



EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School
P.O. Box 399
101 N. 4th St.
Elgin, NE 68636-0399

Volume XXIX, Issue 10

May, 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER



May 6
Wolfpack Spring Sports Awards followed by EHS Academic & Activities Awards
6:30 p.m. EPS Gym



May 10
Graduation
5:00 p.m.



May 13
Elementary Spring Concert 7:30 p.m.



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



May 19
Preschool Graduation
6:30 p.m.
Kindergarten Graduation
7:30 p.m.



May 21
Last Day for Students
Dismiss at 11:00 a.m.



Five Elgin Public Students Earn Trip to the National FCCLA Contest



State FCCLA Convention attendees were: (back row l to r.) Madison Voborny, Sharla Schindler, Stephanie Bode, Hunter Thramer, and Ivy Prater (front row l to r.) Taya Voborny, Dylan Widger, Austin Miller, and Kelsey Shoemaker.

National qualifiers were announced Tuesday during the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference in Lincoln. Elgin FCCLA members heading to the national conference in San Antonio, Texas, July 6-10, are Madison Voborny, Stephanie Bode, Sharla Schindler, Austin Miller and Dylan Widger.

Voborny, Bode and Schindler finished as state runners-up with a gold in Interpersonal Communications Sr. while Miller and Widger finished as state champions receiving a gold in Life Event Planning -Senior.

Ivy Prater, Hunter Thramer also competing in STAR received a silver in Focus on Children - Senior

Other officers of the Elgin FCCLA chapter attending state conference were Kelsey Shoemaker and Taya Voborny. In addition to the STAR competition the students attended breakout sessions focusing on leadership and teen issues. Keynote speaker for the conference was Grant Baldwin with a message aimed at helping students prepare for life after high school.

Their FCCLA sponsor is Barb Bode.

Check our website:
www.elgineagles.org
for the most current news
& calendar.

ALUMNI BANQUET -
June 21, 2014

Keep Learning, Kids . . . and the Rest of Us Too!

by Mrs. Shoe

There's just something special about small schools. One of the most special qualities is the opportunity to work with students in reduced student-to-teacher ratios. After a while, it almost becomes like a little family. And we all know we learn a lot from our families. Over the years, I've come to find out that the classroom isn't all that different.

Not long ago, some students and I were discussing encountering difficult situations in life (a.k.a. riding the struggle bus). We surmised that these are the experiences that make us who we are. Sure, we all wish we could cruise through life without any speed bumps, but it's the obstacles that build character--that make us strong. It's also the way we continue to learn. It is impressive to see such young minds willing to embrace this philosophy--knowing they will benefit in the end--understanding that "Opportunity looks a lot like hard work" (Yes, students, your English teacher just quoted Ashton Kutcher).



As we finish out another year, remember to "Finish Strong" (and now I am quoting Mr. Wemhoff, who is in all reality, just as cool as Ashton Kutcher). It's always easy to get caught up in the disappointments and to become overwhelmed by the trials. However, there is something to be said for the lessons learned, the experiences gained, and the courage to embark upon the next adventure.

Seniors, as the days till graduation slowly continue to dwindle, you are ready to start the next leg of your journey. As you do so, remember to face up to those challenges--you are bigger than they are, and you will glean something of significance from each one. Know that we are proud of all you have accomplished and of the people you have become. You have represented our school well, and you are a true testament to the importance of what we do here each and every day. Most importantly, you are an important part of our family. Thanks for the lessons you have helped all of us learn over the years.

JH Students Attend Science Fairs

Several junior high students had a chance go further with their science fair projects this year. Five 8th grade students attended the AHEC science fair meet in Norfolk. Not only did they present their projects to judges, they also got to go to sessions that informed them about different health careers. Lydia Behnk, Hayes Miller, and Liam Heithoff were selected to attend state in June. Other participants were Aston Evans and Myranda Palmer.

Six 7th grade students traveled to Wayne State College to participate in the NJAS regional science meet. Cheyanne Giddings, Kaylee Martinsen, Ally Wemhoff, Emma Kerkman, Kira Widger, and Anna Heihecker all received white ribbons. Along with completing in the science fair portion, students also competed in a science quiz bowl. Kira, Kaylee, and Emma all made it to finals and Emma's team received 2nd place.

