




DATES TO REMEMBER


 March 7
 NO SCHOOL


 March 12
 Spring pictures

 March 19
 LATE START
 10:00 a.m.

 March 20
 Early Dismissal
 2:00 p.m.

 March 21 & 24
 NO SCHOOL

 March 26
 National Honor
 Society Induction
 3:00 p.m.

 March 31
 Science Fair
 7:00-9:00



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STARTS RECYCLING PROJECT



"When you toss out one aluminum can you waste as much energy as if you'd filled the same can half-full of gasoline and poured it into the ground." This is just one of the many facts the environmental science class has learned



Samantha Janssen prepares more collection boxes for classrooms.

throughout their study of recycling. They began by brainstorming methods that they could implement school-wide to encourage the act of recycling.

According to research, recycling activities increase when recycling containers are eye catching. For this reason, the students collected and painted boxes for each room in the school in which reusable or recyclable papers may be placed. There is also a collection box for aluminum cans and will be one for Gatorade bottles used at lunch.

The project has been going on less than a week and already we have collected the following: 84.5 lbs of paper, 201 lbs of magazines, 4 lbs of plastic, and 2 lbs of aluminum. The students have created graphs that will hang in the high school building to monitor the progress and have also created digital graphs that will be posted on the website. A recycling quiz will be coming to the website soon as well. We can all do our part to help keep as much trash out of the landfills as possible!



Shane Voborny separates slick paper from office paper.

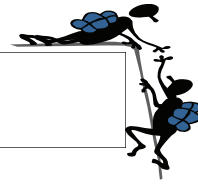
**RECYCLE
 REDUCE
 REUSE**



Eric Powell weighs the recyclables collected. The weight is charted on graphs to monitor progress.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Juniors: It's time to start looking at colleges

Start looking at colleges your junior year so you can narrow your choices by the time you're a senior. Follow these tips for successful campus visits.

- Visit your top college choices while the schools are in session. You won't get the true flavor of the school during breaks or finals week.
- Schedule your visits at least two weeks in advance. Ask for appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in your area of interest.
- Talk to a faculty member about upper-level classes in your anticipated major. Many students change majors because they don't understand the subject matter or the degree of difficulty.
- Ask the financial aid counselor how the college may offset tuition costs and about college-based scholarship applications and deadlines.
- If possible, stay overnight in a residence hall and eat in the cafeteria. Ask about the personality of each hall so you can request one that suits you.
- Check out the school's website. You'll find admission requirements, academic and social information, and campus photos or a virtual tour.
- Web resources to help with your college search

Find information about Midwest colleges in the **College Profiles** section at www.educationquest.org.

Seniors: What happens after you submit the FAFSA?

By now, you have probably submitted your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Here's what happens next.

Expect your SAR and Award Letter

You'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) after you submit the FAFSA. This acknowledges that your form was processed and can be used to make corrections to your FAFSA. You'll need the PIN you used to file the FAFSA to make electronic corrections.

The colleges you listed on the FAFSA will send you a financial aid award letter detailing the assistance they're offering. They may offer a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans.

Compare Award Letters

Compare award letters from the colleges. Some may offer more in scholarships and grants, while others rely on student loans. Calculate your out-of-pocket expenses for each school to get the whole financial picture. Use our [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#) to determine which school offers the best deal. Sign and return the award letters.

Keep looking for scholarships!

Many local, state and national scholarships have deadlines in March, April and May. Talk to your guidance counselor about scholarships that meet your criteria. For local and state scholarships, visit *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org.

March "To Do" List

Seniors

- ___ Expect your Student Aid Report – use it to make corrections to the FAFSA.
- ___ Expect college acceptance letters during March and April.
- ___ Continue applying for scholarships.

Juniors

- ___ Register by March 7 for the April 12 ACT.
- ___ Register by April 1 for the May 3 SAT.
- ___ Schedule campus visits.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART!

The Elgin Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade will be doing Jump Rope for Heart for the next 3 weeks. The students will be doing various jump rope activities to earn money for the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association's mission is to build healthier lives, free from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. To achieve its mission, it funds cardiovascular research and develops education programs for adults and children.

For the next two weeks the students will be going around to local residents and asking for a small donation to help fund the American Heart association. All proceeds received by the students will be sent to the American Heart association.

