



EAGLE UPDATE

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Volume XXX, Issue 3

October, 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER



Oct. 3
HOMECOMING



Oct. 8
School Board Mtg.
ITV Room
7:30 p.m.



Oct. 10
NO SCHOOL



Oct. 17
End of 1st Quarter



Oct. 20
LifeTouch Picture
Retakes



ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOL "BELIEVES IN ME"



Staff and K-12 students from Elgin Public School posed for a picture on the new football field bleachers on the first day of school.

All students were given black t-shirts that read "Elgin Public School Believes In Me".

Our theme this year is that

You are the Most Important Piece of the Puzzle.

Check out the puzzle pieces on the high school lockers with their "one word" motivation for the year!

It was a great kickoff for another great year at Elgin Public School!

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



Reading, Bookworms and a Movie!



Readers are pictured with the bookworms that they made. Front row (left to right): William Heilhecker and Jamie Dozler Back row (left to right): Keyera Eisenhauer, Baylee Busted, Dane Kilday, Blake Henn, and Jack Wemhoff

The 3rd and 4th graders had an opportunity to read over the summer and complete a “bookworm chain” to keep track of their books read. The students could create their bookworms using any materials from home. Some were made from paper links and others used fuzzy pipe cleaners. A total of 97 books were read by these students over the summer! They will be treated to a night at the movies in October or November.

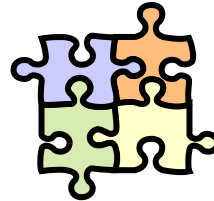
Seven students created bookworms for the movie night: Baylee Busted, Keyera Eisenhauer, Blake Henn, Dane Kilday, Jamie Dozler, William Heilhecker and Jackson Wemhoff. Way to go 3rd and 4th graders! Impressive reading over the summer! Keep on reading and enjoying the adventures of your books!



Smile..It's Contagious!



Thank you to all who supported EPS magazine sales this year. Your magazine purchases help fund many of our class activities. Thank you for your contributions!



When adversity hits, you can feel sorry for yourself and do nothing or you can choose to make the situation better.

Water Cycle



Water Cycle is a key concept that the 4th graders started the year off with in Science. Students discussed what the water cycle was and how it keeps going from day to day. Students learned many new vocabulary words and the types of precipitation that fall. They also learned how each type of precipitation forms and falls to the earth. At the end of the chapter the students had to make a shoe box diagram of a cloud and describe the type of weather. In the pictures you can see some of their diagrams.



Kindergarten on Nature Walk



Kindergarten students are very busy with reading, math, handwriting, and language. We have also had some creature visitors this month. We've had caterpillars, grasshoppers, bees, and dragonflies. Ms. Siems has some tadpoles from her neighbor that we will try and keep until they turn into frogs. The creatures are fun to watch but we also try and remember to show respect for all the living things that we see.



Wonderful World of Water

Six freshman and six sophomores from Elgin Public Schools attended the 25th annual Wonderful World of Waters program in Pierce on Wednesday September 17th. Here is some information about the day from Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator of Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District:

The 25th Anniversary of the Wonderful World of Water Festival was celebrated September 17 at Gilman Park in Pierce. Twenty-six teams of ninth and tenth grade students from 14 schools across Northeast Nebraska descended upon the park for a day of outdoor hands on activities and a chance to vie for championship honors.

The day began with registration at Gilman Park followed by the teams competing in a track of hands-on activities focusing on water quality and other water related issues. The teams were then quizzed regarding those sessions to accumulate points for the competition. Following the educational sessions, the teams were given one last chance to extend their point totals by participating in the Dripal Pursuit Trivia Game. Then while the final totals were being calculated each team was given the opportunity to participate in the Wonderful World of Water special project.

The special project for this year was Water Rockets, which is, a program taught through the Jr. Academy of Sciences. Each school was invited to build water rockets and demonstrate their knowledge of mass, velocity and engineering. The rockets were judged on distance and creativity. Several rockets were launched Wednesday with prizes being awarded.

Schools participating in this year's event included; Clearwater-Orchard High School, Niobrara High School, Lynch Public School, Pierce High School, Elgin High School, Elkhorn Valley High School, Oakland Craig High School, Allen Consolidated, West Point-Beemer High School, Winside High School, Ewing High School, Madison High School, Newman Grove High School and Lyons-Decatur High School. "We are proud to be a sponsor of such a special program for Northeast Nebraska! This is the only festival for high school students in the state", commented Beth Walsh, Information & Education Coordinator Upper Elkhorn NRD.

