



# EAGLE UPDATE

Phone (402) 843-2455  
Fax (402) 843-2475  
www.elgineagles.org

Elgin Public School  
P.O. Box 399  
101 N. 4th St.  
Elgin, NE 68636-0399

Volume XXXI, Issue 9

April, 2016

## DATES TO REMEMBER

# BACK-TO-BACK DISTRICT CHAMPS!



April 2  
Jr./Sr. Prom  
At KC Hall



April 13  
School Board Mtg.  
7:30 p.m. in ITV  
Room



April 19  
Bloodmobile at  
EPS Gym



April 25  
High School  
Spring Concert  
7:00 p.m.  
EPS Gym



*EPS Speech Team members pictured are: (l. to r.) (back) Dylan Widger, Ingvild Bekkeseth, Katie Polk, Lydia Behnk, Kenny Bush, Alois Warner and Kira Widger. (front) Leslie Linares, Morgan Carpenter, Taya Voborny, Shelby Dohmen, Zoey Bergman, Breana Carr and Jaime Hoefer.*

Congratulations to the EPS Speech Team for bringing home the District Championship Plaque from the D2-2 Contest Wednesday in Hartington. Eight events qualified for the state competition in Kearney next week.

Qualifying for the state competition were the following:

- Alois Warner and Kenny Bush-Duet-District Champs!
- Leslie Linares-Entertainment-District Champ!
- Dylan Widger-Poetry-District Champ!
- The OID of Dylan Widger, Kira Widger, Morgan Carpenter, Lydia Behnk and Leslie Linares-District Champs!
- Katie Polk-Persuasive-3rd place and Serious-3rd Place
- Kira Widger-Poetry-3rd place
- The OID of Alois Warner, Kenny Bush, Taya Voborny, Zoey Bergman, and Jaime Hoefer-3rd Place

Additional Medalists on the day were as follows:

- Shelby Dohmen-Humorous-4th place
- Jaime Hoefer-Serious-4th place
- The Duet of Taya Voborny and Zoey Bergman-6th place
- Lydia Behnk received a superior rating in Humorous and Ingvild Bekkeseth received a superior rating in Entertainment.

Congratulations to the EPS Speech Team on a job well done. Good Luck at State!



## Lockers Improve Learning Environment

From Mrs. Eisenhauer



Emma Kinney (left) and Gage Evans (right) are pictured by the new lockers near the third grade room.

If one were to enter the third grade classroom during the winter months, you would see bags of snow gear and snow boots stuffed in every free corner of the classroom. Not anymore! The third graders just received new lockers in the hallway to store backpacks and snow gear. The students and Mrs. Eisenhauer were very excited! The lockers helped to clear up clutter from snow gear and backpacks making our classroom a much cleaner learning environment.

### **Elgin Public PASS System**

Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:  
[www.elgineagles.org](http://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—Elementary Grandparent's Day

May 14—Graduation 5:00 p.m.

May 16—Elementary Spring Concert 7:30 p.m.

May 18—Preschool Graduation & Kindergarten Graduation

May 19—Last day of school  
11:00 a.m. Dismissal



## Second Grade Writers!

From Mrs. Beckman

The second graders have written more narrative paragraphs. Now that they are choosing their own topics, these are a few that have been written.

### Nick Mace

Do you like the month of June? I like June because my birthday is in June. My birthday is June 18<sup>th</sup>. I like June because it is summer. Summer is the best part of the year. I go to the park in June and go swimming. June is fun because my birthday is then.

### Kyndal Busteded

Valentine parties are fun! When we did our Valentine's Party in first grade one game was to have a donut race. We got to eat our donut. We made Valentines. We also had to put a spoon in our mouth and had to go around a chair without dropping it. Valentine parties are fun because you get to do fun things.

### Jayda Chessmore

Have you seen my baby Shay Lillian Morrison? I will tell you about Shay. In first grade April 9, 2015, Mommy had Shay out of her tummy. When she was born she was zero months. Shay makes me laugh when I pretend to try to catch her. Shay is now ten months old, she walks, she says Jayda and Dora, crawls a lot, and claps. I love Shay very much too. Shay is the funniest baby sister ever!

