



Husky News

Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2004

Showing Pride . . . Taking Action

Alternative School

by Brian Shanks, Superintendent

Next summer, we will be opening an alternative school as a joint project with the Dakota Valley School District on a two year trial basis. Hopefully, this alternative school will help some of our students succeed that don't thrive in the typical school setting. This is an effort to find ways to meet the needs of all of our students. We have found that not all kids do well in the highly structured traditional high school. We want to develop a school that will "go outside the box" to develop different instructional methods to help kids get back on track and to experience success by recovering lost credits. In some cases, perhaps, the students can even take some courses initially in the alternative school setting.

The structure of the school will include individualizing courses to meet the needs of the student. This may mean working on a single course for 2-3 hours a day until it is completed. It might mean using software as a supplement to the prescribed coursework that will help the student move in a sequential fashion towards completion. There are many ways to help struggling students experience success, and the teacher will work with students and parents to come up with a plan. We are basically creating an individualized learning program for each student who is accepted into the program.

The only way a program like this works is if the students and parents have the will to make it work. The courses are just as demanding and rigorous as our traditional coursework; they are just taught in a different way. There is the misconception that alternative schools are easier, and the standards are lower. That is just not the case; in an alternative school setting we are just more flexible in how our students succeed.

There is also a misconception that alternative schools are for students who have trouble with discipline issues. That is false; the kids and their parents have to want the alternative setting. Usually it is for students who have made mistakes in completing credits but want to succeed and graduate.

Elk Point-Jefferson and Dakota Valley are working with the Department of Labor, and we were able to get a matching grant to set up the alternative school. We are going to try to have it up and going by this July for summer school and then move into the 2004-05 school year. It will initially have one teacher and a traveling supervisor from Vermillion. We will re-evaluate the entire program after a one-year trial. We understand that it will start on a small scale and grow as we find its place in our curriculum. We hope to find a location in Jefferson that will be convenient for both school districts. We are hoping this is the beginning of a mutual cooperation between the school districts to meet the needs of our students.

Nick Bottger Wins Geographic Bee

by Selene Van Wyk, Academic Advisor

On January 14, Nick Bottger, a seventh grade student at Elk Point-Jefferson, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and ING Americas.

The kickoff for this year's Bee was the week of November 17, with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating. EPJ conducted its homeroom contests the week prior to the start of Christmas break. After winning, Nick took a written test which will determine if he will compete in the state competition on April 2.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the National Geographic Bee national championship on May 25 and 26. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the society.

Thirteen Elk Point-Jefferson students won their homeroom competitions. The winners were as follows: fourth grade – Ashley Fejfar, Zach McLean, Holly Rosenbaum; fifth grade – Annie Peasley (third place overall), Gavin Lee, Cassie Hilbrands; sixth grade – Malisa Phrommany, Alex Elkins; seventh grade – Shauna Hilbrands, Nick Bottger (first place overall), Allison Lawler; eighth grade – John Frankl, Allan Groethe, and Michael Strassburg (second place overall).



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, March 16
Thursday, March 18
4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Report cards for grades 7 - 12 will be distributed during conferences in the high school/middle school office.

Spring Achievement Testing . . . by Phil Breed, Certified School Counselor

Dear Parents,

During the window of March 22 – April 16, 2004, your child will be taking the South Dakota STEP Achievement Test. This test is required by the South Dakota State Board of Education for all students in grades 3- 8 and 11. The EPJ School Board also requires a similar abbreviated test for grades 1 and 2.

The Stanford is a norm-referenced standardized test. This means that your child's scores provide a comparison of his or her performance to that of thousands of other students who took the test under the same conditions. The results help teachers to plan lessons that build upon what your child already knows and encourage progress in areas your child has not yet mastered. It is important to understand that no one "passes" or "fails" this test.

The test includes many of the subjects that your child is taught in school. Your child will be tested in reading, language, mathematics, science and social science. Depending on your child's grade level, he or she may also be tested in listening, study skills and/or spelling.

Several answer choices are given for each question. The student is supposed to choose the best answer. Students in grades 1-3 will mark their answers in the test booklet. Students in grades 4-8 and 11 will mark their answers on a separate answer folder.

This type of test can give only certain kinds of information about how your child is doing in school. To get a more complete picture, you also need to know how your child does with daily class work, other tests the teacher gives, homework, and other activities.

How to Prepare Your Child to Take a Test

Here are some things your child can do:

REST – Get a good night's sleep before a test.

EAT – A good breakfast on the morning of a test is important.

LISTEN – Listen carefully to the directions that are given for the test and follow them exactly. If the directions are not clear, ask the teacher to repeat them or to explain the directions again.

TRY – Do your best. Even if some parts of the test seem hard, keep trying and don't give up.

Here are some things you can do:

DISCUSS – Help your child understand that a test provides a chance to show what a student knows about a subject and how the teacher can best help the child to learn.

SUPPORT – See that your child maintains regular study habits, but don't ask for extra study time for this test. It covers more schoolwork than can be learned in a few hours.

RELAX – Reassure your child about the test-taking experience. Students who are calm and sure of themselves do better on a test.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 356-5871 or phil.breed@k12.sd.us.

Library News . . . by Carmen Wilcox, School Librarian

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Joseph Addison

Read Across America Day, Tuesday, March 2, was a great day to exercise the mind and read for the K-6 students of EPJ. The first hour of the school day was spent reading and lying about the classroom on sleeping bags and pillows. Students in grades kindergarten through third enjoyed being read to by both their teacher and a guest reader. This annual, national observance coincides with Dr. Seuss's birthday. Guest readers for this event included Renae McInerney, Eric Johnson, Eileen Henze, Julie Schindler, Michelle Feldhacker, Cathy Dailey, Kari Kneip, Jean McLaury, Donna Mau, Rhonda Weidner, Cammy Abbey and Christie Lehman. A special thanks goes out to each one of these individuals for sharing the gift of reading with our students.

In conjunction with **Read Across America Day**, the State Library sponsored a visit by the "cat" from Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat*. The cat visited the EPJ kindergartners on Monday, March 1. He reminded the children of the upcoming **Dr. Seuss Day**. Each kindergartner was given his or her own book to take home and read. The EPJ Library received a small grant, making the gift books possible.