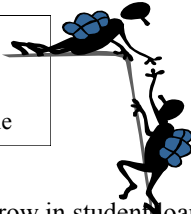
All students put a lot of effort into science fair this year and should be proud of the work that they did. Mrs. Dolezal was proud of everyone.



7th Graders attending NJAS Regional Science Meet are (L. to r.) Kira Widger, Anna Heilhecker, Cheyanne Giddings, Kaylee Martinsen, Ally Wemhoff and Emma Kerkman.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

Review these tips before you decide how much to borrow in student loans:

- **Borrow only what you need**, even if it's less than the amount offered in your award letter.
- Try to use your student loan money *only* for tuition, books and fees. Get a job during college to pay living expenses.
- Compare the estimated starting salary of potential future careers to your estimated college debt to ensure you can afford future loan payments.
- **Apply for financial aid each year you attend college by completing the [FAFSA](#).**
- **Continue to look for scholarships while you're in college.**
- Keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at nsls.ed.gov.

To learn more about student loans, see the "[Paying for College](#)" section at EducationQuest.org. Use the [Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#) to estimate future loan payments.

Making the transition to college...

Seniors, check out the "[Students Transitioning to College](#)" section at EducationQuest.org. You'll find information about:

- Wrapping up your senior year
- How to manage your money
- Selecting a major
- What to expect your freshman year of college

Helpful apps to download before you head to college

You'll also want to check out these [EducationQuest Blog](#) articles:

[5 things to do at student orientation](#)

[Making the most of your college orientation day](#)

Juniors... what you can do this summer to prepare for college!

Start narrowing your college choices. By the fall of your senior year, you should have narrowed your choices to three or four schools. Visit some college campuses this summer and check out college websites.

Watch some videos. EducationQuest's "[Find the Right Fit](#)" video features two high school seniors who go through the process of finding colleges that match their career interests. The "[Go.Visit.College!](#)" video provides campus visit tips from college students and college representatives. Check them out!

Update your [Activities Resume](#) at EducationQuest.org. Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards and part-time jobs.

Look for scholarships. Check out [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org, which has over 2,000 local and statewide scholarships.

You should also pay attention to the scholarships current seniors have received.

Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses. Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

May "To Do" List

Seniors

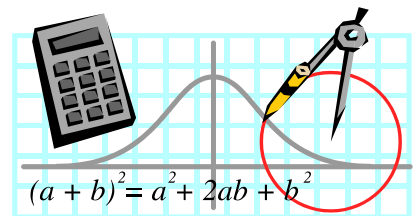
- Apply for student loans, if necessary.
- Register for freshmen orientation at your college.
- Start a list of dorm room essentials.
- Get a summer job to help pay college expenses.

Juniors

- [Register](#) by May 9 for June 7 SAT.
- [Register](#) by May 9 for June 14 ACT.
- Continue campus visits.
- Get a summer job and save for college.

Tour of High School Math classes

Algebra (from Arabic *al-jabr* meaning "reunion of broken parts"^[1]) is one of the broad parts of **mathematics**, together with **number theory**, **geometry** and **analysis**. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia) It is the first high school math class that is required by Elgin Public Schools. It is the basic of all other higher level math classes. It covers a variety of essential skills necessary for problem solving. Most of the skills learned in Algebra I will appear on the Nebraska State Test (NeSA). Students will study data and their graphs. They will learn how data affect us in the 'real world'!! Students learn how to use variables, simplify algebraic expressions and of course, perform operations (add/subtract/multiply/divide) real numbers (without a calculator)!!! We will classify numbers of the real number system. They will begin creating and using relations, and then move up to functions. With functions, we learn how to apply them, graph them and use them!!! We learn how to graph linear equations or linear inequalities. Students will solve systems of linear equations (how lines intercept). Students will be able to find the absolute value of an expression, graph absolute value equations and inequalities. At the end of the year, we will solve quadratic functions and apply them to real world situations. Students will factor polynomials and solve polynomial equations. Students will simplify radical expressions and rational expressions and learn how to solve both. Finally, we will prepare for Geometric concepts that we be continued next year.



Kindergarten Creates Birds

A science activity to accompany the Kindergarten lessons on "Bird Beaks", was to create our own bird. When the birds were finished, students explained the purpose of the adaptations they added to their birds.



