



EAGLE UPDATE


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Volume XXX, Issue 9


April, 2015


DATES TO REMEMBER

 April 3—NO School
 April 6—NO School

 April 9—School Board Mtg. in ITV Room
 7:30 p.m.

 April 11—Jr./Sr. Prom

 April 23 - FFA Banquet
 6:30 p.m.

 April 27—High School Spring Concert 7:30 p.m.



EPS DISTRICT CHAMPS!



Speech State Qualifiers are shown: (front, l. to r.) Lisa Dohmen, Morgan Carpenter, Paige Nichols, Zoey Bergman, and Jaime Hoefer (back) Dylan Widger, Kenny Bush, Alois Warner, Christopher Bush, Ethan Fischer, and Tyler Smith.

On Wednesday, March 18, the EPS Speech Team accomplished something that hasn't been done for a very long time. They were crowned District Champions at the D2-3 Speech Contest in Ewing.

In the process of earning some new hardware for the halls of EPS, the team also qualified eleven students in eight events for the State Speech Championships in Kearney on Friday.

The OID of Christopher Bush, Alois Warner, Kenny Bush and Jaime Hoefer earned District Champion honors. They received first place medals and qualified for state.

The duet of Ethan Fischer and Kenny Bush also qualified for state, earning District Runners-up medals. Additional District Runners-up medals were captured by Lisa Dohmen in Humorous Prose and Tyler Smith in Entertainment Speaking. Both will represent EPS at the state contest.

Receiving third place medals and also qualifying were Dylan Widger in Poetry, Paige Nichols in Entertainment Speaking, Morgan Carpenter in Humorous Prose, and Warner and Zoey Bergman in Duet Acting.

Katie Polk and Hoefer placed 4th and 5th respectively in Serious Prose. The OID of Taya Voborny, Widger and Bergman earned a Superior Rating. Lisa Dohmen also earned a Superior Rating in Poetry.

Co-coaches Stacy Shumake-Henn and Jessie Reestman were thrilled with the team's accomplishment. "The kids have been asking how long it has been since Elgin won a district championship in speech. We keep telling them 'a very long time.'"

According to the coaches, some of the team members have been doing their research. "So far, they have found a district championship plaque from about 27 years ago, but nothing more recent as of yet."

The coaches attribute the title to an impressive work ethic. "We've told these kids from day one that we would have the potential to compete as a team this year, but we'd need a solid effort from everyone, and they definitely rose to the occasion," said Reestman and Shumake-Henn. "Their accomplishments are a testament to what hard work and commitment can do."

The team will round out their season with a performance at the community center Wednesday night, a pep rally on Thursday, and the state contest on Friday at UNK.

Learning About Plants



*Scott Beckman was a guest reader in the Kindergarten classroom this month. He is shown reading **Tops and Bottoms**. He also taught the kindergarten students about plant parts and parts of plants we eat. We planted some radishes and*

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.



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.

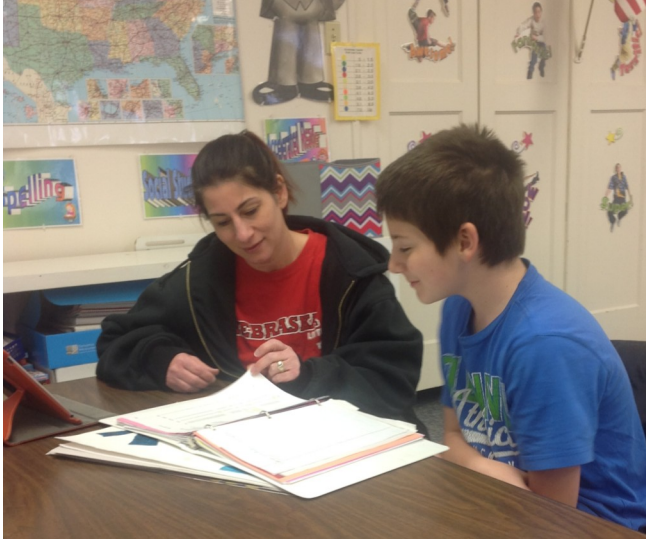


Mark your Calendar!

