EAGLE UPDATE

## Volume XXIV, Issue 9

## DATES TO REMIEMIBER

April 8
School Board Mtg. 7:30 p.m.

April 9
Early Dismissal 2:00 p.m.

April 10-13
NO SCHOOL

April 15
Late Start 10:00 a.m.

April 18 Jr./Sr. Prom


April, 2009

##  MEM MEEMEERES



Elgin Public School Gymnasium was the site of the induction ceremony for the Dr. W.W. Graham Chapter of the National Honor Society. Mr. Corey Fisher welcomed new members Justin Kallhoff, Tad Henkenius, Devin Brown, Anthony Hemenway, Breanna Bode, Michelle Bauer, Jessica Heithoff, and Brieann Grosserode.

Current members of the National Honor Society include: Linsey Bode, Jeff Bush, Ayli Carrero, Brett Mahnke, Nathan Niewohner, Carlie Redding, and Tyler Reestman.

Membership in the National Honor Society is the highest honor that a student can receive at Elgin High School. No other honor represents or carries with it this much prestige. Congratulations to our newest members!

## Birthday Party For Dr. Seuss



## We like green eggs and ham! We like them, Sam-I-Am!

On March 2, the first and fourth grade celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss. The morning started with Mr. Hall reading Green Eggs and Ham. Then we feasted on a breakfast of green eggs and ham. Pastor Davis also read to the class. The rest of the day was spent reading Dr. Seuss books, doing activities, and watching the movie, Horton Hears a Who. It was a fun birthday celebration!

The 2008-2009 Junior class of Elgin Public Schools has participated in this year' JUMP program offered by UNL. The JUMP program is a 45-minute mathematics test for Nebraska high school students. Its purpose is to determine the level of each participant's mathematical preparation, and to make recommendations suggested by the student's test score and posthigh school educational plans. The immediate objective of the program is to guide each participating student to the most appropriate high school mathematics courses, as suggested by the student's test score and future educational plans. The long range goal is to bring about a substantial reduction in the number of Nebraska students whose high school preparation forces them to begin their college mathematics at a remedial level.

In years past, we have only tested students in advanced math classes. This year, we included students taking Applied Business Math. The average score of this year's juniors is a 45.1 percentile compared to last year's score of 60.3 percentile. Elgin High has been participating since 1990 . The average score of the last nineteen years is a 61.579 percentile.

## Elgin Public PASS System



Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:
www.elgineagles.org
Click on Schoolmaster and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.


Elgin Early Learning Preschool is now accepting enrollments for the 20092010 school year.
Developmentally appropriate classes are held Monday through Friday 8:00-11:30 a.m.

- For children 3 or 4 years of age (must be 3 years old by October 15).
- Breakfast \& Lunch available.
- State accredited preschool.
- National accredited preschool.
- Certified teacher endorsed in Early Childhood with 10 years experience. Tuition is $\$ 40$ per month unless you qualify for free/reduced lunch program.

To register your child, please call Sue Vanis at school 843-2455. ALUMNI ALERT!

Check out the alumni page on the school website! We are collecting information about EPS alumni and entering it on a database. Current contact information and a little news about what you have been doing since graduation can be submitted for other alumni to view. We hope to help alumni stay in touch with other classmates that they may have lost track of. Submit your information in time for the Alumni Banquet!

Don't have the Internet? You can still submit your information to us. Get one of your children or grandchildren to print off a form for you to mail in or have them submit your information online for you. It's a great way to keep in touch with classmates.

## Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.

Lou Holtz
Football Coach
 N


## SPEECH TEAM COMPLETES SEASON

"Slow and steady wins the race," would be a good quote to sum up this year's Elgin
 Public Speech Team. The team started off the season by competing at the Cedar Rapids Invite on Wednesday, February 4. The students competed against approximately thirty area teams in classes C and D. Many individual and group events received superior and excellent ratings.
Next, the team was slated to compete at the Lindsay Holy Family Meet on Friday, February 13. But as superstition would have it, the meet was cancelled due to snow. The next meet at Pope John, scheduled for Saturday, February 28 suffered the same fate.

With only one contest under their belts, the team traveled to Niobrara for the Conference meet on Tuesday, March 3. Again, many individual and group events received superior and excellent ratings, while the duet acting team of Jeff Bush and Nathan Niewohner placed 6th overall.

