



Husky News

Elk Point-Jefferson School District

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May 2004

Showing Pride . . . Taking Action

Rod Knutson to Retire

by Patty Skinner

Rod Knutson will put away his books and track equipment for the last time this spring. After 33 years in education, Knutson will retire at the end of the 2003-2004 school year.

Knutson, a Canton native, graduated from Southern State College in 1971 with majors in business education and physical education. Mary Ann Jensen, from Elk Point who was his student teaching supervisor, told Knutson to get down to Elk Point and apply for the business teacher and track coach positions. She also told Knutson to be sure to tell Superintendent Bud Tiemens that he had better hire him.

His first teaching duties included accounting, typing, office practice, and shorthand. Head boys track and assistant boys basketball were his first coaching responsibilities. Knutson said he has stayed in the system for 33 years because, "I have always felt that Elk Point has a very good school system. My family has and still enjoys being a part of the community." The biggest change for Knutson over the past 33 years has been the combining of the two school districts, Elk Point and Jefferson, which included the construction of the new school building and athletic complex.

Currently, Knutson is teaching fifth and sixth grade computer, first, third and fourth grade physical education, business principles and management, and introduction to business, serves as E-mentor for DDN courses, and maintains the school web page. Knutson will miss teaching and coaching. He said, "I have always enjoyed being involved in education. Teaching and coaching here at Elk Point have been "my life" for the past 33 years. I am sure as time passes that I will reflect back on all the exciting times that I have had here at Elk Point. I will miss my fellow teachers. I have always felt that we have an excellent teaching staff at Elk Point."



The highlight of his teaching and coaching careers has been, according to Knutson, "being involved with learning, whether it was in the classroom or in athletics. I have had many excellent students in the classroom, and I have had the opportunity to coach many outstanding athletes."

His years in education have not been without moments of humor. One happened shortly after the move into the new building. "Another teacher asked me which door we were supposed to exit the building during a fire drill. A few weeks later we had a tornado drill, and she asked me again which door we should use to exit the building. I told her it probably wasn't a good idea to take her class outside during a tornado. She and I got a pretty good laugh out of that one."

Knutson's family includes his wife Marcia who has been the business manager with Developers and Associates in Elk Point for 31 years. His oldest son Reid is a carpenter with Byre Construction in Sioux Falls. Ross, his second son, will graduate this spring from DSU with a major in computer science. Daughter Caroline will complete her first year at SDSU with a major in journalism/mass communication. Beth, the youngest, is completing her junior year in high school and is a member of this spring's girl's track team.

Currently, Knutson has not made any plans for the future. The staff and students of EPJ would like to thank him for his years of dedication to the school system and wish him the best in his retirement.

EPJ Science Teacher Receives Recognition

by Karlene Stabe

Melanie Norris, EPJ high school physical science and chemistry teacher, received the "Spirit of Science" Award at this year's State Science Fair in Brookings. This award recognizes one teacher who stands out among all of the participating schools for all of his or her hard work and preparation for science fair.



Congratulations Mrs. Norris!!



Pictured above is Sidney Wagner, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus of Jefferson, presenting a check to Mr. Shanks, EPJ Superintendent. Knights of Columbus members from Jefferson, Elk Point, and the Dakota Dunes donated proceeds from their Tootsie Roll drive to the school's Special Education program.

A Special Year . . . by Brian Shanks Superintendent

I really believe in many ways this was a fantastic year. I look back on the 2003-2004 school year and I am amazed by what our students and staff have accomplished in this past year. We have excelled both in the classroom and in our extracurricular activities. If you ponder just for a moment you will see that it truly was a "special year."

We were faced this year with the daunting task of fulfilling the requirements of the No Child Left Behind federal mandates, and we saw this as a challenge. Our kids did a fantastic job on the Dakota Step Test, and you will see by Doug Brusseau's article we fared very favorably as compared to the achievement levels throughout the state. Our reading and math scores are fabulous in grades 3-8 and 11. We now have the challenge of doing even better next year.

Our students did very well in academic and creative contests as well, excelling in a large range of contests against other schools. The newspaper has provided numerous articles listing achievements throughout the year that should astound and convince you that our kids are provided with a superior education at Elk Point-Jefferson School. We are becoming a model of what a really good school should be, and we are proud of the reputation that we are getting in the region and beyond.

Our music and drama departments provided us with fantastic programs, and our kids have been awarded top notch ratings for their efforts. We believe that all of our fine arts programs deserve the same billing and recognition as our athletic programs. Our goal in these programs is to develop outstanding individual and group success, just like our athletic programs do. We have people that take pride in developing quality programs.

On the field, we have produced outstanding teams that bring a sense of pride to our school district. We are so proud of our coaches as they realize that success is not only measured in victories (we had a lot of them) but also by developing character within these fine young ladies and men. Our goal, in all of our extra-curricular activities, is to develop programs that breed consistent success.

We have had a "special year" and we strive to create an environment of success in our school that will make every year special. Thanks to all of you who have supported our students, teachers, coaches, and advisors. Your support was instrumental in our success. Let's celebrate our "special year" and work together to make success commonplace in our district. We look forward to your continued support next year!

Library News . . . by Carmen Wilcox, School Librarian

Get ready. Set. Go. Off go the school children for summer vacation. The last day of school is scheduled for Thursday, May 20. The regular library hours will change on Friday, May 21. Summer hours will be

Mondays - Thursdays: 1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
 Fridays: 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
 Saturdays: 9:00 A.M. – Noon

Summer Project: Old Elk Point and Jefferson High School Yearbook Find. If you know the whereabouts of any old yearbooks from either Elk Point High School or Jefferson High School, the library is making an effort to collect them for archives. Currently the library owns a number of Elk Point yearbooks and only one Jefferson yearbook. We are currently researching whether or not the schools published any yearbooks during the missing years. Please consider donating any of the missing yearbooks below.

Missing Dates (Elk Point): 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1931-1947, 1950, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1962, 1978, 1980, 1981, and 1999.

Missing Dates (Jefferson): Currently the Library owns only the 1972 Jefferson High School yearbook.

New summer rules for the EPJ Library include no game playing on the Internet. Students and adults are always welcome to use the computers for an unlimited time when doing research. **Reminder: Any child, preschool or younger, who wishes to use the Library must be accompanied by someone 12 or older who is responsible for the child.**

The EPJ Library will once again be sponsoring a Summer Reading Program. This year's local theme is appropriately entitled, "Discover New Trails," based on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This program will include a weekly story and activity hour at the library.

Preschool - Kindergarten: Tuesdays; 1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.
 Grades 1-4: Tuesdays; 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
 Grades 4-6: Thursdays; 1:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

This age group will listen to the librarian read one novel over the summer, start to finish. Each child will receive a free token to be used to gain entrance for one day to the Elk Point Swimming Pool.

In addition to the Lewis and Clark Trail theme, the library has joined the U.S. Department of Education to co-sponsor the "No Child Left Behind Summer Reading Achievers." The second is a pilot program to enhance literacy and is conducted by the U.S. Department of Education to partnership with select school systems, states, corporations, and nonprofit organizations. Both programs will run simultaneously in the EPJ Library. Any student, grades K-8, may sign up for the program. Participants will be asked to read at least ten books over summer vacation. Students who complete both programs will receive prizes including free books, certificates, and more. They will also find themselves a step ahead in the fall by building the reading skills necessary for success in school and in life. For more information about the Lewis and Clark Program and the Summer Reading Achievers, ask the librarians or call the library at 356-5941 or 356-5923 or e-mail Carmen.Wilcox@k12.sd.us or Deb.Matthys@k12.sd.us. All EPJ students will receive a take-home information sheet from the school before they leave for summer vacation. Both programs begin June 1 and run through July 30, 2004.



An AED in Our School!? . . . *Lisa McInerney, RN, School Nurse*

AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) are certainly effective and needed in schools, yet few schools have them. People are beginning to recognize that sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death among adults in the United States, and it can also affect children and adolescents. They're starting to understand that there is a cure for it—quick combination of CPR and defibrillation.

The value of school AED programs is not only about saving kids. Because school populations also include higher-risk middle-aged and elderly people such as teachers, parents, grandparents and visitors, and since schools typically serve as gatherings sites for communities, school AED programs make a lot of sense for adults.

Advances in technology have made it possible for non-medical personnel to use AED's with a minimum amount of training. Additionally, changes in state and federal laws have not only strengthened liability protection for those with AED programs, but also have provided funding to support such programs.

Through the Rural Access To Emergency Devices Grant Program, a federal grant program, South Dakota has the opportunity to receive funding for the purchase of AED's to be distributed to schools located in the rural areas of the state.

Elk Point-Jefferson School has applied for and hopes to receive an AED to have in our school. The cost of the AED and training/instruction on how to properly use the equipment would be covered by federal grant funds.

