



# 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

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## DATES TO REMEMBER



January 7  
School Resumes



January 9  
School Board Meeting  
6:30pm ITV Room



January 21  
NO SCHOOL  
Teacher In-Service

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



From Mr. Becker



PE students have been working on their badminton skills.

From Mr. Childers



The physical science class made "elephant toothpaste" to demonstrate how an exothermic reaction happens.

From Mrs. Zwingman

**december:** |də-'sem-bər| -n.

a month of lights, snow and feasts; time to make amends and tie loose ends; finish off what you started and hope your wishes come true

From Mrs. R. Heithoff

Yearbook students had a busy first semester. They choose a theme which was our own take on Nebraska's new theme of "Nebraska...Honestly it's not for everyone.". Ours is "Elgin Public Schools...Honestly it IS for everyone!". We've been having some fun with it just as Nebraskans have been with theirs. First semester students were busy designing the class, volleyball, football, homecoming, academic, activity and junior trip pages.

Most of those are now finished and the focus is on second semester where they will be completing academic, activities, winter and spring sports and the spring event pages. This year will be the first year we will have a custom designed, full color cover for our annual. Thank you to all of the businesses that supported our book and purchased ads! You may still purchase one for \$35 by emailing me at [rita.heithoff@elgineagles.org](mailto:rita.heithoff@elgineagles.org).

From Mrs. Beckman



The second graders had fun making an ornament for our tree and were excited to take them home for a Christmas present for their parents or grandparents.

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

From Mrs. Rittscher

EPS graduates who are still in college--don't forget that you need to renew your FAFSA for 2019-2020 school year! (Don't be Sue Heck!) If you haven't renewed your FAFSA already, Christmas Break is a good time to get it taken care of! Remember the EducationQuest.org (2018) for tutorials and handouts, including:



**Step 1:**

Gather required items for the FAFSA.

- FSA IDs for student and parent (if you don't have them, go to [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov))
- Social Security numbers and dates of birth • Student and parent email addresses
- 2017 federal income tax forms and W-2s • 2017 untaxed income (e.g. child support and worker's compensation)
- Current value of checking/savings accounts and investments (do not include your home and retirement accounts)

**Step 2:**

Complete the FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) on or after October 1, but before your college's priority date.

- Click on "Login." • Complete the login information by entering your FSA ID.
- The form will pre-fill some of your data because you completed the FAFSA last year.
- Use the IRS Data Retrieval Process to input your income tax information.
- Follow the directions to finish your FAFSA.

**Step 3:**

Click on "View or print your FAFSA."

- Verify that the information is correct.
- Print a copy for your records.

**Step 4:**

Sign and submit your FAFSA.

- Agree to the terms, and click on "Sign."
- Click on "Submit."

From Mrs. Borer

From Mrs. McClellan



FCCLA members or Santa's elves? Kid's shopping night was on December 5th, and FCCLA members played games with children and helped them shop for the perfect Christmas gifts! Pictured from left to right are Mary Nichols, Araceli Palmer, Kaylee Martinsen, Blake Ofe, Kira Widger, River Romej, Talena Woodard, and Leslie Nichols.



Fifth grade completed their Christmas tree for the contest. They chose a Kansas City Royals theme. They also did a virtual field trip where they learned about the lost art of the Christmas card from the Old Jail Art Center in Albany, TX. They then illustrated and wrote a friendly message to a family member on a postcard and mailed it to them. Pictured clockwise: Creighton, Aiden, Devin, Kyndal, Trey, Jarek, and Kayton

From Mr. Rossman

The EPPJ Wolfpack wrestling team embarked on its first contest of the 2018-2019 season. Thanks to good ole' Mother Nature, us, along with multiple other teams were getting our first real mat time experience.

Three wrestlers competed at the Osceola Invite. The field consisted of 16 teams from around the state of Nebraska, and it was nice to see some new competition that we are not familiar with. Elkhorn Valley came away with the team title, followed by Howells-Dodge with the runner-up team trophy. The Wolfpack finished 15th out of 16 teams.

River Romej brought home the lone hardware of the day, placing third place. This is River's first varsity tournament, and there were definitely some nerves the first couple of matches. Throughout the day, River improved with his technique and aggressiveness. With more experience and mat time, we will continue to see improvements every day.

Norman Grothe was the second Wolfpack competitor and came away with some much needed experience. The 120 lb weight class was filled with some very tough talent, and I thought that Norman showed a lot of poise for being thrown into such stiff competition. First meet jitters were definitely shown, but along with River, Norman too showed improvement. With practice from bottom and chaining moves together, we are also going to improve every day.

The last Wolfpack competitor to compete today was Cory Romej. The thing that stood out to me the most about Cory was his no fear of failure mindset. Even though he has been away from competitive wrestling for over a year, he was very aggressive and put himself in position to win every one of his matches. Moving forward, we have to continue to drill fundamentals and being in the right positions to not let the same stuff beat us in the future.

