






DATES TO REMEMBER

 **May 1**
 Elementary
 Grandparent's Day

 **May 9**
 Graduation
 5:00 p.m.

 **May 11**
 Elementary Spring
 Concert 7:30 pm

 **May 18**
 Preschool
 Graduation
 6:30 p.m.
 Kindergarten
 Graduation
 7:30 pm

 **May 19**
 LAST DAY of
 school
 EARLY
 DISMISSAL
 11:00 a.m.



FCCLA ATTENDS STATE CONFERENCE



Participating in the State STAR competition were: (l. to r.) Paige Nichols, Jaime Hoefer, and Tera Henkenius

Nine members of the Elgin Public FCCLA Chapter attended the state leadership conference held in Lincoln, NE April 12 – 14th. Attending from Elgin were; Sharla Schindler, Kelsey Shoemaker, Tera Henkenius, Austin Miller, Dylan Widger, Taya Voborny, Zoey Bergman, Paige Nichols and Jamie Hoefer. The theme of this year's conference was "Toward New Horizons". The conference featured Kevin Wanzer, keynote speaker, tours and service projects, youth breakout sessions and an opportunity fair. In addition to the conference Austin Miller served as a state officer candidate from District 8. As a state officer candidate, Austin participated in several interviews, an FCCLA test, and a Leadership activity along with chapter voting delegates. Tera Henkenius, Paige Nichols and Jamie Hoefer also participated in the State STAR competition. Tera received a gold medal in Family Challenges and Issues Senior division and Jamie and Paige received a silver medal in Interpersonal Communications Sr... Jamie and Paige finished as state runners up in their division and will be representing Elgin and Nebraska at the National Convention held this summer in Washington D. C..

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

**ALUMNI BANQUET -
 June 27, 2015**

Kindergarten and First Graders: Coming to your Mailbox Soon! Summertime Reading!

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!



Aspiring Young Authors

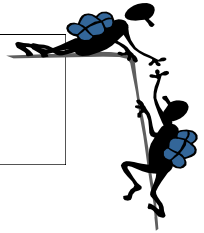


Pictured (l to r): Krista Demmel, Theanna Dunn, William Heilhecker, Jackson Wemhoff, Skylar Reestman, and Charlotte Endorf.

Four students attended a festival with Mrs. Borer for aspiring young authors at Wayne State College. Two of them are fourth graders, William Heilhecker and Jackson Wemhoff. The other two are sixth graders, Skylar Reestman and Theanna Dunn. These students were chosen for writing excellent papers. This festival gives them a chance to showcase their writing and a chance to meet published authors, Krista Demmel and Charlotte Endorf. Each author spoke with the students to tell them their story of becoming an author and what you need to do to be a great writer. Finally the students had the daunting task of reading their papers in front of strangers. They rose to the challenge and did an excellent job!

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, room & board, books and fees. Get a part-time job during college to pay personal expenses.
 - Compare the estimated starting salary of your 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 nslds.ed.gov.
- To learn more about student loans, see the "Paying for College" section at EducationQuest.org and watch this brief video. To estimate your future loan payments, use this *Repayment Calculator*.

How to prepare for your freshman year of college

Visit the College Students section at EducationQuest.org for tips to help you prepare for your freshman year of college. You'll find information on these topics:

- Achieving academic success
- How to manage your money
- How to select a major
- What to expect your freshman year of college

Check out the EducationQuest Blog for additional articles about college life.

Juniors... your summer to-do list

Start narrowing your college choices. Visit some college campuses this summer and check out college websites. Narrow your choices to three or four colleges by the time school starts.

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 for Nebraska-based scholarships, and pay attention to scholarships current seniors have received.

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

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 8 for the June 6 SAT.
- Register by May 8 for the June 13 ACT.
- Continue campus visits.
- Get a summer job and save for college.



Kindergarten Goes To College



After touring the greenhouse, NECC students assist the Kindergarteners in preparing a plant to take home.

To enhance learning about gardening this year, the kindergarten students headed to NECC on April 21. We visited the horticulture department where we saw their greenhouses and heard about some of the more interesting plants that they grow, they had a pineapple that takes months to mature before it can be eaten. In another greenhouse we saw tomatoes, cabbage, strawberries, and a variety of flowers that they are growing. Students then were helped by some of the 'big' kids to plant two plants of their choice to bring home after decorating their pots with stickers. The most popular plant was the pumpkin on a stick. Mrs. Wemhoff, Mr. Esau, and Ms. Siems even got to bring one of those home. After visiting with the horticulture class we found Drew's mom, Faye Kilday, who works at the college. She showed us her office and treated us to lunch in the cafeteria. What fun to have so many delicious choices. Ice cream for dessert was definitely a favorite. After lunch we spent some time at Skyview park for a little recess, then returned to Elgin



2015

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

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!

Classroom Snippets . . .

Gardening in 3rd Grade

The 3rd graders have started studying plants and animals in Science class. 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 seed. One group used potting mix. Another group used sand while the last group used gravel from the playground. The students made predictions on which plant will grow best. They have recorded data on the growth of their seeds each week.



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.



