



EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School
P.O. Box 399
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Elgin, NE 68636-0399

Volume XXV, Issue 2

September, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER



Sept. 7
NO SCHOOL
Labor day



Sept. 10
School Board
Mtg. 7:30 p.m. in
ITV Room



Sept. 15
Parent-Teacher
Conferences
4:30 - 9:00 p.m.



Sept. 16
LATE START
10:00 A.M.



Sept. 18
NO SCHOOL
1/2 day teacher
inservice



NEW ADMINISTRATORS AT ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOL



Faces have changed in the administration offices at Elgin Public School.

Steve Dennis has taken on the role of Supt. and Elementary Principal. Steve was previously the elementary principal at Ord Elementary School.

The high school principal and activities director position has been filled by Jimmy Feeney III. He has moved from Colorado to make his home in Elgin.

Be sure to stop in and welcome Mr. Dennis and Mr. Feeney to our school!



Go Green!

In the spring of 2008, many students at Elgin Public had a concern that they discussed with Mrs. Walsh. The issue was that our school was throwing away too many items that could be recycled. In light of this concern, EPS began a school-wide recycling program. From its humble beginnings as an Environmental Science class project, it has flourished into a school-wide effort to increase awareness and involvement at all levels; everyone from K-12 students to staff have been involved in helping to decrease the amount of landfill space taken up by our activities here at school. The EPS recycling program is currently focused on recycling aluminum and paper products (including cardboard, magazines, chipboard, etc). We hope to reinstate the plastic recycling this year as well. In the 2008-09 school-year, we recycled over 200 lbs of aluminum and 12.12 **tons** of paper products. And since GreenFiber pays us for our paper product recycling, we have earned \$242.40! This money has been put towards better recycling equipment in the school and completing school beautification projects.

Though we do not regularly collect recyclable materials from residents, we encourage that everyone continues to recycle at home as well. We are lucky to have a recycling facility conveniently located downtown for anyone to use.

Don't forget - Parent-Teacher Conferences Sept. 15th



Staff E-mail Directory

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SCHOOLMASTER PASS SYSTEM



Upon enrollment at Elgin Public School, each student is assigned an ID number and PASS PIN. This information is used to access your student's school progress on our Schoolmaster PASS system.

Go to our EPS website:

www.elgineagles.org

and click on Schoolmaster. Type in your student's ID and PIN. Now click on the view you wish to see.

If you have any questions or difficulties, please call or e-mail Paula Jensen in the main office. 843-2455

Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

The Elgin Public Schools music department is ready for another school year! We had lots of fun on our trip to Branson, Missouri. It was a memory that soon won't be forgotten. The Community Birthday Calendar project was a success. This summer, the band students delivered 300 calendars to their customers. Thank you so much for continuing to support this project. If you have NOT received your calendar, please call Mrs. Jones at school (843-2455). We hope you will get a lot of use out of your calendar this year!

The annual Lions Club Parade (the old Lavitsef) in Norfolk will be held Saturday, September 27th at 10:00 a.m. Hopefully Elgin's Marching Eagles will participate in the event. We will also try to march in the Harvest of Harmony Parade on Saturday, October 4th in Grand Island. We are a very small band this year, so we hope we have enough members to march. We would love to see someone from Elgin at these annual events cheering us on. So.....check out Norfolk and Grand Island for a great day of music, floats and fun!!!

Midwest Music Center in Norfolk will be at the lunchroom for the Cadet Band Instrument Display on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m. This is for anyone in fifth grade who is interested in joining band. Students will have the opportunity to "pay monthly to own" their instrument or perhaps find a good used instrument to buy. Be sure to come and get a great start on something that you can do for the rest of your life - and enjoy it!



The first Music Boosters Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10th at 7:30 p.m. in the lunchroom. Before the meeting at 6:30 pm, students will be checking out band uniforms in the old gym for the school year. Mrs. Jones would appreciate parents help in fitting the uniforms so that it goes smoothly. Please come help out. Anyone who has a student in beginning 5th grade band, cadet band, band or choir is welcome to the meetings. We want your input! We would love to see at least one parent of each student come to the meetings. We hold a meeting once every other month, so it doesn't take a lot of time in your busy lives. Hope to see you then!



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

It is very important that the school knows the whereabouts of all the students during the school day. Parents should call the school (843-2455) right away in the morning to tell us that your child is sick or has an appointment, but we should still receive a handwritten note from the parent when the child returns to school. All notes are filed in the student's file for the entire year. If there is ever a question about an absence that is reported on Schoolmaster, we have that note to verify the information.