Overall, the Wolfpack team gained some much needed experience today. Moving forward, I expect big jumps to be made between this tournament and our next tournament. The Wolfpack wrestlers will compete at the Wolfpack Invitational on December 15, 2018 in Elgin. The tournament will be held at St. Boniface Gymnasium with wrestling starting at 9:30 AM. Our tournament takes pride in being one of the toughest in the area, and I am looking forward to seeing the growth out of our student-athletes in front of our hometown faithful.

From Mr. Mlinar

Students at Elgin Public are required to take a semester of Personal Finance. It is a great class for students because it covers many important and relevant topics. The topics include:

- Financial Planning
- Goal Setting
- Careers
- Budgeting
- Consumer Purchasing
- Banking
- Consumer Credit
- The Finances of Housing
- Investing
- Taxes
- Insurance
- Retirement Planning

As you can see, these are all subjects that students will face at some point in the future. With discipline and planning, EPS students can get a financial head start in life!

#### **Important Announcement:**

Parents!!!! The Elgin Public School is very progressive in its campus improvements, curriculum, education, safety and now even emotional and mental care of our students.

Starting the second semester of the 2018-2019 school year we will have a licensed health care professional helping us assist students in dealing with emotional and mental uncertainty, conditions, traumas, etc.. The school, through our school counselor, has a certain number of reserved hours for students to meet with this specialist monthly. Her name is Angela Gadeken and we will be introducing her to our student body after the first of the year.

Angela is from Good Life Counseling Support services. She can assess, treat, and provide therapy for such issues as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and others. Our hope is to assist students in yet another avenue of health as they try and navigate their current lives on the way to their future lives. If you have an interest in this program or your child being able to visit with Angela, please get in touch with Mrs. Rittscher.

From Mrs. Thiele-Blecher

### Post Season Volleyball Awards

#### Niobrara Valley Conference

Honorable Mention: Grace Rittscher & Haley Zegers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Team: Kaylee Martinsen  
1<sup>st</sup> Team: Anna Heilhecker & Allyson Wemhoff

#### NSAA All Academic:

Grace Rittscher & Allyson Wemhoff

#### ACN All Area:

First Team: Allyson Wemhoff, Kayce Kallhoff, Kaylee Martinsen, Anna Heilhecker;  
Honorable Mention: Grace Rittscher & Haley Zegers

#### Norfolk Daily News All Area:

First Team: Allyson Wemhoff  
Honorable Mention: Anna Heilhecker & Kaylee Martinsen

#### NE Prep Dig:

2<sup>nd</sup> Team Libero: Anna Heilhecker  
Honorable Mention: Allyson Wemhoff, Kaylee Martinsen, Haley Zegers

#### Lincoln Journal Star:

Honorable Mention: Allyson Wemhoff, Anna Heilhecker, Kaylee Martinsen, Haley Zegers

#### Omaha World Herald All State:

2<sup>nd</sup> Team D1 Setter: Allyson Wemhoff  
Honorable Mention: Kaylee Martinsen, Anna Heilhecker, Kayce Kallhoff & Haley Zegers

From Mrs. Eisenhauer



Selfie with Suzie!

The 3rd graders enjoyed a visit from author Stacy Kreycik Miller from the Kreycik Elk and Buffalo Ranch. She shared her book "Suzie Saves the Day" and students got a chance to get a signed copy.

From Mrs. Lindgren



Five members of the CyberPatriot Team worked on 4 different problems on December 7th. Jordan tackled Windows 8.1. Tyler and Adam attacked Ubuntu (Linux), Trinity was solving a networking problem for CISCO, and Joey was working on Windows 10.

From Mr. Heithoff

### Upcoming Music Events

January 14– Boone Central Choral Clinic  
January 15th– Music Booster Meeting  
6:30pm



## 7 Reasons Why Mathematics is Important

We are surrounded by numbers in everything we do in our lives. Here are seven reasons why math is important.

1. Daily Lives – We calculate the time we have left to get to school or work, we estimate the time to travel, we calculate the amount of money used to pay for goods and services.
2. Time Management – It helps us understand the value of time and how time is to be used wisely.
3. Budgeting Money - To survive in a world where money is a necessity, the correct calculation of money is very important.
4. Exercise of the Brain – It stimulates the brain into responding to things quicker and making the mind sharp.
5. Problem Solving Skills – It provides a platform to understand the intensity of the problem and the various ways of solving problems.
6. Fun and Informative – It is one subject where we can get the correct answer with different methods.
7. Important Key Skill for Work – Research shows that employees generally employ candidates with math skills, as they believe that math helps in problem solving and increases the ability to handle every problem that arises.

## Christmas in Spain

Apart from Christmas, there is another festival that is celebrated in Spain that is about the Christmas Story. It is called Epiphany and is celebrated on 6th January. In Spanish, Epiphany is called 'Fiesta de Los Tres Reyes Magos' (in English this means Three Kings Day.) Epiphany celebrates when the Kings or Wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus.