On Friday, March 26, students of EPJ will enjoy *The Harry Potter-Themed Magic of Reading Show*, sponsored by the EPJ Library. This show focuses on reading fiction for fun. It specifically promotes fiction where the main character is a young person. Funding for this event is derived from profits from the annual book fair.

The month of April brings with it **National Library Week (NLW)**, which will be observed April 18-24. **NLW 2004** marks the fourth year for the campaign sponsored by the American Library Association. **NLW** is a great time to see what's new at your library and how your librarians can direct you to the information you need. The EPJ Library has a few plans in mind for the celebration beginning with some prizes for the elementary students and a drawing for a gift certificate to Barnes and Noble. Stop by the library during that week to register for the drawing.



EPJ Wrestling Concludes Another Successful Season

by Justin Clercx, Assistant Wrestling Coach

The Elk Point-Jefferson wrestling team concluded another successful wrestling campaign by placing fourth at the state dual tournament and tying for third in the state individual wrestling tournament.

EPJ qualified for the state dual tournament by winning the region tournament on February 21 in Dell Rapids. Going into the tournament, EPJ was seeded third and had to face the Stanley County Buffaloes in the first round of the dual tournament. The Huskies scored a 56-10 victory and moved onto the semi-finals against the favored Parkston Trojans. In the end, the Trojans, who won both the dual tournament and individual tournament, were too much for the Huskies who lost 44-17. In the third and fourth place dual, EPJ butted heads with the Webster Bearcats. The Bearcats prevailed 43-18, and the Huskies finished fourth.

The following day, nine Husky wrestlers competed in the state individual wrestling tournament. Of the nine that qualified by placing in the top four in the region tournament, six Husky wrestlers earned individual medals. Tyler Chicoine earned a third place medal at 103, Andy Bottger placed seventh at 112, Danny Hutcheson seventh at 119, Jacob Butrous seventh at 125, and Dallas Mitchell placed third at 215. Other participants in the state individual tournament were Josh Butrous-130, Mark Donnelly-160, and Jacob Limoges-189.

Heavyweight Justin Kyte, a sophomore, brought home a gold medal by defeating Joey White of Tri-Valley 8-7 in the finals. Kyte and White had wrestled three times previously, with White winning the first two and Kyte winning in the region championship.

On the season, EPJ was 13-0 in duals and won all but two tournaments in which they were entered. This year's squad had only one senior, Dallas Mitchell, who will be greatly missed next year. However, everyone else will be returning for another season in 2005.

The coaching staff would like to thank all of the fans that offered their support to the team throughout the entire season.



Children Suffer in High-Conflict Divorce

When divorced parents can't agree on anything long after the divorce is final – and continue to fight vehemently, particularly about child custody arrangements – experts term their situation a “high-conflict divorce.” The parents’ interaction is characterized as verbally and sometimes physically aggressive, overtly hostile and deeply distrustful.

All divorces are tough on kids in some way, but these divorces tend to be damaging to young people, especially girls. Janet Johnston, PhD, former director of research at the Center for the Family in Transition in Corte Madera, California, published research in 1994 that described the problems in high-conflict divorces and examined the effects of parental conflict children. She found that children living amidst the crossfire of angry parents experienced problems in their relationships with each parent and “greater maladjustment.” She also found that in these situations, court-ordered joint custody and frequent visitation arrangements tended to be detrimental to the children involved.

By comparison, Johnston found most children adjust fairly well in joint physical custody and frequent visitation arrangements with divorced parents who are not hostile to one another and voluntarily make these arrangements. She concluded that joint physical custody and frequent visitation with both parents is not the problem in high-conflict divorces. It is the parents’ inability to cooperate and subdue their anger that has a direct impact on their children.

If you know a young person who may need help because of a high-conflict divorce, please feel free to contact either of us.

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Provided by the *Helping Hand* Vol.14, Issue 6

What You Can Say When Your Child is Extremely Upset

We want kids to talk to us when their emotions are running high. It helps them release those emotions constructively and helps us understand what's going on in their lives.

The best way to insure young people will talk out – instead of act out – their strong feelings is to respond to them in ways that make them feel understood. Ken Druck, PhD, founder of the Families Helping Families program and a crisis-response expert, offers some guidance in this regard in his book, *How to Talk to Your Kids about School Violence* (www.howtotalktoyourkids.com).

He says when kids get very angry, adults have a unique opportunity to connect with them. As your child describes the particulars of his/her situation, listen and allow him/her to rant about what happened. Your child is likely to be very hurt, upset and may even make threatening and radical remarks. Druck provides some common statements children make when they're angry and how adults can respond:

When your child says:	You can say:
"I won't let him get away with this." "He'll be sorry he ever messed with me!" "I'm going to make him pay!" "I'm going to kill him!"	"I know how angry you are. I understand you feel he should have to suffer consequences for what he did. Retaliating will only make things worse. Don't you think he'll try to get you back? Let's think of some ways to end this."
"It's not fair!"	"No. It's not fair. And neither is life sometimes."
"I can't stand the way I'm being picked on/bullied/made fun of." "I can't go on anymore." "I can't face anyone ever again."	"I can see how humiliated you are, and I might want to crawl into a hole and hide if I went through what you did. Things might be rough for a while, but we're going to figure this out."
"I'm not going back to school."	"It is a miserable situation, but I think we can do something about it."
"You don't know what it's like." "Things are different from when you were growing up." "You don't get it."	"I know you don't think I understand. And I know things are different from when I was growing up, but I still want you to give what I have to say a chance."

In close, we would like to remind you that we are available to talk to you and your child. Please feel free to contact either of us.

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Guide to Digital Video by Jan Ozer

by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

PC Magazine has published an excellent book that should be of interest to anyone who is considering a venture into the area of digital video. Author Jan Ozer guides the reader from the initial steps of choosing and purchasing a digital camcorder to burning a final production to DVD.

