



EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School

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Elgin, NE 68636-0399

Volume XXII, Issue 3

October, 2006

DATES TO REMEMBER

AG STUDENTS EDUCATE ELEMENTARY DURING FARM SAFETY WEEK



Oct. 5

Parent-Teacher Conferences
4:30—9:00 p.m.



Oct. 10

Homecoming Coronation 7:00 pm
Bonfire 8:00 pm



Oct. 11

School Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.



Oct. 18

LATE START
10:00 a.m.



Oct. 20

NO SCHOOL



Oct. 24

School Picture retakes



Agriculture students, Danny Henn, Tyrell Friese, & Jonathan Gunderson, spoke to elementary students about four-wheeler safety during farm safety week program held September 22nd.



NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

The new Elgin Public School webpage will be online soon. We've chosen SOCS (simplified online communication system) to create our new webpage.

The web team, consisting of Rita Heithoff, Paula Jensen and Corey Fisher, were given several templates to choose from for our home page design. The company made a mockup of our choices for our approval. We've approved the mockup for the page design and are proceeding to the next level. This step includes deciding what information to have on the site. After we have the site designed, SOCS will train our team on its use.

The yearbook staff, under the direction of Mrs. Heithoff, will be the main webmasters on the new webpage. Any interested teacher or staff member will be trained to submit stories and post them to the webpage also.

Items included on the new webpage will be the master calendar, daily bulletin, menus, and newsletter. The new site is more user-friendly and will allow more information and photos to be posted quicker. Up-to-date cancellations or postponements will be posted as soon as the information is made available.

For a sample of what our new site will look like you may go to Plainview Public Schools, Pierce Public or Stanton Community Schools. These schools all use the SOCS system. The EPS webmasters hope to have the site up and running by mid-October.

SIXTH GRADE SCIENCE NEWS



Andrew Heithoff



Julianna Dunn



Levi Kerkman



Harley Janssen



The 6th graders have been a busy group of students so far this year in Science. The latest thing that they are learning are atoms and what makes up an atom. Last week the students had to create a model of an atom with all the basic parts of the atom. Their model had to be a 3-D image and creative. The students ended up producing some very creative atoms. Each student brought their model to class and had to discuss the model with the other students.

Randy Eisenhauer
4th-6th grade Science Teacher

WE ALL HAVE A HAND IN OUR SUCCESS

On September 14th, the 3rd graders welcomed their parents to an Open House in their classroom. Students had a chance to show parents their classroom, desks, and some of the activities they do throughout the day. Parents took a "Pop Quiz" and students graded their parents' work. Parents and students also added their hand prints to a poster entitled "We All Have A Hand In Our Success." Parents had a chance to meet Mrs. Simpson and ask any questions they may have. All 11 students and their parents attended the open house.





Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

ALL STATE CHOIR AUDITIONS

Elgin Public Schools has four choir students preparing for auditions for the Nebraska All State Choir. Each student learns 7 songs that will be on the final concert for the auditions. Auditions will be held in Norfolk on Saturday, October 14 and results will be announced 10 days after that. Out of class A-D schools, 450 voices will be chosen for the honor. Elgin Public Schools auditionees are Dana Uhrenholdt, Bethany Kallhoff, Kara Zegers and Nathan Niewohner. Good luck to our students and we hope to see them performing in Lincoln in November!

YOUNG AMERICANS COMING TO ELKHORN VALLEY SCHOOLS

The Young Americans try to encourage music in our nations schools, train young people in performance and strengthen character. A company of 38 performers touring Nebraska will present 3 days of workshops in voice, dance and all aspects of the performing arts for grades 4-12. The last evening, a 2-hour concert will be performed with the Young Americans and hundreds of students from northeast Nebraska - including Elgin! Elgin Public Schools has 12 students signed up to go. The workshop is Monday, Oct. 16 through Wednesday, Oct. 18 at the Tilden Gym. The concert will be Oct. 18 at 7:30 pm with the doors opening at 7:00 pm. There is an admission if you would like to experience this amazing group. We hope to see you there!

Children must be taught how to think,
not what to think.

Margaret Mead
American anthropologist



Is there money in your lunch account?