The D-1-3 District Speech Contest at Bancroft-Rosalie High School proved to be much more successful for the team. The OID Team (Jeff Bush, Nathan Niewohner, Linsey Bode, Carlie Redding, and Eric Shoemaker) placed 2nd overall. Linsey Bode also placed 2nd in Informative Speaking. This resulted in both events qualifying for the State Speech Contest in Kearney on Friday, March 20. The duet acting team narrowly missed qualifying for a slot at the state competition.

At the state contest, Linsey Bode received a 5th place medal in Informative Speaking. The OID team received superior ratings in both preliminary rounds, but did not make finals.

Co-coaches for the team this year were Stacy Shumake-Henn and Jessie Reestman, both of whom very much enjoyed working with members of the team. They were constantly amazed at the talents these individuals possess in a variety of areas outside of the speech realm. As a result, the dedication and commitment of this year's members was evident and admirable.


Linsey Bode placed 5th at State Speech in Informative Speaking Competition.

The Anatomy \& Physiology class recently visited Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, IA. During the trek up the large hills from the van, they realized why the university was called Briar Cliff. The class first visited the cadaver; they were then treated to a visit to the college's insect zoo.

Before the students viewed the cadaver, Dr. Bob Olsen, a professor at Briar Cliff, gave facts about the cadaver such as his name, age, and what he had died from. The cadaver this term was a 78 -year old male who had a number of health problems. When the class finally entered the dissection room, they were able to see firsthand what Dr. Olsen had prepared them for. The man had been a smoker;
 students could actually see the black tar in the


Clint Meis prepares to hold the tarantula. lungs. He had been an alcoholic and white cirrhosis spots were visible on his liver. He also suffered from a heart condition which could be seen by the damage to the heart tissue. Though suffering from a number of ailments, the gentleman ultimately died from pneumonia. Students were allowed to hold various organs like the brain and heart. They were even able to feel the gallstones in his gall bladder.

After their campus tour, students were visitors in the college's new Insect Zoo. College students presented information and a hands-on learning experience about the insects they were caring for. From the giant millipede, cockroaches, and tarantula, to the three-colored scorpion, each student had the opportunity to hold the insects (though not all took the chance!).
Kara Zegers holds the giant millipede.

## Counselor's

## ค R R \& by Mrs. Barb Bode

## Seniors ... it's decision time!

Attention seniors: It's time to make the big college decision and determine where you'll spend the next 4-5 years of your life! As you make your decision, have a heart-to-heart talk with your parents to make sure you pick your college for the right reasons, not because it's where your friends - or your girlfriend or boyfriend - are going. Talk about the following:

- Location. Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If travel costs are prohibitive, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.
- Cost. Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond the freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships?
- Academic program. Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors-does the college offer other programs of interest?
- Amount of loans required. If you borrow the maximum Stafford loan amount each year for four years, you're looking at $\$ 27,000$ in loans - and that means a future monthly payment of approximately $\$ 300$ per month. But what a great investment! You should also calculate how much your parents will need to borrow in PLUS loans. Use the Student Loan Repayment Calculator at EducationQuest.org to estimate future student loan payments.
The EducationQuest Web site features other tools that can help you make the final decision including the Award Letter Comparison Calculator and the College Comparison Calculator.


## Juniors ... start looking for scholarships

Thousands of scholarships are available to help students pay for college. Students who earn the most scholarships complete at least 30-40 applications. Here's how you can be one of those students ..

- Start searching! In addition to your guidance office, check out free sites including ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org. Note the awards current seniors are receiving - they're often listed in your local newspaper. Other sources might include your parent's employer, your employer or local service organizations.
- Create files and place scholarship applications in deadline order.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service. This is a critical component on most scholarship applications - and is the only criteria on some.
- Earn the best possible grades and entrance exam scores. These factors are especially important for college-based scholarships.
- Determine if you will qualify for need-based scholarships by completing the College Funding Estimator at EducationQuest.org.
- Talk to colleges about specific scholarships they offer.


## Scholarship warning...

As a junior or senior, you'll receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services. If they charge a fee, investigate them thoroughly. EducationQuest will help you complete financial aid forms for free and will guide you to free scholarship search resources. For more information, talk to you guidance counselor or call EducationQuest at 800-666-3721.

## Were you in Lincoln for Boys' State Basketball? Did you go to Gateway Westfield Mall?

EducationQuest was at the mall Thursday, March 12 and Friday, March 13 promoting the KnowHow2GO Campaign. The campaign provides four steps you need to follow to make college a reality. For all the details - and to see photos from the event - visit KnowHow2GONebraska.org!

