



Husky News

Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Volume 4, Issue 1

October 2003

Showing Pride . . . Taking Action

Just Some Thoughts . . . *Brian Shanks, Superintendent*



As we are ending the first quarter of the school year, I would just like to share some thoughts on how the school year is progressing.

We are very occupied at the school on trying to fulfill the requirements that the No Child Left Behind legislation has imposed. Much of this legislation is focused on the accountability of schools, and we have no problem with that as we have good teachers, good students, and good supportive parents. We did very well on the state required Dakota Step Test taken last fall. Our students in grades 1-8 and 11 scored in the top twenty percent in both math (problem solving) and reading (comprehension). We are very proud of our students and the support they receive from home. There will be more information on our status and future expectations to follow. If you have more questions on NCLB and our test results, please go to our website and click on "School Info" and go to the

Department of Education website.

We are happy to report that our enrollment is up slightly from last year, mainly due to an incoming kindergarten class of 53 and graduating 36 students last year. We are beginning to feel the pinch a bit as the shaky economy is taking some children out of our school. It is interesting to note that when I first came here 3 ½ years ago there were very few homes to choose from and now there are many. The point being that we are happy with a slight enrollment increase as many districts around the state are dropping drastically.

As a progressive school we are always looking to find ways to improve, and this year we have enacted several new programs that seem, from initial indications, to have promise. We have revitalized our home room program in grades 9-12. The home room concept was constructed to help teachers work with a group of students in a mentoring type relationship. We have a writing across the curriculum program that allows all secondary teachers to work with their students on writing. The teachers use a common rubric to assess sample writings. The writings and scores will follow each student through school. This helps the students because proper writing is required in all the content areas not just in the language arts class. I had very little to do with the success of these programs as they were constructed by our dedicated staff members.

On the political side of education, we will need your help in the upcoming legislative session to help find new sources of income for our schools without raising property taxes, as well as keeping the revenue we are now entitled to. I am referring to the redistribution of "other revenue," in particular truck fine money. We will also be looking to the legislature on how to control minor boundary changes and to find ways to work with our neighbors on this important issue. I will let you know when I need your help. Thanks for listening.

Congrats to Mr. Daryl Fletcher!

by Phil Breed, PDC Mentor/Guidance Director

Our very own Mr. Daryl Fletcher has received the Max Hawk Award. This award, in honor of Max Hawk, is to recognize and honor outstanding leadership, contributions, and dedication of service to the South Dakota High School Coaches Association (SDHSCA). Mr. Fletcher, a middle school science teacher, has a coaching career that has spanned 30 years. All of those years have been served here in Elk Point. Mr. Fletcher has been a basketball coach for all 30 years, a golf coach for 29 years, and a football coach for 12 years. He is also a lifelong member of the SDHSCA and has acted as the organization's president in 1988-89 and as a member of the board of directors for 15 years. Among his many coaching honors are SDHSGCA president, SDHSCA Golf Coach of the year three times, and nominee for NHSACA Golf Coach of the Year four times. Mr. Fletcher has coached fifteen region championships, twelve district championships, six state championships, and six golf state medalists. Jane, his wife of 30 years, lovingly notes, "To say that 30 years of coaching were without ups and downs would not be telling the truth. When one gives up that many nights and weekends, it is bound to cause some conflicts. Daryl has always tried to make as much time as possible for family so with a little give and take on both parts, we have survived. He thoroughly enjoys coaching and spending time with his students. Our children and I are proud of his dedication and hard work. It is truly an honor for Daryl to receive this award from someone like Max Hawk, who has spent endless hours coaching at the high school level and dedicating his life to the High School Activities Association and the National High School Activities Association as a member and officers in both organizations." Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher have a daughter Emily, 24, living in Aspen, CO and a son Adam, 21, a senior at Mount Marty College in Yankton. Congratulations on this award and recognition Mr. Fletcher!



Professional Development Center

by Phil Breed, PDC Mentor/Guidance Director

Elk Point-Jefferson celebrates its fifth year in the Professional Development Center (PDC) program through the School of Education at USD. The PDC is an exciting program that allows highly qualified and certified EPJ staff to pursue a higher education and yet remain an active, essential asset to the district. In addition, the district benefits from the enthusiasm and motivation of certified novice educators. This year, Mr. Justin Clercx and Mr. Phil Breed are serving as PDC mentors.

In addition to teaching psychology and sociology, Mr. Clercx is working as acting activities director in Mr. Jeff Zeller's absence. These duties include contacting officials for activities, arranging activity sites, and contracting for 2004-2005 activities. Mr. Clercx is also responsible for mentoring the two PDC teaching interns, Mr. Tim DeJong and Mr. Todd Dvoracek. Mr. Clercx will complete his masters in athletic administration the summer of 2004.

Mr. Breed is operating this year as an administrative assistant. His duties include continuing to oversee the K-12 guidance program, directing and interpreting state testing, leading EPJ in a summary year of North Central Accreditation, compilation and organization of district policies, and articulation coordinator for EPJ, WITCC, and Southeast Technical Institute. Additionally, Mr. Breed mentors Mrs. Kelly Jones during her PDC counseling internship. Mr. Breed will complete his Ed.S. in educational administration the summer of 2004.

Apart from providing EPJ tenured staff the opportunity to advance to a higher level of education, the PDC program allows newly certified instructors to gain a year of supervised experience. As noted above, EPJ has three PDC interns Mr. DeJong, Mr. Dvoracek, and Mrs. Jones.

Mr. Tim DeJong is currently teaching middle school PE, current events, and weight training. He is originally from Hull, IA, graduating from Western Christian High school in 1994 and Dordt College in 1998. Mr. DeJong is working on his masters in athletic administration. His wife Joni is an ICU nurse at Sioux Valley, and their daughter Taylor is 14 months old.

Mr. Todd Dvoracek is responsible for the sixth and seventh grade math as well as sixth grade reading. Mr. Dvoracek is originally from Springfield, SD, and graduated from Bon Homme High School. He graduated from the University of South Dakota with a degree in elementary education in the spring of 2003. He will obtain his masters degree in an interdisciplinary study, including technology and administration. He is a coach with the junior high football program, coaching the eighth graders and also helping out with the varsity. In the spring he will be an assistant track coach for EPJ. He is the son of Dave and Joanne Dvoracek of Springfield.

Mrs. Kelly Jones is the acting 7-12 school counselor. She attended St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN where her major was applied psychology. She studied abroad in England during her junior year which she feels was the second best thing she has ever done for herself. (The first is having married Vince.) Mrs. Jones is currently finishing up her masters in school counseling at the University of South Dakota. She is enjoying her time here at EPJ and looks forward for the opportunity to be here for the entire year with the students rather than the usual semester long internship. Her husband Vince is a law student at USD.

Library News

by Carmen Wilcox, EPJ Librarian

With the new school year comes a real increase in library usage. Computers are occupied and chairs filled in the hours immediately following school. Due to the demand after school for computer time, a limit of one-hour has been placed on the computers. If a student has a need to use a computer for schoolwork, another student who is using the computer for entertainment may be asked to give up his/her computer. Enforcing this policy will allow all students fair usage of our library's computers.

