



# EAGLE UPDATE

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April, 2013

## DATES TO REMEMBER

 April 1  
NO SCHOOL

 April 9  
Kindergarten  
Round-up  
6:30 p.m.

 April 10  
School Board Mtg.  
7:30 p.m. in ITV  
Room

 April 12  
Preschool  
Registration Night  
6:30 p.m.

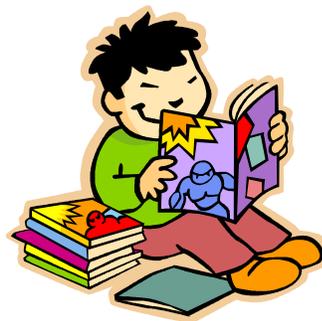
 April 17  
Late Start  
10:00 a.m.

 April 24  
High School Spring  
Concert 7:30 p.m.

# Book Fair Success!



*Mrs. Thiele-Blecher and Mrs. Beckman assist students with their purchases.*



*Lydia Behnk and Taylor Sehi peruse the selection at the book fair.*

The Scholastic Book Fair was held at Elgin Public School March 11th – 15th. Many books were brought in, along with unique pencils, bookmarks, posters, and various other items. The Book Fair gave students and parents a chance to browse and purchase books during the week. Reading a book can take a student to new places and open up new ideas. It is truly a life-long skill. We hope the students enjoy reading and learning from their new books. We want to thank everyone for supporting our Book Fair event and understanding the importance of reading. Because of your support, we were able to raise some money for our school. This money will allow us to provide more books and opportunities for the students at Elgin Public.



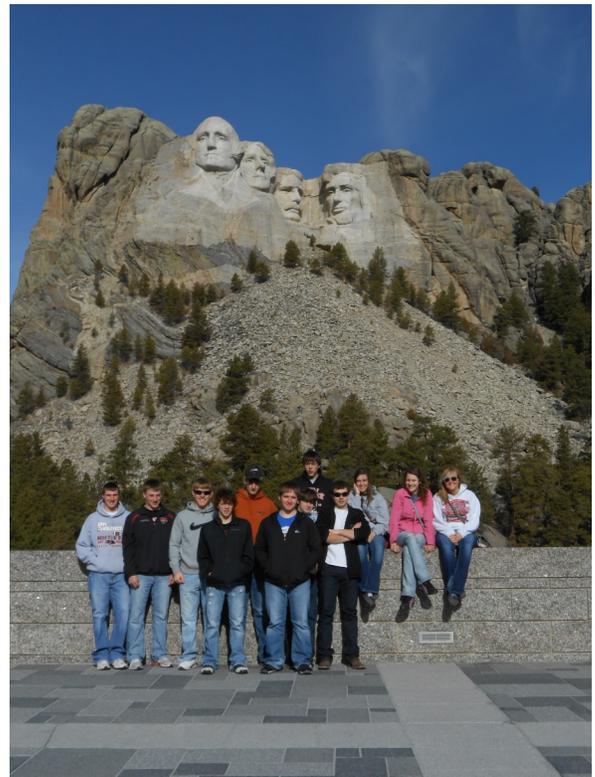
# SENIOR SNEAK

## Technology Students Explore Animation

Technology students are watching cartoons and movies! Why? We are studying animation which is the process of simulating movement by using still images. Because our brain must take some time to process an image, the images will appear as fluid motion if flipped by fast enough. After studying the history of animation and the many advances and improvements thanks to technology, the students are now creating their own stop-motion animation using an iPad and computers. Each group selected a topic relating to a class and now must illustrate that concept using a series of still images. They will then add music and some title pages to make a short movie clip. See if you can answer some of these trivia questions relating to Animation:

1. What was the first full length animated film and in what year?
2. What was the first completely computer-animated movie?
3. What movie used motion-capture animation (sensors are attached to a human to track motion and edited later) to create realistic movements of this character?
4. What current fields employ animators?

(Answers later in this newsletter)



On Thursday, March 14, 2013, twelve seniors and three sponsors loaded the van to head off to Rapid City, South Dakota for their Senior Sneak trip. After a drive through the Badlands on their way there, they arrived at their hotel on Thursday evening and spent some time in the pool and hot tub. Friday morning the day started with a visit to Mr. Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial along with a beautiful drive in the mountains. They then came back and attended a Rapid City Rush Hockey Game on Friday night and enjoyed Papa John's pizza together as a class.

