



EAGLE UPDATE

Home of the Eagles

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

Volume XXVIII, Issue 4

November, 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER



Nov. 7
Late Start
10:00 a.m.



Nov. 12
Veterans Day
Program
11:00 a.m.



Nov. 13
School Board Mtg.
ITV Room
7:30 p.m.



Nov. 21
Early Dismissal
1:00 a.m.
Nov. 22 & 23
NO SCHOOL



Nov. 28
Blue Ribbon
School Assembly
10:30 a.m.
EPS Gym

One-Act Prepares to Perform!



With 29 kids out for One-Act this year, we have a full stage! The team members have been working diligently on our play Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit. Each practice the students add more and more to this comedic performance. With our contests soon approaching, the kids are buckling down and getting ready to perform!

Upcoming dates:

November 13--NVC competition at Ewing, perform at 9:45

November 21--School matinee, 12:30

November 26--District competition at Wayne State College, TBA

December 3--Community performance, 7 pm



*2012 Blue Ribbon Schools Assembly
November 28, 2012
10:30 a.m.
EPS Gym
Please join us for the celebration of
Elgin Elementary being named a
Blue Ribbon School*



Noteworthy News from the Music Dept.

By Mrs. Deb Jones

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

The Veterans Day Program will be held at the Elgin Public Schools gym on **Monday, November 12, 2012 at 11:00 am**. The program will include the American Legion and Auxiliary members, music from the Elgin Band, elementary students from St. Boniface and Elgin Public Schools, the Pope John/Elgin combined Choir, readings from students and a keynote address. The community is encouraged to attend this program to honor our Veterans in a special way.

NVC VOCAL CONCERT AT KEYA PAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The NVC schools are rehearsing songs to prepare for a concert on Monday, November 5, 2012. Schools involved are: Clearwater/Orchard, Ewing, Elgin Public, Niobrara, Pope John, Verdigre, Chambers, Keya Paha, West Boyd, Rock County, St. Mary's, Stuart, Wheeler Central, and Lynch. The clinician is Dr. David Holdhusen, a conductor of vocal music at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. The students will perform five songs with the mass choir from all the schools as well as individual school performances at the concert. Elgin Public Schools will be performing a special number with our choir. There is no charge to go to the concert. It will begin at 7:00 pm in the Keya Paha School Gym at Springview, Nebraska. I know it is a long road trip, but we hope to see you there!

YOUNG AMERICANS WORKSHOP

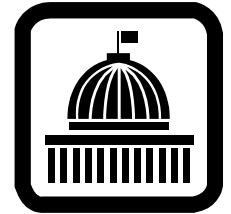
"Young people learning, growing, respecting each others' strengths, having fun, discovering their own potential – all through the common denominator of music and performance!" That is what the Young Americans is all about! The group consists of 47 extremely talented singers from all over the USA. Their tours have taken them all over the United States and even reach into Europe and Japan.

Twelve students from Elgin Public Schools attended the workshop in Tilden October 15-17, 2012. They were: Brandi Hines, Skylar Reestman, Hailey Walsh, Kane VonBonn, Emily Walsh, Adam Dreger, Anna Heilhecker, Kaylee Martinsen, Kira Widger, Ervin Dohmen, Shelby Dohmen and Jaime Hoefler.

The students attended classes that taught them singing, dancing, creative writing and drawing, and acting talents to put on a final show that was October 17th. The show included music and dance from Hip-Hop, Rock N Roll, Michael Jackson, Jason Mraz, Colbie Callait, Adele, Alicia Keys and the finale of the Lion King. Several students from Elgin Public were chosen to sing a solo during the Disney medley which they were very excited about! It was an experience of a lifetime for these students and one they will not forget!!