The month of October brings many exciting activities to the EPJ Library. Beginning with the Annual Book Fair the week of October 17-23, students will be able to preview books during their library skills class time. All sales will take place in the evening during Parent-Teacher conferences on Tuesday, October 21 and Thursday, October 23. Everyone is invited to bring your children and stop by the library to browse. Many wonderful, new titles will be offered this year.

In addition to the Book Fair, we will also be introducing an exciting exhibit called, "Color and Light." This exhibit will be housed in the EPJ Library and will be available for the school children and the general public beginning Monday, October 27 – December 1, 2003. The exhibit comes to us from the South Dakota Discovery Center and the Children's Science Center from Pierre. The display includes nineteen fascinating exhibits in all, covering topics from light refraction to fluorescence to color blindness. Visitors will view holograms, split light into a rainbow of colors, and will view their reflections from some rather odd angles. The exhibit is compact but will pack a lot of science punch. The general public is invited to stop by and bring your children. All EPJ students will have the opportunity to view the exhibit during school time.

Sixty-three new DVDs have been purchased for loan from the library. All DVDs are rated and clearly marked on the outside of each case. The library will enforce the viewer rating policy with students. DVDs will not be checked out to preschool-third graders without a parent present at the check out. Some of the new titles include **Chicago, A Dog of Flanders, The Lord of the Rings-The Fellowship of the Ring, Dinosaur, Tuck Everlasting, Tuxedo, Road to Perdition, Holes, The Lizzie McGuire Movie, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, The Hobbit, The Sum of All Fears, Two Weeks Notice, Titanic, and Sweet Home Alabama.**

Other events happening in the library include Preschool Storytime on Thursdays at 1:00 P.M.

Dates to Remember

Early dismissal dates for teacher in-services

(Dismissal time -- 12:45 P.M.)

October 9 January 29 March 11

November 20 February 5

Parent Teacher Conferences

(Dismissal at 2:25 P.M.)

October 21 & October 23 from 4:00 - 8:00 P.M.

No School on October 24

Testing and Test Anxiety . . . by Phil Breed, Guidance Director/PDC Mentor

As we are all aware, we are in a time of assessment and accountability due to No Child Left Behind and state mandates. Upcoming test dates for our students are as follows:

- Oct. 6-10 Stanford Writing Assessment (Grades 5 & 9)
- Oct. 21 PSAT/NMSQT (Grade 11)
- Oct. 29 PLAN (Grade 10)
- Nov. 17-26 Career Interest & Aptitude Assessment (8th and/or 9th graders)
- Mar. 22-Apr. 16 Dakota STEP (Grades 1-8 & 11)



Due to this, we are often asked for direction from parents on helping their children with test anxiety. We would like you to know test anxiety is common for students of all ages. As noted by Ellen Bieber of the NYS School Counseling Association, the pressure of timed tests can be overwhelming and can easily lead to panic. The good news is that there is hope for students who exhibit signs of test anxiety. Just as students learn how to master various math or reading concepts, students can be taught how to cope with test anxiety, overcome it, and become a better test taker. There are many techniques that can help students who suffer from test-taking-related fears.

The first step in helping your child overcome anxiety is identifying the problem. If a child performs well in class and has prepared thoroughly for a test, yet still “bombs” the test, this may be due to overwhelming stress. If he or she describes “freezing” or panicking as soon as the test booklet is put on the desk, your child is probably suffering from a degree of test anxiety. Talk with your child about his or her feelings. Letting him or her vent is a great way to release stress, fear, and anxiety. Assure your child that the problem is normal, that many others experience this, and that it can be overcome.

Another approach can include teaching proper preparation for various kinds of tests and the testing environment. Teach your child to think positive thoughts like “I can do this. I am ready for this!” If the testing is for a course grade, make sure that he or she begins reviewing the material far in advance, not just the night before a test or during lunchtime the day of the exam. Offer to study with your child and give practice quizzes. Encourage your child to meet with the teacher ahead of time to clarify the material being covered on the test. Emphasize the importance of getting a good night’s sleep and eating a healthy meal before any exam.

Although “tests can be pests,” they don’t have to be. Since tests are a necessary part of school, it is helpful to assist students in overcoming their strong negative reactions to tests. Strategies for relieving stress related to taking tests can be extremely effective and fairly simple to implement.

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

Phil Breed	Kelly Jones
K-12 School Counselor	K-12 School Counselor
356-5871	356-5926
Phil.Breed@k12.sd.us	Kelly.Jones@k12.sd.us

Bio-Terrorism Preparedness in South Dakota . . . Lisa McInerney, School Nurse

On Tuesday and Wednesday, October 7-8, I attended the 2nd Annual Regional Bio-terrorism Symposium in Rapid City. The focus of this meeting was to

1. discuss the importance of effective disaster planning,
2. review current local, regional, and national disaster preparedness efforts, and
3. develop action steps for the next level of bio-terrorism disaster planning—when and if we are again threatened by terrorists.

Senator Tim Johnson gave the opening remarks and commended South Dakota’s efforts in preparedness thus far. He thanked the public health workers, EMT’s, nurses, doctors, law enforcement, and fire and rescue personnel who work tirelessly to keep our state and region safe.

South Dakota was awarded a \$7 million grant in 2002 to strengthen bio-terrorism preparedness and develop a specific response plan. The grant gave South Dakota the resources to build a strong public health system that can respond not only to bio-terrorism, but also to outbreaks of infectious diseases. All 71 hospitals across the state have received funds for preparedness training. Personal protective equipment, such as respirator masks and full body biohazard suits, will be provided to all the hospitals.

A decontamination demonstration was given by the Rapid City Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) team. There will be teams across the state that will have all the newest, state of the art medical equipment that can detect the most serious biological and infections agents. They have the capability to set up a fully functioning decontamination tent with a water supply and drainage system. This can all travel to anywhere in the state and be functioning within 20 minutes.

South Dakota has a higher percentage of people vaccinated against small pox than any other state in the nation. Approximately 700 South Dakota public health staff, physicians, nurses, EMT’s, hospital and highway patrol personnel volunteered to receive the vaccine. These people will be the response team that can be ready to set up mass vaccination clinics, investigate cases of disease and care for patients who may become sick.

South Dakota can anticipate continued grant funds from the United States Government for next year, as well. This will allow South Dakota to move to the next step of disaster planning, and allow us to put an action plan in place.

Why Do Teens Turn to Alcohol? . . . by Kelly Jones, Guidance Department

This article was in the "Helping Hands" newsletter, Volume 14, Issue 2, and I thought it was useful information to pass on to you!

You've discovered that a young person is drinking alcohol. You wonder why. What happened? Then Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD) gave this common question some serious thought and provided the following list of factors that lead to youthful use of alcohol. MCRUD says the reasons are complex and that they interact. In other words, no single factor can stand alone as a cause. Also important to remember is that adults at home, in school and in the community have influence over whether a young person chooses to drink.

Consider the following list of answers to the "why" question. If you're concerned about underage drinking and want to eliminate some of these factors that adults can control, contact your local community anti-drug coalition. If your city doesn't have one, consult the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America website (www.cadca.org) to learn how to start one. Your school's principal, student assistance professional, psychologist, social worker, nurse or guidance counselor will be able to help, too.

