



# EAGLE UPDATE


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## DATES TO REMEMBER

 September 4  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Labor Day

 September 5th  
5th/6th Parent Meeting  
Music Room 7:00pm

 September 6  
Lifetouch School Pictures

 September 13  
Homecoming Coronation

 September 14  
School Board Meeting  
ITV Room 5:00pm

 September 15  
Homecoming

 September 19  
**EARLY OUT 1:00**  
PT Conferences

 September 21  
**LATE START 10:00**

# Off To A



# Great Start!

Elgin Public School students and staff are off to a great start! School began on August 16<sup>th</sup> with 166 students in grades PreK – 12. All students were given a bright orange Elgin Eagle t-shirt. The shirts boast that “every eagle soars” at Elgin Public Schools.

The theme for this year is Grit! When we look more closely at the definition of grit we realize that all of us can accomplish great things if we have the grit to finish the work ahead of us. Courage, determination, and fortitude will help us to reach our goals. When we think the task ahead of us is too difficult, we need to find that grit that will push us to completion. Students and staff are looking forward to a fantastic year!

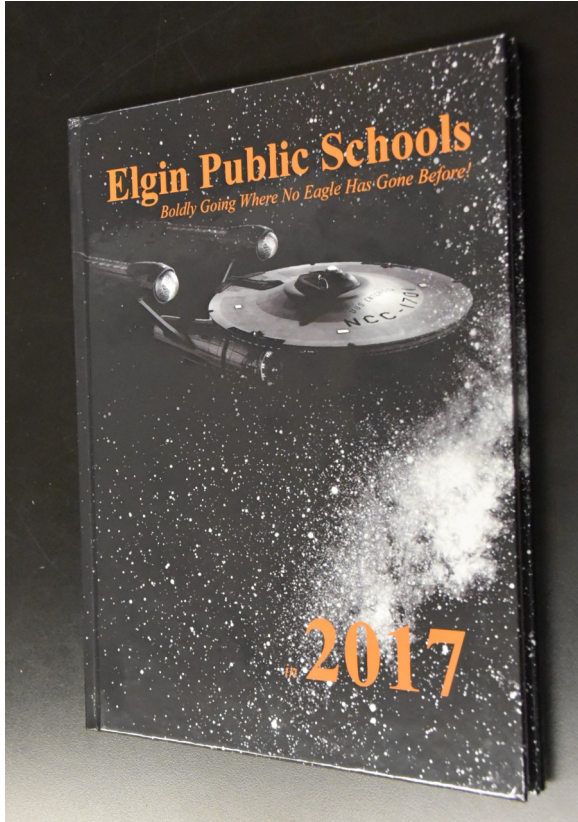
Check our website:  
[www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org) for  
the most current news &  
calendar.



From Mrs. R. Heithoff

## Yearbooks Have Arrived!

The 2017 yearbooks have arrived. Send a check (payable to Elgin Public Schools) for \$35 to Mrs. Rita Heithoff at school to order a yearbook for your "Lifetime of Memories". You may also order your yearbook online by logging onto <http://www.entourageyearbooks.com>. Click on "Buy".



From Mr. Coakes

## S'more Science

During lecture, chemistry students were asked to use a marshmallow to describe the difference between chemical and physical changes. Heating a marshmallow in a microwave is a physical change while toasting or burning over a fire to make a smore is a chemical change. One of our school's exchange students mentioned that they had never had a smore before. With some leftover goodies from the end of the year, we took a few minutes to Americanize him with this campfire tradition.

From Mr. Heithoff

## Whack-a-Music!

Kindergarten had a lot of fun using Boomwhackers to keep the beat along with one of their favorite songs!



## Healthy September

Here are things to look for from our school nurse in September!

- Mrs. Stearns will begin health screening with students.
- Miles of Smiles will be coming on September 19th. Watch for more info!