The Wonderful World of Water program would not be possible without our many natural resources professionals from across the area who volunteer their time each year to share their expertise and work with students who might be interested in a career related to natural resources. They come from a variety of agencies including: The Natural Resources Conservation Service; UNL Cooperative Extension; Nebraska Game & Parks; Papio-Missouri River NRD; City of Pierce; and, the Natural Resources Districts. The Wonderful World of Water was sponsored this year by: the Upper Elkhorn NRD; Lower Elkhorn NRD; Lower Niobrara NRD; Lewis and Clark NRD; and, Nucor of Norfolk.

A "Flipped" Classroom

Submitted by Mrs. Drueke



What is this?

Whether we like it or not, technology is a part of our everyday life. Nearly every household has access to one or even multiple electronic devices. Today's student spends hours every week online. Because of this, a new trend in education is on the rise; it is known as a flipped classroom. A true flipped classroom would function something like this:

The direct instruction or lecture portion of the class will become the homework. This will primarily be in the form of watching videos and completing online practices that have been created either by myself or someone else. When students come to class

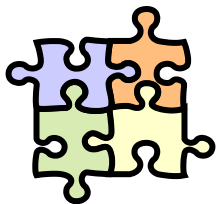
the next day we will briefly discuss what they learned in the videos and answer any questions they may have. The rest of the class time will be used for practicing the concepts from the video (homework in the traditional setting).

The many advantages to this include:

1. Students can watch a video on their own. They can pause and rewind whenever they need to review what they heard.
2. In a traditional model, if a student had questions about problems they were doing at home, they had to wait until class time the next day. With this method, students are doing the work in the classroom and are able to get their questions answered immediately.
3. Flipping the instruction helps struggling students. By doing the work in the classroom, I will be readily available to help students.
4. Learning is student-centered, not teacher-centered. Focus is not on the teacher teaching the content but on the student practicing and producing quality work.
5. There is more interaction between teacher-student and student-student. Since I won't be spending as much of the class time in instruction, there is more time for me to answer student questions, work with small groups, and guide the learning of each student.
6. Work time during class allows students to be working while I have individual writing conferences with students. It creates a time for students to receive feedback, so they may improve their writing skills.

Maintaining a Balance

We are still learning how to best utilize this method of learning. It is my goal to use this for our grammar, usage, and mechanics portion of the curriculum. We still have class assignments and discussions on literature and writing, where we can grow and learn from one another. Hopefully with this type of format, we can have the best of both worlds, face-to-face learning and technology-driven learning.



*In order for you to improve
at your job,
whatever that job is,
somebody has to give you
feedback.*



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Just a reminder that we are still collecting Box Tops For Education. That money is used for misc. items in the elementary and field trip fees. Please keep saving those Box Tops and send them to school with your student or drop them off in the office. Thanks for your help!

Check out their website <http://www.bboxtops4education.com/> to sign up your e-mail and receive great coupons and savings for products that have the box tops on them. Plus you can sign up daily for sweepstakes to win more money for the school.

EPPJ Junior High Volleyball in Full Swing

The EPPJ Junior High Volleyball Team opened its season Monday, September 15 vs. Clearwater-Orchard. The A-Team lost in three sets to the Cyclones: 25-18, 21-25, 9-15. Top servers in the contest were Anna Heilhecker with 4 aces, Ally Wemhoff and Emma Kerkman with 3 aces apiece and Vada Kruse with 1 ace. Kills were put down by the following players: Ally Wemhoff 3, Kayce Kallhoff 3 and Anna Heilhecker 2. In addition Emma Kerkman, Kaylee Martinsen and Haley Zegers each recorded a kill. Ally Wemhoff and Anna Heilhecker each added two assists to the effort vs. O-C. Defensively, Emma Kerkman led with 2 digs. Ally Wemhoff, Anna Heilhecker and Kaylee Martinsen each provided a dig apiece.