Our hope is that our school will be as prepared as possible, if a crisis should occur. Recently, all sophomores and seniors at EPJ were certified in CPR. The junior class was certified last year. Hopefully, we'll never have to use the AED. However, by being trained in CPR and having an AED in our school, we could be prepared if sudden cardiac arrest ever happens.



Spyware . . . *by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director*

Spyware has been previously discussed in the school newsletter, but it is a growing problem and concern. Microsoft estimates that approximately 50% of all computer crashes can be traced to spyware. Dell Computer has determined that 10% of incoming support calls are spyware related. Recently an

Internet Service Provider conducted a computer scan of one thousand random users and found that each computer had an average of 28 spyware programs running.

What is spyware? Spyware is a variant of advertising supported software.

How does spyware get on my computer?

Spyware can be installed in a variety of ways. The download and installation of shareware will often include the installation of spyware in the form of pop-up banner ads. Although not strictly considered spyware, these ads are definitely irritating. Spyware will often accompany the installation of shareware ("free" screensavers, cursors, password utilities, etc.). Spyware can also be loaded by clicking on pop-up ads and through a "drive-by" download, which takes place simply by visiting a web site.

Why should I be concerned?

Some people are totally unconcerned that spyware is running on their computers. Reasons that would concern me include:

- Spyware programs can result in reduced computer performance. Each spyware program reduces the speed of a computer. I've "cleaned" spyware from very fast computers that had been slowed to a crawl by spyware.
- Privacy is a concern. Spyware will report a user's web surfing habits to marketing companies.
- In extreme cases, spyware can report passwords or other private data.

What can I do?

There are several free programs that will scan for and remove spyware. Some programs to check include Adaware, Bazoooka, and Spybot.

Further information on this topic can be found at <http://www.spychecker.com/spyware.html>.

EPJ/NFL Youth Flag Football Program . . . *by Rahn Bertram, Head Football Coach*

Year two of the EPJ/NFL Youth Flag Football program is getting started. Last year was a tremendous success with over 150 boys and girls from EPJ participating, and nearly the same number has already registered for next fall. If anyone did not get registered by April 23, please contact Rahn Bertram at 356-2989.

This program was started last fall for students in grades 1-6 to give them the experience of playing the game of football as well as learning team play, sportsmanship, responsibility, and having fun. The program will begin this coming fall about 1-2 weeks after the school year begins. Games are played every Saturday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. Each participant will receive a new jersey. Participants will be randomly selected and placed on a team represented by an NFL team. You may or may not be put on the same NFL team as last year. Please don't ask to be put on a specific NFL team as this makes the process more difficult. More information will be available at the beginning of school in the fall.

The really neat thing about this program, here at EPJ, is that the Husky football players are involved as coaches and officials. It is a great community involvement program for kids in elementary through high school. Our players and coaches take great pride in being involved with the youth of the communities of Elk Point and Jefferson, and it is the foundation that our football program is being built on. With the success of our high school and junior high school programs this past year, we believe we are going in the right direction.



Parents of High School Students! Your child can earn post-secondary credit while attending EPJ!

by Phil Breed, Guidance Department

Elk Point-Jefferson High School, Southeast Technical Institute, Lake Area Technical Institute, Mitchell Technical Institute, Western Dakota Technical Institute and Western Iowa Technical Community College (WITCC) recognize the quality of instruction, the expertise of the program instructors, and the competencies that students attain through their technical training in each system. It is because of this that students from EPJ may benefit from the articulation program. It has been determined that some high school curriculum is equivalent in content and rigor to the technical institute's introductory coursework. EPJ students can gain credits at both the high school and the technical institutes. Guidelines for articulation are listed below:

1. Students at the 11th and 12th grade level may earn credit to allow them to advance toward their post-high technical diploma or Associate of Applied Science degree. Students may earn credit from courses offered or completed at the ninth or tenth grade level only if the courses are part of an established career pathway that is developed in cooperation with the technical institutes.
2. To receive articulated credit, the student must have completed the high school course within the last three years.
3. For a student to articulate courses after the three (3) year time limit, an assessment of skill mastery will be required.
4. In order to receive credit, the student must have a minimum of a "B" average (3.0) in the high school course to be articulated and successfully meet all other requirements of this agreement.
5. All students enrolled under the articulation agreement shall meet the admissions standards as established by the post-secondary institute for that particular program.
6. Students will receive credit at the approved institute upon acceptance into a program.
7. Tuition is not charged for articulated credit, but students will pay \$5 per credit hour transcript fee for credits earned.
8. No grade will be assigned for articulated credit. These courses will not be counted in determining post-secondary grade point average.
9. Articulated courses through SIT will be honored by all state-supported technical institutes in South Dakota for those courses that have common numbers and titles.

Below are the Elk Point-Jefferson courses that honor the articulation agreement. In the opposing columns are the respective technical institute courses.

EPJ	SD Tech Schools	WITCC
Algebra I	Technical Math	---
Algebra I & II	Intermediate Algebra	---
CAD/Drafting	Engineering Drawing	CAD
Child Development	---	Child Development
Computer Applications	Computer Essentials	---
Computer App. & Comp. Bus. App.	Intro. to Computer for Business	---
Computer App. & Comp. Bus. App.	Intro. to Computers for CIS	---
English for Life & Work	---	Communication Skills
Integrated Math I, II, III	Tech Math or Int Algebra	Applied Math
Integrated Math I, II, Geometry	Technical Math	---
Welding	---	Welding
Woods I & Construction	---	Carpentry

If you have any questions or concerns or would like more information, please contact Phil Breed at 356-5871 or Phil.Breed@k12.sd.us.

Be Aware of Bullying Behaviors

From the *Helping Hand Newsletter*

by Kelly Jones, Guidance Department

Any adult can intervene on bullying behavior. In fact, all adults in any given community need to take responsibility for interrupting bullying behavior. It's up to each of us to make our schools and communities safe places that nurture learning and growth. Being able to recognize bullying behavior is the first step toward stopping it. Bullying is

- ◆ Avoiding or excluding someone due to age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, disability, or other reasons.
- ◆ Using verbal insults or degrading remarks.
- ◆ Offensive physical contact or unwanted touching.
- ◆ Making unwelcome or offensive jokes about personal characteristics.
- ◆ Making threatening or insulting gestures.
- ◆ Making phone calls, e-mail messages, letters, or messages of any kind that are threatening or offensive.
- ◆ Sexual or racial banter (joking around), crude conversation, and innuendo (implying one thing by saying another).

A note from Kelly: Keep in mind that both boys and girls bully; however, it often takes different forms. Boys are more likely to be physical, while girls are more likely to use words and rumors to bully. If you are interested in the topic of girl bullying, check out the book *Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls* by Rachel Simmons.

Elk Point-Jefferson High School Awarded NCA Accreditation

by Travis Aslesen, H.S. Principal

Elk Point-Jefferson High School was granted continuing accreditation for the 2003-2004 school year from the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) on March 31, 2004, at its annual meeting held in Chicago. Elk Point-Jefferson High School joins over 9,000 schools across a 19 state region that were honored for earning accreditation. Elk Point-Jefferson High School has maintained its accreditation status since 1918.

To earn accreditation, schools must meet NCA CASI's high standards, be evaluated by a team of professionals from outside the school, and implement a continuous school improvement plan focused on increasing student performance. The accreditation process is voluntary and requires annual review.

NCA accreditation demonstrates to students, parents, and community that accredited schools are focused on raising student achievement, providing a safe and enriching learning environment, and maintaining an efficient and effective operation staffed by highly qualified educators. NCA CASI accreditation is recognized across state lines, which not only eases the transfer process as students move from accredited school to accredited school but also assures parents that the school is meeting regionally and nationally accepted standards for quality and successful professional practice.

Accreditation provides an external mark of quality and a proven process for school improvement. The real value of NCA CASI accreditation is the school improvement process, which focuses the school staff on analyzing student performance data, identifying areas of weakness, and developing clear goals and plans for improvement. Schools regularly assess and measure progress in all goal areas, and NCA CASI holds schools accountable for demonstrating growth.

Parents and interested community members can learn more about NCA CASI accreditation at www.ncacasi.org.

NOTE: The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement is a non-governmental, voluntary association of public and private elementary and secondary schools in 19 states, the Navajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Dependents' schools.

Understanding How the Teen Brain Works – and Doesn't Work

From the *Helping Hand Newsletter*

by Kelly Jones, Guidance Department

Brain research has revealed surprising facts about how teens' brains work.

Scientists now know that our brains don't fully mature until we are in our 20s and that the brain growth that occurs in the teen years is as monumental as that which occurs in the first three years of life. Teens sometimes double the amount of their gray matter in just one year.

Pat Crum, a parent counselor at De Vos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., says, "In teens, the emotional centers of the brain are very active. However, the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain in charge of planning, organizing, setting priorities, making sound judgments, anticipating consequences, controlling impulses, and calming unruly emotions is that last part of the brain to mature."