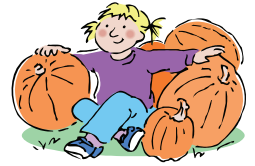
Please call the school 843-2455 or e-mail the lunch account bookkeeper Jan Henn (jhenn@esu8.org) or school secretary Paula Jensen (jensenp@esu8.org) if you would like to find out. All students with an account balance of -\$10.00 will not be allowed to charge seconds or extra juice. When an account balance reaches -\$25.00, students will not be allowed to charge at all. Please help us to keep all accounts current!

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 843-2455.

Kindergarten News

By Mrs. Janie Score



October will be a busy month in the Kindergarten Room. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-13, so we'll venture out for a field trip to the Elgin Fire Hall. The students are shown the trucks, their function and talk about fire safety rules, etc. The fire truck ride back to school is always the highlight of the trip for the little folks.

October 12 makes the celebration of Christopher Columbus's discovery to America a fun day for Social Studies. In the spirit of the voyage, the students will listen to several stories and make ships.

The new season of Autumn is at hand so students can bring in items for the Nature Center. We will also be planting tulip bulbs in front of our room for fall and watch them bloom in the spring. Thank you to all who continue to clip and send in the Gen. Mills Box Tops. Happy Halloween to everyone.

ONE-ACT PREPARES FOR THE STAGE

By Mrs. Sara Walsh

The Elgin Public One-Act season has begun! We're currently in our second week of practice on our piece entitled "Hard Candy," a comedy by Jonathan Rand. The face of the team has changed greatly, with only three remaining cast members from last year's season. Despite the "newness" of the team, they are already performing as though they've had years of experience!

This year we will hold a "Parents' Sneak Peak," a practice in which parents are invited to attend. Parents will be invited to take part in some activities we have planned as well as view the play for the first time.

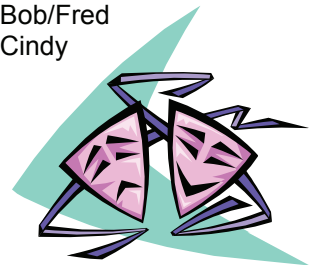
The NVC contest will be held at Wheeler-Central on Monday, November 13. Our district contest will be at Stuart on Tuesday, November 28.

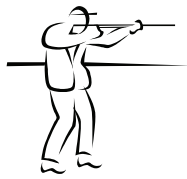
Cast

Jeff Bush	Ira
Ben Beckman	Adam/Harry
Jennifer Bush	Gail
Amanda Hemenway	Linda
Kayla Hoffart	Jill
Teri Kittelson	Emily
Nathan Niewohner	Dave
Wes Prater	Bob/Fred
Dana Uhrenholdt	Cindy

Crew

Justin Reestman
Tyler Reestman
Tonya Wiegand





FFA Blue Rock Shoot
Sunday, Oct. 8
 10:00 a.m.

Antelope Shooters Club
 Neligh, NE
 (1 mile south of Neligh on Hwy. 14, 1/2 mile east)

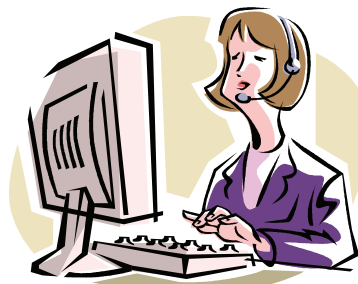
Adult & Youth Division
 Beginner's Division
 Ammo, lunch, & snacks for sale at shoot!

Voice Mailbox ID Numbers:

Elgin Public School now has a voicemail system. When you call the school after hours or when the secretary is away from the phone you will be asked to leave a message. The following is a list of staff and their voicemail ID number:

Supt. Gayla Fredrickson—100
 Principal Corey Fisher—103

- Allen Beckman—105
- Deb Beckman—131
- Barb Bode—112
- Darla Butterfield—123
- Ellen Davis—124
- Krista Eisenhauer—129
- Randy Eisenhauer—144
- Dianne Gunderson—135
- Rita Heithoff—117
- Jan Henn—110
- Paula Jensen—101
- Jeanine Jochum—111
- Jeane Johnson—120
- Deb Jones—108
- Doug Jones—121
- Gwen Kinney—136
- Elaine Meyers—118
- Lori Newcomb—122
- Lisa Poulsen—113
- Janie Score—138
- Kim Shestak—116
- Brenda Siems—134
- Nichole Simpson—133
- Phil Simpson—107
- Shirley Thorberg—125
- Sue Vanis—139
- Sara Walsh—142
- Carlie Wells—106



THANK YOU

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!



