



# Husky News

*Elk Point-Jefferson School District*

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 2003

**Showing Pride . . . Taking Action**

## **Good Testing Results, Good School? . . .** *by Brian Shanks, Superintendent*

With the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal legislation that forces schools to focus on testing results, we are forced to spend much of our staff development time focusing on this issue. To be honest, it troubles me that we are constantly talking about testing to the public, to the students, and to the teachers. It is important to remember that testing results are only one part of determining a successful school. We are fortunate to have excellent testing results, but I think that it has been at a price as we ignore some of the other aspects of a successful school that are just as important.

A successful school has adults within its walls that care about kids and provide them with a safe environment in which to flourish. The emphasis is that we “give up on no one,” and teachers go out of their way to help all kids succeed. It is tempting to abandon this philosophy because of the pressures to cover everything in the state mandated content standards. There is only so much time in the day, and the NCLB legislation can almost have an exact opposite outcome from its intent as teachers are scrambling to cover all that they are supposed to; consequently, some children can be “left behind.”

The NCLB legislation also forces teachers to look at meaningful projects that children have enjoyed for years and perhaps to stop doing them because they are not associated with the content standards. I find it a little disconcerting when teachers have to limit interesting interaction with the kids

because it isn't in the content standards. When we discuss the possibility of having our first graders visit a pumpkin patch, or taking the kids to visit St. Paul Lutheran Church, or the merit of any field trip, we must first justify it by visiting the content standards.

The intent of the NCLB legislation is good, and in many ways we welcome it as it forces schools to push for all kids to succeed. We believe in the same outcome. However, it comes with consequences for schools that don't meet a certain level of success that include public notice of “failure” and perhaps loss of local control. Instead of talking about the “neat” things we do in the classroom, we are talking about how to score highly on the standardized tests. I miss talking about the “neat” things we do, because now we talk about what our scaled score was in math or reading.

I am all for accountability and high expectations because it is part of our mission to be the best school we can be. I am in favor of content standards because it gives us a “roadmap” to follow and something on which to base educational decisions. I even think that standardized tests are a good thing to help teachers measure the success of the students and adjust what needs to be taught. I don't believe, though, that standardized tests should be the only criteria in measuring a “successful school.”

## **Internet Crimes Against Children . . .** *by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director*

Mr. Dennis Falken will conduct an Internet Crimes Against Children Presentation on Thursday, April 10, at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Falken is a 30-year veteran of the Brookings Police Department. After retirement he wanted to continue in the area of child safety in South Dakota. He was contacted by Lt. Bill Mickelson of the South Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Enforcement Unit to assist him with public education programs on Internet crimes against children and Internet safety. This program is facilitated through the Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Criminal Investigation. Since it began, the ICAC unit has talked to more than 27,000 children and adults. The ICAC unit reports that, “We know there are more than 40 million kids on-line in America. We know that one in five kids has been solicited for sex last year. We know by our own case files that this situation happens in South Dakota. Pedophiles hide on the Internet and hunt our children in the dark alleys and sinister places on the ‘net.’”

Mr. Falken will present a number of strategies that parents can employ to ensure their children's safety while using the Internet. The presentation will be held in the high school commons area. Additional information on the South Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Enforcement Unit can be found at the following web site: <http://www.sdcybersafe.com>.

We would like to invite all parents and other interested parties to attend Mr. Falken's presentation.

## **REMINDER**

### **Parent Conferences**

4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

*(early dismissal at 2:25)*

- ◆ Tuesday, March 18
- ◆ Thursday, March 20

### **No School**

- ◆ Friday, March 21
- ◆ Monday, March 24

## What's Happening at the Library?

by Carmen Wilcox, EP-J Librarian

The EP-J Library website will soon be completed and ready to peruse on the Internet. The website will be accessible through the school's homepage. Some of the useful items that will be included on the website will be book reviews on recently purchased titles, library hours and announcements concerning the library, a staff page, library policy manual, home access to the library's card catalog, suggested research websites, and more. Watch for more information about the site, including the web address to be posted at a later date.

Recently, through the generosity of the VFW and Auxiliary, the library acquired a six-volume set entitled *Fallen Sons and Daughters*. This work includes the biographies of the South Dakota men and women who perished in World War II. Some of the stories are written by our Elk Point-Jefferson students. This set is also available for check-out from the EP-J Library in CD form.

### SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY

- **Adult Computer Help Sessions** – These sessions are available at the library on *Wednesdays at 1:00 P.M.* Anyone from the general public is welcome to come during the afternoon for novice level computer help. Adults will learn anything from turning on the computer, to using a mouse, to e-mailing, to introductory Internet skills. All sessions are **FREE** to the public.
- **Preschool Storytime** – Preschool storytime is currently being held during the months of February and March on *Thursdays at 12:45 P.M.* All preschool children (3-5 year olds) are invited to share in the joy of stories.
- **Read Across America Day** – A celebration of author Dr. Seuss and his books took place in our library on Monday, March 3. As part of the fun and a take-off on Dr. Seuss's *Foot Book*, the students and staff participated by wearing something "crazy" on their feet! Students partook in this day by reading a book of their choice for an hour. Community volunteers read aloud to the younger students.

