



EAGLE UPDATE


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October, 2015


DATES TO REMEMBER

 Oct. 6
LifeTouch School
Picture Day

 Oct. 5-9
HOMECOMING
WEEK

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

 Oct. 16
NO SCHOOL

 Oct. 31
HALLOWEEN



Love Those Volunteers!

At Elgin Public School we are celebrating our volunteers! We have students that regularly empty paper recycling bins in each classroom. Some students help serve lunch trays to the smaller children. Cleaning up and beautifying school grounds has been done by students as well. We also have many community service projects through our school organizations such as FCCLA, FFA, and the Jr. Class Trip. As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." In completing some of these volunteer acts we hope to instill in our students a lifelong habit of helping others.



Some of our helpers in the lunchroom are shown: (left to right) Sara Bode, Jaidyn Schrad, Chloe Henn, and Callie Heithoff. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

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



From Mrs. Shumake-Henn

Shakespeare May Be Rolling Over in his Grave

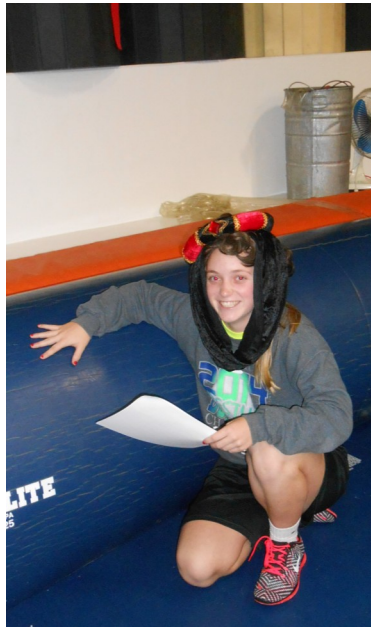
"O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?"

It's one of the most famous lines from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, but just what does it really mean? That's exactly what the Juniors were on a mission to find out . . . that and approximately 189 other lines.

As part of the unit on Shakespeare, the students were asked to rewrite the lines of the famous balcony scene in their own words. After a brief rehearsal, they performed them for their classmates. Many chose to add costumes and props to bring their scenes to life.

After the inclusion of many hashtags, some texts, various tweets and an extensive discussion of fried chicken led by "Bromeo," the class seemed to have a pretty good grasp on the true meaning of one of the most recognized scenes in dramatic history.

#Shakespeareisnomatchforus



Baylee Wemhoff, left, and Katelyn Copeland, right, performed their rewritten lines from the balcony scene.



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!

From Mrs. Thiele-Blecher

At what time should your child go to bed?

Age	Wake-up time						
	6:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	7:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 AM
	Sleeping time						
5	6:45 PM	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM
6	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM
7	7:15 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM
8	19:30	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM
9	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM
10	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM
11	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM	9:45 PM
12	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM	9:45 PM



Smile..It's Contagious!

From Mr. Prater



Constitution and Citizenship Day was celebrated in the social studies classroom on September 17th. Students learned why the U.S. Constitution is special and some fun facts about it.

It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world. It took roughly four months to create.

Thomas Jefferson did not sign the Constitution. He was in France during the Convention, where he served as the U.S. minister. John Adams was serving as the U.S. minister to Great Britain during the Constitutional Convention and did not attend either.

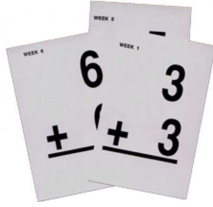
The oldest person to sign the Constitution was Benjamin Franklin (81). The youngest was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey (26). Because of his poor health, Benjamin Franklin needed help to sign the Constitution. As he did so, tears streamed down his face.

The students also learned why we celebrate Constitution and Citizenship Day. "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is a combined event that is annually observed in the United States on September 17. This event commemorates the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787. It also recognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become US citizens.

From Mrs. Beckman

Second Grade News

Our school year is off to a busy start with eleven active second graders. In math we have reviewed basic place value using ones and tens, used problem solving strategies of acting it out or using logical reasoning, and worked with patterns and shapes. We continue to work on our addition facts.



In language arts we are writing paragraphs. We have written five paragraphs and are making sure our sentences have a subject, a predicate, begin with a capital, and have an ending mark. Our paragraphs start with a topic sentence, have several detail sentences and end with a closing sentence! We have learned 3 different types of sentences, declarative, interrogative, and exclamatory.

Everyone is working hard to improve their reading skills, to help them read fluently they need to track words with their finger. Although it's still a month away the second grade is very excited for the upcoming holiday, Halloween!

From Miss Johnson

2015 Magazine Sales

There were 112 orders sold with an additional 58 orders sold on-line.