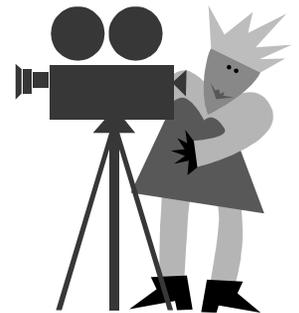
The *Guide to Digital Video* is divided into logical, sequential sections:

- Buying Your Equipment
- Shooting Your Video
- Video Editing and Production
- DVD Production

Each section is filled with clear and concise information. Ozer draws upon his experience to give the reader insight into the purchase of editing software, computer equipment (processor speed is more important than RAM), and aesthetic considerations during filming.

Ozer has done an admirable job of stripping away the technical jargon that all too often serves only to confuse the reader. He clearly explains the different video and DVD formats and offers no-nonsense advice concerning the purchase of equipment. An excellent section of the guide defines the history, differences, and pros and cons of conflicting DVD standards. This section is an informative read in and of itself.

As is true of most books of this genre, *Guide to Digital Video* can be read in bits and pieces, skipping sections that may not be interesting or relevant to the reader. This book is available at the Elk Point-Jefferson Community Library; I would highly recommend this book for anyone considering the plunge into digital video.



FROM THE DESK of Doug Brusseau, K-6 Principal

The Standardized Test for the Year

Standardized tests and adequate yearly progress, or AYP, have quickly become the norm for schools and students with the advent of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Under NCLB, all students must be tested in reading and math for the 2003-04 school year and must achieve adequate yearly progress or improvement from the previous year. This year, all the standardized tests will be given to students in grades three through eight and the eleventh grade sometime between March 23 and April 16. Hopefully, each student will do his/her best. Here is some important information that will help them succeed during the test time.

Following are some important things you can do:

- Encourage your child to do the best he/she can do.
- Provide your child with a healthy breakfast in the morning. Remember, breakfast every day provides your child with the nutrition needed for developing minds.
- Ensure your child has adequate sleep the night before school. For most elementary students, ten hours of sleep every night is best.

Following are some tips for taking the test:

- While taking the test, students will need to pay attention to the test instructions very closely.
- Students will be encouraged to take their time during the test; there is no need to be the first one done. Students should use whatever extra time they may have to review and check their answers.
- Students should know it is okay to skip a question if they do not know the answer at the time. Many times the answer will come to them later.
- If students are stumped, they should narrow down the answer to their top two choices and choose the one that best answers the question.

The final goal for all of us should be to encourage all students to do their best and help them believe that they will.

The 6th Graders are True Olympians

by Jorrie Brandhagen, 6-7 Grade

The sixth graders recently finished a unit on ancient Greece. While studying ancient Greece, the students learned the history of the Olympic Games. We learned the Olympics were first held in 776 B.C. in honor of the Greek god Zeus. While studying we found out that physical activities were only one part of the first Olympic Games. Poetry, public speaking, and music were also part of the first Olympic Games.



The sixth grade students' knowledge was put to the ultimate test in early February. The two sixth grade classes each participated in an Ancient Greek Olympics.

The Olympic categories were as follows: What Ancient Culture am I, What Greek God/Goddess am I, Name the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World, Translate the Hieroglyphic Message, and Name the State (some current events were covered as well). The students competed in groups of five. Each group picked an ancient Greek city-state to represent. The students were responsible for making a flag and a motto for their city-state. Each student participated in at least one event. We crowned the champion teams in each class with an olive leaf crown (see photos). The information the students retained from each of the cultures they have learned about since the beginning of the year was impressive!

We had wonderful judges come in and help us out. The sixth grade class would like to thank Officer Ryan Fleek, Mr. Klumper, Mrs. Abbey, Mrs. Jones, and Jake Larson for judging our knowledge of ancient history.

Owl Pellets . . . 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 tell 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!



The World of William Joyce . . . by Gwen Billings, Fifth Grade



In fifth grade reading class, the students read a story titled "The World of William Joyce." This is an autobiography of William Joyce that is illustrated with photographs and Joyce's own drawings. He described how he planned and developed a book. The story took the reader step-by-step in developing and writing a storybook.

As part of their response activities, the fifth graders did an activity called "Do It Yourself." Each fifth grader wrote and illustrated a storybook. Then, when they were finished, the fifth graders in Mr. Steckler's, Mrs. Billings's, and Mrs. LaFerrier's classes shared their stories with the second graders in Mrs. Donnelly's, Mrs. Foltz's, and Mrs. King's classes. It was a fun and rewarding experience.



Food Drive "Fuels" Pantry

by Patty Skinner, 7-8 Language Arts

The "Have a Heart" Food Drive sponsored by the middle school council once again helped "fuel" the Union County Food Pantry. EPI collected over 1,500 food and other items to help replenish the food pantry for the next several months.

The middle school council held a contest for the classrooms collecting the most items for the food pantry. Mrs. Shirley Rosenbaum's first graders collected the most for Division I, while Mrs. Chris Nearman's third graders and Mr. Fletcher's 8A Homeroom won Division II and Division III, respectively. For their efforts the students won chip and pop parties.

Rusty Langel and Shauna Hilbrands chaired the project. Committee members were Thomas Rarrat, Brandon Webb, Jesse Knecht, Cole Irwin, Bob Trudeau, Hannah Wilkinson, Chelsey Borchardt, Drew Mast, Amanda Connelly, Tommy Bottger, Nick Bottger, Molly Shanks, Molly Hammitt, and Jeremiah Curry.

This is just one of the community projects the council sponsors. Its next project will be the Elk Point and Jefferson community clean-ups in the spring.

Music Room Gets To Play . . . by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music

The third and fourth graders started their recorder instruments when they got back from Christmas. In this unit, the students learn to read the notes on the lines and spaces. Flashcard drills are practiced on note reading as well as rhythm reading.

This is the second year for starting the third grade class playing recorders. It is an excellent small motor skills exercise, as they must learn to separate individual fingers when they learn the finger positions for each note. To make it easier, the class has switched curriculum to encourage early success for all. Students learn to use the finger that is the easiest for them to manipulate--the index finger. This approach opens the door to many 2-note songs that they know at their age level.

This year's fourth graders are the first class to have beginning experience in the third grade. We started a new program called Karate Recorders. The program includes nine songs in progressive difficulty. Student play for Mrs. Hanson by themselves. If they successfully play the song, they receive a bead to represent the Karate belt they just earned.

