



Husky News

Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Volume 5, Issue 2

December 2004

Showing Pride . . . Taking Action

Importance of Activities in a School . . . by Brian Shanks, Superintendent

With all the buzz about No Child Left Behind, test scores, accountability in schools, content standards, and all the other state and federal regulations, we need to consider the importance of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. I am talking about band, vocal, interscholastic sports, oral interpretation, one-act play, all school play, etc. These are very important components of our school culture. I am concerned at times that people consider these things unimportant and of little value, and I would like you to ask yourselves, "What do you remember most about your high school and junior high years?" I would bet many of your answers to this question would have something to do with an extra-curricular activity.

School activities are extensions of the classroom where kids are allowed to express themselves in many different ways, and the assessments in these activities are authentic in nature. In the classroom students take "paper and pencil tests," but in these activities they actually do it and are able to showcase what they can do in front of an audience. They are taught to sing, and they actually sing; in basketball they are taught to play, and they actually play; in drama activities they are taught to act, and they actually act. This is authentic assessment, and it is what every educational experience strives to achieve.

I like to observe kids in the morning and after school taking part in activities within the school they want to participate in. You can see the joy in working at something they love and the dedication they exhibit in putting in hours of practice time to excel at something very important to them. A school without extra-curricular activities would be a very depressing and underused place. The curricular activities are the meat, and the extra-curricular activities are the spice.

School activities have saved many kids, and I have witnessed that personally. I have seen kids stay in school who would have certainly

quit if it had not been for activities, particularly athletics. It has been proven through research that students who are in activities do much better than students who are not involved. The days of the "dumb jock" are over (I don't think that was ever really true), and athletes are generally very good students. There is a misconception that extra-curricular activities are expensive; some even suggest that when things get tight, they should be the first items to go. In our school district, it amounts to 7% of our total general fund budget, and the leaders of these activities get very little pay for many hours of work. You really get your money's worth from these dedicated people. We actually struggle at times to find enough people to fill these very important positions, but that is another newsletter article.

When you are a spectator at one of our events, please keep in mind the hours of practice these students and coaches have gone through. It is not just the time spent by them in practice; it is the hours spent on their own to improve as participants and coaches who spend hours looking at tapes, sitting in weight rooms, planning time, scouting, etc. It is the kids who spend hours practicing their instruments, practicing their lines, traveling to contests, etc. The time the public sees them performing is only the pinnacle of what they do as participants, coaches, and advisors.

Activities teach students many of life's lessons as they are a microcosm of the things they are going to face when they leave our hallways. They teach responsibility, courage, respect, teamwork, and all of the other characteristics of a successful adult. Our activities are a good investment.

Outstanding Youth Leaders Recognized . . . by Anne Rosenbaum, EPJ Senior

On September 26, the National Council on Youth Leadership (NCYL) held its seventh annual "Siouxland Youth Salute." The program is a leadership development and recognition program for high school seniors who have demonstrated good citizenship, good scholastic performance, and have been elected to a leadership position by their peers, community, or church/synagogue. One hundred and four students were chosen from East, North, West, and Heelan High Schools in Sioux City, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Homer, Sergeant Bluff-Luton, Lawton-Bronson, Hinton, and South Sioux City high schools.

Bethany Peter, Anne Rosenbaum, and Brooke Turkleson were selected to represent Elk Point-Jefferson. The participants spent all afternoon learning how to be a better leader. At the awards ceremony that night, four students were selected to attend the NCYL's national leadership conference in St. Louis in October, and six others were given special recognition. Our own Brooke Turkleson was one of the four selected to participate in the national leadership conference, and Anne Rosenbaum was given special recognition.

"The thing I liked best about the conference was meeting all of the amazing students from all over the country. It was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life," Brooke stated. At the awards banquet in St. Louis, Brooke was given the Jenny Harder Spirit Award from her team. This award is given to people who demonstrated genuine enthusiasm and support of their team.

This program truly does a fine job of thanking and recognizing tomorrow's leaders.



National Council on Youth Leadership representatives.

It's the Flu Season Again!

by Lisa McInerney, School Nurse, RN

Have you heard enough about the flu yet?

It seems you can't turn on the evening news, listen to the radio, or read the paper without encountering the problem of the influenza season.

We all know that there is a shortage of the flu vaccine this year, and we need to take special precautions to avoid **getting** and **spreading** the flu! There is still a possibility that there will be more flu vaccine available in December and January. This is still early enough to cover you for the flu season, as the peak season is February and March.

But if you don't get the flu shot this year, are you **really** prepared to treat yourself or your family if you do get the flu? Are you willing to stay home or keep your child home from school for three or four days to recover from the flu?

What is the difference between influenza and the common cold? They are similar in that they affect your upper respiratory system: sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, slight fever, or cough. What is additionally more specific to the flu is a high fever (over 103), extreme tiredness, and muscle aches.

If you or your child develops these symptoms, **you need to stay home!** Children who can't keep their eyes opened, even after a normal night's sleep, or who have an "achy" feeling and loss of appetite, probably have the flu coming their way. They should stay home to get plenty of rest, drink lots of fluids, and take Tylenol or ibuprofen to keep the fever and achy feeling down. Before returning to school, your child needs to have gone without a fever for at least 24 hours.

If you or your child has avoided the flu so far, you can follow a few easy steps to keep it that way!

1. Stress the importance of **washing hands!** Use lots of soap and water, making sure to wash for at least 20 seconds (about as long as the Happy Birthday song), clean between fingers, thumbs, under nails, and under jewelry.
2. Try not to cough or sneeze on others. Use a Kleenex, or cough into your sleeve or the back of your hand. "Used" tissues are full of germs; put them in the trash right away and then wash your hands.
3. You may want to consider sending an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to school with your child. It is an excellent way to disinfect hands when a sink is not available. You can find this product in most drug stores.
4. Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces like counter tops, phones, and door knobs.

Remember, children who are feverish, tired, achy, and coughing can't learn as well and can spread their illness to others, so keep them home.

Guidance Department Web Site

by Chris McMeekin, Guidance Department

Check out the new Guidance Department web site by clicking on the Guidance Dept. link on the EPJ web site. You can find information on national and local scholarships, financial aid, how to set up a campus visit, and much more. A big thank-you to Anthony Roark for developing the web site!

Library News

by Carmen Wilcox, School Librarian

Lucille Fowler Rothenbuehler Memorial Book Fund

The EPJ Library has been the recipient of a wonderful memorial gift from the Fowler family. Lucille Fowler Rothenbuehler, a 1935 graduate of Elk Point High School, was born and raised in Elk Point. She later married Ken Rothenbuehler and lived in Sioux Falls at the time of her passing. She was actively involved with the Democratic party and spent much of her volunteer time there. In memory of her interest in social sciences, her family has left a memorial book fund. The memorial has been invested with the USD Foundation Fund. Annual interest will be used to purchase materials for the library. Donations will be accepted and may be made through the library. In addition to the fund, the family donated another sum of money to be used for immediate purchase of titles dealing with American politics, government, and history. As a result of this donation, the library was able to purchase an outstanding group of new books. The EPJ Library wishes to thank the Fowler family for their generous and valued donation. It will be enjoyed for many years to come by the patrons of this library.