Situations that Can Cause Underage Drinking

- A cultural view that alcohol use is the norm and that underage drinking is a rite of passage-inevitable, so it should be tolerated.
- The accessibility of alcohol--from kids' homes, adult buyers or poorly monitored commercial outlets.
- Insufficient enforcement of underage drinking laws, prosecution of buyers and sellers or conviction and punishment of those who break the law.
- Inconsistent enforcement of school, workplace and other community policies.
- Alcohol advertising that appeals to youth.
- Media that show alcohol use as the norm or that show no consequences for adult or youth misuse.
- A perception that alcohol misuse exists only in certain communities or neighborhoods or the disbelief that problems exist locally.
- Parental disengagement from children's lives, inadequate supervision of children of all ages and non-involvement with other parents.
- The perception that alcohol relieves stress, medicates pain or softens the difficulty of dealing with problems.
- Insufficient public activities available for young people of all ages, especially teens.
- The challenge connecting with youth at a developmental stage when they establish independence, feel invulnerable, question authority, view choices as a matter of personal freedom and when peers are a primary influence.
- Prevention efforts that are not continuous don't employ multiple strategies, don't address environmental as well as individual issue, are insufficiently targeted or don't use culturally appropriate approaches and materials.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Phil or myself at school. We can be reached by phone or email.

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Sportsmanship Summit Promotes Good Behavior

by Justin Clercx, PDC Mentor/H.S. Social Science

On August 27, 2003 the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) hosted the first ever South Dakota Sportsmanship Summit at the Ramkota Convention Center in Pierre, SD. The purpose of the summit was to discuss and promote good sportsmanship in sporting events around the state. It was attended by nearly 500 athletes, parents, coaches, athletic directors, principals, superintendents and school board members from around the state.

The meeting started with a keynote address by Bernie Saggau, the Director of the Iowa High School Activities Association. Mr. Saggau has spent many years as a coach, athletic director, and referee in the state of Iowa. His stories not only entertained the crowd, but also stimulated thought and personal reflection. Following the keynote address, attendees were allowed to attend three out of seven breakout sessions dealing with everything from an athlete's perspective on coaches to coaching Native American athletes.

In the first session that I attended, a recent high school graduate talked about what he expected from his coaches and parents while he was involved in sports. It was interesting to get an athlete's perspective on the games and see that sometimes high school athletes (kids) do a better job than the adults of putting the games into proper perspective. My second session was listening to Mr. Saggau discuss the differences and similarities between high school and college athletes. He talked about being a role model and expectations for athletes and coaches. The final session I went to talked about coaching kids in middle school sports. The presenter talked about how to treat athletes and allow kids to play for the fun of the game with less emphasis on winning and losing.

Throughout the conference it was stressed that overall sportsmanship in South Dakota was very good; however, there is always room for improvement. The presenters did a good job of giving ideas to help improve the sportsmanship in the games around the state. It is up to each individual to make sure they do their part to make high school athletics a positive experience for everyone. Remember **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP SHOULD BE PRACTICED ALL THE TIME BY ALL THE PEOPLE!!!!**



Tips on Saving Money on Teen Car Insurance . . . by Phil Breed, Guidance Director/PDC Mentor

The following article by Brahm Resnik of The Arizona Republic was printed in the October 2, 2003 Argus Leader. We felt the information was valuable, so here it is.

Teenage drivers pay a price for their youth with hefty car insurance rates. The best advice for young drivers who want to lower their payments: Hit the books before you hit the brakes. Major auto insurers give some of their largest discounts to students who pull down A's and B's.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, a teenage daughter will raise your premiums as much as 50 percent. Teenage sons behind the wheel will double your insurance. Unfair, you say? Studies show 16-year-old drivers are 10 times more likely than 35-year-olds to get in an accident.

Still, there are ways to lower those premiums:

- Driver's education from an accredited course is worth a flat 9 percent or 10 percent off. That course is a given for almost all driver's so it's built into the price of insurance.
- Some insurers have special programs for teens. State Farm, the county's largest auto insurer, has a program called "Steer Clear." It looks at the entire household's accident history for the past three years, and also requires teens to keep a driving log book and review safety videos. The potential saving: 18 percent to 28 percent.
- The other large discounts are reserved for the best students. At State Farm, a B average or better earns a 10 to 24 percent discount on rates. Allstate, the No. 2 insurer, knocks as much as 15 percent off premiums.

"Statistical information indicates that students who have good grades also have fewer accidents," says LuWanna Nielson, a spokeswoman for State Farm. One last piece of penny-pinching advice about the cars teens drive: Avoid sport utility vehicles and trucks. Insurers don't like their rollover risk. And don't hop into a small car or a fast number. That screams accident scene. The best insurance choice for a car: a four-door family sedan.

For more tips on safe driving and cutting teen driver's insurance rates:

- www.iihs.org (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)
- www.dot.gov (U. S. Department of Transportation)
- www.realworld-driver.com (Ford Motor Co.'s Real World Driver program)

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child and his/her education, please feel free to contact Phil Breed, 356-5871 or Travis Aslesen, 356-5901.

Staff Attend Teacher Leadership Conference

by Jorie Brandhagen, M.S. History

In September Brenda Kunkel, Dan Swatek, Laura Froehlich, and Jorrie Brandhagen attended a three day Teacher Leadership Conference in Pierre. The education law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), was the theme for the conference; our goal was to learn as much as we could, and help our fellow teachers understand NCLB.

After arriving in Pierre Tuesday afternoon, we were given the chance to tour the capitol building. Later in the evening we gathered to hear the Governor of South Dakota, Mike Rounds, speak. The Governor discussed NCLB and let us know he is dedicated to helping our students achieve their greatest goals.

On our second day in Pierre, we were educated in six main areas of NCLB. The most significant areas are as follows: the standards our state uses to complete our education goals; the assessment tools we use to measure our children's successes; the accountability we as teachers, administrators, and parents accept in educating children; how schools can improve students' learning; what it means to be a highly qualified teacher; and how to be a leader of education. To bring the evening to a close we assembled to hear the Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, Laurie M. Rich, address the importance of NCLB.

On the conference's final day, we were able to choose three, one-hour, informative sessions to attend. To help conclude the conference Steve Van Brockern, our luncheon speaker, inspired us to inspire our students and to embrace their individualized learning strategies. Governor Rounds delivered the ending remarks thanking all teachers for the work and effort we do.

EPJ Library Receives Windfall

by Carmen Wilcox, EPJ Librarian

The EPJ Library was recently notified that it will be receiving a check in the amount of \$1,286.69. The money was given out of the treasury of the South Union Action Group, an organization that was formed when the McCook Lake area was annexed by the old Jefferson School District. Former members Suzanne Hanson and Betty Gunderson were recently notified by the Valley Bank that there was still a balance in the group's account. The decision was made to split the money between the EPJ and Dakota Valley school districts. The gift was given to each of the respective districts' libraries to spend on materials. The EPJ Library gratefully accepted the money and will use it to purchase new books for the library.

Thank You

A special thanks to Jim Smith, Jr. for his dynamic firework display at the EPJ 2003 Homecoming football game on September 19th. Last year the crowd was treated to a spectacular 10 minutes showcase, and this year Jim gave anxious spectators even more. When the lights turned off, the sky lit up one display at a time, enchanting the crowd. We thank you, Jim, for your kind support, and your professionalism.