Showing off their bird creations are: (l. to r.) Ryan Bruns, Braydon Johnson, Grady Druke, Nick Mace, Gabe Schwager, Creighton Harkins, and Izick Herbaugh



Showing off their bird creations are: (l. to r.) Alison Kirstine, Kayton Zwingman, Taytum Clouse, Kyndal Busted, Emma Meis, and Jacorey Weidner

Is there money in your lunch account?



Your balance must be a positive balance before you check out of school on the last day. Let's help to keep our costs of postage down by paying in advance for meals. Thank you!



2014

YEARBOOKS

Check out the school webpage "Academics-Yearbook" to find an order form.

Send your payment of \$30 to Elgin Public Schools,
P.O. Box 399, Elgin, NE 68636



ELGIN

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Celebrating 125 years of faith, family and friends.

Buy now, pay later. Sounds great, right?

By Mr. Mlinar

Well, for many people, using a credit card can lead to financial problems down the road. In Personal Finance Class, students have been learning about how to use credit wisely.



Credit means someone is willing to loan you money - called principal - in exchange for your promise to repay the money later, usually with interest. **Interest** is the monetary amount you pay to use someone else's money, usually a percentage of principal.

To understand how to use credit cards wisely, we first must recognize the potential pitfalls of using a credit card:

- 1) Overspending - You're much more likely to surrender to temptation when you pull out the plastic instead of handing over cash.
- 2) Overwhelming Debt - Monthly payments increase your fixed expenses, leaving you with less to live on. Also, when you make only the minimum payments on credit card debt, interest keeps growing on the unpaid balance. This means you pay even more interest over time.
- 3) Legal Actions - If you can't make your debt payments, the lender can take your property or take money from your wages (garnishment).

So, what are some of the good habits of using credit?

- 1) Know the difference between a need and a want. Avoid wasteful spending.
- 2) Don't miss or be late on a credit card payment. It will show up as a HUGE negative on your credit history!
- 3) Only use credit if you know you can pay back the loan in the future.

Overall, if you want to be safe, PAY WITH CASH and you will not need to worry about getting into debt problems.



FFA ATTENDS STATE CONVENTION

32 Members of the Elgin FFA Chapter traveled to the 86th State FFA Convention April 9th - 11th.

Members participated in Ag Mechanics, Agri-Science, Floriculture, Welding, Natural Resources, Agronomy, Farm Management, Meats Evaluation, Natural Resource Speaking, and Jr. Public Speaking. Brandon Funk was a State Star finalist for his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) in placement and was recognized with his parents and advisor during the Friday night session held in Pershing Auditorium. Five seniors also received their State FFA Degree during the Friday night session. Corin Pelster, Brett Kinney, Mallory Fangman, Bailey Carpenter and Brandon Funk were awarded this high honor. During the 1st general session held Wednesday evening, the FFA chapter was recognized for their efforts to earn over \$1000 through the "I Believe in the Future of Ag Campaign".

Other highlights include Alois Warner making finals out of 24 competitors and earning a 4th place finish in Jr. Public Speaking and Karissa Dicke earning a gold merit medal for her Natural Resource speech about wind energy. The Agri- Science team (Kelsey Welding, Elianne Heilhecker, Taylor Sehi and Elizabeth Selting) coming of a district championship performance ended up earning 3rd place in the state. Taylor Sehi was the top scorer for the team with a 7th overall finish. Eli earned a blue ribbon, Liz a red ribbon and Kelsey a white ribbon.

Trent Bauer was recognized for his 3rd Place Finish for his Small Animal Care and Management Proficiency.

Other ribbon winners were:

Ag Mechanics team placed 17th overall. Jon Meis and Tanner Welding earned a red ribbon while Brett Kinney earned a white ribbon.

Agronomy team members Brandon Funk and Tanner Welding earned a red and blue ribbon.

Floriculture team member Mallory Fangman earned a blue ribbon, Baylie Schiltmeyer a red ribbon and Corin Pelster a white ribbon.

Meats Evaluation team member Dylan Behnk earned a red while Austin Miller earned a white ribbon.

Natural Resource team member Chase Preister earned a white ribbon.

Welding team placed in the top 25% with Jon Meis earning a 16th overall finish in O/A welding and blue ribbon. Taven Cameron earned a white ribbon in ARC welding and Andrew Fangman earned a white ribbon in MIG welding.