Annual Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was held in October and was once again well attended by school children and parents alike. Many new, colorful, and exciting titles were available. This year's theme was "Read, White and Blue" to coincide with the 2004 election. Students registered and voted for their favorite books from the fair.

LIBRARY HOURS FOR HOLIDAYS

December 22-23 1:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.
December 24 1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.
December 25 CLOSED
December 27-30 1:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.
December 31 1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.
January 1 CLOSED
January 3 Regular Hours Resume

Kindergarten Pre-Registration

The EPJ School District is trying to establish the approximate number of students for the 2005-06 kindergarten class. If you have a child who will be 5 years of age by September 1, 2005, please call the elementary office at 356-5800 or e-mail: norma.ferdig@k12.sd.us. Please provide your child's name, birth date, parent name, address, and phone number.



Moving: Helping Children Adjust . . . *by Chris McMeekin, Guidance Department*

After the chore of packing and unpacking, the fun part of moving begins. Moving can be an adventure for your kids as they discover all kinds of wonderful surprises in their new home and new neighborhood. Of course, that doesn't mean that there won't be some difficult times. Moving can have a big impact on younger and older children.

Moving affects children's behavior and emotions. A move represents change, which creates issues for every age. Although younger children have an easier time dealing with a move, they need more routine. If breakfast can still start with cereal in a favorite bowl and bedtime is still a ritual of tooth-brushing and story-reading, your kids will cope better.

Moving tends to be toughest for pre-teens and teens. Keep in mind, though, that your teenager is not trying to make your life miserable. There are real developmental issues at work. At this age, your child is learning how to form more long-term relationships, including (particularly for teens) romantic ones. The decision to move is "undoing" the hard work your child has put in (unconscious as it may be). And at a stage when your child is inching outside the bounds of family and trying to form a personal identity, the move is a powerful reminder that your pre-teen or teen is not yet the master of his or her own fate. The older the child, the more these feelings and frustrations are at play. Throughout the move, give your older kids space and time. Be patient and try not to lecture or be defensive.

There are several things you can do to help your children adjust to their new surroundings. A good place to start is with feelings. Tell them yours first, honestly, positive and negative, and encourage them to share their feelings, no matter whether good or bad. Most of all, be absolutely honest, and don't beat around the bush. Your children will be watching your every move to see how you feel about the move. They will take their cues from you.

Children of all ages are apt to use "black or white" thinking relative to the move, particularly if they have a large circle of good friends now. Moving will be bad, bleak, black with no possible shades of gray for them. If this is the case, it may help to talk about some of the things that the child didn't like and how those things are now different.

The most important thing to do during a move is to make sure that you don't overlook a child's reactions to it. Some children will let you know exactly how they're feeling by what they say or how they behave, while others may withdraw and not say a word. But if a child isn't talking, it may be a signal that she is worried or anxious about it, and you need to create opportunities to talk about the move.

Significant cues to look for that might indicate a child is having a difficult time are things like sleep problems or nightmares, excessive crying, frustration, or outbursts of anger, a reluctance to leave the house or be away from parents, unreasonable fears, or a resistance toward engaging in activities with other children.

The adjustment period may take anywhere from six months to a year-and-a-half depending on the age of the child, friendships outside the family, the reasons for the move, or simply the child's attachment to his old home. Helping children acclimate themselves quickly to their new neighborhood and school will speed up the healing process.

Here are some more ways you can help your children adjust:

- As a family, plant a tree or bush outside as a symbol that this is your home now. If it's wintertime, start something inside that you can transplant in the spring.
- Gather together to hang a family photograph or find a place for an object that is special to your family. If you've always had a swing or a bird feeder in the backyard, make an event of putting the new one up in this home.
- Re-establish family routines, like mealtimes and bedtimes, right away. This sends the important message to all members that you are the same family, just in a new setting. The old rules, routines and rituals still apply.
- With colleagues from work or new families you meet, set up play dates for younger children to get to know each other.
- Find activities for your school-age children to join, such as sports teams, clubs, lessons, and classes. Meeting kids with the same interests increases the odds of going beyond acquaintance to friend.
- Take the initiative and introduce yourself to the neighbors. Your kids' first new friends may literally be living next door. A meet-and-greet can help get those friendships underway.
- Help your children stay in touch with old friends by giving them pre-paid phone cards or making plans for a visit.

K-12 Huskies Support Holiday Gifts for Kids

by Patty Skinner, 7-8 Language Arts

To spread the Christmas spirit to those in need, kindergarten through seniors participated in the annual Jaycees Holiday Gifts for Kids' competition. Money containers were placed in each of the classrooms/homerooms from November 30-December 3. Students threw in coins all during the week to see how many pounds of money they could collect.

At the end of the week, Rhonda Weidner, one of the program organizers for the Jaycees Holiday Gifts for Kids, along with seventh graders collected and weighed the money containers.

The winners in the four divisions are as follows:

Division I (K-2)	Mrs. Gail Schmitz's First Grade	43.2 pounds
Division II (3-5)	Mrs. Jane Allard's Third Grade	28.7 pounds
Division III (6-8)	Mrs. Patty Skinner's Stallions	50.3 pounds
Division IV (9-12)	Seniors	46.1 pound

The grand total, 472.8 pounds of money (over \$1,500), will go to help 143 area families have a Merry Christmas.



From the Desk of Doug Brusseau, K-6 Principal

Bumps in the Road

Throughout the year, parents will stop in and will discuss situations they are having with their child. The situations may run from my child is stealing, not doing what they are told, pitting one parent against the other, a death in the family, conflicts with other children, or that the parents will be separating.

When your children complain about others, you may be tempted to come out swinging. Your impulse to fight for your children can make you say and do things that you may later regret. Here are a few strategies that may help confused parents make sensible decisions when children complain about people.

Eight-year-old Jonathan returns home after school, and his mother is furious with him. It seems his mother won't allow him to call his friends until after he finishes his homework. Or so he says. His dad comes home and verbally becomes angry and says, "You never did pay attention to what the kid needed!"

Or, twelve-year-old Deborah on Saturday goes to her mother and immediately begins sobbing that her dad has gone back on his promise to buy her a new dress. He had told her he did not have time to take her shopping, and they did not have the money for the dress at the time. Her mom sees red. How dare he involve Deborah in their battles about money?

Our impulse is to quickly align with our children, to fight their battles, to rescue them; this is a deeply ingrained response that can fill us with retaliatory adrenaline and can make us say and do things that we may later regret. We love them and want them to be OK. Or our child's complaint genuinely worries us because we may be hearing from our little ones that we are acting irresponsibly.

When parents are faced with a child's tearful or angry complaint about another person the basic question "Is this a problem I should get involved with?" can also loom large. You know you weren't there to witness "the event." The following strategies can help confused parents make sensible decisions when children come bouncing in the door eager to tattle on someone.

Decline Unnecessary Burdens

Many parents make the well-intentioned yet unfortunate mistake of seeing every complaint that flows from their child as their problem to solve. And they end up either entangled in endless conflict or with ulcers. Learning to watch for "unnecessary burdens" can help parents avoid this volatile area of problems.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Was it your child, and not you, who first brought up the concern?
- Did your child feel more emotion about the issue than you did?
- If the problem were solved, would it be your child's life, and not your own, that would most improve?
- Does the problem lie mainly between your child and the other person?