Saturday the group took off to go tubing at Mystic Miner Ski Park near Lead, South Dakota and had a great lunch in the historic town of Deadwood. After lunch, they headed to Flag and Wheels in Rapid City for some extreme go-cart racing and laser tag. Needless to say, Andrew was a little disappointed when Mrs. Selting beat him on the track. Then, to round out the trip, a nice supper was had by all at Minerva's Saturday evening in Rapid City.

Bright and early Sunday morning the class headed back home on some awful winter roads. Overall, many memories were made as they look forward to the future!



### Don't Throw Away That Empty Printer Cartridge! Bring it to school!

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. Our school will receive \$2.00 for each cartridge turned in.

Bring in your empty cartridges (use a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) to the office recycle bin.



## Preschool Registration

Preschool Registration will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. All parents with students registered for

Preschool for the 2013-2014 school are encouraged to attend.

If you have not registered your child yet and would like more information please call the school 402-843-2455.

### Elgin Public PASS System



Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:

[www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org)

Click on Schoolmaster and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.

# JH Academic Contest



*Luke Walsh & A.J. Getzfred place at Pope John Academic Contest.*

On Friday, March 15th, 2013, the Pope John National Honor Society sponsored the Pope John Junior High Academic Contest. Students in 7th and 8th grade were nominated by their teachers to compete in the contest. Students could participate in up to two events except those in trivia bowl, speech, or spelling.

Contestants representing Elgin Public School for the competition were Katie Copeland (8th) Reading & Language Arts; Luke Walsh (8th) Pre-Algebra & Vocabulary; AJ Getzfred (8th) History; Liam Heithoff (7th) Science; Taylor Sehi (8th) Spelling; Shelby Dohman (7th) Humorous Prose Speech. The three student member team for the Trivia Bowl were Lydia Behnk (7<sup>th</sup>), Hayes Miller (7<sup>th</sup>), & Jaime Hoefler (8<sup>th</sup>).

CONGRATULATIONS goes to Luke Walsh, he place 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pre-Algebra & AJ Getzfred, he placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in History.

Good job to all contestants and Well Done Luke & AJ!!!!

# 2nd Grade News

We've started the last quarter of the school year! Wow time goes by fast. The second grade will learn many new things this last quarter; we're getting ready for third grade. Math assignments included counting money and telling time to five minute intervals. We are now working with geometric shapes and figures. We just finished our Social Studies unit discussing our economic system and interactions of consumers and producers. We are starting to learn about cultural and ethnic groups. In language we recently learned how to write a short paragraph, remembering to indent, write sentences after the period, and not write each sentence on a new line is difficult to do.

The second grade is participating in the 2012-2013 Ag in the Classroom Ag Pen Pal Program. This program is sponsored by Nebraska Foundation for Agricultural Awareness. We are writing letters to a ranch family near Burwell NE. They sent a video about their ranch and showed us pictures, informed us how a twin calf can be adopted by a different cow and introduced us to new terms like dams- or cows and sires- or bulls. The students enjoy getting the letters and learning about ranch life.

In March the second graders shared their learning accomplishments during student led conferences. We are proud to report that each student had family members attend.

# Agriculture Classes Tour Ag Industries



The Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Animal Science classes toured two Ag Industries in Northeast Nebraska on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>. The tours were set up through the Northeast Career Academy. The career academy is a plan of study created for high school students from a career cluster area which outlines a pathway for career exploration. Elgin Public Schools partners with Northeast Community College to offer courses in which students can earn credit to NECC, one of which is Cow/Calf Management or Animal Science this spring semester.

The two industries that the classes toured were Burbach Dairy in Hartington and Husker Ag Ethanol Plant in Plainview. Burbach Dairy is a small operation which bottles their own hormone free milk in glass bottles at their milking facilities. The dairy was very interesting for everyone. A couple highlights were getting to taste test their milk including strawberry, chocolate, and blue raspberry and we seeing a Holstein Bull (which we were all reminded of the fact that Holstein bulls are quite mean).

At Husker Ag the students toured the inside of the ethanol plant. At the plant 75 million gallons of denatured ethanol are produced every year. The kids were shown the step by step process the corn takes from the time it enters the plant to the finished product whether that be ethanol or modified gluten.

# Elementary Math

By Mrs. Crystal Borer



## What's the chance of that?!

The fourth, fifth, and sixth graders have been learning about probability.

**Fourth grade** made tree diagrams to find how many combinations there are and predicted the probability of a random event.

