



DATES TO REMEMBER



April 2
Wolfpack Winter Sports Banquet
6:30 p.m. in KC Hall



April 5
Jr/Sr Prom



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



April 18 & 21
NO SCHOOL



April 28
High School Spring Concert 7:30 p.m.



Speech Members Headed to State



Qualifying for state speech are members: (back row OID) Christopher Bush, Alois Warner, Travis Grosserode, Kenny Bush, Dylan Widger. (next row OID) Jaime Hoefler, Allison Koenig, Hunter Thramer, Taya Voborny, and Zoey Bergman. (next row Duet Acting) Ethan Fischer and Ivy Prater (Entertainment). (front row Serious Prose) Katie Polk.

Thirteen EPS Speech Team Members Qualify for State

by Mrs. Shoe

Fourteen members of the speech team brought home medals from the D2-3 District Speech Contest hosted by Clearwater-Orchard on Thursday, March 20. Thirteen of those individuals will have a shot at the gold at the State Speech Competition on Friday.

State qualifiers Ivy Prater and Ethan Fischer were crowned district champions in Duet Acting, receiving nothing less than first place rankings in both preliminary and final rounds.

Prater also placed second in Entertainment Speaking, making her eligible for state competition in two events.

Katie Polk will represent her team at the state meet after placing second in Serious Prose.

Both OID Teams qualified for state competition as well. The girls' OID of Hunter Thramer, Allison Koenig, Taya Voborny, Jaime Hoefler, and Zoey Bergman were named district runners-up in the event. The boys' OID of Travis Grosserode, Christopher Bush, Alois Warner, Dylan Widger, and Kenny Bush placed third.

Earning a 5th place medal in Entertainment Speaking was Tyler Smith. Team members earning Superior Ratings were Lisa Dohmen in Humorous Prose and Bailey Carpenter in Poetry. Katrina Gross and Paige Nichols earned an Excellent Rating in Duet Acting.

The state contest will be held Friday, March 28, in Kearney.

Congratulations on a Terrific Season, EPS Speech Team, and Good Luck at State!

Second Grade Quilters



Cooperation and working together is a skill everyone needs to use throughout their life. The second grade worked together with Mrs. Bode in guidance making a schoolhouse quilt from paper. Mrs. Bode shared information with the students about working together and how quilts were made years ago. They students enjoyed creating each of their blocks and learning to put the quilt together and adding a hand border around the outside. Thanks Mrs. Bode for helping us to learn how we can work together and accomplish so much.

Elgin Public PASS System



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

www.elgineagles.org

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



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!

May 6—Wolfpack Spring Sports Awards/ & Eagles Academic & Activities Awards

May 10—Graduation 5:00 p.m.

May 13—Elementary Spring Concert

May 19—Preschool Graduation
Kindergarten Graduation

May 21—Last Day for Students
11:00 a.m. Dismissal

Ag Students Experience a Greenhouse



Kelsey Welding, Austin Dohmen, and Taylor Sehi learn how to pot plants for the plant sale.

The Intro to Ag students were given the opportunity to see firsthand how a large greenhouse operation works. The freshmen went to Stuart's Greenhouse in Central City. This is the location where the Ag/FFA department gets their plants for their greenhouse. This greenhouse is different though, it has found a niche in the industry. Stuart's main business is selling seedlings to schools that have greenhouses and planting containers for numerous customers in the state as well as all over the Midwest!

The freshmen were able to get their hands dirty after they learned about potting medium (soil), how to transplant seedlings into larger containers, planting seeds, germination, and how water, temperature, & light affect the plants growth and seed germination. The students were able to transplant seedling and plant VERY tiny seeds, which many thought would be very hard to do all day long.

Now, the plants are in the school greenhouse and doing very well. Ag students and FFA members are signed up to come in on the weekends to water the plants and make sure the heaters are on during the evening. During the week of March 24th the geraniums will be pinched - meaning that all the leaves (except for one) and buds will be cut or "pinched" off for a couple of weeks. This will give the plant time to form a strong and healthy root system and create a full and attractive look to the plant itself when it starts to grow. We will also start to plant our 12" containers using various ivy's, vines, petunias, and geraniums.

The greenhouse is very full right now and soon there will be veggies as well.

Plant sales will be held April 30th – May 2nd with a few containers going on sale during the FFA Chapter Banquet on April 24th. We invite anybody or any class over to see the plants at anytime!

Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be.
—Abraham Lincoln

*What's popular isn't always right.
What's right isn't always popular.*
—Unknown

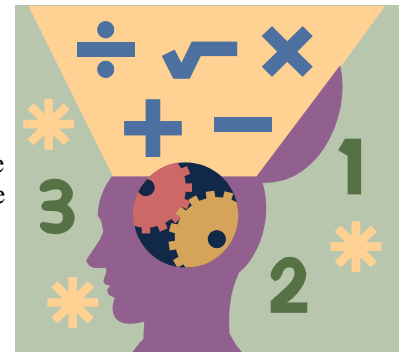
College Level Math Classes Offered to Seniors at Elgin Public Schools

The following classes are dual-credit with both high school and college credits earned at the same time! Math 1150 is done in the second semester but Math 2000 is a full year course. A student can earn 3 credits for Math 1150 or 5 credits for Math 2000. Entry into both of these classes requires a certain score on the ACT; Math 2000 needs a 23 and Math 1150 needs a 21 or they can take the COMPASS test to enroll.

Math 1150 or Pre-Calculus is a course that prepares a student to take Calculus. The course prepares students for the two central themes of calculus: instantaneous rate of change and continuous accumulation. Graphing technology enables students to study a full catalog of basic functions. It gives them insights into function properties by connecting the algebra of functions to the visualization of their graphs.

Math 2000 is a study of functions. The course spends several chapters on calculating derivatives of algebraic forms and then applying of differentiation to real world situation. Students are introduced anti-derivatives and their applications. The course uses limits to explore the graphs of functions and uses elements of analytic geometry such as straight lines, conics and graph sketching.

The benefits of taking these classes at Elgin Public Schools are the speed of the course and the access to the instructor for help!!!



Springing into Social Studies!!!!



Ivy Prater Poses in front of the State Capitol Building during her recent Attorney General Youth Advisory Council.

It's just the beginning of spring but the social studies students at Elgin High have been very busy. Over the past several weeks the history students (7th, 8th, & 10th grades) have traveled through time covering many topics for example the empires of the Byzantines, Russians, and Turks (500-1500a.d). The conflicts over the holy land, the religion of Islam, and the crusades (710-1400a.d). Also they have discovered the events that led to "The War to End All Wars," the post war world, and causes of the stock market crash and the Great depression (1900-1937a.d).

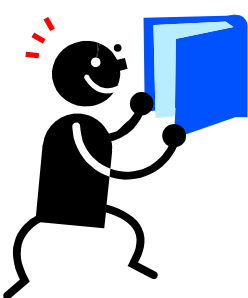
The Government students have been delving into the constitution and other historical documents to answer the age old question, "what exactly does or legislative and Executive branches do?" Sociology students have also been pondering some great questions as well. They have been discovering reasons behind racial, ethnic, and age discrimination. However they have still yet to answer their own question of, "why people older than them are not cool?" The 9th grade geography students haven't been in North America for quite a long time. They with the help of their book and Google Earth have been traveling around Europe, Russia, and Africa discovering cultural traits, history, and politics.

There were a few other social science related happenings around the school lately. Members of the junior class have been busy preparing for this summer's trip to the east coast by working concessions stands and doing community service. A few members of the 11th grade have showed interest in the 2014 Cornhusker Girls and Boys Sate events this summer and interviews were held earlier this month. Also Ivy Prater attended the 2014 Nebraska Attorney Generals Youth advisory Council in Lincoln on March 10th. The event was held at the Nebraska

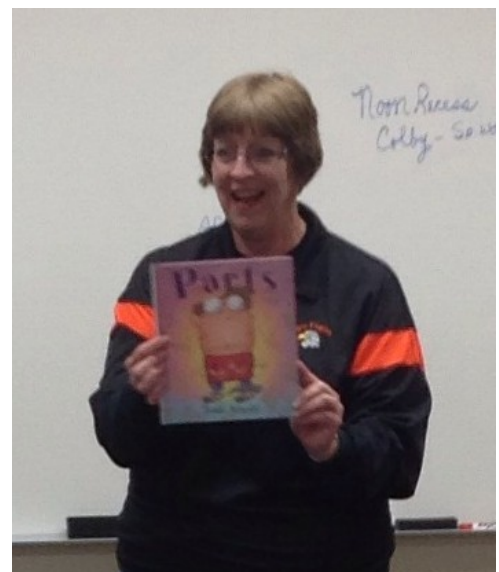
State Capitol Building. High school students from around the state took part in sessions with several different state political leaders, watched part of a legislative session, took part in a mock debate, and toured Memorial Stadium and other UNL sports complexes. The UNL athletic tour had guest appearances from Men's Basketball Coach Tim Miles, Nebraska receivers Jordan Westerkamp, and Kenny Bell.

