



# 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 5

December, 2015

## DATES TO REMEMBER



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



Dec. 14  
High School  
Concert 7:30 p.m.



Dec. 16  
Bloodmobile at  
EPS gym



Dec. 17  
Elementary  
Concert 7:30 p.m.



Dec. 22  
Early Dismissal  
1:00 p.m.



## *EPS Penny Wars Net Funds for Firemen*



After the craziness of homecoming died down and the debris was cleared from The Great Pumpkin Decorating Contest of 2015, the EPS Student Council accepted another mission: they decided to hold a penny war. Their goal was to raise money for Elgin's Volunteer Fire Department.

On Monday, November 2, the containers were secured and positioned. On that same day, the contributions came pouring in. Preschool through senior high students broke into their piggy banks at home and came through with all kinds of pennies to place in their own buckets and silver and cash to sabotage others.

On that Friday, the wars subsided and the money was sorted. Following the tireless efforts of a hardworking Bank of Elgin staff, the results were tabulated. EPS had collectively raised a \$700.28 donation. The check was presented to members of the fire department during an appreciation luncheon sponsored by the National Honor Society and the Student Council.

Congratulations, EPS, on a job well done. You are to be commended on selflessly giving to a very worthwhile cause!

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

## Dig into the Past



### 4th Grade Nebraska History

\*We just finished learning about going WEST on the Oregon Trail in a covered wagon in the 1840s. At the end of our study, we took a quiz from Quizlet.com over the vocabulary associated with Oregon Trail. We did AWESOME.

### 5th Grade American History

\* We are learning about life in the English Colonies. Colonial trade and the planting of cash crops brought many African slaves to the colonies. The Great Awakening, Scientific Revolution, and Enlightenment caused people to re-examine their world.

### 6th Grade American History

\* We are learning about the Texas Revolution, after which Texas became an independent republic. Pioneers also continued to move to Oregon and California. Yes, United States was expanding.



## American Education Week!

EEA planned many activities during American Education Week Nov. 16-20. A map displayed the birthplaces of our many dedication staff. A thank-you poster from the students was on display. Students made flags to represent our school and were encouraged to create "tweets" about our school. Students completed a quiz matching staff with an alternate career they might have chosen besides their current one. Apple treats were shared with the staff. Nice job, EEA!

**D  
I  
S  
T  
R  
I  
C  
T  
  
R  
U  
N  
N  
E  
R  
U  
P**



*The 2015 Lady Wolfpack Volleyball Team was District Runner Up as the season ended with a 5 set loss to Crofton. The team ended with a 25-7 record.*

## 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

*Anyone can be cool but  
awesome takes practice!*

## 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!

# EPS ONE-ACT PERFORMS



The Elgin Public One Act team performed *Superheroes: With Great Power Comes Ordinary Responsibility* by Ian McWethy at NVC East on November 17. The team received the ranks of 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> by the three judges for an overall 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 8 teams. Outstanding performances were awarded to: Kenny Bush, Dylan Widger, Mason Vleck, Alois Warner, Taya Voborny, Zoey Bergman, Jaime Hoefler, Ingvild Bekkeseth, Morgan Carpenter, Leslie Linares.

## Typing Tidbits

We live in the Digital Age. Kids are using computers at a very young age. When using a laptop or desktop computer, children must understand how to use the keyboard properly. Therefore, if you have a young child, it is important that you monitor your children's typing technique on the keyboard. **Let's help our children now before they develop bad habits that are hard to break!**



- At a young age, it is more important to focus on accuracy! Do not worry about speed! Make sure children are using the correct fingers and limiting errors!
- Always keep your hands on HOME ROW.
- Use the correct finger and gently type the key. Then, quickly return the finger to its assigned home row key.
- As time progresses, children should start looking at the screen instead of down at the keyboard.
- Take short breaks every 20-30 minutes. Move around and stretch. Give your muscles, joints, and eyes some rest.

## From History!

November 19, 2015 marked the 152<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. As a very interesting coincidence that very day the American History students were studying that very topic. Students read the famous speech from our nation's 16<sup>th</sup> president and learned and discussed the significance and meaning behind the address. They learned that President Lincoln wanted to keep his speech short and to the point, he wrote it with that idea in mind. The man speaking before Lincoln gave a speech that lasted over two hours. Lincoln's speech lasted a little more than two minutes. He believed that the words they spoke that day would not last near as long as the actions of the men who fought and died on that battlefield. However history remembers both the men who fought and the iconic speech to this day.



### The Gettysburg Address

**Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.**

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln  
November 19, 1863

## 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.

# As You Like It



On Friday, October 23, members of the English 11 class traveled to Norfolk to see a production of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. The Nebraska Shakespeare production was sponsored by the Norfolk Arts Center.

