



EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School
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Volume XXXI, Issue 6

January, 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER



Jan. 4
NO SCHOOL



Jan. 5
School Resumes



Jan. 14
NO SCHOOL
Teacher Inservice



Jan. 14
School Board Mtg.
7:30 p.m. in
ITV Room



MUFFINS WITH MOM

Elementary students were invited to bring their mom to school on Friday, December 4th. Muffins, coffee/juice and a good book were enjoyed by all!



Lindsey Reel reading with Trenton and Ryleigh.



Bethany Miller reading to Gemma and Kinley.



Brandie Smith reading with Anna and Zaiden.



Kara Shavlik reading with Cecil.

Food Drive



Come enjoy a night of good basketball entertainment and help the local food pantry at the same time. On January 28 EPPJ will be hosting Humphrey/LHF in a basketball game. Students in grades K – 12 at Elgin Public and Pope John/St. Boniface will be admitted into the game free with a donation of a food item. Come cheer on EPPJ and help the local food pantry. This food drive is sponsored by the first grade class and FCCLA.

From Mrs. Gunderson

READY FOR THE COLD

From Mrs. Siems



Bring on the SNOW! Kindergarten students are ready for the cold with their new Elgin Eagles stocking caps.

From Mrs. Eisenhauer

3rd Graders Welcome WSC Student Teacher

The 3rd graders welcomed Wayne State College student, Mrs. Kelli Tisthammer, to their classroom for the second semester. Mrs. Tisthammer will be student teaching in the 3rd grade classroom from January to May in preparation for her degree in elementary education. Mrs. Tisthammer is originally from Petersburg. The 3rd graders and Mrs. Eisenhauer are excited to welcome her to Elgin Public School!

Wolfpack Volleyball Awards

From Mrs. Thiele-Blecher



The Volleyball team recently had their award banquet on Monday, November 23rd. It was great to have all thirty girls there to hear the speech and see each other receive their awards. A short highlight video was also shown. A list of the Wolfpack Volleyball Records was reviewed and is available on the website. The team awards that were presented were:

	Most Improved	Best Offense	Hustle Award	Best Defense	MVP	Wolfpack Award
Varsity	Amy Nelson	Liz Selting	Jordan Mescher	Jordan Mescher	Jenna Parks	Jenna Parks
JV	Shantel Preister	Grace Henn	Calli Krebs	Calli Krebs	Nicki Payne	Lydia Behnk
C-team	Heather Bauer	Ally Wemhoff	Anna Heilhecker	Kaylee Martinsen	Anna Heilhecker	Ally Wemhoff

Volleyball Post Season Honors:

Norfolk Daily News Class C:

Honorable Mention: Jenna Parks

2nd Team: Liz Selting

Nebraska Prep Volleyball Class C2:

Honorable Mention: Jenna Parks and Baylee Wemhoff

3rd Team: Liz Selting

Omaha World Herald:

Honorable Mention: Liz Selting, Jordan Mescher, Jenna Parks, Baylee Wemhoff, & Terri Seier

Lincoln Journal Star:


Honorable Mention: Liz Selting, Jenna Parks & Baylee Wemhoff

From Mrs. R. Heithoff

Art Sculpture



Been wondering what we did with all of those plastic bottles you saved for the Art students? We created a Chihuly sculpture! A Chihuly what??? It's not a what but a who. Dale Chihuly is a famous glass artist who revolutionized the art of glass blowing. Go to the school webpage for full details and pictures of the students' Chihuly sculpture which will be on display by the school office.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

We still collect BoxTops For Education and Campbell's Soup UPC Labels. BoxTops and Labels can be dropped off at the school at anytime. Thanks!

OPTION ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

Are you interested in sending your students to Elgin Public School? If you live outside of District 18 and would like to enroll for the fall semester 2016-2017, you must file the option enrollment application before March 15th. If you file after that date your resident school district determines whether they will allow you to opt out of their district. For further information or to request an option enrollment application, please contact the school office 843-2455.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode

Seniors...it's time to prepare for the FAFSA!

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. Follow these steps to prepare for the FAFSA and the financial aid process:

Contact the college(s) you applied to and ask for their FAFSA priority filing date (typically March 1 to April 1).