Throughout the school year the North Central District Health Dept. does a weekly surveillance with schools. School surveillance is a state-wide effort that is used for early recognition of disease outbreaks throughout Nebraska in order to treat the diseases, such as influenza, promptly and stop the spread of the disease as quickly as possible. It is important to remember, when you call the school to let them know your child is ill, please let them know what symptoms your child is experiencing. This information is very beneficial in tracking different types of illnesses.

CHECKLIST FOR ABSENTEEISM:

- Flu-like illness
- *cough
 - *fever
 - *sore throat
 - *headache/body aches
 - *stuffy/runny nose
 - *fatigue
- Fever accompanied by a rash of any kind
- Gastrointestinal
- *vomiting
 - *diarrhea
- Strep throat
- Asthma and Allergies
- Absent due to appointment, funeral, etc.



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.



MAGAZINE SALES Aug. 26 thru Sept. 17

Buy or renew your
magazine subscriptions now!

Each high school class will be selling magazines as a fundraiser for their class.

Please contact a high-school student or the school about ordering magazines!

Thank you for your support.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Residents of District 18, Elgin, are notified that School District 18, Elgin, NE participates in all required Special Education Services for all resident students, ages 0-21. If you know of any student not currently being serviced by an appropriate educational program or have questions concerning the Special Education Program, contact the Superintendent's office at Elgin Public School.

Elgin Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. Further, the school complies with all Title IX and Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines as determined by Federal directives.



ONE-ACT DRAMA

The scripts have been
ordered and tryouts will be held shortly!

The EPS One-Act season is officially about to begin! The play this year is entitled *Anna and August*, and is written by Don Zolidis. It is a comedy about a high school romance that, due to intervening friends, can never take place.

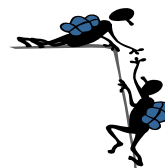
Tryouts will be held before Labor Day and practices will begin after the holiday break.

How much money should I put in our family lunch account?

- Breakfast (ALL STUDENTS) = 1.40
Averaging 20 days per month = \$28.00 per month
- Elementary (PreK—6) Lunch = \$1.85
Averaging 20 days per month = \$37.00 per month
- High School (7-12) Lunch = \$2.10
Averaging 20 days per month = \$42.00 per month
- Grades 5-12 are allowed to have seconds or extra milk or juice.
Breakfast seconds are \$.45 or \$.65 Milk/juice is \$.25
Lunch entrée seconds are \$1.00
Juice is \$1.50
Extra milk is \$.25
Ala carte prices range from \$.45 to \$1.00

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Find EducationQuest on Facebook!

The next time you're on Facebook, do a search for EducationQuest and become a fan! It's a quick and easy way to find out about steps you can take, and events you can attend, to prepare for college. And if your parents are on Facebook, tell them to become a fan, too!

Norfolk Area College Fair is September 27 at Northeast Community College

Don't miss the opportunity to visit with representatives from over 80 state and regional colleges during the Norfolk Area College Fair **Sunday, September 27 from 1-3 pm** at Northeast Community College.

The College Fair, sponsored by EducationQuest Foundation and the Nebraska Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers, will also feature financial aid presentations in the Auditorium.

Follow these tips to help you make the most of your College Fair visit:

- * **Before you attend, determine which colleges you want to visit** ([a list is available](#) in the College Fair article at [educationquest.org](#)).
- * **Prepare a list of questions** to ask the college representatives. Ask about deadlines for admission, scholarships and financial aid.
- * **Prepare pre-printed labels** with your name and address to stick on information cards at college booths where you want additional information.
- * **Attend a financial aid program at the College Fair** to learn about types of aid and how to apply.
- * If you have questions about the Norfolk Area College Fair, contact the EducationQuest Omaha office at 888.357.6300.

Other college fairs scheduled for this fall are as follows:

- * **Grand Island Area College Fair**, Sunday, September 20, 1:00-3:00 pm – Heartland Event Center
- * **Tri-State Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 4, 12:30-3:00 pm – Marina Center, South Sioux City
- * **Scottsbluff/Gering Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 11, 1:00-3:30 pm – Gering Civic Center
- * **Lincoln Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 18, 1:00-3:30 pm – Southeast Community College
- * **Omaha Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 25 1:00-4:00 pm – University of Nebraska at Omaha

For more details, see the [College Fair article](#) at EducationQuest.org.