- May 1—PreK-6 Grandparent's Day
- May 5—Wolfpack Sports & Eagle Academic Awards Night
- May 9—Graduation
- May 11—Elementary Spring Music Concert
- May 19—Last Day of School

Student Led Conferences

Thank you to all parents who took time out of their busy schedules to attend Student Led Conferences in the 6th Grade. We had 100% attendance which was great. Students did a wonderful job showcasing their portfolios. Here are just a few of those in attendance.



Joey Getzfred shares his portfolio with his mother, Denise Getzfred.



Lilly Reel displays her art work for her mother, Lindsey Reel.



Sarah and Sean Dunn peruse the portfolio of their daughter, Theanna.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors ... it's decision time!

Follow our advice to decide on the college that's the right fit for you.

First, compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications and campus visit notes. Write down pros and cons for each school you're considering using the following criteria:

- **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?

Make your final decision by **May 1** – and then notify the colleges you're rejecting so they can offer your spot, and any financial aid, to another student.

Juniors ... start looking for scholarships

Follow these tips to begin the scholarship application process:

- **Start searching!** In addition to checking in often with your school counselor, visit free online sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [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** - a critical component for many scholarships. Track your involvement using [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](#).
- **Learn about scholarships and tuition assistance programs offered by colleges that interest you.** Programs such as [Collegebound](#) at the University of Nebraska, [Advantage](#) offered by the Nebraska State College System, and [NWU Advantage](#) at Nebraska Wesleyan University, 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.

Going on a campus visit?

For inspiration, check out [EducationQuest's new 30-second ad](#) featuring real Nebraska students on campus visits. Then check out [GoVisitCollege.org](#) for campus visit tips. Share your campus visit photos on Twitter and Instagram using [#govisitcollege](#). We may use your photo in our next video! When you take your photos, try to include the college name or a college landmark.

April "To Do" List

Seniors

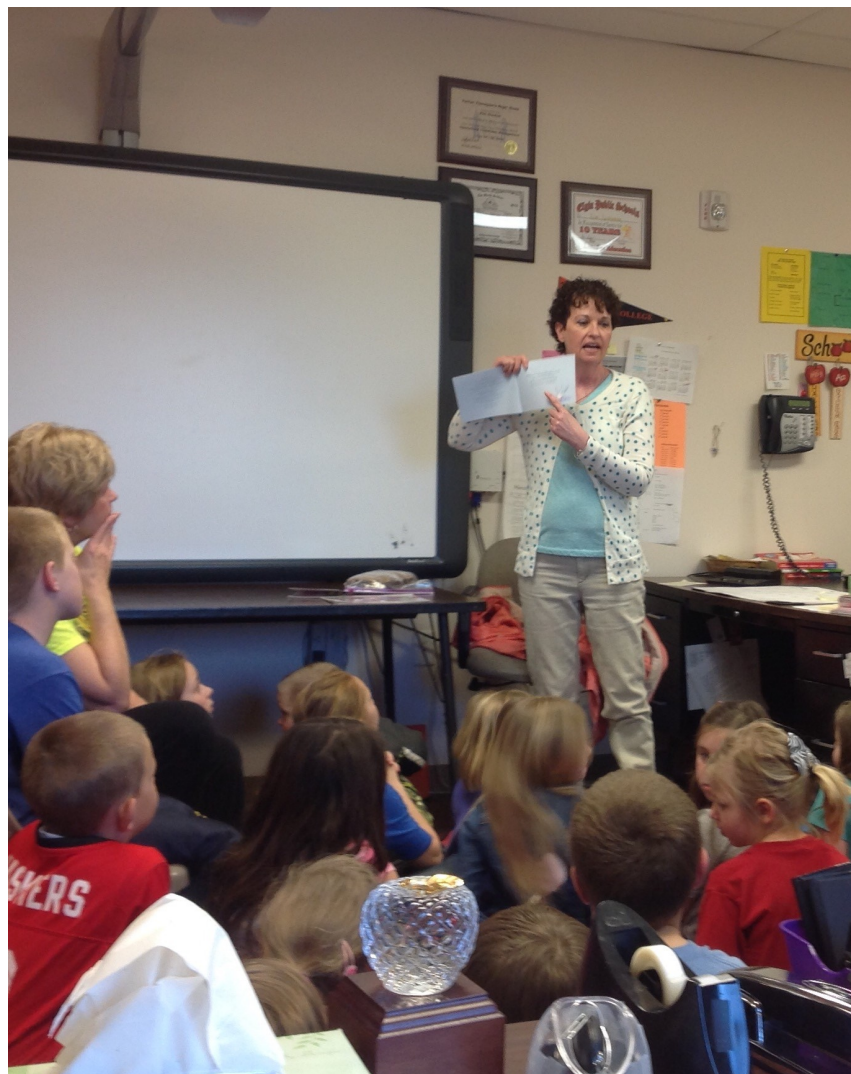
- ___ Continue applying for scholarships.
- ___ Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid sticker shock in August.
- ___ Start looking for a summer job.