Children have some presents on Christmas Day, but most are opened at Epiphany. Children believe that the Kings bring presents to them at Epiphany. They write letters to the Kings asking for toys and presents. And on Epiphany Eve (January 5th) they leave shoes on windowsills or balconies or under the Christmas tree to be filled with presents. Gifts are often left by children for the Kings, a glass of cognac for each King, a satsuma orange and some walnuts. Sometimes a bucket of water is left for the camels that bring the Kings! If the children have been bad, the Kings might leave pieces of coal made out of sugar in the presents! (WhyChristmas.com)



## Journalism Class Explores Careers at NECC

On Thursday, November 29, members of the EPS Journalism class traveled to Norfolk to attend the Media Arts Career Day.

The event, which was held on the Northeast Community College campus, focused on the fields of audio recording, graphic design, and broadcasting.

Following a brief welcome presentation, participants were divided into groups and rotated through the different departments where they completed a variety of activities.

Some of the day's tasks included adjusting audio, acting in a short feature film, watching the editing process, and designing a movie poster.

Following lunch, the group attended a viewing of their films. At the conclusion of the day, NECC awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to visiting seniors. Kira Widger was the recipient of one of the scholarships.

### Make Reading a New Year's Resolution

Here are some ideas to consider for making reading a priority in 2019:


- Read a new book from my favorite author.
- Read a book that's related to my favorite subject in school.
- Read an autobiography or biography.
- Read a book that takes place in another world.
- Read a book that your friend recommends.
- Read a book that someone picks out for you.
- Pick a random book from the library to read.
- Read a book my teacher or librarian recommends.
- Read my parent's favorite book from when they were my age.
- Read a book with an author that has same initials as me.
- Read a book that is also a movie (Before I watch the movie).
- Read a book that was published this year.
- Read a book that was published the year I was born.
- Read a book that was published before I was born.
- Read a book that was banned at some point.
- Read a book that I own but have never read.
- Read a book that intimidates me.
- Reread my favorite book of all time.
- Read a book I can finish in a day.



The 5th and 6th graders studied Henry Ford and his assembly line this semester in Social Studies. We decided make our own assembly line and create Christmas decorations. If you would like to purchase one, they are located in Paula's office in the high school building. The wood blocks are \$4 and the paint sticks are \$2. All proceeds will go to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE.



\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*  
 \* **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 you \*  
 \* discretion. Just let the school know. \*  
 \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*




EPPJ Cheerleaders get the student section fired up during the basketball game. Cheerleaders are Natalie Bauer, Talena Woodward, Brea Carr, and Alyssa Burenheide.

# F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff  
greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



## Elgin Elementary Recognized

Elgin Elementary has been recognized nationally for their outstanding work in state testing. Due to the "Excellent" status earned by the Elementary, the school qualified to be considered for the 2018 ESEA Distinguished School Recognition Program. To be considered the schools eligible must meet the following criteria:

### National Criteria

Schools nominated must have:

- A poverty rate of 35% or higher for the nominated year
- Demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years
- Met or exceeded state-determined criteria based on two or more consecutive years of achievement data, and

### Nebraska Criteria

- Maintained or Improved academic achievement standards based on NeSA, NSCAS or ACT scores (Look at 2 or more years of data).
- Closing the gap  
Look at student performance data over a 32 or more year period to determine whether the groups scoring below goal have improved.

Although Elgin Elementary did not win the award we continue to be proud of the success of our students and the hard work of our staff to make Elgin an excellent school. Congrats to all!

Eagle Excellence!

# PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Pictured above are the elementary, junior high, and high school students that earned Perfect Attendance Awards for the first semester. This is the most Perfect Attendance Awards we have ever had! The entire school had an average of 97.15% attendance this semester. Amazing job!



# Administratively Speaking . . .



By Dan Polk  
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



Nothing makes a Superintendent's life better than a GREAT BOARD OF EDUCATION!!! WE are losing two members this month in Bob Hoefer, member for 8 years, and Steve Heithoff, member for 20 years!!!!!!! Both attended their last meeting in December and both have done a HUGE amount of good for the Elgin Public Schools. I would not have the successes to show for my 7 years as CEO, without these two men. They care deeply for their alma mater and deeply for its success and the success in life of its students.



Follow us on  
TWITTER!

**@elginpublic**

Our twitter feed is also on our  
website:

***www.elgineagles.org.***

## **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 2018-2019, 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.

## ***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.

From Mrs. Schwartz



The Companion Animal class is a popular class offered every other year at EPS. This semester students studied a wide variety of topics in the class including; safety and risks associated with small animals, pets and pet therapy, overpopulation, animal rights vs. animal welfare, careers, and nutrition and digestion.

The students also learned specifically more about dogs and cats and even presented to the first grade class on different dog breeds. To wrap up the semester the class conducted a small drive to collect food and other items that the Northeast Nebraska Animal Shelter in Norfolk could use.

On Thursday, December 13th, the class was lucky enough to be able to go to the shelter to deliver

the goods, tour the facilities and spend some time interacting with some of the dogs and cats at the shelter. It was a great experience for everyone! If you are interested in adopting a pet, the class highly suggest taking a look at the animals they have. In fact, some of the students were thinking about returning to adopt!

From Mrs. Lindgren

To all who donated food or time or came  
and enjoyed the soup!  
You made the Post Prom Soup Supper a  
success!

Thank

You



*Happy Holidays!*  
*School resumes January 7th*



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