In other words, teens only *think* they think like adults. And, to be fair, adults at times think teens can think like adults. But they are, for the most part, physiologically incapable of thinking maturely.

Crum advises adults to expect teens to "think" with their emotions and to engage them at an emotional level. She says teens very much need adults in their lives at this time. Adults can help them learn to think through problems, consider their options and make rational decisions.

She also provides some guidance:

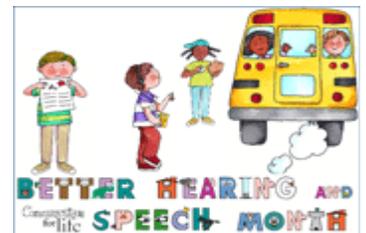
- Encourage teens to try many different activities to determine where their particular interests and talents lie.
- Give directions one at a time. It's unrealistic to expect teens to remember a series of directions.
- Be patient when teens are messy. Remember that the best predictor of how tidy teens will be as adults is how tidy their parents are.
- Talk to teens about the devastating effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on the brain during this time of explosive development.
- Provide activities for teens that may perceive as thrilling or slightly dangerous. This could include white water rafting or rock climbing, for example. These activities fulfill their craving for novelty and new experiences in a healthy way.

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month . . . by Renee McInerney, Speech Therapist

Speech language pathologists help people develop and maintain their ability to express thoughts and feelings. They work primarily in a medical specialty helping people recover communication competence following stroke, head injury, or disease. Some speech language pathologists specialize in the treatment of swallowing problems. Others help people who want to improve their speech and voice.

However, they can also work in education, evaluating and treating children with delayed or impaired speech or language. Nearly half of the ASHA certified speech language pathologists work in schools helping children who have trouble understanding written and spoken language or other speech problems.

The speech language pathologists at Elk Point-Jefferson School are Renae McInerney and Maureen Hedeem. If you have concerns about your child's speech, language, or hearing development, please contact one of them at 356-5846 or by e-mail at Renae.McInerney@k12.sd.us or Maureen.Hedeem@k12.sd.us.



Test Results: Elk Point-Jefferson School District Report Card for the 2003-04 School Year

by Doug Brusseau, K-6 Principal

With the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), school districts are learning to implement a new set of guidelines. For the first time, every state and every school district across the nation must have clearly established goals for student learning, and measure adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward these goals in reading and math. All school districts must have 100% of the students considered proficient by 2014.

Reading and math are the core subjects NCLB has deemed necessary to be measured to see if school districts are making AYP toward the established goals in reading and math. However, AYP is not only based on the school district averages for all students in reading and math; AYP considers performance of students in the subgroups of a school district. The subgroups are categorized by students who may be deemed economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, be a student with disabilities, gender, or a member of one of the five ethnic groups. One thing to remember is that a student's scores in reading and math could affect the performance of a school district in four different subgroups. While a district may reach AYP through the group "All Students," it may be on alert status due to the scores of a subgroup. Thus, a student's score in reading and math could affect the school district's AYP in five areas.

Ninety-eight percent of the students in grades 3-8 and 11 took the Dakota Step Test. In reading and math, the Elk Point-Jefferson School District 2002-03 students in grades 3-8 and 11 (Figure 1, 2, 3 and 4) exceeded the state average for all students who are placed in the advanced to proficient category. Students in the Economically Disadvantaged category also demonstrated that the District was meeting the AYP for the year. Students with disabilities, who are required to take the same test as all other students, did not meet AYP for the year, placing the District on Alert.

Figure 1

Math Grades 3-8		Advanced %	Proficient %	Basic %	Below Basic%
All Students	SD	9	49	37	6
	EPJ	11	61	24	3
Economically Disadvantaged	SD	5	38	48	10
	EPJ	10	50	37	3
Students with Disabilities	SD	20	53	24	1
	EPJ	6	21	53	21

Figure 2

Reading Grades 3-8		Advanced %	Proficient %	Basic %	Below Basic%
All Students	SD	23	50	25	2
	EPJ	28	53	19	0
Economically Disadvantaged	SD	14	47	36	4
	EPJ	21	51	25	3
Students with Disabilities	SD	5	27	55	13
	EPJ	9	24	59	9

Figure 3

Math Grades 9-12		Advanced %	Proficient %	Basic %	Below Basic%
All Students	SD	19	50	29	2
	EPJ	31	62	8	0

Figure 4

Reading Grades 9-12		Advanced %	Proficient %	Basic %	Below Basic%
All Students	SD	54	34	8	0
	EPJ	85	15	0	0

Each state may select additional indicators of AYP that reflect the values of the state. South Dakota places a value on high student attendance rates in school and in the work force after school. In Figure 5, the data shows the Elk Point-Jefferson School District student attendance slightly better than the state average for all students as well as in the two sub-categories: economically disadvantaged and students with disabilities.

Figure 5

Attendance Rate		
All Students	SD	93.50%
	EPJ	94.8%
Economically Disadvantaged	SD	94.2%
	EPJ	93.87%
Students with Disabilities	SD	93.1%
	EPJ	93.88%

Graduation rate is a second indicator the State of South Dakota values. Figure 6 shows the Elk Point-Jefferson School District graduation rate is higher than the state average.

Figure 6

Graduation Rate		
All Students	SD	95.95%
	EPJ	97.14%

Another area of the NCLB legislation also maintains that all schools must employ highly qualified teachers. The definition of a highly qualified teacher is one who has a bachelor's degree, is certified, and has taught for three years in the core subjects. For the 2002-03 school year the Elk Point-Jefferson School District (see Figure 7) had three teachers who did not have three years of teaching experience. The current Elk Point-Jefferson School staff for the 2003-04 school year has 100% of the staff considered highly qualified. If you have questions about the qualifications of your child's teacher, you may contact the school.

Figure 7

Teachers with Emergency or Provisional Credentials	
South Dakota:	0.9%
Elk Point-Jefferson:	0.0%
Classes Not Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers	
South Dakota:	11.3%
Elk Point-Jefferson:	13.79%

Using test data requires understanding and care. Test results must be used by the school district to assist in developing a map of the goals, standards, and activities the district has adopted in order to meet AYP. As the district develops a map of the students test results the direction of the school district will become clearer.

Parents also play an important role in improving student performance by listening to their child read, monitoring homework, emphasizing health and sleep habits, and having high expectations to do well.

Finally, student attitudes about testing must be taken into account. One must consider the emotional impact of students. The District must provide a reasonable test schedule for students as well as offer incentives for effort as well.

If you are interested in seeing the complete Elk Point-Jefferson Report Card for NCLB, visit the state site at <https://sis.ddncampus.net:8081/nclb/portal/portal.xml>. While at this site, you can also view the information from other school districts.



Kindergarten Visits First Grade

by Shirley Rosenbaum, First Grade

The kindergarten students were invited to the first grade rooms to visit. This gave the students an opportunity to see what happens in first grade, and also helps them become more comfortable with the first grade before they come back to school in the fall. During their visit, the first graders read stories to the kindergarten students and answered questions that they had about first grade. After sharing a snack together, the kindergarten students returned to their classrooms feeling a little more comfortable about moving on to first grade.

High School Students Teach First Graders

by Marilyn McNeil, First Grade

In April, high school students in Mrs. Stabe's Environmental Science class taught first graders about endangered species. The students, Ross Ries, Travis Thiele, Jay Gabel, and Jacob Limoges researched animals that are currently at risk. Then, they created a coloring book for younger children. Each letter of the alphabet (excluding x) was represented by an endangered animal. On each page, they also included some pertinent information about that animal. When the coloring books were complete, Mrs. McNeil's first graders visited Mrs. Stabe's classroom to learn about endangered species. Each of the first graders was given one of these educational coloring books.



Fourth Graders Attend Water Festival

By Vicki Nearman, Fourth Grade

The fourth graders attended the Sioux Empire Water Festival on Wednesday, March 24. The festival was held in Sioux Falls on the University of Sioux Falls campus. Over 2,000 fourth graders from the area were involved in the festival.

The purpose of the Water Festival is to celebrate one of our most valuable natural resources, WATER! The students attended a variety of presentations such as Fighter Pilot Survival, Shorebird Surprises, Down the Drain, and the Exhibit Hall. The Festival also held a quiz bowl in which our school took part. Team members were Ellie Dailey, Christoffer Dyrssen, Zach McLean, and Marc McWilliams. Our team placed second in the competition. The fourth grade class received a \$200 gift certificate to Teaching Treasures as a prize. They did a great job of representing our school!