Check out our website: [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)

From Mrs. Schwartz

## FFA

Important FFA Dates to remember for September:  
Sept 1st: FFA welding and range boards will be on display at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island September 1st-4th.

Sept 6th: Range Practice 2

Sept 13th: Range Practice 3

Sept 14th: District x Range Contest, Holt Co.

Sept 19th: Area V District Range Contest, Boyd Co.

Sept 22nd: Annual FFA Hired Hand Auction, After FB game on the field

Sept 26th & 27th: State Range Judging, Keith Co.

## Agriculture Education

The 2016-2017 welding and ag mechanic students submitted welding boards to Antelope County Fair recently. Most of the boards will be on display at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island September 1st - 4th.

Pictured is Hayes Miller with his SMAW board. He is just one of many agriculture students that made boards during the 2016-2017 school year. The boards are a required to be completed by each student in a welding or agriculture mechanics class. In return for their work they can submit them to the local county fair and then onto the state fair and enter them as a FFA static exhibit. The boards need to have eight different welds on them. The welds can differ in characteristics such as the thickness of metal, welding position or electrode used.



From Mrs. Klein

## Spanish

The Spanish classes have been working hard since returning to school. We have been reviewing in all high school levels, getting our minds back on the language. Elementary Spanish has also begun, and it is exciting to see so many young minds working! We will once again have a Spanish Club for high school students interested in learning more about Hispanic and Latin culture. Overall, it should be a great year.

From Mrs. Lindgren

## Math

As another school year gets underway, Elgin Public School students are once again revving up their brains to conquer mathematical concepts. My goal is to give students the ability to reason and problem-solve in a wide variety of ways.

Pre-Calculus students are stuffing five-days worth of material into four days because of the new Fridays at Northeast program. They need to find strategies to balance both!

Geometry students are taking lots of notes to fill their mathematical tool box with the definitions, facts, and formulas they will need to be successful this year. They need to be able to sift through their toolbox to find the idea necessary to solve specific questions.

Algebra students are once again searching for that elusive 'X' as solutions to equations and inequalities, and they, too must use the tools of algebra to get to the correct answer, or to understand when no solution is the answer. They also need to determine whether a given answer is reasonable for the problem.

## Is there money in your lunch account?



You can check your balance on JMC using your parent password.

## 7th & 5th Graders attended Kindness & Courage Retreat 2017 at Niobrara



*"Help others out when they are getting bullied and do not let them stand alone."* **Grace M.**

*"ALWAYS  
be  
Yourself!"*  
**Jack W.**



*"At the Kindness Retreat we learned to meet new people and throw out kindness boomerangs to others."*

**Lauren V.**



*"I will always remember the activity when we had to write down what we promise to do. Then we said out loud what we wrote."* **Sara B.**



*"The experience I will remember the most was when we went on the jump rope and the feeling we felt on the other side when we got across."* **William H.**



**Don't forget - Parent-Teacher Conferences Sept. 19th**

## Kindergarten



14 Kindergarten students and Mrs. Wemhoff are ready for a fun and exciting year of learning!

## Second Grade



Second Grade has nine students this year. Our numbers may be small, but we are very active and looking forward to a wonderful school year!

## Preschool



The Preschoolers are off to a great start and are excited for an awesome school year!

## 1st Grade



Welcome to first grade! This year there are twelve first graders. We are very excited to be back to school and eager to learn new things. Members of the first grade class are Madison, Jeneli, John, Sophia, Kynlee, Gentry, Kinley, Braedon, Kyrra, Xander, Macy, and Jael. -- Miss Cooper

## Third Grade



The 3rd grade class is off to a great start this year! We have 15 students and would like to welcome our new student, Elizabeth.

### List of students

(Front row l to r): Justice, Ruby, Rylen, Gavin, Tristen  
(2nd row l to r): Wyatt, Gemma, Megan, Anna, Elizabeth  
(3rd row l to r): Kierstyn, Braelyn, Antonio, Lillie, Libby

## Fourth Grade



The Elite Eight 4th graders are all geared up and ready for a new year.

