 minutes - to the student and the teacher it seems a lot longer! This year, October 9th will be a big day for those who audition - will they have what it takes to be a member of the elite musical groups of Nebraska?

Elgin Public Schools has students vying for a spot for their first times this year. Briann Grosserode, Christi Getzfred, Jennifer Rhoads and AJ Braband, all seniors, will be auditioning for the choir. If they would be accepted this year, those students will continue the tradition of performing with the choir at the concert in the Lied Center. This is a great honor for any vocal student! Good luck to all of them on October 9th. We hope to see one or all of them on stage in Lincoln in November!!

The Elgin Eagle Marching Band will be performing at the Harvest of Harmony Parade in Grand Island on Sat. Oct. 2nd. Join us at the parade! Good luck Marching Eagles!



ART NEWS

Check out the school web-page, www.elgineagles.org, to see what the Art students are doing! There are several articles under

"Academics>Art" on the various art projects going on. Check out the high school mandelas or the 8th grade sculptures. Look at everything the elementary has been busy with including learning about the Elements of Art that include color, line, shape, form, and value. Post some feedback for the kids to view.

Mrs. Heithoff



NEW MAT FOR THE WOLFPACK?

The Wolfpack Wrestling Team is attempting to raise money to purchase a new wrestling mat for this season. This mat would be used for practice as well as competition. We would welcome any assistance you may be able to give. Please make checks payable to Wolfpack wrestling and send to:

WOLFPACK WRESTLING
ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
P.O. BOX 399
ELGIN, NE 68636

GO GREEN: Only print e-mail when it is absolutely necessary!



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!

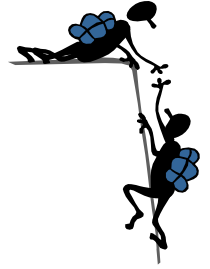


Have you ordered your picture folder for 2011? Single students are \$15 and families are \$20. Send Mrs.

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

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



EducationQuest tools will help you find the right fit for college

Check out [College Profiles](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) to research colleges in Nebraska and across the country. You can search for schools based on location, size, school type, cost, major, activities and services for students with disabilities. Your search results page will list colleges that match your criteria and provide a link to more information about the schools.

Video demonstrates college selection process

Our "Find the Right Fit" video features two high school seniors who find that searching for the right college is like shopping for a good pair of shoes – you have to find the right fit! You'll find this 10-minute video at [EducationQuest.org](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Seniors...have you visited your top colleges?

If you haven't done so already, visit your top college choices *soon* as application deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these tips for a successful visit:

- ◆ **Contact the admissions office at least two weeks in advance** to schedule your visit. Make appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in the area of study that interests you.
- ◆ **Check out the college website before your visit.** Most college sites have a section for prospective students where you can learn about the school's admissions process, types of majors, student services and employment opportunities. You might even be able to schedule your visit online.
- ◆ **Visit while school is in session.** You won't get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.
- ◆ **Get a feel for the campus.** Hang out in the student union, find coffee shops with wireless Internet access, eat in a restaurant close to campus or attend athletic or cultural events.
- ◆ **Ask LOTS of questions.** See the EducationQuest *College Prep Handbook* or website for [good questions to ask](#)

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- ◆ **Don't pay for scholarship searches!** Use free search sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) where you'll find over 2,000 state and local awards. Scholarship resources are also available at your local library and at the EducationQuest offices in Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha.
- ◆ **Visit your guidance counselor weekly** for information about local scholarships.
- ◆ **Get organized.** Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local and college-specific scholarships deserve top priority because you're more likely to earn them.
- ◆ **Continually update your activities, honors and volunteer or paid jobs** using the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).
- ◆ **Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.
- ◆ **Use quality references** such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.
- ◆ **Get an early start on essays.** Describe your interests, hopes for the future, and leadership abilities – but be sure to tailor your essay to the scholarship topic.
- ◆ **Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness.** Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

October "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during October to stay on the right college-planning track.

Juniors and Seniors:

___ Attend the College Fair or Educational Planning Program in your area.

Seniors:

- ___ Schedule campus visits.
- ___ Narrow your college choices and be aware of application deadlines and criteria.
- ___ Register by September 17 for the October 23 ACT.
- ___ Register by October 8 for the November 6 SAT.
- ___ Register by November 5 for the December 4 SAT.
- ___ Register by November 5 for the December 11 ACT.

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.



Youth and Adults working together to encourage youth to make healthy choices
Do you want to help make a difference?
Are you ready to help?
Are you ready to lead?
Get Involved! Join us for the next meeting!
WHERE: Clearwater Fire Hall Clearwater NE
WHEN: October 20, 2010 @ 5:00pm

Please contact Camille Ohri at North Central District Health Department at 402-336-2406 if you have questions.

WONDERFUL WORLD OF WATER

The morning of Wednesday September 15th began cold and wet, fittingly so for the 21st annual Wonderful World of Water. Ten students attended the annual event, held at Gillman Park in Pierce.

The showers, however, did not stop the presenters from sharing their water information with the freshmen and sophomore visitors. They involved the students in their teaching with many hands-on demos and activities. The day was also concluded with a special competition—a water rocket launch. The Elgin students' rocket fared well against the competition!