### New Taxidermy Display in the Library

by Lori Hawley, PDC Mentor/H.S. English



Patrons of the library can enjoy a new taxidermy display thanks to the efforts of the Elk Point-Jefferson School District and Mr. Glenn Bosse. On permanent display are a Great Horned Owl and a Red-Tailed Hawk, prepared and

mounted by Mr. Bosse. These two majestic birds are displayed in two custom-built cases created by the wood tech class under the direction of Mr. Dale Pearson.

Mr. Bosse spoke to several classes during the week of January 20 to share some information about the birds. He said that neither of the birds on display were shot; in fact, both were killed by accident along the highway. Special permits from the federal government were obtained to allow Mr. Bosse to mount the birds and to permit the library to have them on permanent display. He stressed to the students that it is unlawful to mount or own any such birds without special permission from federal agencies. The permit he was granted allowed for this display for educational purposes.

Mr. Bosse explained to the students that it took several hours to prepare the birds for display. He showed the students samples of the forms he uses inside the birds for support and the eyes he uses to make the birds seem lifelike. He said he has prepared several such birds for other permanent displays in the area, such as the Adams Nature Preserve. These are for educational purposes only.

### The Right Words

by Phil Breed, Guidance Director

I am often asked for direction from parents on talking to their children about difficult issues. One of these issues is helping keep our children drug-free. There is a booklet from the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign called "Keeping Your Kid's Drug-Free: A How-to Guide for Parents and Caregivers." This booklet is useful as it provides scripts for parents. The booklet advises that adults respond by reinforcing rules at school or home about drug use while keeping the lines of communication open. It also provides response scripts for when kids say, "Everybody's doing it." This booklet is free and may be ordered by calling 1-800-788-2800.

As always, if you ever have a question or concern about your child, please feel free to contact me.

Phil Breed, K-12 School Counselor  
356-5871 or Phil.Breed@k12.sd.us

### Rural Electric Youth Tour

by Phil Breed, Guidance Director

This year Clay-Union Electric is again offering area young people the chance to take part in the Rural Electric Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. It is a great opportunity for a youth from the Clay-Union service territory to take part in an all expense paid trip to our nation's capital. This tour is available to students who are currently sophomores and juniors. The deadline for application is March 17, 2003, and it needs to be postmarked by that date or delivered to the office at 1410 E. Cherry St., P.O. Box 317, Vermillion, SD, by 5:00 P.M. For more information, contact Bill Kennedy at 624-2673 or Phil Breed at 356-5871.

## Tribute to an Elk Point-Jefferson Graduate

by Lori Hawley, PDC Mentor/H.S. English

The second subject in a series of articles on successful graduates from the Elk Point and Jefferson communities is Bridget Ryan Mayer. Bridget, a 1979 graduate of Jefferson High School, was very active during her high school career, participating in a variety of sports and extra-curricular activities. Bridget attended USD School of Law, earning her JD in 1986. She is currently an Assistant Attorney General with the Attorney General's Office in Pierre, serving in that capacity since 1988. She is a statewide drug prosecutor, prosecuting drug and violent crime cases. Since 1990, she has supervised this drug unit, which consists of 5 other similar attorneys who are stationed in Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls. She also does asset forfeitures for the State of South Dakota. She is happily married with 2 little boys, ages 2 years old and 4 months old.



She attributes her success, at least in part, to her education in Jefferson, South Dakota. She attended St. Peter's Elementary School and then Jefferson High School. While in school, she was active in extracurricular and athletic activities. In sports, her coaches placed emphasis not only on working hard in sports but also on doing well in school and staying close to family. She believes that keeping busy with activities and studying prepared her for college, law school, and the practice of law. Bridget learned early to be organized and set goals.

She recommends law to students who have the desire and drive to enter this wonderful profession. She believes that, contrary to the beliefs of some critics, generally lawyers are wonderful, honest, and intelligent people. Just like any profession, unfortunately, there are good ones and bad ones. She recommends law as a profession because a person can do so many things with a law degree and it is fun. She encourages high school students to take as many public speaking and writing classes as they can. She also advocates being involved in as many activities as possible: student government, family activities, sports, band, or clubs. In other words, students should do as many school and family activities as they can, while keeping their grades up. This will not only be fun, but will get them used to being organized.

She also believes in being involved outside of school. She encourages students to stay involved in church groups or youth groups if possible, because no matter what you do in your life, you need God's help. A professor in law school once told her to remember her priorities: God first, family second, and law (or your job) third. He believed that if you didn't get the first two right, you would have a tough time with the third one. Bridget thinks he was right.