EPJ Student Body, Faculty, and Supporters

FROM THE DESK of Doug Brusseau, K-6 Principal

Today the importance of reading, math, attendance, graduation rates, student assessment, and annual school report cards are in the spotlight due to the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act. Recently the South Dakota Department of Education released the following information concerning the students of the Elk Point-Jefferson School District. Students in grades K-12 attended school 96.81% of the time. Of the students in grades 3-8, 86% scored as proficient or advanced in reading and 72% as proficient or advanced in math. In October students will be taking the state writing test to demonstrate their skills in the written language.

There is a reason why "The Three R's" are in the spotlight today. Reading, Writing and 'Rithmetic are critical for a student's success in school as well as future employment in our ever changing world of work. Of the three R's, reading is the most fundamental skill a student needs because it crosses over to writing and math. Reading is taught in school and practiced at home as demonstrated by the many students who have reached the levels of proficient and advanced on the state test.

The instructional staff and I would like to thank the parents who take time out of their evening to spend time listening to their children read a book, being a role model in reading a book for fifteen to thirty minutes, and assisting in completion of homework or studying for a test. By doing just the above items students generally have better attendance, better social skills, and earn higher grades and test scores. The importance of parents to their child's school success is pivotal when one considers 87% of a child's time awake is outside the school--this includes the summer months.

To demonstrate the importance of parents in their child's education, the Elk Point-Jefferson School District first grade teachers and Title I teachers have initiated a parent program called Parents as Partners. In this program they will meet seven times throughout the year. The focus of Parents as Partners is that reading is a fundamental skill for all learning, and that elementary school is where children jump on the reading superhighway--going from singing the ABC song to mastering books.

Following are a few of the areas that parents can assist in improving reading skills:

Read to them. Reading to your children is the single most important thing you can do to help children develop a love of books and reading.

Have plenty of material. Books are not the only things children can read. Posters, maps, magazines, recipes, and newspapers are great reading material. Computer games that emphasize reading skills may also be useful.

Model good reading habits and limit TV. Your children need to see that reading is a lifelong skill and a form of entertainment. When you take them to the library to choose books, choose some for yourself, too. As you read a magazine or the newspaper discuss the article you have read. This shows children that reading is not only for homework.

Let them choose. Within reason, allow your child to choose his or her own reading material. If he/she chooses what to read, he or she will be more likely to actually spend time reading.

Finally, give your child lots of praise and encouragement when it comes to reading. Show your excitement about what the child is reading and learning. Remember the information from the first paragraph above. You as the parent are the biggest reason for the success of your child and the school.

K-2 Physical Education Curriculum . . . by Rob Lewis, Physical Education

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District believes that a quality physical education program is vital to the overall education and well being of our students. Our program contains a variety of activities directed at allowing our children to become physically active and remain that way for a lifetime. This school year our teaching staff is working on developing a written curriculum for the kindergarten through second grade classes.

This curriculum will focus mainly on the primary development of movement skills, physical fitness, and cooperative play. We will foster this knowledge and enable the students to develop the different movement skills that are essential in reaching our goal. Our curriculum will help develop several movement skills from running and animal movements to striking and throwing. As these skills are acquired, students will be exposed to different ways to practice the skill and learn some games they can play to further foster skill development.

Physical fitness is an area that each of these students will be tested in throughout their experience in school. We include the different types of fitness tested on a weekly basis in our classroom. In the spring the students are formally evaluated using the presidential fitness test. This test measures a variety of fitness levels from aerobic and muscle endurance to flexibility. The events that are included in this test are shuttle run, an endurance run (from a quarter to a half mile for this age group), pull ups or bent arm hang, sit ups, and the sit and reach (with measures flexibility). Our goal in developing early physical fitness is to encourage the students to stay active throughout their lives.

It is important for our students to develop peer relationships that will stay with them not only during their school days but into adulthood. We will encourage the growth of these relationships teaching them correct ways to play with others. Many of the activities that the students participate in during physical education require them to work with others and to follow the different rules that are established. These experiences will help them understand the right way to play and communicate with their playmates.

Many of us have read in the papers how our society is becoming more and more overweight. One of the main reasons for this is because of the sedentary lifestyle some Americans lead. By working together we, school and families, can help stop this trend.

First Parents as Partners Meeting

by Shirley Rosenbaum, First Grade

Elk Point-Jefferson School District is continually working to develop and maintain solid, effective educational programs in which student needs come first. To that end, an exciting new component has been added this year.



Research shows that parental involvement in a child's education is essential to that child's academic success. It is widely recognized that parents are important partners in the education process. Therefore, at the first grade level, as a pilot program, the district will be having parent information meetings throughout this school year. These meetings should serve to keep parents informed and effective in all aspects of their children's first grade year. Seven meetings are planned over the course of the current school year.

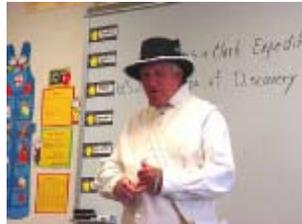
The first Parents as Partners meeting was held on Thursday, September 27. First Grade teachers, Shirley Rosenbaum, Gail Schmitz and Marilyn McNeil presented an overview of the first grade program and answered parent questions.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 27. The topic for that session will be reading and the related language arts.

Special Guest Visits Fourth Graders

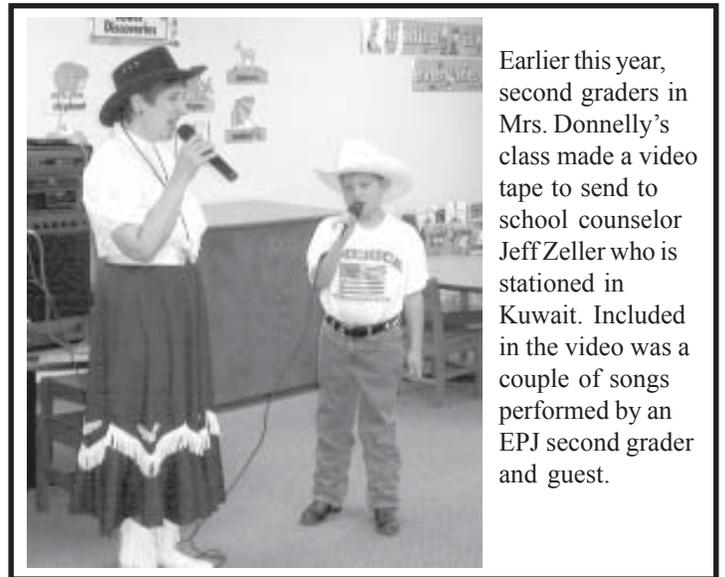
by Tama Zeller, Fourth Grade

Eugene Gass Painter, the great grandson of Patrick Gass, who was a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, was an honored guest visiting the fourth graders during the first week of school.



The students were given highlights of the historic journey Lewis and Clark made up the Missouri River. He told them of the clothing worn, food, and the animals they saw on their journey. He shared tales of many things that occurred during the Lewis and Clark expedition. The children asked lots of questions about the adventures, and Painter gladly did his best to answer them all.

The fourth graders will be learning about Lewis and Clark in their South Dakota History unit this year.



Earlier this year, second graders in Mrs. Donnelly's class made a video tape to send to school counselor Jeff Zeller who is stationed in Kuwait. Included in the video was a couple of songs performed by an EPJ second grader and guest.