JUNIOR CLASS ATTENDS COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY

State Senator Kate Sullivan Guest
Speaker



On Thursday October 4, the American Government class traveled to Neligh for a look at how county government operates. The day was sponsored by the American Legion. The students gathered in the district court room to hear the reasons for county government day. The first speaker in the morning activities was Ron Marshall. He told us the reasons the American Legion started and continues to support County Government Day. He spoke on the importance county workers serve in helping meet the needs of the residents of our county. He encouraged students to be open to the idea of serving the county or state once they have reached adulthood. American Legion Commander from District 2 then discussed the history of County Government. We were surprised to learn that the program was started in the 1940's in Nebraska and then spread to the rest of the United States. He also informed us of the many programs sponsored by the American Legion.

The students then went to the various offices to gain a better understanding of the workings of county government. They were reminded that most of their contacts with government will occur at the county level. Several of the offices combined to present a mock trial After a fine lunch supplied by the Legion Auxiliary the students had an opportunity to listen to our State Senator Kate Sullivan. Senator Sullivan talked about the challenges facing the state and the legislature in the near future. She is concerned about texting and is trying to gather more information so she can propose a bill concerning texting. It was a great opportunity to learn more of the workings of our state.

Here is the list of county offices and the students that attended.

- Attorney: Hannah Kerkman
- Clerk: Madison Voborny
- Treasurer: Hunter Thramer
- Sheriff: Stephanie Bode
- Judge: Tiffany Vaughan
- Veterans Service Officer: Allison Koenig
- County Supervisor: Travis Grosserode
- Farm Service Agency, Executive Director: Brett Kinney
- Planning and Zoning Administrator: Dillion Finkral
- County Assessor: Zach Polk
- Extension Educator: Bailey Carpenter
- Natural Resources Conservation Service: Kao Takaya
- Clerk of the Magistrate: Abbigayle Couch
- Clerk of the District Court: Ivy Prater



The Art students are in need of some plastic, ice cream bucket, lids. If you have any to spare, please send them to school with your child.

Thank you!
Mrs. Heithoff

Stories . . . We've Got Stories!

by Mrs. Shoe



Kao Takaya discusses the main parts of a story with 1st graders.

Take one clever website, six eager writers, twenty-eight kindergarten and first grade students, and what do you have? Though it may sound like utter chaos, what you get is six brand new children's books full of imagination and valuable lessons.

In October, students from Creative Writing spent a few days with the younger elementary classes. Each joined four to five younger students and began discussing the finer points of a story. They first covered the three main parts: the beginning, middle, and end. They also talked about the role of characters and discussed the importance of lessons. Finally, they touched upon pictures--what we call illustrations.

Next the beginning authors were introduced to Story-bird.com, a website that provides much of what one would need in order to create a story. What it doesn't provide, however, is the story itself. At this point, it was time for the groups to turn to their imaginations. Members discussed possible lessons, chose artwork they wanted to feature, and began creating characters.

Following some enthusiastic work sessions, each group created and published an original children's story. Upon the final steps of publication, the Creative Writing students will return to the elementary classrooms, where they and their group members will share their stories with the rest of the classes. At that time each student will receive his/her own copy. The stories will also be placed in the elementary library. Congratulations on your first official publications, young writers!

Counselor's Corner



Seniors...it's time to start the admissions process!

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

Contact your top colleges NOW and ask about deadlines and the process for applying for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid.

Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline. Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay, and an interview.

Update your *Activities Resume*. Because extracurricular activities are an important part of the admissions application, keep them up-to-date by using the [Activities Resume](#) at [My.EducationQuest.org](#).

Contact your admissions representative periodically to stay informed about deadlines and campus activities.

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn college funding options Juniors and seniors - to learn about financial aid and other college funding options, attend an EducationQuest **Financial Aid Program** with your parents or an adult who can help you with college planning. Find dates and locations in the [Upcoming Events section](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Juniors...start researching colleges

If you can narrow your choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

Review [College Profiles](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country. If you're interested in going to an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program at <http://msep.mhcc.org>.

Meet with college representatives who visit your school, and then visit the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn more about the schools.

Once you've narrowed your choices, **schedule campus visits**. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session.

November "To Do" List

Juniors and seniors...complete these tasks in November to stay on the path to college!