From Mrs. Drucke

### **Junior High Students Have Opportunity to Read and See Wonder**

During the first few days of school, the junior high English students were given a book talk about the novel Wonder by R.J. Palacio, an uplifting story about a ten year old boy attending school for the first time. Auggie was a normal boy, on the inside, but people had a hard time seeing that because he was born with a face deformity. This made it difficult for people to look past his imperfections and see the true “wonder” inside him. This book tells of Auggie’s bravery, overcoming his fears of being an outcast, and his friends’ journey of acceptance. It calls attention to kindness and acceptance and also makes a bold statement about bullying.

Students in seventh and eighth grade were offered copies of the book, and there will be opportunities to meet as a group and discuss what they’ve been reading and how it’s affecting them. Upon successful completion of the book, the students will earn a trip to Norfolk to watch the motion picture adapted from the novel, which will be released mid-November. The goal is to make this a fun experience for the students, but, more importantly, we want to leave a lasting impression on these students about kindness.

“It’s not enough to be friendly. You have to be a friend.” --Wonder by R.J. Palacio



Follow us on TWITTER!

@ElginPublic  
#elginpublic

## Fifth Grade



One new student makes it 16 fifth graders this year!

Back row: Sonni, Chloe, Kate, Sara, Taylor, Austin

Middle row: Alejandro, Riddick, Callie, Trissa, Samantha

Front row: Kaeden, Lauren, Mrs. Borer, Emma, Mercedes, Jaidyn

**All Elgin Public 5th & 6th Grade parents are asked to attend a parent meeting Sept. 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the music room. The meeting will showcase a new program for 5th & 6th grade music. This will also include cadet band. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Thank you!**



Together We Transform Lives

# TEAMMATES<sup>SM</sup>

## MENTORING

### Elgin Public Schools Establishes a TeamMates Mentoring Program Chapter.

Elgin will join communities across Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Wyoming in an effort to provide mentors for youth in grades three through twelve. "We are very excited to launch TeamMates Mentoring in the Elgin. The strong school and community support is evident from the work being done locally to establish the TeamMates program." Stated Sue Kennedy, TeamMates Regional Coordinator, who facilitated a local board training on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The TeamMates of Elgin program will begin mentoring students in the 4th through 6th grades who attend Elgin Public Schools and have established a goal of 30 matches for the 2017-2018 school year.

To find out more about how to be a mentor for TeamMates of Elgin contact (Krista Eisenhauer or Sonia Rittscher 843-2455) or go to [www.teammates.org](http://www.teammates.org).

The TeamMates Mentoring Program was founded in 1991 by Tom and Nancy Osborne to provide support and encouragement to youth. In this school-based mentoring program, mentors come to the school one visit per week, during the school year, and meet with a student. Mentors can play games, talk, work on projects, etc. TeamMates Mentors provide a sense of hope and vision to young people, with a mission to help them reach their full potential. Today, through TeamMates, approximately, 8000 youth are being mentored one visit per week at their local school by adult volunteers.

From Mr. Mlinar

### Typing Tidbits

We live in the Digital Age. Kids are using computers at a very young age. When using a laptop or desktop computer, children must understand how to use the keyboard properly. Therefore, if you have a young child, it is important that you monitor your children's typing technique on the keyboard. **Let's help our children now before they develop bad habits that are hard to break!**

- At a young age, it is more important to focus on accuracy! Do not worry about speed! Make sure children are using the correct fingers and limiting errors!
- Always keep your hands on HOME ROW.
- Use the correct finger and gently type the key. Then, quickly return the finger to its assigned home row key.
- As time progresses, children should start looking at the screen instead of down at the keyboard.
- Take short breaks every 20-30 minutes. Move around and stretch. Give your muscles, joints, and eyes some rest.