This has opened up the opportunity for students to do cooperative learning as they gather in to groups that are working on the same song. It also provides individual evaluation for Mrs. Hanson. Many beginning incorrect habits can be caught with this approach. The students are highly motivated to practice at home!

The class is very excited about their progress. **The 4th graders will be performing at the All Band Concert on Monday, March 29.** It is always fun to watch how students grow in their skills from band level to band level.



K-4 Spring Concert "The Three Year Camping Trip"

April 30, 2004

7:00 P.M.

Middle School Gym



Parent-Teacher Conferences for High School and Middle School

The end of the school year is quickly approaching. The third nine weeks draws to a conclusion on the 12th of March. With the third and fourth quarters in mind, parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 18 from 4:00 until 8:00 both days. I strongly encourage you to come to conferences and talk with staff concerning your student(s).

High School

Our high school staff constantly strives to keep parents as educationally informed as possible. Our high school staff has done an admirable job in preparing and maintaining their assignment pages. You may find these pages on our home page at http://www.epj.k12.sd.us/assignments/assignment_page_index.htm. In addition, our staff and students are working hard in homeroom in regards to registration of students for the 2004-2005 school year. Students are contemplating their classes with their present and future instructors and guidance counselors in the hopes of having a productive and smooth transition into their next year of high school. For your information, our curriculum guide is posted on our homepage at http://www.epj.k12.sd.us/curriculum_guide_04-05.htm. The guide is posted for your convenience in the hope that you will discuss class offerings with your student(s) in preparation for scheduling.

Middle School

Our middle school staff has also spent much energy in the ongoing commitment to keep parents informed regarding the education of their children. You can find the middle school assignment pages at the same location as that of the high school. In regards to scheduling for next year, we will be offering an Eighth Grade Transition Night as part of parent/teacher conferences on Thursday, March 18. I encourage all eighth graders and their parents to attend conferences on Thursday. At 6:00 on Thursday, we will meet in the high school choir room to discuss the issues associated with students moving from middle school to high school. I am very much looking forward to this time, as I perceive it to be very beneficial for all of us.

See you soon,

Travis A. Aslesen
High School/Middle School Principal
Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Council Collecting Beverage Tabs

by Patty Skinner, 7-8 Language Arts

The middle school council is still collecting beverage tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. It uses money from selling the tabs to purchase needed items for the house when families of sick children stay there.

Send your beverage tabs with any student, or drop them by the elementary or high school offices by May 1.

Students Take Annual Ski Trip

by Patty Skinner, 7-8 Language Arts

After having their first ski date cancelled due to poor weather conditions, the seventh and eighth graders traveled to Great Bear Recreation Park near Brandon on February 20.

Students could "dust off" their skills from previous outings on the slopes. Novices had the opportunity to take lessons and cling to the "bunny hill" until they felt comfortable to move to higher elevations as well as master the ski lift.

Chaperones for the day included Lisa and Marty McInerney, Dan Swatek, Daryl Fletcher, Kelly Jones, Cammy Abbey, Kim Kramer, George Norton, Brenda Schaffer, Patty Rarrat, and Dave Engeldinger.

The ski trip is part of the middle school exploratory program to help students develop a life-long skill.



This eighth grader enjoyed skiing the half pike at the Great Bear Recreation Area.

Hats are a Blast, Say the Eighth Graders in FACS

by Jan Baagoe, FACS

If you notice the eighth graders donning funky new hats, it is because they created them in exploratory FACS class. First, we started with school colors and now have engaged in more creative designs using a variety of colors. We use the embroidery sewing machine and stitch a variety of logos on each student's hat. Some students want their name, others want EPJ Huskies, some wrestlers stitch their weight class, and basketball players want their number. Making the hats has really increased the enthusiasm of sewing among the students. They cannot wait until they get them done.



The Elements of an Effective Education

What is the value of an education? Current trends in education attempt to define the value of an education in dollars or man-hours, but is that what it is all about? Of course not, but what then defines an effective educational experience?

To define the myriad of elements which define an effective education would take more than a few columns of this newsletter. What is important is that we take a few moments and consider two of those elements which we at Elk Point-Jefferson believe have the greatest influence upon educating our children.

One element, which is arguably the most important, is discipline. I am not referring to the "fall in line or else" type of discipline, but rather a personal discipline, a discipline that is grounded in structure, accountability, cultivating successful work habits, relating to the perspective of others, understanding the joy of work, and developing a sense of self. All of these components are critical to the development of discipline in young people. The overall goal of an effective school is to encourage each and every student to the point of self-awareness, self-control, and self-discipline.

A second element of an effective education is that an effective school must prepare its students for the future, whatever that future might be. This is a daunting task for any high school to consider. At times we fall into the trap of encouraging each and every student to an advanced degree beyond high school. This seems to be the measuring stick applied to most high schools across the nation. Although this is a vitally important part of the high school philosophy, schools must refocus their efforts on the fundamentals of preparing successful students. Schools should focus not only on the outcome, but on the process. In doing so, schools must reinforce concepts that stimulate the responsibilities that we have to our society. In turn, schools will develop students that are willing to give before they get. Giving, for students, must go beyond turning in a homework assignment; it must be centered on becoming something more; it must be about not settling for "good enough."

My intent is to share a few thoughts on the realities of education, not to be overly philosophical, but I heard a man speak about the meaning of life. His thought was that the meaning of life was a play on words, how fitting. He said, "The meaning of life is to give others' lives more meaning." I have seen the commitment of our parents, community members, staff, and students. It is obvious that we function under this philosophy. To visit our school, to see our activity groups in action, or to see our students in the normal routines of life are all proof of an effective educational system. An education provided by communities and schools which build upon the work of each other for the benefit of our future is one of our most prized characteristics. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts. You can rest assured that we are appreciative of yours.

Educationally yours,

Travis A. Aslesen
High School/Middle School Principal
Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Assorted "Singing Things" To Be Held in the Spring

by Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal

The fifth - twelfth graders in vocal music have been busy learning new music for all of the upcoming singing events this spring.

On Monday, March 8, the 64 members of the junior high chorus will attend a music festival in Harrisburg. They will be joining five other schools. These junior high students will also perform at the 5-8 Spring Concert on Thursday, April 29. They will help organize and will sing at the Region Middle School Solo and Ensemble Contest here at EPJ on Wednesday, May 5.