From the Activities Director.....

Did You Know:

Elgin Public Schools is a drug free zone.

Anyone possessing alcohol, tobacco products including cigarettes and chewing tobacco and/or other illegal drugs on campus can be arrested! There have been some complaints regarding some spectators smoking at home football games. We do not have a designated area for smoking as it is not permitted anywhere on campus. Please keep in mind that you are at a school sponsored activity where young kids are present. Bringing alcohol to consume in vehicles during games is also prohibited and against state and federal law. Please make a point to attend all activities with the understanding that the school reserves the right to enforce laws if they are broken. We ask that you make the effort to comply with the all laws regarding your attendance at school-sponsored activities. We do not wish to have anyone removed from a school event but those who are deliberately disregarding the rules will be addressed accordingly.

Corey Fisher, A.D.

Mark your calendars:

Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 5, 2006

4:30—9:00 p.m.

BOX TOPS



FOR EDUCATION

Just a reminder that we are still collecting Box Tops For Education. As we submit Box Tops from various General Mills products, the company sends a check to our school. This money helps to fund elementary field trips in the spring and various other projects. 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!



GO EAGLES!

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



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. Ask about an overnight stay.
- ⇒ **Visit while school is in session.** You won't get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.
- ⇒ **Attend a freshman-level class.** Notice how students interact with the instructor, and how the class is structured.
- ⇒ **Read the campus newspaper and posters** to get an idea of activities and hot campus issues.
- ⇒ **Ask LOTS of questions.** See the *College Prep Handbook* for good questions to ask.
- ⇒ **If you can't visit, check out the school's website.** You'll find admission requirements, academic and social information and campus photos or a virtual tour.

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- ◆ **Don't pay for scholarship searches!** Use free resources including *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org; www.fastweb.com; www.fastaid.com; www.srnexpress.com and www.scholarships.com.
- ◆ **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 www.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.
- ◆ **Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness.** Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

Watch your mailbox ...

Seniors...your parents will soon receive a postcard highlighting what you should do this fall to prepare for college. Review this information carefully with them to make sure you complete important tasks before the deadlines.

Educational Planning Programs also feature college reps

If you can't make it to a College Fair, attend an Educational Planning Program at your high school or a school near you. These programs also feature college representatives. See the "Upcoming Events" section at www.educationquest.org for dates and locations.

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:

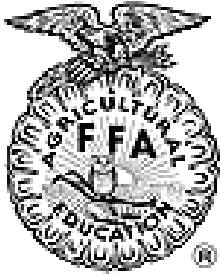
- ___ schedule campus visits.
- ___ narrow your college choices and be aware of application deadlines and criteria.
- ___ register by September 22 for the October 28 ACT.
- ___ register by September 29 for the November 4 SAT.
- ___ register by November 1 for the December 2 SAT.
- ___ register by November 3 for the December 9 ACT.



For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

www.educationquest.org

EducationQuest Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.



Elgin FFA members compete in Range Judging Contest on Cold Blustery Day

On Monday, September 18, 51 FFA members from Elgin Public, Pope John, and Neligh-Oakdale traveled to the Gavin's Point Dam to compete in the Area 5 Range Judging Contest. Mr. Simpson was very pleased with the performance of the students at the Range Contest. Out of the 51 students that competed in the contest 24 received individual ribbons, meaning that they finished in the top 25% of all the competitors in the contest.

The overall champion in the contest was Ben Beckman. Ben received a rosette and a purple ribbon. Brandon Grosserode received a white for tying for 4th place in the senior division. The following students placed in the top 25% of all senior division competitors at the contest and received a green ribbon for their efforts: 7th Travis Sprout, 8th Vicky Overman (Neligh-Oakdale), 9th Paige Redding, 10th Brandon Anderson, 13th Luke Beckman (Pope John), 14th Michael Miller, 15th Wes Prater, 21st Tony Selting (Pope John), & 22nd Danny Henn.

