



# EAGLE UPDATE

Volume XXX, Issue 5

December, 2014

## DATES TO REMEMBER



Dec. 2  
 District One-Act at Leigh



Dec. 11  
 School Board Mtg. in ITV Room  
 7:30 p.m.



Dec. 15  
 Christmas Concert  
 7:00 p.m.



Dec. 22  
 Early dismissal  
 1:00 p.m.  
 End of 2nd quarter



Dec. 23—Jan. 4  
 NO SCHOOL



## Elk, Buffalo, and Fossils! Oh my!



The third and fourth grade classes recently visited Kreycik's Elk and Buffalo Ranch in the morning and then went on to Ashfall Fossil Beds Historical State Park in the afternoon. At Kreycik's Elk and Buffalo Ranch, the students and teachers rode in a covered wagon to see over forty female elk along with one bull elk. The bull was very protective of the females, making sure they stayed out of sight of the other bulls which were located in another pen. The students got to experience the bugle call of the bull elk which is only done in the fall season. Next, the students rode over to the buffalo pen and were able to feed them corn by hand! For some of the students, this was their favorite part of the day. Also in the buffalo pen, was a long-horn steer named Boomer. After feeding the buffalo, the students visited the last pen of bull elk. The guide explained how these bulls had their antlers cut off to harvest the velvet. She explained the process of harvesting the velvet and the products made from the velvet. Students were able to feel an antler that had velvet on it. Students also learned about the fallow deer from Europe which were located in the pen with the bull elk.

Next the students enjoyed lunch with a beautiful view at Niobrara State Park. Then we traveled on to Ashfall Fossil Beds Historical State Park. Students listened to the tour guide explain about the volcano and ash that killed many animals. Students were able to walk around and view many different kinds of fossils. Then, the students went down to the Rhino Barn to view the site of the rhino fossils. Students learned how paleontologists look and dig for fossils. Everyone was amazed at how long the process takes to dig fossils. Students also were able to see tools that the paleontologists use. Last, students were able to look at items in the gift shop to remember their trip. Check out the Elgin Eagles web page for pictures from this memorable field trip!

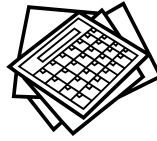


## Art Careers

Derek Dibbern from the Creative Center in Omaha recently visited with the high school Art students about a career in Graphic Design. Mr. Dibbern showed a Power-Point to the class about the Creative Center and the career choices it offers. He went on to discuss how creativity should be a part of everyone's life. He shared that at a recent convention of 1500 company CEOs the most important leadership quality of the future will be creativity. To quote Albert Einstein "Creativity is intelligence having fun!".

Derek also talked about taking what you love and what you're good at and finding a job that combines the two and pays well. You should do what you love and love what you do.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR ON WEBSITE



Do you want to know what time the concert starts or if the ballgames have been postponed?

Check out the Activities Calendar on our website, [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org). This easy-to-use tool:

- provides up-to-date school activities and events
- allows you to view and print a daily, weekly or monthly list of calendar events
- includes a search option to find a specific event
- sends you e-mail reminders for events you select

*For the most current news and calendar, go to [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org).*

## Magazine Sales Continue

Our High School classes recently finished our magazine sale. We're sorry if you were missed. If you still want to buy a magazine you can place an order online by going to:

[www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com)

Here is our school code: 2519304. You can also order other gift items online. We will still receive 40% profit.

Thank you for supporting our school fundraising!

## Lady Wolfpack Volleyball Team is District Runner-Up

The Wolfpack Volleyball teams ends season as District Runner-Up in a 4 set loss to Crofton. The Wolfpack lost the first 2 sets 25-15 and 25-13, we just came out a little nervous and intimidated. With a change of momentum and a lot more confidence, EPPJ came out and took control of the 3rd set leading at one time 12-3, but Crofton wouldn't go away and pulled within 23-20. The girls pushed through and won the set 25-20. EPPJ carried the momentum into the 4th set jumping out to a 9-6 lead, however Crofton went on a 11-3 run and won the 4th and final set 25-18. The Lady Wolfpack Volleyball team ended the season with a 26-5 record and District Runner-Up.

It was a great season and year for Wolfpack Volleyball, we set some goals back in August and we not only reached most of those goals, we blew past some. It was a group of girls that worked hard starting last summer and all season long and girls that also had showed a lot of leadership and determination.





