



EAGLE UPDATE


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Elgin Public School
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Volume XXXIII, Issue 8


March, 2018


DATES TO REMEMBER


-  March 2nd
NO SCHOOL


-  March 9th
NO SCHOOL


-  March 14th
School Board Meeting
6:30 pm- ITV Room


-  March 14th
End of 3rd Quarter

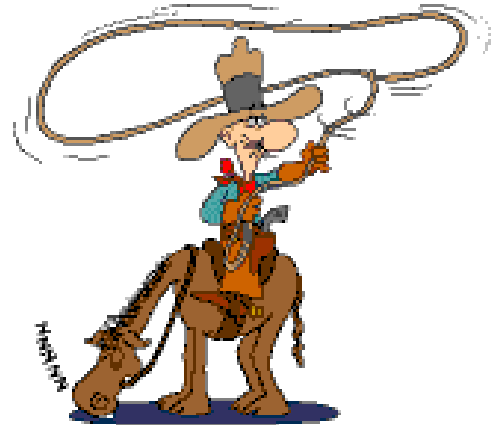
-  March 15th
1:00
Student-let Conferences

-  March 16th
10:00 LATE START

-  March 17th
EPS Solo Contest
Music Room

-  March 22nd
Preschool Registration Night
6:30 pm

-  March 22nd
Kindergarten Round-up 7:00 p.m.



PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP AROUND THE CORNER



From Mrs. Beckman

Elgin Public Library Visits Second Grade

Friday, January 19th Mrs. Gunderson and Mrs. Bode from the Elgin Public Library came to the second grade room and read us a story about a snowman. Then they helped each student make a snowman. The students also got doughnuts (snowballs) for a snack.



From Mrs. Druke

Junior High Book Club

The junior high book club met over lunch for the first time on January 31 to discuss *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. They met in the high school library and enjoyed an enlightening discussion on the book as well as the library's new furniture. The book club was organized by senior Lydia Behnk. The book for February is *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.



Miles of Smiles in Elgin on March 20th

From Mr. Mlinar

The Stock Market Game

Have you ever wondered what it was like to have \$100,000? If you would like an anecdote, ask an Economics student! In mid-January, students joined the Stock Market Game, an online simulation for investing. In teams of two, students were given a fictitious \$100,000. What is the objective? Invest the money in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds to earn the highest rate of return.

So far, students have experienced a pronounced downturn in early February. Many accounts have taken hits and students have been a little rattled, but with a long-term view, the students are going to see things through! In order to stay on top of their investments, students are asked to submit a research report on an investment once a week. Invest away!



From Mrs. Klein

Quiz Bowl Underway

Quiz Bowl will begin its season on March 6th and 7th at the ESU in Neligh. Then we will compete at the Pope John Tournament on March 16th. On the 26th we will go to Keya Paha to compete at NVC.

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 2018-2019, 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 22nd 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 2018-19 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.

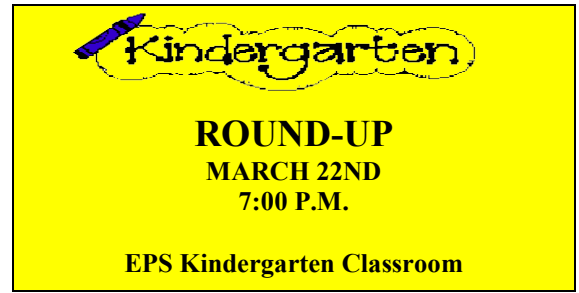
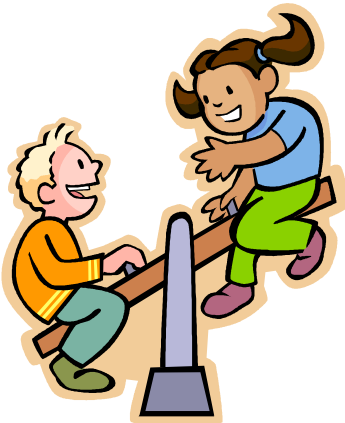
Midday transportation (drop-off for the morning group and pick-up for the afternoon group) will be provided within the school district boundaries. Preschool students may ride the traditional morning or afternoon bus routes if they live outside of Elgin and are in the district boundaries.

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 2018-2019 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 22nd at 6:30 p.m. This will enable parents to complete registration paperwork on their student. Current shot record and birth certificate are required at round up.

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



From Mrs. Wemhoff

Kindergarten's 100th Day of School!

The Kindergarten class celebrated 100 Days of School on January 17th. We made necklaces with 100 Fruit Loops, counted and wrote to 100, and wore crazy 100 glasses. It was a fun day and we are all glad we are 100 days smarter!



From Mr. Becker

5th and 6th Parachute Fun in PE



From Mrs. Rittscher

Scholarships

It is the time of year when a lot of scholarships become available and are due.