If your answer is "no" to three or more of these questions, the problem is your responsibility to help solve. If your answer is "yes" to at least two of these questions, your child is confronting you with an unnecessary burden. This simply means that you can still choose to help, you can still choose to feel intense concern, but you can also choose to see this dilemma as primarily the responsibility of others to solve—a mental shift that can bring relief.

Beware of Triangles

A triangle is formed when one person has a problem with another person yet chooses to speak about the problem with a third individual rather than the one they are really struggling with. We choose to whisper to a co-worker about the "gossip down the hall" rather than telling them to their face that their behavior bothers us. We call our mother or father and talk about things people have been doing, without speaking directly to the person. Childhood conflicts are fertile fields for the development of triangles, and when a child brings a complaint home about another child, an immediate, yet unintentional, triangle-trap is formed. The problem is, if you take the bait—especially if your child longs for you to intercede on his/her behalf—your child will never become self-sufficient in communicating with the other person; you may make the mistake of acting out old resentments and the problem will never fully be solved.

Lend a Small Ear

Because we love our children, because protecting them is as basic to being a parent as breathing is to being alive, we often become intensely interested, emotional, and wrapped up in our child's tearful or angry complaints. In short, our ears get very big. This causes a child to learn that they gain significant attention by being a cub reporter about other people, and the cycle continues over and over again. It is therefore best to keep your ears small and listen attentively—without responding until you've heard the full story and paused to generate a considered response. After all, if your child was coming in the door complaining about being kicked by a peer during soccer, you wouldn't turn red and immediately run out the door to confront the child or his/her parent because you know there is a child (your child) in the middle who is adding his interpretation to life events.

Respond with Empathy, Calm Control, and Neutrality

Let your child know that you have heard the feelings behind his/her words so that he/she feels understood: "Jonathan, you sound mad that your mom won't let you call your friends." "Deborah, you sound angry that your dad won't buy you a new dress." However, expressing understanding does not necessarily mean that you agree with their version of the story. Our old resentments can quickly bring veins to the surface in anger as we see that our child feels hurt or disappointed by someone who hurt or disappointed us. But such intense reactions that can propel us into rageful phone calls or attempts to rescue our child often make things worse. Responding with emotional neutrality and a calm disposition says to your child, "I know this is hard, but I know you can handle it. I'm here to help." Responding with

(Continued on page 5)

furious phone calls or angry e-mails says to your child, "You need me to solve this for you. This is a catastrophe! This is my problem, too; we're a team." Nothing could be more divisive. Don't rush to agree with your child that it is someone else's fault.

Resist Taking the Ball Back

It makes perfect sense for a child, especially a young child, to want you to intercede and solve his/her problems. Although interceding on your child's behalf occasionally makes sense if done in a non-attacking way, and especially when there are questions regarding the safety of your child, in most circumstances you will empower your child by gently communicating that this is a problem between your child and another person that you believe he/she can handle. Your child is on a separate life-path with you that needs to be honored, and that you cannot always fix.

Generate Possible Solutions with Your Child

Your child's complaint can be a precious opportunity to teach him/her life skills for resolving difficulties with others. A key first step is to gently, and even playfully, generate different choices or solutions your child might try for solving the dilemma with another person. Brainstorming solution-ideas with your child can actually be fun and even humorous. At this stage, do not judge any ideas your child generates.

Evaluate the Options

Now go through the different ideas the two of you came up with and look at them carefully regarding the pros and cons for your child and for your child's relationship with the other parent. This process can even be done with young children so that they can be empowered early in life to see themselves as capable of navigating difficult waters with their other parent.

Try Cautious Advocacy as a Last Resort

If your child is too young to be able to assert himself/herself with another child, gentle intercession for your child can occasionally be helpful as long as it is done in a non-attacking way.

Empowerment Isn't Abandonment

Choosing not to shoulder the problems between your child and another child is not passivity or abandonment. On the contrary, you are empowering your child, not abandoning him/her. After all, all adults are imperfect, and all children have problems. Helping your child learn to cope with difficulties in his/her relationships is a lesson that will stand his/her in good stead for life. Which outcome is more valuable for your child: having a problem solved (by you) or learning to be an effective problem solver for life?

Respond Assertively to Protect

Over-protectiveness and a quick willingness to do battle for your child can rob him/her of an opportunity for learning how to work through problems with others. However, it is important to have a healthy balance between protectiveness and over-reaction. It is true that parents who have been hurt or mistreated by others can sometimes be excessively quick to believe their child is being hurt or mistreated. However, never forget that it is your job to protect your child's basic health and safety.

Focus on What You Can Influence

Above all, accept the fact that you can only control so much and that one of the areas of your life where you now have little control is in making your child behave in ways you think are sensible. Turn inward and reclaim the area of your life where you really do have power: How do you care for your children? How do you feed them? How do you discipline them? How do you keep them safe? You may be angry that your son/daughter is not allowed to call his/her friends until his/her homework is done. You may feel sad for your daughter that her father is refusing to buy her a new dress. Sometimes, however, the only path to peace is choosing to accept that there are "bumps in the road"—pain in life—from which you cannot fully protect your child.

Eight Local Singers Chosen for the South Dakota State Elementary Honors Chorus

by Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal Music

The sixth annual South Dakota Elementary Honors Chorus will sing in concert on Thursday, February 10, 2005, on the SDSU campus in Brookings, SD. The chorus will be under the direction of Barbara Sletto, the founder and conductor of the Heartland Youth Choir, a civic organization that serves over 150 central Iowa singers. Barbara has a Masters of Arts degree in Music Education with a Kodaly emphasis from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is a frequent clinician and composer for music educators throughout the United States.

The chorus consists of 122 students from across the state in grades four, five, and six who were selected through taped auditions, which were recorded and submitted by their directors at the local level. The tapes were numbered, so no names or schools were known to the state panel judges.

Elk Point-Jefferson sixth graders Abbey Langstraat, Elizabeth Schuh, Taylor Targonski; fifth graders Kaitlyn Hargadine, Ashlee Stepp; and fourth graders Kelsey Abbey, Taylor Donnelly, and Haylee Erickson have been chosen to perform with this state chorus.

The sponsor of this event is the South Dakota Music Educators Association. The state association of the Music Educators National Conference is committed to providing quality, sequential music instruction to all students in South Dakota schools.

Biggest Event in American History . . . by Tama Zeller, Fourth Grade

Fourth graders were introduced to the Civil War period in history as they studied the Southern and Northern states of the U.S. during their social studies. Robert Hilton and his brother Don Hilton were guests in the classroom. They helped educate the students through telling their favorite stories of the Civil War and bringing many artifacts of the 1860s period to share with the children. They displayed uniforms, rifles, saber, musket pistol, sniper's hat, mini lead balls, musician's sword, belt



buckles, devil's star, buffalo mittens, lead soldiers, lead ball mold, flat iron, and many photos of post Civil War soldiers, Grant's family picture, and a large photo of Abraham Lincoln.