What is Jump Rope for Heart?

It's a rope-jumping special event program. It promotes community service by raising funds to support lifesaving heart and stroke research and educational programs while teaching physical Fitness.

Why is Jump Rope for Heart Important?

- Heart Disease and stroke are America's No. 1 and No.3 killers and touch all of our lives.
- More than 9.2 million children and adolescents are considered overweight or obese, based on the 95th percentile or higher body mass index.
- Type II diabetes is on the rise in children. If current trends continue, adolescents with Type II diabetes may experience heart troubles beginning as young as 30 or 40.
- Obesity increases a person risk for heart disease, Type II diabetes, stroke and many other chronic illnesses and leads to higher healthcare costs.

The American Heart Association is working in every state and federal level to require quality physical education to be offered in all grades.



Elgin FCCLA wishes to thank everyone who purchased candygrams for Valentine's Day! Thank you for your support!

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS IN MARCH

The CTBS tests will be given at Elgin Public between March 10th - March 28th. As time approaches, parents and students will be notified of exact dates.

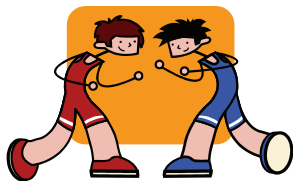
Here are some test-taking tips to help students do their best on the tests:

1. Get a good night's sleep before the test.
2. Have a nutritious breakfast.
3. Dress comfortably.
4. Bring all materials you need, such as pencils and erasers.
5. Relax....take slow, deep breaths.
6. Follow directions carefully.
7. Read each question.
8. Answer the easy questions first.
9. Move on if you don't know an answer.
10. Mark answers neatly. If you must erase, do so completely.
11. Review to make sure you've answered every question.
12. Don't change any answers unless you're sure they're wrong-your first answer is more likely correct.



GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TESTS!

WRESTLING WRAP-UP



Another successful wrestling season has drawn to a close. The season ended with 130 lb wrestler Austin Stamp's trip to the state meet in Omaha. Austin won his first match but then lost to the eventual champion in the quarterfinals. He was eliminated when he lost his first match in the consolation round.

Wrestling on this year's squad and their records were freshmen Sebastian Janssen (5-10), Anthony Hemenway(12-19), and Nathan Anderson (19-14). Miles VanUden (7-18) was the lone Sophomore. Juniors included Tad Henkenius(12-8), and Austin Stamp (40-3). Our lone senior was Eric Kruger (24-17) from Clearwater.

Austin Stamp led the team this season in most of the statistical categories. He had 225 team points, 47 takedowns, 32 falls, and 40 wins. Austin also set several team records this season. 225 team points were a team record, most wins in a season with 40, best record 40-3, most consecutive falls 21, most consecutive wins with 23. Eric Kruger claimed the most reversals 21, the most escapes with 11, and the most 3 points near falls with 15. Nathan Anderson led the 2 point near falls with 9.

It was a great season. Congratulations to all the wrestlers!



JUMP Test Results

The 2007-2008 Algebra 2 class of Elgin Public Schools has participated in this year's JUMP program offered by the UNL. The JUMP program is a 45-minute mathematics test for Nebraska high school students. Its purpose is to determine the level of each participant's mathematical preparation, and to make

recommendations suggested by the student's test score and post-high school educational plans.

The immediate objective of the program is to guide each participating student to the most appropriate high school mathematics courses, as suggested by the student's test score and future educational plans. The long range goal is to bring about a substantial reduction in the number of Nebraska students whose high school preparation forces them to begin their college mathematics at a remedial level.

The average score of this year's juniors is a 60.3 percentile compared to last year's score of 57.2 percentile. This is a 2% increase over last year! Elgin High has been participating since 1990. The average score of the last fifteen years is a 62.5 percentile.



2008 YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

It's Yearbook sales time! Contact a yearbook staff member or Mrs. Heithoff between March 1st and April 1st to order your 2008 annual for \$28. Personalization options are available for an extra fee. Personalization is available only until April 1st after that date only regular yearbooks may be ordered. Contact Alex Kinney, Sam Janssen, Mikayla Hoffart, Shane Voborny or Mrs. Heithoff to order a lifetime of memories! (you may also download the order form under "activities-yearbook" on the webpage)

Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

James Baldwin



4th GRADE NEWS

The fourth grade class won the box top challenge for January! They received a 12 pack of pop from City Limits. Thanks to City Limits for the pop and also to all the other businesses that participate in our box top program.