## TOUGH math classes results in high scores!

Algebra Two allows the student to extend the knowledge of operations on real numbers. They will solve equations and inequalities, using a variety of graphing techniques, and solve systems of linear equations. Students will apply functions and utilities problem solving techniques (very important). They will perform operations on rational expressions, simplify radical and quadratic function, and apply exponential and logarithmic functions. Students will also be introduced to conic sections, trigonometric functions, sequences and series.

We have 2 very important tests that we take in the spring for Juniors: ACT (college entrance test) and the NeSA (Nebraska State Assessment). In the first two years of NeSA, Elgin High Juniors have placed 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 249 schools in the state and this last year we were 27<sup>th</sup> out of 249 schools. It's a great achievement but every year we have to aim high to reach and maintain this goal. It takes lots of hard work to achieve this goal. We start preparing for NeSA & ACT as freshmen and it continues in Geometry. Remember: HARD CLASSES and HARD WORK pays off!!!

## Give the Gift of Wisdom and Wonder

For many people, holiday shopping can be stressful and even quite costly, especially in a world where technology and fashion trends seem to top many's Christmas lists. Please consider a gift idea that may not be quite as trendy, but it surely is a gift that truly does keep on giving. That gift, of course, is a book.

### Here are some great reasons to consider giving books as a gift:

- "Books make great gifts because they're something you love that you can share." –John Lithgow
- "Books make great gifts because... [they don't] come in any particular size, so you don't have to be embarrassed if you bought somebody the wrong size." –Valerie Bertinelli
- "Books make great gifts because you don't have to plug them in." –Alec Baldwin
- "Books make great gifts because in a time of trouble, they can take the reader personally into a place of hope." –Glenn Beck



–Source: <http://www.booksaregreatgifts.com/>

## Consider this holiday tradition:



Wrap 25 children's books (they don't even have to be new), and starting on December 1, have your children open one book each night to read as a family until December 25.

Source: MoneySavingMom Blog:  
<http://moneysavingmom.com/>



Front Row: Claire K. Lilly R. Theanna D.  
Back Row: Joey G. Colleen B. Jasmine D. Skylar R. Kane V.

# Soybeans: A to Z

# S O Y B E A N S



Janie Score presented Soybeans: A to Z to the fourth graders as she is a member of the Nebraska Soybean Board. They learned that almost everything contains soybeans! Food, makeup, lotion, and even the food they feed to the giraffes and monkeys at Omaha's zoo contain soybeans. They played matching with vocabulary terms, saw and felt soybeans, and learned that soybeans are a great source of protein!

## CREDIT SCORE BASICS

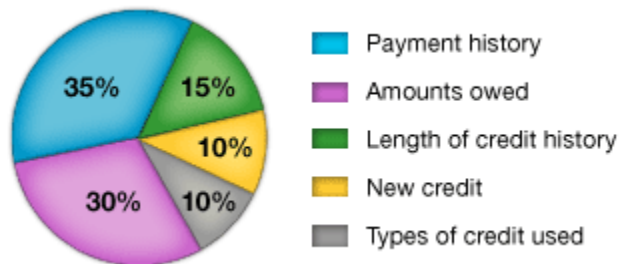
Although high school students may be too young to have a credit history, they are not too young to start planning for their financial future.

"Whether you're buying a home, a car, or applying for a credit card - lenders want to know the risk they're taking by lending you money. Credit scores are used to determine credit risk. A credit score can affect how much money a lender will lend you and at what terms (interest rate)." SOURCE: [myfico.com](http://myfico.com)

Credit scores range from 300 to 850. A higher score means that you are a BETTER credit risk. In other words, banks are **more** willing to lend money to people with **higher** credit scores.

A credit score cannot be established until a person has credit history. Once someone receives a loan (or credit) from a lending institution, a credit history begins. For most people, the start of their credit history was their first credit card or a student loan. Once you have a credit history started, it is important to take steps to improve your score!

The chart below shows what all goes into a credit score. As you can see, payment history, is the most important component of the credit score. Thus, the best ways to improve your credit score is to pay your bills **ON TIME!**



## WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON

Sometimes it can be difficult for a parent to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with early symptoms of an illness or complaints that they do not feel well. In general, during cold and flu season, unless your child is significantly ill, the best place for them is in school where they have all already been exposed to the same germs and where they are less likely to expose other more vulnerable people, like the very young or very old, to their routine bouts of cold and flu. Remind and show your children to discard used tissues promptly, not to share personal items, to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, to keep their hands away from their face, and to wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and warm water. Suggest that they silently sing the Happy Birthday song twice while washing their hands. However, there are some situations in which it is best to plan on keeping your child home for a day to rest or to arrange for an appointment with your health care provider. The following are a few such situations that warrant watching and possibly conferring with your health care provider:



Gwen Kinney, RN  
ESU #8 School Nurse

- ✦ Persistent fever greater than 100.4° orally, including a fever that requires control with medication, like Tylenol
- ✦ Child is too sleepy or ill from an illness, like vomiting and/or diarrhea, to profit from sitting in class all day
- ✦ Significant cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class
- ✦ Sore throat that is severe, accompanied by fever and/or feeling ill, that persists longer than 48 hours, OR after known exposure to a confirmed case of Streptococcal throat infection
- ✦ Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts that might be impetigo; OR a rash in various stages including boils, sores and bumps that may be chicken pox; OR a significant rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever
- ✦ Red, runny eyes that distract the child from learning
- ✦ Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache
- ✦ Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear
- ✦ Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever
- ◆ Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others.

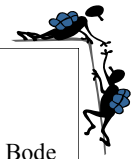
Finally, if you know your child is still running a fever, it is not a good idea simply to give them Tylenol and send them onto school because as soon as the medicine wears off, you are apt to get the dreaded call from the school to leave work and come to pick up your feverish child. It is better to let them stay home in bed with a fever and take their medications at home until they are off all medicines and ready to learn for a full day in a classroom. If you find a pattern of your child's asking to stay home from school, especially if they are falling behind or appear anxious by the thought of attending school, or if there does not appear to be any obvious physical symptoms, it may be a good idea to contact your school nurse and your health care provider to discuss your concerns. Remember, whenever you keep your child home from school, please call the school office in advance of the start of the school day and leave a message that your child will be absent.



Spanish 3 and 4 students have been busy reading the book "La Casa Embrujada." They have done various activities to accompany the book, such as character wheels and opinion writing in Spanish.

# Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



## Prepare for the FAFSA with *free* programs and resources

If you're a senior, it's time to start preparing for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You should complete the form after January 1 (after you and your parents have completed your 2014 tax returns) but before your college's priority deadline (typically before April 1). Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in federal, state and college-based financial aid.

## To prepare for the FAFSA, take advantage of these *free* EducationQuest programs and resources:

### Financial Aid Programs

EducationQuest is conducting statewide **Financial Aid Programs** that explain the financial aid process and the FAFSA. The programs are free and open to the public. [Find the program nearest you](#). Juniors and seniors and their parents or guardians are encouraged to attend. *If you attend, you will be eligible to register for a \$500 [Financial Aid Program Scholarship!](#)*

### FAFSA Webinars

EducationQuest will conduct free "How to Complete the FAFSA" webinars on the following dates:

**Tuesday, December 9** – 7:00 pm (CT)

Webinar link: <http://eqf.org/110PHjx>

**Wednesday, December 17** – 7:00 pm (CT)

Webinar link: <http://eqf.org/112ADCd>

**Monday, January 12** – 7:00 pm (CT)

Webinar link: <http://eqf.org/1zmonbq>

**Wednesday, January 14** – 7:00 pm (CT)

Webinar link: <http://eqf.org/1upOdmV>

**Tuesday, February 24** – 7:00 pm (CT)

Webinar link: <http://eqf.org/1u5EpVG>

To join the Webinar, click on the link under your desired date. The password is **college**.

### College Funding Estimator

To estimate your FAFSA results now, use the [College Funding Estimator](#) at **EducationQuest.org**. This program will ask for 2014 income tax information. You may estimate your tax information to complete the *Estimator* but should use your completed 2014 tax returns when you complete the FAFSA.

### Seniors...have you submitted your college applications?

If you haven't submitted your college admission applications yet, it's time to get serious! Contact your top college choices to determine application deadlines and procedures. Ask if the admission application is also the application for college-based scholarships. If not, ask about the scholarship application process.

### Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- ◆ **Don't ever pay for scholarship searches!** Use *free* resources such as [ScholarshipQuest](#) at **EducationQuest.org** with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. Free national sites include [Fastaid](#), [ScholarshipExperts.com](#), [School Soup](#), and [Scholarships.com](#).
- ◆ **Visit your school counselor often** for information about local scholarships.
- ◆ **Focus on local and college-specific scholarships** because you're more likely to earn them.
- ◆ **Update your activities, honors, community service or paid jobs** using the [Activities Resume](#) at **EducationQuest.org**.
- ◆ **Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exam in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.
- ◆ **Use quality references** such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.
- ◆ **Tailor your essay to the scholarship.** Ask an English teacher to read your essay and offer advice on making a big impact. Your essay will need to stand out from other applications.