**Fifth grade** learned about how likely it is that an event will occur, 0 being impossible and 1 being certain. They then drew tree diagrams to list all of the possible outcomes. Then they found the probability of independent and dependent events. For example,

A bag contains 4 cubes: 2 red and 2 green. Pick 2 cubes, one at a time, from the bag without looking. What is the probability of picking a green and then a red?

Well, after you pick the first cube do you put it back in the bag? If so, then it is an independent event. If not, it is a dependent event.

In class we found that if we put the cube back, the probability of picking a green cube and then a red cube would be 4 out of 16. If we do not put the cube back, the probability would be 4 out of 12.

**Sixth grade** relearned all that plus complementary and mutually exclusive events, experimental probability, and the Counting Principle.

We did a lot of experimenting in class and you can check out the website to see more pictures of the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders.

## Showtime Draws Near

The sixth graders have been preparing for the upcoming NeSA Reading Test weekly since last August. Ask them and they will tell you it seems like forever. The test is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Good Luck to each of you!

# Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



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

It's time to decide which college you will attend. Follow our advice to find the right fit for you.

First, gather and compare your college acceptance notifications, financial aid award notifications and campus visit notes. Consider items such as:

- **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 so, 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 your freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships? How much in student and parent loans will you need to cover expenses?
- **Academic program** – Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors? Does the college offer other programs that interest you?
- **Student life** – Does the school offer activities you will enjoy? Do you like the living arrangements provided by the school? Will you have an opportunity to work on or near campus?

Visit [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) for college selection tools including the [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#), the [College Comparison Calculator](#), and information about [student and parent loans](#).

## Juniors ... start looking for scholarships

Follow these tips to begin the scholarship application process:

- **Start searching!** In addition to your guidance office, visit free online sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) with over 2,000 local and state scholarships. 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 for many scholarships. Track your involvement with EducationQuest's [Activities Resume](#).
- **Do your best to get good grades in school and good scores on ACT/SAT exams.** 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](http://EducationQuest.org).
- **Learn about scholarships and tuition assistance programs offered by colleges that interest you.** Programs such as [Collegebound](#) at the University of Nebraska and [Advantage](#) offered by the Nebraska State College System cover the cost of tuition if you meet income and academic criteria.

## Scholarship warning...

If you receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services, investigate them if they charge a fee. EducationQuest will help you complete financial aid forms for free and will guide you to free [scholarship resources](#). To learn more, talk to your school counselor or contact EducationQuest.

## April "To Do" List

### Seniors

- \_\_\_ Continue applying for scholarships.
- \_\_\_ Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid sticker shock in August.
- \_\_\_ Start looking for a summer job.

### Juniors

- \_\_\_ [Register](#) by April 5 for the May 6 SAT.
- \_\_\_ [Register](#) by May 3 for the June 8 ACT.
- \_\_\_ Schedule campus visits while colleges are still in session.
- \_\_\_ Start looking for scholarships.

FOR THE LATEST IN  
SCHOLARSHIP NEWS,  
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org).

# Classroom Snippets . . .

## Yearbook

It's time to order your 2013 yearbook! Check out the article under "Academics-Yearbook" on the webpage to order yours.

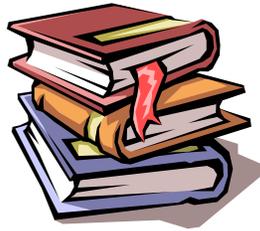
## From the 5th Grade

The end of the year is upon us and the 5<sup>th</sup> graders have a very busy ending to their year. They will be taking the NeSA tests this month in reading, math, and science. Hopefully through their hard work the students will excel on these



test. The students have been taking C4L test throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester to help them familiarize with the NeSA test. Students are reminded every day that they need to make sure they

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 be coming home soon. Try your best and good luck third graders!



## Library News

The last of the new books ordered for this school year have now arrived. So if you haven't been in the library for a while, stop in and check out the new books.

## Kindergarten Round-up

April 9th

Kindergarten round-up will be held April 9th at 6:30 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 an official 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 9, at 6:30 p.m. If you cannot attend the round-up but intend to enroll your kindergartener in our school, please contact the school office at 402-843-2455.

## From the Resource Room

Did you know that most tests account for 40% of your grade? So depending how you do on the test, your grade can fluctuate more than you may have anticipated. So, make sure you are studying for tests. One easy way to study by yourself is to make flash cards with vocabulary words on the front and their meanings on the back. Try it and good luck on your next test!

## 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 this 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



Andrew Heithoff, Abbi Couch, Hunter Thramer, Juliana Dunn, Nick Heithoff, and Steph Bode prepare to order their Mexican meal.

