



Husky News

Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Volume 3, Issue 1

October 2002

Showing Pride Taking Action

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

by Brian Shanks, Superintendent

In 2001 both houses of congress overwhelmingly passed the now famous No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. This bill was passed with bipartisan support and contains some issues that we are forced to address at both the local and state level. Unlike many federal mandates that come and go, the NCLB Act is here to stay. In short, the main theme is local and state accountability. We are now held accountable, with real consequences, for our effectiveness in teaching math and reading in grades K-12.

Accountability means testing, and this is nothing new to us as we have been testing all students in grades 1-8 for the past two years. The state has required that grades 2, 4, 8, and 11 be tested and we have exceeded those minimums. We have always been held accountable as our test data has been published and compared to other school districts. Now we could be forced to provide vouchers to private or charter schools, pay for outside tutoring, lose funding, etc. There will be real consequences if all students do not improve in reading and math. Science will be added in the next five years as a point of emphasis.

The NCLB Act will force us to be more aware of our content standards and to make sure that we are focusing on the items to be tested. A good deal of our staff development over the next couple of years will focus on interpreting data and finding both strengths and areas of concern. We have begun the process of evaluating our data and we are making great progress in improving our reading and math scores. We are going to provide our teachers with the time and resources to continue to improve in all areas of our curriculum.

Starting this year, we will be taking the Dakota Step test which is a combination of an augmented version of the Stanford Achievement Test 10 and a content standards based portion that will be used to measure our progress towards the levels of achievement set by the state. We will be expected to make a certain amount of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to be considered a successful school. If we don't do so, we will be subject to a plan of improvement, and if we continue to lack a certain amount of "AYP," further consequences may be thrust upon us.

We are confident that we will be able to work with the NCLB Act, and we will benefit from our efforts to excel in both reading and math. We have decided to take it further than just those two areas and to work towards improving in all of our curriculum areas. We view the new legislation as a challenge and hope that our state leaders are responsible in implementing guidelines that are both reasonable and attainable.

Visit the Revised EP-J School Web Site

by Rod Knutson, H.S. Business

A good way for parents and students to stay in touch with school is to use the NEW REVISED Elk Point-Jefferson School's home web page. The new web page will be updated regularly and will provide a great communication tool for the school and community. Just log on to <http://www.epj.k12.sd.us>, click on the link at the top of the page, and go to one of these areas:

Activities – Every school activity has a calendar of events. All of these events will be updated regularly when there is a change in the time/place of an event. All athletic events will have results/scores posted after the conclusion of the event. EP-J Booster Clubs will also have a site posted here at a later date.

Calendar – The school calendar lists the days that school will not be in session for holidays, teacher in-services, early dismissal times, and days that parent teacher conferences are scheduled.

Handbook – The handbook includes district wide policies, elementary/middle school/high school building policies, EP-J's school song, goals and objectives, statement of philosophy, and a message from the board of education.

Menu – The school lunch menu will list all breakfast and lunch menus for the month. All menu prices are also included on this page.

Parent Portal – Parents can access student grades, attendance, etc. See the article from Mr. Klumper on page 2 that describes this new service.

Search Tools – This link will give you quick and easy access to a number of search engines.

Staff – The EP-J staff directory lists all telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for the administration, grades K-6, grades 7-12, advisors/coaches, special services, and support staff.

Other – This includes a list of sites to visit such as: A Century in Review, City of Elk Point Homepage, Discover South Dakota (4th grade), School Newsletters, Postcards, SD Ed Web, SD Dept. of Education & Cultural Affairs, and the National Weather Service.

School Postponements or Cancellations

Please note--emergency closings will be posted with the following sources:
TV Stations: KELO, KSFY, KCAU, KTIV, & KMEG
Radio Station: WNAX, Yankton
Web Site: <http://closings.siouxland.com>

Parent's Can Access Student Grades On-line

by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District staff has been using the state-wide DDN Campus SIS software since the start of this school year. We are currently completing the final steps necessary for implementing the DDN Campus Parent's Portal.

The Parent's Portal is an Internet-based, personalized web-page that provides parents with information concerning their children's assignments, grades, attendance, health and discipline history, and schedule.

The Parent's Portal is individualized, allowing parental access to only their children's information. Security was and is a major concern of the program developers. A unique username and password are required to access each individual portal.

Parental usernames and passwords will be distributed in the high school commons area the evenings of October 15 and 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and at parent teacher conferences, on October 22 and 24. Parent's Portal training will also be available at these times.

DDN Campus requires the use of a web browser that supports high encryption. Further information and download links are available on my web page at <http://www.epj.k12.sd.us/Staff/Klumper/default.htm>. Please feel free to send e-mail to me at jerry.klumper@k12.sd.us if you have any questions.