___ Seniors, [register](#) by November 2 for the December 8 ACT.

___ Seniors, [register](#) by November 1 for the December 1 SAT.

___ Apply for scholarships. Visit free sites such as

[ScholarshipQuest](#) at [My.EducationQuest.org](#).

___ Meet with college representatives who visit your school.



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM SET

NOVEMBER 12, 2012

11:00 P.M.

EPS GYMNASIUM

Please join the local veterans organizations, school students, and the Elgin community as we pay tribute to our present military personnel and the veterans who have served in past years.

Hope to see you there!

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 beckmana@esu8.org



2012 Junior High Wolfpack Volleyball

JH Volleyball Team has Successful Season!

Thirty girls participated in Junior High Volleyball this season under the direction of Sandi Henn and Amy Selting. The A team ended their season with a 12-3 record! B and C team games were scheduled as often as possible, but usually were dependent upon how many girls the other teams on the schedule had. Overall, every single team member showed great improvement and team spirit and demonstrated everything being a member of a Wolfpack team stands for!

Some of the highlights on the season were winning the Ewing tournament on October 13th and placing 2nd and 6th at the Cedar Valley Tournament on October 6.

All Night Long!!



A coach must do what it takes to help fire up her team to win. Well the Wolfpack volleyball team did win and that meant a sleepover. On Friday, September 28th, the Wolfpack Volleyball team had the chance to celebrate and fulfill the deal they made with Coach Thiele for winning a game in the CWC Saturday tournament.

The girls started practice at 8:00 P.M. then had some pizza for supper, next was a little fun and bonding for the girls. The girls brought in games, some air mattresses, and not enough blankets. As we woke the next morning the gym got to be pretty cold. It was a good time for the girls, as they created memories to keep with them forever like a fashion show, staying up way too late, and just being with friends.

As our regular season winds down and we prepare for post-season I hope the girls not only enjoyed that night but have memories from all season long.

Recycling Challenge



Thank you to everyone who helped out Elgin Public School in our recent Green Fiber challenge! We were competing against local schools to see which one could collect the most paper recycling materials. Though our official counts are not yet in, there was a very large amount of mixed paper collected.

Though this official contest is over, the Green Fiber bins are always available for recycling at any time. Thank you to everyone and keep recycling!

**It's impossible to be who you're not,
so why not just be who you are?**



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

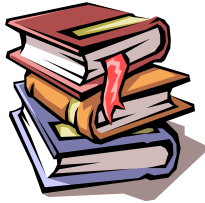
Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. Our school will receive \$2.00 for each cartridge turned in.

Bring in your empty cartridges (use a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) to the office recycle bin.

Classroom Snippets ...

6th Grade

The following 6th grade students met their Accelerated Reading Goal for the 1st Quarter: Mateo, Kaden, Kira, Anna, Ervin, Brea, Vada, Hunter, Garet, and Emma. Congratulations!



2nd Grade

This has been a busy Math month for the second grade. We have been learning about place value, ones, tens, and hundreds. We have also written and read number words up to 999. We have rounded numbers to the nearest ten and worked with ordinal numbers.



In language arts we are writing many sentences and are learning to find directions on a map. We have put stories into a sequential order and have

classified objects into small and large groups.

In Social Studies we just finished discussing the characteristics of a community and about elections. We learned how rules and laws affect a community and how to identify responsible citizens. Science class has us identifying seasonal changes in animals.

Everyone is very excited for the upcoming holiday, Halloween.

Spanish

The Spanish classroom has been abuzz with verb conjugations, vocabulary drills and even talk of human sacrifice! Needless to say, you never know what you will encounter when you pasas por la puerta.



The junior high Spanish class just completed a unit on the Spanish conquistadors and their experiences with the Aztec people of Mexico.

They were able to imagine themselves a part of the conquistador crew and write a paper about the 'adventure to defeat Montezuma.'

Spanish 1 has been working away, learning all about adjective-noun agreement, telling time, and describing themselves and their friends.