B-Team action consisted of two sets. EPPJ won the first set 25-16. They dropped the second set 11-25. Leading attackers were Brynn Dilly, Bre Bartak and Haley Zegers, each with one kill. Lauren Seier added an assist to the offensive attack. Digs were recorded by Maddie Schrage and Lauren Seier, each with 1. From the serving line, Haley Zegers delivered 3 aces. Bre Bartak added 2. Leslie Nichols, Lauren Seier, and Brea Carr each added 1.

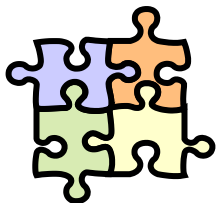
The coaches were pleased with the team's season opener. "It was nice to finally see what these girls can do on the court against another team. There's only so much you can see in practice," said Coach Stacy Shumake-Henn. "It's nice to be able to pinpoint what we need to work on, but overall, the girls had a great first game."

On Wednesday, September 17, the squad traveled to Neligh to take on the Neligh-Oakdale Warriors. The B-team came up just short in three sets: 25-14, 21-25, 12-15. Players serving up aces in the effort were Brynn Dilly with 5, Lauren Seier 4, Kira Widger and Maddie Schrage each with 2, and Bre Bartak 1. Araceli Palmer and Maddie Schrage each pounded 2 kills, while Lauren Seier and Maddie Schrage each dished out an assist.

The A-Team earned a victory in a three-set thriller: 25-10, 22-25, 15-12. Leading the serving attack was Anna Heilhecker with 4 aces. Kaylee Martinsen, Kayce Kallhoff, Lauren Seier and Ally Wemhoff each added 1. Ally Wemhoff and Anna Heilhecker fueled the offense with 6 assists each. The attack at the net was led by Kayce Kallhoff with 5 kills. Ally Wemhoff put away 4, Emma Kerkman and Haley Zegers each recorded 3, and Kaylee Martinsen and Anna Heilhecker added 2 apiece. On the defensive end, Kaylee Martinsen led with 4 digs, while Anna Heilhecker and Ally Wemhoff each added 3. Kayce Kallhoff and Vada Kruse each found 1 dig each.

"It was nice to see such a huge improvement in the level of play from both squads from the first game to the next," said Shumake-Henn. The coaches were also thrilled with the team effort. "We have so many kids who can come in and contribute, and that is nice to see. We have a very positive and enthusiastic bunch of girls to work with. They work hard and want to improve, and that is the key."

This year's team is coached by Stacy Shumake-Henn, Sandy Henn and Eric Mlinar.



*A good teammate will
sacrifice personal gain
for the benefit of the group.*



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

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and re-manufactured. 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.



**VETERANS DAY
PROGRAM SET
NOVEMBER 11, 2014 11:00 A.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!



**Is there money in your
lunch account?**

You should maintain a positive balance throughout the school year. Let's help to keep our costs of postage down by paying in advance for meals. Thank you!

New Life For Old Chairs



The high school Art 1 students (Ruben, Laiza, Avenley, Shelby, Kelsey, Elie, Breanna and Taylor) are decorating chairs for their first project. I picked up some old school chairs at a garage sale this summer for students to paint. It's not only a great decorating lesson but also a recycling one. Instead of being thrown away these chairs will have a new life at our school and decorate our hallways for years to come.

We brainstormed several ideas before settling on a main picture on the seat with pattern and design on the rest of the chair. Check out the school webpage to view the chairs' progress and finished look.

Mrs. Heithoff

Study Tips from the Resource Room:

Does anyone have this situation happen at home?

Parent: "Do you have any homework?"

Student: "Nope, I got it all done at school." or "I didn't have any."

Then, the parent receives a phone call from the school that the child did not have an assignment done for class.

We, as part of human nature, want to trust our children, but until our children are adults and living on their own, we still have teaching opportunities.

To avoid the "late work phone call", follow up with your children by having them take out their assignment book, see what is written down for an assignment, then having them show you that they have the completed assignment as well.

Why sign the planner?



Elementary teachers ask parents to sign their child's planner for many reasons. It can become a habit of just signing to sign without checking it over. Here's a reminder of the importance of doing this task nightly.

1. To easily communicate
2. To see what your child needs to do for homework
3. So that you are able to check if your child has completed all of the assignments (if needed)

By Mrs. Borer

CONSTITUTION DAY VIDEO

The social studies students at Elgin High have been very productive these first weeks of school. Lately the Government class has been delving in to the foundations of the U.S. system



of Government. They have been busy working on a constitution day video that will be on the school website. The video is a project to help kids understand how unique and important our American Constitution is! In the project students had to use their technical, English, and speaking skills to create a video of themselves and other classes portraying what the constitution means in their own words. Also the government students will be taking part in the annual Antelope County Government Day in October.