Top salespersons: Ryan Warner with 10 orders and Lydia Behnk with 19 on-line orders

The final break down by classes:

Freshmen: 27%
Sophomores: 39%
Juniors: 34%

When the final total is complete, the classes will get the above percent of the total.

Thanks for your support!!!

From Mrs. Schwartz

FFA Labor Auction

The FFA labor auction was once again successful. The chapter would like to thank all of the buyers at the auction for their generosity and support. We would also like to thank Ted Baum for being the auctioneer.

The money will go to the Nebraska FFA Foundation's "I Believe in the Future of Ag Campaign". This campaign supports FFA chapters in Nebraska by returning 100% of their profits made while adding up to \$35,000 in matching funds among those chapters participating in the campaign.

All buyers should have received a letter from EPS/FFA in the mail stating the member(s) you bought, a thank you and how to contact the member(s) when you are ready for them to work for you. We are asking that after the member has worked for you to sign the bottom portion of the letter stating that the member did indeed work his/her eight hours (even if it is your own son or daughter).

From Mrs. Zwingman

Study Tips From the Resource Room

Study tips from the Resource Room



- Remember to be writing all assignments down in your assignment book.

- Keep your assigned homework and completed homework in a consistent folder or spot so it is easy to locate.

From Mrs. R. Heithoff

Sixth Grade Art Masks!



The 6th Grade Art class is embarking on a new project this quarter. They recently began making a class totem pole. Each student will create their own paper mache mask. When completed each mask will be attached to an 8' tube that will be put on display in the hallway. The final result will be posted on the school webpage, so stay tuned.

From Mrs. Borer

MOVIE NIGHT



Pictured in the back are Callie Heithoff and Sara Bode. Front row: Baylee Busted, Austin Hinkle and Blake Henn In bean bags, Riddick Graham, Keyera Eisenhauer, and Chloe Henn

Mr. Popper's Penguins was the movie chosen for our movie night. Students brought chairs, pillows, or blankets to get comfortable while eating their popcorn and candy.

Students were able to attend if they did our summer reading activity. The activity was a BINGO sheet to fill out that had squares filled with who you could read to, different places to read, or times to read. Some examples are reading to a pet, read in the bathtub, or read while eating a snack. Eight third and fourth graders participated and completed it. Way to go!

From Mrs. Druke

Seventh Grade Life Science



Teanna Dunn and Claire Kerkman using scientific tools.

To begin the year, seventh grade life science students learned about inquiry and the scientific method. They practiced using different tools from the science lab in an experiment that compared the amount of light as the variable on grass growth. We've been taking advantage of the extra room/science lab Mrs. Druke's new classroom has.

From Mr. Mlinar

Guest Speaker



Ryan Burger visited with the Accounting 1 students on September 10th. He educated students about why he chose a career in accounting and a typical day on the job. He talked about taxes, audits, and more! Finally, he highlighted the importance of earning a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) License.

Hopefully, it was valuable learning experience for the accounting students!

Ryan Burger Bio:

Investment Advisor Representative
A partner for Gabriel, Burger, and Else, CPA, PC
Adjunct Professor of Tax and Auditing at
Concordia University

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

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.boxtops4education.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.

From Mrs. Borer

Should the school day be longer?

Scholastic News had an article about whether the school day should be longer, so the fourth graders decided to debate the topic. They had some great thoughts.

- Nicolas-** *It should* be longer so we can have more time for P.E. and Art.
- Baylee-** *It should not* be longer because kids would get tired and can't focus on their subjects. *It should* be longer so we can have robotics, cursive, and key boarding. (We debated whether it was more important for kids to learn cursive or keyboarding last week).
- Aubreionna-** If the school day was longer we could learn other things like robotics and cursive.
- Keyera-** *It should not* be longer because after school kids have other activities like sports, girl/boy scouts, and religion classes. They won't have time for those if school goes longer.
- Brian-** It should be longer because we need more time for classes like Math, Language, Reading, Science, Social Studies, Spelling, Music, and Art.
- Blake-** It should be longer so we can have more time for recess and PE. It should be shorter so we don't get tired and so we can pay attention in class.
- Brenna-** It should be longer because some people are failing and they need more time to work on homework for those classes. Some people would like to eat lunch longer, to have more recess time, and more time for Art, Music, and P.E. If there was more time in the day we could have robotics, photography, and other academic activities.
- Jacksyn-** It should be longer because some kids need more time to get their grades up if they are failing.
- Abriel-** It should be longer so we can have more time for lunch and recess.



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!



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM SET NOVEMBER 11, 2015 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!

From Mrs. Bode

FCCLA KICKS OFF



Elgin FCCLA officers are left to right: Taya Voborny, Zoey Bergman, Dylan Widger, and Jaime Hoefler.

