



EAGLE UPDATE

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Volume XXXII, Issue 5

December, 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER



December 2
Muffins with
Moms- 7:30am



December 14
Bloodmobile
At EPS Gym



December 14
School Board
Meeting 7:30pm



December 15
Elementary
Christmas Concert
7:00pm



December 20
High School
Christmas Concert
7:00pm



December 22
EARLY OUT 1:00



Dec 23-Jan 3
NO SCHOOL

WOLFPACK VOLLEYBALL



TAKES THIRD AT STATE!



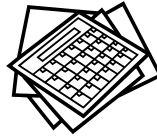
FOR THE MOST CURRENT NEWS AND CALENDAR,
GO TO WWW.ELGINEAGLES.ORG.

From Mrs. Thiele-Blecher

WOLFPACK VOLLEYBALL TAKES THIRD PLACE DURING FIRST SHOWING IN STATE TOURNAMENT

On Thursday, November 10th, the Wolfpack Volleyball team made their debut at the State Volleyball tournament. Their first match was against Ansley-Litchfield. After some jitters and nerves calmed down the first set, the girls went on to beat Ansley-Litchfield 23-25, 25-16, 25-20, 25-20. On Friday morning at 9:00 at the Pinnacle Bank Arena, the girls played Meridian. It was a hard fought 5 set battle that could have gone either way. But Meridian came out on top in the 5th set 15-9, sending the Wolfpack to the consolation game. On Saturday, fighting for 3rd & 4th the team faced Guardian Angels Central Catholic. It seemed the girls were down and out as GACC won the first 2 sets 25-23 & 25-22. But the Wolfpack team started to battle back and won the next 3 sets 25-21, 25-13, 15-10. Congratulations to the Wolfpack Volleyball Team on its first trip to state and Winning Class D1 Third Place!

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. 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

From Mrs. Zwingman

THE RESOURCE ROOM GOES ALL OUT FOR PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST



**Muffins with Moms
Friday, December 2nd, 2016
at 7:30 AM**

Please join us in the gymnasium for juice, milk, muffins and some reading before school.

**** If Mom cannot attend you can find a substitute ****



**BOX TOPS
FOR EDUCATION**

From Mrs. Beckman

SECOND GRADE CLASS PEN PALS


The second grade class is participating in the 2016-2017 Ag Pen Pal Program. In Nebraska this program is managed and funded by Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation. We are writing letters to a ranch family near Springview, NE. We have received one letter from the family and we have written one letter. We have learned a little about their ranch and what they do. Each student wrote a letter telling them about themselves. The students enjoyed getting the letter and are excited to learn more about ranch life. The picture shows them working with a partner proofreading and editing their first letter.



From Mrs. Lindgren

“POP”ING INTO MATH CLASS

Things have been popping in Mrs. Lindgren's College Algebra class! We have been studying logarithms and working with equations with unknown exponents. When we worked through logarithm problems, they could POP the exponent up or down to simplify the problem. I used yellow highlighter to emphasize that move when I worked out problems. In an effort to help the students remember that important concept, the students were allowed to eat popcorn during that discussion. The students thought that I should find some type of food to associate with every math concept to help them remember it better!

 $\log 5^3 = 3 \log 5$

 $3 \log_8 2 = \log_8 2^3 = \log_8 8 = 1$

From Mr. Becker

WOLFPACK FOOTBALL JERSEYS FOR SALE

The EPPJ football will be getting new uniforms for the 2017-18 season. We will be selling the old uniforms for \$10 a jersey or \$20 for the pair. Anyone interested in purchasing one can contact Mr. Becker or Mr. Eisenhower at the school.