## Community Calendar and Announcements on Elk Point-Jefferson Website

by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

Community events are now listed on the Elk Point-Jefferson website.

This is the same information that is carried on the community access channel (Channel 45). Accessing community information is relatively simple

1. Open the Elk Point-Jefferson homepage (<http://www.epj.k12.sd.us>)
2. Click on the "Other" link on the blue menu bar
3. Chose the "Community Calendar" or "Community Announcements" link from the list of options that are presented.

Individuals or nonprofit organizations who would like events listed on Channel 45 or the Elk Point-Jefferson website should contact Bonna Del Kastrup at 356-5950, or [BonnaDel.Kastrup@k12.sd.us](mailto:BonnaDel.Kastrup@k12.sd.us).

## Elk Point-Jefferson E-mail Distribution List

by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director



The Elk Point-Jefferson District is in the process of setting up an e-mail distribution list that has the potential of reaching everyone who now receives a copy of this newsletter. This distribution list will allow the school to be more timely and efficient in the delivery of information. Other possibilities include the distribution of daily announcements, etc.

It is important to point out that an e-mail distribution list will not replace the quarterly newsletter.

Anyone who would like to be included on the Elk Point-Jefferson e-mail distribution list is encouraged to send an e-mail to [Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us](mailto:Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us). We will include you in any future mailings.

## Teachers Reflections . . . Then and Now

by Lori Hawley, PDC Mentor/H.S. English

Recently, teachers who graduated from the former Elk Point or Jefferson School Districts were asked to comment on the question, "What is it like to teach in the district from which you graduated?" In the first of a two-part series, some of the responses are given below:

**Patty Skinner ('66):** "I have always enjoyed teaching in my hometown community because I knew most of the families and always felt I could talk to the parents."

**Dena Donnelly ('76):** "I have more pride and dedication to uphold the integrity of our school, and although our school has changed, I still feel a strong connection to the community and to those who live here."

**Renae McInerney ('88):** "When I first started, I was very nervous about coming back to teach at Elk Point. I was afraid that nobody would take me seriously. . . . My fears were soon eased by the support and encouragement [the staff] gave me. I truly enjoy working in this district. People want you to succeed so they are very concerned and helpful."

Interviewees were also asked to comment on changes they have seen over the years.

**Patty Skinner:** "I think students are smarter and more worldly than I ever was. Seventh and eighth graders are tackling academics that I never experienced as a senior in high school. The basic nature of students has not changed, though. [As far as changes in the community], when I was in school, Jefferson was our number one rival. Now we are part of the same school district. It has been a good transition."

**Dena Donnelly:** "Students aren't as disciplined or as attentive as they were, due to changes in social environment. Technology has brought more computerized learning. There has been more growth in the community, and as a result, more community involvement."

**Renae McInerney:** "The biggest change was the consolidation of the two schools. When I was at EPHS, Elk Point and Jefferson were rivals. . . . The growth of the community also made the number of students per class raise. I graduated from a class of 34. Now the smallest classes are around 48. When I grew up, students were more respectful, hard working, dedicated and generous. . . . The number of special education students included in the regular education classroom is the main change. It gives students with special needs more opportunities to grow both educationally and socially."

Teachers were asked if they had additional comments or stories to tell.

**Patty Skinner:** "When I first started, I was somewhat intimidated. At my interview with Superintendent Bud Tiemens, he started by saying, 'If you had been a cut-up in high school, you wouldn't be sitting in that chair.' After surviving the interview, he closed by saying, 'Young lady, I want you to know that the people of this community will be watching you closer than any other teacher on staff.' At first I was mad, but then I thought, 'I will show him and them that I can be a good teacher.' The rest is history. I have been here 32 years as a teacher and one year as a teacher's aide. It has been a great place to teach and raise our children."

## No Child Left Behind . . . by Doug Brusseau, K-6 Principal

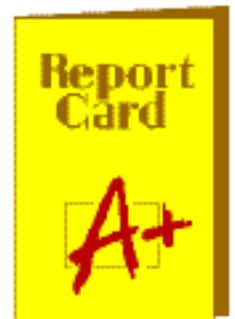
Our society relies on testing. We expect tests to tell us whether our water is safe to drink, our cholesterol is too high, or the dishwasher we want to buy is the best value. When we go to the doctor, we expect some sort of test and then a prescription to take care of what ails us. These tests help us ensure our safety, take care of our health, and spend money wisely.

In today's schools there is new federal legislation known as, No Child Left Behind, in which school districts across the country will need to meet certain expectations in reading and math by the year 2005-06 and in science by the 2007-08 school year for grades 3-8 and then again at some time before a student graduates. We are seeing an emphasis on evaluation of the school's curriculum and student achievement and then developing a prescription to ensure student achievement in meeting the educational goals set by the state and community.