# From the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dan Polk  
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



The school year has gotten off to a rip-roaring start this year. The HUGE event of the Solar eclipse, like so many of those events, had weeks and weeks of build up that came to a couple hour conclusion led off our first full week. The student body had lots of time to view the eclipse as well as have it tied into some of their classes on a learning basis. I personally was amazed at how SHARP and detailed the shadows were during the main part of the event. It was quite amazing to witness and understand various aspects of it, since it is such a rare occurrence.

The “regulars” of beginning school (bus routes, timed routines, getting back in the swing) are all going VERY smooth. WE have a TREMENDOUS facility, GREAT staff, and high expectations and beliefs of our students, our capabilities and of reaching our desired outcomes. We have gained in our total number of students compared to last year and are proud to be serving many area youth, as well as local Elgin youth at our school. A school campus which has also had some big improvements done over the summer; notably oiled parking north of the gym building, a reworked football field and new playground equipment just to name a few. We have a VERY accepting and welcoming student body and this year are continuing to promote doing the extra things to make a better life for ourselves and each other. This includes going the extra degree (water doesn't boil at 211, it takes the extra degree), showing some grit and helping and working with and for each other as we travel through this time period known as life.

There are some improvements and changes to procedures and curriculum so please always remember if you have any questions about school feel free to contact your children's teachers, Mr. Wemhoff, or myself. We are very open to discuss anything you may have questions about or deem appropriate in relation to the operation of the Elgin Public Schools. GO EAGLES!!!

From Mrs. Shumake-Henn

## If Facebook Existed During Greek Times . . .

In preparation for their reading of *The Odyssey*, the seniors in English 12 have been busy demonstrating their knowledge of the Greeks.

Before they delved into Homer's notorious epic, they created a Facebook page for Ares, the Greek god of war. Their mission was to illustrate what they remembered about some of the greatest players in Greek mythology.

Through this social media format, they created relevant posts, friend lists, likes, and typical Facebook interaction. With some cameo appearances by Donaldus Trumpitus and Kimlonious Unus, among others, the Seniors accomplished their mission and even laughed a little along the way.



## ***PUBLIC NOTICE***

Residents of District 18, Elgin, are notified that School District 18, Elgin, NE participates in all required Special Education Services for all resident students, ages 0-21. If you know of any student not currently being serviced by an appropriate educational program or have questions concerning the Special Education Program, contact the Superintendent's office at Elgin Public School.

Elgin Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. Further, the school complies with all Title IX and Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines as determined by Federal directives.





## MAP TESTING COMPLETED

I am sure that you have heard some of your students come home and talk about MAP testing. This year students took their MAPS test about a month earlier than previous years. In fact the first of our MAP testing was completed the week of the August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Why? We felt the earlier the students are tested the better picture we get of the students growth or lack of growth. 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 our students have improved from the fall to late winter. 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. Parent can ask about how their children are doing at Parent Teachers conferences on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

### MAP Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

#### What are MAP assessments?

MAP stands for "Measuring Academic Progress"

MAP "Fits the test to the student, not the student to the test"

MAP provides differentiated assessment data to find the instructional level of all students

MAP provides accurate and reliable assessment data across a common and stable scale (like a ruler or yardstick)

MAP gives teachers additional information to help make decisions about your child's education

#### What are the main features of MAP testing?

MAP testing is "computer adaptive" meaning that questions will adapt to the student's achievement level

MAP tests are not timed, students may take as much time as they need

MAP measures and reports student growth over time.

#### What subject areas do MAP assessments measure?

Reading

Mathematics

Language Usage

General Science

Science Concepts and Processes

From Mrs. Thiele-Blecher

The Wolfpack Volleyball team played their jamboree games at the State Fair! Great way to start our season and fun for all the girls as they spent their Saturday enjoying fair food, the midway and watching College Volleyball games!!



# 2017 ECLIPSE

Here's some pictures of what EPS did for the Eclipse!



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