Complete your 2015 taxes early as the FAFSA requires current tax information.

Create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need the FSA ID to access your FAFSA and other Federal Student Aid websites. For instructions, review this brief [handout](#) or [video](#).

Gather these student and parent items:

- * 2015 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
 - * 2015 W-2 forms
 - * Student's driver's license number
 - * Social Security numbers
 - * Birth dates
 - * Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
 - * Current cash, savings and checking account balances
 - * Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding your home and retirement accounts
 - * Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
 - * Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate.)
 - * 2015 child support (paid and/or received)
 - * 2015 Workers' Compensation
 - * Other untaxed income in 2015 such as housing/food/ living allowances for military and clergy
 - * Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens
- Be prepared to indicate on the form if anyone in your household received federal benefits such as Supplemental Security Income, SNAP, TANF, Free or Reduced Price Lunch, or WIC.

Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov before your college's priority date.

Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) acknowledging that your form was processed.

Expect Financial Aid Award Notifications in the spring from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA. The notifications will detail the financial aid assistance the colleges are offering (could be a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans).

Check out these **free FAFSA tools and resources**

Visit "[FAFSA Tools](#)" at EducationQuest.org where you'll find:

College Funding Estimator – estimates your FAFSA results

FAFSA Checklist – provides a list of items you need to gather before you complete the FAFSA

FAFSA Tutorial – explains each FAFSA question

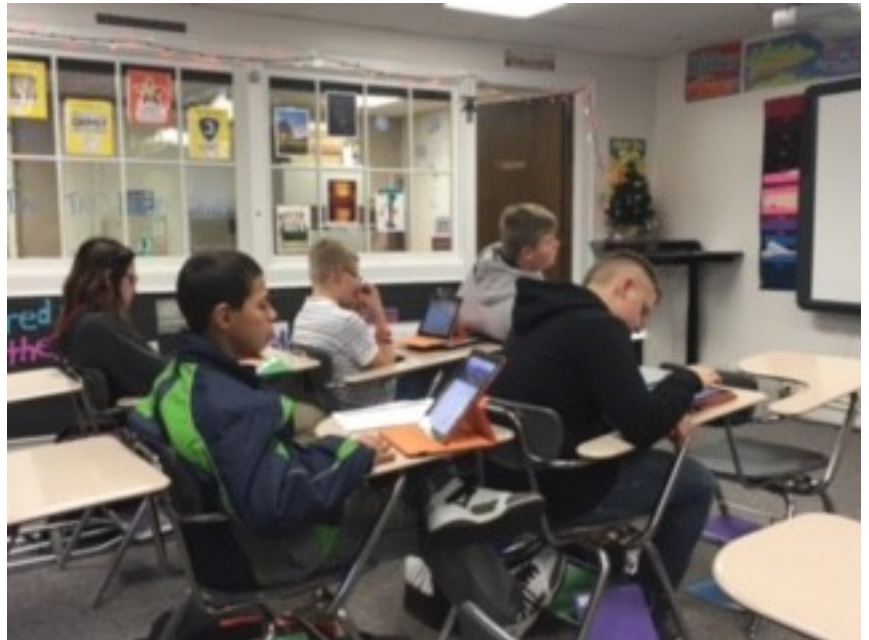
FAFSA Demo and IRS Data Retrieval videos – walk you through the FAFSA process

If you are filing a FAFSA for the first time and want free personal help, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to make an appointment. Kearney: 308-234-6310 or 800-666-3721; Lincoln: 402-475-5222 or 800-303-3745; Omaha: 402-391-4033 or 888-357-6300, or Scottsbluff: 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.

Students Use Technology to Study Vocabulary

In any subject, mastering vocabulary is important step in understanding a concept or lesson. One free tool teacher and students alike can use is Quizlet.com. Quite simply, teachers can enter a lesson's vocabulary and definitions, and Quizlet does the rest. It creates flashcards, several different types of games, and even quizzes in different formats. Students could easily enter their own wordlists and study as well. The site also allows visitors to search for quizzes that have already been made.

In the junior high English and seventh grade science classroom, students are often given the task of studying vocabulary on this site. When they see a QR code for a bellringer, they know to grab an iPad, scan it, and begin studying.