The 2015-16 FCCLA Officers attended the Fall Leadership Workshop at Wayne State College on September 11th. Taya Voborny (President), Dylan Widger (Vice President and District Representative), Zoey Bergman (Secretary), Paige Nichols (Historian), and Jaime Hoefler (Public Relations/ News Reporter) left with adviser Mrs. Barb Bode early Friday morning to listen to numerous speakers, including Demoine Adams. Adams is originally from Arkansas but played on the 2001 Husker Football team and is a three-time recipient of the Brook Berringer Award as well as Nebraska Lifter of the Year. FCCLA Officers from District Eight listened to his motivational speech on "being a leader, not a follower" and delighted in ice breakers with Adams and State Officers. Each chapter officer also participated in various sessions geared toward their specific office in their local chapter, and fun sessions throughout the day, that were also lead by the State Officers. New ideas and expectations were explained, including "BFF" (Best FCCLA Friend). BFF is encouraged for current members to recruit new students to join FCCLA in hopes of increasing membership!

On Sunday, September 13th, 2015, Mrs. Bode found her "BFF" (Best FCCLA Friend) at the Elgin Chapter Lunch Stand during the Car Show held in the City Park. Members helped lend a hand in serving Car Show attendees hamburgers, chips, bars, and drinks as a fundraiser for upcoming outings and activities planned throughout the year. Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon assisting in flipping burgers and snacking on desserts. We hope to see you at the next FCCLA event in support of the Elgin Chapter!

Follow us on Twitter! @elginfccla

Article by Jaime Hoefler

From Mrs. Thiele-Blecher

Wolfpack Volleyball

The Wolfpack Volleyball team started practice on Monday, August 17th. The team is 30 members strong and opened the season with home games on Sept. 3rd. Currently the varsity is 7-2, the JV team is 2-2 and the C-team is 3-1. We have seen a lot of improvement already and are excited to see what happens this season!

C-Team & JV Action Photos



From Mrs. Siems

U.S. Symbols



The kindergarten students have been studying about symbols of the United States. We have learned about the Statue of Liberty, and talked about the White House and the bald eagle, a symbol of strength and courage. Our final project was the Liberty Bell, symbol of freedom.



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.

From Mrs. Dolezal

Wonderful World of Water

I asked students to write up something about their trip to wonderful World of Water this year because I could not attend. Thank you, Lydia, for your article!

Wonderful World of Water

 Wednesday, September 16, several Freshmen and Sophomores had the chance to experience Wonderful World of Water in Pierce, Nebraska. This was their twenty-sixth year hosting the event and my second year attending it.

We started the day off by splitting into separate teams and tracks. Sophomores were on track one and the Freshmen team participated in track two. The first station Sophomores checked in at educated us on different species of reptiles and amphibians. We saw everything from box turtles to a legless and armless lizard. He had many different breeds of snakes, and if you were brave enough, you were given the opportunity to hold one; needless to say, I was not one of those daring students.

Our second station talked about biodiversity, and through a game we learned how a species' population can fluctuate and decrease. After that station, we moved on to one about invasive plants and noxious weeds. Some examples of these plants include Canada thistle, leafy spurge, musk thistle, plumeless thistle, purple loosestrife, and salt cedar.

Following that station, we attended one educating us about different soils. Through many different experiments we saw the difference in performances of the non-tilled soil and the over tilled soil. We found that the less you till your soil, the better it is for organic matter and providing plants with efficient nutrients and water. Afterwards we went to our final station on water insects. We learned what classifies different critters as insects; we were then sent off to find our own aquatic insects. We split up into our teams, and used a D-net to fish out the different species of water insects. We then dumped them into one large pail of water and our instructor classified each one and pointed out key characteristics that each insect had.

Following each of these stations we were given small quizzes to see how much knowledge we retained from each station. Later, after completing these five stations, we broke up for lunch and talked amongst ourselves while the judges graded and tallied our quizzes.

To end the day we played a trivia game against other Sophomore teams. We placed third in this event, then we watched as the other teams shot off their homemade water bottle rockets. Following this event, teams received their awards. Although we placed fifth, I gained a lot of knowledge from attending Wonderful World of Water, and I would highly suggest it to incoming Freshman and returning Sophomores.



-Lydia Behnk

From Mrs. Gunderson

Scientists At Work

In Science the first graders are learning about tools used by scientists. They are using a magnifier to get a closer look at things. They will also learn about a thermometer, ruler, and balance.



From Mrs. R. Heithoff

The Art classes could use clear, Pringle can lids if anyone has some to share. Thanks!

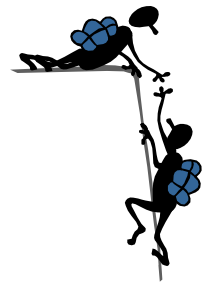
Mrs. Heithoff

From Mrs. Thorberg

TOP PAWS

The sixth grade class has chosen "Top Paws" as their team name this year. We will try to "look like a team", "think like a team", and "act like a team" as we work towards numerous goals throughout the coming year.

