



## DATES TO REMEMBER

-  March 3rd  
NO SCHOOL  
Girls State Basketball
-  March 9th  
School Board Meeting  
7:30 pm- ITV Room
-  March 10th  
NO SCHOOL  
Boys State Basketball
-  March 14th  
End of 3rd Quarter
-  March 16th  
1:00 OUT  
PT Conferences
-  March 17th  
10:00 LATE START
-  March 18th  
EPS Solo Contest  
8:30 am- Music Room
-  March 21st  
NVC Band  
at Elkhorn Valley  
7:00 pm Concert
-  March 24th  
State Speech in Kearney
-  March 30th  
Kindergarten Roundup  
6:30 pm

# EPS STUDENTS GET PATRIOTIC

From Mrs. Heithoff



# FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

## Elgin Speech Team Shines in Debut

After being unable to attend the Howells-Dodge meet as a result of snow, the EPS Speech team was finally able to compete on Friday.

The team traveled to Lindsay Holy Family and returned with a third place team finish behind Boone Central and Twin River. They also brought home a number of medals.

Top honors on the day went to the duet of Kenny Bush and Hunter Reestman, who were champions in the event and Lydia Behnk who also brought home the championship medal in Entertainment Speaking.

The duet of Taya Voborny and Zoey Bergman earned the runner-up medal, and the OID of Bush, Reestman, Voborny, Bergman and Behnk also brought home the runner-up medal.

Jaime Hoefler returned with a sixth-place medal in Serious Prose, while Kira Widger placed eighth in Poetry.

Mateo Kirstine received an Excellent Rating in Extemporaneous Speaking, and Lexi Swanson earned an Excellent Rating in Poetry.

Coaches Stacy Shumake-Henn and Jessie Reestman were very pleased with their first outing.

“Considering the weather issues that have resulted in missed practices and even an earlier meet, we were thrilled with the results. The kids have been putting in as much time as they’ve been able to, but we have just needed a meet. To get six of the eight events we brought into finals was really fun for the kids.”

According to the coaches, they have a good number of experienced members returning, but they have also been joined by some new talent.

“We graduated a great group of seniors last year, but our returning members have really stepped up as leaders. We also have some new members this year who have been fun to watch develop. As always, we are blessed with a great group of kids who are very talented and a lot of fun.”

## Bark Paintings in Spanish Class

The junior high Spanish class enjoyed creating their own bark paintings. Mexican bark painting originated from the Aztec rulers who used it as tributes for rituals and temple decoration. Today, the Otomi people of San Pablito, Sierra de Puebla, still make bark paper by hand.



### OPTION ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

Are you interested in sending your students to Elgin Public School? If you live outside of District 18 and would like to enroll for the fall semester 2017-2018, you must file the option enrollment application before March 15th. If you file after that date your resident school district determines whether they will allow you to opt out of their district. For further information or to request an option enrollment application, please contact the school office 843-2455.





# Call to Register for Preschool

Elgin Early Learning Center will have a registration night on March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the preschool room. Please call the school (402-843-2455) if you are interested in enrolling your child for the 2017-18 school year.



The preschool is divided into two sections with 3-year olds and 4-year olds attending at different times. Students who would be prospective kindergartners the following year will enroll in the morning session from 8:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 5 days a week. The charge for this

session will be \$450 per school year. Full payment can be made immediately or in monthly installments of \$50.

The second session would be 3-year olds and they would attend from 12:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. for four days a week at a cost of \$360 per school year. Full payment can be made immediately or in monthly installments of \$40.

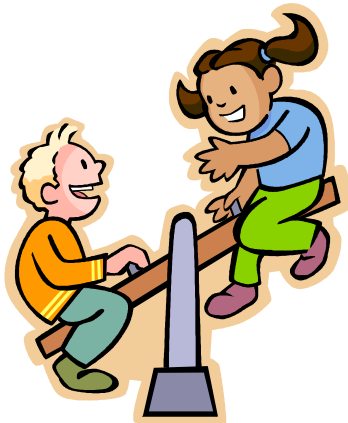
Midday transportation (drop-off for the morning group and pick-up for the afternoon group) will be provided within the school district boundaries. Preschool students may ride the traditional morning or afternoon bus routes if they live outside of Elgin and are in the district boundaries.


