



EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School
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Volume XXIII, Issue 3

October, 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER



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



Oct. 12
End of 1st quarter



Oct. 17
LATE START
10:00 a.m.



Oct 19
NO SCHOOL



Oct. 23
Picture retakes



VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL VISITED



Thursday August 30 was a special day for Elgin students. They had the opportunity to see the Moving Vietnam Wall. The wall was set up in Verdigre for display. It is a half size replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall located in Washington D.C. It travels throughout the United States giving many more people an opportunity to see it.

Students were able to see the names of the more than 58,000 soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The Jr. High and the Sr. High students spent an hour looking for names they may know and then used tracing paper to bring the names home as remembrances. They also were able to view specially prepared exhibits of soldiers from Northeast Nebraska who lost their lives in the war.

Many of the students felt it was a great experience. Shane Voborny had this to say. "I will admit it, seeing those names on the wall made me realize what the importance of the wall really is and what comfort people may get out of it." Allie Schiltmeyer thought "it was a very moving and emotional experience even though I didn't know anyone on the wall who were killed."

This was a tremendous opportunity to make history more meaningful to the students. I feel they have a greater appreciation for the Vietnam War and the sacrifices that were given for their country.

by Mr. Doug Jones

A SALUTE TO THE CONSTITUTION

On Friday September 21st, 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 us to reflect on the document that has guided the United States for the last 220 years.



Mr. Fisher spoke on the need for taking time to honor this important document. A reading by some members of the 11th grade American Government class followed this. They read a choral reading by Lorainne Griffith concerning the Preamble to the Constitution. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the entire student body.

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.



Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

LIONS CLUB PARADE

The Elgin Marching Eagles traveled to Norfolk for the Lions Club parade on Saturday, September 22nd. The parade began at 10:00 am and is the same route and format as the annual Lavitset parade has been each year. The crowds seemed to be about the same size and enthusiast when bands went by, but the number of bands entered decreased from years past. The gentleman lining us up told Mrs. Jones there would only be 21 bands marching from Class AA to Class D schools.

There were 5 bands in the D division this year: Elgin Public, Osceola, Orchard, Osmond and Coleridge. Coleridge has been the band to beat in recent years – placing first many years in a row. Osmond moved down from Class C to D this year and has won Class C competition many years as well. So it was a battle for first! Osmond won out this year picking up first place with Coleridge coming in second. Elgin Public did a wonderful job performing and the crowd commented that the band sounded great. I don't know what place we received at this point, but I was very proud of the students' efforts. They came through for Elgin's pride when it counted. Congratulations band!!!



HARVEST OF HARMONY PARADE

October 6th is our last parade for the Elgin Eagle Marching Band. We will travel to Grand Island for the annual Harvest of Harmony parade that day very early as the parade begins at 8:30 am. It will be televised on NTV out of Kearney (an ABC affiliate) – this is a new station televising the parade. You can also check out the new website that will include information about each band, each town and queen candidates before and after the parade day. Visit the site at: www.harvestofharmony.tv

Mrs. Jones doesn't have the lineup of the parade yet as this newsletter goes out, but I will try to keep you updated on the Elgin School webpage. So check it out and wish us luck!

ALL STATE CHOIR

Each year over 3000 students audition live for a spot in the Nebraska All State Choir. It is indeed an honor to be a member. It takes long hours of practice and preparation to successfully be selected. This year, October 13th will be a big day for those who audition – will they have what it takes to be a member of the elite musicians of Nebraska?

Elgin Public Schools has three students vying for a spot this year. They are Jennifer Bush (senior), Bethany Kallhoff (junior) and Nathan Niewohner (junior). Nathan was chosen last year as a sophomore and had a wonderful musical experience. Good luck to those students on October 13th. We hope to see them in Lincoln in November!!

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.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS TESTS



The Elgin Elementary 4th, 5th, and 6th grade have completed their National Physical Fitness test. All of the students that participated did an excellent job. I have listed some of the best marks for each grade Level.