Educational Planning Programs feature “mini college fairs”

If you can't make it to a College Fair, attend an Educational Planning Program at a school in your area (see [Upcoming Events](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) for dates and locations). These “mini college fairs” feature representatives from state and regional colleges along with college planning and financial aid information.

The importance of getting involved!

Start the school year by getting involved in extracurricular activities to increase your chances for scholarships and admission to your top colleges. Use the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) to track your involvement throughout high school – then the information is readily available when it's time to apply.

Senior students and parents...start preparing for college admission!

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting later this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

- 1. Contact your top colleges NOW** and ask about application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid. Ask if you need a separate application for scholarships, and about application fees.
- 2. Visit with college representatives** at College Fairs, Educational Planning Programs, during campus visits, and when they visit your high school.
- 3. Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline.** Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay and an interview.

September “To Do” List

Juniors and Seniors... complete these college planning tasks during September:

- ___ Attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program in your area.
- ___ Visit [EducationQuest.org](#) to:
 - ___ estimate your FAFSA results using the *College Funding Estimator*
 - ___ sign up for the *Countdown2College* e-mail service
- ___ Seniors, [register](#) by September 9 for the October 10 SAT.
- ___ Seniors, [register](#) by September 18 for October 24 ACT.
- ___ Juniors, ask your guidance counselor about PSAT registration deadlines and test dates.

Elgin FFA Moos



Chris Baum follows his daughter's "Best in Show" this summer.

August 2009 FFA Events
1st FFA Meeting Sept 14th
Husker Harvest Sept. 16th
Range Judging Sept. 17th



Howdy.

This is the first of many newsletters-The Elgin FFA Moos-bringing parents and Ag supporters the latest updates about their students and events. It is produced by the FFA Reporter and Advisor.

I finally settled into a really nice house out in the country, built a couple miles of farm fence out in Genoa, and worked on the shop this summer. I trailered Maggie last weekend and attended the District Ag Teachers' Meeting in Stuart to get a handle on event dates and rules. The only fun I had was chasing the steam train west—

Maggie the Mare says, "I can't wait, for next months Elgin FFA News, I mean MOOs."



I am a traditional VOAG Teacher and teach "hands-on". New this school year will be two sections of AG I exploring Woods, Welding, Animals, Horticulture & FFA. AG Mech will do Woods, Welding, Surveying, Concrete, etc. I look forward to meeting all of you.

Mr. Beres.



MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL DAILY

As the school year begins, help your child get into the habit of going to school every day.

Research shows that missing school regularly can hurt both the students who miss class—and their classmates.

When students miss school, they miss out on learning. When they return, they have to work harder to catch up. After a while, it gets more difficult to catch up, and then kids are even more likely to miss school.

As a result, kids who miss school have lower levels of achievement throughout their school careers. By sixth grade, research shows that students who miss an average of just one day a week are more likely to drop out of high school.

The students who do come to class also miss out. When teachers have to repeat material or pay extra attention to kids who have been absent, everyone suffers.

Source: Kim Nauer, Andrew White and Rajeev Yerneni, "Strengthening Schools by Strengthening Families" (Center for New York City Affairs, New School, www.newschool.edu/milano/nyc affairs/documents/StrengtheningSchool-sOct08.pdf).



Have you "Gone Green"

Many families are doing their part to try and help the environment. Some recycle. Others use compact fluorescent light bulbs. And still others try to

take public transportation as much as possible.

This school year, give your teen the chance to do something good for the environment. Help him try to turn his homework "green" by saving paper. Encourage your teen to:

- **Get creative with notes.** Your teen could take notes on the back of old papers that are blank on one side. Or he could record class discussions and type up notes at home on the computer.
- **Use recycled notebook paper.** Using recycled paper can save a huge amount of landfill space each year! Just have your teen look on the packaging of the paper. If it's recycled, it will say so right on the package.
- **Think before printing.** Does your teen really need to print out each draft of his research paper? See if he can edit earlier drafts right on the computer and only print when necessary. And he should use the front and the back of paper when he does print!

Source: Grace Fleming, "How to Green Your Homework And Be Kind to the Environment," About.com: Homework/Study Tips, <http://homeworktips.about.com/od/studymethods/a/green.htm>.



Help your daughter avoid peer pressure to send, post pictures

Teens who are staring at their cell phones may not be reading text messages. They may be looking at suggestive photos forwarded by friends. New research shows that peer pressure can cause girls to email these suggestive pictures. Almost half of teens say that pressure from friends or dates is the reason girls post photos they would never share with their grandparents!