In the Junior Division Brett Mahnke finished second overall and received a Blue ribbon, Linsey Bode finished 3rd overall and received a Red ribbon. Other participants who finished in the top 25% of all Junior competitors and receiving green ribbons were: Jake Schindler (Pope John), Kara Zegers, Austin Mitchell (Pope John), Ryan Hoefer (Neligh-Oakdale), Nathan Niewohner, Carlie Redding, Tonya Wiegand, Tad Henkenius, Amber Hoffart, & Josh Beckman (Pope John).

In the Senior Division the team of Ben Beckman, Paige Redding, Danny Henn, & Michael Miller finished 2nd in the contest and received a blue ribbon. The team of Brandon Anderson, Brandon Grosserode, Travis Sprout, and Jake Bode finished third overall and received a white ribbon.

In the Junior Division the team of Brett Mahnke, Nathan Niewohner, Carlie Redding, & Tyler Reestman finished second overall and received a blue award. The team of Jake Schindler, Austin Mitchell, Josh Beckman, and Macaib Hoefer finished 4th overall and received a white award.

Mr. Phil Simpson was the Champion in the Professional Division of the contest.

Need a sports schedule?

All of Elgin Public School's athletic schedules are posted online at:
<http://www.highschoolsports.net>

WANTED:

The One-Act department is looking for an office desk to borrow/buy. We would like a smaller sized, lightweight one if possible. If you can help us, contact Sara Walsh at 843-2455.

Thanks!

Northeast Adult Education Classes

community college

Northeast Community College is going to offer digital camera classes at Elgin Public School during the month of October.

Advanced point & shoot digital camera—October 4 (Wednesday), from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Instructed by Linda Haines for NECC

Basic Computer Use with Digital Camera—October 18 (Wednesday), from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Instructed by Linda Haines for NECC

Digital SLR Camera—October 25 (Wednesday), from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Instructed by Linda Haines for NECC

Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much.

Helen Keller



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.



Passion Versus Hobby

“What are your hobbies?” I was asked this last spring and since then I have done some thinking about hobbies and passions. According to Wikipedia (the online encyclopedia) a hobby is a spare-time pursuit of something one enjoys. The term is thought to have come from either the pursuit of falconry in the middle ages or from the term hobbyhorse. A hobby was an English horse and the hobbyhorse was a toy that represented the real thing. However, children rode the hobbyhorse for enjoyment. Thus the term arose about one pursuing their “hobbyhorse” when they got on a particular subject of interest to them. It is thought that the term hobby arose from that. Wikipedia notes that what is a hobby for one person can be a profession for another person. A person can have a hobby of cooking in their spare time while a chef is employed as a cook on a professional basis.

I replied last spring that I enjoyed gardening as one of my hobbies. Another hobby that I have is reading. Being a somewhat voracious reader almost all genres appeal to me (except science fiction and horror) and I might read a mystery followed by a romance chased down with a self-improvement work.

When does a hobby become a passion? This is difficult to judge. Wikipedia states that passion involves strong emotion about a subject. Hmm. Maybe I don’t have a hobby for gardening, maybe I have a passion for growing things. I love watching things grow and mature: My garden, the flowers, my children and grandchildren and your children and grandchildren. I confess that, it is true, I have more than an educational profession, I have a passion for watching children learn and grow. In my profession, I am very fortunate, because I get to pursue my passion as I work.

A child is having difficulty reading. What do we need to do to help him grow as a reader? This challenge brings about the passionate pursuit of the right techniques or skills needed for the child to grow and succeed. Another child is having a very difficult time because of an unstable home life. What can we do to assist in helping him have a sense of stability and safety? These types of challenges occur on a daily basis in a school system and after three plus decades in schools and school systems I must confess the challenge is still a fresh and invigorating one for me. There is nothing so rewarding as seeing a child succeed because he had the help he needed at just the time he needed it.

I hope that each of the teachers I work with has a passion for the work they do. I often challenge them to examine themselves to make certain they are where they want to be, doing the work they love. If not, I urge them to find something else to do that they might enjoy more. Our children deserve all of our passion and professional training.