As part of the Water Festival preparation, the fourth graders could also make rainsticks. For centuries rainsticks have been used in ceremonial rituals by various South American tribes to bring rain. Held by either end and tilted slightly, small pebbles placed inside dried out cactus trickle down through sharp thorns to create the sound of falling rain. Today, the rainsticks have a variety of uses, from musical instruments to home decorating. Over half of the fourth graders created their own rainsticks. The rainsticks were judged on creativity and sound. Winners from Mrs. Zeller's room were first place, Brendan Kelly; second place, Morgan Bertrand; and third place, Kaitlyn Hargadine. Winners from Miss Froehlich's room were first place, Kelsey Rosenbaum; second place, Ashlee Stepp; and third place, Camille Fowler. Winners from Mrs. Nearman's room were first place, Connor Penfield; second place, Morgan Hueser; and third place, Lexie Branson.

The fourth graders had a great learning experience!



Fourth graders pan for gold at the Water Festival.



The EPJ fourth grade team placed second at the Water Festival.

The Three Year Camping Trip

by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music

The K-4 spring music concert brought history to life with a tribute to the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804. Students learned historical facts as they sang the story of the adventure. From Seaman the dog to Sacajawea the Indian guide, important people to the expedition were celebrated in song.

Check out these fun web sites for your children. Music learning can continue in the summer, too!

- www.sfskids.org: The San Francisco Symphony Orchestra has a great unit for kids.
- www.codamusic.com: You will find free software to download. A program called Finale Notepad can be used to write musical compositions. The fourth graders looked at it this spring. It will keep your budding composers busy.
- www.musictheory.net: This site was created by a teacher. Students can practice naming notes on the staff, counting rhythm patterns, and advance as they grow. Older students can learn key signatures, time signatures, and scales.

EPJ Thinking Cap Team Places First in State

by Selene Van Wyk, Academic Advisor

A team of ten fifth and sixth grade students recently participated in and won the annual SD Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl for the second year in a row. Out of sixteen participating SD schools, Elk Point-Jefferson placed first with a score of 1,173 out of a possible 1,500. The team answered 95 multiple-choice questions correctly out of a possible 100. Areas covered included math, geography, government, sports, spelling, science, literature, English, history, general information, and just plain fun trivia. The students were given two chances to answer correctly. Points were awarded on how fast they answered as well as accuracy. Therefore, teams who do well usually are teams who can come up with a consensus answer quickly.

The participants were fifth graders Josh Curry, Jenna Donnelly, Tyler Hall, and Kelly Reed; and sixth graders Ryan Brandt, Allyson Murphy, Ross Rosenbaum, Ben Staum, Megan Weidner, and Hayley Zamzow. Congratulations students on a job well done!

Fourth Grade Students Study South Dakota . . . by Tama Zeller, Fourth Grade

Mrs. Zeller's Social Studies classes each worked hard the third quarter completing scrapbooks of South Dakota. They each put a tremendous amount of time and effort into producing their own unique binder of their state. This included state symbols, famous landmarks, historical figures, time lines, interesting facts, government, wildlife, plant life, sports, weather, industries, vacation spots, cities, and the town they live in. One interesting page in their scrapbook was the interview each child completed of a special person of their choice who has lived in South Dakota. They had to describe some of the changes that have taken place throughout the history of that person's life. The children also read the book, *South Dakota A Journey Through Time*, which also taught them a great deal of information about their state.

Mrs. Jan Baagoe's high school Foods II class did a cross curriculum sharing during South Dakota adventure time. They prepared a piece of apple "Kuchen," South Dakota's state dessert, for all of the fourth graders and invited them to the high school commons to enjoy a taste. The older students served the dessert with milk, South Dakota's state drink. Many of the students placed the recipe in their scrapbooks and made the dessert at home.

Elk Point mayor Isabel Trobaugh and Jefferson mayor Joe Bogenrief visited the fourth grade classrooms during South Dakota adventure time. They shared information about the children's town they live in. They explained how the mayor is elected and what jobs a mayor does in their communities. The children were pleased to meet the mayor of their town in person and placed the mayor's picture in their scrapbooks.

Elk Point Postmaster, Michelle Feldhacker presented a lesson on stamps to the fourth graders. She told them how all fifty states have their own uniquely designed stamp. She shared that some stamps have been honored by being placed on postcards, teddy bears, key chains, tote bags, shirts, and hats. Each fourth grader received a greetings postcard with the South Dakota stamp to place in their scrapbook. Mrs. Zeller was given a South Dakota tote bag.



Students from Mrs. Baagoe's Foods II class serve Kuchen to the fourth graders.



Mayor Bogenrief and Mayor Trobaugh visited the fourth grade classes during their SD adventure time.



Postmaster Michelle Feldhacker presents a lesson on stamps to the fourth graders.

Kindergartners Visit Local Farm

by Melissa Shanks, Kindergarten

Mrs. Shanks' kindergarten class took a special trip to the Larry and Diane Donnelly farm on Tuesday, May 4. The students enjoyed seeing many animals while at the farm. The baby pigs, goats, elk, and horses seemed to be their favorites! They also enjoyed watching Farmer Mark rope a couple of steers. We also enjoyed a picnic lunch and a ride on the pony or the big horse. The day ended with a goat chase! Special thanks to Mark Donnelly for working in our classroom this year as our high school helper and for the great trip to the farm!



Reflection of First Year Principal

Ideology vs. Reality: These two rivals have and will forever be integral parts of the public educational system. It is not truly necessary to see these two concepts as opponents, but rather as partners in making a school as effective as it can be. There are always new ideas being brought to the forefront of education, but that does not necessarily mean that those ideas are practical. Some might argue that the federal No Child Left Behind legislation is a prime example. The principle of educating a student to a certain level of proficiency is a wonderful concept, but the practicality of the legislation leaves a few issues to be reconciled. This is where reality comes into play. The realities of the needs which schools must attempt to meet play the most crucial role in determining the ability of schools to meet a level of academic proficiency for all students. However, the realities of education cannot rob a school community from seeking ways which are inclusive of educational ideologies while based on solid academic principles that more greatly impact the success of students.

Currently at Elk Point-Jefferson High School and Middle School, our teachers have focused their efforts on a variety of concepts that are inclusive of educational ideology, yet well-rooted in meeting the realistic needs of our students. These efforts have culminated in the ongoing development of curriculum that will assist our students in generating meaningful, productive lives.

Our high school and middle school have focused on a concept referred to as "Writing Across the Curriculum." The concept of writing in each and every class might be new and fresh to some, but the notion is anything but. No one can argue with the fact that students must be able to read and write effectively, regardless of their future career plans. What most people do not understand is the educational use of the mental procedure that each student must learn and develop to be an effective writer. The process of writing has fundamental uses throughout the school curriculum. Even more so, the ability to articulate thoughts and beliefs is a fundamental freedom which every human being must have the privilege to enjoy. By incorporating writing throughout each class within the school curriculum, students are gaining valuable insight and skill regarding this privilege and this process. We have seen the development of our students in the area of writing and look forward to future years of growth. Our staff has

put a tremendous amount of effort and time into making this valuable and worthwhile idea a reality.

Another component which our high school has developed is the concept of a senior portfolio. Each senior has completed a portfolio of his or her educational experience. The portfolio contains information inclusive of a resume, writing samples, academic samples, technology skills, goals, employment experiences, a post-secondary plan, and a personal section. Each senior then presents his or her portfolio to a committee of teachers, administrators, and community members. The experience has been an extremely positive one as we send our seniors off into a world, in which they are prepared to meet its challenges.

In closing, it is important to reiterate that the realities of education cannot strip away the development of progressive, academic concepts from schools. It is the challenge of each and every public school to address the needs of its students while also meeting the requirements of well-intended legislation. It is this challenge that the Elk Point-Jefferson School District takes with extreme seriousness, determination, and commitment.

Educationally yours,

Travis A. Aslesen
HS/MS Principal

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the following businesses for their donations to our Elk Point-Jefferson Middle School Good Neighbor Award. This award is to recognize students who provide behind-the-scenes services to their school community.

Brad Fowler -- State Farm Insurance
Edgar's Old Fashioned Soda Fountain
Hoffman's BP
Old Mill General Store

Thanks again for your commitment to our youth.

Destination Imagination Has Another Great Year

By Selene Van Wyk, Destination Imagination Coordinator/Mgr.

Seven competitive Destination Imagination teams traveled to Tri-Valley on Saturday, March 13, to compete in the SE Regional tournament. After a long day of competition, three of the Elk Point-Jefferson teams placed within the top three of their problem's division and advanced onto state, April 3. Following are the teams competing at Regional and State Competitions:

Team 1 – Cartoon Dimensions, Division II team (placed second at Regional and advanced onto State Competition): Megan Weidner, Cheyenne Jensen, Emily Norton, Hayley Zamzow, Bailey Johns, Caitlin Thorpe, Derrick DeBuhr. Co-Managers - Steve Weidner and Rhonda Weidner.

Team 2 – The Plot and the Pendulum, Division II team (placed first at Regional and second at State Competition): Ashlie Hughes, Kelsie Pace, Kelsey Mapstone, Adrian Ries, Amanda Connelly. Manager - Janet Ries.