Counselor's Corner



Attend a College Fair in your area!

Upcoming fairs are scheduled in these locations:

- [Norfolk Area College Fair](#), Sunday, September 20, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Northeast Community College
- [Scottsbluff/Gering Area College Fair](#), Sunday, September 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (MT) – Gering Civic Center
- [Tri-State Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 4, 12:30-3:00 p.m. – Marina Center, South Sioux City
- [Grand Island Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 11, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Pinnacle Bank Expo Center
- [Lincoln Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Southeast Community College
- [Omaha Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 25 1:00-4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska at Omaha

If you can't make it to a College Fair, attend an **Educational Planning Program (EPP)** at a location near you. These "mini college fairs" also feature college representatives. See "[Upcoming Events](#)" at [EducationQuest.org](#) for dates and locations.

Register for a barcode!

Before you attend a college fair or EPP, visit [NebraskaCollegeFairs.org](#) to register for a barcode. Take the barcode to the event and college reps will scan it to retrieve your demographic information.

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.

Check out the college website before your visit. Most 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. [Here's a list](#) of good questions to ask.

It's time to Apply2College!

This fall, over 150 Nebraska high schools are holding Apply2College events during the school day to help seniors complete college applications. Whether or not your school is participating, [here are some tips and resources to help you prepare for the application process.](#)

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- ◆ **Don't pay for scholarship services!** Use free resources including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based awards. Free 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. Give them advance notice, a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.
- ◆ **Ask at least two people** to proofread your application.

October "To Do" List

Juniors and Seniors:

- ___ Attend the [College Fair](#) or [Educational Planning Program](#) in your area.
- ___ Attend a [Financial Aid Program](#) if one is being offered this month 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 18 for the October 24 ACT.
- ___ [Register](#) by October 9 for the November 7 SAT.

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dan Polk
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



The 2015-2016 Budget is the really big news from the superintendent's office this fall. With the conservative financial leadership of the board the school has stayed VERY progressive in updates to the facilities, transportation and technology while at the same time has more money "on hand" than there has been in quite some time. This factor, along with a small rise in other apportioned money from the state AND the name plate capacity tax from the wind tower projects has allowed us to actually ask for LESS money from the patrons of district 18. The Over-all budget itself will grow, as the state only allows fixed small growth every year and if you don't capture that, you lose it. For example if you don't take your growth allowed for two years---say 5% (2.5% a year) and the third year you need to grow more than 2.5% to meet bills, you cannot. You would have to dip into reserves or cut something to get back to the 2.5% you are allowed. With that said, even though the budget will grow the allowed amount on the revenue side (with the funds on hand, more money from the state and name plate capacity tax) it requires over 300,000 less dollars to come from property tax. Bottom line?? You will pay approximately 11% less in property taxes. Even with the valuation of the district increasing an average of 16%, tax bills will be down approximately 11%. Obvious good news to the patrons of District 18 as first estimates are that we will have one of the three lowest total levies in the state of Nebraska, while at the same time providing a very progressive and modern education for our students.

In other performance related news. Elgin Public continues to do VERY well on the state assessments and the "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 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.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOL "BELIEVES IN ME"



Staff and K-12 students from Elgin Public School posed for a picture on the newly reconstructed "Cinderella Steps" on the first day of school.

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

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

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff
greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



Elgin Public School Student Perform Well on State Test

The Nebraska Department of Education has released the "initial" 2015 NeSA (Nebraska State Assessment) results. The assessments were taken during the Spring of the 2014-15 school year. The results show the Elgin Public students performed very well in all areas of the test. All students in grades three through eleventh are tested in reading and math, in addition grades five, eight and eleven are tested in science and fourth, eighth and eleventh also take the state writing exam. The students and teachers are to be commended on their great efforts not only on the test but their efforts throughout the year. Well done!

Perfect Scores In One Subject

GRADE	READING Met or exceeded	MATH Met or exceeded	SCIENCE Met or exceeded	WRITING Met or exceeded
3rd	100%	100%		
4th	100%	100%		73%
5th	72%	72%	100%	
6th	100%	100%		
7th	100%	88%		
8th	86%	80%	74%	66%
11th	75%	84%	91%	83%



The following students had perfect scores in one subject.

*Front Row – Willam Heilhecker (Reading) Baylee Busted (Math) Trenton Reel (Math)
Middle Row- Allyson Wemhoff (Writing) Kane VonBonn (Math) Ethan Hinkle (Reading)
Back Row- Hunter Reestman (Math) Alois Warner (Math) Kaitlyn Polk (Writing)*

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NEWSLETTER
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