We are highly enthusiastic about the educational benefits of the Parent's Portal. We sincerely hope that parents will take advantage of its potential.

Changes in Community Access Channel

Our community access channel (45) will soon be back on the air with new features. McLeod USA is furnishing a weather station that will provide live broadcast of time, temperature and wind speed. Bonna Del Kastrup will take over as "news" director. Please direct broadcast requests to her at: Phone: 356-5950 or Fax: 356-5953

E-mail: Bonnadel.Kastrup@k12.sd.us

Improved Lunch & Breakfast Program

by Kathi Johnson, Food Service Director

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District is committed to producing a better product with more choices in the school lunch program. We have made some changes this year that make our meals more attractive for the students. We feel that an upgraded lunch program will increase our productivity by satisfying the needs of our students, and satisfied students do better in school.

This year we have adopted some changes as a result of last year's parent survey. Last year the school board was looking at hiring a private contractor to run the program as a business. The board decided that instead of hiring a private contractor we should try to adopt some of the things they do to attract students to the program.

As the new food service director, it has been my responsibility to meet these new challenges. This year, we are providing all students a choice of two entrees and an all you can eat salad bar for grades 4-12. For students in grades K-3 we provide a limited salad bar that includes lettuce and toppings. We are attempting to improve the quality of our meals by making more "homemade meals" with a larger variety of menu items and buying more high quality foods.

This year we started a breakfast program that is attracting about 100 students a day for a nutritious breakfast. Breakfast is served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. All of our breakfasts include milk, juice, and a breakfast item. We also offer cold cereal each day for those who are accustomed to that breakfast item. Research has shown that a good breakfast is vital to school performance, and we want to provide all students the opportunity to have breakfast.

I am committed to improving our food service and am planning to work with the students and parents in developing a top notch meal program in the Elk Point-Jefferson School District. Parents are invited and encouraged to come and eat meals with their children at any time.

High School Chorus Keeping Busy . . . by Melissa Shanks, H.S. Vocal

EPJ HS Choir has been busy since school started. The chorus this year consists of 23 male voices, 43 female voices, and one happy director! Finally, we have a whole men's section! The chorus started out the school year by performing the selection "One Great Nation" at the September 11 assembly held at the school. They then sang "United We Stand" and "One Single Light" at coronation during homecoming week. They also performed for the residents at the Prairie Estates Care Center.

All-State Chorus auditions were held on Wednesday, October 2. Delegates for All-State Chorus are Renee Curry--soprano, Whitney Karpen--alto, Bob Truhe--tenor, and Robert Curry--bass. Alternates are Olivia Wilkinson, Molly Frankl, Jason Donnelly, and Jacob Joffer. Many hours of practice are spent in preparation for All State Chorus. Students must learn and memorize eight challenging selections. Sixteen area schools meet each Monday evening for six weeks and rehearse together. All-State Chorus is held in conjunction with All State Orchestra on November 8-9 in Sioux Falls. The concert on Saturday evening will be held in the Sioux Falls arena at 8:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Tickets will go on sale that afternoon. Come support our students and enjoy a wonderful evening of entertainment!

**** REMINDER ****

Parent Conferences

**Tuesday, October 22
and**

Thursday, October 24

4:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Community Education Offerings . . . by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District has been working with Western Iowa Technical Community College and Southeastern Technical Institute in an effort to use EP-J's facilities to offer high-quality, professional training. These efforts are coming to fruition. Beginning in November, WITCC and EP-J will offer MOUS and MCSE track training. Both of these courses can lead to Microsoft Certification, which can have career-enhancing results. Time, dates, locations, costs and other information regarding these courses are on my web page at: <http://www.epj.k12.sd.us/Staff/Klumper/default.htm>. Please feel free to send an e-mail to me at jerry.klumper@k12.sd.us.

MOUS Training

The Microsoft Office Specialist (Office Specialist) program is the only comprehensive, performance-based certification program approved by Microsoft to validate desktop computer skills using the Microsoft Office programs:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft Outlook®
- Microsoft PowerPoint®
- Microsoft Project

The Office Specialist program provides computer program literacy, measures proficiency, and identifies opportunities for skills enhancement. Successful candidates receive an Office Specialist certificate that sets them apart from their peers in the competitive job market. The certificate is a valuable credential recognized worldwide as proof that an individual has the desktop computing skills needed to work more productively and efficiently. By encouraging individuals to develop advanced skills with Microsoft business desktop software, the Office Specialist program is helping to fill the demand for qualified, knowledgeable people in the workplace. Office Specialist also helps satisfy an organization's need for a qualitative assessment of employee skills.