Spanish 2 is jumping into the past with the preterite tense. It is a pretty intense grammar point, and there seems to be more stress than usual! They are very talented, though, and I have no doubt they'll master the concept.

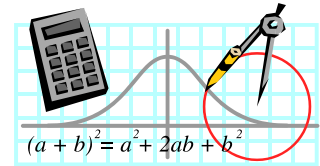


Last, Spanish 3 seems to have 'all the fun!' They just finished writing their books "Aventuras en la Naturaleza," and are reviewing the 2 past tenses. Soon they'll be creating their own 'ofrendas' for el Día de los Muertos, decorating cookies for the elementary students, and traveling to Central City for a Concert.

*It's not how good you are.
It's how good you want to be.
Paul Arden*

Algebra 2

Algebra 2 allows the student to extend their knowledge of operations on real numbers, and solve equations and inequalities. They will use a variety of graphing techniques, solve systems of linear equations, apply functions, and utilize problem solving techniques.



Students will perform operations on rational expressions, simplify radical and quadratic functions, and apply exponential and logarithmic functions to real-world situations. It also includes a study of trigonometric functions. Currently, the big push in Algebra 2 is the state test (NeSA) that every Junior will take this spring.

Range of Motion



Allison Koenig tests the Range of Motion of Ivy Prater.

The Anatomy & Physiology class recently completed a Range of Motion lab which allowed them to explore their joint motions. What made the days even more interesting was that most of them were dressed up in a wide variety of costumes for spirit week! We had movie characters measuring zombies and other odd combinations!

The students carried out various steps to measure the flexibility of their joints as well as learning the motions that these joints can complete. Terms that they had often heard in conversation, but really didn't know much about (such as hyperextension, dorsiflexion) were now given meaning.

The students were interested to learn that they were either more or less flexible than their counterparts. This information is especially useful because range of motion is a topic that many individuals deal with after injuries or when recovering from surgery.

Classroom Snippets ...

1st Grade

The first quarter has been busy in the first grade room.



During Fire

Prevention Week we went to the fire station and learned about fire safety. The high school creative writing class came into our room and helped us write stories. We can't wait to see our stories published. In Math we have been practicing our addition and taking timed tests. We learned about Science tools and words that show position in Science. We are looking forward to the second quarter of learning.

Yearbook

Go to "Academics-Yearbook" on the school website to check out our yearbook sponsors! Thank you to all of our businesses that sponsor the Elgin Public Yearbook as we celebrate 100 years of yearbook tradition at our school this year. The first yearbook called "The Foghorn" was published in 1913 as a monthly publication. The first "official" yearbook was "The Peptimist" published in 1923. I had to do some research on the Internet to find out a peptimist was basically a peppy or excited and involved person. Down the road our peptimist became "The Spotlight" before finally becoming "The Eagle". The yearbook may have come and went through the years and gone through a few changes, but the tradition always comes back and continues as we take pride in our school!



Engineering

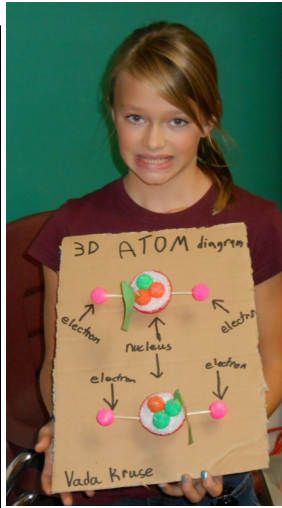
The engineering students demonstrated their creative skills in tackling the latest design project. They were tasked with developing a "Ping Pong Packer", a system that could move a ping pong ball into a box as if in a manufacturing environment. I supplied them with the only allowed power source, a small DC motor, and the rest was up to them. The designs were as varied as they were creative. Check out more



pictures and videos of these proud engineers-in-training on the website!

6th Grade Science

This last week the 6th graders have been learning about an atom and what makes an atom. Students have been studying the subatomic parts of an atom and how each subatomic particle functions. After studying for a couple days they had to get creative and come up with an Atom model. The students did an exceptional job with them and locating all the correct parts. Excellent job 6th graders!!