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District began this process of looking at student achievement long before No Child Left Behind. The School Board has established high expectations of the instructional staff and students. The Board has reviewed the grading scale used in the district to ensure that a high level of work be done by each student. The Board reviewed the requirements for graduation and increased them for math and science prior to the state requirements. The Board and the staff have begun to review past test information to determine if the state standards for education are being met, what the District strengths are, and areas in which the school needs to improve.

One trend that has been noted in reviewing the data from the past four years is that on the average over ninety percent of all the students have scored in the basic to advanced levels of the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 9). Another trend that can be seen is that students who tend to miss fewer than seven days during the school year appear to do better on the SAT 9. Students who participate in band and chorus also appear to do very well.

Starting this year, all students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 will be taking the Dakota Step Test. The Dakota Step Test will replace the SAT 9 test. It will assist the School District in determining if students understand the standards as established by the Elk Point-Jefferson School District and the State of South Dakota.



## Curriculum Changes for 2003-2004 . . . by Mr. Pirner, 7-12 Principal

The staff and administration have been meeting on ways to enhance our curriculum without taking away from what has been established. At EP-J, we have to address three global issues whenever we change or add to our curriculum. We have to work with the North Central Accreditation process, the Maples/Gates Grant, and No Child Left Behind.

I will give a brief explanation of the proposed changes for the upcoming school year. Following is a list of those changes:

- add high school reading class
- add technical writing
- add reading across the curriculum
- add record keeping class
- add student teaching assistant
- add swing choir
- add A+ training

The high school reading class will be a yearlong course that covers skills used in reading and developing literacy levels. The class will be designed for reluctant readers in high school who are trying to improve their reading skills. I hope that this benefits our students in the upcoming testing set forth by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Technical writing will be implemented into our current English curriculum. The main purpose of a technical report is to convey information and to inform/persuade the audience. Students will learn an important alternative style of writing. The students will learn to write in a very direct and clear style. They will also learn to think and describe actions and their consequences in a logical and sequential manner.

Reading across the curriculum is a set of strategies designed to enable students to better comprehend textbooks written to different content areas, for example, math, science, social studies, language arts, and electives. This will develop better readers and enhance the student's growth in those specific subjects.

The record keeping class will provide a thorough background in basic record keeping skills used in personal and business applications. These skills will also serve as a sound background for employment in office jobs. Practical application of mathematics is another reason for the creation of this class.

The student teaching assistants program is an outstanding program that benefits both our high school students and our elementary students. High school students will gain the insight and experience of classroom education, and elementary students will get extra help with their math and reading skills. There is also the idea of our school community being under one roof, and we should share our resources district wide.

The swing choir would be an added extra curricular activity to our school. The swing choir would be a state sanctioned group and would compete on the local and state level. In addition, they would perform at school and community functions. This would definitely be a much-needed addition to our curriculum.

Finally, we will be adding the A+ training program to our school. This is a certification for technicians in hardware and software repair for computers. There are many practical benefits to this class with the day-to-day operation of personal computers.

As you can see, we are always on the move at EP-J looking for ways to improve our students. I believe with these additions to next year's curriculum, we will once again be on the cutting edge with secondary education.

A PowerPoint presentation outlining these changes can be viewed on the Elk Point-Jefferson website. Click on the "Other" link in the blue menu bar and choose "2003-04 K-12 Curriculum PowerPoint Presentation."

## Food Pantry Benefits from Food Drive

By Patty Skinner, M.S. Language Arts

The Elk Point-Jefferson Middle School Council sponsored its annual "Have a Heart" Food Drive February 7-12. The council members decorated special Valentine boxes and placed them in grades kindergarten through eighth as well as other areas in the school. The council sponsored a contest for K-8 to see which rooms could bring the most items. On February 12, the council members collected and counted the items before loading the boxes for the food pantry.

Mrs. Dena Donnelly's second graders won Division I, Mrs. Chris Nearman's third graders took Division II, and Mr. Travis Aslesen's 7A Homeroom swept Division III. A total of 1,561 items ranging from food to paper products were taken to the food pantry.

Mrs. Yvonne Busker, one of the coordinators for the food pantry, is appreciative of the donations. She said that the school's donation keeps the food pantry going until the Boy Scouts have their food drive in the fall.



## Elementary Music Program *(Note: Concert Date Change)*

by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music

Please mark your calendars: The spring K-4 concert has been changed to **Thursday, April 3, 2003**. It will start at 7:00 P.M. in the Middle School Gym.

The students are learning dances from around the world for the spring concert. Using folk songs and dances, the classes are studying music from different cultures. Some of the songs will be sung in the language of the country it originated from.