Team 3 – The Plot and the Pendulum, Division I team: Colby Irwin, Abbey Langstraat, Courtney Thorpe, Mackenzie Klinkhammer, Hannah Klinkhammer, Amanda Brandt. Co-Managers - Candie Thorpe and Deb Laangstraat.

Team 4 – The Plot and the Pendulum, Division I team: Karley Sieverding, Kaila Hughes, Katie Langel, Eric Brandt. Manager - Dale Pearson.

Team 5 – Upbeat Improv, Division II team: Alex Pedersen, William Van Steen Wyk, Ryan Brandt, Michael Brandt. Co-Managers - Ruth Van Steen Wyk and Darla Brandt.

Team 6 – Cartoon Dimensions, Division I team: Christopher Dyrssen, Anna Chicoine, Carter Herrity, Matthew Lehman, Mackenzie Phrommany, Audrey Truhe. Manager - Selene Van Wyk.

Team 7 – Cartoon Dimensions, Division I team (3rd at Regional and advanced onto State Competition): Chelsea Weidner, Nicole Rupp, Jessica Gates, Kelsey Marshall, Ashley Gylfe, Caitlin Davis. Co-Managers - Rhonda Weidner and Steve Weidner.

Turn it Around . . . by Gary Nebelsick, Head Boys Basketball Coach

The 2003-04 Husky boys' basketball team entered the season with one goal in mind. Led by three hard working and determined seniors, Ryan Larsen, Bobby Truhe, and Mike Shadbolt the Huskies turned a tough 2-18 season from a year ago into an outstanding and exciting 18-7 season this year. Along the way, they accomplished several milestones. The Huskies were Big Sioux Conference co-champs with a record of 6-1, District 8A champs, Region 4A champs, and made the first ever trip to the State A Tournament for an EPJ boys' basketball team.

At the State Tournament, the Huskies lost in the first round to eventual champ Chester. The second round the Huskies played Mobridge in a thrilling, action filled triple overtime game. Even though the Huskies lost 97-98, they proved that they belonged and deserved the recognition they had received, and that game will go down as one of the most exciting in tournament history. In the final game at the State Tournament, the Huskies defeated second seeded Flandreau 57-56 to bring home seventh place.

This season the Huskies broke 18 of the 28-team records that are kept. All five starters made some level of the Big Sioux All-Conference team: Ross Wilcox-1st team, Jason Donnelly-2nd team, Ryan Larsen-3rd team, and Bob Truhe and Tim Jastram both were selected Honorable Mention by the conference coaches. Ryan Larsen ends his career fifth all time in scoring with 666 points and tied for fourth all time in rebounding with 358. He also tied a game record this year grabbing 13 defensive rebounds in one game. Bob Truhe ends his career fourth all time in assists with 127 and as the single season free throw percentage best with 90%.

This year's JV team, coached by Rahn Bertram, ended with an outstanding 14-2 record. The C team, coached by Matt Hammitt, finished the season 6-7 with several close, exciting games. This year's team produced many exciting fun-filled games at all levels and brought back some basketball fever to our school.

The coaching staff of Matt Hammitt, Rahn Bertram, Tim DeJong, and Gary Nebelsick would like to thank this group of young men for the wonderful memories they have created and for their hard work and commitment to Turn it Around!!

NOTE: Team results and records can be found on our school web page (www.epj.k12.sd.us) under Activities, Boys Basketball.



Region MS Vocal Contest Held at EPJ

by Mary Schuh, 5-8 Vocal

On Wednesday, May 5, there were 300 extra middle school students in our school. For the third year in a row EPJ has hosted the region middle school vocal contest. Students from Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Irene, Wakonda, Vermillion, and Elk Point-Jefferson all competed for comments and ratings in front of judges.

Elk Point-Jefferson had 8 solo entries, 3 duet entries, and 8 large group entries. The following JH choir students received a superior (1) rating for groups or solos: Denise Dodds-1 group, 1 duet, 1 solo; Hope Metzgar-1 group; Sara Peasley-1 group; Hannah Wilkinson-2 groups, 1 duet, 1 solo; Eric VanRoekel-1 group, 1 solo; James Joffer-1 group; Adrian Ries-1 group, 1 solo; Travis Carter-1 group; Philip Potz-1 group, Ashley Hughes-1 group, Amanda Connelly-1 group, 1 duet, 1 solo; Samantha Massey-1 group; Kelsie Pace-1 group; Kelsey Mapstone-1 group; Kristin Marshall-1 group; Cathy Stalvig-1 group; Sarah Beveridge-1 group; Jennifer Engeldinger-1 group; Leah Barnes-1 group; Nathan Harding-1 group; Derek Gall-1 group; Melanie Engeldinger-1 group; Nettie Brown-1 group; Annie Staum-2 groups; Molly Shanks 2 groups, 1 solo; Molly Donnelly -2 groups; Mary Nebelsick-2 groups; Linley McInerney-2 groups; Anna Erickson-2 groups; Bobby Trudeau-1 group; Myles Larsen-1 group; Chris Hasenbank-1 group; Jeremiah Curry-1 group; Jalisa Keegan-2 groups; Katie Weis-1 group; Shauna Hilbrands-1 group; Emily Connelly-1 group, 2 duets, 1 solo; Amanda Chicoine-1 group; Kirstin Hanson-2 groups, 1 duet, 1 solo; Carmen Tuttle-1 group; Carlie Hoffman-1 group; Lanie Florke-1 group; Robyn McLaury-1 group; Jessica DeBuhr-1 group; and Marica Rupp-1 group.

The following sixth grade students received a superior (1) rating on 1 large group: Liz Frisbie, Alex Elkins, Lydia Gille, Leslie Shedd, Caitlin Thorpe, Stephanie Spencer, Ali Truhe, Allysia Taylor, Malissa Phrommay, Amber Nearman, Emily Norton, Hayley Zamzow, Bailey Johns, Megan Weidner, Bobbie Backer, Shelby Larsen, Derrick DeBuhr, Colby Person, Chris Pierce, Ryan Brandt, Adam Trudeau, Daniel Cromwell, Allyson Murphy, Cheyenne Jensen, Nick Johnson, and Caleb Lara.

The following fifth grade students received a superior (1) rating on 1 large group: Abbey Langstraat, Mary Strassburg, Cassie Hilbrands, Jenna Donnelly, Emily Zeller, Taylor Targonski, Ashley Westland, Mandy Solomon, Martha Contreras, Hailey Bosse, Liz Schuh, Mackenzie Klinkhammer, Cayla Hilbrands, Emilie Erickson, Kasey Portz, Taylor Hall, Michelle Corio, Aleshia Gosnell, Tascha Donnelly, Kaitlyne Rosenbaum, and Bobbie McLaury.



Fifth grade participants in this year's middle school vocal contest.



Seventh grade participants in the middle school vocal contest.



Sixth grade participants in this year's middle school vocal contest.



Eighth grade participants in the middle school vocal contest.

Borchardt, Corio Advance to Regional Competition

by Patty Skinner, 7-8 English

Seventh grader Chelsey Borchardt and fifth grader Michelle Corio won first and second, respectively, in the District Modern Woodmen Speech Contest in Crofton, Nebraska, April 14. They competed against other schools from South Dakota and Nebraska. Nick Bottger, seventh grader, also competed in the district competition.

This year's topic is "An American Invention," in which participants express their ideas about the invention, inventor, and the impact of the invention.

Borchardt and Corio now advance to the regional competition in Sioux City May 14 at the Wilbur Alf Library at 1 P.M. The winner of the regional contest will compete in the national competition. Bobby Truhe is the only Woodmen competitor to win the regional and advance to the national competition.



National Current Events Contest

By Selene Van Wyk, Academic Advisor

Recently all of the seventh and eighth grade students completed the final National Current Events Contest for the year. The contest consists of four meets held throughout the school year during the social studies classes. Each Meet consists of 30 multiple choice questions on the topics of National/International Affairs, Arts/Entertainment, Science/Health, Business/Finance, and Sports. After taking the tests the cumulative scores are figured determining the top 10 places in each grade.

Seventh grade winners (from greatest to least answers correct): Kyle Limoges (84), Jeremiah Curry (81), Luke Frankl (79), Nicholas Bottger (77), Molly Hammitt (74), Devan Penfield (74), Travis Carter (72), Emily Connelly (71), Nathan Harding (69), and Andrew Rosenbaum (69).

Eighth grade winners (from greatest to least answers correct): John Frankl (93), Jesse Hofland (88), James Joffer (87), Kyle Boom (86), Adrian Ries (84), Rusty Langel (82), Mike Brandt (82), Bobby Trudeau (80), Molly Shanks (80), Casey North (80), and Mary Nebelsick (80).