A child must be 3 or 4 years old by July 31st in order to enter the preschool. Classes are limited to 20 students per age group. Enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis with priority given to children who live in Elgin School District #18. All children must be potty trained.

Tuition is not charged to those families that qualify for free or reduced meals according to federal guidelines.

To enroll your 3 or 4 year old for the 2017-2018 school year, please call the school office 402-843-2455. After student enrollment is completed, information will be sent to all parents about a registration meeting on March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. This will enable parents to complete registration paperwork on their student.

If you have any questions or to enroll your child, please call the school office at 402-843-2455 during regular school hours.



  
**ROUND-UP**  
**MARCH 30TH**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**EPS Kindergarten Classroom**

From Mrs. Spiegel

## First Grade Valentines Fun

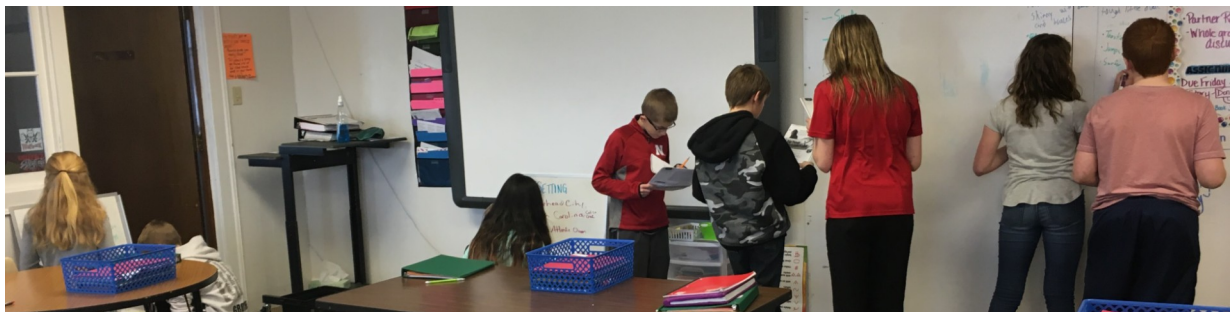
First Graders had a fun time celebrating Valentine's Day, here they are showing off their fun boxes they made.



From Mrs. Druke

## Digging Deeper Into the Text

Before discussing a recent story they read, the seventh grade language arts students partner up and move about the room answering questions that have been posted around the room. The questions push the students to dig deep into the text to answer questions about the story's plot, characters, story elements and to make inferences.



## Second Grade Paragraphs, Continued!



The second graders are still writing paragraphs. These are a few more that they have written.

### Wyatt Paul

Do you like sunshine and warm days? Playing outside in the summer is fun. I like to swing. Grandma and I pick and water flowers together. I love to play with my three cats too. Summer is the best.

### Brealyn Martinson

I love Christmas presents! This is how I celebrate Christmas. In the morning my family goes downstairs by the tree and open presents. I got binoculars and Shopkins pajamas from Mom and Dad. My grandma and grandpa come to our house and bring food. This year we eat chicken, fruit salad, and chili. I got Brenna a slime volcano for Christmas, she loved it. My family loves celebrating Christmas.

### Anna Smith

Do you like Valentine's Day? This is how we celebrate Valentine's Day. We make valentine cards after school when we get home. I give people and friends valentine cards. I put decorations up in the house. We have a party in the house. These are the things I do on Valentine's Day.

### Gemma Miller

It is dark out and we are looking for deer. I go deer hunting with my grandpa and my dad. It is cold because there is not a heater in my grandpa and my dad's deer stand. All we have seen so far is a fawn and its mom. My grandpa sometimes uses my 22 golden boy, it is heavy. I won it at a gun show. After we were out of the stand we heard several coyotes. They sounded like Janja and his crew on Lion Guard. It was freaky. My dad did not get a deer but my grandpa shot a doe. I love hunting with my dad and my grandpa.