Third Graders Participate in Schools Walk Program

by Lisa McInerney, School Nurse



Elk Point Jefferson third graders are walking to keep healthy! This is the first year that a program has been introduced called 'South Dakota Schools Walk', sponsored by Coordinated School Health, in the Department of Education and Department of Health. The goal is

to fight against childhood obesity by motivating these children to increase their activity level, and include physical activity in their daily routine. The hope is that they will take their enthusiasm for walking and bring it home to their families, and incorporate it into their daily lives. There are incentives for these third graders to participate in the program. By enrolling and committing themselves to walking, each student will receive temporary tattoos, zipper pulls, and stickers. Also, the first five schools that registered for the program received a commemorative South Dakota Mile Pin. EPJ third graders did receive the pins and can wear them on the days they walk. Elk Point Jefferson third grade students from Mrs. Chris Nearman, Mrs. Jane Allard, and Mrs. Deb Dyrssen classes have chosen to participate in a once a week program. They have deemed it **Fitness Friday's**. Every Friday they will plan to walk on the track for 15 to 20 minutes; they generally finish a mile or more. They plan to continue the program through the entire school year.



- - - Reminder - - -
Parent Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, October 21 & Thursday, October 23
4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Fourth Graders Remember 9/11

by Tama Zeller, Fourth Grade

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

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 also talked about Americanism. Each fourth grader 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." The children were told that they can show pride in their country by being patriotic, respecting the flag, and honoring the men and women who are bravely fighting to keep our country free and past veterans.

Here are some of the students' writings.

Drew DeBuhr

I am proud to be an American! Being an American means being free to worship as I wish. I can speak out against anything I believe in or don't believe. We have many freedoms that other countries do not have. We can vote for the people we want to run our government. We wave our American flag because it stands for freedom and I am very proud of it.

Ryan Donnelly

To be an American if you asked me means to be free to choose what my career is. To have my own beliefs and make the choice to go to college or not. We have the freedom to travel to different countries and may leave America.

Danielle Gille

To be an American is a great duty to me like no other. It is a job that I think means freedom, loyalty, and a bunch of allegiances. It means that you don't have to be famous or rich but it just means you're free. Many people have risked their lives for me! I'm proud to be an American! How about you?

Marc McWilliams

I'm free! I can wear the clothes I want. Play video games and listen to the music I like. I can go to any church, watch any movie and cheer for any football team. I can disagree with my mom, eat as much as I want. or ride my bike to the park. We are free to make our own choices.

Sarah Tow

I think that being an American is good because not very many people get to be an American. We are the strongest country in the world. We can vote, choose our schools and churches. That is why I think being an American is cool!

Micah Baker

It means to respect our country and laws. You have choices to go to any church or pick what job you want. You are in a land of respect, freedom, and choices. You respect others and they will respect you. To be treated fairly no matter what your race or your religion.

Destination Imagination Kicks Off

By Selene Van Wyk, DI Coordinator

On the evening of September 30th many students and parents gathered for an informational session on Destination Imagination. The meeting was held to answer parents and students questions and to sign-up for a team.

What is Destination Imagination? The Destination ImagiNation[®] program helps kids build important, lifelong skills, such as problem solving, teamwork and divergent thinking. Our teams solve two types of challenges within the program year. The Central Team Challenge involves structural, technical or theatrical oriented challenges and takes several months to solve. Throughout that time the teams also practice improvisational Instant Challenges, which stimulate the team's ability to think quickly and creatively with only minutes to prepare solutions. When tournament time rolls around, each team's score reflects its Central Team Challenge performance plus its response to an Instant Challenge.

Destination ImagiNation[®] helps kids develop a unique and critical skill set by emphasizing

Creativity	Knowledge Application
Brainstorming	Confidence
Creative & Critical Thinking Skills	Teamwork
Presentation Skills	Time Management
Problem Solving	Research Skills
Project Management	Collaboration

Currently, there are 10 teams signed up at Elk Point-Jefferson with some in need of an adult as team manager. If you're interested in being a team manager, and would like to work with a group of students in a fun and challenging way, please contact Selene Van Wyk at 356-5862.

FROM THE DESK of Travis Aslesen, 7-12 Principal

Effective Discipline

One of the single most difficult dilemmas facing parents and educators today is the concept of effective discipline. For discipline to be truly effective, it must attempt to isolate the behavior which needs to be altered, while at the same time meeting the needs of the individual child. In other words, each child accepts and deals with discipline in a different manner. A single form of discipline can benefit a child of one personality, while being detrimental to the growth of another. It is this fine balance that challenges parents and educators on a daily basis. I have found that Dr. James Dobson and Dr. William Glaser are excellent sources of information when dealing with young people. The following article is based loosely on their ideas in regards to effective discipline.

To become effective at discipline, you must attempt to know the personality and motivations of the child. Only then will you be able to pinpoint the best approach to engaging the child in meaningful discipline. Without knowing the child, there can never be discipline that is productive. This concept, in particular, is many times the downfall of education. Students become nothing more than a name to many educators. Time must be spent to know each student in the classroom on an individual level. At Elk Point-Jefferson our staff prides itself on this unique trait of our school. We are integrating this initiative into our school each and every day through our home room concept and daily classroom interactions. It is part of our commitment of turning our mission statement into common practice.

There have been many different approaches to labeling the characteristics of children. One way is to categorize them on the basis of the animal kingdom, if you will. There are four general types which we will discuss and the relationship each type has to discipline. As you read through the personalities, consider the type that you were when you were young. Take a moment to reminisce about your childhood and reflect on your experiences. If you are like me, you will get a few chuckles out of it and develop a greater appreciation for the people who raised you. Lastly, attempt to place your child somewhere within the continuum of the personalities. Doing so may give you a better handle on the situations you face with your child each day.

The first personality is the "bear." This type of child is openly defiant and challenges authority at every possible opportunity. This child can be extremely difficult to understand. Many times discipline with this child becomes heated and is initiated out of anger and frustration. It must be understood that discipline can never be done out of anger. To do so would only add to the dilemma at hand. Effective discipline can not be done without being in complete control. At times it is fine to show that child that you are upset, but be in control.

The second type of personality is the "squirrel." The "squirrel" is extremely good at annoying other people. This child usually has an excuse for any request given by someone in authority. The "squirrel" is good natured and care-free. For instance, when you sit down with this child to do homework, the child usually has something better to do. He may have to sharpen his pencil, get a glass of water, spill the glass of water, go to the bathroom, get a piece of paper, sharpen his pencil again, etc. He will do anything, but the task at hand.

The third type of personality is the "skunk." The "skunk" is easy-going on the outside, but angry on the inside. This child will perform for the person in authority but be full of grumbles. He may mow the lawn when requested to do so, but he will grumble the entire time. The child will most always complete the task, but usually leaves a bad scent behind. In relation to homework, when questioned whether he has it done, the child might insist that he will get it done, but it is not due until Thursday.

The last personality type is the "lamb." "Lambs" need a constant reiteration of themselves. This child might tell the parent that the task is too difficult or he is not good enough to do it. The child attempts to manipulate the situation until he gets what he wants. In relation to homework, the lamb might suggest that he does not understand the assignment or insists that he is not smart enough. A sample interaction may go something like this:

Lamb: "This is too hard. I can't do anything right."
 Parent: "You can do it if you try."
 Lamb: "I never understand anything that the teacher talks about."
 Parent: "Let's sit down together, and I will show you that it is not so hard."
 Lamb: "I have already tried, and I can't even do the first problem."
 Parent: "Here, let me show you how to do it."
 Lamb: "I guess that wasn't so bad. Could we do another one?"
 Parent: "Sure. We could even do your whole assignment together."