Vada Kruse displays her atom model.



Garet Behnk displays his atom model.

Elementary Library

The elementary library has some new books. Stop in and check out some of them. Books include picture books to books for the older readers. More books will be arriving shortly.



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Preschool News



Elgin Early Learning Center visits Poppy's Pumpkin Patch near Norfolk.

With the first quarter winding an end the Preschoolers have been very busy. We are mastering our colors, shapes and learning our ABC's. During the last couple of weeks we have studied fire safety and toured the Fire Station and even rode back to school on the fire truck! We also went to Poppy's Pumpkin Patch with the Kindergarteners. There we spent a fun filled day. For most of us it was our first trip on a big school bus. While at Poppy's there were many fun activities for us to do from the petting zoo, giant slide, train rides, corn maze, even a Ferry boat ride. Best of all we were able to choose our own pumpkin before returning home.

Kindergarten is Busy

What a busy October the kindergarten students have had.

We are working hard on Reading Mastery and learning lot of new sounds that help make words we can sound out. Now we have to make corrections on our letters when we aren't careful.

In math we finished making patterns and are learning the location of objects.

We finished an Animal Builders booklet for science and are starting a study of leaves, then spiders in honor of Halloween!

On October 9th we visited the fire station. We learned some things about fire safety like crawling out of a smokey room and climbing out the window is the door is hot. The highlight, of course, was the ride through town. Big thanks to the volunteer firemen who help keep us safe.

Poppy's Pumpkin Patch on October 10, was the site of our field trip this year with the preschool class. What a great time we had! Thanks to Lacy and Rhonda who helped keep track of everyone.

The high school creative writing class read some stories they wrote to the first grade and kindergarten classes. They taught some good lessons. Then we got to write stories with the 'big' kids. What a great learning experience for all of us.

We have all had visits from our high school pals too. We love it when they come to visit. Ms. Siems hopes that November isn't quite so busy!



Ms Siems and the Kindergarteners pose at the Pumpkin Patch.

Sophomores Attend Career Day

Sophomores from Elgin Public School and Elgin Pope John spent Tuesday, October 16th exploring careers. The 8th annual UNL Extension service career day was held on the Wayne State Campus. Following the registration and keynote speaker students headed out to attend 3 different career presentations and 2 break-out sessions on job related topics.

The career sessions covered occupations found in all the career fields including business, agriculture, health, human services, communication and information technology and skilled and technical sciences. Speakers from northeast Nebraska helped students to understand things about their careers such as typical tasks, levels of education, special skills, salary and how they can be preparing themselves now while they are still in high school.

The breakout sessions focused on skills such as, how to "get" a job, prepare a resume, future hot jobs, and volunteering just to name a few. In addition to learning about careers the students had the opportunity to get a taste of cafeteria food and how to navigate a college campus. Overall it was a great learning experience that the students can draw upon as they prepare to make decisions about their futures.

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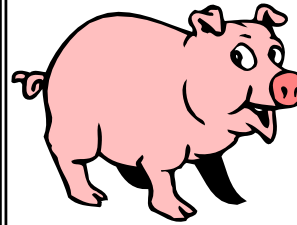
FCCLA Chapter Attends District Leadership Conference



Twenty-seven members of the Elgin FCCLA Chapter attended the annual District Leadership Conference at Northeast Community College on October 17, 2012. The theme for the 2012 conference was: FCCLA – Where the Magic Happens. Karen Haase, school attorney, presented the keynote address entitled: “Don’t Be Stupid: Legal Issues with Social Media”. Ms. Haase addressed three areas of concern when using social media. The issues of cyber bullying, sexting and safe internet use were discussed citing many legal cases involving these three areas and the legal ramifications of each. Her talk was very informative and gave the students a lot of information to “think about”. Members also attended small group sessions including Taekwondo/Self-defense, Quilts for Kids, SMILE, Peer Education round tables, State Officers – Planning and National Programs and a College of Nursing tour. The Quilts for Kids session (District Outreach Project) allowed members to actually work on quilts that will be given to children who are either hospitalized or terminally ill.