Fourth graders completed the State Writing Assessment at the beginning of February after months and months of practicing. They are now anxiously awaiting the results as Ms. Siems promised an ice cream party for everyone that did well.

Senior Interviews . . .



Matthew Anderson

Full Name: Matthew Leslie Anderson
Parents: Larry Anderson and Carol Anderson
Sisters: Leah, Adrienne
Brothers: Aaron, John
Pets: Dog named Daisy
Favorite School Subject: Ag class or weights
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Jones
School activities: FFA, Football, Basketball, Track, Student Council
Greatest Honor during school: Qualifying for state in track 3 years in a row
Favorite School Activity: Going on FFA trips with the Pope John boys because they are a fun bunch
Most educational experience: Going on FFA trips such as range and livestock judging
Most inspirational person: Coach Wells because he knows a lot about sports
Favorite color: blue
Favorite thing to do in spare time: hang out with friends
Pet peeve: Someone chewing gum with their mouth open
If I could go back in time I would go: back to the Virginia Tech shooting on April 16th and make sure that didn't happen
Favorite saying: "What's up?"
Something most people don't know about me: I'm partially color blind.
Favorite movie: Varsity Blues
Dream car: Lamby
Favorite Food: pizza
Favorite School lunch: chicken sandwich
Favorite Pop: Mountain Dew.
Favorite type of music: Rock, Rap, Country
Future plans after graduation: attend UNL and study agriculture

Full Name: Suzanne Renae Hoefer
Parents: Rick & Val Hoefer
Sisters: Kris & Stacy
Pets: Dog named Kelly
Favorite School Subject: Science
Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Walsh
School activities: Basketball, volleyball, track, FFA PALS, Band, Choir, National Honor Society
Greatest Honor during school: National Honor Society
Favorite School Activity: Volleyball because I love playing it
Most educational experience: when I job shadowed
Most inspirational person: my sister
Favorite color: Pink
Favorite thing to do in spare time: scrapbook
Pet peeve: When people think they know what they are talking about and they really don't.
If I could go back in time I would go: to kindergarten because I miss naptime.
Favorite saying: Wherever you go, no matter the weather, always bring your own sunshine.
Something most people don't know about me: I broke my arm by tripping over a flower pot.
Favorite movie: Coach Carter
Dream car: anything
Favorite Food: pizza
Favorite School lunch: pizza pockets
Favorite Pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV Show: Lost
Favorite type of music: anything
Future plans after graduation: go to UNK & study medical lab tech.



Suzanne Hoefer

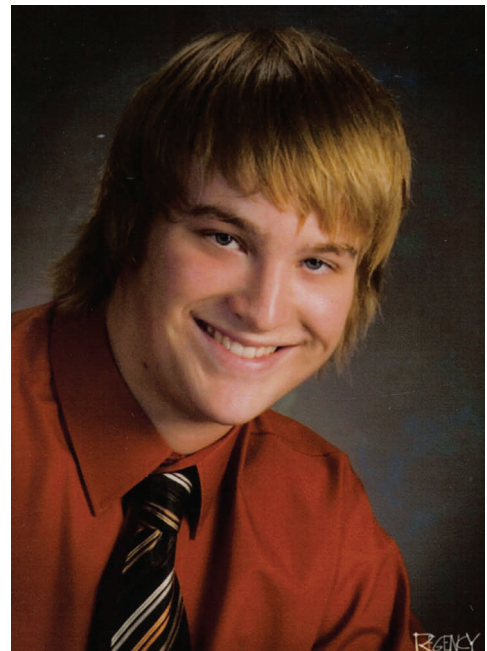
Senior Interviews . . .