Of course, there are legitimate times when every child has questions about school work. The "lamb," however makes it a habit of using the parent as the only source of assistance, knowing that the parent is apt to do the work for him.

The goal for parents and educators is to first know the child you are working with. Take some time and reflect on your child. If you are not sure where your child falls within the four types, assign him a task. See how he reacts and look for consistencies in other areas. It is possible that your child bounces around from type to type. It is also possible that your child is one type in certain situations and a different type in another situation or with different people.

In the next newsletter, the topic of fitting the discipline to the behavior and the type of child you are dealing with will be addressed. Until then, enjoy your child and don't forget to laugh, even at the things that frustrate you.

Mini Courses Seeking Volunteers

by *Patty Skinner, 7-8 Language Arts*

The EPJMS mini courses are set for Friday, November 14. The middle school council is seeking volunteers to share their hobbies and interests with the students during morning sessions. This has traditionally become an educational as well as fun day for the students.

If you are interested, please contact Patty Skinner at 356-5828 or Travis Aslesen at 356-5901 as soon as possible. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

EPJMS Council Organizes

by *Patty Skinner, M.S. Student Council Advisor*

Middle school students have elected their student council for the 2003-2004 school year. Hannah Wilkinson will serve as president while Bobby Trudeau will be the vice president. Acting secretary is Molly Shanks, and Rusty Langel will be the treasurer.

Sixth grade homeroom representatives are Shelby Larsen, Allysen Murphy, Ross Rosenbaum and Adam Trudeau. Those representing the seventh grade are Chelsey Borchardt, Nick Bottger, Jeremiah Curry, Molly Hammitt, Shauna Hilbrands and Drew Mast. The other two eighth grade representatives are Tommy Bottger and Amanda Connelly.

After electing its officers for the year, the council made plans for homecoming. Instead of having class floats this year, the class decided to have homeroom floats to have more entries in the parade. This year's winner was Mr. Daryl Fletcher's 8A Homeroom.

Also, on homecoming day the council sponsored its annual Homeroom Tug of War Contest. This honor went to Mr. David Dohn's 8C Homeroom.

As a community project, the council co-sponsored the annual homecoming tailgate party with the SHARKS. Students worked as well as donated needed supplies. Over \$1300 was raised for the community swimming pool project.

The council will once again sponsor the Middle School Citizens of the Week project to promote academics, participation in school and community activities, leadership, helpfulness and citizenship. The EPJ Activities Boosters along with the middle school council will sponsor the Citizens of the Month. Adrian Ries and Samantha Massey earned this honor for September. The Citizens of the Week began in October.

Now the council will focus on the Halloween Dance, mini courses and Christmas activities.

Science on the Move

by *Melanie Suter, H.S. Science*



“What is Science on the Move?” you may ask. Science on the Move is a semi trailer transformed into a state of the art science laboratory. Instigated by the South Dakota Science and Math Technology Council several years ago, this truck has the capability of bringing new science educational opportunities to schools across the state.

Elk Point-Jefferson students are fortunate enough to have secured an opportunity to have the truck visit the school during the week of January 6-9. All science students in grades 5-12 will have the chance to experience quality science, both by touring the truck and performing various experiments.

Once these students enter the truck, a familiar face will greet them. Former Elk Point-Jefferson science teacher Bob Vanderlinde is serving as the second scientist/MSL driver. Bob has been busy these last couple of months. First, he had to obtain a CDL license in order to drive the truck. Then, after learning how to use all of the equipment onboard, he and his truck were off. Bob has been to Elkton and Brookings so far in his travels. Tentatively, Bob and his truck will be assigned to the Eastern part of the state, with the scientist from Mitchell handling duties in the West.

Save Those Beverage Tabs

by *Patty Skinner, M.S. Student Council Advisor*

To benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Sioux City, the middle school council is once again collecting beverage tabs. These help the Ronald McDonald House purchase needed items to help families that are staying there while their children are hospitalized in Sioux City.

You may send them with any student to school or drop them off at either the elementary or middle/secondary school offices. These will be collected and then delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in May 2004.



EPJ Web Site Has a New Look

by *Sandy Mockler, 7-12 Computer*

Check out the new look of the EPJ Web Site (www.epj.k12.sd.us). This site has been revised with an easy to use navigation menu. Click on the various links and see what is happening at our school. Information is updated regularly. School announcements and a weekly calendar can be found on the home page. If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the web site, please send an email to Rod Knutson (Rod.Knutson@k12.sd.us) or Sandy Mockler (Sandy.Mockler@k12.sd.us).

Parents of Graduating Seniors

by Deb Limoges, H.S. English/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 school by **December 31, 2003**. 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, or Miss Kunkel, the yearbook advisor, by the **December 31, 2003**, deadline. Because of publication deadlines, any senior that has not turned a photograph in by December 31 will not be included in the 2004 yearbook.

On **Monday, November 24**, Tom Tastad from Josten's will be visiting with the senior class about ordering caps and gowns, and graduation announcements. An order form will be sent home with all seniors that day. Please fill it out and return it to the school by **December 3** if you plan to order graduation supplies from Josten's. **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, and orders will be placed with him on **Wednesday, December 3**. Payment is not due until the orders come in April of 2004. Please call the school if you have any questions.

Art Students Explore and Reflect on Self

by Brenda Kunkel, Art

"He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened."-Lao Tzu.



Art students (above and top, right) add value with soft pastels to create shadows and highlights on their portraits.

The definition of a self portrait is a portrait an artist makes using himself or herself as its subject, typically drawn or painted from a reflection in a mirror. Art one students began a unit of self reflection and exploration as they examined the proportions of the face as developed by Artist Leonardo da Vinci during the Renaissance and explored color and proportions within their own face. Using both color and black and white photos and a mirror, students drew in pencil the contour lines within the face and then added value and color with soft pastels. Each portrait is a reflection of the student in some way either spiritually, emotionally, physically or mentally as an obvious statement or a metaphor. Once completed, the self portraits will be on display on the Gallery wall across from the art room, or the self portraits can be viewed on Ms. Kunkel's website along with other current and past students' artwork. Link to Ms. Kunkel's website through the EPJ home page under staff, or type in her URL:

<http://bk044.k12.sd.us> and click on student gallery.



Football Season Off to a Good Start

by Rahn Bertram, Head Football Coach

The EPJ football team has gotten off to a good start this year going 4-1 to start the season. The Huskies are averaging 261 total yards on offense while holding their opponents to just 170 yards per game and outscoring their opponents 114 - 57.

Leading the Huskies on offense are Jason Donnelly with 323 yards rushing and 123 yards receiving and eight touchdowns, Curt Truhe with 266 yards rushing 69 yards receiving and two touchdowns, Daschle Larsen with 103 yards rushing 15 yards receiving with 1 touchdown, and Michael Nebelsick with 51 yards rushing including two touchdowns 202 yards passing with 2 touchdowns. Ryan Larsen leads all passing with 307 yards and three touchdown passes.