## April "To Do" List

## Seniors

Expect your college financial aid award letters
Continue applying for scholarships
Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid sticker shock in August

Start looking for a summer job

## Juniors

Register by March 31 for the May 2 SAT
Register by May 5 for the June 6 SAT
Register by May 8 for the June 13 ACT


Schedule campus visits while schools are still in session Start looking for scholarships


Members of the Elgin FFA are shown serving ice cream sundaes to the kindergarteners as part of their celebration of National FFA Week Feb. 22-28.

## ELGIN FFA HAPPENINGS

The Elgin FFA Chapter has been busy planning and conducting events for National FFA week, and preparing for District and State Contest. The week of February $22^{\text {nd }}-28^{\text {th }}$ was National FFA week, and the Elgin FFA Chapter conducted several events throughout the week. The main highlight of the week was the Community Appreciation pancake feed which was sponsored by the Elgin FFA Chapter and Central Valley Agriculture Cooperative. Members of the Elgin FFA Chapters, FFA Supporters, and employees of CVA helped prepare and serve the meal. Nearly 150 community members came out for the event on the cold and dreary February afternoon. Wednesday was staff appreciation day and snacks were provided in the school workrooms for the staff to enjoy. Friday was dubbed Blue and Gold pride day in which students and staff were encouraged to wear their blue and gold attire to get in the spirit of FFA week. In addition to students showing their Blue and Gold pride an Ice cream social was held for students and staff.

The Elgin FFA Chapter also attended the District 10 Career Development Events contest at Northeast Community College on March $2^{\text {nd }}$. The Chapter had a good showing by some teams and individuals. The Floriculture team of Linsey Bode, Nathan Niewohner, Kelsie Kuhlman, and Justine Meis finished third and are the alternates to state from our District. Linsey Bode was the individual Champion in this event. The Agricultural Sales team of Brieann Grosserode, Anthony Hemenway, Jessica Heithoff, and Curtis Childers finished third overall and are also state alternates. IN Welding the team of Austin Kerkman, Allen Miller, and Nathan Anderson finished $4^{\text {th }}$ overall. The livestock Management team of Tyler Reestman, Carlie Redding, Amber Hoffart, Ashley Dittrich, Caleb Pelster, and Drew Schindler finished $5^{\text {th }}$. In the Agri-Science contest the team of Jared Seier, Corey Schindler, Alex Dierks, and Tre Henkenius finished $5^{\text {th }}$, and the team of Ben Pelster, Kyle Knievel, Shane Vanis, and Derek Henn finished $6^{\text {th }}$. The Envirothon team of Grant Beckman, Evan Parks, Alex Dierks, Corey Schindler, and Zach Baker finished $7^{\text {th }}$ overall. In the Meats contest Devin Brown finished $4^{\text {th }}$ individually and Sebastian Janssen finished $7^{\text {th }}$. Chapter members are now preparing for the contest they will be competing in at the State FFA Convention April $1^{\text {st }}-3^{\text {rd }}$ in Lincoln.


## ELGIN FFA MEMBER STAR FINALIST

Tyler Reestman son of Ken and Joyce Reestman has been selected as one of nine FFA members in the running for the Nebraska Star in Agricultural Placement. The Stars programs recognize students in Nebraska FFA who have exhibited excellence in their Supervised Agricultural Experience program. Tyler was named one of two star candidates from the District 10 FFA Review in early February and was recently notified as his selection as a star finalist candidate. Tyler will be representing the Elgin Chapter and District 10 FFA during the upcoming State FFA Convention.

Tyler, his parents and his advisor, Mr. Philip Simpson, will all be recognized during the Friday evening Convention Session at Pershing Auditorium on April, $3^{\text {rd }}$.


## Jump Rope for Heart Beats Goal

The Elgin Public Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grades exceeded their goal this year for money earned. A big motivator was our high school principal. Mr. Fisher challenged the students to beat last year's goal and he would dress up as a woman for the entire day of school. The students were excited for the challenge and willingly went out and convincingly meet their goal.

For 3 weeks the students participated in jump rope activities. They performed many single rope jumps and long rope jumping activities. The students really earned the money that was donated this year.

Participation in Jump Rope for Heart increases quality physical education and health education in schools. It helps to promote increased physical activity levels and help children make healthy food choices. Since 16 percent of all children and teens in the U.S. are overweight. The American Heart Association is proud to be a part of helping kids become healthier.