Learning dance activities gives the child the ability to independently feel, express, and keep steady beat. This ability is called basic timing, which is the key to success with rhythmic movement.

Children's timing is important in its own right. It is important because it is a key factor in sports, music, dance, speech and general life functioning. Movement educators have also detected signs of a relationship between improvements in children's timing and improvements in their reading.

To do folk dancing, students need to be able to do locomotor and nonlocomotor sequences in different combinations, in different directions, and with a variety of musical selections. These skills use both the left and right side of the brain, which is the highest level of learning. For example, when your left hand or foot crosses over your right hand or foot, you engage both sides of the brain.

Our new curriculum for K-4 called "Making Music" has provided a great resource for teaching movement. We have a full set of CDs for listening to a large variety of musical sounds. The lessons are designed to get students moving and making music themselves. We use the Orff musical instruments, percussion instruments, and movement to increase each child's ability to move and feel music.



Dorothy Maurstad, organist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in rural Elk Point, presented a lesson on the pipe organ. The fourth graders got to look inside the organ and hear some music played by Mrs. Maurstad. The pipe organ is thought to be the longest playing organ in South Dakota.

## It's a Hoot!

By Mrs. Billings, Fifth Grade

Owl pellets were the theme of a recent exploratory class in fifth grade science. Found under roosts, these tightly packed owl pellets provide clues to the habits of the night hunters. Because they are the end product of an



owl's digestive process, they told us the eating habits of the owl. The students dissected their owl pellets and then grouped their findings. They were provided pictures of different animals that have a high probability of being found in their pellets. The students found everything from skulls, hipbones, leg bones, backbones, and even tiny claws! They then answered questions that related back to their findings. It was an exciting day in our science class!



## March Is Music Month

by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music

Each year we celebrate Music Month by inviting family, friends, and neighbors to come and perform for our class. If you have a music talent and would be willing to perform a song for one of our K-4 music classes, please call Mrs. Hanson at 356-5893 to set up a performance time. We will be having visitors March 19 and 20.

## Musketeers Show Fifth Graders the Basics of Hockey

by Molly Frankl, H.S. Senior

Taking time out of their busy schedules, some members of the Sioux City Musketeers came to Elk Point-Jefferson on February 19 and 20 to help teach the fifth graders the basics of hockey.

Members of the Musketeers helping the fifth graders were BJ Greaves, Art Femenella, Peter Cartwright, Grant Goeckner-Zoeller, Johann Kroll, Brandon Polich, Dave Deterding, Justin Fletcher and Gary Houseman.

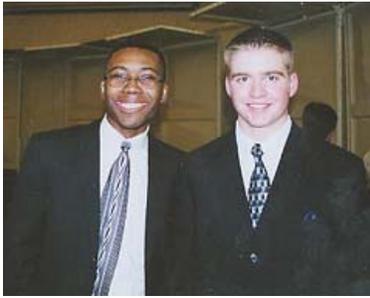
The fifth graders were taught basics such as holding the stick and how to shoot. They then did some scrimmaging. Steph Spencer said, "I think we learned hockey better because they knew what they were talking about." Shelby Larsen said, "This was cool! We learned how to shoot, pass, and rotate the puck."

The Muskies commented that they wished they had had a similar experience when they were younger and how giving just a few minutes a day helps make a kid's day. They enjoyed themselves as much as the kids.

## EP-J Student Selected to Junior Honor Choir

by Melissa Shanks, 7-12 Vocal

Kyle Hanson auditioned and was selected to be a part of the Junior Honor Choir that was held in Sioux Falls on January 24 and 25. Kyle worked hard to prepare seven songs before going to Honor Choir, which was held at the Ramkota Inn. Rollo



Dilworth, composer and Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities and Music Education at the North Par University School of Music in Chicago, is pictured with Kyle at the Junior Honor Choir. Congratulations, Kyle!

## Junior High Vocal Festival

by Melissa Shanks, 7-12 Vocal

Elk Point-Jefferson will be hosting the junior high vocal festival this year on Monday, March 17. Junior high vocal students from Vermillion, Beresford, Alcester-Hudson, Harrisburg, and Viborg will be joining us that day for an afternoon and evening of music and fun! Russ Clifford, guest conductor from Sioux City, will be working with the students all afternoon to perfect the songs that they have been preparing at their own schools for the last several weeks. The students will present a concert open to the public at 7:00 P.M. that evening! Thanks to EP-J Music Boosters for helping with this event!

## Students Test Skiing Abilities. . . By Patty Skinner, M.S. Language Arts

Seventh and eighth graders along with their chaperones boarded busses February 7 to head to the Great Bear Ski Resort near Brandon for a day of skiing.

Approximately one hundred students skied that day. Some experienced skiers hit the big hills right away. The novices opted for lessons and "the bunny hill" until they felt more secure.