Education Quest is one portal that seniors can access to determine scholarships with which they are eligible. Education Quest is a free and online service available at educationquest.org. Seniors can access a scholarship list service that they can then save scholarships to investigate and complete.

Scholarships, especially local scholarships, are housed on the elginaeagles.org website under the "Guidance" and then "Scholarships" tabs. This resource provides links for students to access and consider eligibility status as well as specific information in regard to due dates, application materials, etc.

Seniors also have a spread sheet on Google docs that is updated. This resource provides a snapshot of eligibility requirements and then quick links for application steps and materials.

Parents can access the resource on elgineagles.org website and also keep an eye on due dates via a link that is on the daily bulletin.

A new local scholarship available is the Invenergy Scholarship. This scholarship is available to all seniors and has few eligibility requirements other than the application process and being a senior at EPS. Two scholarships for \$1500 a piece are available. Invenergy's scholarship opportunity is a nice addition to the list of local scholarships.

Juniors should also be looking at the scholarships, taking mental notes of which scholarships they will be eligible for in the future. Some scholarships require specifics that juniors can be preparing for. For example, the Elgin Bargain Box requires students to complete self-initiated service. Juniors should also be mindful of scholarships available at individual colleges, especially if they would like to be considered for art, music, and theater/forensic scholarships. Often times, juniors can begin working on requirements like portfolios, so that they are prepared at a stressful time as seniors.

From Mrs. D Heithoff

Math 7

Math 7 students are shown working in cooperative groups to prepare for the upcoming test.



From Mrs. Eisenhauer

3rd Grade Celebrates Global Read Aloud Day

The third grade celebrated Global Read Aloud day on February 1st. We read aloud "We're All Wonders" by R.J. Palacio which is the elementary version of the book "Wonder." We discussed what makes us all wonders or unique. We talked about following the lesson from the book, look with kindness and you will always find wonder.

Later in the afternoon, we did a long distance read aloud of the book through a Facetime call with a third grade class at Freeman Public Schools. Mrs. Jensen helped set up the long distance read aloud as her grandson attends Freeman Public.

From Mrs. Shumake-Henn

W-EPS: The Beak, on Air, in Print, and in the Know

Take five outgoing seniors, two unsuspecting juniors, an instructor who should know better, and what do you have?

It's EPS's newest course offering—Broadcast Journalism, or what Mrs. Shoe likes to refer to as 6th Hour Controlled Chaos.

According to the teacher, the class is something she's been looking forward to.

"Newswriting and page layout is something I've enjoyed since my days of working on the WSC paper."

Shumake-Henn wanted to share those skills with her students.

"Interest began to grow when we started toying around with the idea of broadcast journalism. We were able to receive funding, so we just went with it.

According to the teacher, senior Carter Schindler has been a tremendous help.

"When Mrs. Rittscher and I returned from a visit to O'Neill's Eagle Eye Broadcasting, we began visiting with students. Carter took the lead and researched our equipment. His knowledge, and that of EPS alumni and UNL broadcasting major Dylan Widger, have been a tremendous help.

To date, the crew has produced a promo video for their news program, and they are currently in the editing stages of their first broadcast.

In addition, the class is publishing a brief newsletter to keep EHS in the know.

"Our goal is to make broadcasts a bit more timely and to include both elementary and high school news. And, of course, we like to have fun."

Anyone with ideas for stories, features, announcements, etc. may contact Mrs. Shoe at stacy.shumakehenn@elgineagles.org



From Mrs. R. Heithoff

New Face in Art Class

There's a new face in Art class this semester. Ms. Briley Wiese from Wayne State College is student teaching with the K-12 students. She has been busy learning all the ropes of instruction, grading and lesson plans in addition to memorizing all 108 Art students' names.

In the photo she is showing high school students how to draw without looking at their paper. The exercise forces students to focus on looking at what they're drawing in detail before looking at their paper. The students had a good time (well, most of them did :) trying something different and were surprised at how well they could do.



March is National Nutrition Month! Simply making *fit* FOOD choices means you're eating nutritiously! It's that easy! What are your favorite FOOD choices that help fuel your body and brain all day long?

Eating a variety of bright colored foods will help different parts of your body!

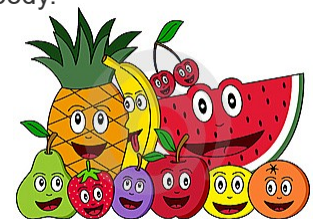
Red fruits and veggies help keep your heart strong.

Orange fruits and veggies help keep your eyes healthy.

Yellow fruits and veggies help keep you from getting sick.

Green fruits and veggies help make your bones and teeth strong.

Blue and purple fruits and veggies help your memory.