### Creighton Harkins

Soccer is the best sport! I'm going to tell you about when I play soccer. In soccer there is break time. During break time you can eat snacks. When you have to play you kick the ball. You can kick to the other team. If you score a goal you get a point. If you score 4 goals you would get 4 points. I was happy when my team scored a goal.

### Alison Kirstine

I am going to my cousins this summer. My cousins' names are Zack and Robby. Last time I saw them Robby was sick. Last time I saw Robby he was 8 years old. I took Robby's tricycle home with me. I painted it pink. I really miss Zack, Robby, Aunt Laura, Uncle Rick, and their dog.

From Mr. Prater

# Quiz Bowl Champions!



*Elgin Public High School Quiz Bowl Team are the champions of the Pope John six-team round robin quiz bowl contest on March 18th. Members earning gold medals were: (l to r) Dylan Widger, Alois Warner, Dylan Behnk, (front) Elianne Heilhecker. Congratulations!*

# Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



## Seniors ... it's decision time!

Follow our advice to decide on the college that's the right fit for you.

First, compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications and campus visit notes. Write down pros and cons for each school you're considering using the following criteria:

**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?

Make your final decision by **May 1** – and then notify the colleges you're rejecting so they can offer your spot, and any financial aid, to another student.

## Juniors ... start looking for scholarships

Follow these tips to begin the scholarship application process:

**Start searching!** Check in often with your school counselor, and visit free sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships.

**Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service** - a critical component for many scholarships. Track your involvement using the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

**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 Nebraska](#) at the University of Nebraska, [NSCS Advantage](#) offered by the Nebraska State College System, and [Access NWU](#) at Nebraska Wesleyan University, 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.

## 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 8 for the May 7 SAT.
- [Register](#) by May 6 for the June 11 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](http://www.elgineagles.org).

## Junior High Students Compete at Academic Day



On Friday, March 18, eight junior high students represented Elgin Public at the Pope John Junior High Academic Contest. The students competed in various scholastic tests and also speech events. Students that took tests in academic contests were Tyler Iburg (reading comprehension), Araceli Palmer (history), Theanna Dunn (8th grade pre-algebra and language arts), Joey Getzfred (general science and vocabulary), and Claire Kerkman (spelling). Those that competed in speech events were Skylar Reestman (oral interpretation of prose), Adam Dreger (informative speaking), and Wyatt Renner (poetry).



There were 18 schools at the competition, and the students represented Elgin Public well. Congratulations to Skylar Reestman for winning second place for her efforts in oral interpretation of prose!

*Competing in the contest were: (l to r) (back) Skylar Reestman, Araceli Palmer, Wyatt Renner, Adam Dreger and Tyler Iburg. (front) Claire Kerkman, Theanna Dunn, and Joey Getzfred.*

## A Birthday For Dr. Seuss!

From Mrs. Gunderson & Mrs. Siems



On March 2, the Kindergarten and First Grade celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss. They got to spend the day listening to stories written by Dr. Seuss and doing many activities including eating a breakfast of green eggs and ham. They had a fun time.

# El Mundo de Español

The first, second and third grade Spanish classes learned all about the world of *lucha libre*, Mexican wrestling. They learned about the *técnicos* (good guys) and *rudos* (bad guys.) They also learned how important the mask is to the *luchador*(wrestler.) After reading the books Lucha Libre: The Man in the Silver Mask by Xavier Garza and Niño Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales, the classes created their own lucha libre masks and luchadores.



# Big and Little Authors Work Together to Create Books

The kindergarten classroom has been filled with lots of big people lately. As a final project for their short story unit, English 9 students are creating children's stories for members of Ms. Siems's class.

During their first visit, the class discussed the three parts of a story: the beginning, middle, and end. The older students then divided up into groups and took turns interviewing the younger students concerning their favorite things.