Kyle Faust

Full Name: Kyle Edward Thomas Faust
Parents: Steve & Jane Faust
Sister: Krystle
Pets: evil dog named Annie
Favorite School Subject: shop class
Favorite Teacher: Ms. Butterfield
School activities: FFA
Greatest Honor during school: lettered in Art twice
Favorite School Activity: study hall
Most educational experience: shop class
Most inspirational person: Mr. Fisher
Favorite color: burnt orange
Favorite thing to do in spare time: work on my truck
Pet peeve: when people squeak their teeth
If I could go back in time I would go: September 14, 2007
Favorite saying: Never make someone a priority when all you are to them is an option.
Something most people don't know about me: I am soft-hearted.
Favorite movie: Fast and the Furious, Tokyo Drift
Dream car: 2002 Trans Am Super Charged Special Edition
Favorite Food: cheeseburger
Favorite School lunch: chicken fried steak
Favorite Pop: Dr. Pepper
Favorite TV Show: COPS
Favorite type of music: rap, rock, and alternative
Future plans after graduation: going to college at NECC to major in drafting. After college I would like to live in Norfolk and work at Nucor.

Full Name: Jonathan Duane Gunderson
Parents: Duane & Dianne Gunderson
Brothers: Josh
Sisters: Sarah Janzen
Pets: 1 dog and 1 cat
Favorite School Subject: science
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Simpson
School activities: FFA, FCCLA, Band, Choir, Basketball, Football, Track
Greatest Honor during school: Honor Roll
Favorite School Activity: watching movies toward the end of the year
Most educational experience: going to Washington, D.C. for an alcohol and drug seminar
Most inspirational person: my friends
Favorite color: green
Favorite thing to do in spare time: skateboard
If I could go back in time I would go: World War II
Favorite saying: I'm bored.
Favorite movie: Grind
Dream car: anything
Favorite Food: mac-n-cheese
Favorite School lunch: hamburgers
Favorite Pop: mountain dew
Favorite TV Show: Miami Ink
Favorite type of music: hardcore
Future plans after graduation: attend college



Jonathan Gunderson



Noteworthy News

CLASS D ALL STATE BAND

Twenty-one years ago, Rich Richards hosted the first annual Class D All State Band Clinic/Concert which involved 142 students from 37 schools across the state. The tradition continues as last year, 165 students participated in Kearney. Each year, for many of these years, students from Elgin Public have auditioned and been accepted into this band. This year is no exception!

Three students from Elgin Public auditioned by tape to become a member of this year's band. All of them were accepted into the Wind Ensemble - which is the TOP band that performs. The students are: Amanda Hemenway on bass clarinet, Nathan Niewohner on alto saxophone and Eric Shoemaker on snare drum. Each of them placed third out of all the students auditioning - something to very proud of! There were many alto saxes and drummers that tried out and many of them will not be participating at all.

The students will rehearse all day with the members of the Wind Ensemble in March at the Fine Arts Building on campus of UNK. The conductor of the ensemble will be Jim Schulz. The concert will be Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Fine Arts Building. There will be an admission for the concert. We would love to see friendly faces from Elgin there! Congratulations to all these students - your hard work has once again paid off!!

ELEMENTARY SOLO CONTEST

Saturday, March 29th will be a busy day at Elgin Public School! Fourteen schools will be represented by students in the annual Instrumental Solo-Ensemble Contest for music students in grades 5-8. Elgin is the host school. This year there will be around 350 students performing a solo trying to be the "best they can be" and receive a blue superior ribbon. Some schools will have a band performing as well. There will be five judges: Larry Jones from Madison, Rob Hartung from Bennington, Darrell Neitzke from Manilla, Iowa, Chad Dean from O'Neill and Rand Neuharth from Norfolk.

Elgin will have 24 soloist and the Cadet Band will perform two selections for the judges. Bands will perform in the lunch room and the soloists will be in the high school building. So come watch these talented young musicians as they would really like your support. See you there!!!

OPTION ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

Are you interested in sending your students to Elgin Public School? If you live outside of District 18 and would like to enroll for the fall semester 2008-2009, you must file the option enrollment application before March 15th. If you file after that date your resident school district determines whether they will allow you to opt out of their district. For further information or to request an option enrollment application, please contact the school office 843-2455.