### Tristen Mortensen

We make homemade lemonade! I'm going to tell you about visiting my great great grandma. We go upstairs and play at Grandmas. Kristopher and I play school. He is the teacher. After we get done playing we make homemade lemonade with Grandma. I get to take a drink of it to test it. After we get finish drinking our lemonade we go watch Goosebumps or Power Rangers. Going to my grandmas is fun.

### Lillie Kinney

There's lots of snow! I like playing in the snow. We make snowballs in the snow. We take some snow and roll it up in a ball and make a snowball. I make snow forts too. We take some snow and stack it on each other like bricks. We go to a hill that is very, very high. Then we sled down the hill. Finally we go to a flat area and make a snowman. We make snowballs and stack the snowballs from large to small. These are the things I do in the snow.

### Gavin Harkins

Have you ever been to a zoo? Zoos are fun. We go to Omaha to see the zoo. My parents have to pay for tickets. Then I go into the zoo and to see the zebras. Next we go to the giraffes. They have long necks. After the giraffes I see the tigers. The tigers have sharp teeth. Zoos have lots of animals.

### Megan Wright

Parties are fun! I have been to a party. I get to have fun and I get to play games. Next we get to eat cake. Then we get to play musical chairs. We set the chairs in a line and then we walk around the chairs until the music stops. This was at a friend's birthday party that I went to.

## Busy Times in Math Class

These past few weeks have been busy ones for the math classes. Advanced Algebra B has just completed their finance unit. They have been using their TI-84 calculators to figure monthly payments and future values of loans and investments.

Algebra IB has been working with quadratic equations. They have been working with various methods to find the solutions of these equations. They have also been putting their graphing calculators to good use throughout this unit.

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I, the students have spent quite a bit of time working with polynomials. They have been identifying the different types of polynomials, performing mathematical operations on polynomials, and factoring. Math 7 has been working on many geometry concepts.

Algebra IA has been continuing the study of linear equations and their graphs. They will soon begin working with the TI-84 calculator to explore how they can be used to make graphing and problem solving easier.



From Mrs. Eisenhauer

### Third Grade NeSA Testing

Spring is a very busy time in the third grade classroom. The third graders will be taking the NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) tests next month for the very first time. Students will be tested in the areas of math and reading. They have been working hard in the classroom to get prepared. During class we have reviewed math and reading vocabulary daily to help us understand the terms that are used on the tests. The students have been going to the computer lab to familiarize themselves with the format of the test. Students have been completing practice tests both in math and reading to help ease any nerves. Please encourage your child to do their very best on these upcoming assessments. Remind them to take their time, read carefully, reread for better understanding and to check over their answers. Please remember to make sure your child gets a good night's rest before school and to eat a healthy breakfast to begin their day. A note and schedule of testing dates/times will come home at the beginning of April. Try your best and good luck third graders!

From Mrs. Wemhoff

### Kindergarten Love Monsters!

The kindergarten had a great time creating their Valentine's Day Love Monsters!



From Mr. Becker

### Parachute Fun in PE!



From Mrs. Thiele- Blecher

**I Can Read:**

*learning to  
read at home*

- 1. Reading to your child.**
- 2. Reading with your child.**
- 3. Listening to your child read independently.**
- 4. Read words in context**
- 5. Read words out of context.**

### March 6-10 is National School Breakfast week!

Eating breakfast:

- Improves classroom performance, including better test scores and grades.
- Increases children's ability to focus and concentrate on school work.
- Decreases behavior problems, tardiness and visits to the school nurse.
- Increases attendance rates

Just as important, when students routinely start their day with breakfast, chances are good that it will become a habit that carries into their teenage and adult years.

Breakfast is offered at Elgin Public School every morning from 7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Menus are listed on our website [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)





From Mrs. Zwingman



## New Notable Children's Book List

The Association for Library Service to Children released it's 2017 Notable Children's Book list.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>

Here are some of the books listed:

### ***Coyote Moon.***

By Maria Gianferrari. Illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. Roaring Brook.