(Source: <http://www.microsoft.com/traincert/mcp/officespecialist/officespecialist.asp>)

MCSE Training

The Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) credential is the premier certification for professionals who analyze the business requirements and design and implement the infrastructure for business solutions based on the Microsoft Windows 2000 platform and Microsoft .NET Enterprise Servers. Implementation responsibilities include installing, configuring, and troubleshooting network systems.

The MCSE certification is appropriate for:

- systems engineers
- systems analysts
- technical consultants
- technical support engineers
- network analysts

The MCSE credential is one of the most widely recognized technical certifications in the industry. By earning the premier MCSE credential, individuals are demonstrating that they have the skills necessary to lead organizations in the successful design, implementation, and administration of the most advanced Windows operating system and Microsoft .NET Enterprise Servers.

(Source: <http://www.microsoft.com/traincert/mcp/mcse/mcse.asp>)

Summer Mathematics Workshop

by Rita Ahmann, H.S. Mathematics/Science

July 15-19 were the dates for a workshop in Watertown on the TI-83 graphing calculators. Presenters Jeff Lukens and Bob Tower from Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School demonstrated uses of the graphing calculators in math and science classrooms. Attendees were able to practice using the calculators and other connected equipment in experiments that students would perform to gather data. Teachers participating in the workshop came home with over \$3000 worth of equipment for their schools. That included ten TI-83 Plus Silver Edition calculators and an overhead viewscreen for the calculators. Lukens and Tower hope to make this an annual workshop. Attending this year from EPJ was Rita Ahmann.



EP-J Staff Participate in PDC Program

by David Dohn, PDC Mentor

As another school year starts at Elk Point-Jefferson, so does another year of the Professional Development Program (PDC). For those who do not know about PDC, the program is based on a contractual agreement in which the participating school districts (like Elk Point-Jefferson) and the School of Education at the University of South Dakota share responsibilities to support year-long internships and mentorships to bring advanced degree expertise to bear on improvement of education. The PDC Teachers at Elk Point-Jefferson are Gabe Devitt, Ryan Hanson, and Kristy McAninch. They are entry level educators who desire a graduate degree in an education-related field and who are employed professionals at a PDC site. The PDC Mentors at Elk Point-Jefferson are Lori Hawley and David Dohn. PDC Mentors are experienced professionals currently employed by participating school districts who show leadership and commitment to preparing others for the profession. Mentors will have the opportunity to complete course work which can be applied to the Master's, Educational Specialist, or Doctoral Degrees in Education. The program offers many benefits to the Elk Point-Jefferson school district including use of educational materials, hardware, technical linkages to broad bases of learning resources, increased opportunity to demonstrate, evaluate, and develop the best curriculum software, learning activities, and teaching methods. We are all looking forward to having another exciting and successful year at EP-J.

Academic Eligibility at EP-J

by Jeff Zeller, Activities Director

We hold all our students at Elk Point-Jefferson to high academic standards. We expect hard work and do our best to promote success. One of the ways we hold our students accountable is with our Academic Eligibility Policy. It works like this:

1. Every 4 ½ weeks, the grades of every student in grades 7-12 are reported to Mr. Pirner's (7-12 Principal) office.
2. Mr. Pirner then works with Mr. Zeller (7-12 Activities Director) and compiles a list of students who are failing any class.
3. If a student is failing any class, he/she is notified by Mr. Zeller and is not allowed to participate in any extra-curricular or co-curricular activity for one week.
4. The student is then responsible for raising his or her grade in the class or classes. He/she also has to return a letter to Mr. Zeller that has been signed by the teacher and the parent/guardian.
5. The student is eligible again after the one-week suspension if he/she is passing all classes. The student is then eligible until the next grade check (every 4 ½ weeks).

This is just one way that the entire 7-12 staff attempts to reach out to our students and hold them accountable for their actions while at the same time encouraging their success. We send a strong message with this policy that academics come first. Please call me (356-5870) if you have any questions about EP-J's Academic Eligibility Policy.

Library News . . . by Carmen Wilcox, EP-J Librarian

With school now in full swing, the EP-J Library will be offering a number of activities for both the students and the adult library users. During the week of September 23rd a Beginner's Computer Class was offered for children in grades one and two. Renee Curry, a senior at EP-J, taught the children simple computer operations and how to access safe sites on the Internet.

In addition to the children's computer class, the library will be offering an Adult Beginner's Computer Class on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. No pre-registration is required. Classes began on Wednesday, October 2. This class will run through the end of November.

Preschool Storytime started October 3 and is held on Thursdays at 12:45 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Anyone wishing to register his/her child may do so by calling 356-5923 or 356-5941 during regular library hours.

Mark the week of October 21 on your calendars. The Annual Scholastic Book Fair will be here. More information will be coming home with the students prior to the fair. Many wonderful books, toys, and other materials will be available. Help support your library by buying at the Book Fair.