On day two of the project, the kindergarten students shared their ideas with these older authors in terms of what would make a good story.

The freshmen then began mapping out and drafting their stories, being certain to include as many suggested ideas and favorites as they could.

The stories are nearing their final stages in the writing process and



*Kaylee Martinsen and Vade Kruse are writing a story with Riker Dishman.*

the illustration stage is underway.

While the younger students learned some story basics and will receive an original story book all their own, the big kids also learned a few tricks of the trade, including some digital citizenship in terms of clip art use. They also learned just how important they are to these younger students and that they have the potential to be positive role models for each and every one of them.

When the books are completed, the freshmen will make a final trip to the classroom to share their newly created books with the students they were written for.

Students from Mrs. Shoe's Creative Writing class are taking it one step further. They are assisting the students in creating their own books. The kindergarten students were asked the following question: "What is the most important thing you have learned in school this year?"

After coming up with five different lessons they have learned, the young students chose their favorite. They then began planning an accompanying illustration.

Following a few more visits their drafts will be turned into actual pages that will be sent into a company to prepare for publishing. The book will be a compilation of the work of each kindergarten student, guided by their Creative Writing assistants.

If you see a kindergarten student wearing a sticker that says, "Ask me about the book I'm writing," please take the time to do so.



*Hunter Reestman is focused on getting story ideas from Zaiden Smith.*



*Lydia Behnk and Kipp Polston are conferring about their story.*

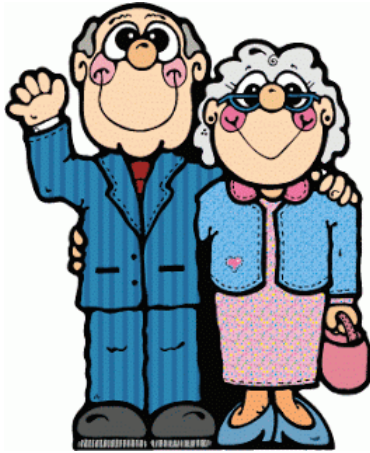


*Kaidynce Schrad, Zaiden Smith, and Kenny Bush working on their own book!*

# Classroom Snippets . . .

From Mrs. Thorberg

## Grandparent's Day at EPS



On May 6th, Elgin Elementary students will invite their grandparent to visit school. Students will have an opportunity to show their grandparent around their classroom and school. Special activities are also planned for that day.

If a child's grandparent is unable to attend, he/she may invite an aunt, uncle, or special neighbor to fill in.

More information will be sent home with the students as the day gets closer but be sure to mark your calendar now!

You won't want to miss EPS Grandparent's Day on May 6th!

From Mrs. R. Heithoff

## Art Shows

Watch the school webpage for results of the Keya Paha, NVC and ESU Elementary Art shows in April. Ribbon winners will be posted as soon as information is available.

From Mrs. Borer

## Fourth Grade Authors

The fourth graders are publishing their own book after all the writing they've done this year. They decided to write about what they've learned this year, what their classes were like, and some of their favorite memories. Both illustrations and digital pictures are in the book. They are learning a lot in the process and will have a cool keepsake for years to come.



6th Graders utilized their iPads and portfolios to showcase their year for their parents. Students: job well done. Parents: thank you so much for coming.

From Topteacher.com

From Mrs. Thiele-Blecher

## Reading with your child

Twenty minutes a day is all it takes to build key reading skills. Here are seven ways to build a better reader from birth to age five!

1. Create reading rituals and read together every day
2. Snuggle up close with a book
3. Talk about the pictures and ask questions
4. Share different kinds of books
5. Read with expression
6. Read favourite books again and again
7. Record yourself reading and play it on car trips or as an alternative to television



'good readers are made  
on the lap of a parent'





# Administratively Speaking . . .

By Dan Polk  
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



Spring is here! Or at least that's what the calendar says. At the time of the writing of this article we are expecting a major snowstorm tomorrow (the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March). There are less than two months until the 2015-16 school year comes to an end; believe it or not.