Wednesday, April 7, the 75 members of the high school chorus will travel to Vermillion High School to compete in the region large group contest. They will also perform at the 9-12 music concert on Monday, May 10.

Please try to attend some or all of these vocal music events. The EPJ singers work very hard to prepare for these performances. Call Mary Schuh at 356-5814 with any questions.

Area Youth Exhibit Their Artistic Skills

by Brenda Kunkel, 6-12 Art

Area students participate in regional juried art exhibition at the Falls Park Horse Barn Art Center and USD Fine Arts Building during March

The Sioux Empire Arts Council (SEAC) and the Sioux Falls Artist League will host the Fourth Annual High School Art Exhibit at the Horse Barn Art Center located in Falls Park during the entire month of March. Art students from 12 regional high schools including Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Canton, Centerville, Elk Point-Jefferson, Garretson, Harrisburg, Madison, Viborg, and O'Gorman, Sioux Falls Christian, and Washington of Sioux Falls will be displaying their finest works and competing for prizes. A professional artist will judge the exhibit entries. In addition, a Visitor's Choice Award will be presented at the end of March to that student receiving the most votes from the general public. Students exhibiting from Elk Point-Jefferson School are Jeff Heaton, Anne Rosenbaum, Alesha Hummel, Jed McInerney, and Erica Peter.

The public is invited to attend the High School Show Artist Reception at the Horse Barn on Sunday, March 28, from 1:00-3:00. Many of the artists will be on hand to discuss their work, and refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be on display the entire month of March.

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. Ten students will be representing Elk Point-Jefferson School at the USD Area High School Art Exhibition: Ben Gries, Alesha Hummel, Stephanie Jones, Anna Hinds, Genevieve Stalvig, Katie Trometer, Vanessa Nelson, Lisa Scott, Cody Trometer, and Jeff Heaton. For all artists, friends and family, there will be an opening reception March 14 from 3:00 to 5:00 at the Fine Arts Building on the campus of USD. The exhibit will be on display from March 1 until March 22, 2004.

Notes from the Band Room . . . by Jeremy Schutter, 5-12 Band

Early in the month of February, the EPJ School Board accepted the Stanbury Uniform Company bid (\$19,642.56) for new band uniforms. The old uniforms that are being replaced are from the days before Elk Point and Jefferson consolidated. We are extremely excited to show off our new look next fall. These uniforms are also adaptable for the concert band to wear at concerts. On Wednesday, February 25, 2004, all the band members in grades 7-12 were measured for their new uniforms. The uniforms will arrive towards the end of the school year or early in the summer. Thank you to the entire community for your continued support.

Looking ahead to the month of March, the band is busy, busy, busy. On March 3, the high school band members traveled to Vermillion for the Region 1 Solo/Small Ensemble Contest. Out of 27 students, we earned 33 medals. Below are our results.

Solos earning a 1 rating: Whitney Karpen, snare & marimba solo; Katie Langel, flute solo; Viktor Sundleaf, electric bass guitar solo

Solos earning a 2 rating: Chris Tow & Nick Erickson, alto sax solos; Anne Rosenbaum, tenor sax solo

Duets earning a 1 rating: Whitney Karpen & Curt Truhe, snare duet; Shelby Penfield & Brandi Turkleson, alto sax duet

Larger Ensembles earning a 1 rating: Flute Ensemble (Genevieve Stalvig, Katie Langel, Erica Peter, Curt Truhe, Kyle Hanson, Adrian Ries), Saxophone Ensemble (Brandi Turkleson, Shelby Penfield, Chris Tow, Lana Honomichl, Darin Schmidt, Bobby Truhe, Aaron Hanson, Nick Erickson), Brass Choir (Tim Card, Justin Schmidt, Josh Reed, Viktor Sundleaf, Nick Larson, Robert Curry, Cody Whitlock, Ross Wilcox, Kyle Hanson, Stephanie Reed)

Larger Ensemble earning a 2 rating: Clarinet Trio (Nicola Obeney, Anne Rosenbaum, Beth Knutson)

On March 5, our trombonists in grades 7-12 will attend the Siouland Trombone Festival held at Washington High School in Sioux Falls. This is a neat event because it puts our students in the company of not only the best trombonists of our area, but it puts our students in the company of some of the best trombonists in the country. Tuesday night, March 9, the pep band will travel to the Dakota Dome to play at the Boy's Region Basketball Championship. The bus will leave at 5:30 P.M. We will begin playing at 7 P.M. and play throughout the game during time outs. On March 16, the jazz band will travel to USD for the Coyote Jazz Festival. We perform at 1:20 P.M. in Knutson Theater (Theater 1). **The All Band Concert is Monday, March 29, at 7 P.M.** This is a change in date. The following day, March 30, the jazz band will travel to Norfolk, Nebraska, to the Northeast Jazz Festival held at the Northeast Community College. I suppose March is "Music in the Schools" month for a reason.

On Wednesday, April 7, the high school band and choir will travel to Vermillion for the Region 1 Large Group Contest. On April 29, the Middle School (grades 5-8) Spring Concert will be held at 7 P.M. This concert will feature the bands and class singers. Saturday, May 1, the band members of grades 5-8 will perform solos and small ensembles at EPJ for their annual contest. This year there is one change taking place; everyone in grades 5-8 band is required to do either a solo or a small ensemble. On Monday, May 10, the school year rounds out with the High School Spring Concert at 7 P.M.

If you are around the band program at all between now and the end of the year, we are fortunate to have a student teacher from USD with us this spring. His name is Mr. Jeff McBirnie. Please feel free to stop in and meet him.

Last, I want to take a moment to recognize a few individuals whose time and talents paid off in attending the Wayne State Junior High Honor Band on January 31. These individuals were selected by audition: Hannah Wilkinson – trumpet, Adrian Ries & Kirstin Hanson – percussion, Hope Metzgar – clarinet, and Sara Peasley – flute. If you see these young individuals, let them know "a job well done."

