



DATES TO REMEMBER



Oct. 4
 Marching Eagles
 perform at Harvest
 of Harmony Parade



Oct. 15
 Late Start
 10:00 a.m.



Oct. 17
 End of 1st Quarter



Oct. 21
 Parent-Teacher
 Conferences
 4:30-9:00 p.m.



Oct. 24
 NO School

Happy  Halloween

Students Experience Hydroelectric Power in Action

Typically electricity and water are a bad mixture, unless you're using the movement of the water to turn a giant electromagnet which generates electricity! That's what Designing with Technology students learned about on their recent trip to the Gavin's Point Power Plant. 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.



Designing with Technology class in front of the spillway at Gavins Point Dam.

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.

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.

SOLAR SYSTEM MODELS MADE BY 8TH GRADERS

The Earth science students recently showed their creative sides when they made models of our solar system. The models were built to represent the comparative sizes of objects within our solar system. The students calculated in class that it would be impossible to create a usable model that used the same scale for size and distance. A model using the same scale would show Pluto the size of a pin head and it would be 1/2 mile away from the sun! Students were to show the nine planets (including the dwarf planet Pluto), the asteroid belt, our moon, and other planetary features such as the rings of Saturn.

Students used various objects to make these models such as balls, paper, cake, jewelry, and even marshmallows! The 8th grade students did a great job of creating these models and learned more about our solar system in the process. See photos of all student projects at

www.elgineagles.org!



Angela Richart displays her solar system model.



"Note"able News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

ALL STATE CHORUS - WHO WILL GO???

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. Each audition takes 6 minutes - to the student and the teacher it seems a lot longer! This year, October 11th 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 a student vying for a spot this year. This will be the third year that Nathan Niewohner, a senior, will be auditioning for the choir. Nathan was chosen two years ago as a sophomore and last year as a junior. He has had a wonderful musical experience. If he is accepted this year, Nathan will receive a certificate at the concert in the Lied Center for being a three year member. This is a great honor as it doesn't happen very often! Good luck to Nathan on October 11th. We hope to see him on stage in Lincoln in November!!

Parent Involvement Conference



All parents are invited to attend the 2008 Statewide Parent Involvement Conference on October 11, 2008, in Kearney, NE. There are many sessions available for parents to attend pertaining to children from elementary age up to high school. The sessions are designed to give educational information to parents about challenges and issues facing families in today's world. Some sessions include topics:

- "Bullying"
- "Stress Busters for Children and Families"
- "Role Playing-Teach Children Respect"
- "Helping Children with Disabilities"
- "Drugs & Our Youth"
- "Preparing for College"
- "What Do I Do with this Kid"

There are a lot more sessions available for parents to attend.

For more on these sessions and the other session during the Parent Involvement Conference please go to www.ralstonschools.org and click on the link "Parent Involvement Conference."

If you are interested in attending this conference please contact Mrs. Thiele-Blecher at school (843-2455) or by e-mail (tthiele@esu8.org) as soon as possible. Registration needs to be completed by October 3rd.

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.



WONDERFUL WORLD OF WATER

Wednesday September 17 was a beautiful day to be outside for the five Elgin Public students that attended the 19th annual Wonderful World of Water in Pierce, NE. Due to a paving project, the event could not be held at Willow Creek, but instead was hosted at Gilman Park in the town of Pierce. Students attended various hands-on sessions regarding water, a precious natural resource. Presentations discussed the importance of the use of soil conservation practices and a description of the wildlife from around the area. Students were also challenged to identify trees and find hidden objects in a geo-caching activity. During the "wetlands" presentation, those present were also treated to a special treat of grilled arrow head tuber, cattails, and 'beast.' Though the presenter rarely tells the students what the 'beast' for the year is, in the past it has been beaver, opossum, and skunk.

The students also built a rocket for the annual rocket competition. Though their rocket didn't fly the highest, it definitely had the gentlest landing! Those in attendance were: Michelle Bauer, AJ Braband, Anthony Hemenway, Jennifer Rhodes, and Kevin Schindler.



ONE-ACT REHEARSING

The Elgin Public One-Act season has begun! We're currently in our third week of practice on our piece entitled "Jolly Roger: King O' the Pirates," a comedy by Wayne Mitchell, Shane Mitchell, and Erin Dagon.