## Helpful Hints to Recognize Heart Attack and Stroke

## Heart attack warning signs:

- Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of the chest that last more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back.
- Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach
- Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
- Other signs of breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.


## Stroke warning signs:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.


## What is Jump Rope for Heart?

It's a rope-jumping special event program. It promotes community service by raising funds to support lifesaving heart and stroke research and educational programs while teaching physical Fitness.

## Why is Jump Rope for Heart Important?

- -Heart Disease and stroke are America's No. 1 and No. 3 killers and touch all of our lives.
- -More than 9.2 million children and adolescents are considered overweight or obese, based on the $95^{\text {th }}$ percentile or higher body mass index.
- Type II diabetes is on the rise in children. If current trends continue, adolescents with Type II diabetes may experience heart troubles beginning as young as 30 or 40 .
- Obesity increases a person risk for heart disease, Type II diabetes, stroke and many other chronic illnesses and leads to higher healthcare costs.
- The American Heart Association is working in every state and federal level to require quality physical education to be offered in all grades.


SCIENCE FAIR WOWS CROWD

The EPS 7th annual
science fair was a great success! The students' many creative and interesting projects drew a large crowd to this event. Visitors were impressed with the students' background knowledge and their ability to carry out this scientific testing. All student groups and individuals did an outstanding job!

The basis of the science fair is to learn more information about a topic in the area of science students are currently studying. Whether they want to go more in-depth about a topic or to study information that was not taught in class, students chose their topics based on interest in the subject. It's all about the learning experience! We do like to recognize some top projects at both the junior high and senior high division. These projects exemplify the knowledge and preparation that can be achieved when hard work and dedication are present. This year's top placers will be announced at the spring awards banquet.

We would like to extend a special THANK YOU to our judges for the year: Jill Bates, Rhonda Novak, Ted Rethmeier, and Beth Walsh. We really appreciate your help!!


Visitors took part in testing the night of the science fair.

## ALUMNI GOLFING

4-Person Scramble
June 28th
Antelope Country Club
Neligh, NE
Registration: 8:00 a.m.
Shotgun tee-off: 9:00 a.m.
Cost is $\$ 140$ per team
Must have 1 alumni or current/former school employee on your team. Cash payback, flag prizes, and a raffle!
To enter contact Randy Eisenhauer at 843-5994 or E-mail eisenhauer@gpcom.net

Must register by June 21st.

Come join the fun with fellow EHS alumni!

The official title for this month's newsletter is "Recognizing who Runs Things."
In Elgin Public Schools there are a few people who need to be recognized for the roles they play. These people can be seen everyday at school doing their job and then reaching out to assist others doing their job. Last month I spoke to the quality of the teaching staff. This month I wish to further recognize school personnel who make Elgin Public School what it is today. I will address these individuals in no certain order and without any one of them I feel that we would be a completely different school.

Ever notice the shutter bug that is present at all of our activities? For the entire tenure of her Elgin career, Rita Heithoff has been the official photographer of the district. She has been in charge of the Website since its conception and is official prom sponsor and she also is the chief advisor on the yearbook. Rita's husband, Steve, is our School Board President.

Ever hear anyone say, "Technology is great when it works!" Well, the person in this district who keeps ours running is Miss Johnson. She has been the Tech person since 1984 and has been able to keep us running at a smooth and steady pace since then. This is in addition to her math job and being the official stats keeper for the sports teams.

As three- and four-year-old children became everyday members on our school campus we find Sue Vanis in charge of things. She helped write the grant that started the program 7 years ago. One half of her days are spent with the younger children. If you would like a mind altering experience come spend a day with her. This is along with her job as a Resource teacher the rest of the day. Sue has two children in school here at Elgin.

The creator of our newly adopted Business program, Elgin graduate Amy Selting, was asked to undertake the task of building a $21^{\text {st }}$ century program in the area of business education. Her finalized plan was recently approved by the Board of Education. Amy also coaches junior high activities.

The teaching staff as a whole is the best of the best as explained in my article last month. This article is about who is running the show. In Elgin, that position is handed to a non-certified person.