JH Quiz Bowl Team Stay Undefeated

By Selene Van Wyk, Academic Advisor

On March 8, six junior high students traveled to Canton to compete in the annual Big Sioux Conference Quiz Bowl. After eight challenging rounds of competition, the EPJ team took home the traveling trophy for a consecutive year. Those participating in the competition were Adrian Ries, Alex Pedersen, Tommy Bottger, Mike Brandt, Nick Bottger (alternate), and Chelsey Borchardt (alternate).

Following are the final scores for all teams:

Alcester-Hudson	420
Beresford	700
Canton	770
Dakota Valley	830
Elk Point-Jefferson	1,040
Harrisburg	740
Tri-Valley	780

Dells Rapids and Sioux Falls Christian did not participate.

Summer Music Camps . . . by Jeremy Schutter, 5-12 Band

Summer music camps offer a variety of activities for students in grades 5-12 to participate. Summer music camps are a great way for kids to grow not only musically, but also socially. These camps are geared towards students who have a driving interest in music. Students can participate in a variety of instrumental ensembles, vocal ensembles, as well as other class or lesson type activities. Living in the Elk Point-Jefferson area, students are within a short distance of many fine music camps. Some of these camps include:

- June 13-18 Brookings, SD All-State Music Camp (grades 7-12)
- July 11-16 Vermillion, SD USD Music Camp (grades 7-12)
- July 25-30 Keystone, SD Rushmore Music Camp (Jr. High)
- July 25-31 Wayne, NE Wayne State Music Camp (7-12)
- August 1-7 Keystone, SD Rushmore Music Camp (Sr. High)

Music camps can be paid for in a number of ways. Of course, there is ol' Mom and Dad's pocket book that could pay the bill. However, did you know that the EPJ Music Boosters offer a scholarship to go to music camps? Also, students in grades 7-12 that were involved with band or vocal fund-raisers can use their earned credits to pay for camp. Some of the music camps offer a scholarship that students can apply for.

If you would like more information on these music camps or other music camps, please contact Jeremy Schutter or Mary Schuh at school.

Woods Class Completes Projects



Many fine projects were built in Woods class this year as demonstrated above.

49th Annual Merten Hasse Math Contest

by Rita Ahmann, H.S. Math

On April 24, twenty-four students spent the morning on the USD campus taking part in the annual math contest. Each student took a fifty question, hour long test in the content of their respective high school math course.



Overall, EPJ placed third in the small school division, up from last year's fourth place. The following students placed in the top ten of their group: Algebra I - Adrian Ries (7th), Mike Brandt (10th); Algebra II - Darin Schmidt (1st), Matthew Carter (5th), Josh Viereck (6th), Doug Dailey (7th), Eric Brandt (9th); and Precalc - Justin Schmidt (4th), Tony Hummel and Jason Donnelly (tied for 9th).

Other students participating included: Algebra I - Autumn Barnes, Sara Peasley; Algebra II - Josh Butrous, Maxine Harding, Kyle Hanson, Kayla McInerney, Karley Sieverding; Geometry - Jacob Butrous, Katie Langel, Stephanie Reed, David Stamp; and Precalculus - Robert Curry, Anne Rosenbaum, Chris Taft. Students were accompanied by Mrs. Angie Langle and Miss Rita Ahmann.

Students Take National Mathematics Exam

by Rita Ahmann, H.S. Math

On February 25, eighteen precalc students and ten Algebra II students participated in the American Mathematics Competition. This is a locally given test sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America with support of other groups such as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Society of Actuaries.

There are two divisions of the test, one for juniors and seniors and the other for freshmen and sophomores. Top scorers in the junior/senior division were 1st - Justin Schmidt, 2nd - Jason Donnelly, and tied for 3rd - Tony Hummel and Robert Curry. In the freshman/sophomore division, those placing were 1st - Darin Schmidt, 2nd - Eric Brandt, and 3rd - Doug Dailey.

In March, we were notified that EPJ was the state winner of the 2004 Pedagogy Award. This indicates that our school had the highest improvement in the team score for the state of South Dakota in the freshman/sophomore division. Our team score (sum of the scores of the top three students) improved by 17 points compared to last year's total. As a reward, the school received a set of geometric models. Mobridge H.S. received the award for the junior/senior division.

Scholars at Elk Point-Jefferson School Take on the World

by Selene Van Wyk, Academic Advisor

Two teams at Elk Point-Jefferson School competed with tens of thousands of students in the U.S. and several foreign lands in the Knowledge Master Open academic competition on April 22. More than 2,500 middle school, junior high, and high school teams faced their computers to answer 200 challenging questions in the event, earning points for the speed and accuracy of their answers.

The fifteen students on the junior high team scored 1,474 of 2,000 possible points to place first in the state and 40th overall in a field of 147 junior high schools in the contest. Students on the junior high team included: 7th grade – Chelsey Borchardt, Nick Bottger, Luke Frankl, Chris Hasenbank, Molly Hammitt, and Andrew Rosenbaum; 8th grade – Michael Brandt, John Frankl, Myles Larsen, Alex Pedersen, and Adrian Ries; and 9th grade – Eric Brandt, Doug Dailey, Kyle Hanson, and Darin Schmidt.

The eleven students on the high school team scored 939 of 2,000 possible points to place sixth in the state and 721st overall in a field of 838 high schools in the contest. Students on the high school team included: 10th grade – Joe Frankl, Daschle Larsen, Michael Nebelsick; 11th grade – Jason Donnelly, Brooke Turkleson, and Ross Wilcox; and 12th grade – Robert Curry, Whitney Karpen, Ryan Larsen, Bobby Truhe, and Brandi Turkleson.

Designed to stimulate learning and recognition for academic achievement, the Knowledge Master Open runs on a classroom computer to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. The competition is held twice during the school year.



Pictured above are this year's Middle School Knowledge Master Open team. The middle school team placed first in the state.



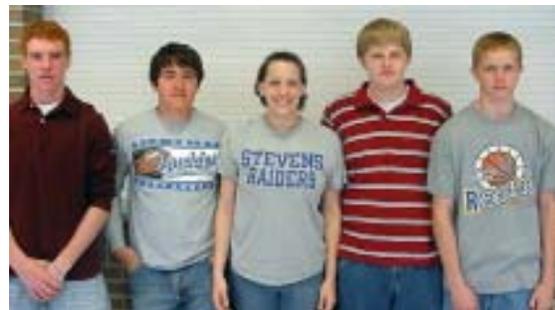
Pictured above are this year's High School Knowledge Master Open participants. The high school team placed sixth in the state.

Students Participate in Computer Contest

by Sandy Mockler, 7-12 Computer

On March 24, Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls hosted a High School Technology Competition. Students from ten schools in the area competed in eight different categories. Medals were awarded to the top three places in each category. This year six students from Elk Point-Jefferson attended and participated in two of the categories. Chris Tow and Darin Schmidt participated in the HTML category. They were required to create a web site using HTML coding. Editing programs such as FrontPage or Dreamweaver were not allowed. Chris placed first, and Darin took third place in this category.

The four students who took A+ Training this year participated in the Hardware Troubleshooting category. They were Whitney Karpen, Ryan Kayl, Andrew Trudeau, and Bob Truhe. The testing consisted of a written exam and a hands-on section. For the hands-on section, eight computers with obvious visual hardware defects were set up and the students had to troubleshoot the problems. Bob Truhe placed second in this competition, and Andrew Trudeau received third.



Spanish I Students Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

by Jane Patnaude, 8-12 Spanish

“El Cinco de Mayo” celebration was performed in the Spanish I classes. This vibrant Mexican culture based on faith, family, and patriotism has added a wealth of tradition to this country. Cinco de Mayo is an important part of this legacy reminding us of the courage and commitment that can sustain the forces of freedom even when they are confronted with overwhelming opposition. The Spanish I students acted out this three act historical play. It is Senora’s mission that all her students embrace Mexico’s rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Advanced Chemistry Trip . . . by Melanie Norris, H.S. Science

As a result of their hard work over the course of the school year, the fifteen students in Advanced Chemistry were able to travel to Sioux Falls on April 19 to explore the Washington Pavilion and the Outdoor Campus. At the Pavilion, the students toured an art exhibit pertaining to the travels of Lewis and Clark. They also experimented with hands-on science and watched a CineDome movie. The group had their choice between a documentary on Lewis and Clark and an interactive tour of the human body. The group then proceeded to the Outdoor Campus, located at Sertoma Park, where they were able to experience the Butterfly House. With the help of a wonderful tour guide, the students were able to identify some of the thousands of butterflies which inhabit the house.

The students would like to thank the EPJ Booster Club for helping to make this trip possible. A good time was had by all!!



Big Sioux High School Conference Quiz Bowl . . . By Selene Van Wyk, Academic Advisor

On Friday, April 23, the Elk Point-Jefferson School hosted this year’s Big Sioux High School Conference Quiz Bowl. The seven schools participating were Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Canton, Dakota Valley, Dell Rapids, Elk Point-Jefferson and Tri-Valley. Harrisburg and Sioux Falls Christian were unable to attend.