Sometimes, unfortunately, I see parents that treat children as a hobby. They act like they can take up the training and raising of their children in their spare time while they pursue other activities of greater interest. Only occasionally do they take the time to interact and enjoy their family. This is a tremendous disservice to children. Children need to be their parents’ passion. We simply can’t make raising children a hobby. Each life we bring into this world is unique and will only be able to offer the world it’s best if it has a strong start and is well tended as it grows and matures. I challenge each of you as parents and grandparents to make the raising of your children and grandchildren a passion, not a hobby.

EHS STUDENTS ATTEND WONDERFUL WORLD OF WATER

On Wednesday September 20, nine students attended the annual Wonderful World of Water in Pierce, NE. The day started out chilly, but warmed up by afternoon! Students attended various hands-on sessions regarding water, a precious natural resource. Presentations included dam building, GPS equipment, soil conservation practices, and waterfowl. The teams this year also built water rockets to launch.



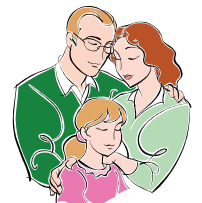
*Character is doing what's right
when nobody's looking.*

J.C. Watts

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thank you to the following people who serve on the Parent Advisory Council:

President: Joanne Anderson
Vice President: Deb Hickman
Secretary: Lisa Welding
Member: Ray Braband
Member: Sarah Dunn
Member: Tracy Stamp



The PAC is designed to be a liaison to the school administration and staff. The council meets regularly on a monthly basis to discuss school happenings and to make recommendations to help EPS be the best it can be.

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



We are off and running! The start of this school year has been wonderful. Students arrived with a very positive spirit and for the most part, have followed through with that attitude as we reach the midway point in the quarter. The EHS football team is undefeated and highly ranked in class D2 and the volleyball team has shown improvements, as they have been competitive in their games thus far. Many of our high school students are very active as they are involved in many school activities and with that come many late nights and early mornings. Somehow they manage to stay on top of things and that is great preparation for their futures.

As you are all aware, Dr. Fredrickson is serving as superintendent for both the Elgin School District and the Ewing School District. Since she will be on site fewer days this year, I have the privilege of working more with the elementary students and staff than what I have the past two years. I have really enjoyed that aspect of my position thus far. Sometimes, the issues that are found at those lower grade levels are no different than at the high school levels. I would like to remind all parents and students that the most important thing that students can do, no matter the level of education, is to come to school prepared to succeed. Having homework completed is highly important. I have been addressed a couple of times regarding the amount of homework that students are bringing home. It is important to remember that our elementary teachers are mainly veteran teachers. They understand what students should be able to handle. They really do have the students best interests in mind. While they are not above having concerns brought to their attention and if there is something that we need to address, we will make that decision and address it together.

Students are given ample time to work nearly everyday on homework assignments and while some students are bringing home much homework, others are bringing home very little. A lot is determined as to how hard they are working here at the school. Please visit with your child and his/her teacher(s) to make sure that you, as a parent, are in complete understanding as to what is actually taking place here at school. I have said many times and will continue to promote that parents who demonstrate support of the school and its expectations and policies, will find that their children will succeed. Students are less apt to follow the rules and policies of the school if the parents are negative and non-supportive of the school and its teachers/staff. Parents whom, in the presence of their child, make negative remarks regarding a teacher(s) will find that their child will carry those same beliefs and feelings, as well. I was fortunate to attend the same school as my parents and had some of the same teachers as they did. Believe me, I had a preconceived perception of my teachers before ever walking in the classrooms. Doing that only places the student at a disadvantage. Please keep that in mind and work to support the school and its policies even if you do not always agree with them. We are here to prepare your child to be a successful adult and that process begins when they enter as a kindergarten student and the process continues through graduation. By working together, we can make certain that your child is highly prepared to succeed.

As we begin the fall harvest season, I hope all of you take the time to recognize those around our community and surrounding area for the hard work they do. Farming and ranching has become a very tough business. With increased fuel costs and tough foreign markets, the local agriculture industry has had to work extremely hard to turn profits. They deserve a pat on the back! I would like to wish all of our farmers and ranchers a safe and productive fall. We appreciate all you do.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 399
Elgin, NE 68636

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POSTAL PATRON