



EAGLE UPDATE


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Elgin Public School
P.O. Box 399
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Volume XXIII, Issue 2


September, 2007


DATES TO REMEMBER

 Sept 3
NO SCHOOL

 Sept. 6
School Pictures

 Sept 11
Homecoming
Coronation
8:00 p.m.

 Sept. 14
Homecoming
Parade 2:30 p.m.

 Sept. 19
LATE START
10:00 A.M.



EPS STUDENTS ARE EXPLORING WITH TECHNOLOGY



Elgin Public School is pleased to make an addition to their class offerings by adding robotics classes. Designing with technology and JH Exploring with technology were added to the curriculum this school year. Seventh Grade students, Garet Schindler and Angela Richart, (shown above) are assisted by instructor Mrs. Heilhecker in the preparation of their robots.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Box Tops for Education is a General Mills program where the company prints "Box Tops" labels on the top, sides, or bottom of hundreds of your favorite grocery store items. Each of these Box Tops is worth 10 cents for our school! All we ask you to do is save your Box Tops and send them to school with your child each month so they can count toward the monthly classroom competition. Ask your friends and neighbors to donate, also! Your child and Elgin Public Schools both win with the Box Tops for Education program!

Starting in September we will again be having monthly contests to help earn cash for our school through the Box Tops for Education program. Each elementary (PreK thru 6th) classroom will compete to see who can collect the most boxtops. Various businesses have donated prizes to be given to the winning class each month. At the end of the 1st semester, the class who has collected the most during the semester will be treated to donuts and hot cocoa with Mr. Fisher. The second semester winners will enjoy ice cream sundaes with Dr. Fredrickson.

Don't forget Magazine Sales - Sept. 1 - 15

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SCHOOL PICTURES TAKEN SEPTEMBER 6TH

Remember your order envelope
and money.

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

MUSICAL NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

The Elgin Eagles Marching Band is about to begin a new season of music. We are regrouping to participate in parades in Elgin as well as other festivals in Nebraska. Our first step-off will be the Elgin Public Schools Homecoming Parade during the week of September 14. The annual parade will go through main street and finish at the corner of the Bank of Elgin for the pep rally. We encourage you to come watch and cheer on the Eagles!

By the end of September, we need to get geared up for the Lavitsef Parade in Norfolk. The parade is still being held even though many of the Lavitsef activities of the past will no longer be there and is sponsored by the Lions Club. The event will be held Saturday, September 22nd beginning at 10:00 am. We will end the marching season with the Harvest of Harmony Parade in Grand Island on Saturday, October 6th. The parade begins at 8:30 am and we are usually towards the last half of the parade. It is televised on KOLN TV from Lincoln (Channel 10-11) so if you can't go and watch, turn on your TV and see us there!

CADET BAND:

It's time for the 5th graders to join Cadet Band. I hope to have a lot of them join the fun as it can be a rewarding and educational experience that will last a lifetime! Midwest Music Center of Norfolk will display instruments on Wednesday, Sept. 5th at 7:00 pm in the lunchroom. Even if you already have an instrument to play, please come to the meeting to purchase the band book and other supplies you might need to get started. You will also need to show me the instrument to make sure it is in good playing condition before we begin. If parents have any questions, feel free to call me at school: 843-2455. See you Sept. 5 - let's make beautiful music together!!!



ART NEWS

The Art students have been busy designing their portfolios to store their artwork for the year and learning about colors. We'll be reviewing and studying the Elements and Principles of Design and creating projects around them throughout the year.

One of our big projects coming up in October is pottery. The students will need some plastic bowls with lids for this project. Small and large margarine bowls; whipped topping bowls and anything similar will work. If you want to get rid of your old Tupperware bowls, those would be great too. If you have any sitting around your house that you don't need, we would sure appreciate them! Drop them off at the art room or send them to school with your student.

The students will design a bowl using coils and pinwheels of clay. By placing the coils in a bowl, it helps young children focus on their design instead of trying to keep the bowl from falling down. They can put the lid on the bowl and easily store their clay project until the next class. After the bowls are finished they are allowed to dry for several days before being shipped off to the service unit to be fired. After they arrive back they are decorated using paint or glaze.

Be checking out the school web page for slideshows of the students' work as the year goes along.