Juniors

- ___ [Register](#) by April 6 for the May 2 SAT.
- ___ [Register](#) by May 8 for the June 13 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.

Elementary Reading Night

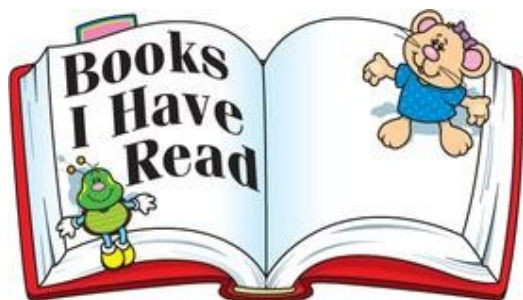


On Monday, March 9th, Elgin Public School hosted the second annual elementary Family Reading Night. About seventy people attended the evening with parents and students getting to join together for reading activities.

The night started with author, Teresa Heying talking about the process of publishing her children's books and reading them to the crowd. Then kids and parents were grouped to make posters for a book. To end the night families played Kahoot on the Ipad, an interactive quiz game on reading.

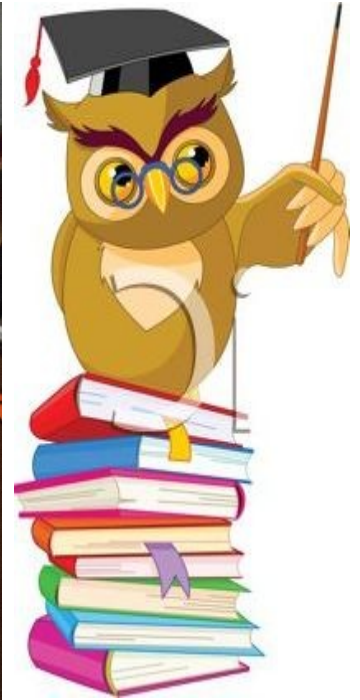
It was great to see families spending an hour reading together. Reading is such an important life-long skill and reading together demonstrates that parents value the importance of reading.

Thanks to all the families that came and spent time together at a fun reading night!

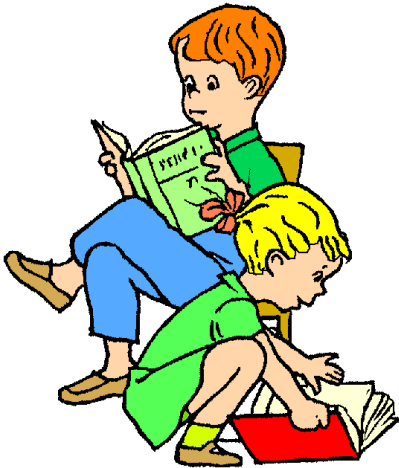


Working together on a book cover are: (l. to r.) Kayton Zwingman, Kyndal Busteed, Chris Rubenthaler, Braelyn Martinsen, Jamie Martinsen, Brenna Martinsen, and Baylee Busteed

Elementary Reading Night



Going clockwise: Blake Henn, Jackson Wemhoff, Nick Anderson, Max Henn, Raquel Heithoff, Antonio Zegarra, Yoli Anderson, and Camryn Pelster working on their poster at reading night.



Shown are Tory Durre, Samantha Durre, Ruby Durre, Sonni Dishman, and Erica Leistman working on their book cover. The book covers are hanging in the lunchroom, for all the school to enjoy.