Up next for the chapter is the annual chapter Banquet which will be held April 24th at 6:30pm in the EPS gym. Guest speaker is Trey Mogenson a 2013-2014 State FFA Officer from Cedar Rapids. Many "pots" with a variety of plants from the greenhouse will be sold during the banquet again this year. Greenhouse sales will be held April 30 - May 2nd.



Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who contributes news items for this newsletter. This monthly newsletter would not be possible without all of your help!

Paula Jensen
Secretary

Classroom Snippets . . .

Yearbook

It's time to order your lifetime of memories, the 2014 Elgin Public Yearbook. Check out the school webpage "Academics-Yearbook" to find an order form. Simply print and fill out your form, send it and payment to Mrs. Heithoff at school. Checks are made payable to Elgin Public Schools. Technology constantly changes (ask your parents about 8 tracks, cassettes and VHS tapes) but you will always be able to enjoy your yearbook for a lifetime of memories!



Art Shows

Check the art show results from the ESU Elementary Art show recently held in Neligh. Be watching for results from the ESU High School show and the NVC 7-12 shows as well.

Fluent Reading!

A lot of parents ask "How do I help my child read fluently?" and according to Kimberly Oliver Burnim, 2006 National Teacher of the Year and a Senior Curriculum Advisor at ABCmouse.com, her answer is they need to hear fluent reading. To read fluently means to read words expressively and smoothly. Children who are not fluent read choppily and word-for-word. This can affect their comprehension, because they don't remember what they have read by the time they reach the end of a sentence. Reading fluently is an important reading skill. To help a child learn to read fluently, one of the most important things is to regularly read aloud to the child so that you're modeling the type of reading you want your child to do.



Another way to develop fluency is to have your child read a book over and over again. Children tend to become fluent readers after reading the same thing many times. They know when to pause, when to speed up, and when to slow down. As they listen to themselves read more and more fluently, this also helps to build their confidence.

Grammar Train

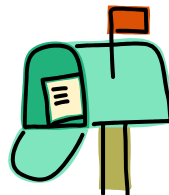
It's that time of year for finishing things up and doing a lot of testing. To prepare for the NeSA Language Arts test, we had a cumulative review activity for all the grammar chapters we've done in English class. The fourth graders made a grammar train. Each student made a train car labeled with a topic, such as adverbs, synonyms, or homographs. They explained what the topic was and then wrote examples of it on the wheels. Now the pressure of one test is off and the NeSA Math test is April 23rd and 24th.



Summertime Reading!

Kindergarten and First Graders Coming to Your Mailbox Soon!

Summer reading is an important part of a reading program. Research shows that summer vacation often has a significant negative effect on student learning. We want to provide students with an opportunity to read over the summer. At the end of May a reading calendar for June, July, and August will be coming to your mailbox. It will include many activities so your child can experience the joy of reading throughout the summer. We want to make reading a part of your summer fun. Keep track of your calendars and activities over the summer and return it to your first or second grade teacher in August when school begins.



Third Grade is Ready!

Mrs. Eisenhower's 3rd graders are ready for NeSA Testing! Check out our website to view their video!



<http://www.elgineagles.org/vnews/display.v/ART/534c5a03d8ab4>

Magazine Sales

Please think of Elgin Public Schools when those early magazine renewal notices start to arrive in the mail! You can renew current subscriptions or buy new and gift subscriptions through our school this fall.



40% of the subscription price stays at our school to fund many needed items and activities throughout the year. If we can count on your support this year, we are sure to have a successful campaign!

Please start reminding your family, friends, and business associates that we would greatly appreciate it if they ordered selections from our school through the upcoming sale or by visiting www.gaschoolstore.com today!

You can get an early start on our annual magazine sale by logging onto www.gaschoolstore.com