6th Grade Update

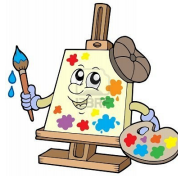
The sixth graders are currently writing research papers about a president of their choice. Their process includes reading sources, taking notes, completing an outline, writing a first draft, documenting sources, writing a bibliography or works cited page, revising first draft, and proofreading final copy.

In addition to finding out about the legacy of their president, students are also enjoying those little trivial tidbits. Enjoy!



Art Show Results

Check out the school webpage for art show results from the elementary and high school ESU#8 Invites and the Niobrara Valley Conference art shows. Look under "Academics-Art" as the shows happen.



SUMMER SLIDE

Something is waiting for many children every summer, and their parents don't even know it's out there. It's called the "summer slide," and it describes what happens when young minds sit idle for three months.

Children who do not read over the summer will lose more than two months of reading achievement. Summer reading loss is cumulative. By the end of 6th grade children who lose reading skills over the summer will be 2 years behind their classmates.



Three easy ideas to help:

1. **Six books to summer success:** Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing.
2. **Read something everyday:** Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day
3. **Keep reading aloud to them no matter the age.**



Junior High Students Complete Literature Units

The seventh graders are wrapping up Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water*. It is a true story of Salva Dut, a Lost Boy from Sudan and his battle to stay alive. It also includes the fictional story of Nya, a Sudanese girl whose



major conflict is a daily struggle to find clean water for her family. It is an inspirational story, and they have done a nice job with the novel.

The eighth graders have divided into three literature circle groups and are reading two classic novels. The two groups of girls are reading *My Antonia* by Nebraska author Willa Cather. It clearly describes the struggles of our early settlers. The boys are reading *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London, a story of Buck, a stolen dog, that endures many owners and challenges as they search for gold in the Yukon territory. They meet in small groups and discuss the books; it's a great way for them to take ownership of



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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

2015 State FFA, Elgin FFA Members Excel!



FFA members from across the state competed and were honored for their accomplishments at the 87th Nebraska State FFA Convention held April 8-10, 2015. The convention was held at Pinnacle Bank Arena, the hotels in Lincoln's Haymarket, and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln East Campus.

Just fewer than 4,000 Nebraska FFA students attended the convention, the largest State Convention attendance in the history of the organization. The Pinnacle Bank Arena is a pretty big upgrade from past years convention held at Pershing Auditorium, but with the yearly increases in FFA membership and the growing number of schools offering Agriculture Education and FFA, Pinnacle Bank is a perfect location. Fifteen schools in the state want to offer programs beginning in the fall of 2015, which would be a 10 percent increase in the number of schools. Nebraska currently has 157 schools offering the programs.

As for the Elgin FFA, well they are competing quite nicely with those 156 other chapters in the state. Three members of the Elgin FFA Chapter returned home champions in their proficiency area last week during the 2015 Nebraska State FFA Convention.

Junior, Trey Baum was the Beef Entrepreneurship State Champion. Senior, Trent Bauer was Small Animal Care and Management Entrepreneurship Champion and Brandon Funk, freshmen attending NECC was the Grain Placement State Champion. Their applications will advance to nationals for review in hopes of placing during the National FFA Convention next October in Louisville, KY. Justin Funk a sophomore was the 3rd overall individual in Diversified Crop Placement.

State FFA Degrees were awarded to: Jon Meis, Morgan Childers, Baylie Schiltmeyer, Christian Dunn, Ethan Fischer, Tanner Welding, and Trent Bauer

Leadership Skills Events (LSE's):

Marie Meis made finals in a group of 24 and was State Runner-Up in Creed Speaking.

Karissa Dicke made finals in a group of 24 and was State Runner-Up in Cooperative Speaking.

Both girls are alternates to the National FFA Convention and received a cash prize.

Alois Warner qualified for state with his speech in the Natural Resource Speaking Category. Although he did not make the final four, he was in the top 1/4, receiving a gold merit award.

Career Development Events (CDE's):

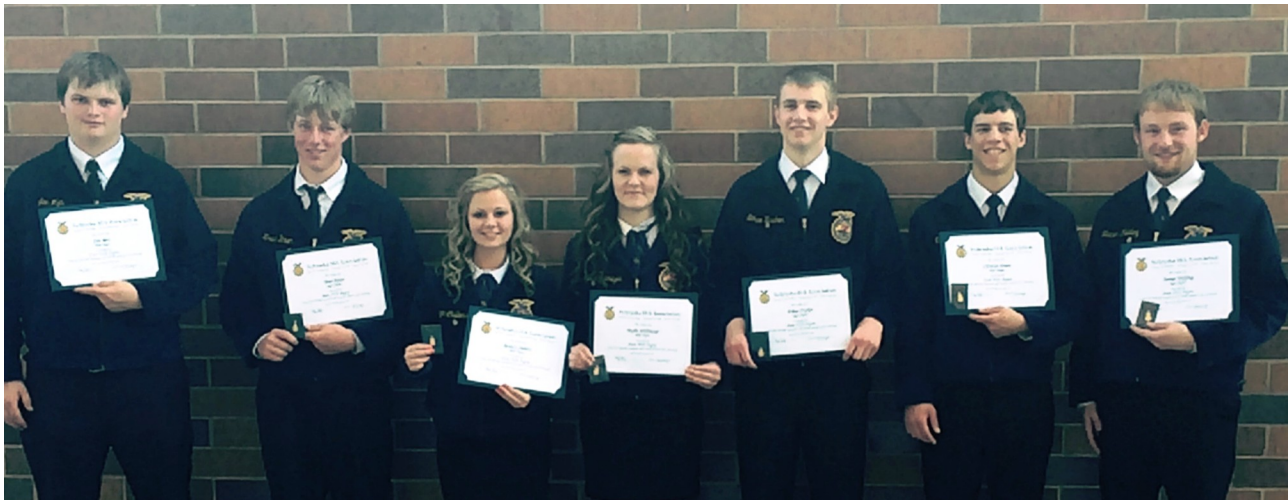
Natural resources- Dylan widger, Zooey Bergman, Elianne Heilhecker, Kalin Henn- 17th place team, Elianne earned a purple ribbon.