Striving to feed her pups, a coyote hunts in the moonlight until dawn. This strikingly illustrated, nonfiction offering holds many facts and celebrates this skilled predator.

### ***Horrible Bear!***

By Ame Dyckman. Illus. by Zachariah O'Hara. Little, Brown.

When a kite goes astray, an accident and misunderstanding bring together two unlikely friends in a story about the power of forgiveness.

### ***Leave Me Alone!***

By Vera Brosgol. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook.

In her endeavor to make sweaters for 30 curious grandchildren, a harried grandmother embarks on a quest for peace and quiet. (***Caldecott Honor Book***)

### ***The Secret Keepers.***

By Trenton Lee Stewart. Illus. by Diana Sudyka. Little, Brown/Megan Tingley.

When 12-year-old Reuben finds a peculiar, magical watch that has the power to turn its owner invisible, he's propelled on the adventure of a lifetime.

### ***Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World about Kindness.***

By Donna Janell Bowman. Illus. by Daniel Minter. Lee & Low.

Born a slave, William "Doc" Key, became a self-taught veterinarian. With much kindness, he raised a remarkable horse, named Jim Key, which he taught to answer questions, spell, and write.

### ***Wolf Hollow.***

By Lauren Wolk. Dutton.

In this coming-of-age story, spunky and courageous Annabelle defends a veteran who has become the target of local bullying attacks. (***Newbery Honor Book***)

From Mr. Coakes

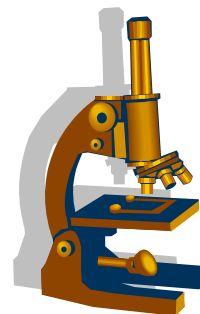
## Science Fair Preparations in Full Swing

The Science Fair will soon be fast approaching. This year, the Science Fair will be held on April 10th, 6:30-8:30 in the gym. All 7-12 grade students in a science class are required to participate as part of their grade. The purpose of a science fair is to encourage inquiry and have students investigate a phenomenon for the sake of their own knowledge. We will be reviewing the Scientific Method in class and work on students' projects will begin in March. Students will get one day a week to work on projects in class but the rest will be completed on their own time. Parental involvement is encouraged so long as the student is the one in charge of the project and does most of the work. Encourage your children to be inquisitive and thinking about what interests them for ideas for projects. The sites listed below may be helpful in narrowing down a project for your students. Happy sciencing!

<https://goo.gl/WWVEKa>

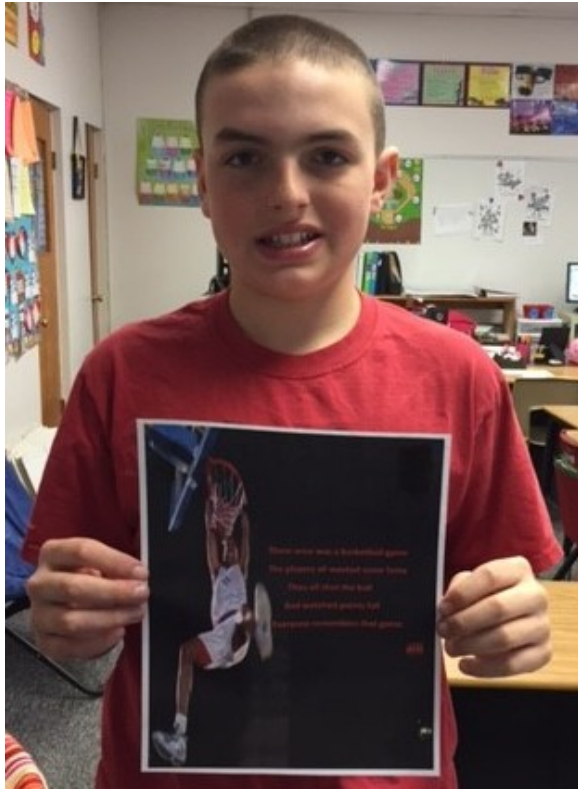
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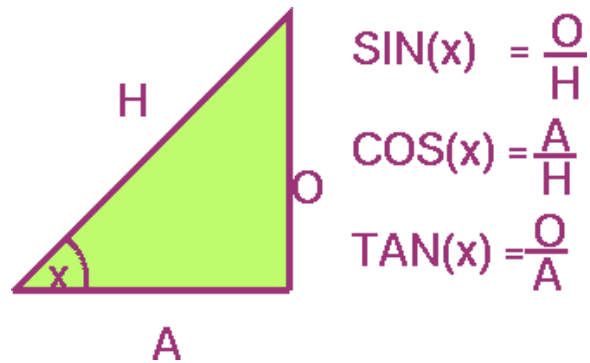
## 5th Grade Poetry