### December "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during December to stay on the right college planning track.

#### Seniors:

- \_\_\_ Submit college applications.
- \_\_\_ Estimate your FAFSA results using the [College Funding Estimator](#) at **EducationQuest.org**.
- \_\_\_ Attend the [Financial Aid Program](#) in your area.
- \_\_\_ Continue to apply for scholarships.

#### Juniors

- \_\_\_ Attend the [Financial Aid Program](#) in your area.
- \_\_\_ Search for scholarships.
- \_\_\_ [Register](#) by December 29 for the January 24 SAT.
- \_\_\_ [Register](#) by January 9 for the February 7 ACT.

# Student Council Elves Ready for the Holiday Season

According to the latest news feeds on Facebook, Christmas is dangerously near. Of course, that is no concern for the EPS Student Council Elves.

This group of students and their fearless leaders will once again help to deck the halls of EPS as well as do their part to make Christmas just a little more enjoyable for everyone.

Shortly after Homecoming 2014 was in the books, the council prepared for their annual pumpkin decorating contest. This year's winners were as follows:



Elementary Division:  
1st Place: Mrs. Beckman and the second graders  
2nd Place: Mrs. Gunderson and the first graders

Secondary Division:  
1st Place: Mrs. Drueke's study hall  
2nd Place: Mrs. Schwartz's study hall

Faculty Division:  
1st Place: Mrs. Heithoff  
2nd Place: The Main Office

Next, the group will focus on the upcoming holiday season with the annual door decorating contest, classroom ornaments, a community tree, and a community service project.

Chances are they will also have some new ideas up their sleeves, so be ready. They are some active little elves!

This year's student council consists of the following students: Tori Fangman, Kelsey Shoemaker, Lisa Dohmen, Katie Polk, Destiny Francis, Morgan Carpenter, Jamie Hofer, Paige Nichols, Kenny Bush, Myranda Palmer, Lydia Behnk and Hayes Miller. Mrs. Klein and Mrs. Shoe are the student council sponsors.



## Thank you Veterans!



In honor of Veteran's Day, the Kindergarten and First Grade made a sign for the program. They just wanted to say "Thank you" to the veterans for their service.

# “I Believe” Community Contribution Program

Organization Name: Elgin FFA Chapter  
Address: 101 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
City, State: Elgin, NE 68636  
Telephone: 402-843-2455  
Email: Julia.schwartz@elgineagles.org  
Name of person making request: Elgin FFA Advisor, Julia Schwartz  
Type and Amount of Request: “I Believe” Campaign



## Program/project description:

The “I Believe” campaign was developed by the Nebraska FFA Foundation as a way of assisting FFA chapters with securing financial support for leadership conferences for students, community service projects, and innovative projects that promote agriculture. All funds donated will be returned to the local FFA chapter in addition to a proportional share of a \$24,000 challenge match pool of funds provided by the “I Believe” campaign cooperate sponsors listed on the back of the donation card.

Husker Sports Marketing has teamed with the Nebraska FFA Foundation to promote this program by supplying FFA chapters with advertising, donation pledge cards, and promotional materials. The program intends to provide a strong support system within a community for agricultural education, develop opportunities to form relationships with local corporate sponsors, and increase support from donors outside of the community through statewide campaign promotions.

## Communities/beneficiaries/customers served:

By investing in the skill and leadership development of students in the Elgin Agricultural Education program you will be training students in valuable job skills, and professional skills, that can be utilized to work, live, and contribute to our communities. Through supporting agricultural education and the FFA organization, you are investing in the future of individuals who will be actively involved in production of agricultural products and entering the field of work in agriculture.

Donors will benefit from this campaign by having developed support for the future of agriculture in Nebraska. Provide support to the long-term success of the ag industry and rural communities, and knowing that 100% of their donation supports the chapter of their choice. All donations are tax-deductible and donors will receive a thank you letter that can be used for their tax receipt.

## Organization Background:

Elgin FFA has been trying to establish itself in respect to its involvement in the local communities by supporting and promoting agriculture. Elgin FFA has a long history of FFA success and community involvement. Elgin FFA has approximately 45 students who come from the communities of Elgin, Petersburg, Raeville, Ewing, and Neligh. The chapter has members who come from Antelope, Boone, Holt and Wheeler counties.

## Recognition:

- All contributors will be listed in a booklet, which is mailed to all contributors and explains the program. These are made available at the Nebraska State FFA Convention in the program book and the Nebraska FFA Foundation Annual Report.
  - All contributors listed on the Nebraska FFA Foundation Website.
- All contributors’ names will be provided back to the Elgin FFA Chapter for recognition in local newspapers and at the chapter FFA banquet.