The face of the team has changed greatly, with only two remaining team members from last year's season! Despite this fact, the team is already performing as though they've had years of experience together! The crew is currently working on a 17th century ship setting that will prove to be very impressive! At the end of each rehearsal everyone leaves practice with a side ache from laughing due to the humor of the script and the comedic improvisation of the actors!

The NVC contest will be held at Clearwater on Monday, November 17. The details of our district contest are yet to be determined. We also hope that you will join us for our community performance later in the season!

Cast

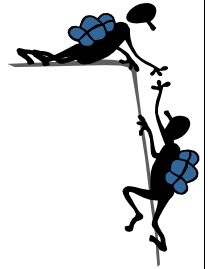
- Captain Cleverly . . . Jeff Bush
- Nate . . . Nathan Niewohner
- Dick . . . Ryan Meis
- Lady Loveaduck . . . Kara Zegers
- Margaret . . . Carlie Redding
- Jolly Roger . . . Eric Shoemaker
- Annabelle . . . Ayli Carrero

Crew

- Amber Hoffart
- Bethany Kallhoff
- Briann Grosserode

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 Web site 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 Web site 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](#) with over 1,800 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.

Watch your mailbox ...

Seniors...your parents will soon receive a postcard from EducationQuest 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 [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 19 for the October 25 ACT.
- ___ Register by September 26 for the November 1 SAT.
- ___ Register by November 5 for the December 6 SAT.
- ___ Register by November 7 for the December 13 ACT.

Mark your calendars:



*Parent-Teacher
Conferences
October 21, 2008
4:30—9:00 p.m.*



Kara Zegers

Full name: Kara Melissa Zegers
Parents: Kristin & Mike Zegers
Sisters: Haley
Pets: Shotsie, Jessie and numerous cats; also 3 horses
Favorite school subject: Spanish
Favorite teacher: Ms. Davis
Activities: FFA, one-act, speech, dance, volleyball, track, Jr. Right to Life, musical, choir, art
Greatest honor during school: volleyball defensive player of the year
Favorite activity: volleyball for my competitive nature and love for the sport
Favorite color: black
Favorite thing to do in spare time: facebook
Pet peeve: people that drive with their dims
If you could go back in time where would you go: the 50's with poodle skirts!
Favorite saying: "Don't worry 'bout it!"
Something most people don't know about me: I write in my spare time and can pop my hips out of place.
Favorite movie: Tumbleweeds
Dream car: Denali
Favorite food: rice or peanut butter strawberry sandwich
Favorite school lunch: breakfast pizza
Favorite pop: diet pepsi
Favorite TV show: True Life
Favorite type of music: everything with a good beat
Future plans after graduation: going to Southeast Comm. College in Lincoln for dental assistant and transfer to Council Bluffs to get my dental hygienist degree.

Full name: Ayli Stefani Carrero Pinedo
Parents: Yoli Pinedo and Larry Anderson
Brother: Nicolas
Pets: don't have one, they all died
Favorite school subject: biology
Favorite teacher: Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Bode
Activities: volleyball, basketball, track, dance, FCCLA
Greatest honor during school: National Honor Society
Favorite activity: volleyball; dance -- because I have a passion for it since I was a little girl, it's a way to express people's emotions without talking or writing
Most inspirational person: my mom
Favorite color: turquoise
Favorite thing to do in spare time: read when I'm bored, listen to music
Pet peeve: slow computers, unpunctual people
Favorite saying: "It was simply meant to be, there is nothing you can do about it."
Something most people don't know about me: I had heart surgery when I was a little girl.
Favorite movie: 10 Things I Hate About You, The Devil Wears Prada
Dream car: as long as it works, has good gas mileage, and is ok looking
Favorite food: most of the foods from Peru
Favorite school lunch: Spaghetti w/meat sauce
Favorite pop: Sunkist or Coke
Favorite TV show: Project Runway
Favorite type of music: R & B, Ballads
Future plans after graduation: Attend college and get a job in order to pay for it, get my M.D. in Pediatrics