DISTRICT X FFA PROFICIENCY REVIEW

The Nebraska FFA District 10 Proficiency Review was held February 5th in Stuart. FFA member's sophomore

level or above are eligible to apply for proficiency awards in several ag related areas. Proficiency applications are based off of skills and abilities that students learn from while participating in their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program throughout their high school career. The top awards in each area from the various districts across Nebraska are selected to go on and compete at the State Proficiency review. If selected as one of the top three in the state the FFA members will go through an interview process held during the State FFA Convention held in Lincoln in April. State winners will then be advanced to the national level and if a student is one of the top three at the national level they will go through an interview process during the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, IN. during the end of October.

This year the Elgin FFA Chapter had three students complete proficiency awards on the District level. They were Paige Redding in Sheep Production, Carlie Redding in Sheep Production and Tyler Reestman in Agricultural Mechanics - Fabrication and Design. Paige Received First Gold at Districts, Carlie received a Silver Award and Tyler received Second Gold. Paige and Tyler's applications will advance to be judged at the state level.

Is there money in your lunch account?



You can now check your lunch account online. If you have any questions, 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). Please keep you account current.

Elgin Public PASS System



Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:

<http://teachers.esu8.org/elginpublic>

Click on Schoolmaster and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.

*We all need someone who inspires us
to do better than we know how.*

Anonymous



DISTRICT X STATE DEGREE INTERVIEWS

The Elgin FFA Chapter participated in the District X State Degree Review held on February 5th, 2008 in Stuart Nebraska. Seven young men and women from the Elgin FFA Chapter interviewed for the Nebraska State FFA Degree. These individuals were; Allie Schiltmeyer, Kyle Childers, Jared Scholl, Matt Anderson, Jessica Morrison, Amanda Hemenway, and Michael Miller. The State FFA Degree ceremony is held Friday Night during the State FFA Convention to be held in Lincoln during the first part of April.

To be eligible for the State FFA Degree students must have received their Chapter FFA Degree, been an active FFA member for two consecutive years, and have taken two full years of agricultural education classes. In addition members must have earned and productively invested at least \$3,000.00 in their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program or productively invested \$1,200.00 and worked 1,150 hours outside of scheduled class time. Students must also earn 500 leadership points throughout their high school career by attending FFA events.



To apply for the State Degree students must submit a minimum of two years of record books, take a FFA history knowledge test, and complete the interview process. Records kept include hours worked, students income/expenses, liabilities, records relating to livestock production if applicable, and leadership points.



8TH GRADE VISITS MUSIC MUSEUM

The eighth grade class has been working on a web quest project in music class since the beginning of the second semester. We studied the instruments of the Renaissance period. After the group researched their instrument, they presented a power point to the class. They also wrote a letter to a pretend curator of a museum telling why it is important to have their instrument in the collection.

The highlight of this unit is to tour an actual museum to see some of the instruments they learned about in the flesh. On Tuesday, February 19th we traveled to Vermillion, South Dakota to tour the "National Music Museum" which is on the campus of the University of South Dakota. It is a beautiful collection of instruments from many time periods and many cultures and countries worldwide. Many of them have wonderful stories to tell.

The students had a great time learning about the instruments. The curator, Dr. Reeves, was impressed by their knowledge already as they answered many of her questions. They also had excellent questions for her so it was a learning experience. After the trip, the class told Mrs. Jones their favorite instrument was the "Nickelodeon" – which has NOTHING to do with the Renaissance. Oh well!! I think it is pretty cool too!



SCIENCE FAIR COMING SOON

KA-BOOM! O.k., there haven't been any explosions yet, but testing *has* begun for the annual Elgin Public science fair! Students have researched and planned their group experiments and are currently in the testing phase. Many of the student groups have generated original project ideas such as the affects of energy drinks, arrow trajectories, the greenhouse effect, and the amount of pressure a lung can hold. Other groups would like to retest projects that have been previously done to learn more about those ideas. Projects that may be familiar will be dealing with mice and the maze, bacterial growth, and flame testing. The science fair will be held on March 31 from 7-9 pm.

As in the past, all science classes will be involved in the science fair, ranging from 7th grade life science to chemistry and physics. There are also two eighth-graders, Ryan Meis and Shane Vanis, preparing their projects for the Health Science Meet. This regional meet will be held in Norfolk; if chosen, these students may attend the 3-day state meet during the summer in which they participate in hands-on health science activities.