*Today could be the best day  
of your life*

## FOURTH GRADE PEN PALS



The fourth graders have started writing to their pen pal through the Ag Pen Pal program. They write to a woman and her husband from Benkelman, Nebraska. She has sent them lots of pictures of her animals, feeding cattle, and cattle drives. They will be Skyping and sharing videos as well. It is a fun, learning experience for everyone!

# Movie Night



Libby Evans, Megan Wright, Justice Blecher, Jayda Chessmore, Kyndal Busteed, Gemma Miller, Kayton Zwingman, and Kierstyn Eisenhauer were treated to the Peanuts movie in Norfolk. They earned a day at the movie for their summer reading.



## 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.

# Early Morning Yoga



These students take a weightlifting class during O period which is from 7:00 –7:50 each morning. This morning they took part in Yoga classes.

## *Honoring our Veterans*

The eighth grade English students have been working on descriptive writing in order to prepare for the upcoming statewide writing test. Descriptive writing is unique because it requires students to focus on creating an image in their audience's mind by developing a mood that matches the subject mainly through word choice and the use of sensory and figurative details. To honor our nation's heroes, each student wrote a paragraph to describe veterans, then, as a class, we voted on our two best examples of descriptive writing and revised them as a class. Here are our final results.



A veteran is an everyday man or woman who stands a little taller. They are people that sacrifice their lives for our freedom. Unfortunately, they, along with their fellow comrades have seen the horrors of war that would make most people cower in fear. To honor these brave men and women, we

take one day of the year to pay respect to all of the devastating losses and others who have fought for our freedom and survived. With dedication, they kept our country safe. Although they may have been traumatized or even scarred, they would bravely do it again for our nation. Forever changed, maybe not physically, but in their hearts, they still stand tall and proud.

**Written by Araceli Palmer**  
**Edited by eighth grade class**



I always feel blessed when I see our heroic, gallant veterans that have served our country walk together in honor of Veteran's Day. The hush of the crowd shows that we feel proud to have people that have fought or are fighting heroically for our country. Just the mention of the word America reminds people of the strength of our independent country that these selfless men and women bravely fought to protect. Even when I hear the word veteran, I think of a soldier that has paid the price for our freedom and our country's independence. For these brave men and women fighting for country, one day of gratitude hardly seems enough.

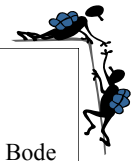
**Written by Wyatt Renner**  
**Edited by the eighth grade class**

**THANK YOU, VETERANS!**

**BOX TOPS**  
**FOR EDUCATION**

# Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



## Prepare for the FAFSA with free programs and resources

Juniors and seniors...it's time to start preparing for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)!

*Seniors*, you'll need to complete the form after January 1 but before the college's priority date (typically March 1 or April 1) to apply for federal, state and college-based financial aid. *Juniors*, you'll want to start learning about the FAFSA now as changes are happening with the form next year.

To learn about the FAFSA, take advantage of these *free* EducationQuest programs and resources:

## Financial Aid Programs

Attend a Financial Aid Program with a parent or guardian to learn about the financial aid process and the FAFSA. The programs are free and open to the public. [Find the program nearest you](#). *If you attend, you will be eligible to register for a \$500 [Financial Aid Program Scholarship!](#)*

## Financial Aid Program Webinars

EducationQuest will conduct free **Financial Aid Program Webinars** on the following dates:

**Tuesday, December 8** – 7:00 pm (CT)

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

**Wednesday, December 16** – 7:00 pm (CT)

Webinar link: <http://eqf.org/1P9LFv4>

**Monday, January 11** – 7:00 pm (CT)

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

**Wednesday, January 13** – 7:00 pm (CT)

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

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](#).

**“Paying for College” section at EducationQuest.org** [Visit our website](#) for information about the financial aid process and 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 for 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. [Click here for free resources to help you through the 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 28 for the January 23 SAT.
- \_\_\_ [Register](#) by January 8 for the February 6 ACT.

# Totem Poles

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Connect with Ag Pen Pal



The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are participating in the Ag Pen Pal Program through Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom this year. Classes are matched with a farmer or rancher in Nebraska. Students have to

be in contact with their farmer/rancher three times during the school year. This can be through letters, e-mail, Facebook, Skype, etc.

We just received our first letter from our pen pal who lives on Plum Thicket Farms near Gordon, NE. The students learned about how our pen pal harvested corn and sunflowers. We also learned how our pen pal is a no-till farmer which means they never plow or disk the soil so that the soil structure is undisturbed and all of the good bugs have a chance to live and do their thing. They have an eight year crop rotation between corn, sunflowers, oats, vetch, pinto or soybeans, forage sorghum, rye, and “cocktails”, which are a mixture of different species of plants that their cattle graze.

Fall is also a busy time for our pen pal as they raise cattle. They are working on weaning the calves and separating them from their mothers. They are also checking the cows to make sure they are pregnant and will sort off cows that aren't or are too old or have some other problem to be sold. The rest of the cows will spend the winter grazing dormant pasture, cornstalks, or swathes of sorghum. They will start calving next spring, probably late April.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will work on writing letters back to their pen pal. The students will have a chance to tell about themselves and ask any questions about the letter we received. The students are excited to learn more about agriculture this year and hope to connect through Skype sometime during the school year.