6th Grade

Mile Run

Brett Kinney 8:03
Ivy Prater 8:13

5th Grade

Paula Dowdy 8:03
Christain Dunn 8:05

4th Grade

Dylan Behnk 7:28
Sawyer Kuhl 8:14

Sit-ups

Brett Kinney (52) Logan Niewohner (45) Sawyer Kuhl (40)
Madison Voborny(46) Haley Stamp (43) Dylan Behnk(40)

Push-ups

Brett Kinney (40) Austin Kallhoff (40) Dylan Behnk (20)
Ivy Prater (30) Paula Dowdy (36) Sawyer Kuhl (19)
Hannah Kerkman(30)

Hang Test

Brett Kinney(56) Austin Kallhoff(26) Austin Miller (31)
Hannah Kerkman(32) Ashley Lierman (20) Sawyer Kuhl (17)

Sit and Reach(inches)

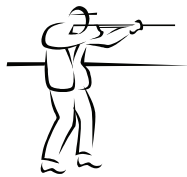
Hunter Thramer(3) Victoria Fangman(4.5) Tiera Thramer(3.25)
Bailey Carpenter(2.5) Haley Stamp (4) Morgan Carpenter(3)

During the school year the students will continue to improve their fitness levels. We will be doing activities through out the year to increase our endurance, flexibility and strength. Then in April we will retest all students to see if we are improving our fitness level.



Is there money in your lunch account?

Please call the school 843-2455 or e-mail the lunch account bookkeeper Andrea Fisher (afisher@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!



FFA Blue Rock Shoot Sunday, Oct. 7 1:00 p.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!

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!

Need a sports schedule?

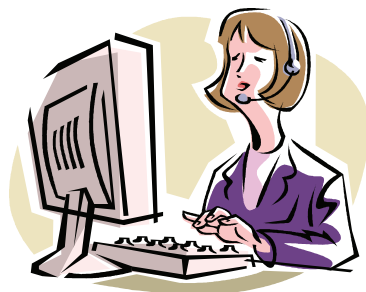
All of Elgin Public School's athletic schedules are posted online at:
<http://www.highschoolsports.net>

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
Heidi Heilheckerr - 102
Rita Heithoff—117
Jan Henn—110
Paula Jensen—101
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



MOUSE TRAP RACE CARS

Introduction to Engineering students were given the task of designing and building a race-car powered only by the energy supplied by a mousetrap. At first, many were stumped as to how to harness the energy from the mousetrap spring, but after some brainstorming and teamwork they all developed a working car. Most teams made numerous modifications over the course of three weeks and the competition was held Monday, September 24th. The goal was to finish first on a 3-meter track. As long as their car went one meter they were allowed to continue in the double elimination tournament.

Competition was fierce but the winning team was Tad Henkenius and David Weaver. Some will argue that a tie for first should also include the team of Alex Kinney, Matt Anderson, and Kyle Faust. The project was a great opportunity for these students to learn and apply the concepts of the engineering design



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.

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!

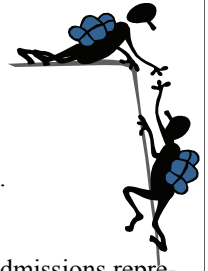
Mark your calendars:

Parent-Teacher Conferences

*October 4, 2007
4:30—9:00 p.m.*

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.

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 www.educationquest.org that lists over 1,600 state and local awards. Check out free national sites such as FastWeb, SRN Express and FastAid. 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 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 – 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.

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.

October "To Do" List

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

Juniors and Seniors:

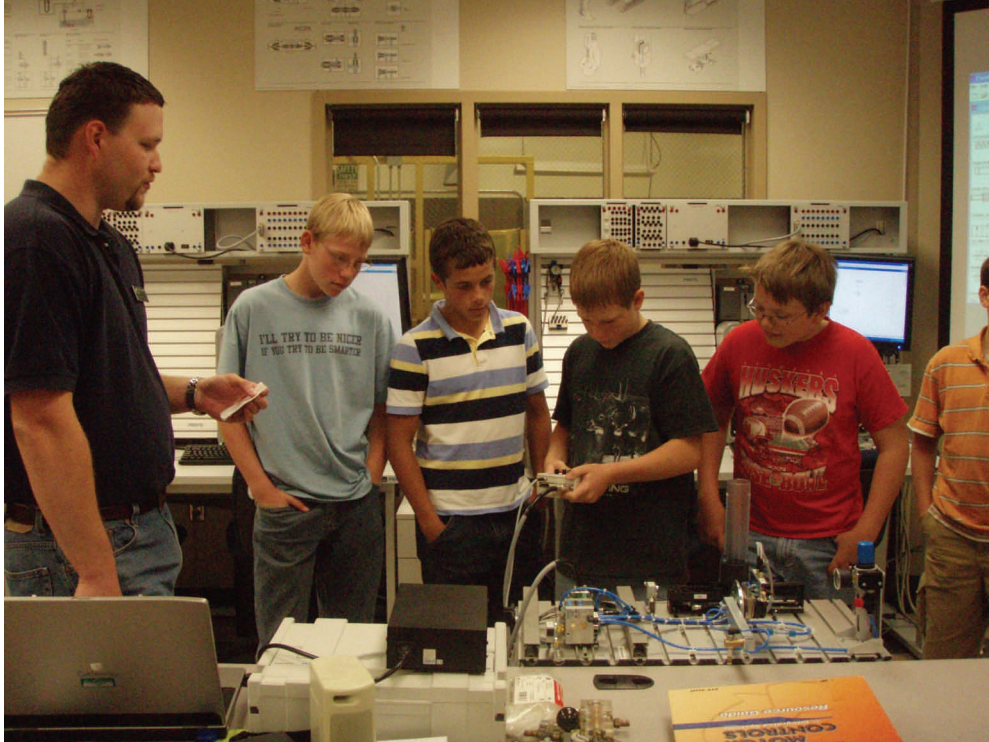
___ attend the College Fair or Educational Planning Program in your area.

Seniors:

- ___ schedule campus visits.
- ___ narrow your college choices and be aware of application deadlines and criteria.
- ___ register by September 21 for the October 27 ACT.
- ___ register by October 2 for the November 3 SAT.
- ___ register by October 30 for the December 1 SAT.
- ___ register by November 3 for the December 9 ACT.

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

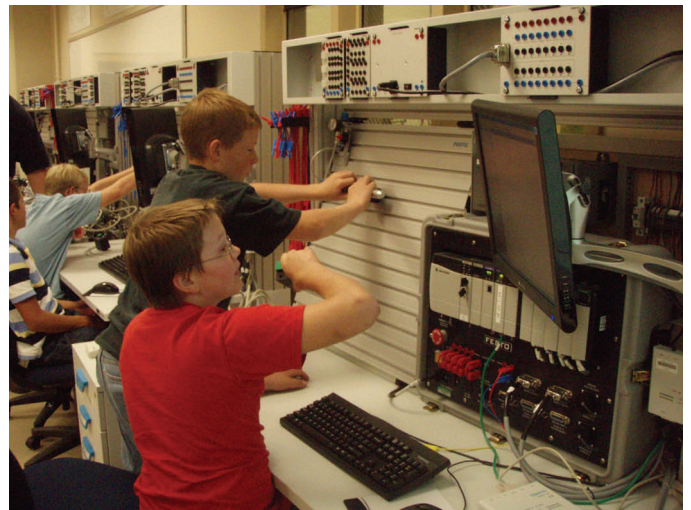
MECHATRONICS FIELD TRIP



Central Community College instructors demonstrate equipment to EPS Eighth graders Nash Schindler, Dean Braband, Shane Vanis, and Tre Henkenius.

Eighth Graders Learn About Mechatronics

Technology in today's world is ubiquitous. Many current manufacturing processes use programmable systems to perform functions efficiently and economically. Eighth graders had the opportunity to develop and program their own systems at Central Community College last week. Central currently offers a degree in Mechatronics, which as the name sounds, is a combination of mechanical systems



Shane Vanis and Tre Henkenius build their device together.



Ben Wiegand and Connor Kinney demonstrate teamwork.

and electronics controlled by computer programming. Each student had the opportunity to build and program a small pneumatic device, see a manufacturing process at work, and tour the facilities. The field trip was a great way to expose students to a possible career path with a very promising future. It also helped to reinforce many of the concepts they're learning with the LEGO Mindstorm robots. The students really seemed to enjoy the hands-on tour that Central was gracious enough to provide.



District Range Judging Contest

The Elgin FFA Chapter had 48 members travel to the District Range Judging Contest held at the Niobrara State Park on Thursday, September 20, 2007. The Chapter was well represented and continued a long running tradition of being one of the top range judging schools in the Area.