The ski trip is a part of the exploratory curriculum of the middle school. Students are given an opportunity to explore a new skill that will hopefully lead to a lifetime skill.

Chaperones for the day included Patty Rarrat, Laurie Hanson, Rob Gill, Dave Engeldinger, Marty and Lisa McInerney, Ryan Hanson, Dan Swatek, Daryl Fletcher, and Patty Skinner.



## Students Participate in Geography Bee

by Selene Van Wyk, Academic Advisor



Elk Point-Jefferson fourth through eighth graders recently participated in the local Geography Bee contest sponsored by National Geographic. Following is a list of homeroom winners:

4th grade: Trevor Benjamin, Gavin Lee, Alex Hepburn

5th grade: Malisa Phrommany, Zach Corio

6th grade: Nathan Austin, Andrew Rosenbaum, Travis Jerred

7th grade: Denise Dodds, Kim Wurtz, Cathy Stalvig

8th grade: Josh Viereck, Doug Dailey

After a final round, the top three finalists were Kim Wurtz (3<sup>rd</sup>), Cathy Stalvig (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Nathan Austin (champion).

Nathan has completed the written exam and is waiting to see if he has qualified to compete at the State Geography Bee, which will be held in April.

## Health Occupations Class Visits Hospital

by Lisa McInerney, H.S. Health Occupations



The health occupations class visited the Sioux Valley Vermillion Hospital on Thursday, February 6. They toured the x-ray department, surgery department, and

the lab. The tours were given by Dawn Swanson, X-Ray Technician; John Jorgensen, RN, Surgery Supervisor; and Max Anderson, Lab Director. The students learned how each job is performed, what types of procedures they do, how much schooling it takes to do their job, and the salary ranges for each profession. The students were able to do some "hands on" activities in each department. In the surgery department they were able to "scrub up" and enter the surgery suite to see how a laproscopic procedure would be performed. The experience was very educational, and the students really enjoyed it.

## Te puedes hablar en español?

by Spanish III Students

Te puedes hablar en español? Well, if you have no idea what this means, don't sweat it! This is just one of the many phrases we have learned as Spanish III students. We are the Spanish III students of EP-J: Bobby Truhe, Ryan Larsen, Cara Irwin, and Jessica Stultz. Our class is an independent study. Every day, during second period, we meet in the library to study Spanish!

This is our second semester of the year long class. Our curriculum consists of grammar, taught by Senora Patnaude; reading, taught by Luisa Fowler; and acting as teachers ourselves.

Every Friday of the week, we teach beginner level Spanish to Mrs. King's second grade class. They know the basics of conversation as well as a few songs. We have taught them the names of animals, colors, and numbers in Spanish. The class really enjoys playing bingo using their new vocabulary. We also teach them about Mexico. They are catching on very well, and it is fun to help them learn about new cultures.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Luisa Fowler comes to meet us in the EP-J Library, and we work on our reading and speaking skills. As of now, we are reading the novel *Don Quixote de La Mancha*. She has helped us tremendously with our Spanish skills, and we really enjoy her help.

## Child Development Students Assist Head Start

by Jan Baagoe, Consumer Science

Fifteen child development students spend one hour each week observing, assisting, and working with lower elementary students in various activities. Some students have the opportunity to work one-on-one with students who need a little extra attention or assistance. It also exposes them to careers working with young children.

This is the first year we have partnered with the USD Head Start program. By working with Head Start through youth volunteer or a youth mentoring program, our class received a \$150 grant to purchase activities that could be used by our students in the Head Start classroom. We decided to purchase puzzles, a mystery box, stencils, and magnetic maze board with our funding.

This is an excellent way to pair high school students with elementary students and is a vitally important role of our child development class.

Next up for child development students is parenting for three nights with the "Baby Think It Over" simulation exercise. This gives students an opportunity to experience the demands of caring for a newborn.



Spanish III students teach Mrs. King's second graders some basic Spanish.



Spanish III students learn skills from Mrs. Fowler.

## Band, Practice, and Its Importance . . . by Jeremy Schutter, 5-12 Band

In the past, I have been asked by people, “What made you choose to become a Band Director?” Most of the time, I would answer, “For the love of music and the chance to work with and inspire kids.”

As I have given more in-depth thought to this matter, I realize there is more to it. There are many benefits a person can learn from the study of instrumental music.

The study of applied instrumental music can benefit a person in various ways throughout one’s lifetime. Below is a list of some of the areas in which students who study instrumental music tend to excel.

- Discipline
- Performing Under Pressure (Stress Management)
- Artistic Creativity
- Emotional Creativity
- Work Ethic
- Cooperation (Team Work)
- Expanding Leadership Qualities
- Motor Skill Coordination
- Self-Esteem / Self-Appreciation



The level of skill and results will vary from student to student depending on the seriousness of their musical study. There is no doubt that skills and results take time and dedication. This can be applied to everything in life. To become “good” at something, one must actively practice and work hard to improve. A musician practicing every day will improve more quickly than a musician who practices sporadically. Our mind and body learn best by this daily practicing. This daily practicing will also allow a band member to fulfill his/her accepted responsibility of playing music correctly, with good tone, good intonation, and at the correct time.