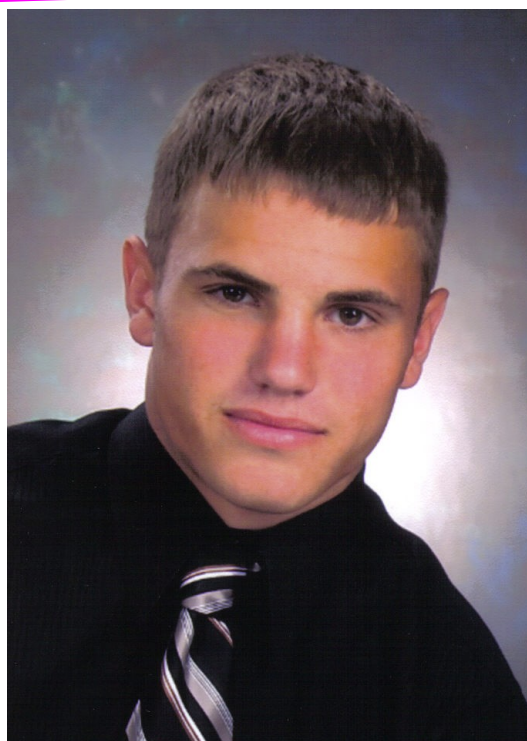
Ayli Carrero



Samantha Janssen

Full name: Samantha Jo Janssen
Parents: Janelle Janssen and Dana Janssen
Brothers: Sebastian, Harley
Stepsister: Karlee
Pets: Horse--Thunder
Favorite school subject: art, science
Favorite teacher: Mr. Jones
Activities: volleyball, basketball, track, FFA, FCCLA, dance
Greatest honor during school: 3-sport letter winner
Favorite activity: basketball because I love to play
Most educational experience: environmental science field trip
Most inspirational person: my coaches
Favorite color: lime green
Favorite thing to do in spare time: draw, ride horses, hangout with friends, hunting
Pet peeve: when people stare
Favorite saying: "We'll worry about it in the morning."
Something most people don't know about me: I'm scared of clowns.
Favorite movie: Step Brothers, Never Back Down
Dream car: '79 Dodge Charger, 2008 Mustang
Favorite food: Buffalo Chicken Pizza
Favorite school lunch: chicken nuggets
Favorite pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV show: The Simpsons
Favorite type of music: almost everything
Future plans after graduation: go to college in a medical field

Full name: Austin James Stamp
Parents: Chris & Tracy Stamp
Sisters: Jessica, Hayley
Pets: dog-Zoey, cat-Ebony
Favorite school subject: Weights
Favorite teacher: Mr. Jones
Activities: student council, football, wrestling, track
Greatest honor during school: 3 year 3-sport letter winner
Favorite activity: sports because I'm very competitive
Favorite color: red
Favorite thing to do in spare time: hang out with friends
Pet peeve: people chewing gum with their mouth open
Favorite saying: "I'm going to scissors kick you in the back of the head."
Favorite movie: Pineapple Express
Dream car: Shelby Mustang
Favorite food: steak
Favorite school lunch: Mr. Ribb
Favorite pop: Wild Cherry Pepsi
Favorite TV show: ESPN 2
Favorite type of music: Rock
Future plans after graduation: go to college and either wrestle or play football



Austin Stamp

FARM SAFETY PROGRAM HELD

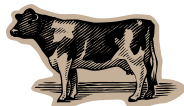


Elgin FFA Chapter members and students in Ag education classes from Elgin High School hosted a farm safety program on Friday, September 19th. Kindergarten thru sixth grade students from St. Boniface and Elgin Public Elementary schools attended the event. Various stations covering farm safety were explored by the youngsters. The topics being presented by the high school students were tractor safety, chemical safety, grain bin/auger/ gravity wagon safety, lawn mower/weed eater safety, fire safety, ATV safety, and animal safety. The farm safety event was planned by the Elgin FFA Chapter to raise farm safety awareness with the youngsters during National Farm Safety Week. According to Mr. Simpson Elgin High Agricultural Educator, "We need to hold events like this to educate our community's youth on various dangers on the farm. With harvest just around the corner it is important to remind these young people of dangers that could be present." All together there were 151 youth from the two schools that attended the event, with nearly 20 high school students helping present the program.



Chapter News

The Elgin FFA Chapter is off to a busy fall season. Chapter members are gearing up for several Livestock and Range Judging events. On Wednesday, September 17th, sixteen members of the Elgin FFA Chapter traveled to Atkinson to participate in the District X Range Judging event. Then on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon of September 20th, eighteen FFA members attended a range judging practice session held at the Bob and Janice Pelster Ranch west of Elgin. Mr. Simpson had set up a mock contest to give the students an idea of what there Area contest will be like. Upcoming events for the Chapter include the Area 5 Range Judging in Madison County on September 24th. State Range Judging in Garfield County on October 1st. The Annual FFA Labor Auction held after the Elgin High – Elgin Pope John football game on October 3rd. Pre District Livestock Evaluation in Valentine on October 8th. The Elgin FFA Chapter will host the District X Livestock Evaluation on October 15th in Neligh.