Arts Night 2004 . . . by Brenda Kunkel, 6-12 Art

EPJ students in grades six through twelve displayed their talents during the Art's Night Reception on Thursday, February 19. Students displayed visual art of many mediums ranging from plaster sculptures to pencil drawings and watercolors. Functional and educational art was also on display by the technical education, family and consumer science, and Spanish departments. The high school vocal and instrumental departments provided listening entertainment for the public with contest ensemble selections and the EPJ Huskies Jazz Ensemble.



Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow . . . by Lisa McInerney, RN, School Nurse



South Dakota's healthcare industry finds itself facing an increasing dire shortage of trained professionals. In an effort to help reduce the shortage, the state and its healthcare providers created Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow (HOTT). Governor Rounds proclaimed February 9-13, 2004, Healthcare in Partnership With Education (HIPE) week in South Dakota.

Mrs. McInerney's Health Occupations class sponsored a variety of events and activities for HIPE week. School districts and healthcare institutions throughout the state were encouraged by the Department of Education, Health, and Labor, along with South Dakota healthcare providers, to promote occupations in the healthcare industry. Many ideas were suggested, and the EPJ health occupation students chose a few that they thought would be fun. They sponsored a coloring contest for grades 1, 2, and 3. Each participant was given a "prize," either a pencil or picture magnet. Each section was

given a Nerf football and Frisbee, and the winners in each grade were given water bottles. All prizes were donated by USD and Sioux Valley Hospital. The colored pictures were displayed throughout the school and at Sioux Valley Hospital in Vermillion. The students made HOTT (Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow) posters and displayed them throughout the school as well.

At the basketball game on February 10, the students set up a table and gave free HOTT candy (hot tamales, and fire balls) to any student, parent, or fan that walked by. Donations were accepted, and the proceeds will go to Relay for Life. The proclamation by Governor Rounds and press release were submitted to our local paper the week leading up to HIPE week.

The students had a great time during HIPE week and learned that the most exciting, fastest growing careers available today are in healthcare. Careers in health information management, nursing, athletic training, pharmacy, and many more are available for both men and women. By 2010, 7,780 new healthcare jobs will be created; this is an increase of 21% from 2000.

EPJHS Science Fair a Success!!

by Melanie Norris, H.S. Science

On Monday, February 9, 2004, the EPJMS Gym was transformed into a smorgasbord of science. With over 95 entries in the fields of physics, math, chemistry, biology, and earth & environmental science, there was sure to be a project of interest for every spectator. As a general course requirement, every student enrolled in a science class must complete a science fair project. The students start working on their projects in September, coming up with project ideas and creating a hypothesis. Most of the work is completed over Christmas break, with final data submissions and abstracts coming in towards the end of January.

Due to the high quality of the projects this year, EPJ will be sending the top five place winners in each category to the SDSU State Science Fair on April 2. Those students placing first in their respective categories this year were Anne Rosenbaum (Physics), Bob Truhe & Whitney Karpen (Math), Kyle Hanson (Chemistry), Curt Truhe and Chris Tow (Biology), and Drew Staum & Jed McInerney (Earth & Environmental Science). Second place overall was awarded to Drew Staum and Jed McInerney, and winning the 2004 Science Fair was Bob Truhe and Whitney Karpen. Drew and Jed tested the effects of nicotine on mold growth, while Bob and Whitney successfully conquered a Rubik's Cube.

Congratulations students on a job well done!!!



This year's top science fairs winners.



Notes from the Drama Department

by Lori Hawley, H.S. English

The 1-act play season came to a conclusion on January 27 with the Region 1-Act Play Contest held at Mount Marty College in Yankton. Elk Point-Jefferson's entry was entitled *The Strength of our Spirit*, a serious play set in Holland during the Nazi occupation. Genevieve Stalvig, who played the main character Miriam, was awarded an Outstanding Actor medal.

The cast has been selected for the spring All School Play. This year's show is called *Death by Chocolate*, a whacky murder mystery centering around a sinister box of chocolates. The show will be presented on Friday, April 16, in the Middle School Gym. Student director for the show is Alesha Hummel. Cast members include Julia Matthys, Jason Donnelly, Nicole Spencer, Ross Wilcox, Tim Jastram, Whitney Karpen, Robert Curry, Katie Buum, Bethany Peter, Bobby Truhe, Genevieve Stalvig, Drew Staum, Kyle Hanson, and Anne Rosenbaum.

Wurtz Chooses Gymnastics as Her Athletic Venue

Kim Wurtz's journey into the competitive world of gymnastics began as an ambitious three-year-old tree climber. One of her favorite pastimes was climbing the trees in her backyard. Kim's mother, Barb, was concerned about her young daughter's safety, so Barb decided to enter Kim in gymnastics at the Siouxland Gymnastics Academy in Sioux City, Iowa. It was here that Barb hoped, "Kim would learn how to land safely if she ever fell out of a tree." What Barb, Kevin (Kim's dad), and Kim herself didn't know at that time was that 10 years later Kim would be competing at Level 8 with other 13-14 year old gymnasts in the upper Midwest.

In the world of gymnastics, the gymnasts compete within their age groups at different levels of competition. These levels range from 1-10, 10 being the most difficult. Within these 10 levels, the competitors compete as individuals and as members of a team. As the level of competition increases, so does the level of complexity (acrobatic moves) that must be incorporated into the routines, which include four different competitions: even bars, balance beam, floor routine, and the vault. Of the four competitions, Kim's favorite is the balance beam. It is here that Kim has earned her highest marks; she received a 9.3 rating at the state competition. Her overall best score to date is 37/40.

Kim added, "The balance beam routine is challenging; my current performance includes an acrobatic move called the 'backhand, backhand,' two back hand springs in a row on the beam. Currently, I am practicing to perfect a new addition to my bar routine which will be a move known as the 'toe on shoot over' release, a very complicated move."

Getting to the level that Kim has achieved is no easy task. Kim practices four days a week from 4:00-8:00 P.M. and competes around the 5-state area on weekends. "I have to face my fears every day, but I love the challenges that are in front of me." Along with her hectic practice schedule, Kim maintains a 4.0 GPA at EPJMS, and she also participates in track and field during the spring. "I have to be organized and very focused all of the time; I have learned how to keep up with my school responsibilities and still be able to compete, even with my demanding schedule."