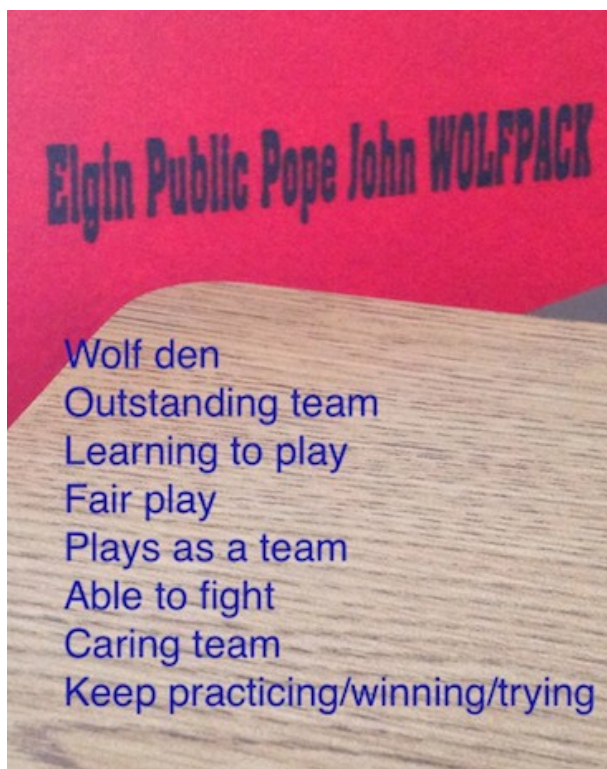
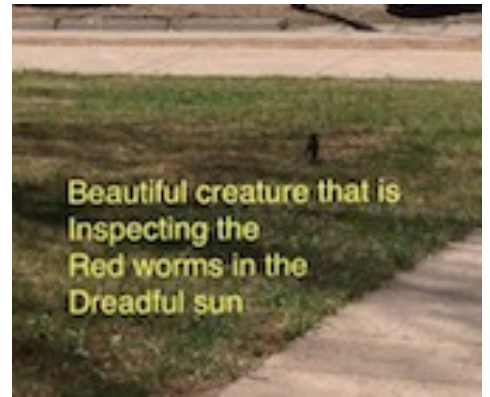
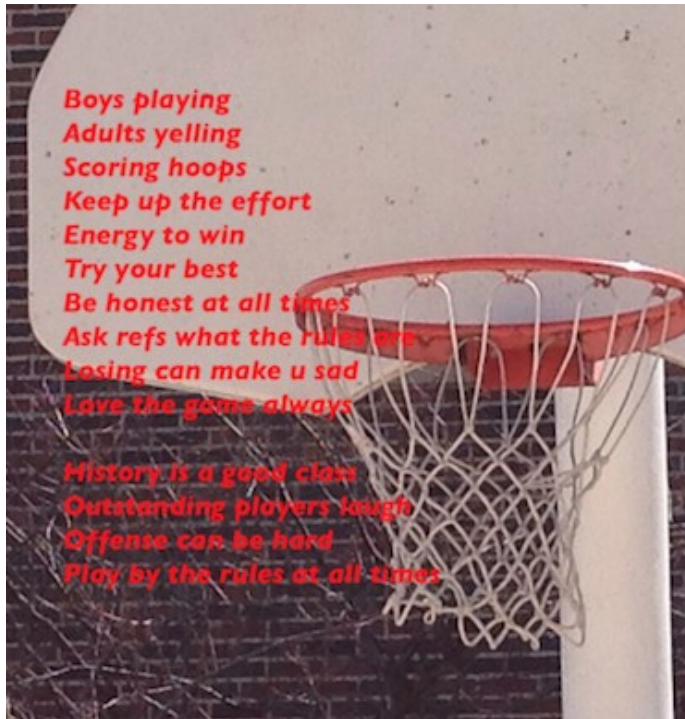
**Our school code is:
2519304**

**Our Magazine Sales Campaign
will take place:
August & September 2014**

Sixth Graders Combine Two Favorites: Outdoors and Technology

by Mrs. Druke

On Friday, April 11, the sixth grade took advantage of the beautiful weather and used it as inspiration for a writing opportunity. After a short lesson on acrostic poems and word choice, the students were given the chance to take their class iPads outside and photograph what was to be the topic of their poem. Upon returning to their classrooms the students used the app Drawing Pad to pen a poem and superimpose it on the pictures they had previously taken. With this short project, the students were given a chance to combine two of their favorite things: being outdoors and using technology.



Gardening in 3rd Grade

The 3rd graders have been studying plants and animals in Science class this past month. We have learned about the life cycle of plants starting from seed and growing into a plant. The 3rd graders planted bean seeds into clear plastic cups to see firsthand the life cycle of a bean plant. Students were divided into three groups according to the type of soil they used for their bean



Pictured with their plants are from left: Jackson Wemhoff, Corbin Kinney, and Trenton Reel.

seed. One group used potting mix. Another group used sand while the last group used gravel from the playground. The students predicted the seeds in the potting mix would grow best. They have been recording data on the growth of their seeds each week. Surprisingly after a warm weekend, the bean seeds potted in the gravel are doing the best so far. We will continue to check and record data on the growth of the plants until the end of the school year to see which type of soil is the winner.