From Mrs. Cooper

FCCLA STAR

The FCCLA STAR competition was held on January 17 at Wayne State College. Kenzie qualified for state FCCLA in her event National Programs Stop the Violence. Congratulations, Kenzie!



Thank You!

The FCCLA members and Ms. Cooper would like to thank everyone who bought candy grams. Around 200 candy grams were sold and delivered on Valentine's Day.

From Mrs. Borer

Fifth graders showed their creativity with their Valentine treat boxes.



From Mrs. Cooper

Omegaman!

On January 31, Omegaman came to visit! First graders enjoyed dressing in super hero clothing! Omegaman even helped the first graders learn to be dream-makers and not dream-breakers!



“Wanting to be someone else is a waste of who you are.”
Anonymous

From Mrs. Schwartz

New Flag for FFA from CVA

CVA presented the Chapter with new sign on February 16th. Clayton Hensley along with Jesse and Dave stayed to speak with afternoon classes about CVA and Farmers Cooperatives. Thanks CVA! Pictured are the freshmen AgEd/FFA students with Jesse Schindler and Dave Henn.



From Mrs. Thiele-Blecher

From Mr. Coakes

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

From Mrs. Lindgren

New Tables in Math Class

If you look into my classroom this semester, you may notice a couple of changes. During the winter break, the individual student desks were exchanged for tables. To make that work, a built-in counter on the north side of the room had to be removed. Thank you to the custodians and anyone else who helped with the de-construction and move. The room looks great, and my students appreciate the time and effort.

The new classroom layout gives students more room to put their books, calculators, notebooks, and laptops. I am also enjoying not tripping over cords and backpacks as I move around the room answering questions. I can pull up a chair and sit down next to a student to work through a problem without having to use a clipboard!

My algebra classes are working on factoring. The Algebra II students are using factoring to simplify expressions and solve equations. The geometry classes are working on areas of different shapes, along with basic trigonometry as a tool to help solve area problems and to prepare them for spring testing. Statistics classes are learning some new tools available in Excel to help them answer questions on standard deviation and correlation of statistics.

Scientific Hotdog Analysis

The Integrated Science class has recently been studying the chemical make-up of foods. They have investigated how the body uses macro-molecules such as proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and lipids. As a capstone activity, students applied their knowledge to analyze four different brands of hot dogs. They tested Sugardale, John Morrell, Ball Park, and Fairbury hot dogs with analytical methods. The tests performed were % lipid, % water, presence of starch filler, taste, and a comparison of nutritional information and price. The class consensus was that with all information used in consideration, Fairbury was the best dog out there.



From Mr. Ostransky

The 4th graders want to wish everyone a Happy Valentines Day!



No one is perfect.
That's why pencils have erasers.

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 20th, 22nd, 27th and 28th**. 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 under Partner Support. This is a great resource for a parent that is totally free.

Administratively Speaking . . .



By Dan Polk
dan.polk@elgineagles.org

There are a LOT of things in education that we do not do a very good job of when it comes to expressing or educating the public about. Don't get me wrong, public education is responsible for the education of any and all children within their district. We turn no one away and do our best to advance ALL. We just don't always do a good job of blowing our own horns.

The analogy that struck me the most regarding that concept of public schools was that of the grocer or the cook. Along with all the acceptable food and ingredients they get delivered they can turn away, or not accept the food or ingredients that are not ripe yet, were not fertilized or watered or that for some other reason are spoiled/bad. The Public schools "dish" begins with whatever is presented at its door, good and bad, and works hard to turn it all into something good.

Rural Nebraska schools ingredients are mostly good, but there's been a drastic change in the rural areas. The mobility rate is through the roof and we have families in rural Nebraska from all over the country. Some of the kids that come through mobility are fine young people eager to learn and a benefit to all. Some have been neglected, moved so many times they may have attended 3 different schools in a single semester, let alone in their lifetimes! Here in Elgin in the last couple years we have had kids from California, Washington, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Illinois and Peru. Along with our local student population, who have a variety of levels of support and achievement, it makes for quite the challenge.

Now take that scenario times 10 for the larger schools in the state. Lincoln, Ne has 48 different languages in the community and 24 of them have more than 100 people speaking them; ON TOP of the regular local Nebraska student populations and problems. From Little ole Elgin, who is consistently at the top of area districts in student performance, to Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska consistently is in the top 5 in national test score rankings. It is truly amazing what public schools do in Nebraska. It's never mistaken praise to support and thank a teacher and the work that they do. If you pay any attention to national news, we need more and more of them to educate and prepare our youth for the challenges that lie ahead.

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 our 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/ I pads. 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!



Pictured is this years Elgin FFA Chapter!



Plan to Attend:
Student-Led Conferences
March 15th
Classes dismiss at 1:00 p.m.
Conferences begin at 4:00 p.m.
Watch your mail for your assigned
appointment time!

For the latest in news, check out our website: www.elgineagles.org

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