Stop by and check out the new arrivals. Many new, exciting titles are purchased on a monthly basis. A number of new books are purchased from the best-seller lists.

EP-J Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education

by Phil Breed, Guidance Director

When it comes to your child being exposed to drugs and alcohol, it is no longer a question of "if," but "when." Children today are trying drugs at very young ages. Unfortunately, drugs and alcohol are easy to get. Because trying drugs and alcohol can have long-term consequences, we cannot consider experiments with drugs and alcohol a "normal" part of growing up. Some drugs can kill the user the first time. Having the belief that experimentation is "normal" adolescent behavior sends the message that it is acceptable. This is a very dangerous idea.

We strongly believe in providing our students with drug and alcohol resistance skills. Benjamin Franklin once wrote, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." We contend that providing prevention training is effective. As we looked at various programs, we found research shows that in order to produce desired results, an effective curriculum must be taught. Below are the programs we will implement this year:

- Grades K-6 Character Counts
- Grade 5 D.A.R.E.
- Grade 6 Project Northland "The Slick Tracy Home Team Program"
- Grade 7 Project ALERT
- Grade 8 Project ALERT
- Grade 8 Project Northland "Powerlines"
- Grade 9 SD National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program
- Grades 9 ALERT Plus
- Grade 10 ALERT Plus
- Grades 9-12 ... EP-J Improv
- Grades 9-12 ... Natural Helpers

We will also provide assemblies for K-6 and 7-12 throughout the year. If you know of additional effective programs, please inform us. Also, if you ever have a question or concern about your child, please feel free to contact us:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Phil Breed | Jeff Zeller |
| 7-12 School Counselor | K-6 School Counselor |
| 356-5871 | 356-5870 |
| Phil.Breed@k12.sd.us | Jeff.Zeller@k12.sd.us |

Middle School Mini Course Program

The annual EP-J Middle School Mini Course Program is set for Friday, November 15. If you would like to volunteer to share a hobby, interest, or profession with the students, please notify Patty Skinner at 356-5861 (daytime) or 356-2674 (evenings), or send an e-mail to Patty.Skinner@k12.sd.us.

EP-J All Activities Booster Club Helps Kick Off the School Year!

by Jeff Zeller, Activities Director

The Elk Point-Jefferson Booster Club has started the school off with some great events. We are currently working on our membership drive. We are having a contest in the classrooms at school; the first class to have 100% membership from their parents will earn a classroom party. So if you have not signed up yet, please do. Memberships are \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families. If you have not received your membership sign-up form, check with your child's teacher or with Norma Ferdig or Mona Fennel.

The Booster Club also hosted the tailgate at the football game against Akron-Westfield. This was a great event as everyone came hungry and generous. Most of the food was donated by the 727th Army National Guard unit and they also supplied cookers; thank you to them for their great help and support. The bars were supplied by the football player's moms and they did a wonderful job again. The event was a free-will offering and it worked out great; we ended up about \$500 ahead on this project. Once again, thank-you to all who helped and to those who donated.

Here are some other exciting things also in progress. We currently have some students working on a web page for us that is almost ready. We have had parent's night events for the football, volleyball and cross country teams. We have been accepting grant applications from the teachers, and these will be awarded in the next month. As always we continue to supply Husky apparel for everyone. If you are ever in need of apparel items, contact either Dr. Bill Pohlen or Jodi Zeller. We also ran the concession stand at the Husky football jamboree. These are just a few of the many exciting Husky events that we have had the pleasure to be involved in.

If you have any questions or would like to become involved with the Elk Point-Jefferson Booster Club, please contact any of our officers or Jeff Zeller, EP-J Activities Director. This year's EP-J Booster Club officers are President, Dr. Bill Pohlen; Vice-President, Lora Trudeau; and Secretary-Treasurer, Jodi Zeller. Our executive board consists of Jeanne Staum, Kristi Lehmann and Brad Fowler.

FROM THE DESK OF Doug Brusseau, K-6 Principal

Allergies . . . by Lisa McInerney, RN, School Nurse & Doug Brusseau

A properly functioning immune system in today's world is a well-trained and disciplined biological warfare unit for the body. The immune system is just amazing. It is able to identify and destroy many foreign invaders to the body. The immune system can identify cells that are infected internally with viruses, as well as many cells that are on their way to becoming tumors. It does all of this work so the body remains healthy.

As amazing as the immune system is, it sometimes makes mistakes. Allergies are the result of a hypersensitive immune system. The allergic immune system misidentifies an otherwise harmless substance as harmful, and then attacks the substance with a ferocity far greater than required. The problems this attack can cause range from mildly inconvenient and uncomfortable feeling to total failure of the organism the immune system is supposed to be protecting.