National Convention News

Seven Members of the Elgin FFA Chapter will be attending the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis Indiana October 21st – 24th. The National FFA Organization consist of over 500,000 members nation wide and over 50,000 of these members will be in attendance at the 2008 National Convention. The seven representatives from the Elgin FFA Chapter are Carlie Redding, Tonya Wiegand, Amber Hoffart, Ashley Dittrich, A.J. Braband, Dean Braband, and Shane Vanis. These members will attend various sessions during the convention, explore careers in agriculture, tour agricultural industries in our nations Midwest and hear great motivational speakers during their short time at convention.

BOX TOPS



FOR EDUCATION

Just a reminder that we are still collecting Box Tops For Education. This summer a total of 1541 box tops were cashed in for \$154.10 for our school. Throughout 2007-08, \$570.00 was earned from saving box tops. 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!

EXPECTED YOUTH BEHAVIOR AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

An area that must be a focus as we continue throughout all of the sports seasons and activities seasons at Elgin Public Schools is youth behavior at school events. Please remember that when attending activities this fall (both football and volleyball), this winter (basketball, wrestling and concerts) and then the numerous banquets and graduation in the spring children are not allowed to run around on campus or in hallways or commons areas.

Parents are responsible for making sure that their children are supervised at all times. When attending games or other activities, you are there to watch and cheer for those participating. All children who attend games should be there to watch the game and act in a controlled manner. Parents must remember that they assume responsibility for their children. With so many vehicles parking around the gym during home games and activities and around the football field facility during games, there is a real concern when youth are playing and running around. Please make an effort to address this issue with your child. When you go to games with your child, make sure he/she knows what is expected. Keep an eye on what they are doing AT ALL TIMES. If you allow your child to attend games unattended, they should be well versed in how they are expected to act. The same also holds true for attending games at other schools. It is important to remember that the same expectations should apply no matter where you are attending.

There is nothing more frustrating that to attend a game and be constantly distracted by children who are running around. By taking the time to address this issue at home, we can all attend games and activities and enjoy the efforts of our student-athletes.

A few key points to address with your child at home...

- You are there to watch the game and not run around**
- Do not play under bleachers**
- Do not run in gym hallways and commons areas**
- Use restrooms only when needed**
- Do not push or pull constantly on restraining cables or fences**
- Cheer for those playing the games**
- When attending concerts or other non-athletic events, be courteous to those who are performing...stay for the entire program and do not run around and distract those who are trying to watch**

Thanks to all parents and students for your cooperation! Go Eagles!

F rom the desk of the Interim Superintendent . . .

By Lee Hall
lhall@esu8.org



The history of public schools in this country is the topic of this month's newsletter. Public schools today enroll 89% of all school children, a higher number than during most of our nation's history. Public schools came about shortly after the Revolutionary War as the founders of our country wanted citizens who were loyal to the government and capable of making informed decisions. Eventually, the way that was established to fund public schools was to tax everybody, not just parents, to support the ideas of our early statesmen. It was the aim of the government that everyone would benefit from the fruits of the educational process. In a nut shell all Americans would see the advantages of strong educational systems.

For more than 220 years our schools have been producing the students that have walked on the moon, invented the artificial heart, cloned life, and introduced us to the uses for technology. The early emphasis was on reading, writing, and arithmetic (done to the tune of a hickory stick). Since the emphasis has shifted to a more rounded curriculum that includes skills needed to succeed in life. Who would have guessed 200 years ago that schools would be serving lunch and breakfast daily and some even during the summer? There is little that remains the same with what schools are required to do. Schools in Nebraska have rules to follow just as our students do. If you care to look at the present requirements for accredited schools stop into the office and ask to look at Rule 10 that affects schools in Nebraska.

Today, America has definably different school systems. Public and private schools are the most recognized educational systems. The difference between the two is that students attending private schools must pay tuition as the private school does not tax for operating expenses. Let us change our focus to Elgin Public School District.