As always happens this time of year the board and I are planning for the summer and various projects, plans and changes to improve the facilities, curriculum and overall function of the Elgin Public Schools. It is always a time-consuming undertaking but is a lot easier with the cooperation and efforts of a SOLID staff. We have tremendous non-certified staff as well as certified teaching staff at the Elgin Public Schools and our facilities, state test scores, equipment and MOST IMPORTANTLY students, clearly show that. Our board of education is very proud of the school and continually steps up to support its improvements and students. Not many schools/students have an educational field trip to the east coast, club and activity shirts provided, a commercial grade greenhouse, 1 to 1 computers and ipads, dual credit opportunities every period of the day, various unique class electives, distance learning opportunities and a quality staff the level of which our students do. We strive to continue those things and expand our offerings and support. Soon to come we hope for a 3D printer and learning about and using Drones as well as other things. I often like to think the town slogan easily applies to Elgin Public...Some bigger, some smaller, none better... Go Eagles.

Any comments, concerns or questions about this article or any other school business or information, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

---

## FFA MEMBERS SHINE AT DISTRICT COMPETITION



On Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> the Elgin FFA members competed in their District Career Development Events (CDE's) at Northeast Community College. Elgin is in District X, along with Ainsworth, Valentine, Rock County, Keya Paha, Atkinson West Holt, O'Neill, Stuart, West Boyd, Chambers, Wheeler Central and Burwell. CDE's are events that focus on specific areas of study in Agriculture Education such as Agronomy and Livestock Management. Elgin's FFA chapter had a tremendous showing with many teams qualifying for State FFA in April.

From Mrs. Schwartz

Here are the qualifying teams and top 10 individuals from Elgin:

Ag Biotechnology – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team, Elianne Heilhecker , 1<sup>st</sup> overall individual, Dylan Widger was 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

Veterinary Science – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team, Zoey Bergman, 5<sup>th</sup> overall individual.

Floriculture – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team, Grace Henn, 5<sup>th</sup> overall individual, Heather Bauer, 6<sup>th</sup> overall individual, and Nicki Payne 7<sup>th</sup> overall individual.

Agronomy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team. Seth Schumacher, 6<sup>th</sup> overall individual, Liam Heithoff, 8<sup>th</sup> overall individual.

Agriscience - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team. Kyle Schumacher , 1<sup>st</sup> overall individual, Ally Wemhoff, 4<sup>th</sup> individual, Hunter Reestman, 7<sup>th</sup>, Kira Widger, 9<sup>th</sup> individual.

Farm Business Management – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team. Alois Warner, 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall individual, Dylan Behnk, 9<sup>th</sup> individual and Seth Schumacher was 10<sup>th</sup> overall.

Livestock Management – 4<sup>th</sup> place, Alternates to state. Members are: Trey Baum, Liz Selting, Marie Meis, Hayes Miller, Taralyn Baum and Calli Krebs.

Welding – Team members are Andrew Fangman (MIG), Liam Heithoff (O/A) and Chad Bode(ARC). The team did not qualify for state, but Chad was 1<sup>st</sup> place individual in ARC welding.

The Natural Resource team of: Kalin Henn, Karissa Dicke, Chase Preister, Geoffrey Carr, and Kenny Bush placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the district. However, this is a non state qualifying event. But, in the case that they performed this well, four of these members will be competing at state.



## Statewide Assessment (NeSA)

The statewide assessment (NeSA) in early April! The assessments will take place in Reading and Math this year for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with additional assessments in Science in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> 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!

## NEESA 2016 Schedule

Juniors will be testing on the following dates: April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Elementary will be testing on the following dates: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be tested in Science on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Junior High- April 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science will be tested in Science on – April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

*Check our website for the most current news and calendar:*

*[www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)*

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEWSLETTER  
P.O. Box 399  
Elgin, NE 68636

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #4  
Elgin, NE 68636

POSTAL PATRON