Today between six and seven million people experience true food allergies throughout the United States. There is no cure for food allergies at the present time. The only way to prevent an allergic reaction is avoidance. Remember, when the immune system identifies a food item as being harmful to the body, it sends out white blood cells to attack and destroy the food item it views as harmful to the body. One chemical common in the white blood cells is histamine; it is an important weapon in the body's arsenal for fighting infection. Unfortunately, when released into the body inappropriately or in too high a quantity, histamine is a potentially devastating substance. The body's reaction to the allergen may bring about various allergy symptoms, some of the most common being itching, hives, sneezing, wheezing, nausea, diarrhea and vomiting.

Some allergic people become sensitized to proteins, which can cause systemic reaction throughout the body. In a systemic reaction, the immune system releases white blood cells, containing histamine, which causes the capillaries all over the body to dilate. If this proceeds to a danger point, anaphylaxis may result with the person going into shock and becoming unconscious.

There are eight foods that account for ninety percent of all food allergies: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, cashews-these are different from peanuts) fish, shellfish, soy and wheat. An individual may outgrow some of these food allergies. The peanut allergy tends to be life-long, although scientists say twenty percent of the population may outgrow it.

There are three techniques commonly offered by doctors to help allergy sufferers: avoidance, medication and immunotherapy. Many allergens, once identified, can simply be avoided. As the individual grows older, he/she will know which situations should be avoided and will take the necessary action. The allergens, pollen, mold and dust that cannot be avoided are treated with medication.

Food allergies are the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting, accounting for three hundred thousand visits to the emergency room each year.

School districts across the country have to deal with students on a daily basis who have allergies of one form or another. Each situation is handled differently and may change as new information becomes available to the school and the individual. The current situation within the Elk Point-Jefferson School District is under review each week as to how it affects the students in kindergarten through the fifth grade.

The staff members of the school district appreciate the efforts all of the families have made to date. We understand this has changed the eating habits of many students. As we learn more about the effects of this allergy, we will continue to update you.

AREA Training

by Dena Donnelly/Rachel Foltz/Carol King, Second Grade

Elk Point-Jefferson elementary teachers in grades K-3, Title 1 and Special Education have been participating in the Advanced Reading Enhancement Approach (AREA) training.

This training strives to help South Dakota teachers of students in grades one through three gain a deeper understanding of the literacy acquisition process and instructional practices which allow students to become engaged, life-long literacy learners. The teachers have been observing the students to determine their individual strengths and weaknesses in order to teach them appropriately.

Guided Reading is the heart of the literacy program; this is a method of teaching reading in which the teacher supports each reader's development of effective strategies for comprehension. The focus is on constructing meaning by using problem-solving strategies to figure out unknown words, deal with tricky sentence structure, and understand concepts or ideas students have not previously met in print. It gives children enjoyable, successful experiences in reading for meaning and develops the abilities needed for independent reading.

Music Learning Center Is Underway

by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music



Justin Montagne, Daniel Hargadine, and Liz Schuh enjoy working at the Learning Center.

The K-4 music department has its learning center up and running this fall. After acquiring another keyboard, Mrs. Hanson set up three stations for the students to use. Third and fourth graders take turns the last ten minutes of class time using the independent stations. There are two keyboards with headsets for exploring sounds and keyboard skills.

This fall the students did a unit on the piano. They discovered the secret road map for finding their way around the keyboard. They learned their finger names. With the learning center, the students have a chance to explore playing the piano.

The computer has the "Music Ace" program, also with a headset. Every child's name is listed by class section. Students go through lessons that teach a variety of musical skills. The computer program keeps track of their score and which lesson they ended on. They work at their own pace with "Mr. Piccolo" teaching them as they go.

If anyone has a keyboard they would like to donate to the music department, please call Mrs. Hanson at 356-5893.

Classical Kids!

by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music

Whether you are introducing your child to the magic of live music or you already have a budding young musician at home, the Sioux City Symphony's Classical Kids series is perfect for children and adults of all ages. Designed to introduce young audiences to classical music and music making, these special one-hour concerts involve orchestra performances, entertainment and presentations by Maestro Stephen Rogers Radcliffe about the stories behind the music, the instruments, and the musicians. At just \$30 for a season pass for the entire family, the price can't be beat! (Individual tickets are \$6 each per concert.) Three spectacular symphonic Sundays await you and are perfect for kids 4-12.

CLASSICAL KIDS - HALLOWEEN

Sunday, October 27, 2002 • 4:00 PM • Orpheum Theatre
Symphonic spooks, musical monsters, and a concert-hall costume contest are sure to provide fun for the entire family. The symphony musicians will be donning spooktacular costumes for this special Halloween season fanfare, and children of all ages should come in their favorite Halloween disguise for an afternoon of fun, great music, and orchestral "trick or treats."

Sponsored by St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and KTIV.