All attending teams participated in six rounds of play with one bye. After all the rounds of play, Canton took home the traveling trophy with 970 points earned. Those participating on the conference team were Whitney Karpen, Bobby Truhe, Jason Donnelly, Anthony Roark, and Jonathon Rarrat.

Following are the scores of all the teams:

Canton	970
Dakota Valley	840
Dell Rapids	800
Alcester-Hudson	690
Elk Point-Jefferson	610
Tri-Valley	600
Beresford	490

Science Highlights . . . by Karlene Stabe, H.S. Science

Well, the end of the year is drawing near. As the kids are preparing for summer break, so too are the teachers. This year has been a wonderful year across the board, and I look forward to many productive years here at EPJ. I thought I would share a few last insights into what the students in my classes have been doing this second semester.

In Biology, the students dove into Genetics. They learned how to do a punnett square to determine the probability of certain traits being passed on to their offspring. They all found this quite interesting, especially how it is possible for two brown-eyed parents to give birth to a blue-eyed child. Along with the Genetics unit, comes DNA. The students took pride in making 3-D models of DNA like the famous scientists Watson and Crick did many years ago. I was very impressed with the creative ideas the students came up with on the materials used to make the DNA models. Below are some of the models that the students constructed. Great Job Biology students! To wrap up the end of the year, the students constructed Biome Boxes, which was a part of an Ecology unit. Here they made a replica of an assigned biome within a box, and then shared these with their classmates. In addition to the Ecology unit, they had the opportunity to put their surgical skills to the test and dissect a starfish.

In Anatomy, the students ended the year with a comprehensive overview of all the systems, by dissecting the fetal pig. They found it fascinating to engage in this hands-on activity, which wrapped up everything they have learned throughout the year. These students truly worked hard at this upper level class, and I was truly impressed with their work ethic and dedication to their studies. Great Job Seniors!

In Environmental Science, the students investigated endangered species. They created Endangered Species coloring books, and then invited Mrs. McNeil's 1st grade class to come and learn about endangered species. The first graders took turns reading the books to the older students, and then they all colored a picture together. The first graders were then given the coloring books at the end of the lesson. The Environmental students did an excellent job of teaching the younger ones, and had a fun, yet educational time doing it. Nice Job Environmental students!



Huskies Excel at the State Science Fair . . . by Melanie Norris, H.S. Science

On Friday April 2, approximately 70 Elk Point-Jefferson students traveled to the State Science Fair on the campus of SDSU to compete. Those students who placed in the top five in their respective divisions at the local level were eligible to participate at Brookings. Out of those students we brought to the fair, 38 EPJ young people won awards. Our students won a combination of certificates, prizes, and cash awards. Those that received awards in the junior division were Molly Hammit, Devan Penfield, Kirsten Schaeffer, Paige Norton, Jeremiah Curry, Luke Frankl, Bobby Trudeau, John Frankl, Andrew Rosenbaum, Phillip Portz, Brian Reed, Manny Langstraat, Kale Nelson, Kirstin Hanson, Caleb Lara, Lydia Gille, Amanda Chicoine, Amanda Connelly, Shawna Hilbrands, Sara Peasley, Thomas Rarrat, Carrie Hinds, and Caitlin Thorpe. Receiving second place in their division were Luke Frankl and Jeremiah Curry. Winning first place was the team of Manny Langstraat and Brian Reed.

Winners in the senior division were Bob Truhe, Whitney Karpen, Alesha Hummel, Jon Rarrat, Anne Rosenbaum, Curt Truhe, Chris Tow, Kyle Hanson, Robert Curry, Jason Donnelly, Cara Irwin, Katie Freimark, Alba Roca, Katie Langel, and Andrew Trudeau. Winning second place in their division, along with \$700 in cash and scholarships, were Whitney Karpen and Bob Truhe. It was a great day for the EPJ Science Department. All of the hard work and determination definitely paid off. Our students were great!

Health Occupations Class in Vermillion

by Lisa McInerney, School Nurse

On April 23, the Health Occupations class visited the Ambulance and Fire Station in Vermillion. EMT's and paramedics from Vermillion showed the students all the equipment and devices they use when they go on an ambulance call. Splints, back boards, cervical collars were all demonstrated and used on the students. This gave them a good idea of what it would be like to be an EMT or paramedic.



Summer Band Lessons For Students at EPJ . . . by Jeremy Schutter, 5-12 Band

I want to take a few moments of your time to explain the Summer Band Program. This is particularly important to those who want to continue to improve their instrumental playing skills over the summer months.

First, why are summer band lessons important? The most important reason is that it keeps the young musician playing and interested. Therefore, he/she does not forget as much musical knowledge, and he/she stays in playing shape using and improving skills already learned. Continual growth and development is another outstanding reason for taking summer lessons. Summer lessons allow an individual to move ahead to more advanced techniques keeping them challenged in their playing, or maybe, summer lessons allows a student who fell behind to catch up a little.

Who can summer lessons benefit? Summer lessons can benefit every musician. A beginner can benefit by having the individual time to learn their instrument. It is not always possible for one-on-one lessons to occur during the school year. It is a great head start for any beginner. A high school musician who wants to work towards an All-State Band/Orchestra/Jazz Band Audition or perform a high caliber solo at contest can benefit, because it keeps them focused on their goal that they are trying to achieve. These are a few brief examples.

Like everything in life, the more you use a skill, the better you become at it, the more you understand it, and in turn, you will be more self-motivated to keep using that skill. Summer lessons will not only improve an individual musician, but it will also improve our own EPJ band. Following are some details about summer lessons:

- a) Lessons will be a 30-minute private lesson
- b) Lessons will be taught at the EPJ Band Room
- c) Lessons cost \$10.00 per lesson
- d) Students will work on tone of the instrument, technique development, and musicianship by working on scale, arpeggios, solos, and lesson books
- e) Lessons will start Tuesday, June 8

I will be available for lessons on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as well as Wednesday late afternoon/early evening. I am sure that some of you may have some questions about something that I did not cover. Please feel free to contact me at school (356-5890) or by e-mail at Jeremy.Schutter@k12.sd.us. I hope that you all think about this opportunity presented to you, and if you are interested, please contact me ASAP so that you may reserve your time. Times fill up fast.

EPJ Spring Dinner Theater

by Lori Hawley, H.S. English

On Friday, April 16, 2004, the EPJ Drama Department presented *Death by Chocolate*, a whacky murder mystery centering around a sinister box of chocolates. The show followed a catered dinner provided by the EPJ Activities Boosters. Various faculty and community members helped to serve the meal.

Cast members included Julia Matthys, Jason Donnelly, Nicole Spencer, Ross Wilcox, Tim Jastram, Whitney Karpen, Robert Curry, Katie Buum, Bethany Peter, Bobby Truhe, Genevieve Stalvig, Drew Staum, Andy Bottger, and Anne Rosenbaum. Student director for the play was Erica Peter. Chris Tow and Kyle Hanson served as technical crew. Other crew members included Ryan Larsen, Tim Card, Joe Frankl, Curt Truhe, Andrew Trudeau, Chris Taft, James Chicoine, Jon Rarrat, Emily Rosenbaum, Brett Wilcox, Alex Staum, Carly Rubida, Alesha Hummel, and Shelby Penfield.

Acting awards for the All-School Play were presented at the Spring Activities Awards Banquet held on Friday, May 7. Winning

Best Actor was Ross Wilcox.
Best Actress was Whitney Karpen.
Matinee Idol, selected by the middle school matinee audience, was Bobby Truhe.



EPJ GBB Season Recap

By Kyle Steckler, Head Girls Basketball Coach

The EPJ girls varsity basketball team finished the 2003-04 season with an overall record of 5-15, and a 2-5 record (tied for 5th) in the Big Sioux Conference. A couple of highlights of the season were beating Akron-Westfield and Scotland. Both were very good teams that finished with overall winning records.

Jennifer Mead finished the year as the leading scorer with an 8 ppg average. She was also named the team MVP. Jennifer was named to the 3rd Team All-Big Sioux Conference, and was an Honorable Mention selection on the Region 4A Team. Erin Hasenbank led the team in rebounding with 7 rpg, and field goal percentage at 43%. She received BSC Honorable Mention honors. Lisa Scott was the leader in free throw percentage at 71% and also won the team's Super Sub award. Lisa was named to the SD Academic All-State Team. Beth Knutson picked up a couple of post season awards as well. She was named Defensive Player of the Year, and Miss Hustle. Shelby Penfield received the JV Player of the Year award. Letter winners include: Senior - Lisa Scott; Juniors - Amanda Begnoche, Beth Knutson, Jennifer Mead, Joellen Groethe, Katie Trometer, and Shelby Penfield; Sophomore - Erin Hasenbank; and Freshman - Abby Davis.