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson."
Tom Bodett



QUIZ BOWL COMPETES

The Elgin Quiz Bowl Team once again participated in the KNEN quiz bowl. There were 53 schools competing in the contest. Our quiz bowlers made it to the final eight. In the first round we defeated Madison, followed by a win over Stanton and O'Neill St. Mary's. Our loss came from Pierce by a 3-2 decision.

Members of this years team include Michael Miller, Amanda Hemenway, Linsey Bode and Brett Mahnke. We would also like to thank those who sponsored our quiz bowl this season.

The quiz bowl will also compete in the ESU 8 quiz bowl as well as the Pope John quiz bowl.



Lynne Lauck, medical technician, demonstrated blood-typing equipment during her visit to Elgin Public Schools science dept.

SCIENCE CAREERS ARE FOCUS OF GUEST SPEAKER

Blood and other bodily fluids were the topic of this month's health science speaker. Lynne Lauck, the manager of the hospital lab in Cherokee, IA, spoke to the science students in grades 7-12 about her job as a medical technician. Lynne cited that 70% of decisions that doctors make are based on lab values, making her career a vital part of the diagnostic process. She informed the students of alternate educational paths that would lead to becoming a med tech. In her management experiences, employees with the two- and four-year degrees are of equal aptitudes; however only those with the latter degree may move up into management positions or go on to specialty areas. Her duties include collecting and analyzing samples from the body to check for abnormalities in every body system. Those with this degree may also work in blood banks, collecting and testing blood for use.

She stated that one draw for her choosing this career was the limited patient-contact. She had wanted to be involved in health care, but knew that nursing wasn't for her. Her present job allows her to get to know the patients, but that is not the overall focus of her daily tasks.

Lynne brought many visual aides to show the students, including microscope slides of substances and test results she may see in the lab. She also brought her blood-typing equipment and provided the opportunity for interested students to learn their blood types. The presentations were also highlighted by interesting and unique stories of Lynne's lab experiences.



ATTENTION SENIORS:

It is time to get your photos to me for the senior slideshow. You may find the list of what I need under "Seniors" on our website. Pictures will be due by March 28th. If you want to be on the slideshow I MUST have your pictures by then. If you have any questions, please call me at school 843-2455.

Thank you,
Ms. Butterfield



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.



Mark Your Calendar:

April 12 - Jr./Sr. Prom

May 10 - Graduation



The Early Childhood Education Endowment

The State of Nebraska has issued Requests for Proposals to schools and communities across the state for birth to age three for early childhood care and education. This newest grant initiative is being made possible by LB 1256 which established the endowment with a mixture of state and private funds. Now that the actual documents inviting proposals in out communities across the state will be deciding if such programs are right for them. At the February School Board Meeting, the board voted to continue the exploration of this opportunity for our community. There are many factors that will need to be considered before a decision can be reached about responding with a proposal for a birth to three daycare/education facility. As we explore this issue please keep these facts in mind.

Research indicates that the most critical period of brain development for children is between the ages of birth until age three.

Between thirty and forty percent of infants and toddlers in Nebraska are at risk of failing in school because of a variety of life circumstances.

Early care and education in Nebraska employs over 12,000 people.

Early care and education produces over \$640 million in gross revenue receipts.

Nationally, economists estimate up to a \$17 return on every \$1 invested in quality early education programs.

Early care and education allows more parents to enter the workforce. Last year two federal programs in the state allowed 4,000 more parents to enter the workforce.

Early care and education is essential to Nebraska's growing workforce and economy.

Seven years ago, the Elgin Public School Board decided to write a proposal for a preschool for 3-4 year olds. This has been a very successful endeavor. At the time of this writing over 17 children have already signed up for the 2008-2009 school term. This leaves just three pupil slots until the program is considered full. This year ESU 8 made the decision to close their preschool program. This has caused almost every school in the area to decide to apply for an early childhood 3-4 year old program. Funding will dictate that very few of our neighbors will be awarded the grant that we received.

Personally, I believe this newest grant opportunity will be much like the original early childhood grant. Communities that step forward at the beginning of the process will find themselves well positioned as places where young families want to live. I am not certain that this grant is right for Elgin—the logistics of the project have to be favorable and the community needs to be able to provide the match for the state money. However, if the assets are available to sustain this grant on a yearly basis, the state will be and equal partner in funding early childcare in our community. The best part of this grant is that it will roll-over year after year, so if Elgin can sustain its 50% then the state will continually match it with the other 50%. That definitely makes this grant one worth studying.