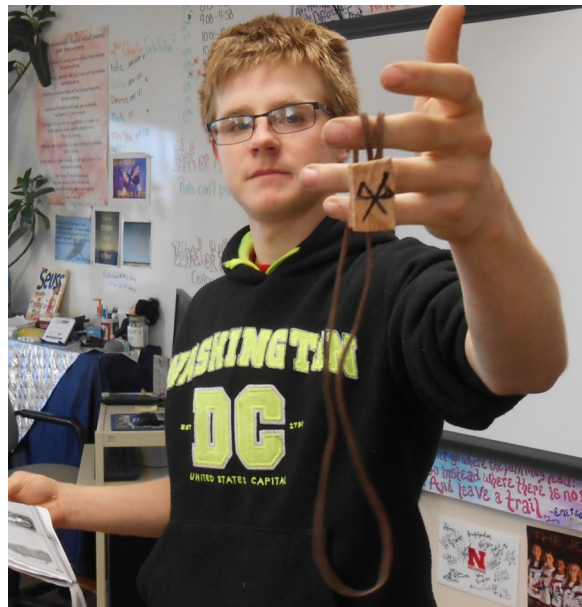


From Mrs. Schumake-Henn

SENIOR ENGLISH STUDENTS STUDY RUNES

As introduction to our British literature unit, the Seniors spent some time studying runes. Runes are an early alphabet of the Norse, Germanic, and Anglo Saxon people and an ancestor of the alphabet we use today. In addition to representing letters, each rune also symbolizes a deeper meaning. For centuries, rune scripting and binding has been a popular part of some cultures.

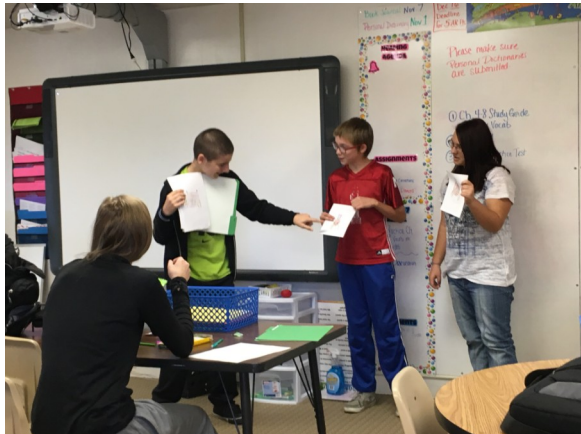
English 12 students spent some time binding runes. They chose runes they felt represented themselves and all they hope to accomplish one day. Not only did they learn some new knowledge, but they also gained some interesting new jewelry.



From Mrs. Druke

Eighth Graders Describe Monster Madness

The eighth graders combined their art skills with their descriptive writing abilities to celebrate Halloween. The students were asked to secretly draw a monster and then describe it in two paragraphs. During a class celebration, they were to bring those written descriptions to class, and their classmates were given the challenge of drawing the hidden monster from the written description only. Finally, we revealed the monsters, and we compared the original with the versions drawn from their descriptions. It was a helpful activity that revealed our strengths and weaknesses in descriptive writing.



From Mr. Ostransky

LEWIS AND CLARK IN 4TH GRADE

The 4th graders have been learning about the Lewis and Clark Expedition the last couple of weeks. During those weeks they have been busy putting together their own journals of plants, animals, and people that Lewis and Clark came into contact with on their journey.



From Mrs. Borer

5TH GRADE VOTES FOR PRESIDENT

Even though they're not old enough to legally vote, fifth grade students did get to participate in the Scholastic election. They each cast their vote and mailed in their ballots. Hillary Clinton won the student vote! She received 52% of the vote, while Donald Trump received 35%. About 153,000 K-12 students nationwide voted in this Scholastic election. Since 1940 the Scholastic student vote has only been wrong twice, making this only the third time in history! In 1948, kids picked Thomas E. Dewey over President Harry S. Truman. In 1960, more students voted for Richard M. Nixon than for the eventual president, John F. Kennedy. To see the full results go to election.scholastic.com/vote.

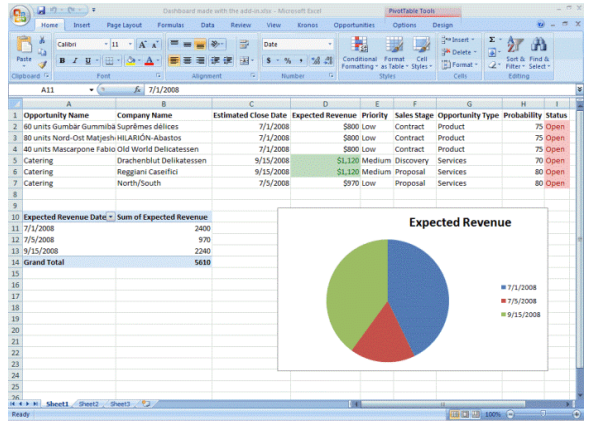


From Mr. Mlinar

COMPUTER APPS STUDENTS "EXCEL"

Computer Apps students are learning about Excel. Microsoft Excel is a spreadsheet program that allows users to organize data, complete calculations, make decisions, graph data, develop reports, and more. At first, Excel can be difficult, but after some trial and error, students start to see the possibilities.