## Where does the money go?

Money is collected by the Nebraska FFA Foundation and distributed back to designated FFA chapter. All money designated to the Elgin FFA chapter will be returned to the chapter. All donations will be matched with a proportional share of a \$24,000 challenge match pool of funds from corporate sponsors.

## How will the money be used?

The Elgin FFA chapter will direct the funds toward the following uses:  
Leadership & Career Development Conference for students  
Community service projects  
Innovative projects that promote agriculture

## How can you donate?

Supporters can donate by going to [www.neffaoundation.org](http://www.neffaoundation.org) or by mailing in the donation card to the Nebraska FFA Foundation.

**MAILING ADDRESS: NEBRASKA FFA FOUNDATION, PO BOX 94942, Lincoln, NE 68509**

**ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: NEBRASKA FFA FOUNDATION**

**Please fill out the enclosed card and return with the check.**



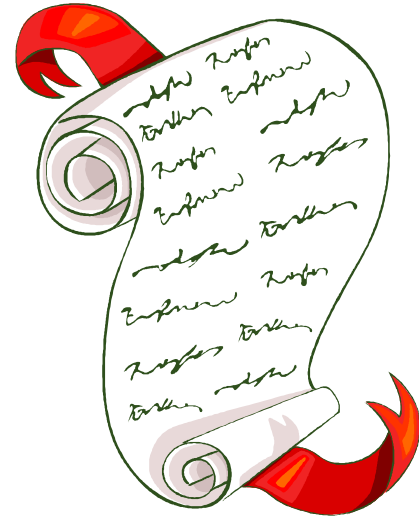
# F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff  
greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



**ALL "A" Honor Roll**  
Ally Wemhoff, Alois Warner, Kyle Heithioff, Elianne Heilhecker



**Superior Honor Roll**

Lisa Dohmen, Katelyn Copeland, Victariah Fangman, Anna Heilhecker, Hayley Stamp, Sharla Schindler, Lydia Behnk, Myranda Palmer, Kaitlyn Polk, Garret Behnk, Hunter Reestman, Tanner Welding, Tyler Smith, Dylan Behnk, (not pictured Tera Henkenius)



**HONOR ROLL**

Jaime Hoefler, Baylee Wemhoff, Destiny Frances, Adam Dreger, Aracelli Palmer, Vada Kruse, Emma Kerman, Cory Romej, GGeoffrey Carr, Taya Vorborny, Paige Nichols, Kelsey Welding, AJ Getzfred, Kelsey Shoemaker, Kaylee Martinsen, Kira Widger, Dylan Widger, Kenny Bush, Taven Cameron, Christopher Bush, Ethan Fischer, Moran Carpenter, Tiarra Thramer

# Administratively Speaking .

By Dan Polk  
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



Congratulations to all our activity groups here at the Elgin Schools. While athletics gets a lot of the attention we have many activities that do not involve athletics. Activities that work on building leaders, helping each other out, working on certain areas of education, talents, personalities and goal setting. Groups that spend time trying to help curb bullying, spreading messages of acceptance, belonging, teamwork and perseverance. There is so much more to a good well-rounded education in this day and age and so many more things that our children are involved in to help them become better people. I am very proud of our students and how they put value in who a person is and how they treat each other and work together. That is not an easy attitude to have and perpetuate in our materialistic "be my friend ---for a reason---" world. Just being friends and being there for each other should be enough.

On the administrator side of things one of the most difficult and public decisions a Superintendent of schools makes is whether and when to have, not have, or dismiss school due to inclement weather. "Back in the day" it RARELY happened as everyone was VERY local, had places to stay or go in town if things got really bad or even stayed in town during the week should the weather be/look bad. In today's world that is not nearly as much the case. We have all kinds of people, driving their own vehicles at different ages and coming to school from all kinds of different directions. Buses are also traveling farther to pick up students. Please be aware that if school is not "called" or "let out early" and you do not want your student coming or remaining here that is YOUR DECISION and should you make it. In other words if we are having school in inclement weather and you disagree with that decision just let us know that you are keeping your children at home. Or if it occurs during the day and we do not let out, let us know you want them to come home or that you are coming to get them. It's not an easy "call" and I don't presume to make it, or want to make it for you. I try and do what's best and safest for the kids while at the same time making having and going to school a very important priority. If you have any questions about this or anything else regarding the school please feel free to call and ask anytime.....



## 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.

## 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.

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

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