In our district we have both types of schools. Pope John and St. Boniface are private schools within our district. They function as their own entity but are governed by Rule 10 just as we are. We are a small school but we are flanked on both sides by bigger districts and are compared on a constant basis with even bigger school districts in the state. We are ethnically diverse and have our nose to the future in the district. We are a full service school district and teach the knowledge as well as the virtues and morals. Our mission calls for our students to be productive citizens of America.

Our graduation rate is well above the state and national average. Our students are selecting to continue their education at a rate of 88%. We offer a curriculum that includes a variety of subject areas as well as experiences in the life styles of our students. Our boards and staff continue to look at ways to improve the kind of schooling we offer our students. We understand that the importance of literacy and numerary but also recognize the school's role in nurturing character. We believe that being smart is not enough; that being good is necessary also. Elgin Public School has over 100 years of successful history as a public school. Our graduates represent people who make up a distinguished list of occupations and life styles. We have prepared students to be successful and productive members of society.

We are a district that believes the role of public schools continues to be paramount in the democracy. We believe our district is a prime example of a direct democracy where our local board, made up of a citizenry of people with or without children in school, elected by the people, makes informed decisions about the education of all our children.

We do not profess to being perfect, but we do provide for our children the opportunities needed for them to make a life in America and to be successful citizens in a world that is not easy to be successful in.

If you have a spare minute and would care to visit my door is always open and I would be more than happy to share my ideas on public schools with you.



Babysitting Available During Conferences

FCCLA will once again offer free babysitting during Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 21st 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 _____

Need a sports schedule?

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



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!



The first quarter is nearly in the history books for the 2008-2009 school year and that means that we are about half way through the first semester. As a whole, the students and staff are off to another great start. Starting any school year off in a positive manner is always essential in setting the tone for a great year. It should always be noted though that just because we started off well, does not guarantee that things will automatically go smooth the entire year. It takes great commitment from students, parents, teachers, staff, administration and board members in order to maintain a high standard of excellence the entire school year.

Each Monday, teachers report those students in grades 7-12 who are either down or failing. They submit the student's individual average of grades for each class who are considered down (78% - 70%) or failing (69% and below). For example, if I have an average grade in American Government that is a 73%; Mr. Jones electronically submits that information to me. These reports are due by 8:15 a.m. each Monday morning. I then compile these reports and create one list that includes students who are down (78%-70%) and one list that includes those students who are failing (69% and below). Usually, the lists are complete and sent out electronically to the teachers by 10 a.m. Once I have sent the lists to the teachers, I generate a letter for each student reported as down or failing and then send that letter home to parents Monday afternoon. Any student reported as failing on Monday mornings may be added to the Saturday School list for that week. Students have the entire week to raise any failing grade to passing. If they can do that they may be removed from the Saturday School list.

The purpose of the letters I send out is to communicate with parents the academic performance of their child. Elgin Public Schools has made a great effort to provide parents the opportunity to know exactly how well their child is performing at any given time. Communicating student performance is something we take very seriously here at EPS. The Schoolmaster PASS system allows parents to log on using a password protected system to view grades, behaviors, attendance and etc. It is updated at 3 a.m. each night. The Schoolmaster PASS system, along with the individual letters I send out each week, communicate student performance to the parent. If that is still not enough, parents can contact any teacher here at school and conference about their child's performance. Even if it is a quick "how is my child doing" call to a teacher, that is still a great way to stay involved.

It is imperative that parents be an active participant in the education of their child. Communication from school to the parent is only half of the process. Parents must take the information presented to them and communicate with the child. If you receive a letter regarding poor performance, it should never be taken lightly. Investigate as to why the performance is unsatisfactory. The more involved you are in your child's education, the more likely he or she is to give a maximum effort and maintain a higher degree of accountability. As a child growing up, I, along with my sisters, was never allowed to be failing a class. Failing was simply not an option at my house. If my grades were low, it was a sure bet that my mother would make it her mission to find out why. Since I knew the expectation from the very beginning, there was never any misunderstanding of what was expected of me. While I can remember disliking the strict expectations that my parents had towards academics, I can assure you that I am very thankful now as an adult for their sincere approach to this issue when I was younger.

Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up. They will be held on October 21, 2008 from 4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. As parents, your attendance is crucial as you work to maintain an active role in your child's education. What role will you take? How important is your child's future? What are your expectations for your child? Does he or she know your expectations? All of these kinds of questions are questions you need to consider as we near the half way point of the semester. I look forward to seeing all parents at the conferences in October.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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