Don showed a large carving of Grant that he has been whittling just as the soldiers would carve in their free time at camp. They spoke to the kids telling them how we owe soldiers a lot of "respect." "Soldiers can't quit," said Hilton. "They lived in difficult situations, cold, heat, poor food, twenty four hours a day." They expressed that the Civil War was the biggest event in American history. The majority of deaths were due to diseases and illness rather than battle. Hilton said he hopes that by sharing with the children, it keeps the Civil War memory alive. Their goal was to help the children be proud of their American heritage, get excited, and take an interest in



Third and Fourth Graders Use Keyboards

by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Vocal Music

The third and fourth grade music classes come to class eager to know "whose turn it is" for the learning center. Each class period, three students are given permission to use the last ten minutes of the class time to go to the center. They rotate among a computer with a music theory program and two keyboards.

We received two new keyboards this fall. They have many fun functions that allow the students to explore on an electric keyboard. There are programmed classics such as "Für Elise" by Beethoven, which they like to listen to. They also can pick an instrumental sound to play. This gives them a chance to hear different instruments and begin to identify the sounds. They are encouraged to use the learning lessons for beginning piano.

We would like to thank the Elk Point-Jefferson Activities Boosters for the grant that helped pay for these keyboards.



HUSKIES Send Holiday Hope Overseas . . . by Jeff Zeller, Elementary Guidance Counselor

Just before the Thanksgiving break, Mrs. Skinner and Mr. Zeller joined forces with the students in their classes to send Christmas letters overseas to troops currently serving in Iraq. This effort is a small way that we can say thank you to the troops and show our appreciation. KMEG-TV from Sioux City came in to do a report for TV on this project.

Mrs. Skinner had students in one of her English classes send e-mails and write letters to a special person with a connection to that class. Specialist Nick Shedd is the brother of 7th grader Leslie Shedd. Nick is currently in Iraq serving with the 2-147th Artillery Unit of the South Dakota National Guard. Leslie and her classmates all wrote letters filled with best wishes, Christmas greetings, and questions.



Mr. Zeller also joined in the letter writing. Mr. Zeller, the Elementary Guidance Counselor, also had his classes compose letters. Each of his classes made letters to not only Nick Shedd but also his whole unit. These letters were individually addressed to each soldier to insure that each soldier would get a letter from the Huskies. The letters consisted of messages of hope, messages of appreciation, and pictures. The kids showed their Husky pride and their patriotic spirit by putting a great effort into writing to these soldiers. Each class truly displayed our school motto of "Showing Pride...Taking Action!"



From the Desk of Travis Aslesen, 7-12 Principal

Juniors Explore the World of Work

How great it is to be able to share with you one of our many programs designed to assist the students at Elk Point-Jefferson in planning for their futures. The program to which I am referring is our job shadowing component of the homeroom experience. Each year juniors are encouraged to participate in our job shadowing program to gain valuable insights into future careers. In cooperation with their homeroom teachers and our guidance department, students have been exploring different career paths since the eighth grade. However, the junior year is the decisive year during which the efforts of our staff and interests of our students merge into the job shadowing experience.

Our interest in job shadowing is based on the premise of caring about our students beyond graduation. It is needless to say that the interests and abilities of our students will dictate the future of our communities. To help unleash this potential in our students, it is our belief that schools must do a better job of starting students down the path of earning a rewarding career. This goes beyond schooling and into actual career counseling. In addition, with the high cost of post-secondary education, students must have some fairly solid idea of the components necessary to build a productive and rewarding career. Without early direction and assistance, students have a greater likelihood of becoming one of the following statistics:

<u>Percentage of Workers Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Aspect of Dissatisfaction</u>
23%	Job's pay and benefits
17%	Importance and challenge
35%	Opportunity for promotion

Statistics from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES): <http://nces.ed.gov>.

After students have completed their job shadowing experiences, they will share the insights of their opportunities with the other students in their homerooms. Each student's homeroom consists of a mix of freshmen, sophomores, and seniors. By sharing their insights, juniors aid the underclassmen in further development of potential career paths. It is the hope that peer-to-peer sharing will further stimulate the positive aspects of the experience.

The staff at Elk Point-Jefferson is committed to providing your student with a quality education which includes transitional services such as job shadowing. It is the overall goal of the job shadowing experience to aid in the often-overwhelming transition from school to work. As we care about our graduates throughout their lives, not just during the brief time during which we guide them, it is a logical component of a well-rounded education.

New Students at EPJ

Being new to a school is no easy task. Whether a student is moving from a small to a large school, a large to a small school, or one of equivalent size, it is difficult to make the change. That change does not exist solely at school, but within new communities as well. Most of us come from small, rural communities which pride themselves on being a true community. Our schools which exist in these communities also adopt that persona to reflect the interests of the communities which they serve. To many students who come from larger, more "distant" communities, the task of "fitting in" can be quite overwhelming. Our high school student council has recognized the frustrations involved with being new to a school and has attempted to accelerate the inclusion of new students within our district (twenty-two in grades six – twelve alone!). They have come up with a "welcome wagon" program of sorts. To begin, a student council representative escorts each student through an ordinary day. Over the next few weeks, our guidance department follows up on our new students to make certain that they have been placed in appropriate classes and are acclimating to the expectations we have at Elk Point-Jefferson. To conclude, each new student gets a welcome packet of goodies donated by a few of our local businesses. Within each packet is a ...

EPJ Huskies t-shirt – donated by the EPJ All Activities Boosters

Coupons for a free popcorn and pop – donated by the EPJ All Activities Boosters

Activity ticket – free admission to all home events

Ice cream treat – donated by Edgar's Old Fashioned Soda Fountain

Coupon for a personal pan pizza and pop – donated by Old Mill General Store

Coupon for a six-pack of pop (24 ounce bottles) – donated by Jones' Food Center

Slushy – donated by Hoffman's BP (made with love by Mark)

EPJ refrigerator magnet – for hanging up all of those refrigerator papers

The students and staff at Elk Point-Jefferson would like to thank the preceding organizations for their efforts in supporting us as we

Parent Distribution Lists . . . *by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director*

Many Elk Point-Jefferson teachers have begun to use e-mail distribution lists to send class-related announcements to parents. These e-mails serve as additional reminders for assignment due dates, tests, and other general classroom information. Parents who would like to receive this information and have not submitted their e-mail address can forward their address to Jerry.Klumper@k12.sd.us.

EPJ Middle School 2004 Mini Courses

Thanks for the Mini Courses!