Here is a talk you must have with your teen—before she pushes the "send" button:

- **Know who your teen** communicates with. You know who comes into your home, but do you know who your teen is communicating with on her phone and online?
- **Be sure your teen understands** that *nothing* is private in cyberspace. Even when teens think they're sending a photo to just a few friends, those teens forward the pictures and pretty soon, they are on MySpace.
- **Help her think about the future.** Nothing completely disappears once it's on the Internet. How will she feel if a college admissions officer sees the picture? How about a potential employer?
- **Check out your teen's online** profile. Go on MySpace, Facebook or other social networks where your teen may be communicating with friends. Remind her—she's already chosen to make this information public. You are not snooping. You're just asking to see what everyone else already knows about her.

Source: National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, "Sex and Tech: Results from a Survey of Teens and Young Adults," www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech/PDF/SexTech_Summary.pdf.

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .



By Steve Dennis
sdennis@esu8.org


Hello,

My name is Steve Dennis and I am the new Superintendent/Elementary Principal at Elgin Public Schools. I have been officially on staff since July 1st. I am very excited about working with the students, staff and patrons of the district. While I found myself busy getting acquainted with the various duties and responsibilities of my new position, I was eagerly awaiting the arrival of the students. With them comes the many joys and opportunities afforded by this profession.

A little background about myself . . . my wife, Mary, and I have three sons. Benjamin attends college at University of South Dakota at Vermillion, Andrew attends the University of Nebraska at Kearney and Derek attends UNMC in Omaha. My wife, Mary, teaches kindergarten in Ord. Prior to accepting the position here in Elgin I was the Elementary Principal in Ord.

Education is important and I sincerely hope that this will be a positive learning year for your child. Your cooperation is essential in making this happen. Achievement in school is important. Encourage your child to rise to the highest level of which he or she is capable. Good study habits and regular attendance are two important components for achievement. If both are practiced diligently it will never need be said, "I wish I had another chance."

The staff and I will do our best to make this year a profitable one for you and your child. If there is any way that we can assist you, please do not hesitate to call on us.



THREE WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

Parents want their children to do their best in school. But what works? A study by researchers at Indiana University found that children do better in the classroom when parents:

- 1. Are positive.** You know that your child is sensitive to your emotions. Not surprisingly, the study found that to also be true for parents' attitudes about schoolwork. Parents who thought their child could do an assignment successfully had a child who believed that, too. In addition, the study found that encouragement from a parent led a child to be more motivated. Model positive attitudes, and your child will copy them.
- 2. Break it down.** A long assignment can overwhelm your child. One of the easiest things you can do to help is to break that big task into smaller pieces. The study found that when children worked at a task they thought they could handle, they did better at it.
- 3. Teach the importance** of a final check. One of the best habits to instill in your child is to look over his work before handing it in. Oops—he added when he should have subtracted. He wrote *their* instead of *there*. Correcting these minor mistakes can lead to a much better overall grade. In addition, the study found that children who were in the habit of checking over their work were more likely to volunteer to answer questions in class.

Source: Anne Dopkins Stright and others, "Instruction Begins in the Home: Relations Between Parental Instruction and Children's Self-Regulation in the Classroom," *Journal of Educational Psychology* (American Psychological Association, www.apa.org/journals/edu).



“Be Present”

By Jimmy Feeney

The year has finally begun! It is refreshing to have students in the halls and exciting to remember why we enter into the education profession, the students. Personally, my transition into Elgin Public has been nothing but positive. The community has been welcoming, the staff has been helpful, and the students have been patient, as I manage to forget their names on an hourly basis.

I began the year with a simple message to the students: Be Present. When in class, be in class. When at practice, be at practice. Be Present. To think about it differently, if an athlete steps out onto the practice field with a half effort or forgets plays, they may lose playing time. If a student does not memorize their lines for a performance, they may not be able to perform. If a student does not commit to learning, they may not pass the test. Be Present.

The teachers have been working hard preparing for students. They invest a lot of time and energy into their classrooms so they can offer a viable curriculum. Teachers do this because they get excited about those “Ah-Ha” moments when a student puts two and two together, they take pride in students mastering skills and topics, and they get to see these students become successful adults.

As the principal, my hope is that I can help students take advantage of these incredible resources. As parents, I want to leave you with one thought:

Our students do not get stronger by looking at the weights. He/she gets stronger by lifting them. Our students will not gain knowledge by merely showing up to class. He/she will gain knowledge by taking notes, doing homework, and studying for tests. Help your children get stronger. Every night ask them what they learned and see if you can spot them!

Be Present.



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NEWSLETTER
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