From Mrs. Borer

Race to Answer



Ready to answer are : back row: Abriel VonBonn, Nick Anderson, Blake Henn and Front row: Baylee Busteed

The fourth graders read the novel *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare. To learn the vocabulary terms for the book we played the Eggspert game. Mrs. Borer reads a definition and the students race to press their buzzer to give the correct word.

Elgin Public PASS System



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

www.elgineagles.org

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



Everything begins with an idea.

~Earl Nightingale

Snow Days



CALLING SCHOOL OR ACTIVITIES OFF

DUE TO WEATHER is a very difficult and somewhat controversial decision sometimes. Please be advised that if you EVER disagree with the decision and wish to keep your children home or have them come home that is completely within your discretion. Just let the school know.

It's A Vocabulary Parade!

November 20th marked the first ever Vocabulary Parade at Elgin Elementary School! Each elementary student selected a vocabulary word, learned the meaning and came dressed for the parade. Mr. Polk was the Vocabulary Parade announcer. He read each student's name and their word and definition. Many parents attended the event and the students and parents learned many new vocabulary words!

From Mrs. Borer



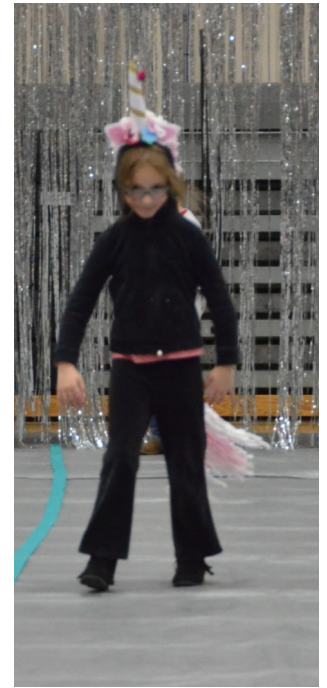
Blake Henn, a 4th grader, showing off his word(s) "stratus cloud".

From Mrs. Eisenhauer



Jaidyn Schrad, a 3th grader, displays her "bird house".

From Mrs. Beckman



Alison-Jean Kirstine from second grade showing off her word "unicorn" during the vocabulary parade.



Jacksyn Sehi, a 4th grader, showing off his word "skyscraper".



Austin Hinkle, a 3th grader, displays two meanings to the word "blizzard"



Aiden Chiles from second grade showing off her word "shark".

Classroom Snippets . . .

Food Drive

From Mrs. Gunderson

The first grade class will be having a food drive during the month of January. We will be



collecting food for the local food pantry in celebration of our 100th day of school. We are asking for everyone's help. The food pantry has a real need to restock their shelves. This is a great opportunity for us to help them. Anyone wanting to donate can bring food to the office or first grade room.

Resource News

From Mrs. Zwingman



More interesting information from: *How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Child for Success* by Jule Lythcott-Haims.

Lythcott-Haims explains, "No one can give another person life skills. Each of us has to acquire them by doing the work of life. On our own. When we haven't prepared our children- and ourselves-for the inevitable day when they'll have to fend for themselves, it will be a rude awakening for us both" (2015, p.80).

In addition, she includes a checklist of 8 practical things that eighteen-year-old young adults will need to know before going to college and the crutches that hold them back from holding their own. (Lythcott-Haims, 2015) Number 8 is the one that stood out:



"8. An eighteen-year-old must be able to take risks. The crutch: We've laid out their entire path for them and

have avoided all pitfalls or prevented all stumbles for them; thus kids don't develop the wise understanding that success comes only after trying and failing and trying again (a.k.a. "grit") or thick skin (a.k.a. "resilience") that comes from coping when things have gone wrong"(Lythcott-Haims, 2015, p. 83).

Lythcott-Haims, J. (2015). How to raise an adult: Break free of the overparenting trap and prepare your kid for success. New York, New York: Henry Holt and Company, LLC.

Personal Finance

Personal Finance class is a great class for students because it covers so many topics that will apply to them later in life.