Want a job that promises a living wage and a good shot at a middle-class life? The answer, according to an article in the Wall Street Journal, "learn Microsoft Excel and other basic digital skills."



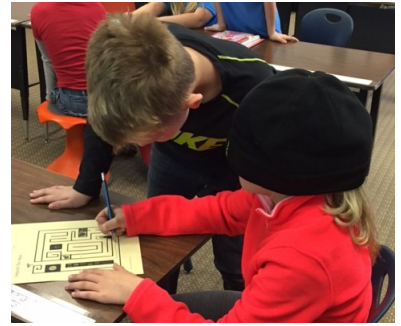
From Mrs. Eisenhauer

Listening Skills in 3rd Grade

The third graders have been learning about listening and communication skills in Guidance with Mrs. Rittscher. They have been doing many activities in class that go along with a book titled "The Worst Day of My Life" by Julia Cook. In this book, a boy named R.J. has a very bad day due to his poor listening skills. He learns in the story that hearing and listening are NOT the same. He learns how to listen CAREFULLY and listen to instructions. He realizes that if he had "listened" his day wouldn't have been so bad. He learns the following rules for listening:

1. Look right at the person.
2. Do not speak until the person is through.
3. Show that you have heard the person by nodding your head and saying okay.
4. Do what you've been asked and do it right now.
5. When you are finished, check back with the person.

In the pictures, the third graders worked on an activity called A-Maze Me. The students had to give specific instructions to a partner who was blindfolded. The students had to listen carefully to instructions while trying to complete a maze on paper. The students found this to be very difficult and realized why it is so important to look at a person when they are speaking. The students have been working hard to "listen" and not just "hear" directions because they do not want to have a terrible day like the character R.J.



From Mrs. Heithoff

ARTISTIC PROJECTS ABOUND

The year is flying by and Art students are completing several projects. Elementary have been working on Zentangling, speed sketching, color mixing, painting and still life drawing. Coming up will be printmaking and paper mache masks. Junior high Art has been working on printmaking and paper mache heads. The high school students have started the year with paper mache as well as independent projects. Carter has been working hard with Mr. Coakes and the 3D printer to create a video game sculpture. In addition Mr. Heithoff arranged for us to see the Artrageous show in Norfolk that combined art, music and dance. Stay tuned to the webpage for articles featuring the students' work.



From Mrs. Wemhoff

Thanksgiving Fun for Kindergarten and 1st Grades

The kindergarten and 1st grade classes are celebrating the first Thanksgiving by putting on a little play and having a mini feast. The characters in the play are the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians. For the feast, each class got to pick four snacks they wanted for the celebration. Some of the ingredients for a wonderful snack feast are: fruit snacks, popcorn, goldfish, grapes, jerky, cheese sticks, dried cranberries, and pumpkin pie.



ART AND MUSIC STUDENTS ATTEND "ARTRAGEOUS"



The EPS Art and Music students had an amazing time at Artrageous at Divots in Norfolk. Artrageous was a combination performance that had live painting, live music, dancing, and puppetry. EPS art and music students in grades 5-12 were given the opportunity to attend. Paintings included portraits of famous stars such as Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, John Lennon, and Martin Luther King Jr., with the music matching the paintings being created. EPS students even had the opportunity to go up on stage with the performers and become part of the show, and the Elgin Music Boosters purchased one of the paintings to display at the school! A huge thank you to the school board, administration, and parents for providing this experience for our students!