The Elk Point-Jefferson middle school students would like to thank the following people for sharing their time and talents during the 2004 Mini Courses:

Renaeg Begnoche.....	Picture Frames	Brenda Truhe.....	Hair Care
Dennis Ferdig.....	Autobody Repair	Steve Hofland.....	Taekwondo
Rhonda Weidner.....	Dips	Chris Tow.....	Guitar
Diane Larson.....	Cribbage	Kyle Hanson.....	Guitar
Margaret Jones.....	Cribbage	Angie Langle.....	Holiday Plates
Ray LaFleur.....	Cribbage	Bill Busker.....	Tucker Car
Julie Whitlock.....	Cribbage	Curry Staff.....	Curry Tour
Doug Dailey.....	Cribbage	Kirstin Hanson.....	Balloon Creations
Kim Kramer.....	Candy Making	Cole Irwin.....	Balloon Creations
Delores Vondrak.....	Candy Making	Dan Swatek.....	Washington, D.C., Presentation
Chris Driver.....	Scrap Booking	Kim Kramer.....	Washington, D.C., Presentation
Lisa McInerney.....	Babysitter's First Aid	Ryan Brandt.....	Chess
Doug Talbott.....	Basic Car Care	Pat Schurdevin.....	Supervisor
Linda Talbott.....	Crochet and Cross Stitch	Laura Froehlich.....	Supervisor
Travis Aslesen.....	Hearts	Rob Lewis.....	Supervisor
Brian Shanks.....	Fishing	Tiffany Heuertz.....	Supervisor
Cammy Abbey.....	Massage	Maggie Grassel.....	Supervisor
Glen Bosse.....	Taxidermy	Daryl Fletcher.....	Shuttle Bus Driver



Chicoine Wins EPJEA Essay Contest . . . by Patty Skinner, 7-8 Language Arts

Eighth grader Amanda Chicoine earned first place in the Elk Point-Jefferson Education Association American Education Week Essay Contest. This contest was open to seventh and eighth graders. This year's theme was "Celebrating the American Dream." Participants were to express how an education helps people realize the American Dream. Tying for second place were seventh graders Adam Trudeau and Nick Johnson. All three winners received cash prizes. Mary Geffre Johnson of the retired teacher group in Vermillion judged the essays. Following are the three student essays:

"Celebrating the American Dream" . . . by Amanda Chicoine

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to not have an education? If people did not have an education, they could not fulfill their American duties and responsibilities, like going to work. Children would not be able to learn how to read and write because there would be no teachers to teach them.

Obtaining an education should be a U.S. citizen's number one priority. For people to achieve their dreams, they must set goals. When people set goals, they can become whatever they want to be. I know that I can be whatever I choose to be. At one time in my life, I wanted to be a veterinarian, but then I realized all the other possible options for me in America. In science class, I noticed I really liked it when we were studying geology and oceanography. Since I was educated on these sciences, I have changed my idea of what I want to do.

Having an education can show us all the different options we have in our lives. People in America are free, and with their educations they may accomplish their dreams. America is a place of choice, and the right choices make our dreams a reality.

"Celebrating the American Dream" . . . by Adam Trudeau

The American dream means to come to America and have hope in having a good future. When people come from countries all over the world, they have an American dream.

When people come here with all sorts of hopes and dreams, they usually want an education, find a job, and raise a family. They want success by receiving the education. Receiving a good education doesn't mean you will become successful you have to be hard working and devoted.

Coming to America with hopes and dreams is what the American dream is all about, but you have to get an education and be hard working.

"Celebrating the American Dream" . . . by Nick Johnson

"I have a dream that one day my four children will grow up in a place where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" ran through the marcher's ears at that rally for equal rights. I think the American dream surrounds Martin Luther King Jr. with his peaceful rallies for equal rights. The goal of the American Dream is to be anything you want to be. The American Dream is also about the education system that helps the children succeed in life to live their dream. That is my description of



EPJ Sends Students To Honor Band Festivals . . . by Jeremy Schutter, 5-12 Band

Friday, November 12, and Saturday, November 13, Anne Rosenbaum, Katie Langel, Nick Erickson, Genevieve Stalvig, and Josh Reed represented EPJ at the Augustana College Band Festival in Sioux Falls. Anne, Katie, and Nick are members of the Blue Festival Band while Genevieve and Josh participated in the Gold Festival Band.

The Blue Band was under the direction of Dr. James Saker from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. The Gold Band was directed by Dr. Douglas Nimmo from the Gustavus Adolphus College in the Twin Cities. The festival concluded with a Grande Finale Concert at the Washington Pavilion Performing Arts & Science Center.

Monday, November 22, Anne Rosenbaum, Hope Metzgar, Nicola Obeney, and Robert Curry attended the Region 1/Yankton Honor Band Festival. These students auditioned by tape which they had prepared earlier this fall. They did very well in their audition placement: Nicola was 6th Chair Clarinet, Anne was 8th Chair Clarinet, and Hope was 9th Chair Clarinet. Robert auditioned 2nd Chair Trombone. Congratulations to these students. Hard work and a little dedication go a long way. They are proof of that.

The Region 1 Honor Band was under the direction of Mr. Dennis Hegg from Dakota State University. Mr. Hegg has been a South Dakota Band Director for a number of years at the high school and college level. The festival was hosted by Yankton High School, and it concluded with a finale concert.

Elk Point-Jefferson DDN Campus Student Portals . . . by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

Students at Elk Point-Jefferson now have the opportunity to access their academic information using their own personal portals. The student portals have all of the features of the parent portals with one major exception; students cannot access their sibling's information. The portals have been made available to students in grades 9-12 who bring a signed parental consent form.

Middle School Holds 2004 Science Fair . . . by Daryl Fletcher, 7-8 Science

The Middle School Science Fair was held November 23 in the middle school gymnasium with fifth through eighth graders participating. The science fair is under the direction and guidance of science teachers Dan Swatek, Gwen Billings, and Daryl Fletcher. There were 144 projects in the fair. The students set up their projects in the morning and were evaluated by a panel of judges in the afternoon. In the evening, the projects were open to public viewing with the award ceremony starting at 7:15 P.M.

The students that finished in one of the top four places of the three different divisions earned a trip to the South Dakota Regional Science Fair in Brookings on the campus of SDSU. This competition will be held on Friday, April 1, 2005.

In fifth and sixth grades, Kelly Reed was awarded the Grand Prize award, and Jenna Donnelly was the runner-up. In the seventh and eighth grade competition, Ross Rosenbaum and partner Ben Staum were first, and Caitlin Thorpe was the runner-up. The local teacher's association, EPJEA, recognized the award winners with a \$25 prize to each winner. Below are this year's local award winners.

Grade 5: Biological Science

1st Place Corey Chicoine
2nd Place Camille Fowler
3rd Place Michael Wurtz
4th Place Colby Irwin

Grade 6: Biological Science

1st Place Jenna Donnelly
2nd Place Josh Curry
3rd Place Emily Zeller
4th Place Drake Zeller

Grade 7: Biological Science

1st Place Leslie Shedd/Bailey Johns
2nd Place Shelby Larsen/Stephanie Spencer
3rd Place Adam Trudeau/Collin Viereck
4th Place Courtney Whitlock/Amber Nearman