In the Senior Division Elgin FFA members walked away with seven of the top ten ribbons. Receiving green ribbons were Tyler Reestman, Carlie Redding, Jake Schindler, and Macaib Hoefler. Finishing 4th individually and receiving a white ribbon was Michael Miller. Linsey Bode finished 3rd overall and received a red ribbon and Amanda Hemenway was the top individual from Elgin she finished second overall in the contest and received a blue ribbon. In the Junior Division receiving green ribbons for placing in the top 15% were Curtis Childers and Jessica Heithoff

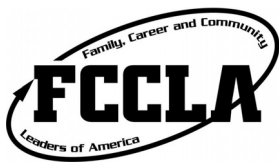
In the team competition the team of Macaib Hoefler, Jake Schindler, Austin Mitchell, and Josh Beckman tied for third with another Elgin Team, which consisted of Amanda Hemenway, Jessica Morrison, Kyle Childers, and Jonathan Gunderson. All eight of these students received a red ribbon for their efforts.

The senior team of Linsey Bode, Michael Miller, Carlie Redding and Nathan Niewohner placed first in the senior division and were the Champion Senior Team at the Area Five Range Judging Contest. These students each received a blue ribbon for their efforts. Mr. Simpson placed second overall in the professional division and received a blue ribbon.

Several of these members will travel to the State Range Judging contest, which will be held in Ainsworth on October 2, 2007



The Champion Senior Team members were Carlie Redding, Nathan Niewohner, Michael Miller, and Linsey Bode.



FCCLA INSTALLS OFFICERS

On September 24, 2007, the Elgin FCCLA chapter held their first "Family Night" and their annual installation of officers. President Jennifer Bush began the meeting with openings ceremonies and a welcome speech to all parents, members, and new members. The new officer team lit the candles for the ten most important reasons for FCCLA. Vice President, Becki Schindler, prepared a slide show with pictures of events from the year before. Secretary- Treasurer, Jenna Schindler, then discussed the all of the activities and community service that the chapter had done in the past year. Mrs. Bode then installed the new officers for the 2007- 2008 school year. They are President- Jennifer Bush, Vice- President- Becki Schindler, Secretary- Treasurer- Jenna Schindler, News Reporter- Allie Schiltmeyer, and District Representative- Alisha Anderson. They pledged to lead a good year, full of success. After the installation of officers, the members planned a FCCLA Family Fun Game Show that imitated the famous "Newlywed Game," for the parents and students against each other. Jennifer Bush then ended the meeting with closing ceremonies and a reciting of the FCCLA creed followed by dessert served by the freshman members. The members will be attending Districts in October and the National Cluster Meeting in November.

From the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dr. Gayla Fredrickson



Whole Faculty Study Groups

Last July a group of Elgin educators was trained in using faculty study groups to effect student academic gains. "The Whole-Faculty Study Group system is a job-embedded, self-directed, student-driven approach to professional development," states Carlene Murphy the developer of the approach. Every faculty member is involved and all of their study revolves around the following guiding questions.

- What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will have a deeper understanding of what they teach?
- What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will be more skillful in how they teach?
- What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will challenge students to learn difficult and fundamental concepts?
- What do students need for teachers to do so that the teachers will give students skills to be deep thinkers and problem solvers?

In August the group that attended the summer training introduced the process to the rest of the staff. After the initial training staff members decided what area of the curriculum they wanted to study. This determined the study group they were in. The Elgin staff has chosen the following questions to study for the remainder of this year:

- What can we do to improve our students' understanding of scientific topics and their application? (Mrs. Heilhecker, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Walsh, Mr. Eisenhauer and Mr. Simpson)
- How can we teach students to comprehend what they read? (Mrs. Beckman, Mrs. Zwingman, Mrs. Vanis, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Simpson--elementary) (Mrs. Newcomb, Miss Meyers and Mrs. Jones--secondary)
- What can we do in our classroom to assist students in decoding and reading fluency? (Mrs. Eisenhauer, Mrs. Gunderson, Mrs. Jochum, Mrs. Lierman and Mrs. Score)
- How can we improve student spelling and writing? (Mrs. Thorberg, Mr. Wells, Mrs. Siems and Miss Davis)
- How do we motivate students to become an active, positive citizen in today's society? (Mr. Jones, Mrs. Heithoff and Mrs. Butterfield)



Karl Clauset explains the process to Shirley Thorberg as Alice Senseny and Becky Brandl confer on the work being done.