In addition, the conference included a Freshman creed speaking contest, a scrapbook contest as well as a yearbook competition. Austin Miller of Elgin won 1st in the Creed speaking and Elgin’s scrapbook created by Hannah Kerkman also won 1st place. Other events taking place throughout the day was the recognition of Power of One recipients and the selection of state officer candidates. Viktor Jonseth of Neligh-Oakdale and Sarah Smith of Creighton were selected to represent District 8 at the state convention in April. Serving as the Elgin voting delegate was Ivy Prater. The conference ended with the drawing of door prizes, the basket raffle and a slideshow which highlighted the many activities of the nine FCCLA chapters in District 8.

Put pork on your fork!



October is National Pork Month, the time to salute all pork producers and support the pork industry! Nebraska is one of the leading pork-producing states in the

nation. For over a century our hog farmers have been producing good quality food for the people of our state, our country and the world. Because of that, the Nebraska Pork Producers Association and the Nebraska Soybean Board gave us an educational video that entertains and informs about modern day hog farms.

The fourth graders learned vocabulary words such as supply and demand, entrepreneur, expenses and profit. A nutritional chart compared pork products to chicken and beef products according to calories, fats, and cholesterol. Today’s common cuts of pork are leaner and have less saturated fat.

Did you know.....

- Wall Street gets its name from the wall that was built in Lower Manhattan to keep rambunctious hogs from getting into the grain fields during Colonial America.
- Hogs are a source of many drugs and medicines. Hogs help people who have illness in their blood, brain, intestines, liver, skin, stomach, and more!
- Pork is the world’s most widely eaten meat! Almost as much as poultry and beef combined!
- Pork leads meat pizza toppings. 94% of Americans eat pizza...and sausage and pepperoni are the most popular meat toppings!
- Hog heart valves are used to replace human heart valves that have been weakened by disease or injury. Thousands of hog heart valves have been successfully transplanted in humans of all ages.



Third Graders Discover How People Use Rocks

The third graders set out on a rock walk during a fine, fall morning! We read and discussed different uses for rocks and minerals in our everyday lives before heading out. The third graders learned that people use rocks and minerals in many ways that they didn’t even realize. We learned that rocks and minerals are used to make shingles, windows, and walls on buildings and houses. People also use rocks in the landscaping around their houses or buildings. Rocks are used to make the cement on our streets and sidewalks. We discovered that rocks are used for playgrounds and parking lots or driveways. The students even discussed how sidewalk chalk is made from the mineral gypsum. The third graders looked at the Mohs Scale which

tells the hardness of minerals. They learned that diamonds are the hardest mineral and talc is a very soft mineral. Mt. Rushmore is even made of rock! The students have become really interested in rocks and minerals this quarter which has led to a LARGE rock collection in our classroom! Check out the pictures of the third grade rock walk on our web page and stop by to see our rock collection soon!

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Dan Polk
dpolk@esu8.org



It is that Halloween time of year. When the scariest thing for school administrators are early blizzards, harvest accidents, smooth transitions between a plethora of activities and the Nebraska department of education or the unicameral conceptualizing ideas for the next legislative session to change how schools operate or how much money they can get or spend.

Through all that however, things are going REALLY well at the Elgin Public Schools. I want to publicly commend the staff here on what a great job they do for our youth. In a very short period of time it has become abundantly clear to me that the staff here does a very fine job in educating students; both in the classroom with subject matter as well as out of the classroom with behavior, a sense of morals and common sense. While there is ALWAYS a lot to do and keep up on, it has been a privilege to get to know public school staff and students as well as everyone at the parochial schools and in the community.

A continued reminder to all, please call the school if you have ANY questions or want to know any information regarding the Elgin Public Schools. Open communication is something we want to promote and model for our students and community.