Grade 8: Biological Science

1st Place Amanda Chicoine
2nd Place Carmen Tuttle
3rd Place

Earth Science

Ryan Schaffer
Ellie Dailey
Keegan Welch
Ryan Donnelly

Earth Science

Ashley Geary
Annie Peasley
Cayla Hilbrands
Mackenzie Klinkhammer

Earth Science

Ross Rosenbaum/Ben Staum
Lydia Gille
Taylor Pollard
Colton McCreary

Earth Science

Curtis Brown
Shauna Hilbrands
Kirstin Hanson

Physical Science

Christoffer Dyrssen
Tory McCreary
Wesley Lemon
Tony Metzgar

Physical Science

Kelly Reed
Stephanie Teply
Reanna Bertram
Tayler Hall

Physical Science

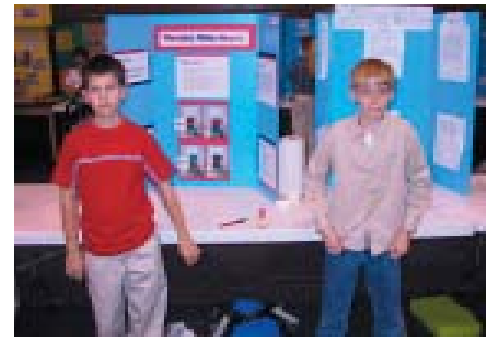
Caitlin Thorpe
Ali Truhe/Allyson Murphy
Ryan Brandt/Zach Corio
Malisa Phrommany

Physical Science

Jennifer Engeldinger
Ashley Zeller
Nathan Harding

Some pictures from the 2004 Middle School Science Fair

(More pictures available at the EPJ Web Site, select School Photos)



Double Amputee Addresses EPJ Student Body

by Daryl Fletcher, 7-8 Science

The students in sixth through twelfth grade had the opportunity to listen to Brandon Carmichael in a very moving assembly held Friday, December 3, in the high school gymnasium. Carmichael, a Fargo, North Dakota, native, spoke freely about how he contracted Buerger's Disease as an eighteen-year-old high school student.

Carmichael is now a sophomore student at Minnesota State University-Moorhead majoring in mass communications. He now attends college as a part-time student and delivers his life story on how smoking has affected his life.

He started smoking at the age of fifteen and developed Buerger's Disease as a senior in high school. Buerger's Disease is a circulatory system problem which results in blocking the flow of blood to the body's extremities. As a result, he had to have both legs amputated just below the knee. He currently walks with the aid of two prostheses.

He spoke to the students and urged them to really consider seriously the decision to use tobacco products. He blames no one for his current situation except himself. He feels badly for the pain he has caused his parents, family, and friends. He does not want people to feel sorry for him because he wants them to devote their efforts toward encouraging young people to continue not using tobacco in any form.

Although his presentation included some graphic photos of his diseased feet and legs, his message clearly grabbed the attention of the students. He did forewarn students prior to the presentation of the photographs which showed how each foot and leg succumbed to the disease.

Based on the feedback from numerous students, this presentation was one of the better ones held at our school. Quotes such as, "that would certainly make it easy not to use tobacco," "why would anyone ever smoke?" and "you would be silly to smoke after watching that" were made by students in attendance.

This presentation was made possible by the EPJ Activities Boosters, the EPJMS Student Council, EPJ Schools, and the Hometown

Discourse Software

by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

During January, members of the Elk Point-Jefferson staff will receive training in the use and implementation of Discourse software. Discourse software is published by ETS, which also produces educational testing and evaluation products such as the SAT, GRE, and Praxis examination for new teachers.

The secondary staff at the Watertown School District makes extensive use of Discourse software in its laptop program. Mrs. Limoges and I attended a product briefing and demonstration which was hosted by the Watertown School District and were impressed by the power and potential ease of use of the software.

I would like to preface my attempt to describe Discourse by paraphrasing the spokesperson at the Watertown presentation: It is much easier to *demonstrate* the use of Discourse than to attempt to explain *its use*.

Portable computers are used by teachers and students in a Discourse class. The "teacher view" allows the instructor to send prepared lessons or questions to students. The real beauty of the software lies in the fact that a teacher has the ability to do a real-time, formative assessment of every student's comprehension of a topic or concept. The software allows a teacher to view all students' responses to a discussion prompt. This feature guarantees all students a chance to be "heard" during a class discussion. Teachers have the option of displaying student responses for further discussion. Discourse can also be used as a vehicle for testing and Internet management.

Discourse software can be used in nearly every subject area in grades K-12. Staff members who have previewed Discourse are very excited about its potential; it should prove to be a valuable addition to our collection of teaching tools.

Comprehensive information and online videos can be found at <http://www.ets.org/discourse/>.

USAF Band to Perform at EPJ

by Jeremy Schutter, 5-12 Band

The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band will be performing a concert on Friday, February 25, 2005, at 7 P.M. in the EPJ Middle School Gym. Below, you can read some general information about the band from their web site:

http://www.offutt.af.mil/Assoc_Units/Band/index.htm.

The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band stationed at Offutt Airbase near Omaha, NE, is known throughout the United States for its outstanding performances and recordings. This 60-member unit, representing the finest and most dedicated Air Force professionals, has set the standard for musical excellence in today's military.

The unit's broad spectrum of music ranges from classical to contemporary and from jazz to rock and country. Its various musical components perform over 450 concerts annually, touring extensively and performing for hundreds of civilian and military audiences.

All concerts are free and open to the public and are attended by the most receptive and appreciative audiences you can imagine. Audiences range from small groups of civic and military leaders and foreign heads of state to student, hometown, and state fair crowds numbering in the thousands. Performance sites are just as diverse: concert halls, recital halls, high school gymnasiums, classrooms, outdoor band shells, and sports arenas.

United States Air Force Heartland of America Band concerts are presented in support of both community relations and Air Force recruiting in the community.

Mark your calendar for an exciting night of music, and we hope to see you at EPJ February 25!! This concert is sponsored by the EPJ Music Boosters and EPJ Music Department.

National Honor Society Holds Induction . . . *by Rita Ahmann, NHS Advisor*

The annual induction ceremony of the Husky Chapter of the National Honor Society was held on Tuesday, November 16, in the high school commons.

This year's officers were installed by advisor Rita Ahmann in the first part of the ceremony. Justin Schmidt is president; Jason Donnelly, vice-president; Brooke Turkleson, secretary; and Robert Curry, treasurer.

The remainder of the ceremony was led by the returning National Honor Society members. A description of the four characteristics of NHS was read by Jason Donnelly (character), Jennifer Mead (scholarship), Brooke Turkleson (leadership), and Anne Rosenbaum (service). Katie Buum, Debbie Gray, and Robert Curry read a short biography of each new member, and Bethany Peter read the poem "The Candle." A special adult of the inductee's choosing presented each new member with his/her membership card and pin.



Zach Harkness Competes in Japan . . . *by Anne Fehr, 9-12 Resource Room*

Zach Harkness, a new student to the halls of Elk Point-Jefferson High School, has an opportunity of a lifetime to go to Japan in February of this school year. Zach has been participating in the Special Olympics through his previous school at West Point, Nebraska. Zach enjoys competing in several Special Olympic events including track, soccer, bachi, and swimming, but has excelled in the 100 and 200 snowshoeing events and has earned his way to the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games which will take place February 26-March 5, 2005, in Nagano, Japan.

To prepare for his event, Zach trained the first several days of December at Copper Mountain, Colorado, near Denver. His coaches for the camp scheduled a rigorous routine including an early morning team walk/jog, warm-ups, skill drills, relay work, conditioning drills, fitness room workouts, and time trials. Zach will need to continue his training while waiting for his next competition, which will be held in Atchison, Kansas, in January.