Elementary Reading Night



Tom Morrison consults with Baylee and Jaydalynn Chessmore about the book cover they are designing.



Facts About Reading Aloud

Reading aloud to children is vital because it helps them acquire the information and skills they need in life:

- Knowledge of printed letters and words, and the relationship between sound and print.
- The meaning of words.
- How books work, and a variety of writing styles.
- The world in which they live.
- The difference between written language and everyday conversation.
- The pleasure of reading.
- Reading to young children promotes language acquisition and literacy development and, later on, achievement in reading comprehension and overall success in school. The percentage of young children read aloud to daily by a family member is one indicator of how well young children are prepared for school. Yet, recent studies on family reading suggest too many youngsters go without the benefit of a family member reading to them.

Classroom Snippets . . .

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 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!



News From the Foods & Nutrition Class

The foods and nutrition class has been very busy this semester. We have been learning about food labels, cooking utensils, and of course, the baking process.



We got paired up with a partner and had a cupcake war based off of the hit television show "Cupcake Wars". The four teams that competed

were the following: Christian Dunn and Sharla Schindler, Hayley Stamp and Lisa Dohmen, Morgan Childers and Tanner Welding, and Tera Henkenius and Kelsey Shoemaker.

Each of the teams chose a theme and make cupcakes based on that theme. The cupcakes were then judged by fellow teachers Miss J, Mrs. Klein, Mr. Prater and Mrs. Bode. The winners of the EPS cupcake war were Christian Dunn and Sharla Schindler with their creative twist on a cupcake with a breakfast theme.



The foods and nutrition class is also learning a lot about correct portion and serving sizes from choosemyplate.com. On this website, we made a food log about the food we ate over 3 days and we learned about the nutrients and calories in our food. This website taught us how much food we consume versus how much food intake we should have.

Foods and Nutrition class has been very fun and interesting this year and I am excited to see what else is in store for us to learn.

By Lisa Dohmen

Yearbooks On Sale

2015 Yearbooks are now on sale. Go to www.elgineagles.org, Academics-Yearbook to order your yearbook online or print out a form and send to school with a check for your lifetime of memories!



Grandparent's Day at EPS



On May 1st, Elgin Elementary students will invite their grandparent to visit school. Students will have an opportunity to show their grandparent around their classroom and school. Special activities are also planned for that day.

If a child's grandparent is unable to attend, he/she may invite an aunt, uncle, or special neighbor to fill in.

More information will be sent home with the students as the day gets closer but be sure to mark your calendar now!



You won't want to miss EPS Grandparent's Day on May 1st!

Administratively Speaking . . .

By Dan Polk
dan.polk@elgineagles.org



The more you live in a community the more you learn about it, and I continue to learn about the Elgin Community. Hopefully you have found me honest and forthright and someone you can talk to or call if you have a question or concern. If you don't feel comfortable in communicating with me I continue to encourage you to visit with Mr. Wemhoff as he is an honest and direct individual who cares, as I do, about all kids.

Track season is under way and speech season is just recently complete...hopefully both will be very successful. Speech has been with some BIG team wins and great individual performances---and the state competition was not done yet as of this writing either. I would like to specifically say congratulations to coach Shoe and Coach Reestman on another TREMENDOUS year, including a district championship! As far as the workings here at school the year will soon be over and summer preparations will begin immediately for the next one to come. With that statement I would like to remind you that the gym will be closed for many weeks to start the break, as a new floor is installed.

Too all the patrons of the district, remember, if you ever have any questions regarding the Elgin School District, from a classroom situation to federal finances or budgets, be sure to give a teacher, principal or myself a call at any time. Our doors are always open and we will answer your questions to the best of our ability.

PICKLEBALL



This week during P.E. class the students played a game called Pickleball. Pickleball is a lifesize version of Ping Pong.



Statewide Assessment (NeSA)

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

NESA 2015 Schedule

Juniors will be testing on the following dates: March 25th and 26th, April 2nd, 15th, 17th and 21st.

Junior High and Elementary will be testing on the following dates: April 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th.

5th Grade will be tested in Science on April 21st and 22nd

8th Grade Science will be tested in Science on April 22nd and 23rd

*Check our website for the most current news and calendar:
www.elgineagles.org*

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NEWSLETTER
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