With only one senior on this year's team, valuable experience was gained by several players. Next year's team will have several letter winners returning. Couple this with a great group of underclassmen, and the future looks very bright. The JV squad finished with a record of 9-7, while the "C" team finished at 11-1 including winning the Freshman Tournament in Canton.

EPJ Activities Boosters

May

www.epjboosters.com

2004



Salt Drive Successful!



The salt drive for 2004 was very successful. We sold nearly 5,000 bags of salt which were all delivered on Saturday, April 17. This wouldn't have been possible with the efforts of some dedicated and hard-working volunteers.

The monies earned from the salt sale will go to support our students throughout the year and your patronage is appreciated.

BOOSTERS OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Boosters have two board members retiring this year and we are actively seeking volunteers to serve for two years. If you are interested, please contact one of the officers listed on this page.

! THANK YOU !

EPJ Boosters want to thank everyone who volunteered time, equipment, and labor to ensure another successful salt drive. Special thanks go to Rahn Bertram, Kevin Connelly, Todd Larsen, and Kristi Lehman for their organizing and orchestrating efforts and to the businesses who provided services and materials:

Jones Food - Jefferson Farmers Elevator - Ollie's Drive-In
Old Mill General Store - and EPJ School.

And, of course this fund-raiser wouldn't be possible without all the student and adult volunteers who gave a full day and often the use of a vehicle to deliver the salt, and to the patrons who buy the salt. This is the Boosters' largest fund-raiser and its proceeds support our students' academics, fine arts, and athletics throughout the year.

ALL ACTIVITIES BANQUET

The all activities banquet was held Friday, May 7. A taco bar was provided by the White Horse and students received their letters and participation awards for second-semester athletics and for yearlong extra-curricular activities.

Special recognition was given to Rod Knutson for his 33 years of service as a coach and teacher. Thanks, Rod!

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Elk Point-Jefferson School 2004-2005 School Calendar

August 17, 2004	Teacher Inservice	January 17	Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
August 17	Open House	February 18	Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
August 18	First Day of Classes	February 21	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
September 6	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL	March 4	End of Third Quarter
September 30	Teacher Inservice - NO SCHOOL	March 8 & 10	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 20	End of First Quarter	March 11	NO SCHOOL
October 26 & 28	Parent/Teacher Conferences	March 25	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
October 29	NO SCHOOL	March 28	Easter Monday - NO SCHOOL
November 25 & 26	Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL	April 18 & 19	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
December 21	End of Second Quarter	May 13	Last Day of School (Dismiss @ 2:25)
December 22	Dismiss for Christmas	May 14	Graduation Day (2:00)
January 3, 2005	Classes Resume		

We will have dismissal at 2:25 P.M. preceding a holiday. All snow days will be made up at the end of the year.

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ELK POINT-JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPLY LIST FOR 2004-05

The elementary/middle school teachers are asking each child to have the following supplies for WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2004

PLEASE LABEL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

KINDERGARTEN

1 pair tennis shoes for PE	1 - 4 oz Elmer's School glue (no gel)	4 pencils
1 large book bag	1 pair of Fiskar scissors	1 large box kleenex
1 vinyl folding mat for rest	1 box watercolors (Prang or Crayola)	1 set headphones
1 set of extra clothing	1 box (16) Crayola colors	2 glue sticks
1 paint shirt	1 set Crayola markers	1 eraser

GRADE ONE

1 box watercolors	1 pair scissors	1 box kleenex (200 ct.)
1 bottle Elmer's School glue (no gel)	1 box (24) basic crayons	1 supply box 8" x 5"
1 eraser	1 set Crayola markers	1 paint shirt
5 - No. 2 pencils	3 portfolio folders	1 pair tennis shoes for PE
2 glue sticks	1 set headphones	

GRADE TWO

10 - No. 2 pencils	1 box watercolors	1 set headphones
1 box (16) crayons	1 glue stick	1 zipper pouch
1 eraser	1 bottle Elmer's School glue (no gel)	1 supply box 8" x 5"
1 pair scissors	1 box kleenex (200 ct.)	1 paint shirt
1 ruler (metric and English)	2 portfolio folders (pocket)	1 pair tennis shoes for PE

GRADE THREE

1 pair scissors	1 ruler (metric & English)	1 bottle Elmer's School glue
1 box crayons (16 or 24)	1 eraser	1 set of headphones
5 - No. 2 pencils	3 portfolio folders	1 paint shirt
1 box Crayola watercolors	3 spiral notebooks (wideline)	1 pair tennis shoes for PE
1 zipper pencil pouch (not a box)	2 boxes kleenex (200 ct.)	\$3.00 to order Music Recorder
1 box of 8 colored pencils		

GRADE FOUR

1 pair scissors	2 ballpoint pens (blue/red)	1 set of colored pencils
5 - No. 2 pencils	1 small can for paint	1 zipper pencil pouch (optional)
2 boxes kleenex (200 ct.)	1 folder	1 ruler (metric and English)
2 notebooks	PE clothes (shorts, shirt & tennis shoes)	1 bottle Elmer's glue (no gel)
1 set headphones	1 box crayons (16 or 24)	1 eraser
1 - 3" ring binder (for SD Scrapbook)	1 set magic markers	

GRADE FIVE

1 box crayons	1 protractor	1 small can for paint
1 bottle Elmer's School glue	1 small notebook	1 black marker
5 - No. 2 pencils	3 standard tablets	1 box kleenex (200 ct.)
4 ballpoint pens (2 blue & 2 red)	PE clothes and tennis shoes	1 box watercolors
1 pair scissors	1 ruler (metric & English)	1 eraser
1 set of colored pencils	1 set of markers	1 set headphones

GRADE SIX

1 clear ruler (metric & English)	1 set magic markers	8 pocket folders
1 set colored pencils	1 pair scissors	1 bottle Elmer's glue
3 red pens	1 box crayons	5 - 8 1/2 x 11 spiral notebooks
3 blue pens	PE clothes & shoes	1 inch 3/ring binder
5 - No. 2 pencils	1 clear protractor	1 metal compass
1 set of headphones for CCC	2 boxes kleenex	1 spiral notebook (for music)

GRADES SEVEN AND EIGHT

Pens and pencils	Notebooks	Paper	Box of kleenex (200 ct.)
Colored pencils	Metric ruler	Protractor	Compass

Grades 5-8 Band Contest

by *Jeremy Schutter, 5-12 Band*

On Saturday, May 1, members of the EPJ Band program participated in a solo/small ensemble contest. The festival was held at EPJ. Mr. Matthew Symes adjudicated the contest. After much hard work and dedication, our EPJ Band students did exceptional. There were forty-four events for the day. Thirty-nine events received a rating of Superior and five events received a rating of Excellent.

Following are all of the students who received a Superior rating: Chelsey Borchardt, Devan Penfield, Bill Pohlen, Allyson Murphy (2), Courtney Whitlock, Lydia Gille, Megan Weidner, Ali Truhe, Amber Nearman, Liz Schuh, Hayley Bosse, Emily Zeller, Maddie Pace, Bailey Johns, Jenna Donnelly, Tyler Hall, Drake Zeller, Daniel Hargadine, Sara Peasley, Hope Metzgar, Allison Lawler, Ashley Zeller, Kelsie Pace, Taylor Targonsky (2), Courtney Thorpe, Annie Peasley, Tommy Bottger, Ben Staum, Zach Corio, Emilie Erickson, Bobby McLaury, Hayley Zamzow, Andrew Rosenbaum, Rachel Tow, Sarah Beveridge, Lanie Florke, Caitlin Thorpe (2), Leslie Shedd (2), Kelly Reed, Josh Curry, Ethan Pace, Michelle Corio, Kelsey Mapstone, Kyle George, Kristin Marshall, John Frankl, Billy Wiseman, Rayce Monahan, Ryan Austin, Ashley Geary, Ashley Westland, Abby Langstraat, Catie Carrol, Kyle Barnes, and Justin Montagne

The following students received an Excellent rating: Sam Bernard, Megan Weidner, Amber Nearman, Nick Bottger, Josh Gross, Jeremiah Curry, & Brent Baker.

Local Singer Chosen for SD ALL-State Honors Choir

by *Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal*

The North Central Division of the American Choral Director's Association along with the South Dakota High School Activities Association has chosen an honors choir from several hundred students across the state. This year's Honor Choir will be on the campus of the University of Sioux Falls from August 1-6.

The choir consists of approximately 160 students from grades 10 and 11 who were selected through auditions held in central locations across the state. These auditions included a solo performance, sight reading, tonal memory, and a written musical terms test.

Elk Point-Jefferson junior, Robert Curry, was selected to represent EPJ as a Bass.

The Elk Point-Jefferson Music Booster organization will help sponsor this event by covering the entry fees.

Elk Point-Jefferson School District

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

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