CLASSICAL KIDS - PETER AND THE WOLF

Sunday, January 19, 2003 • 4:00 PM • Orpheum Theatre
The classic story of "Peter and the Wolf" is brought to life by the imaginative puppet artistry of "Das Puppenspiel." Join the symphony and an award-winning assortment of colorful, larger-than-life puppets as we retell the time-honored children's tale of Peter's adventures.

Sponsored by Mary Gay Gunsch and KTIV.

CLASSICAL KIDS - TUBBY THE TUBA AND BABAR

Sunday, March 9, 2003 • 4:00 PM • Orpheum Theatre
Two heartwarming children's stories are set to music in this afternoon of fun for children and adults. First Tubby the Tuba joins the symphony with his friend Peepo the Piccolo in this charming introduction to the instruments of the orchestra. Then the orchestra takes Babar, the mischievous elephant, on an exciting journey through the animal world.

Sponsored by Gelita North America and KTIV.

Save Your Labels & Pop Tabs

Don't forget to save and turn in your Campbell's Labels for Education and General Foods Box Tops for Education labels. We are also collecting beverage tabs for the Ronald McDonald's House. Please send these items with your children or drop them off at either the elementary or high school office.

Lewis & Clark in the Park

by Tama Zeller, Fourth Grade



To begin their school year on a beautiful afternoon in late August, the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students attended a Lewis and Clark campsite presentation in the city park. The three classes of children were divided into groups and participated in five different stations which replicated pre-1840 - style campsites.



The students were given highlights of the Lewis and

Clark expedition. They got to see what people would have worn, eaten, or used in everyday life. They showed the children some of the things they would have traded: clothing, animal skins, medical chests, guns, necessities such as fire starting, and a variety of many items that would have been present during the Lewis and Clark journey.

Eugene Gass Painter, the great grandson of Patrick Gass, was an honored guest who headed his own station telling stories to the children and answering questions about Lewis and Clark's adventures.

The 4th graders will be learning about Lewis and Clark in their South Dakota History Unit this year. Each 6th grader will be reading a book about the Lewis and Clark Expedition.



Students Remember 9/11 . . . *by Tama Zeller, Fourth Grade*

Fourth grade students in Mrs. Zeller's social studies classes remembered September 11 in their own special way on the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America.

Many of the children wore red, white, and blue as a symbol of their patriotism. They discussed American symbols, landmarks, and the flag. The students talked about the many heroes of September 11 and were asked to write paragraphs on "Who is a hero in their eyes?"

The class listened to many writings of other students across America who wrote what they thought it meant to be an American. Each fourth grader then wrote a paragraph titled "What does it mean to be an American?"

A large bulletin board of a flag was created using cut outs of the student's hands for the flag stripes and read "Proud to be an American." Here are some of the students' writings.

To be an American is to care for one another. To help others and not to be perfect or greedy but to be who you really are and not to be more than what you really are. An American stands up for their rights and stands up for one another. America is a free country. We fight for our freedom. Freedom lets us live and go to school where we want, and buy anything we need or want. That's what I think an American is!

By Michelle Corio

What I think it means to be an American is to honor and respect our leaders, family, friends, and yourself because they are going to help America stay together and be free. It also means that no matter what, every person is free and has equal rights. That's why I like being an American.

By Jenna Donnelly

American means we are free to say what we want to say without being told what to do or say. To travel from state to state without being stopped or searched. The right to vote for our local, state and national leaders. Basically we have choices and need to love our freedoms.

By Bobbie McLaury

We have many good things in America that not every other country has. Most people have nice homes, clothing, food, toys, and a safe area to live in. Our laws help protect us and keep us safe. Our nation is also very strong and tries to keep the world a safe place to live in. In America we have rights like freedom of speech, religion and the right to education. In America we have beautiful parks and statues that help us remember important things from the past and past leaders. Being an American means that we have the freedom to enjoy many things that people in other countries can't.

By Cayla Hilbrands

FROM THE DESK OF Randy Pirner, Principal

We are now nearing the completion of the first quarter of the 2002-2003 school year. I would like to share some philosophical statements that I truly believe in.

When dealing with students always remember that they:

- Are the most important people in our business.
- Are not dependent on us... we are dependent on them.
- Are not an interruption in our work... they are the purpose of it.
- Do us a favor when they call upon us... we are not doing them a favor when we serve them.
- Are part of our business... they are not outsiders.
- Are not a cold statistic... they're flesh and blood human beings with feelings and emotions like our own.
- Are not a name or a face or a number... they're individuals.
- Are not someone to argue or match wits with.
- Are people who bring us their wants... it's our job to fill those wants.
- Are the lifeblood of this or of any other business.
- Deserve the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give them.