Coming Soon!!!

This spring, the Elgin Public School website will allow anyone to be able to purchase Elgin Eagle apparel with the click of a mouse. We will be working with Stadium Sports in O'Neill to allow Eagle fans to purchase different articles of clothing such as jackets, sweatshirts, t-shirts and also other items throughout the school year.

Those wanting to update their Orange and Black wardrobe for the start of the 2008-2009 school year will have the ability to go online at www.elgineagles.org and follow the simple directions to purchase their favorite gear. All from the comfort of your own home! Orders will be mailed via e-mail to Stadium Sports or you can print them off and mail them directly to the store in O'Neill. Write your check and mail it to Stadium Sports. Once Stadium Sports receives the order and payment, they will complete the order and deliver your items to the Elgin Public School.

This new system will allow all Eagle fans to be able to show their school spirit and provide easy ordering opportunities.

Look for this new opportunity to be coming out on the website soon!



F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

Mr. Corey Fisher
cfisher@esu8.org



OK, now I know I may be a little bit out of the “what’s cool” loop in today’s society (and I know this because I still wear a belt and my jeans don’t have holes in them when I buy them) but I think I am still aware of the growing trends with kids these days and what they are doing outside of school for the most part. Many would agree that today’s youth have technological skills way beyond older generations and while I do place myself in that “older” generation when it comes to beliefs and ideals (just look at how I dress) I still consider myself to be young enough to understand how kids think (probably a good thing considering my line of work). However, one area that I am finding that I am falling behind in is technology. Even though I use it daily, I am way behind in what our youth today know how to do.

I would like to spend some time this month addressing the topic of technology and maybe even a little more specifically, the Internet. Most all of us now have an understanding of what the Internet is and how it can be used. It truly is an amazing tool...when used appropriately! While there is no way I can touch on all of the ways that we, as a society, use the Internet and what the trends seem to be for its use at the different age levels, I can focus on one area of use that has really become a concern for me and many other educators and parents around the country. That area of concern is the Internet communications site called Facebook.

According to its website, Facebook is “a social utility that connects you with the people around you” and on that site you can be one of the 60 million people who use the site “to stay in touch with friends and family, share pictures and videos, control privacy online, reconnect with old classmates, discuss shared interests and hobbies and plan parties and other events”. These are just a few of the things that are listed on the main website for Facebook. Facebook is not just one big website either, as explained on its main webpage, it is “made up of lots of separate networks based around schools, companies and regions. Basically, you can create your own personal page on this website so that you can communicate with others who are also members of Facebook. Sounds harmless right...not so fast. While I believe that there are many of those 60 million people out there using the site appropriately, it has become very well known that there are many ways that the site can cause major damage to kids and that brings real problems to schools and to parents when people are misusing the site and problems arise. Concerns regarding privacy, harassment, bullying and other forms of abuse are only a few of the major problems that can result for people who take part in these social utility sites.

I would like to take this time to encourage all parents to talk with their children about appropriate Internet use. Find out what sites your child are visiting when on the computer and on the Internet. Let them know of your expectations for Internet use and help to educate them on the consequences of misusing the Internet. Schools are becoming involved nation wide and there have been issues arise close to the community of Elgin from inappropriate Facebook use by students. In most cases, parents really had no idea what their children were doing and were shocked when they were shown different personal Facebook webpages where their child had been involved. Many schools offer different policies when it comes to Internet use and sites such as Facebook. At Elgin Public Schools, students have the ability to utilize the Internet. Students are expected to use the Internet for educational purposes only. The school and Educational Service Unit #8 have worked to provide much security against inappropriate sites including Facebook and other pleasure sites, which are blocked from use by both students and staff.

In order to find out more about becoming more Internet safety savvy check out the following websites: www.getnetwise.org/ or http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html

While I certainly do not feel Facebook or its creators are to blame, I do believe that it is these kinds of sites that are providing an avenue for many to abuse others rights. We all have a responsibility to make sure the Internet is not used to harm or violate others or to infringe on the rights of others.

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