**The Spanish 3 classes were able to experience some new places on February 26th when they traveled to Omaha to visit the Joslyn Art Museum and to have lunch in south Omaha. The art museum was a first for the students. They were able to see works by Monet, Renoir, Matisse and Degas, as well as many others. Lunch was authentic Mexican cuisine at El Alamo restaurant.**

# Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!



The Kindergarten and First Grade celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss on March 1. We started the day with a breakfast of green eggs and ham. Our guest readers were Mr. Polk who read Green Eggs and Ham, Mr. Patrick who read Horton Hears a Who, and Justin Bieber who read The Cat in the Hat. We spent the day enjoying the books written by Dr. Seuss.



Eight members of the Elgin FCCLA Chapter spend Friday night "Rocking" for "Feed Nebraska" the state FCCLA outreach project. Over \$400 was raised through donations and pledges to support the "Feed Nebraska" project. Pictured are Kao Takaya, Austin Miller, Nadja Jakupovic, Shara Schindler, Madison Voborny, Stephanie Bode, Hayley Stamp and Ivy Prater. The group was sponsored by adviser Mrs. Barb Bode.



# EPS Speech Team Ends Successful Season

by Mrs. Shoe

The EPS Speech Team wrapped up the 2012-2013 season Tuesday, March 12, at district speech in Stuart. The team placed 4th out of 9 teams. Stuart was the district champion, Cedar Rapids was runner-up, and Chambers placed 3rd.

EPS medalists included the following: Ethan Fischer & Alois Warner-4th place--Duet Acting; Katie Polk-4th--Serious Prose; Lisa Dohmen-4th--Humorous Prose; Kao Takaya-5th--Persuasive Speaking; Nadja Jakupovic-6th-Informative Speaking; Stevey Hatch-6th--Extemporaneous Speaking.

Superior ratings were earned by the following: Tyler Smith-OID and Entertainment; Ashlyn DeWald-OID and Serious Prose; Bailey Carpenter-Poetry; Hunter Thramer-OID and Poetry; Dylan Widger-OID; Tiarra Thramer-OID; Sharla Schindler-OID; Ivy Prater-OID; Juliana Dunn-OID; Christopher Bush-OID; Alois Warner-OID

Co-coaches Jessie Reestman and Stacy Shumake-Henn were pleased with their performances.

"It was nice to see so many events break finals, especially some of our new members. Three events were only one place away from qualifying for state, so we had some close calls as well. Ultimately it was nice to have the team compete so well as a whole. Everyone performed well throughout the day and made EPS proud."

The coaches were also excited about the season as a whole. Members turned in some impressive performances throughout the season. "It was a terrific season all around. We had some very good showings throughout the year, and we gained a lot of valuable experience for next year."

Each of the seventeen members of the team medaled at some point throughout the season, which is quite an accomplishment. The team also earned a runners-up plaque at the Pope John Speech Invite in February.

The team will graduate two seniors this year. "We commend our seniors, Ashlyn DeWald and Juliana Dunn, for their involvement over the last two years. They are truly some talented individuals who will be missed."



## Spring TESTING



Now is the time to get ready for the spring testing period. For math students, the main goal is for NeSA (the state test). The NeSA test is based on four strands: Number Sense, Geometric/measurement concepts, Algebraic concepts and Data analysis/probability concepts. This test is given to many grade levels and the results are used to judge school to school. As a high school teacher, I work to prepare students for all of their testing: MAP, ACT, SAT, NeSA. It can be a stressful time but with good preparation and good study skills, the student can perform well!!!

Miss J.

## ANSWERS TO THE ANIMATION QUIZ:

1. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, 1937
2. Toy Story
3. The Lord of the Rings, Gollum
4. TV and movie production, designers of videogames, websites, phones, computers, software and more.

# Administratively Speaking . . .

By Dan Polk  
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



Change is inevitable. No matter how much you don't like it or don't want it or don't have it . . . sooner or later it's going to happen. Such is the case with the Elgin Public Schools. This year in particular we are experiencing a large amount of change. Several staff members are retiring, moving on to different positions and choosing to go a different direction in their lives. May I be the first to say that I will miss each and every one of them in my own way. God's speed to them and I wish them the most happiness and success that a person can attain. . Memories made will last forever and friendships will hopefully stay active even with the changes that will occur.