I encourage our EP-J musicians to try and practice five times each week for 20-30 minutes per practice session. The musicians who are pursuing this weekly goal are achieving greater results more quickly. Parents, if you want to see these results happen for yourself, help your son/daughter set up a consistent home practice schedule, and I am sure you will hear the results yourself.

Our EP-J BAND MISSION STATEMENT reads as, “The EP-J Band, through Music as a performing art, is an active organization dedicated to the development of young individuals. The EP-J Band encourages Discipline, Pride, Teamwork, Character, and Contributions of One’s Best Efforts to the Band’s Practice and Performance.” By reinforcing these ideas to our young people, hopefully they are applying these ideas not only in band, but in everything in which they choose to be actively involved.

## High School Quiz Bowl

by Selene Van Wyk, Coordinator/Advisor



On the morning of Friday, February 7, 104 high school students participated in the annual EP-J High School Quiz Bowl. The twenty-six teams consisting of four students per team participated in three preliminary rounds. The top three scoring teams advanced to the final rounds. The teams advancing were

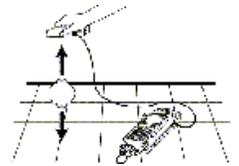
- Team 11 – Bobby Truhe, Ross Wilcox, Whitney Karpen, Robert Curry
- Team 12 – Andy Bottger, Grayson Pirner, Andrew Trudeau, Daschle Larsen
- Team 13 – Ryan Johnson, Justin Sieverding, Logan Rubida, Jacob Joffer

After a round robin of play, Team 13 answered the most questions correctly. Congratulations team 13!

## That’s the Way the Ball Bounces

by Rita Ahmann, H.S. Math/Science

Algebra II students recently seen bouncing basketballs in the high school hallway were not practicing for the up-coming tournament season. Rather, they were investigating to see how the displacement of a bouncing ball could be modeled by a quadratic equation.



In the last couple of chapters, students have been studying quadratic equations, which have the general form of  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ . Using graphing calculators, motion detectors, and data collection devices, the students gathered data from a bouncing basketball. The data was graphed on the graphing calculator and then analyzed. By reading some point from the graph and by predicting other values, the students were successful in writing the equation that fit the graph of the data from their bouncing ball.

## EP-J Chorus Competes in Vocal Contest . . . by Melissa Shanks, 5-12 Vocal

All 68 EP-J High School chorus members traveled to Yankton High School on Wednesday, February 12, for the annual Region I Vocal Solo and Ensemble contest. Students who received Superior (I) ratings were soloists Jennifer Mead, Julia Matthys, Stephanie Jones (2 solos), Renee Curry, and Olivia Wilkinson. Ensembles that also received a I rating were a duet with Brooke Turkleson and Jessica Dodds; a trio with Jacob Joffer, Lakisha Limoges, and Windee Bouck; and a girls’ ensemble with Jessica Stultz, Sandy Bouck, and Cara Irwin.

Other students and groups receiving an Excellent (II) rating were soloists Chris Taft, Lakisha Limoges, Brooke Turkelson, Desiree Steeg, Lana Honomichl, and Samantha Shedd. Eight ensembles also received excellent ratings and one ensemble received a good rating. The students did a great job at this contest and should be proud of themselves!

## Students Exhibit Art at USD

by Brenda Kunkel, 6-12 Art

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors from South Dakota and within a 120-mile radius of Vermillion in the neighboring states of Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota will display art at the Third Annual High School Art Exhibition at USD. Eight students will be representing Elk Point-Jefferson School at the USD Area High School Art Exhibition: David Trudeau, Blake Allard, Joellen Groethe, Stephanie Jones, Ryan Kayl, Jacob Larson, Jay Gabel and Jon Rarrat (see photo). For all artists, friends and family, there will be an opening reception March 16 from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. at the Fine Arts Building on the campus of USD. The exhibit will be on display from February 25 to March 18, 2003.



## Area Youth Exhibit Their Artistic Skills

by Brenda Kunkel, 6-12 Art

On February 18, in Sioux Falls, the Sioux Empire Arts Council and Sioux Falls Artist League will host the Third Annual High School Art Exhibit at the Horse Barn Arts Center located in Falls Park during the month of March. Art students from 12 regional high schools including Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Canistota, Centerville, Aberdeen Central, Elk Point-Jefferson, Joe Foss, O'Gorman, Sioux Falls Christian, Sioux Falls Lincoln, Sioux Falls Washington, and Viborg will be displaying their finest works and competing for prizes. A panel of local professional artists will judge the exhibit entries. In addition, a Visitor's Choice Award will be presented at the Artist Reception and Open House on Sunday, March 30, to the student receiving the most votes from the general public.