When in Japan, Zach will be housed in Chino City, which is located in middle-eastern Nagano Prefecture. Chino City lies at the base of the Yatsugatake Mountains and is located about one-and-a-half mile's drive from Nagano City. The snowboarding and snowshoeing teams will share housing at Chino City. Other events that will be held in the winter games are floor hockey, speed skating, alpine skiing, figure skating, and cross country skiing.

We want to wish Zach good luck as he embarks on his snowshoeing adventures this school year.



Meeting Date Set to Plan Next Middle School 2006 NY-DC Trip

by Patty Skinner, 7-8 Language Arts

Sixth through eighth grade students and parents are encouraged to attend a meeting Thursday, February 10, as plans are being made for the June 2006 Middle School Trip to the East coast. This is just an informational meeting. Attendance does not commit anyone to the trip.

We are considering a change to another reputable company that offers more for a cheaper price. If plans go the way we want, the students and chaperones will fly into Boston and then take a bus to New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. This is a seven-day and six-night trip.

There are no fundraisers for this event. The expense lies with the individual families and students. That is why we are starting early. The company offers three payment plans to help families.

Again, please come to listen with no commitments. This is truly a trip of a lifetime that not only lets students explore our nation's history but also to have fun with their friends.



Second Graders Visit Care Center

by Carol King, Second Grade

The second grade students from EPJ serenaded the residents of the Prairie Estates Care Center on November 22. They sang Albuquerque Turkey and several other turkey songs to entertain the residents.

Holiday Concerts Spread Good Cheer . . . by Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal



The students in grades 5-12 have been singing and dancing to the holiday beat the last few weeks in November and December. The 5th-8th graders performed on Thursday, December 16. "Holiday Wishes," a musical, featured narrators Mackenzie Klinkhammer, Ethan Pace, Ryan Brandt, Bailey Johns, Emily Connelly, Lanie Florke, Chris Pierce, Michelle Corio, Tyler Hall, Courtney Nusbaum, Riley Braun, Katie Hargadine, Ryan Donnelly, Danielle Gille, Allyson Murphy, Zak Heaton, Scott Shanks, and Lexie Branson.



The High School Choir performed their holiday selections on Tuesday, December 14, and were accompanied by special guests Pete Murray and choir member Curt Truhe on percussion. Volunteers from the young men's barbershop group, Kyle Hanson, Doug Dailey, Darin Schmidt, Chris Tow, Casey DeBuhr, and Adrian Ries, provided entertainment at Wel-Life's holiday party on December 2.

What is Mole Day? . . . by Melanie Norris, H.S. Science



Celebrated annually on October 23 from 6:02 A.M. to 6:02 P.M., Mole Day commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}), which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. Mole Day was created as a way to foster interest in chemistry. Schools throughout the United States and around the world celebrate Mole Day with various activities related to chemistry and/or moles. At EPJ, students in Mrs. Norris' classroom celebrated Mole Day in great fashion. Since Mole Day was on a Saturday, students were able to put down their books and celebrate science on October 22. The seniors in Advanced Chemistry took part in the Avogadro Cup. They competed in a balloon race, water contest, mole-in-one golf, a basketmole shoot out and jello slurping competition. Juniors in chemistry created moles of their own using tin foil and participated in the 2nd Annual Husky Mole-a-thon. Even the freshmen were able to participate. They completed



Notes from the Drama Department . . . by Lori Hawley, Drama Director

Tryouts were held November 22-24 for the 1-Act Play, a comedy entitled "Check Please" by Jonathan Rand, which will be performed at Region 1-Act Play Contest in Yankton on Tuesday, January 25. Cast members are as follows: Adrian Ries, Katie Buum, Kreighton Stokely, Tommi Hanson, Jon Rarrat, Bethany Peter, Eric VanRoekel, Genevieve Stalvig, Kale Nelson, Maxine Harding, Karley Sieverding, Mike Brandt, Stephanie Reed, Hope Metzgar, and Kelsey Mapstone. Assistant Directors for the production are Anne Rosenbaum and Debbie Gray.

From the Desk of Mrs. Stabe & Mrs. Chavez

Ecology—In Ecology, the students have finished a study on biomes of the world. They were divided into groups and designed a freestanding board that portrayed information about their biome. They then took this information and invited the fifth graders to come and learn about the different biomes. Each biome group gained a wealth of information and also participated in various hands-on activities such as sand paintings in the desert, tasting caribou from the tundra, drinking monkey juice from the rainforest, creating bracelets from the baobab tree, and identifying various animal prints from the taiga. To the right are some pictures of the Ecology students interacting with the fifth graders during the biome presentations. Overall, the project was a success. The fifth graders loved the interaction with the Ecology students and the information they learned about the biomes, and the Ecology students truly enjoyed playing the role of a teacher for the day.



Biology—In Biology students are beginning a unit on cells. Each student will construct a 3-D model of either a plant cell or an animal cell. Students will be scavenging around their homes looking for everyday items that look like mitochondria, Golgi bodies, ribosomes, and many other organelles. This is an opportunity to showcase their creativity and to learn how to identify the parts of a cell.



Anatomy—After studying the integumentary system, these students produced a clinical brochure explaining a particular skin disease. Diseases chosen included psoriasis, warts, boils, and ringworm. The students researched their chosen disease, produced a clinical brochure regarding that disease, and then taught their classmates about the skin condition via a PowerPoint presentation. The brochures were supposed to be modeled after the type of informational brochure one might find in a physician's office, and these students rose to the challenge. Their brochures were informative, attractive, and well-organized.

Freshman Sings with Honors Choir . . . by Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal

Adrian Ries, freshman at EPJ, has been chosen to sing with the South Dakota Junior Honors Choir. He will be representing our school and community in Rapid City on Friday, January 21, and Saturday, January 22.

The Honors Choir consists of 96 of the best seventh, eighth, and ninth grade singers from across the state. Adrian auditioned by tape in October and will be singing bass.

JH Quiz Bowl . . . by Selene Van Wyk, Coordinator/Advisor



On Friday, November 5, twenty-four junior high teams participated in the Annual EPJ JH Quiz Bowl. The twenty-four teams, consisting of four students per team, participated in three preliminary rounds. The top three scoring teams advanced to the final rounds. The teams advancing on were Team 7 – Ryan Brandt, Megan Weidner, Hayley Zamzow, and Ross Rosenbaum; Team 14 – Cole Irwin, Kyle Limoges, Josh Gross, and Nick Bottger; and Team 20 – Andrew Rosenbaum, Nathan Harding, Emily Connelly, and Lanie Florke.

After a round robin of play, Team 7 placed third with 100, Team 14 placed second with 150, and Team 20 answered the most questions correctly, scoring 170 points. Congratulations, Team 20, on your victory!

EPJ's Secret Santas at it Again . . . by Jan Baagoe, FAC

'Tis the season for joy and happiness. The Family Living class has been busy all year long raising funds to continue their community service project that has become a tradition for the past 11 years. Seven students and their teacher Mrs. Baagoe, assisted by student teacher Ms. Sarah Bonnickson,



ventured to Sioux City to shop for eleven EPJ families. We focus primarily on clothing needs for families needing assistance for the holidays. The high school students have a budget to work with and put their shopping and decision-making skills to the test. The gifts will all be wrapped and ready for the families before Christmas break. In addition to our families, this year we also bought several items from a wish list for the Council of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence to donate to their agency. We truly know the meaning of "shop 'til you drop," but better yet, the feeling you get knowing that you made someone's Christmas brighter. Happy Holidays to all.