Defensively the Huskies are led in tackles by Taylor Forsling with 58, Curt Truhe with 45, Dallas Mitchell with 31 and Brian Schmitz with 30. Leading the Huskies in interceptions is Jason Donnelly with 4 including 3 against McCook Central. Jason returned 1 interception 94 yards for a touchdown against the Cougars. Taylor Forsling, Ross Wilcox, and Daschle Larsen have also added 1 interception respectively. Also, Jed McInerney is leading all defensive backs in tackles with 29.

The Husky offensive and defensive lines have played extremely well to start the season. These young men are the unsung heroes of football and do their job in a quiet but devastating manner. Teammates in the trenches are Bobby Truhe, Brian Schmitz, Mark Donnelly, Tim Jastram, Dallas Mitchell, Justin Kyte, Jacob Limoges, Joseph Frankl, and Sam McInerney. These guys don't get the stats or the glory, but they are the heart and soul of this football team, and their teammates know it.

We are in the process of finishing the second half of the season better than the first and taking that success into the state playoffs at the end of October.

Music Learning Through Active Experience . . . *Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music*

Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music Educator, attended the music clinic "Music Learning Through Active Experience" on September 26 at Eppley Auditorium on the Morningside College campus. The clinician was Dr. Robert de Frece, from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The workshop was part of the Sioux Valley Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. Other sponsors were: Western Hills Area Education Agency 12, Morningside College, Iowa Music Educators Association, Briar Cliff University, and Northwestern College.

The workshop had 86 elementary music teachers from Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Undergraduate students studying music education were also in attendance from Morningside College, Briar Cliff University and Northwestern College.

The Sioux Valley Orff Association Chapter belongs to the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, a professional organization of music and movement educators dedicated to the creative teaching approach developed by Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman. Hanson is a member of the local chapter. They hold four music workshops a year.

All State Chorus Members Perform at Local Churches . . . *by Mary Schuh, H.S. Vocal*

These EPJ high school students woke up early on Sunday, October 5, to get ready to perform at five local churches. They had a sacred Latin piece, *Jubilate Deo*, by Mozart already prepared for the September 23 All State Chorus auditions. They volunteered their time and talent so the community could hear some of the difficult classical works these musicians have worked on. The students performed at St. Peter's Catholic in Jefferson, Immanuel Lutheran, United Parish, and St. Joseph's Catholic in Elk Point and Brule Creek Lutheran churches.

The members of the touring group were Robert Curry, Kyle Hanson, Darin Schmitz, Chris Tow, Bob Truhe, James Leasure, Chris Taft, Maria Fowler, Whitney Karpen, Jennifer Mead, Stephanie Jones, Erica Peters, Bethany Peters, Carly Rubida, Julia Matthys, Tommi Hanson, and Samantha Shedd.



From the Classroom of Mrs. Stabe . . . *by Karlene Stabe, H.S. Science*

Hello EPJ families! I would like to take this time to introduce myself to you. My family and I moved here to Elk Point this past June from Alcester. I had previously been teaching 7th grade Life Science, Biology and Ecology these past five years at Alcester-Hudson High School. Before Alcester, I had taught two years in Sioux City.

My family and I are originally from the Merrill/Hinton, Iowa area. My husband and I have three small children. My oldest, Miranda Mae is a first grader here at EPJ. My three-year-old son Caden and seven-month-old daughter Addison go to daycare here in town. My family and I are excited to be a part of the Elk Point-Jefferson family, and look forward to being here for many years.

Biology: In Biology, we have recently been studying classification of organisms and plants. The Biology classes have put together some wonderful leaf projects where they needed to collect several different leaves and give their common name, scientific name and some other important information. After I grade the projects, I will give the students their grades and then hold on to them until they graduate. Even though I have heard an earful over this project, I have never had a student not come back their senior year and ask for their leaf project. When it is all said and done, they really take pride in the time and effort spent putting together their books.

Anatomy: In Anatomy, the students and I had a wonderful opportunity to attend the Health Science Career day at Mount Marty. The students chose three different half-hour sessions over a science career that interests them. The speakers shared with the students very important information like how much they would make, the schooling that they would need to get and other facts about the job. Overall, the students truly enjoyed this excellent experience!

Advanced Life Science: In Advanced Life Science these students have been involved with the **J.A.M.E.S. Project**. The J.A.M.E.S. Project stands for Joining Across Miles Environmental Systems. This inquiry-based activity focuses on water quality. It allows the students to test a body of water (Big Sioux River), submit the data to the JAMES website (www.usd.edu/ttdjames), have discussions with students from other schools via discussion boards, and incorporate the local environment into the curriculum. The students get an opportunity to use various technological pieces of equipment such as a GPS, palm computer, and digital camera. So far, we have been to the river twice, and we will go three more times through December. Besides testing the water, Game Fish and Parks will be invited to come share information with the students, and to seine the river for fish. The students will then do a fish study using the fish that we obtain. Please feel free to go to the above website and check out the project. This is an excellent project that I have been involved with the past 2 years, and am excited to be bringing this educational experience to EPJ.

The Future Begins Now EPJ Initiates Technical Communication

by Deb Limoges, H.S. English

Recently, the English II curriculum was re-vamped to include a new course of study for the students of EPJ. Technical Communication has been added to the state-mandated speech curriculum that has always been taught in the English II curriculum.

Incorporating technical communication into the already existing speech curriculum worked beautifully. The demand for honing student's listening, speaking and writing skills and teaching them how to collaborate will give them a real sense of the current work place atmosphere.

Research shows that adults who communicate effectively (and have higher levels of literacy)—regardless of their area of expertise—usually achieve more career success and have greater job satisfaction than those without skills to communicate their technical knowledge.

Technical communication is a means of bringing information to every category of reader, listener, and viewer. It encompasses a vast array of skills that apply to all modes of oral and written communication.

What is technical communication you may ask? Professionals define technical communication as “purposeful, current, verifiable, and direct oral, visual, and written communication about technical subjects, that informs and persuades particular audiences who need the information.” But such a definition is inadequate because it doesn't consider all of the relevant factors that define technical communication. Technical communication is an integral part of the world's culture and an essential element of literacy in today's schools and work environment.

Students will hopefully gain tremendous educational and professional advantages if they can learn to write and speak effectively. The students will learn that their communication needs to be technically complete and accurate, logically organized for the audience, visually appealing, and interesting. It also needs to be mechanically and grammatically conventional—and say something worthwhile.

The overall goal of the course outline and its objectives are designed to help EPJ graduates gain the aforementioned educational and professional advantages. The course outline includes activities, exercises, projects and speeches that are designed to build a base of knowledge. The course is specifically designed to incorporate a variety of learning activities that will involve various types of learning styles and engaging tasks. The ultimate goal is to teach our students to share their knowledge through different avenues of communication, and to help them see the real-life applications to the career paths that they may be considering.

The necessity of such a curriculum is very real. One of our goals at EPJ is to prepare our students for an ever-changing global society. Rebecca E. Burnett, an Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Professional Communication at Iowa State said, “Technical communication is integral in every part of our society—part of every profession and occupation as well as directed to every kind and category of reader, listener, and viewer.”

Technology Tips . . . by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

- - Virus Hoaxes - -



It seems as though we have all received one or more earnest virus warnings, nearly always in the form of a forwarded email. In this quarter's newsletter I'd like to introduce the reader to a couple of web sites that will help determine the validity of various Internet warnings.