Homeroom and Portfolios

Our homeroom concept that started last year has been a success and we want to continue to improve on things. We will be starting another component to benefit our students with the use of portfolios.

Let me explain how the use of portfolios will benefit our students. Each homeroom teacher will have individual portfolios for all students. The staff member will work with each student in career and educational planning. Some of the factors included in the portfolios will be: (a) secondary educational plan, (b) graduation requirement checklist, (c) future goals (d) career planning clusters, (e) competencies employers want, (f) job shadowing/work experience documentation, (g) resume, and (h) honors and award information.

This ongoing activity will foster a positive relationship between the teacher and the student. This will enhance the homeroom experience by allowing the student to work directly with an instructor to assist in the planning of his/her future. Each staff member is required to meet with every student at least once during each quarter to discuss this portfolio.

National Honor Society

by Rita Ahmann, National Honor Society Advisor

The selection process for National Honor Society is underway for another year. Juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.25 or above are eligible for admission. Those students interested must complete a student activity form, enumerating their activities in the areas of leadership, character, and service. A five member faculty committee will study the forms and evaluate the students. The students will receive a letter at home notifying them as to whether or not they will be included in the membership for this school year. The induction ceremony has been changed to Monday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Middle School Council's Year Begins

by Patty Skinner, M.S. Language Arts

The middle school began its year with its annual elections. After hearing the campaign speeches, the students elected the following as their council representatives: Kyle Hanson, Tommi Hanson, Kara Bosse, Chris Tow, Kale Nelson, Rikka Quam, Troy Turkleson, Molly Donnelly, Bobby Trudeau, Anna Erickson, Allison Lawler, Chris Hasenbank, Luke Frankl, Chelsey Borchardt, Jeremiah Curry and Molly Hammitt.

At the first meeting the council elected Kara Bosse as president and Bobby Trudeau as vice president. Tommi Hanson will serve as secretary while Chris Tow will act as the treasurer for the council.

Homecoming was the first event of the year for the council. This year the council designed and produced its own homecoming buttons to sell. It planned and built floats as well as sponsoring its annual Homecoming Doughnut Break. In conjunction with the SHARKS, the council hosted a Chili and Hot Dog Tailgate Party before the homecoming football game October 4. The proceeds of the event went to the new community swimming pool.

The council in conjunction with the EP-J Activities Boosters will sponsor Citizens of the Month and Citizens of the Week Awards. Students will be recognized for good behavior, manners, academics, helpfulness and participation in activities in and out of school.

Upcoming events this first semester include the Halloween Dance, Mini Courses, Christmas Dance, Christmas Decorating Contest and the Battle of the Homerooms.

Donnelly Receives Top Score

by Rita Ahmann, H.S. Mathematics/Science

Jake Donnelly, senior, was notified this past summer that he was the top scorer in the state for the American Mathematics Competition. The competition was a national test given in February to thousands of high school students across the country. Locally, the precalculus students took the test. Jake scored high enough to advance to the next level, the American Invitational Mathematics Examination. This was a 3-hour test, administered locally. In August, Jake received a congratulatory letter and a plaque recognizing him as the high scorer in the state.

Parents of Graduating Seniors

by Deb Limoges, Senior Advisor

We would like to inform you of a couple of items that you and your senior son or daughter will need to address in the next few months. These items include senior portraits and graduation announcements.

Two senior portraits need to be brought to the yearbook staff by December 31, 2002. One photo is for the yearbook; the second photo is for the class composite. The portrait must be a head and shoulders shot. We request a background that does not include trees, flowers, or anything that may distract from the focus of the photograph, which is the student. It is your responsibility to get the photograph turned in to Mrs. Limoges, the yearbook advisor, by the December 31, 2002 deadline. Because of publication deadlines, any senior that has not turned in a photograph by December 31 will not be included in the 2003 yearbook.

During the month of November, Tom Tastad from Josten's will be visiting with the senior class about ordering caps and gowns, and graduation announcements. All seniors will order a cap and gown. If your son or daughter sold the required number of magazine subscriptions as a junior last year, the class treasury will pay for the cap and gown. If your child did not sell magazine subscriptions, he or she will be assessed the graduation fee next spring.

The seniors will also be able to order announcements and other graduation memorabilia from Josten's. This is not mandatory; seniors are not obligated to purchase anything from Mr. Tastad unless they choose to do so. Some parents have requested alternative options for announcements, but those alternative options will have to be pursued individually. Tom Tastad will be in the school visiting with all seniors during the month of November. Orders will be placed with him during the month of December. Payment is not due until the orders come in April of 2003. Please call the school if you have any questions.

The J.A.M.E.S. Project . . . by Robert Vanderlinde, H.S. Science

The J.A.M.E.S. Project is designed to allow high school students and science teachers and university students and their professors to work together in a project-based learning environment. Students at each of the participating schools observe, collect, and record data from water samples taken throughout the region. For the past three years, high school students have had the opportunity to do authentic research while university science-methods students have gained real-life teaching experience working with the high school students.