Mrs. Heithoff



BUS DRIVERS WANTED

Elgin Public School is often in need of substitute route bus drivers or activity bus drivers. If you are interested in becoming a certified bus driver, please contact the school for further information.



MAGAZINE SALES Sept. 1 thru Sept. 15

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.



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!

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

Breakfast (ALL STUDENTS) = 1.30
Averaging 20 days per month = \$26.00 per month

Elementary (PreK—6) Lunch = \$1.55
Averaging 20 days per month = \$31.00 per month

High School (7-12) Lunch = \$1.75
Averaging 20 days per month = \$35.00 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 seconds are \$.55 or \$.80

Pizza seconds are \$1.25

Juice is \$1.25

Extra milk is \$.25

Baked Goods are \$.30



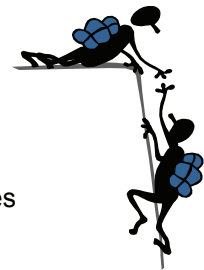
Don't Throw Away That Empty Printer Cartridge! Bring it to school!

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.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



It's College Fair season!

During September and October, EducationQuest will sponsor six College Fairs featuring representatives from as many as 200 colleges. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

Norfolk Area College Fair, Sun., Sept. 9, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Northeast Community College

Grand Island Area College Fair, Sun., Sept. 16, 1:00-3:30 p.m. - Heartland Event Center (**NEW LOCATION**)

Tri-State College Fair, Sun., Oct. 7, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Marina Center, South Sioux City

Scottsbluff/Gering Area College Fair (NEW!), Sun., Oct. 14, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Gering Civic Center

Lincoln Area College Fair, Sunday, October 21, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Southeast Community College

Omaha Area College Fair, Sunday, October 28, 12:30-4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska-Omaha

* **Review a list of participating colleges** to determine those you wish to visit (for a list, see the College Fair article at www.educationquest.org), and prepare a list of questions. Ask about admission deadlines, fees and criteria.

* **Prepare pre-printed labels** with your name and address to stick on information cards at college booths where you want additional information.

* **Attend a College Fair financial aid program** to learn about types of aid and how to apply.

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 www.educationquest.org for schedule and locations). These “mini college fairs” feature representatives from state and regional colleges and universities 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 www.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; 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 www.educationquest.org to:

___ estimate your FAFSA results using the *College Funding Estimator*

___ sign up for the *Countdown to College* e-mail service

___ Seniors, register by August 15 for the September 15 ACT.

___ Seniors, register by September 10 for the October 6 SAT.

___ Seniors, register by September 21 for October 27 ACT.

___ Juniors, ask your guidance counselor about PSAT registration deadlines and test dates.

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dr. Gayla Fredrickson



Superintendent's Goal Regarding Technology

I would like to use this newsletter to introduce you to the goals that I, with consultation from the school board, have developed for our school system this year. The first goal revolves around technology. PLEASE, don't think just computers.....that's not the type of technology I'm talking about. Industrial technology is a growing field. Just two weeks ago our governor released the job outgrowth look because of companies wanting to locate within the state. His list held several companies that will be using new technologies to market their products.

Last year a group of teachers, personnel from ESU, and a representative from Northeast Community College sat down and brainstormed what we wanted a technology strand in our school to look like. We developed a plan that will encompass 7-12 learning. This fall is seeing the first phase of that plan going into effect.

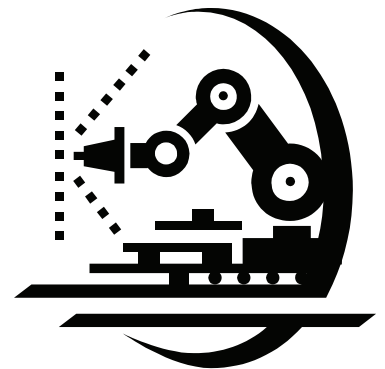
The seventh and eighth graders will be taking Robotics as an introduction to technology. The robots are Lego's NXTs and they are cool! I'm not very technologically minded but this project intrigues me. This will be the students' first introduction into the world of artificial intelligence. They will learn numerous mathematical and scientific principles as well as just enjoying creating machines that can respond to computer commands. This is quite a change from the traditional introduction to woods and woodworking.