Check out the video on our school website:

www.elgineagles.org

Click on Academics > Social Studies

Elgin Public PASS System



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

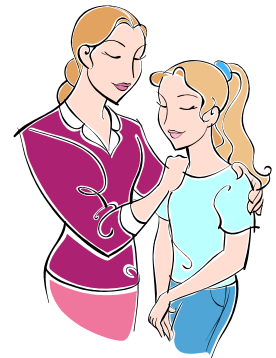
www.elgineagles.org

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

How's It Going?

Most parents tend to ask students "how is school going or how was school today?" I came across an article: 25 ways to ask students about school without asking "How was school today?" These questions will help parents get better answers than "fine" or "okay." Educators always want parents to be invested in our students' education, because the more a parent cares the more the student cares. I want to share Liz Evan's full list of 25 questions here:

- #1. What was the best thing that happened at school today? (What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)
- #2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- #3. If you could choose who would you like to sit by in class? (Who would you NOT want to sit by in class? Why?)
- #4. Where is the coolest place at the school?
- #5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)
- #6. If I called your teacher tonight what would she tell me about you?
- #7. How did you help somebody today?
- #8. How did somebody help you today?
- #9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
- #10. When were you the happiest today?
- #11. When were you bored today?
- #12. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed up someone who would you want them to take?
- #13. Who would you like to play with at recess that you've never played with before?
- #14. Tell me something good that happened today.
- #15. What word did your teacher say most today?
- #16. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
- #17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?
- #18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
- #19. Where do you play the most at recess?
- #20. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
- #21. What was your favorite part of lunch?
- #22. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow what would you do?
- #23. Is there anyone in your class that needs a time out?
- #24. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class who would you trade with? Why?
- #25. Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.



Range Judging 2014



Congratulations to the FFA range judges on an excellent day Thursday, September 18th at the District V Area Contest.

Sr. Division Results: Out of 180 competitors.

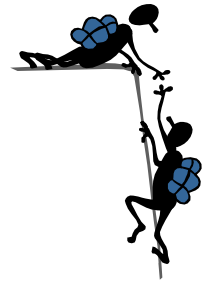
**Jon Meis - 10th, Tanner Welding- 14th, and Trey Baum - 15th
Karissa, Taven, Dylan Behnk, Morgan Carpenter, Alois Warner placed in top 25%.
Team of: Jon, Tanner, Trey, and Dylan Widger were 3rd overall out of 47 teams.**

Jr. Division Results: Out of 235 competitors.

**Elianne Heilhecker- 3rd, Miles Schrage - 13th, Callie Krebs - 19th.
Chad Bode, Liz Selting, Grace Henn, Lydia Behnk, Cole Preister, Kelsey Welding, Taylor Sehi, Marie Meis, and Zoey Bergman were in the top 25%**

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Attend a Financial Aid Program and you may win a \$500 scholarship!

If you're a high school junior or senior – and if you attend an EducationQuest **Financial Aid Program** (FAP) before February 1, 2015 - you'll earn a chance to win one of *three* \$500 *scholarships!*

EducationQuest is conducting FAPs across the state ([find a program in your area](#)). If you attend, you can register to win a \$500 scholarship. Parents or guardians who attend may register on their student's behalf. [Click here for more details.](#)

Seniors...have you visited your top colleges?

If you haven't done so already, visit your top colleges *soon* to narrow your choices. Application deadlines will start hitting later this fall. Follow these tips for a successful visit:

Contact the admissions office at least two weeks in advance to schedule your visit. Make appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor, and a faculty member in the area of study that interests you.

Check out the college website before your visit. Most college sites have a section for prospective students. You might even be able to schedule your campus visit online.

Visit while school is in session. You won't get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.

Ask LOTS of questions. See this [Go.Visit.College! handout](#) for good questions to ask.

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't pay for scholarship searches! Use free search sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) where you'll find over 2,000 state and local awards. Scholarship resources are also available through your school counselor's office and at EducationQuest offices in Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha.

Focus on college-based and local scholarships. You're more likely to earn them over large national awards.