These words describe the program that students in Mr. Vanderlinde's Advanced Life Science class have started to take part in this school year. The project, which originally started as a study of the James River, has been expanded to include the Missouri River and its tributaries. Nine water tests are run on each sample of water collected. There are four collection dates predetermined during the school year. All of the participating schools are to try to do the sampling on or as close to the dates as possible. The data is then submitted to the James Project Website that is maintained by the University of South Dakota. The National Park Service provides much of the funding for test equipment. The first collection day was September 11. Because of commitments at EPJ, the sampling day was postponed to September 13. Next testing dates are: November 13, 2002; March 26, 2003; and May 7, 2003.

Other activities that can be done on the website are:

- answering of the question posed by the Webmaster
- participation in bulletin board discussions
- submission of photos of the testing site.

It looks to be a very enjoyable and valuable learning experience for the students of EP-J.



Advanced Life Science students test water from the Big Sioux River near Richland.

November 2002

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7th & 8th Grade Halloween Dance @ 7:00	2 Volleyball "C" Tourney @ EP-J @ 9:00 AM
3	4 District Volleyball @ Vermillion @ 6:00 PM JHGBB @ 4:00 @ Beresford	5 Football Quarter Finals	6	7 District VB @ Vermillion @ 7:00 All-State Chorus Traveling Concert	8 All State Orchestra & Chorus in Sioux Falls	9 All State Orchestra & Chorus in Sioux Falls
10	11 Football Semi-Finals EP-J Board of Ed. Meeting @ 7:00 Music Booster Meeting @ 7:00	12 JHGBB @ 4:00 w/Alcester	13	14 Region VB @ 7:00 JHGBB @ 4:00 @ Dakota Valley	15 JH Mini Courses Augie Band Festival Football Championship	16 Augie Band Festival Football Championship
17	18 Wrestling Practice Begins National Honor Society Induction @ 7:00	19 JHGBB @ 4:00 w/S.F. Christian Region Oral Interp @ Sioux Falls	20	21 Dismiss @ 12:45 for In-Service State Volleyball @ Watertown	22 State Volleyball @ Watertown	23 State Volleyball @ Watertown
24	25 Region I Honor Band GBB Practice Begins JHGBB @ 4:00 @ Harrisburg	26 5th - 8th Grade Science Fair	27 Dismiss @ 2:25	28 NO SCHOOL --THANKSGIVING BREAK--	29 NO SCHOOL	30

December 2002

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Boys BB Practice Begins JHGBB @ 4:00 @ Canton	3 Early Bird Quad Wrestling @ 5:45 @ Alcester	4	5 JHGBB @ 4:00 @ Vermillion	6 7th & 8th Grade Holiday Dance @ 7:00	7 Flandreau Wrestling Invite @ 11:00 Sharks Breakfast with Santa
8	9 EP-J Board of Ed. Meeting @ 7:00 Music Booster Meeting JHGBB @ 4:00 w/Dakota Valley	10 Beresford Wrestling Quad @ 5:30 GBB @ 6:15 w/Gayville-Volin	11	12 9th - 12th Grade Music Concert @ 7:00 JHGBB @ 4:00 w/Vermillion	13 Girls & Boys Basketball w/Scotland Girls - 5:15 Boys - 5:15	14 GBB & BBB Classic @ South Sioux City, NE Wrestling @ 9:00 @ Gregory JHGBB Big Sioux Conference
15	16 5th - 8th Grade Music Concert @ 7:00	17 JHGBB @ 4:00 @ Lennox	18	19 K - 4th Grade Music Concert @ 7:00 SEMESTER TESTS.....	20 GBB & BBB w/S.F. Christian @ 4:00 END OF 1ST SEMESTER Dismiss @ 2:25	21 BBB Northern State Classic EPJ vs Clark Madison Wrestling Invite @ 9:00
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
NO SCHOOL NO SCHOOL NO SCHOOL NO SCHOOL NO SCHOOL NO SCHOOL						
-- CHRISTMAS VACATION --						
29	30	31				
NO SCHOOL NO SCHOOL			Classes will resume on January 6, 2003			
-- CHRISTMAS VACATION --						



The Construction Tech class is pounding away. The students are in the process of building a storage shed that will be for sale in the near future. In the photo to the left is the shed in its current stage. Once completed, the shed will resemble the one shown at the right that was built last year. This newly constructed shed will be looking for a new home! If you are interested in purchasing the shed, please contact BonnaDel Kastrup at 356-5950.

Elk Point-Jefferson School District
402 S. Douglas, P.O. Box 578
Elk Point, SD 57025

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