Family Reading Night

On Tuesday, March 11th Elgin Public Schools hosted a family reading night. Sixty people attended the evening with parents and students getting to read books together. Superintendent Mr. Polk and School Board President Laurie Waterbury were guest readers



and read to the families. It was great to see families spending an hour reading together. Reading is such an important life-long skill and reading together demonstrates that parents value the importance of reading. The families were also treated to cookies and juice at the end of the night.



School Board President shared a book with the families

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors ... it's decision time!

It's time to decide which college you will attend. Follow our advice to find the right fit for you.

First, gather and compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications and campus visit notes. Consider items such as:

- **Location** – Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If so, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.
- **Cost** – Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond your freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships? How much in student and parent loans will you need to cover expenses?
- **Academic program** – Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors? Does the college offer other programs that interest you?
- **Student life** – Does the school offer activities you will enjoy? Do you like the living arrangements provided by the school? Will you have an opportunity to work on or near campus?

Visit EducationQuest.org for college selection tools including the [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#), the [College Comparison Calculator](#), and information about [student and parent loans](#).

Juniors ... start looking for scholarships

Follow these tips to begin the scholarship application process:

- **Start searching!** In addition to your guidance office, visit free online sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 local and state scholarships. Other sources might include your parent's employer, your employer or local service organizations.
- **Create files** and place scholarship applications in deadline order.
- **Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service.** This is a critical component for many scholarships. Track your involvement with EducationQuest's [Activities Resume](#).
- **Do your best to get good grades in school and good scores on ACT/SAT exams.** These factors are especially important for college-based scholarships.
- **Determine if you will qualify for need-based scholarships** by completing the [College Funding Estimator](#) at EducationQuest.org.
- **Learn about scholarships and tuition assistance programs offered by colleges that interest you.** Programs such as [Collegebound](#) at the University of Nebraska and [Advantage](#) offered by the Nebraska State College System cover the cost of tuition if you meet income and academic criteria.

Scholarship warning...

If you receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services, investigate them if they charge a fee. EducationQuest will help you complete financial aid forms *for free* and will guide you to free [scholarship resources](#). To learn more, talk to your school counselor or contact EducationQuest.

College Fairs coming up in Kearney, Omaha and Lincoln

If you plan to be in Kearney, Omaha or Lincoln on the following dates, attend a college fair!

The **Kearney Area College Fair** is Sunday, March 30 from 1-3 p.m. at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Nebraskan Student Union.

The **Omaha Area College Fair** is Sunday, April 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Sapp Fieldhouse.

The **Lincoln Area College Fair** is Sunday, April 13 from 1-3 p.m. at Southeast Community College in Lincoln.

April "To Do" List

Seniors

- ___ Continue applying for scholarships.
- ___ Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid sticker shock in August.
- ___ Start looking for a summer job.

Juniors

- ___ [Register](#) by April 4 for the May 3 SAT.
- ___ [Register](#) by May 9 for the June 14 ACT.
- ___ Schedule campus visits while colleges are still in session.
- ___ Start looking for scholarships.

FOR THE LATEST IN
SCHOLARSHIP NEWS,
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
www.elgineagles.org.

Classroom Snippets . . .

Third Grade NeSA Testing

Spring is a very busy time in the third grade classroom. The third graders will be taking the NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) tests this month for the very first time. Students will be tested in the areas of math and reading. They have been working hard in the classroom to get prepared. During class we have reviewed math and reading vocabulary daily to help us understand the terms that are used on the tests. The students have been going to the computer lab to familiarize themselves with the format of the test. Students have been completing practice tests both in math and reading to help ease any nerves.

Please encourage your child to do their very best on these upcoming assessments. Remind them to take their time, read carefully, reread for better understanding and to check over their answers. Please remember to make sure your child gets a good night's rest before school and to eat a healthy breakfast to begin their day. A note and schedule of testing dates/times will be coming home soon. Try your best and good luck third graders!