From Mr. Mlinar

- Financial goals
- Budgeting
- Making wise purchases
- Banking
- Consumer credit
- Buying/Renting
- Saving and Investing
- Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds
- Taxes
- Insurance



Learning about the aforementioned topics will enable students to make wise financial decisions in the future. Now it's just a matter of having the discipline to follow through! Here are some thoughts from the Oracle of Omaha to keep in mind:

Christmas in Spain - La Navidad en España

From Mrs. Klein

Did you know that in Spain children open their Christmas presents January 6th, Epiphany? They believe that the



Three Kings bring their presents to them, and even write their Christmas letter to the Kings instead of Santa. On January 5th, the children leave their shoes out on the windowsills or balconies, or under the Christmas tree of their homes to be filled with presents. They will leave a glass of cognac, a satsuna (type of orange) and walnuts for each King. They might even leave a bucket of water for the camels that brings the Kings. If the children have been bad, the Kings might leave them coal in their shoes.

From Mr. Prater

Visit to the Veteran's Home

The American History students will be heading to the Norfolk Veterans Home on December 21, for a service project. The students will be delivering thank you cards to the veterans made by the EPS elementary students and Mrs. Bode. They will also bring some rolls and juice and just spending some time with America's heroes. The idea for this visit came from a discussion in class after Veterans Day this year. The students want to give back and thank those men and women who have given so much to this country.

Excellent Tips by WARREN BUFFETT

- ▶ **On earnings:** "Never depend on single income. Make investment to create a second source."
- ▶ **On spending:** "If you buy things you do not need, soon you will have to sell things you need."
- ▶ **On savings:** "Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving."
- ▶ **On taking risks:** "Never test the depth of river with both feet."
- ▶ **On investment:** "Do not put all eggs in one basket."
- ▶ **On expectation:** "Honesty is very expensive gift. Do not expect it from cheap people."



“I Believe” Community Contribution Program

Organization Name: Elgin FFA Chapter
Address: 101 North 1st 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 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.

Speech Students Find Time to Relax from Semester Stress

From Mrs. Shumake-Henn

This semester, the speech class has been busy learning about the various aspects that make up public speaking. After spending some time studying the six-step communication process, they participated in a number of activities that helped them understand the steps firsthand. Some of these tasks included the following: Strictly Verbal Pictionary, Pantomimes, Paralanguage Nursery Rhymes, Slang Stories and reading children's stories to the elementary.

Members of the class then used this newfound knowledge to tackle speech delivery. Following a number of impromptu and mini speeches, the class prepared and delivered three formal speeches.

Because communication apprehension often takes a toll on speakers, the class also spent some time researching and implementing relaxation techniques in order to help control that pesky stagefright.

In addition to Mrs. Shoe's suggestions of the heavy hand, muscle progressions and laughing babies, the students found and demonstrated a variety of techniques to calm their nerves. Some of their findings included meditation, bungee chairs, music, visualization, stress balls, and focusing on a happy place.

Once they were good and relaxed, they were able to finish out the semester with a hypothetical commencement speech.



Morgan leads the speech class in some relaxing meditation techniques.

Jr. High Problem Solving

From Mrs. D. Heithoff



Students in Junior High Problem Solving have been building robots using Legos Mindstorm. They must build their robots from the given parts and then program them to move from the software on their computers.

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
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!

TO CHECK YOUR LUNCH ACCOUNT ONLINE:

- ⇒ Go to the school website www.elgineagles.org
- ⇒ Click the "Lunch Account Balance" button on the right-hand side of the home page.
- ⇒ Enter your family ID number and PIN (If you do not know your family ID or PIN, please call the school)
- ⇒ Your lunch account balance will be shown. If you would like to see a detailed statement, scroll to the bottom of that page and click on a detailed version.

If you have any difficulties with access or questions about the program, please contact Anney Beckman 843-2455 or anney.beckman@elgineagles.org

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff
greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



Amazing, one semester is in the books, half the 2015-16 school year is in the books. YIKES! I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and that you enjoyed your time with family and friends.

The first semester was great. Of course, we had a few bumps in the road here and there, but for the most part things went very well. We have a very good school system here at EPS. It takes a lot of work from everyone involved to have a successful school system. During my time in education, I have discovered three components that are necessary in having a successful school. Good teachers, good students and involved parents equal success.