Who is this person who is in charge of, well, of everything? Paula Jensen represents a one-women answer to every question that might arise at Elgin. She is the secretary to the superintendent, high school and elementary principals, and the activities director. She is the official keeper of all student and staff records. She keeps the books for all activities accounts. She puts together the newsletter and after publishing it she gets it ready for the mail. She organized the faculty Christmas party, the biggest losers competition, parent/teachers conferences, registers new students, keeps track of students attendance, creates programs for activities and special events, sorts the mail, and is a living history reference of the district. Paula is a one-woman show doing the job of 3 to 5 people in other districts.

All the personnel in the district are a special group of people. These listed today are all people who we would be hard pressed to replace.
To answer my own question from above, who runs things? ---the correct response would be Paula!


## NVC BASKETBALL HONORS

Bovs:
1st Team—Andrew Bauer
2nd Team-Chris DeWald
Honorable Mention-Nathan Niewohner, Brett Mahnke, Tyler Reestman

## Girls:

2nd Team-Michelle Bauer
Honorable Mention-Jessica Heithoff

## 2009 YEARBOOKS

Have you ordered your 2009 yearbook yet? They're only $\$ 30$ for a lifetime of memories! Contact Mrs. Heithoff to place your order or check out the school website, "AcitvitiesYearbook".


Kindergarten round-up will be held April 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kindergarten room in the new elementary building One parent should be present to fill out the registration form. Please bring your child's immunization record, birth certificate and social security number. We are required by state law to have a copy of your child's birth certificate on file.

If you plan to register your student in Kindergarten at the Elgin Public School, please attend the round-up on the evening of April 16, at 7:00 p.m. If you cannot attend the round-up but intend to enroll your kindergartener in our school, please contact the school office at 843-2455.

In September of 2000, a movie hit the theaters titled "Remember the Titans". It stared a number of high profile actors including Denzel Washington. The movie, which was based on a true story, won many awards that year. As an avid sports fan, I must say it is one of my all-time favorite sports movies. Those that have watched the movie may recall the one line in the movie where the character named Sheryl, who played a child throughout most of the movie and then as a young woman in the end stated the following line..."People say that it can't work black and white; well here we make it work, everyday. We have our disagreements, of course, but before we reach for hate, always, always, we remember the Titans". While that line in the movie talked of the racial barriers that the student-athletes associated at T.C. Williams had to overcome, the statement carries a lot of weight in so many walks of life.

In March, the boards of education at both Pope John Central High School and at Elgin Public Schools voted unanimously to develop formal high school sports cooperative sponsorships in winter and spring sports and an inter-local agreement for all junior high sports starting right away at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. Without question, this is a landmark step for both schools in the community of Elgin. Now that the boards have formally voted to develop the cooperatives at both the junior high and high school levels, much work has to be done in a short amount of time. Schedules, assignment of coaches, mascot, colors and a plethora of other areas will need to be addressed. The administration will continue to work collaboratively to make sure that the plans are in place so that when the school year starts in August, we are ready to go. Just like in the movie, "Remember the Titans", there will be "disagreements" or bumps in the road. There will be times where people will question if it was the right thing to do. Only time will tell if the boards made the right decisions. No matter what, I believe that our cooperatives will only work if all who are involved give them a chance. When I addressed the student body at Elgin High School, I stated the decisions that the boards had made and I challenged them to be positive leaders through the coming months and the changes that will be involved. I asked the senior class of 2010 to be leaders and let them know that their character will be on display more than ever. I explained that in the coming year, we will find out if they are the kind of young adults that have the integrity to come together for a common goal. I have known most of our students here at Elgin High School for many years and I believe they will be great in coming together with the students from Pope John Central to compete as one.

Just as was stated in the movie, people have and will continue to say that sports cooperatives in the community of Elgin cannot be done...they will say that it will not work. They may be right and as I stated before only time will tell. I, however, am confident that if we all give it a chance and before we reach for hate; before we criticize those who are competing, coaching and making the decisions that impact the future of both schools, let us remember what is important. Let us remember that line in that classic movie and maybe someday we can look back and be glad we were able to come together and compete as one.

On a different note, the school year is winding down and before we know it, we will be focusing our attentions on completing another great school year. I am extremely proud of the manner in which the majority of our students have worked this year and especially these past few weeks. I am always so proud of the number of students that are listed on our quarterly honor roll and I can tell you that being an honor roll student at Elgin Public Schools is no easy task. Still, about 70\% of our students in grades 712 are honor roll students. Great job students on a job well done. Keep up the great work and let's finish this year with only our best effort.

## ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS <br> NEWSLETTER

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