Welding - Andrew Fangman was 6th overall in MIG welding and received a purple.

Farm Business Management- Kyle Heithoff earned a blue ribbon.

Agronomy- Seth Schumacher and Tanner W. Both relieved a blue ribbon.

Agriscience- Lydia Behnk, Cole Preister, Calli Krebs, Liam Heithoff were the 11th place team out of 107 teams. Calli received a purple ribbon while Lydia and Liam both received blue ribbons.



State Degree award winners were: (l. to r.) Jon Meis, Trent Bauer, Morgan Childers, Baylie Schiltmeyer, Ethan Fischer, Christian Dunn, and Tanner Welding.

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!!!

It's been another great year here at the Elgin Public Schools and I would again like to thank the board, parents, students and patrons for their warm welcome, support and friendliness toward myself and my family. It's unbelievable to realize we have been here for three years already. It really has become home as we continue to be involved in the community and work to help Elgin Public be the little school that can.

Once again we have VERY few, if any, staff leaving us for other endeavors and we will come back virtually unchanged in staff. We also once again have several summer projects to over-see and while maybe not as costly as the last two years, just as important. It's always nice to have the parents and kids come back to campus improvements in the fall, even if just fresh paint and designs or mechanical and amenity improvements. It makes you feel good about your facilities and in turn more proud and more apt to take care of them as well. That's a great basis to then begin teaching from and build a positive environment.

Any concerns or questions regarding the school please feel free to call Mr. Wemhoff or myself at any time.

Elgin Public PASS System



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

www.elgineagles.org

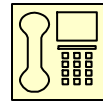
Click on Schoolmaster and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.



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.

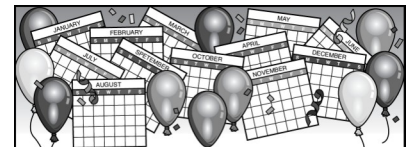
Blackboard Connect Update



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!



The Calendars Are Back!!

The Elgin Music Boosters will once again be selling Birthday/Anniversary Calendars for \$10 a piece! Forms can be found on the Elgin Public School website (www.elgineagles.org). Please fill it out and mail it with your payment to Mr. Eric Heithoff at the Elgin Public School or contact him at 843-2455 or any Music Booster Parent to obtain a form or for more information. **Deadline is May 15th.**

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. Finish strong!

Because of the timing I was not able to get the third quarter honor roll in last month. I believe that it is important to recognize the following students for their academic accomplishments during the third quarter. Congrats!

All A Honor Roll – (HS) Lydia Behnk, Elianne Heilhecker and Kyle Heithoff

Superior Honor Roll - (HS) Liam Heithoff, Myranda Palmer, Katelyn Copeland, Kelsey Welding, Dylan Behnk, Alois Warner, Tyler Smith, Haylee Stamp and Tanner Welding (JH) Garet Behnk, Anna Heilhecker, Hunter Reestman, Ally Wemhoff and Kira Widger

Honor Roll – (HS) Zoey Bergman, Kenny bush, Geoffrey Carr, Anthony Getzfred, Jaime Hoefler, Paige Nichols, Taylor Sehi, Taya Vorborny, Baylee Wemhoff, Morgan Carpenter, Tiarra Thramer, Christopher Bush, Lisa Dohmen, Christian Dunn, Tera Henkenius, Sharla Schindler and Kelsey Shoemaker (JH) Adam Dreger, Araceli Palmer and Vada Kruse

Even though this time of year is crazy I certainly look forward to taking the time to honor our students for their many academic accomplishments. On Tuesday May 5th at 7:30 we take time to do just that. We will start the evening with induction of the new members of the National Honor Society followed by the presentation of academic awards to our students. I look forward to seeing many of you there. And on a final note, our Seniors are on the home stretch to graduation. Please join us in honoring the graduation class of 2015 on Saturday May 9th at 5:00 in the EPS gymnasium. Congratulations to all of them.

Last day for students --- May 19 (Early dismissal 11:00 a.m.)

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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