Elgin Public PASS System

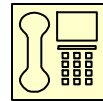


Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:

www.elgineagles.org

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

Blackboard Connect Update



Does the school have your current phone numbers and e-mail address?

In order to use our Blackboard Connect calling system, we must have current numbers. If your phone number, cell phone, or e-mail has changed, please call the school to update our information.

THANKS!

Don't Throw Away That Empty Printer Cartridge! Bring it to school!



Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. 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.

Enjoy Your Summer



F rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff
Greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



With the year quickly winding down and even if the weather is not cooperating it is easy to catch spring fever! We are all anxiously awaiting summer and all the wonderful plans that are awaiting us. I ask that students and parents stay vigilant at the task of learning. Two of the most important things that I am requesting your assistance on are attendance and homework. I know that it is very tempting to stay at home and enjoy a beautiful spring day. It is equally tempting to enjoy the extra daylight we now have in the evening to spend time doing recreational activities. Please help make sure your children are also keeping up with their schoolwork.

With the third quarter end I want to extend my congratulations to the student who made the honor rolls. Great job!



All "A" Honor Roll

Hunter Reestman, Allyson Wemhoff, Lydia Behnk, Elianne Heilhecker, Tanner Welding, Kyle Heithoff, Alois Warner

Superior Honor Roll

Superior Honor Roll-Students achieving a place on the "Superior Honor Roll" must have a 94% average in their classes

Garet Behnk, Anna Heilhecker, Jaime Hoefler, Breanna Carr, Tera Henkenius, Kira Widger, Myranda Palmer, Kelsey Welding, Liam Heithoff, Ivy Prater, Steph Bode, Brett Kinney, Tyler Smith, Tiffany Vaughan Dylan Behnk, Madison Vorborny, Victoriiah Fangman



Honor Roll

Honor Roll-Students included on the "Honor Roll" have earned a 90% average in their classes.

Leslie Nichols, Vada Kruse, Katelyn Copeland, Allison Koenig, Baylee Wemhoff, Destiny Francis, Mary Nichols, Emma



Kerkman, Kaylee Martinsen, Hunter Thramer, Hannah Kerkman, Abbigayle Couch, Bailey Carpenter, Cheyanne Giddings, Zoey Bergman, Taylor Sehi, Anthony Getzfred, Morgan Carpenter, Austin Miller, Sharla Schindler, Kaitlyn Polk, Taven Cameron, Dylan Widger, Truman Copeland

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Supt. Dan Polk
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



I am simply AMAZED that we have already arrived at the last newsletter of the year!!! I have had another challenging but utterly fabulous year here at the Elgin Public Schools and would again like to thank the board, parents, students and patrons for their warm welcome, support and friendliness toward myself and my family over these first two years. This year we have VERY few, if any, staff leaving us for other endeavors and we will come back virtually, if not completely unchanged in staff. That makes for a lot less hectic spring and early summer as we don't have to take valuable time to find suitable replacements. I would like to commend all the staff at the Elgin Public Schools who spent their first year with us, including those new to the profession and those simply new to Elgin. I think they represented themselves VERY, VERY well and were welcomed to the community much in the same way you welcomed me already two years ago now. There is one thing for sure; we are all proud of the Elgin Public Schools, the jobs we do here and the community in general. This is a GREAT place to live and enjoy life. There are again, many summer projects to work on and complete, and as soon as school is out the work necessary to have a successful "next year" will begin as well. Any concerns or questions regarding the school please feel free to call Mr. Wemhoff or myself at any time.

Elgin High Alumni 4-Person Scramble

Saturday, August 9th 2014
Antelope Country Club
Neligh, NE

Registration:**8:00 a.m.

Tournament starts at 9:00 a.m.

Cost:**\$140 per team

Must have 1 alumni or current/former
school employee on your team.

To enter contact: Randy Eisenhauer
402-843-5994

or randy.eisenhauer@elgineagles.org



Celebrating 125 years of faith, family and friends.

Elgin Q125 Celebration—June 20, 21, & 22

Last day for students --- May 21 (Early dismissal 11:00 a.m.)

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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