Art News

The 7-12 recently competed at The Big Show in Wakefield. This is an invitational art show open to 25 area schools. View the results on the school webpage.



Before the show students had to mat and tag their work. They also had to put hangers on their 2-D work so we can staple through the paper hangers to display their project without damaging the work. All of the work has to be bagged or boxed up for the two hour journey to Wakefield which starts at 6:30 AM.

Students spent the morning setting up the show and then participating in an art activity during judging. After judging was complete, students were able to take down their work and begin the two hour journey home. Their next competition will be the ESU #8 show at Neligh followed by the NVC show in O'Neill on May 2nd.

Request A Book

As this year comes to a close, we begin preparations for the next school year. This usually marks the time of placing orders for new supplies and even new library books. Because we serve a variety of students with varying interests, we want to make sure that we offer books that they might find interesting to read.

As a result, we have developed an online form where students and parents can make recommendations for new books our library should consider ordering. Though we can not guarantee that every book requested will be ordered, it is nice to have suggestions. The address to suggest a book is <http://tinyurl.com/epsrequestabook>. There is also a link to this form on the library link on the school's website.



Digital Citizenship

In the first couple of weeks in March, Computer Apps students were exposed to a number of topics regarding digital citizenship through the Common Sense Media curriculum.

Digital citizenship is navigating the digital world, safely, responsibly, and ethically. In today's digital world, it is important that we are good citizens online. To drive this point home, students learned about their digital footprint, cyberbullying, copyrights, and teen pressures online.

Through lots of discussions and group activities, students learned what it means to be a digital citizen. Students



also recognized that the pictures, comments, tweets, and other things they put on the internet are part of their digital footprint. A digital footprint is all of the information about a person that can be found online. Students learned that to keep their digital footprint clean, they must only post appropriate things about themselves online. Essentially, if you don't want someone to see it, DON'T put it online.



Hopefully, students take digital citizenship to heart and maintain a responsible image online!

MAPS Testing

During the week of March 10th-14th the 5th grade students took the MAPS test. This is a measurement of academic progress from the fall to spring. This year the 5th graders did a good job on the four tests that they took. The test consisted of Reading, Science, Math, and Language Arts.



Overall as a class the students improved their scores from the beginning of the year. As the year is coming to an end the 5th graders plan on ending the year with great effort and taking on the task of the NESA TEST which will come next month!! Excellent Job 5th graders and let's end this year on a positive note!

Finish Strong

The best way to finish the school year strong is to be at school everyday!

As the weather gets nicer, students tend to stay up later at night because they enjoy being outside on those nice days. This also tends to make them more tired in the morning. Spring school activities tend to take students out of the classroom several days of the week. It is even more important to be present on the other days.



Step Up!
Come to School! Finish Strong!

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss



Kindergarten

On February 28, the Kindergarten and First Grade celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss. The day started with a green eggs and ham breakfast. Mr. Polk joined us and read the story Green Eggs and Ham. The day was spent reading Dr. Seuss books and doing activities. Brett Kinney, Ivy Prater, and Madison Voborny read Daisy-Head Mayzie and helped the students make headbands. It was a Seussful day!



First Grade

Developmental Milestones for Communication

Every child is unique and has an individual rate of development. This chart from <http://asha.org> represents, on average, the age by which most children will accomplish the listed skills. Children typically do not master all items in a category until they reach the upper age in each age range. Just because your child has not accomplished one skill within an age range does not mean the child has a disorder. However, if you have answered no to the majority of items in an age range, seek the advice of an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