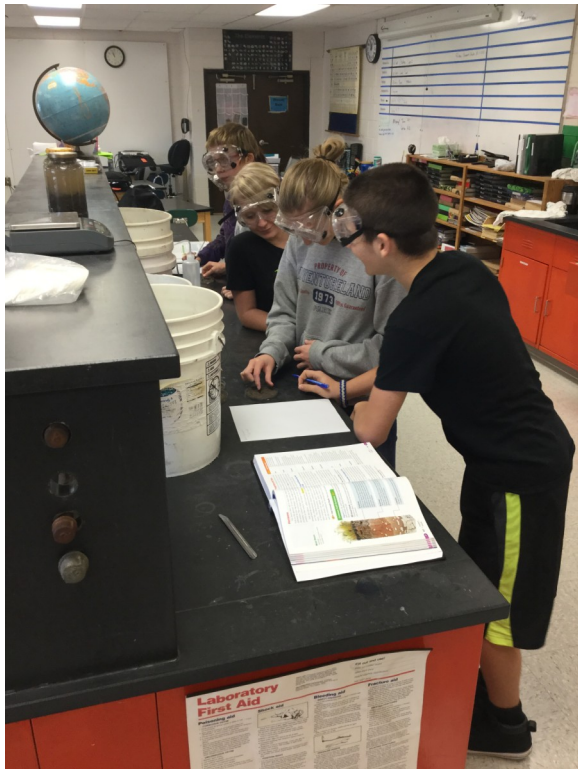
UPCOMING MUSIC PERFORMANCES

-December 15th– Elementary Christmas Concert 7:00 pm

-December 20th– JH/HS Christmas Concert 7:00 pm

GETTING THE "DIRT" ON SCIENCE

The 8th Grade Earth Science class has spent the last week investigating the characteristics of local soil samples. In the lab pictured, they assessed four soil samples on the 9 characteristics of soil: color, texture, structure, consistency, infiltration, soil moisture, pH, fertility, and temperature. They also constructed a scientific model to demonstrate how solid rock is weathered into sediment that will eventually become soil. Through these investigations, they have discovered that soil is more than just dirt.



JMC MESSAGE CENTER

Are you receiving the messages from our JMC Message Center? With the recent State Volleyball announcements and Snow Day messages being sent, please check that you are receiving the messages on the phones and email addresses that it needs to go to. If changes need to be made, please log in to the JMC Parent portal and make the changes necessary. If you need help logging in, please call the office and we can help you.



Social Studies Happenings

Recently two students traveled with me to The Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk Nebraska for the ESU8 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshop put on by the Nebraska Department of Education. GIS is the use of satellite imagery, pictures, coordinates, and other data to create story maps. Students and teachers were given directions to follow in making a generic soil conservation map and then were let loose to create their own map. We learned many different uses and ways to implement GIS in class, and also how it is used in many different fields of work.



CALCULATING THE FUTURE

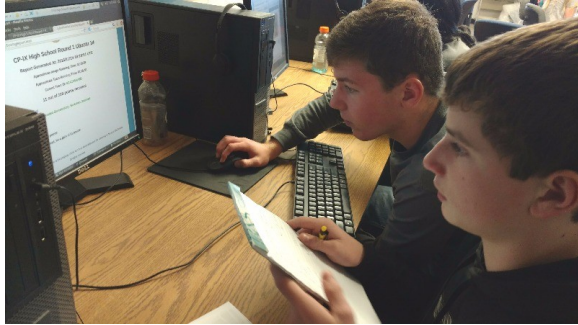
Students in Advanced Algebra B are using graphing calculators to find correlations and make predictions.



EPS Students Compete in Round 1 of Cyber Patriot Challenge

There are three cyber patriots roaming the halls at EPS--Senior Katelyn Copeland; Sophomore Hunter Reestman, and Freshman Adam Dreger. These students participated in Round 1 of Season IX of the CyberPatriot Competition.

CyberPatriot (CP) is the Air Force Association's (AFA) National Youth Cyber Education Program, created to motivate students towards careers in cyber security and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) disciplines.



The AFA is a non-profit organization that has been concerned with national security for decades. CyberPatriot started in 2009 as a pilot program with just eight teams from Florida. The program has grown to over 3,300 teams in all 50 states, including a handful of school from Nebraska. "As far as I can tell, Elgin is one of the only Class D schools competing from Nebraska this year," commented Sonia Rittscher, the CP sponsor. "There are teams from Fremont, Lincoln, and the Omaha area. I was introduced to the program on the recommendation from Dr. Wade Hurley and Professor Brad Vogt from Northeast Community College."