As you can tell by reading the questions each team has chosen to study these are vital issues for any student's development. The teams were able to determine the essential question they wish to address and are now working on conducting the research into the problem and selecting interventions to use on the problem.

Karl Clauset a leader from the Whole Faculty Study Group and Alice Senseny from the Nebraska Department of Education were in Elgin Monday morning, September 24th, to visit with a representative from each group about the work so far. Questions about the process and the work were addressed.

The groups will continue to meet for approximately one hour twice a month as they study the problem, view student work and plan interventions and strategies. The groups will be reporting periodically to the Curriculum Coordinating Council about their progress. I look forward to hearing great things from these groups.

Babysitting Available During Conferences

FCCLA will once again offer free babysitting during Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 4th from 4:30 - 9:00 p.m.

If you are in need of these services, please call the school (843-2455) so we have enough personnel on duty at the time of your conferences. Please inform the secretary of the following information:

_____ Parent's name
_____ Ages of Children
_____ Time of your conferences



F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



The leaves are turning colors and falling from trees, the harvest season is underway for most farmers and the cooler weather has brought a subtle calm to the Sandhills. Fall is certainly here and for me, it is really one of my favorite times of the year. I am excited about the way our school year has started. Although we have endured some events that have been tragic and difficult, the students and staff really are to be commended for their positive approach to the school year.

Elgin Public Schools celebrated Homecoming this year during the week of September 10th – 14th. It was a week full of fun, excitement and a lot of school spirit and pride. Both the volleyball and football teams were successful and I believe the students enjoyed the experience. We even had a rare appearance by the ol' Elgin Eagle mascot during the parade! Congratulations to the entire homecoming royalty court and to King Matthew Anderson and to Queen Alisha Anderson. I would like to extend a big thank you to Jeanine Jochum who always does a great job preparing the pep rallies for the bonfire and following the parade. Also, thanks to the Elgin fire department and those volunteers for being on hand to help with the bonfire. Thanks to all of our staff and community for all you do during homecoming and throughout the school year. It is not possible to host these kinds of activities for our students without all of your help.

I would like to take the opportunity and touch on an issue that is growing nation wide and one that I am going to make a strong effort to address this school year. Cellular phone use is, for a lack of better words, OUT OF CONTROL! I am simply blown away as to how many kids have a cell phone. Students, even in the elementary school, are being given cell phones. Now, I realize that cell phones allow people to be more efficient in their approach to everyday living. They provide added security for individuals traveling and it does make it easier to communicate. The problem is, there are also a lot of negatives that are happening with youth using these phones for reasons that are not what they were intended for. Camera phones are being used to take pictures and then those pictures are downloaded to the Internet. Students have been found to use the phones in classes to take a picture of an exam and send it to classmates. Text Messaging is a real issue in schools across the country. Students can communicate with others in or outside of school and classrooms without saying a word. This growing problem is a nation wide concern in almost all schools. I do have a cellular phone. However, I do not keep it on my person at school. It is always shut off and in a secure place. Our teachers also have expectations for cellular phone use and consequences are and have been enforced if used inappropriately.

Parents and students must realize that there is no need for students to carry their cell phone with them to a class. There is a student phone that is available to all students right outside my office and with permission they can use that phone anytime during the day. There have been examples at EHS of parents contacting their child via voice mail or text messaging during class. It is impossible to ask students to follow the rules if parents are willing to violate policy, as well. I do not believe there is any reason for a student to carry a cell phone during the regular school day. School Board policy (504.12) is very clear of the expected use of cellular phones and communications devices. The issue is addressed at the beginning of each school year with parents and students in grades 7-12. At the beginning of the school year, students and parents sign the handbook agreement forms stating that they agree to abide by the policies and rules of the school. Therefore, it is my understanding that the school should make every attempt to enforce the policies that are in place.

I would like to ask all parents to assist me as we work to address this issue. As I wrote last month, we do live in a different kind of world than we did 15-20 years ago. Not that it is always a bad thing, but definitely different! Technology is easier to access and more affordable. Again, that can be both good and/or bad depending on what technology is used for. When used appropriately, technology can be very valuable for people of all ages. When used inappropriately, it can and does cause many problems and on occasion, can result in legal issues students and parents then have to address. To me it is pretty simple. Shut the phones off and place them in the locker when you get to school and take them with you at the end of the day. Thank you in advance for your active support in helping to eliminate this growing problem.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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