Personally, I have yet to receive a valid virus warning that arrived as a forwarded email. The legitimate warnings that I have received have come in the form of automated emails from such companies as McAfee and Symantec.

McAfee's web site contains a nice list of virus hoaxes and their descriptions. This can be found at <http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/default.asp>. The following is McAfee's description of a recently circulated virus hoax, the JDBGMGR.EXE virus:

McAfee AVERT Labs would like to inform you of a new email HOAX.

This email message is just a HOAX. Although, the JDBGMGR.EXE file may become infected by a number of valid viruses (most commonly W32/Magistr@MM), the details of this HOAX message are not based on actual events.

We are advising users who receive the email to delete the message and DO NOT pass it on as this is how an email HOAX propagates.

Another good source of virus information is at <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>. Always check on the validity of a virus warning prior to passing it on. The selection and regular use of a good anti-virus package will address the vast majority of virus problems. Perhaps the Symantec web site best sums up the situation:

Symantec Security Response uncovers hoaxes on a regular basis. These hoaxes usually arrive in the form of an email. Please disregard the hoax emails - they contain bogus warnings usually intent only on frightening or misleading users. The best course of action is to merely delete these hoax emails. Please refer to this page whenever you receive what appears to be a bogus message regarding a new virus, or promotion that sounds too good to be true.

Community Education Events . . . *by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director*

The following Community Education classes have been scheduled for the 2003-04 school year; others are still in the planning stages and will be offered later during the course of this year. Be sure to check the Elk Point-Jefferson web site at <http://www.epj.k12.sd.us> for additional courses and information.

Agriculture Related Web Sites. Instructor: Chad Heckathorn

Complete information was not available at press time. Please check the school's web site at <http://www.epj.k12.sd.us> for more information.

Make and Take Snowman Pillow. Instructor: Denise Briggs

Learn to machine piece a snowman pillow. Participants will rotary cut, machine piece and complete a snowman pillow during this session. A kit of materials will be available for all participants. One Session: November 18, 2003, 7:00-9:30 p.m., FACS Room, EPJ High School. Class size limited to 8 people. Cost \$15 (includes all materials). Please preregister. Call 605-356-5990 or email Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us to register.

Modern Western Square Dancing. Instructor: Elaine Peacock and area callers

Start off the New Year with Modern Western Square Dancing. A variety of music will be used--pop, showtunes, gospel and country. Square dancing is fun, low impact aerobics, good for the heart, a great stress relief and is a way to meet new friends and enjoy time with old friends. Three Sessions: Saturday, January 3, 10, & 17, 2004, 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (There will be short breaks during the morning and afternoon, as well as a break for lunch.) Cost for all three sessions: \$15--Individual, \$25--Couple, \$35--Family. Please preregister. Call 605-356-5990 or email Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us to register.

Car Care for Consumers. Instructor: Randy Briggs

This class will be an overview of proper car maintenance for the consumer. It will provide the basics of how each system operates and how proper maintenance will affect that system and prolong the life of your vehicle. One Session: November 18, 2003, 7:00-9:30 p.m., Briggs' Last Chance Garage, 809 West Main Street, Elk Point, SD. Class size limited to 8 people. Cost \$5. Please preregister. Call 605-356-5990 or email Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us to register.

Help for Hectic Lives Series

Presenters: Cheryl Jacobs, Union County Extension Educator and Lavonne Meyer, Turner County Extension Educator
Choose to attend all four, or just pick and choose the sessions that sound right for you!

Stop, Let Me Off the Merry Go Round! Learn to better balance the demands of work and family responsibilities. In the first session, "Stop, Let Me Off the Merry Go Round," learn to define your life's mission, prioritize your responsibilities and find ways to simplify your life! If you've ever felt like your life is pulling you into a hundred different directions, then this session is for you! January 15, 2004, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 121, EPJ High School. Cost \$5. Call 605-356-5990 or email Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us to register.

Money in the Mattress. More people are falling into the "sandwich generation;" they must take care of their kids and their parents, while trying to balance work, family matters and prepare for retirement all at the same time. Whether you are a Mature (born between 1909-1945), a Baby Boomer (1946-1964), a Gen Xer (1965-1978) or a Millennial (1979-1988), we all think about money in very different ways. Discover how to make the most of your income. "Money in the Mattress" will help you use money to meet your needs and achieve your goals. February 19, 2004, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 121, EPJ High School. Cost \$5. Call 605-356-5990 or email Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us to register.

The Fast and Healthy Answer to...What's for Dinner? The third installment in the Help for Hectic Lives Series, this session is designed to help you feed your families in a flash in your busier-than-ever lifestyle. Do you remember the last time your family sat down together at the dinner table? Convenience foods are easy, but what if you could create quick, healthy meals in a flash and spend some quality time with family too! Healthful eating doesn't have to take more time, and it can change your hectic lifestyle to include important time with family around the dinner table. March 18, 2004, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 121, EPJ High School. Cost \$5. Call 605-356-5990 or email Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us to register.

Friends and Lovers. Any relationship requires maintenance, or else it deteriorates. In a life pulling you in all directions, you have to work at sustaining adult relationships. Whether it's with your co-workers, colleagues, friends or the significant other in your life (husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, or whoever), positive relationships with others keep us healthy. Make sure you are doing all you can to preserve your personal network of support by learning more about strengthening your personal relationships. April 15, 2004, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 121, EPJ High School. Cost \$5. Call 605-356-5990 or email Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us to register.

Individual Tax Preparation. Instructor: Judy Quam

This class will be held during early 2004; however, complete information was not available at press time. Please check the school's web site at <http://www.epj.k12.sd.us>, or the December Newsletter for more information.

Please check the Elk Point-Jefferson Web Site at <http://www.epj.k12.sd.us> for additional information and class listings. Send an email to Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us if you would like to be included in email notifications of EPJ Community Education offerings.

Yearbooks on Sale!

by Brenda Kunkel, Art/Desktop Publishing

Only one book captures this year's incredible events and experiences – your 2004 yearbook. Remember all the friends, fashion, fun, favorite teachers, classes, games, music, art, dances, and everything in between.

It's all here. And it's only available once for a special presale price of \$30.00 the week of October 20-27, 2003. Something new available with the 2004 yearbook is personalization. Personalization allows students to foil stamp their name, favorite phrase, and up to four affiliation icons on their cover. Students can order two lines of imprint (29 characters per line including spaces). Fifty icons are available featuring year dates and affiliation symbols.

Order your yearbook now to ensure a copy. The price of the book is \$30.00. If you wait to order, next year's price for the 2004 yearbook will be \$35.00 and may not guarantee you a copy. Order forms will be sent with quarter grades. Make checks payable to Elk Point-Jefferson School. To place your order, complete the order form and return it with your payment to the school, Attention: Brenda Kunkel, Yearbook Advisor, by October 27, 2003 or drop it off to Brenda Kunkel at Parent/Teacher conferences in the HS Gym.

Remember last year's school memories with a 2003 yearbook, also available for sale (limited number available) and purchased at a price of \$30.00 through the yearbook order form sent with quarter grades.

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>

Elk Point-Jefferson School District

402 S. Douglas, P.O. Box 578
Elk Point, SD 57025

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