This fall also brought the course: *Introduction to Engineering* to our campus. This is a dual credit course (we are currently working with Wayne State on the credit or The South Dakota School of Mines) and is being offered to juniors and seniors. Mrs. Heilhecker is also sending the course over the distance learning network. She is hoping to have the students work in teams to solve problems as they explore the world of engineering. This will not be the first time she has taught the course. She taught it last year for Creighton High School and before that actually developed the course when she was teaching at the School of Mines.

We will also be offering Computer Assisted Drafting second semester. Several years ago our students were able to get this course, but then Elgin Public and Pope John lost their instructors. We are pleased to be able to offer it once more.

Finally, I signed an agreement with Central Community College. The college is looking to partner with ten school districts on their mechatronics project. We are fortunate enough to be one of the ten schools selected. This partnership will begin allowing us to work with them as we pursue building our technological program. The State Department of Education is working with the community colleges to develop a statewide system of honoring each other's dual credit classes. At this time they don't have such a system in place, so I was advised by them to begin forming a partnership with Central Community College much like the partnership we have formed with Northeast Community College.

This is an exciting world. I confess I find it all rather confusing, but I believe we need to be opening doors so our children have the background they need if they want to pursue a career in this arena. Just this week I visited with someone whose child was getting a doctorate in artificial intelligence. Just imagine that! I had to go home and contemplate this changing world as I turned my robotic chair on to massage my back. Ahhhh...technology.



Harley Janssen and Levi Kerkman (l. to r.) have learned to read the directions carefully when it comes to robotics.

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



There is a new country music song being played on the radio that is titled “A Different World” and I believe the artist is a young man named Bucky Covington. Some of the lyrics refer to the world we live in today compared to the world we lived in 15 to 20 plus years ago. While I will not convey each example he sings about, a few that really caught my attention were the parts such as having only three TV channels that you got up to change. I can remember having those 3 channels and not having a remote to change the TV. On a stormy Saturday, you would have to adjust the “rabbit ears” on the back of the TV and stand or sit in just the right spot in the room in order to see Husker football game...if it was on one of the 3 channels. I had no clue what ESPN was. Mr. Covington sings about not having video games, and no satellites but having friends...and they were outside. He reminds us of a time when we all said the Pledge of Allegiance at school and stores were closed on Sundays. When not every kid made the team when they tried, and that it was OK to be disappointed from time to time and we still turned out all right. We drank from a garden hoses and did not have bottled water. The song is very intriguing to me as for when I was growing up; it really was a different time. As he sings, it was not just a different time, but it was a “Different World”.

If you are my age, you were right at the very end of that time living in a world that was much different than what we live in now. There are those out there who would say that we have progressed into a world that is much better than those “good ol’ days”; while others would argue that our world is much worse off now compared to those days Mr. Covington was referring to in his song. One thing is for sure and that is IT IS DIFFERENT.

Living here in Elgin and working here at EPS, there are so many differences in how students are educated compared to back when I was in school. I could write a book listing all of the differences. However, it is important to realize that it is not the kids that have changed. They are living in a world that has been changed by us. In my opinion, it is the technological advances, modern medicine and economic growth that have all been major contributors. We live in a world where everything happens so fast. Children need to know more at a younger age than we ever used to have to know when we were their age. They work hard just to keep up.

Elgin Public Schools continues to work under the premise of allowing opportunities for students that will help them succeed in the world we live in today. Sometimes, when meeting with parents, they will refer to how things were when they were in school. The one important thing to remember here is that we must continue to have high expectations for our students. Otherwise, we place them at a great disadvantage when they leave here.

We must continue to promote the higher-level learning opportunities that are very challenging to the student. Here at EPS, we have done very well in adjusting to meet the needs of our students. It is difficult and it costs money. I believe that in order to provide the opportunities for our kids that will allow them to be successful adults, we must commit to continuing to look ahead, and not focus on what it was like back then. I am very proud of where we are at in regard to the opportunities that await students here at EPS. The board of education, the staff and students have worked hard to make that commitment noticeable.

If you have not heard the Bucky Covington’s new song, I encourage you to do so. It really hit home for me and really made me reflect on what we are doing for our youth today. I believe that we can promote the advances we have made and continue to have vision toward the future. However, as long as I remain the principal at EHS, we will also continue to operate with traditional values and principles that have helped make this school and community as good as what they are today.

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NEWSLETTER
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