During the day, students also competed in a Water Wheel of Fortune—the freshmen team placed 1st in their division and the sophomore team placed 2nd (beat by a Yahoo! on the final question). All students competed and represented EPS very well!

The Elgin team also set a record at the Wonderful World of Water. It was the first time that anybody had ever actually fallen in the water during the 21 year event! Our very own Hannah Kerkman will go down in the record books for this "honor."

Students in attendance were sophomores: Angela Richart, Nick Heithoff, Andrew Heithoff, Levi Kerkman, Ashlyn DeWald; and freshmen: Brett Kinney, Ivy Prater, Stephanie Bode, Hannah Kerkman, Madison Voborny. The Wonderful World of Water is hosted by the Upper and Lower Elkhorn NRDs.



The Elgin team gets involved as "rainstorms" to show how regular till and no till soils hold up to erosion.

GO GREEN: *Unplug your cell phone charger to save electricity when not in use.*

**2010 Elgin Public yearbooks
are still available for \$30.00
Make checks payable to
"Elgin Public Schools".**



**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.



**BOX TOPS
FOR EDUCATION**

Just a reminder that we are still collecting Box Tops For Education. During the summer, we collected 1907 boxtops earning our school \$190.70. Top collectors in each grade were 1st grade - Brittney, 2nd grade - Theanna, 3rd grade - Adam, 4th grade - Kira, 5th grade - Liam, 6th grade - Jaime. 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.

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Steve Dennis
sdennis@esu8.org



As the temperature cools off in the evenings it makes me think about the seasonal changes and specifically what winter will bring this year. It is interesting to listen to the various predictions on what ‘Old Man Winter’ is delivering us this year. Of course possible scenarios of what is in store range from a mild winter to worse than last year. To inform parents about weather related information we added Alert Now to our notification system last winter. Should there be a late start or no school because of weather or any other information we may need to send, Alert Now calls all telephone numbers parents have provided us to receive this notification. It is very important that parents make sure they have provided us with the phone number(s) that they would like to have called.

Communication with students, parents and patrons of the district is important. Another resource we use is our school website. You can access the Elgin Public Schools site at: www.elgineagles.org. Our official calendar is the school website calendar. When an event is added to our calendar, you are able to view it online immediately. A new tab which has been added is Lesson Plans. By clicking here you are able to view current teacher lesson plans. There is a wealth of information here. I encourage you to visit, bookmark and use this site.

We greatly appreciate all that the parents and patrons do for our district. Your continued help, input and cooperation is important to us as we work on our School Improvement Process (SIP). The state of Nebraska has also been involved with school improvement for many years. With the old system every five to seven years schools completed a check list of information. A committee would then visit the district one or two days to review this information and a final report would be submitted. Most of this information would be looked at and shelved until the next visitation was due.

Today’s School Improvement Process is still on a five year cycle. However, now the emphasis is on Continuous Improvement and is data driven. A goal for implementation is to be selected from information available from various data sources. The emphasis is to address a goal and when completed move on. Should it take three years to achieve the desired results you celebrate then continue on with the process. You do not wait for the magical five years timeline to select new goals. I believe this is a positive step in the school improvement process.

The Continuous Improvement process involves Seven Standards for Effective Schools. These standards are: Standard 1 – Vision and Purpose; Standard 2 – Governance and Leadership; Standard 3 – Teaching and Learning; Standard 4 – Documenting and Using Results; Standard 5 – Resources and Support Systems; Standard 6 – Stakeholder Communication and Relationships and Standard 7 – Commitment to Continuous Improvement.



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!



It is hard to believe that we passed the midpoint of the quarter and we are already half way through the football and volleyball seasons. This year seems to have begun with a sprint.

Last week we completed parent-teacher conferences. I was pleased to see that 85% of Junior High and High School students had a parent attend. As educators, parent support is crucial, because student success rate goes up when parents take an active role in their child's education.

As a school, we try to promote parent involvement with the systems we have in place.

I want to remind parents of two easy tools we have available to them:

- ◆ Parents can access their student's grades at any time. On the right side of our webpage, there is a button titled "Schoolmaster PASS." By clicking this button, you will be directed to a log-in that allows you to view your student's grades, attendance, GPA history, and much more. Each parent was given their student's ID and Pin at the start of the year. Your son or daughter can help you with this as well because each student has been shown how to login and view their grades.
- ◆ Lesson plans are posted on the webpage. There is a tab on the left side of the webpage titled "Lesson Plans." Clicking this link will take you to a page that has each class listed. Teachers post their plans at the start of the week each week. This is a great way to see what is going on in the classroom and keep informed about what students are learning each day.



Mr. Jones showing parents how to view their student's grades online at Parent Teacher Conferences.

As Homecoming approaches, the Student Councils from Elgin Public and Pope John have worked together to plan the week. The Wolfpack classes will be working together to create billboards that will be used in the parade and a cheer that will be showcased at the Pep Rally. This year's theme is commercials. Each school will still create poster to be hung in the gym using the theme board games. They have planned dress-up days and activities for students to take part in during the week. A schedule for the week is posted in the bulletin and on the principal's page on the webpage. I am looking forward to a great week and hopefully you will see excitement from the students as the week gets closer!