The AFA uses the CyberPatriot program to stress the importance of cyber security. At the center of CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and are tasked with finding cyber security vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six hour period. So far, the team has worked with Microsoft 7 and Ubuntu 14.04. Team member, Hunter Reestman, stated, "I enjoy figuring out Windows because we use Windows in our daily lives."

"The students really seem to enjoy the virtual machine challenge the most so far. In our first round, the students scored 135 points out of a possible 200 points. We're pretty proud about that!" stated Mrs. Rittscher. Other parts of the competition include networking and packet tracer quizzes. "I learned that computers can be tricky but you can learn a lot about them through CP," added Katie Copeland.

The AFA lists several important selling points for beginning a CyberPatriot team at EPS. For one, cyber careers are high-demand and high-paying, paying on average \$12K/year more than other IT jobs. There is also a growing need to keep America strong in cyber, creating a well-qualified cyber workforce.

The next round of competition is in December with a qualifying round for nationals that follows in January. Teams compete for the top placement within their state and region, and the top teams in the nation earn all-expenses paid trips to Baltimore, MD for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money.



"This is our first experience with CyberPatriot program and competition. There is a lot more learning to be done, not only for the team, but also for its sponsor and IT coordinator, Mr. Eric Mlinar. There is so much to learn and to know, but we know more now!" remarked Mrs. Rittscher. Adam Dreger added, "I didn't know how to do a lot of programming and other stuff, but I understand now." It is a start!

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff
greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



Bloodmobile

Elgin Public will be hosting a Blood drive on Wednesday, December 14th at the EPS gymnasium. Start time is 9:00 AM. If you have the time please donate. It is so important this time of year.

The American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to give the perfect gift by donating blood during the holiday season. Below are key messages that you can relay to your donors while scheduling appointments.

KEY MESSAGES

Your blood donation this holiday season can give a patient the perfect gift – the gift of life.

Cancer patients, those undergoing surgery, accident victims and many other patients rely on donated blood.

Blood donations often decline from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day as people get busy with holiday activities. Please give now to help prevent a seasonal decline and ensure a stable supply.

Patients don't get a holiday from needing blood. The need for donors to give is constant.

Eligible donors with types O, B negative or A negative blood are especially needed (and encouraged to make a Power Red donation, if available).

Power Red donors give a concentrated dose of red blood cells during a single donation, allowing them to maximize their impact. During this type of donation, red blood cells are separated from other blood components, and the plasma and platelets are safely and comfortably returned to the donor.

Type O negative is the universal blood type and what emergency personnel reach for in trauma situations when there isn't time to determine a patient's blood type.

Type O positive is the most common blood type and can be transfused to Rh-positive patients of any blood type.

Types A and B negative can be transfused to Rh-positive or negative patients.

Save time by using Rapid Pass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history online before you come to your appointment. Learn more at [redcrossblood.org/Rapid Pass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass).



Administratively Speaking .

By Dan Polk
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



This school year continues to go very well, and very fast it seems. I am so proud of the Elgin Public Schools. Our campus is beautiful and functional. We are up to date with the technology so needed in today's world to keep up and teach kids, as well as for students to use. We also have a tremendous board of education, certified and non-certified staff, and student population. We are all working hard to be productive, life-changing quality citizens and people and make our school system the best it can be. Elgin, some bigger, some smaller, none better! As a whole I would transfer that community slogan to your public schools as well. It takes cooperation and good people to make a community and a school work well and be successful. I think it is clear that Elgin has those people.

As we go into the winter months just a reminder that if we have school on a day you are not comfortable sending your child out in due to weather, just call and let the school know you are keeping them at home. That is well within your right as a parent to do so. We try and make the weather related no school or early out calls as best we can in relation to a whole lot of variables, and it is never easy or an exact science. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season! I just can't believe it's that time again already! As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your public school, please feel free to give the staff and/or administration a call any time.



***December 22 -Early Dismissal at 1:00 p.m.
School Resumes January 4th***

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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