Hearing and Understanding	Talking
Birth-3 Months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Startles to loud sounds. Quiets or smiles when spoken to. Seems to recognize your voice and quiets if crying. Increases or decreases sucking behavior in response to sound 	Birth-3 Months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing). Cries differently for different needs. Smiles when sees you.
4-6 Months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves eyes in direction of sounds. Responds to changes in tone of your voice. Notices toys that make sounds. 	4-6 Months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including <i>p</i>, <i>b</i> and <i>m</i>. Vocalizes excitement and displeasure. Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and when playing with you.
7 Months-1 Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys games like peek-o-boo and pat-a-cake. Turns and looks in direction of sounds. Listens when spoken to. Recognizes words for common items like “cup”, “shoe,” “juice.” Begins to respond to requests (“Come here,” “Want 	7 Months-1 Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as “tata upup bibibibi.” Uses speech or non-crying sounds to get and keep attention. Imitates different speech sounds. Has 1 or 2 words (bye-bye, dada, mama) although they may not be clear.
1-2 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points to a few body parts when asked. Follows simple commands and understands simple questions (“Roll the ball,” “Kiss the baby,” “Where’s your shoe?”). Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes. 	1-2 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Says more words every month. Uses some 1-2 word questions (“Where kitty?” “Go bye-bye?” “What’s that?”). Puts 2 words together (“more cookie,” “no juice,” “mommy book”). Uses many different consonant sounds of the beginning of words.
2-3 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands differences in meaning (“go-stop,” “in-on,” “big-little,” “up-down”). Follows two requests (“Get the book and put it on the table.”). 	2-3 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a word for almost everything. Uses 2-3-word “sentences” to talk about and ask for things. Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time.
3-4 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hears you when call from another room. Hears television or radio at the same loudness level as other family members. Understands simple, “who?,” “what?,” “where?,” “why?” questions. 	3-4 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks about activities at school or at friends’ homes. People outside family usually understand child’s speech. Uses a lot of sentences that have 4 or more words. Usually talks easily without repeating syllables or words.
4-5 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about it. Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school. 	4-5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voice sounds clear like other children’s. Uses sentences that give lots of details (e.g. “I like to read my books”). Tells stories that stick to topic. Communicates easily with other children and adults. Says most sounds correctly except a few like <i>l</i>, <i>s</i>, <i>r</i>, <i>v</i>, <i>z</i>, <i>ch</i>, <i>sh</i>, <i>th</i>.

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Dan Polk
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



The end of the year is in sight. As we approach that milestone in the life of your students (those of you that have students), please be extra vigilant in their grade point averages, calendars and schedules. Things really get busy and it's easy to over-look grade situations that could be addressed before it is too late. Activities also REALLY pick up and it's easy for students to get stretched a little "thin" if they're not organized.

As I wind down my second year of service to the Elgin Public Schools, and my 25th year in education, I would like to comment on what a nice district you have and how proud I am to lead it forward in the 21st century. It is a unique, financially sound, geographically large district that seems to really understand the importance of educating our young people for the future of our community, our area and our country. Many times we seem to focus on the "micro" part of life and forget the "macro"; but when it comes to important decisions regarding your district and the education of the district's kids it appears the "macro" wins out. That's the way it should be. I appreciate all the honesty, friendships, connections and experiences that my family and I have received during these first couple years. It is my sincere wish that there are MANY more to come. SPRING IS HERE!!! Or at least that's what the calendar says. We have more projects again this summer so I'm sure you will notice a few more changes to the campus. If you ever have any questions or concerns about the Elgin Public Schools or things happening here, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

It was a busy month in the Spanish classroom!

The Spanish IV girls read a very famous play in Spanish title La Celestina. Spanish I and II classes are continuing with the mastery of grammar and vocabulary.

The Spanish 3 students learned how to prepare some authentic Spanish and Mexican cuisine. Then they gave their own demonstrative speeches in Spanish featuring a recipe of their choice.



*Hannah Kerkman &
Lisa Dohmen*



Third Grade

In elementary Spanish, the third graders created their own *vejigante* masks to celebrate Carnival, or the beginning of the Lenton season.





Statewide Assessment (NeSA)

The statewide assessment (NeSA) begins later this month! The assessments will take place in Reading and Math this year for grades 3rd-8th and 11th with additional assessments in Science in the 5th, 8th, and 11th grades.

The NeSA test serves many purposes for the school and the Nebraska Department of Education. As a staff, we want to make sure students are prepared and comfortable with the test so their focus is on answering the questions. Here are a few of the things the teachers have been doing to ensure a positive test taking experience:

- taking practice assessments
- practicing in the same environment as the test with the C4L system
- reviewing content and skills
- talking about the assessments
- trying to excite students about the upcoming assessments!

As parents, there are a few things you can do that will help your student succeed:

- sleep for 8 hours the night before
- eat a protein as part of breakfast
- talk to them about the assessments
- encourage students to spend as much time as they need
- stay positive about the assessments!

If you have any questions, please contact the classroom teacher or myself. Students are prepared, teachers are ready, and we look forward to seeing our success when results are announced in August!

*Check our website for the most current news and calendar:
www.elgineagles.org*

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NEWSLETTER
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