Continually update your activities, honors and volunteer or paid jobs using the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

Use quality references such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.

Pay close attention to grammar and spelling. Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

October "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during October.

Juniors and Seniors:

- ___ Attend the [College Fair](#) or [Educational Planning Program](#) in your area.
- ___ [Sign up for Countdown2College](#) to receive monthly college planning tips.

Seniors:

- ___ Schedule campus visits.
- ___ Narrow your college choices and be aware of application deadlines and criteria.
- ___ [Register](#) by September 19 for the October 25 ACT.
- ___ [Register](#) by October 9 for the November 8 SAT.

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dan Polk
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



The colors of fall will soon be in full force and winter is never far behind. Changes in effective schools are continuous, and Elgin Public is no different. The football field improvements have been a great addition to this year's campus as well as the air conditioning in the north end of the gym building. The students' new, smaller, touch screen computers are a big hit with our older high school students, and a lot easier to haul from class to class. Technology integration continues to be a focus of expenditures and instruction as the world is constantly moving in that direction. The campus is looking wonderful and very inviting and we had no turnover in staff for this school year. Our staff from the prior year's large turnover is feeling more at home and we are very happy that they are with us and feeling more comfortable in their second year at their posts. Veteran staff members also continue to work hard and do their best on behalf of your children and others. I am quite comfortable in saying I'm very proud of and confident in, our entire staff. Sometimes we receive distance learning classes and other classes from schools and this year we are offering/sending even more of our own. We currently have many students from Pope John, Clearwater, and Verdigre sharing in the educational experience here at the public school through joint classes and distance learning.

Elgin Public Continues to do VERY well on the state assessments and "measuring sticks" that the politicians use to determine good schools. While meeting some of those requirements by all the testing, reporting and tracking, can be cumbersome at best; it does help us keep in focus that the reason for the public schools is not all about activities, sports, appearances etc. but rather the education of every child that chooses to walk through our doors regardless of circumstance. With that in mind we are very proud of the work we do and the accomplishments of our students and will continue to focus on the teaching to, and learning of children as our number one responsibility. If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding operations of the Elgin Public Schools feel free to pick up the phone and give us call.

Summer Reading



*These students took some time this summer to READ!
They are Landon Kallhoff, Chloe Henn, Sara Bode, and Grady
Druke. Not pictured Kyndal Busted. Great job!*

THANK YOU for supporting the Magazine Sales 2014

Thank you for supporting Elgin Public Schools. We sold only 136 orders locally and 49 orders on-line this year. One of the reasons for our low sales is there were only 3 classes involved this year. Since the Seniors already had their trip, they didn't need to raise funds. I am sure that some of the people normally contacted were missed this year. Hopefully, next year we will improve.

**The on-line site is still active
if you wish to order just log into
www.gaschoolstore.com and our
school code is 2519304.**



F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff
greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



The year off and running! We are now a little over a month into the school year and things are going well. On August 14th students arrived and we began our journey through the 2014-2015 school year. Since then students and teachers have been diligently working on all their classes. I have been very proud of the effort of the students and teachers to this point.

We have several important dates and activities occurring during this time of the year. Parent Teacher Conferences were held September 16th; once again we had a great turn-out. We had over an 80 percent parent turn-out for 7-12 students and over 90 for the elementary. Thank you parents, for taking time to attend our Parent Teacher Conferences this year. I again enjoyed the opportunity to visit with parents and talk a little bit about how their children were doing. The first of our MAP testing weeks will be conduct from September 23 - September 26. MAP tests are standardized test to help us assess how our students and school is performing relative to other school across the country. The MAP program takes your fall score and grade level and tells you how much other students have improved who are starting at the same point. It is a great tool for our teachers and students to see areas the students need to improve on and areas that the students are doing well at.

Now for a look ahead at some important school related dates coming up for the rest of the semester. . An important week coming up is the week of September 29th -October 3rd, Homecoming week! We will be holding many festivities typically associate with Homecoming. October 17^h marks the end of the first quarter. On November 11th we will be hosting our annual Veteran's Day Program, I hope to see many of you attend and show your appreciation for the sacrifices our veterans have made for us. On November 26th students will be dismissed early for Thanksgiving break and will have the 27th and 28th off. Finally, December 22nd is the end of the second quarter and first semester classes will resume January 5th.

GO EAGLES!!!

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

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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