The fifth graders learned about different types of poems including acrostic poems, haikus, and limericks. Each student wrote one of each and picked their favorite to publish. Valentine's Day was the topic of many, along with farming and basketball.



## It's Trig Time

As I look at the calendar, I see the end of the year approaching very quickly. I hope to cover many topics before then. However, with snow days, school activities, and illness, progress has been slow. I want to make sure that my students have learned or reviewed some trigonometric content as testing season gets in full swing. Trigonometry, the utilization of the relationship between the sides and angles of triangles, is a topic that most students will encounter in testing. Although the calculus class got started on this topic last fall, they are still finding the need for knowing those trigonometric facts. The geometry and Advanced Algebra classes have both begun to investigate those angle-side relationships. We are looking at unit circles, right triangles, and reference angles to solve problems. Does anyone know Soh Cah Toa?



## Agriculture class works with new Tower Gardens.

As a result of earning a \$2000 Working Here Fund Grant from Farm Credit Services. The Plant Science students have started the process of growing veggies in Tower Gardens. Tower Garden, a vertical, aeroponic growing system, allows us to grow up to 20 vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers in less than three square feet—indoors or out. Basically, this is an advanced form of hydroponics. Aeroponics is the process of growing plants in an air or mist environment rather than soil. Aeroponic systems use water, liquid nutrients and a soilless growing medium to quickly and efficiently grow more colorful, tastier, better smelling and incredibly nutritious produce.

We have the gardens in the agriculture classroom now, but once our flowers come in for the greenhouse, the towers will be placed out there. The two tower gardens are planted with gourmet lettuce, basil, peppers, cherry and regular tomatoes and cucumbers. Follow the growth of the veggies on the Elgin Public School twitter account as the plant science class will tweet weekly pictures of the progress. Our end goal is to produce enough vegetables for school cafeteria lunches and donate to the senior center. It typically takes 3-5 weeks for the veggies to grow until we are able to harvest them.



## How to Write Winning Scholarship Essay

### PROCESS:

Research the Prompt -> Develop Concepts -> Outline -> Write -> Revise & Edit

- Spend some time on first step, which is "Research the Prompt." What is the prompt asking and WHY? Who will be reading the essay? Understand WHERE the committee is coming from in asking the prompt that they do. For example, there is a big difference between speaking to leadership in service vs. leadership in school.

- Same essay CAN NOT be used for MULTIPLE scholarships.

When developing EXAMPLE/STORY to address in essay, use most powerful example/story, NOT just the first example/story that you think of. Think of it as prom dress shopping!

### POINTERS:

Uniqueness

- Use example/story that is unique and one that no one else can share.

- Example/story is vehicle to answer prompt, but be sure that it doesn't distract.

Uniqueness factor helps YOUR essay rise to the top--an anchor for reader to remember.

Single Focus

- Avoid listing what is already on resume.

- Avoid "I was president of my speech team, editor of school newspaper, and class president." INSTEAD pick one and build.

For Buffett, presenter said to focus on single focus per question with one thread overall.

Structure

- Chronological OR Cause->Effect

- You want an example/story, but main focus of structure should tie to take away of essay. And that take away needs to be relevant and connected to prompt!