"We are very excited about this year's school competition," said Lynn Parker, Artist League member and event organizer. "We have some very talented students participating, and the Horse Barn is an extremely comfortable venue for the show. In addition we will be asking visitors to select one artist's work to receive a 'Visitor's Choice Award' to be presented at the end of the month. This is an important educational experience for these young artists. It takes them through the entire artistic process, from the formation of an idea to creation of the piece, to display techniques, and finally to getting a look at how an audience perceives what they have created."

In addition to the student exhibit in the Loft Gallery of the old Barn, there will also be a new addition to this year's show. "We just created a smaller gallery in the Stall Level of the Horse Barn, and it will be ready for its first show on March 1," explained Deb Klebanoff, Executive Director of the Arts Council. "We couldn't think of a better way to inaugurate this space than by exhibiting the work of the teachers of participating students." This staff exhibit will be on display throughout the month of March along with the student art.

The Horse Barn Arts Center is located at the north end of Falls Park, and is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. and Sundays from noon to 5:00 P.M. The public is encouraged to visit this display and to attend the Artist Reception and Open House on Sunday, March 30, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. The artists will be on hand to discuss their work, refreshments will be served, and prizes will be awarded. For more information, call the Sioux Empire Arts Council office at 605-977-2002.



**Students and parents visit the art display at the EP-J Arts Night on February 20.**

## High School Science Fair

by Bob Vanderlinde & Melanie Suter, H.S. Science

On Monday, February 10, the Elk Point-Jefferson High School Science Fair was held in the middle school gym. A total of 102 projects in five categories was presented to the public at that time. The science fair projects are required to be completed by all students that are in a science class in high school. With all of the science fair students in the gym for judging, we were left with only six students in the high school. That means that only six students are not in a science class. The planning for the projects is begun as soon as school starts, with various items to be completed on a regular timetable. Science teachers from various area high schools judged the projects. Following are the placers and the areas in which they competed. All placers are eligible to compete in the State Science Fair that will be held on March 28, in Brookings. Following is a list of this year's winners and some pictures of science fair participants:

**Overall Winners** Kyle Donnelly & Justin Sieverding  
**Runner-Up Overall Winners** Katie Langel & Karley Sieverding



**Biology** Justin Sieverding/Kyle Donnelly  
**Physics** Jacob Joffer/Jared Eslick-Coates  
**Chemistry** Whitney Karpen  
**Environmental Science** Jonathan Rarrat/Anthony Roark  
**Earth & Space Science** Karley Sieverding/Katie Langel

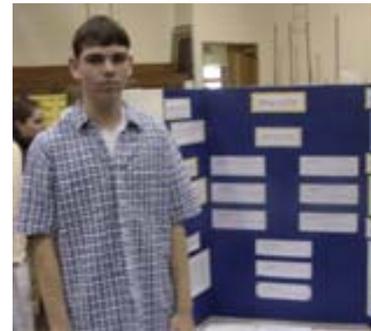
**First Place**

**2nd Place**

Nicole Spencer  
 Ryan Johnson/Jake Donnelly  
 Jessica Dodds/Beth Knutson  
 Katie Weavill/Melissa Mau  
 Renee Curry

**3rd Place**

Molly Frankl  
 Jacob Butrous  
 Ryan Larsen  
 Sam McInerney/Joseph Frankl  
 Drew Staum/Brian Schmitz



## Arts Night 2003

by Brenda Kunkel, 6-12 Art

EP-J students in grades six through twelve displayed their talents during Thursday night's Arts Night Reception on February 20. Students displayed visual art of many mediums ranging from clay masks to pencil drawings and watercolors. Challenging installation exhibits of current issues created by Art II students stimulated discussion and inquiry about "What is Art?" The high school vocal and instrumental departments provided listening entertainment for the public with contest selections, and the one act play performed their contest piece "Making Nice." (See art photos on page 10.)

## Driver's Education Sign-up

by Justin Clercx, Driver's Ed Instructor

Driver's Education will be offered again this year to any student in the district who is 14 years old or older. Cost is \$125 per student. If financial assistance is required, contact Brian Shanks at 356-5951.

Classroom work is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of May 19, with driving instruction immediately following the next week. Students will be notified when sign-up is available. If you have any questions, contact Justin Clercx at 356-2606 or Justin.Clercx@k12.sd.us.

## Washington D.C. Trip Postponed . . . by Roger Smith, H.S. Social Science

The trip to Washington D.C., scheduled for this coming summer, will not take place because of events that have happened and events that are happening. Hopefully next summer two trips will be planned, one for high school students and one for junior high students.

### Elk Point-Jefferson School District

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