**Elgin Elementary School
2012 Blue Ribbon School Recognition
Assembly
November 28, 2012
10:30 a.m.
EPS Gym**

Elgin Public Schools Takes Technology Step

The Elgin Public Schools has taken a big step forward in technology that began the first week of October. There has been a lot of consideration of the school going "one to one". One to one is the term used for schools that have put technology devices in the hands of every student. There are many schools in the state and some area schools that have done this in an attempt to keep their students up to date on technology as well as become more efficient, flexible and varied in the way of presenting education and information to students.



At the Elgin Public Schools the process is getting careful consideration and upon analysis by the relatively new administration, it was determined, that the school already had the capability to some extent. The number of laptop computers was such that the 9-12 students could be "one to one". As of October 1st that is what has occurred. The K-8 students still have access to desktop machines and other technology and the 9-12 students are assigned a computer for their educational use and benefit.

The "pilot" of this is for school hours only and depending upon the progression of the concept may, within a given period of time, expand beyond the school day as well. It also may extend to the junior high AND include ipad carts for the elementary.



My Child Is Absent-- Does the School Need a Note?

It is very important that the school knows the whereabouts of all the students during the school day. The school has a responsibility to keep track of all students for their safety during the school day. Your child is expected at school each day that school is in session. If your child will not be attending school, parents should call the school (843-2455) right away in the morning to tell us why your child cannot attend. We should still receive a handwritten note or e-mail from the parent when the child returns to school. All notes are filed in the student's file for the entire year. If there is ever a question about an absence that is reported on our computer system, we have that note or e-mail to verify the information.

The Nebraska Dept. of Education requires each school to report excessive absences each month. These requirements are an attempt to cut down on the number of student absences. NDE feels that greater accountability will result in better attendance.

The North Central District Health Dept. does a weekly surveillance with schools. School surveillance is a state-wide effort that is used for early recognition of disease outbreaks throughout Nebraska in order to treat the diseases, such as influenza, promptly and stop the spread of the disease as quickly as possible.

By calling the school and sending a note when your child is absent, you are assisting the school in keeping top-notch attendance records.



*Thank you ELGIN FIRE DEPT. for
allowing us to visit the fire hall
during fire prevention week!*

*Thank you for the job you do for
our community!*



NePAS

On November 20th the Nebraska Department of Education will release its annual State of the Schools Report. This year there will be an additional section of the Report called, Nebraska Performance Accountability System, NePAS for short. NePAS is the result of a Federal requirement of State governments to provide additional accountability on local school districts. Basically what the system does is ranks school districts on three areas and three grade configurations. 1) STATUS, district rankings based on state test results (NeSA) in reading, writing, math and science 2) IMPROVEMENT, which ranks districts on the level of improvement in reading and math, based on the scores of students in the same grade year to year (different students) 3) GROWTH, district rankings based on the reading and math scores of the same students this year compared to last year. NePAS ranks districts by elementary (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12).

As a district we will be focusing on the Status to see how we compare with the State average and Growth since it is comparing the same students. We feel with our small class sizes the Improvement category is problematic, because if class A happens to be very intelligent as a group and they are followed by class B and they happen to struggle as a group comparing the two will not help us improve the education of our students.

As a district it is our goal is to ensure that students gain the skills and knowledge to function as creative, discerning, and productive members of a global society. In order to do this we must be responsive to the data NePAS provides us while balancing our desire to produce the type of people that are creative discerning, and productive members of a global society since data does not always reflect common sense, solid values, and character.

*For the most up-to-date information, please check our website:
www.elgineagles.org*

It's Not Too Late For Magazine Sales



We have recently wrapped up our annual magazine sale. We're sorry if we missed you. its not to late to place an online order for magazine or giftitem. Simply go to www.gaschoolstore.com<<http://www.gaschoolstore.com/>>. When you order a magazine or other gift items you can still give credit to our school organization. 40% of your purchase will come back to our group.

The GA School Store has gift accessory items, jewelry, college apparel, in addition to magazines at great prices. This is a great place to do some of your holiday shopping. Be sure to enter our school ID **2519304** when you place the order so that we can be credited for the sale. You may also use the school/organization finder to locate our school if our ID is not provided.

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