"Take away" = life lesson and how you plan to move forward from it

Opening

- AVOID questions and quotes

- Action - takes reader into middle of example/story

- Dialogue - takes reader into action but with dialogue

- Societal statement - takes adult reader into mind of young adult's societal observations

Personal - takes reader into your mind

Tone & Style

- Make YOUR voice noticeable: It shouldn't sound like a research paper.

- This is YOUR time in front of the "committee." The presenter said that scholarship committees that he's been a part of, each reader is given 7 minutes to read all application materials! That is 7 minutes to read student essay, letters of recommendation, and anything else involved with particular scholarship. **Make your 7 minutes count!**

- The presenter REALLY stressed importance of SENTENCE VARIETY as in sentence length and structure.

- Same length sentences = flat sounding essay

- Word choice helps with uniqueness. Don't try to sound "academic."

- Avoid clichés

Use transitions like furthermore, therefore, hence, etc. Lead reader through essay.

## Preschool Spring "Mooovement"

Mooove over winter the first signs of Spring have arrived!! Steve and Casey Busted brought in a day old calf for Show n Tell. Thank you Steve, Casey and Garrett!





# F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Greg Wemhoff  
greg.wemhoff@elgineagles.org



## MAP Testing

Twice a year students at EPS are administered the MAP assessments. Earlier this year (September) they were given the first of two assessments and next week these same students will be given the second round of assessments. The information below explains in a “nutshell” why we give this assessment and why it is so important to get the best effort from every student. Testing will take place on the following dates: **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 23rd, 28th and April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Thanks for your help and please encourage your children to do the best they can.

### The purpose of MAP assessments . . .

- is to provide an instructional level of our students
- provides a road map for students toward achieving mastery
- to give information to help inform instructional decisions
- to give immediate data and dynamic, interactive reports for parents and teachers

### 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
- The computer adapts questions until it finds the student’s RIT level with an acceptable standard error measure
- 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

### Listed below are a couple things that you as a parent can do to help your student prepare for the tests:

- Talk to your student about the test. Ask questions and let your student know you are aware of the tests and their importance.
- Help students get eight (8) hours of sleep. Being well rested promotes brain function and the ability to pay attention. Eat a healthy breakfast. Having nutritious foods prior to the test will allow students to focus more effectively.

For more information on resources for parents, download the *Parent Toolkit* at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org) under Partner Support. This is a great resource for parents that is totally free.

## Here’s An App For That!

Elgin Public Schools continues to be very progressive in technology for its students but also for the public and out patrons. We have a lot of information and accessibility via the internet and our web page that allow for looking up students grades, lunch accounts and other information as well as news. Don’t forget that we have an “APP” that you can download from the app store or Google play. It is available for Apple and Android phone devices and tablets/lpads. This is a much quicker and easier way to get to your favorite school’s web information and destination rather than having to always use a browser. Happy internet surfing..... Go Eagles!



# Administratively Speaking . . .



By Dan Polk  
dan.polk@elgineagles.org

Summer project lists are beginning. It took me the longest time in my tenure here to find and update projects to complete this year. This is a testament to your board staying up on campus repairs and upkeep that prevents major costs to be incurred later. They have done an excellent job, and it's not easy.

If you are in education it's to make a difference; a positive difference in the lives of others, especially the students. I am confident with the people we have involved in day to day operations at the Elgin Public Schools, along with our board members, that we are making a vital and positive difference in the lives of our students. I'm proud to be an educator and more than that, proud to be an educator working in Elgin, Nebraska. Not only do our students get a good education when it comes to the curriculum, they get a good education and see a lot of modeling and education on how to be a professional and adult. Manners, respect, civil discord, honesty and other traits are not as prevalent in society as they used to be. It's even more important that we display and model those things as a community and a school district. Some bigger, some smaller, none better!

If you have any comments, concerns or questions with school operations; please do not hesitate to give us a call at the school.



## National School Breakfast Week– March 6-10



Plan to Attend:  
Student-Led Conferences  
March 16th  
Classes dismiss at 1:00 p.m.  
Conferences begin at 4:00 p.m.

For the latest in news, check out our website: [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)

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