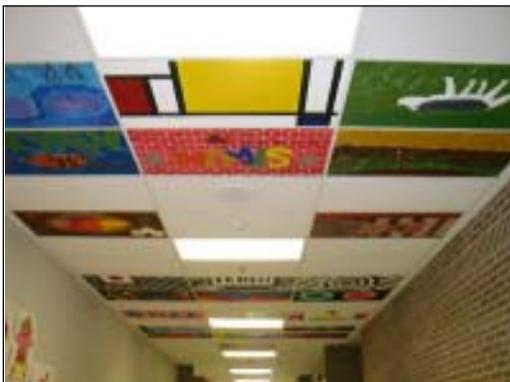
Rich Lorenat, Kim's coach, said that Kim's hard-working spirit, physical strength, and ability to work through a bad day are her greatest strengths. As a coach and trainer of young athletes, Rich has very high expectations of his young prodigies; those expectations include performing well in school, physical strength, flexibility, and good health. The one thing he demands from his gymnasts is that they "enjoy the time they have committed to the sport and leave with the highest self-esteem and sense of accomplishment." "Kim works hard at being the best because it's her nature; she is one gymnast that I never have to find a way to motivate. Kim comes into each practice committed to improving her skills and finding out what new skills she can achieve."

The grueling practices and competitions are demanding on Kim's time as well as her body; she says she has sustained some back injuries, but that doesn't keep her from pursuing her immediate goals and long-term dreams. "It would be nice to earn a scholarship and compete at the college level in gymnastics. After college I would like to be an English teacher and a gymnastics coach, but my dad thinks I would be a great chiropractor." Whatever Kim's future holds, it is obvious that her enthusiasm and courage will allow her to meet each new challenge placed in front of her.

New Permanent Art in Hallways of EPJ

by Brenda Kunkel, 6-12 Art

In December, Art I students, for their final project, researched an artist from a modern art movement and duplicated his/her style of painting on a ceiling tile that now adorns one hallway at Elk Point-Jefferson School. The ceiling tiles bring color and energy to the hallways, and many students and staff can be seen slowly walking with their heads held back trying to catch all the details of the beautiful paintings. If you are in the building, swing by the art room and check out the beautiful artwork.



HS Choir Members Attend Region Contest

by Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal

Sixty-seven members of the high school choir traveled to Yankton High School on Wednesday, February 11, for the Region Solo and Ensemble Contest. They ended up with 3 large group superior ratings, 2 small group superior ratings, 17 solo superior ratings, 2 large group excellent ratings, 4 small group excellent ratings, and 3 solo excellent ratings. This is a grand total of **69 individual superior ratings and medals and 46 excellent ratings!**

The entire high school choir will attend a large group contest on April 7 and perform at a spring music concert on May 10 as well as graduation on May 15.



Large groups superior ratings were received by Autumn Barnes, Sandy Bouck, Tyler Chicoine, Robert Curry, Doug Dailey, Abby Davis, Jason Donnelly, Heidi Erickson, Kaitlin Forsling, Maria Fowler, Kyle Hanson, Tommi Hanson, Jacob Hudelson, Hali Hutcheson, Kory Irwin, Leafia Jensen, Stephanie Jones, Whitney Karpen, Nick Larson, James Leasure, Julia Matthys, Jed McInerney, Kayla McInerney, Jennifer Mead, Erica Peter, Marty Pierce, Paige Pollard, Anne Rosenbaum, Emily Rosenbaum, Carly Rubida, Brian Schmitz, Darin Schmidt, Genevieve Stalvig, Alex Staum, Bob Truhe, Curt Truhe, Brooke Turkleson, Cody Whitlock, Ross Wilcox.



Excellent small groups and solos ratings were received by Autumn Barnes, Katie Buum, Jessica Dodds, Kyle Hanson, Maxine Harding, Jacob Hudelson, James Leasure, Bethany Peter, Erica Peter, Darin Schmidt, Karley SieverdingChris Taft, and Chris Tow.



Large groups excellent ratings were received by Josh Butrous, Katie Buum, Robert Curry, Doug Dailey, Dawn Dodds, Jessica Dodds, Jason Donnelly, Taylor Forsling, Kira Gill, Brittany Glover, Debbie Gray, Jacob Hudelson, Alesha Hummel, Tony Hummel, Cara Irwin, Jake Larson, Nick Larson, Lauren Limoges, Julia Matthys, Olivia Matthys, Dallas Mitchell, Vanessa Nelson, Nicola Obeney, Bethany Peter, Tiffany Pimer, Josh Rupp, Jennifer Stultz, Jessica Stultz, Chris Tow, Rachel Trudeau, and Bob Truhe.



Superior small groups and solos ratings were received by Sandy Bouck, Josh Butrous, Robert Curry, Doug Dailey, Jessica Dodds, Maria Fowler, Kyle Hanson, Tommi Hanson, Stephanie Jones, Whitney Karpen, James Leasure, Julia Matthys, Jennifer Mead, Erica Peter, Chris Tow, Bob Truhe, and Brooke Turkleson.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming School Concerts



March 29 All Band Concert, 7:00 P.M.
 April 29 5-8 Spring Concert, 7:00 P.M.
 April 30 K-4 Spring Concert, 7:00 P.M.
 May 1 5-8 Band Contest @ EPJ
 May 5 M.S. Regional Vocal Contest @ EPJ
 May 10 9-12 Spring Concert, 7:00 P.M.

PC Annoyances by Steve Bass

Guest Book Review by Carol Klumper



Most nights I try to find time to read a few chapters from a good novel, while my husband reads a very involved computer guru book. So, one evening I was surprised to find myself curled up with a book titled *PC Annoyances*. For

those of you who do not have access to a computer expert 24/7, this is a must read.

One great thing about this book is that you don't have to read it cover-to-cover to find the information you need. You can easily find information specific to the type of program you are using, whether it be Outlook, Netscape, Microsoft Office, Eudora, etc.

Here are a few examples of problems that are addressed by the author: Ever lose your quick launch toolbar? (The solution is found on page 36); Tired of those popups in Internet Explorer? (See page 59 for the answer); Ever find yourself unable to delete a table in Microsoft Word? (Page 102 will give you three options to fix that disaster).