1. I truly believe that we have teachers at Elgin Public who sincerely care about the students they teach. Teachers are willing to go the extra mile to help students reach academic success. I also believe that the teachers care for the students beyond the classroom and want them to be successful in the game of life. The teachers have high expectations of each and every student and will do what it takes to help students reach their full potential.
2. I believe that we have great kids here at Elgin Public. This is my third year here at EPS and each and every day I am impressed with the behavior of the student body. I get the opportunity to see all the students at lunch each day and I am always impressed with their manners and respect. I have also received several complements from other administrators on the behavior of our students at the many different activities. They make me proud!
3. Parents play a very important role in the success of any school. Parent involvement in the student's academic life is an essential ingredient to the success of the student. I would encourage parents to continue to be involved in your children's academic lives. If teachers, parents and students are all on the same page, achieving academic success is a very attainable goal. Parents please continue to encourage your children to maintain good attendance and be involved at school. I have always been impressed with parent attendance at parent teachers' conferences and was thrilled with the elementary parents' attendance at the first annual "Donuts with Dads" and "Muffins with Moms", it was great to see all the parents there. It was a blast for us to put on.

Next semester will present our student body with more challenges as teachers work tirelessly preparing the students for the NeSA test, which will take place in April. Last year our students performed very well. However, it is a yearly challenge for students and teachers to assure success on the test. As we did in early fall, we will implement MAP testing in the spring to measure our students' academic growth throughout the year. Elgin Public Schools will work to improve our scores and status on Nebraska's new accountability system, also known as AQuESTT. This year our district was rated as "great", which is awesome but there is always room for improvement.

It's scary to think about, but since I have been teaching, the second semester always seems to go by faster than the first. As we move through the semester, please remember to keep the lines of communication open. Feel free to call the school anytime if you have any questions or concerns. Although the weather outside does not feel like it, summer will be here soon.



Follow us on
TWITTER!

@elginpublic

Our twitter feed is also on our
website:

www.elgineagles.org.

*Every January 1st
is the first blank page
of a 365 page book.*

Write a good one!

PUBLIC NOTICE

Residents of District 18, Elgin, are notified that School District 18, Elgin, NE participates in all required Special Education Services for all resident students, ages 0-21. If you know of any student not currently being serviced by an appropriate educational program or have questions concerning the Special Education Program, contact the Superintendent's office at Elgin Public School.

Elgin Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. Further, the school complies with all Title IX and Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines as determined by Federal directives.

Administratively Speaking . . .



By Dan Polk
dan.polk@elgineagles.org

Another semester has gone by in a flash. It is absolutely amazing how quickly time advances and how rapidly the years and memories pile up. Take time this holiday season to take a deep breath, look around, and appreciate all you see, have and are.

We have lots of expectations of the kids that attend the Elgin Public Schools. How they conduct themselves is only part of that along with other responsibilities, such as doing homework, preparing for tests, reading, studying, utilizing technology as well as other things. All are an attempt to make them strong, independent, intelligent, responsible young adults who will be contributing members to society both economically and socially no matter if they continue on to a 2 year program, 4 year college or university or simply enter the work place on graduation. What they choose to do at that point does not necessarily have to limit them or their future dreams.

The choices involved before getting to that point, in this day and age, certainly do. We are tough on our students because we care for them and want them to succeed. In a day and age where you go where it's easiest, or avoid difficulty or challenges because you don't like them, or refuse to communicate with people or have discussions, debates and disagreements, it's more important than ever that we try to challenge, educate and build our youth up to NOT be that way. Social media is killing the hand written note, the communicating in person, the hand written letter. Before long it may even infringe on attaching your name and reputation to your beliefs, being present for intense, serious and important discussions, and even may lead to no communicating, even via social media, all together. Don't get me wrong I use a LOT of email. It provides for documentation and a paper trail, it's easier, quicker, and can reach more people in less time etc., but it's always important to previously have talked or to follow up in person when you can.

With that said I am very proud of the Elgin Public Schools, what we do and what we stand for and the kids that we educate. As always if you have any questions or concerns please get in touch with Mr. Wemhoff or myself via any communication means you are comfortable with. Like we tell our staff you may not always get the answer you want but we are always welcome to visit and there isn't anything we can do regarding concerns or issues we are not aware of.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and happy winter break.
GO EAGLES!!!

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



Happy Holidays!
School resumes January 5th



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

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