Check out the finished totem poles on the school webpage! 3-6 Art students each completed a totem mask out of paper mache. They decorated the masks with paint, glitter, beads, feathers and colored sand. After the masks were finished they were glued to a pole to form each grade's totem. Look under "Academics-Art" to see the totems and the individual masks.

## *What we are learning in Science Class!*



It has been a crazy semester in the science classroom this year. The students have been busy working on many projects and labs. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders just finished up their astronomy unit where they learned about the objects in the universe and solar system. They concluded the unit by writing a book where their main character took a journey through space then shared these stories with some of the elementary students. The 9<sup>th</sup> graders are learning all about atoms. They are discussing the parts of an atom and will soon be learning about how atoms combine with each other, a chapter which involves many fun labs. In 10<sup>th</sup> grade they are learning about cells and the process that cells undergo. One example is osmosis where they used an egg to model the different solutions your cell can be exposed to. This lab showed the students how different substances that go into your body can affect your cells. The chem-

istry students are digging deep into where the electrons are placed in an atom, a difficult concept that they are mastering! The integrated science class has been full of projects that include making iMovies, posters, and PowerPoints. They currently just finished up in the lab making models of convections currents to show how the plate tectonics and air in the atmosphere moves. Ask a science student to explain what they have been learning, chances are they will be able to teach to something you never knew!

# “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 donation card and return with the check.**



# F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff  
greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



***Congratulations—  
1st Quarter  
All-A Honor Roll***



*Skylar Reestman, Kane VonBonn, Lydia Behnke , Alois Warner, Ingvild Bekkeseth and Elianne Heilhecker*

***Congratulations—  
1st Quarter  
Superior Honor Roll***



**FRONT ROW** – Araceli Palmer, Claire Kerman, Theanna Dunn, Adam Dreger, Anna Heilhecker, Katelyn Copeland  
**BACK ROW**- Morgan Carpenter, Kaitlyn Polk, Liam Heithoff, Dylan Behnk, Kira Widger, Hunter Reestman and Kelsey Welding

***Congratulations—  
1st Quarter  
Honor Roll***



**FRONT ROW**- Joseph Getzfred, Emma Kerkman, Shelby Dohmen, Baylee Wemhoff, Breanna Carr, Destiny Francis  
**MIDDLE ROW**- Paige Nichols, Myranda Palmer, Tzu Yen Huang, Dayna Bousquet, Jaime Hoefler, Leslie Linares  
**BACK ROW**- Zoey Bergman, Taylor Sehi, Kenneth Bush, Dylan Widger, Garet Behnk and Wyatt Renner

# Administratively Speaking .

By Dan Polk  
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



The elementary music concert is a wonderful activity at this time of year and we are going to provide a babysitting service that we feel will make that experience even better. The students have worked very hard on their performance and many family members have come to enjoy this display of their talents. We would like ALL concert goers to be able to enjoy the concert.

We are asking that all children not in the concert (over the age of 6 months and under the age of 7 years) be dropped off in the high school building. The Wolfpack girls' basketball team and responsible adults will be babysitting for the duration of the concert. The high school building is the brick one west of the picnic tables with office sign on the building.

The pre-school and kindergarten students will perform near the beginning of the concert. Upon completion of their performance they will remain with their class and teachers. When the younger kids' section of the concert is done, the preschool and kindergarten will be escorted by their teachers and staff over to the high school building as well. If you were planning on leaving after your younger child performs you sure may do so, just stop by the old gym and pick them up. If you planned on staying for your older children or just to watch the remainder of the concert you are welcome to do that as well. Just please remember to stop and get your younger ones when you leave at the end of the concert.

Should the need arise, we will ask anyone disrupting the concert and interfering with the performance to leave and we will expect compliance. We felt this has been problematic in the past, and we had no help provided in controlling "the young ones", so we are now providing an alternative.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation! The baby-sitting service in the high school building will start taking children at 7:00 sharp.

Now a little housekeeping message that I "put out there" every year. If Elgin Public does NOT call school due to weather, and you disagree with that decision, please keep your child at home or come get your child and just let the school know. I try and consult with different people and make the best decision available regarding "snow days" but it's not an easy call. I USUALLY always try and make a call the night before IF AT ALL POSSIBLE as to give people the most time available to make arrangements but once in a while it just doesn't work out that way. Back in the day it was rare that it happened but more and more kids are driving and more and more travel occurs; yet it is important and a priority to come to school and get an education. It's never an easy call, unless we get one of those famous midwest blizzards but we will do our best.....

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



***December 22 -Early Dismissal at 1:00 p.m.  
School Resumes January 5th***

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