With those changes comes a lot of work and preparation for the next school year. Even though it is early spring I, and other staff, have been hard at work doing our regular duties as well as other necessary procedures to have a quality education in place for the 2013-2014 school year. We are excited about the people coming and wanting to be a part of the Elgin Public Schools. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the school feel free to give us a call. We'd always rather have people be informed rather than operate on assumptions. Elgin, Some Bigger, Some Smaller, None Better!



## SPELLING BEE HELD AT EPS



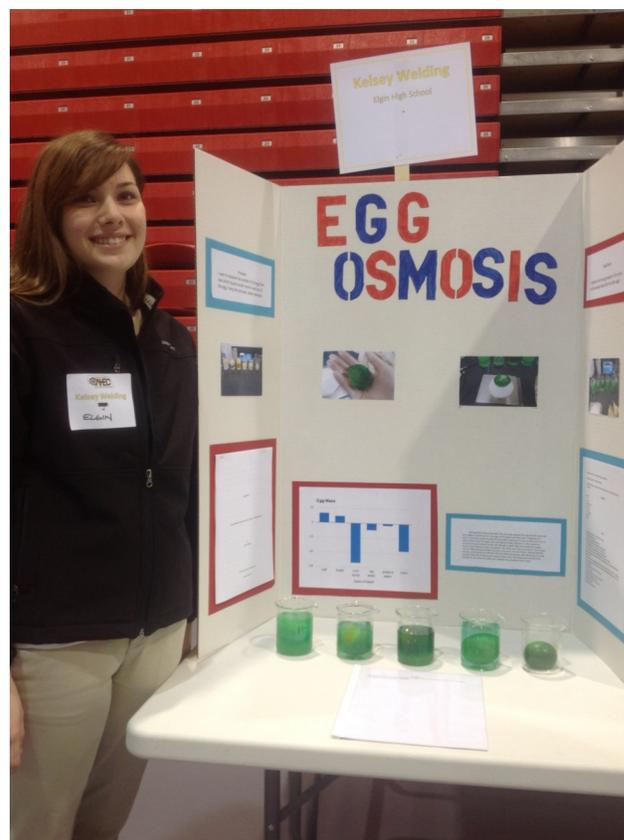
*Spelling Bee contestants representing Elgin Public School for the 7th and 8th grade competition were (back l. to r.) Jaime Hoefer, Katie Copeland, Taylor Sehi, Elianne Heilhecker. (front l. to r.) Carter Schindler & Hayes Miller. .*

The Antelope County Spelling Bee was held Monday, January 25 at Elgin Public School. The contest has a 5th/6th grade competition and a 7th/8th grade competition. Words for the contest were taken from the Blue Speller. Schools attending were: Clearwater-Orchard, Elgin Public School, Neligh-Oakdale, Pope John and St. Boniface.

Contestants representing Elgin Public School for the 7th and 8th grade competition are pictured above. The 5th and 6th grade competitors were Kaden Cameron, Hunter Reestman, Kira Widger, Tyler Iburg, Adam Dredger, & Emily Walsh.

CONGRATULATIONS goes to Taylor Sehi, she was third place of the Antelope County Spelling Contest. Also making it to the oral round during the 7th and 8th grade was Jaime Hoefer & Elianne Heilhecker.

## 8th Gr. Health Meet



The 8th grade students recently competed in the annual Health Science Meet sponsored by our local AHEC. Each student thought of a project, tested, and created visual aids for this competition. The top students from around the state will be invited to the State Health Science Meet in June. Here is Kelsey Welding with her project. For pictures of all the projects, visit [www.elgineagles.org](http://www.elgineagles.org).



## *Statewide Assessment*

The statewide assessment (NeSA) begins later this month! The assessments will take place in Reading and Math this year for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with assessments in Science in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades.

The NeSA test serves many purposes for the school and the Nebraska Department of Education. As a staff, we want to make sure students are prepared and comfortable with the test so their focus is on answering the questions. Here are a few of the things the teachers have been doing to ensure a positive test taking experience:

- taking tutorials about the system
- taking practice assessments
- practicing in the same environment as the test with the C4L system
- reviewing content and skills
- talking about the assessments
- trying to excite students about the upcoming assessments!

As parents, there are a few things you can do that will help your student succeed:

- sleep for 8 hours the night before
- eat a protein as part of breakfast
- talk to them about the assessments
- encourage students to spend as much time as they need
- stay positive about the assessments!

If you have any questions, please contact the classroom teacher or myself. Students are prepared, teachers are ready, and we look forward to seeing our success when results are announced in August!



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

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