It's certain that this book will be in huge demand when word gets out, so you better call the library at 356-5940 or 356-5941 and reserve this book as soon as possible.

Digital Cameras vs. Film Cameras

by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

Digital cameras have become an incredibly popular consumer device. Dpreview.com cites an Infotrends study that predicts sales just short of 53 million cameras during 2004, increasing to 82 million cameras in 2008. (<http://www.dpreview.com/news/0311/03111901infotrends53mil.asp>)



With sales predictions such as those stated by Infotrends, the choice of a digital camera to supplant your film camera should be a foregone conclusion. Or should it?

"Why Bother With a Digital Camera," written by Robyn Peterson, challenges conventional wisdom regarding the choice of digital versus film. Robyn avoids the film vs. digital quality issue; his rationale is based primarily on the basis of cost analysis, making a convincing argument that film is less expensive than digital.

Personally, I am a user of both the digital and film formats and feel that the choice between the two is situational in nature.

"Why Bother With a Digital Camera" is a concise, interesting read and can be found at <http://www.extremetech.com/article2/0,3973,1472676,00.asp>.

Hate to key long, complex URLs? The text of this review, with active hyperlinks, can be found on the Elk Point-Jefferson website. Additional links to related articles and reviews are also listed. Select the Technology Department link and click on Tech Tips.

EPJ Music Boosters

by Deb Karpen, President

Thanks to all who supported the Music Boosters by your purchases in the football and basketball concession stand this year. This is the single fund-raising activity for the Music Booster organization. This effort provides the funds which are used for music camp scholarships, senior student scholarships, visiting artists fees, free performances, trips to the Orpheum, cookies at the Christmas concerts, and partial support of the Children's Theater.

Music students earn funds individually for semi-annual music trips by fund-raising sales. The spring fund raiser for music students in grades 7-12 will begin on March 15. The students will be offering cookie dough and dish cloths for sale. Thank you for supporting them.

April 15th marks the day when some of the music students will be going to see the Broadway series performance of *Grease*. These tickets were purchased by students with funds from their individual accounts.

The Music Boosters are happy to offer a \$100 scholarship to any student in grades 7-12 who is enrolled in music for the 2004-05 school year to attend a music camp during the coming summer. Camps are held at SDSU, USD, UNL and other various locations. Scholarships are also available for students who earn superior ratings at a contest. Please see Mrs. Schuh or Mr. Schutter for camp registration information.

We hope to see you at the upcoming music concerts.

Successful Blood Drive is Held!

by Rita Ahmann, NHS Advisor



The Siouxland Community Blood Bank held its regular drive at the Elk Point-Jefferson School on Tuesday, February 17. Seventy persons registered to donate and fifty-eight units of whole blood were collected. There were fourteen new donors: Jane Allard, Renee Begnoche, Jeanne Hanson, Justin Keegan, Ryan Larsen, Brian Larson, Grayson Pirner, Jonathan Rarrat, Steve Robinson, David Staum, Jeanne Staum, Brandi Turkleson, Brett Wilcox, and Ross Wilcox. The following donors reached a gallon mark: Roger Skinner (8 gallons), Rosemary Morrow (4), Douglas Hanson (2), Nancy Meister (2), and Rosanne Peacock (1). Other students who donated were Jake Larson, Lisa Scott, Rachel Trudeau, James Chicoine, Whitney Karpen, Julia Matthys, Nicole Spencer, Drew Staum, Bob Truhe, and Jon Tuttle.

National Honor Society members provided publicity, set up, take down, and treats for donors. The janitorial staff of EPJ assisted. Thanks to all involved in any way!

EPJ Activities Boosters

March 2004

www.epjboosters.com

Salt Drive in Progress!

If you haven't ordered your salt yet, take the time to do so immediately! See the flyer in this newsletter for more details. Prices are competitive and the salt is delivered directly to your basement.

\$ \$ \$

Remember that buying your softener salt from the EPJ Boosters helps support many activities for our students.

! THANK YOU !

Thank you to all who attended the Fall Activities Banquet on Monday night, December 1. The White Horse from Jefferson did a fine job catering an all-you-can-eat taco bar, and many door prizes were awarded.

If you see any of our letter winners, participants, or coaches, be sure and offer congratulations one more time.

Supporting our Students

Remember that the Boosters not only support athletics but also support academic and other non-curricular activities.

This spring we've contributed to both the girls basketball and boys basketball programs, and we sponsored the Fine Arts Night on February 19.

Another program the Boosters sponsor, along with the Middle School Student Council, is the Middle School Citizen of the Month Program. Two students are chosen each month to receive a \$50 Savings Bond.

BOOSTER OFFICERS

- ◆ Lora Trudeau – President
- ◆ Leslie Erickson – Vice-President
- ◆ Kristi Lehman – Sec/Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

- ◆ Kevin Connelly
- ◆ Katy Forsling
- ◆ Jeanne Staum
- ◆ Bill Pohlen (Past Pres.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Dinner Theater -- Friday, April 16
 - ◆ Spring Activities Banquet -- Friday, May 7
- Call Mona at the H.S. Office to make reservations.

Artist Needed for Contest!

A pictorial cancellation design is needed depicting our celebration of the first election west of the Mississippi during the celebrations of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial this year. A pictorial cancellation is a postmark offered by the Postal Service to commemorate local celebrations. They may feature wording and/or graphics relating to the first election.

Each pictorial cancellation must contain the name of the temporary station and contain the word "station," for example, Lewis & Clark Station or Election Day Station (a name that you want to give to the temporary post office that will be located on the site). It must also include the city, state, and zip code of the physical location. The month, day, and year when the cancellation will be offered also must be present on the pictorial cancellation.

A pictorial cancellation must be no larger than 4 inches wide or 2 inches high.

All entries must be submitted to Michelle Feldhacker, Postmaster, PO Box 9998, Elk Point, SD 57025 by April 15, 2004. The entries need to be completed on a sheet of white paper and be camera-ready artwork. Please do not fold the entries. If you would like to see some examples of other pictorial cancellations, stop in at your local post office. If you have any questions, you can call Michelle at 605-356-2402 or talk to your local Postmaster.

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.sioxland.com>

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