Students Challenged . . . by Selene Van Wyk, Advisor

Two teams, one junior high team, grades 7-9 (pictured below), and one high school team, grades 10-12 (pictured to right) from Elk Point-Jefferson School, participated in the December 8 Knowledge Master Open competition. The competing high school team scored 1,036 out of a possible 2,000 points. They placed 5th out of eight SD schools, with the first place team being Aberdeen Central scoring 1,455. The junior high division placed first with 1,287 out of the possible 2,000 points. They were followed by Roncalli Junior High with a score of 1,123.

The 18 students participating on the junior high team were 7th grade – Ryan Brandt, Allyson Murphy, Ross Rosenbaum, Ben Staum, Colin Viereck, Megan Weidner, Hayley Zamzow; 8th grade – Chelsey Borchardt, Nick Bottger, Luke Frankl, Chris Hasenbank, Molly Hammitt, Andrew Rosenbaum; 9th grade – Michael Brandt, John Frankl, Myles Larsen, Alex Pedersen, and Adrian Ries.



Students on the high school team were 10th grade – Eric Brandt, Doug Dailey, Kyle Hanson, Darin Schmidt; 11th grade – Joe Frankl, Daschle Larsen, Michael Nebelsick; 12th grade – Jason Donnelly, Brooke Turkleson, and Ross Wilcox.

The Knowledge Master Open was designed to stimulate enthusiasm for learning and recognition for academic accomplishment. The contest runs on classroom computers to allow all schools the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. Results of the contest are tabulated into overall, state, and enrollment-size rankings by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado publishing firm that hosts the even. Contest results and example questions are available at www.greatauk.com.

EPJ Has a Successful Football Season . . . *by Rahn Bertram, Head Football Coach*

The EPJ football team ended a very good year with a 7-1 regular season, hosting the first playoff game in EPJ history defeating Beresford 24-6 before losing to eventual state champion Howard 28-9 on a cold rainy night. The EPJ Huskies made the playoffs for the second straight season as well as recording the most wins in a season in school history (8).

We will return fifteen letter winners next year, including twelve players who started or saw significant playing time either on offense or defense during the year. We have some very talented young athletes coming up who will have to step up and fill some big shoes next year, and I am confident they can rise to the challenge!

The Huskies averaged 286 total yards per game on offense while holding their opponents to 167.8 yards. We outscored our opponents 329-99, averaging nearly 33 points per game while holding our opponents to only 9.9 per game.

Leading the Huskies on offense was Jason Donnelly with 1,012 yards rushing, 369 yards receiving, and nineteen touchdowns; Curt Truhe with 501 yards rushing, 23 yards receiving, and 5 touchdowns; Daschle Larsen with 417 yards rushing, 95 yards receiving, and 6 touchdowns; Michael Nebelsick with 70 yards rushing including 5 touchdowns, 443 yards passing with 5 touchdowns; and Grayson Pirner with 142 rushing yards (3 TD's), and 106 passing yards with two TD's through the air. Jason Donnelly led the team in all-purpose yards with 2,015 yards and 165 points scored. These men did an incredible job blocking for each other when not carrying the ball.

Defensively the Huskies were led in tackles by Taylor Forsling with 112, Curt Truhe with 84, Andrew Trudeau with 52, Justin Keegan with 50, and Jacob Limoges with 47. Jacob Limoges played the entire season with a broken arm, and Justin Keegan played in the two playoff games with a broken arm. This is a testament to their loyalty and unselfishness to their teammates. Leading the Huskies in interceptions was Jason Donnelly with 5; Daschle Larsen added 4 interceptions, and Andrew Trudeau had 2. Michael Nebelsick, Ross Wilcox, and Grayson Pirner also added 1 interception respectively. The Husky offensive and defensive lines played extremely well this season and were the foundation for an offense that gained 2,860 yards of total offense. These young men are the unsung heroes of football

and do their job in a quiet but devastating manner. Teammates in the trenches were Taylor Forsling, Justin Keegan, Mark Donnelly, Tim Jastram, Josh Rupp, Justin Kyte, Jacob Limoges, Joseph Frankl, and Nick Larson. These guys don't get the stats or the glory, but they are the heart and soul of this football team, and their teammates know it.

As a team this year, we broke twelve school records and twenty individual records. These can be found on our web site under football.

Jason Donnelly earned 1st Team All-State honors for the second year in a row as a running back this year and last year as a kicker as well as being named to the Argus Leader Elite 45 All-State team. Jason was 3/5 in field goals, including a 37 yarder, 36/38 extra points. Jason is the first two-time 1st team All-State football player from EPJ. Tim Jastram and Taylor Forsling were both named to the 11B All-State team as a tackle and linebacker respectively. Tim was also named to the Argus Leader Elite 45 honorable mention team. Taylor led the defense this year with 112 tackles. Congratulations Jason, Tim, and Taylor!

Daschle Larsen, Jason Donnelly, Tim Jastram, Curt Truhe, and Taylor Forsling were selected the Big Sioux All-Conference team, while Mark Donnelly, Justin Kyte, and Grayson Pirner were chosen as Honorable mention. The Huskies finished 3rd in the Big Sioux Conference for the second year in a row.

I am tremendously proud of the hard work and dedication these young men put in throughout the year. They have dedicated themselves to a winning tradition, and I have no doubt they will uphold that tradition. I would also like to thank all of our assistant coaches, Rob Lewis, David Dohn, Justin Clercx, Gary Nebelsick, Randy Bertram, and Erik Johnson, for all their time, hard work, and commitment. These guys did a fantastic job this year! Thanks.

This team proved that hard work does pay off and that tough times never last, but tough people do. These young men are a tough bunch of boys! We hope to continue to build upon this past season's success next year.

2004 Football Season Statistics – 10 Games; Record: 8 – 2 – 0

<u>Points/Quarter</u>	<u>EPJ</u>	<u>Opponents</u>	<u>Team Stats</u>	<u>EPJ</u>	<u>Opponents</u>
First	104	7	Punt Yardage	728	1,070
Second	111	34	Punting Average	36.4	28.2
Third	50	15	Punt Ret. Yards Allowed	93	397
Fourth	64	43	Punt Ret. Avg. Allowed	4.7	10.4
Overtime	0	0	Net Punting Average	31.8	17.7
Final	329	99	Number of Kick Offs	57	23
<u>Team Stats</u>	<u>EPJ</u>	<u>Opponents</u>	Kick Off Yardage	2,943	814
First Downs	106	94	Kick Off Average	51.6	35.4
Rushing Attempts	366	309	K.O.R. Yards Allowed	535	358
Yards Gained Rushing	2,399	1,247	K.O.R. Avg. Allowed	9.4	15.6
Yards Lost Rushing	88	211	Net Kick Off Average	42.2	19.8
Net Rushing Yards	2,311	1,036	Total Return Yardage	1,008	678
Fumbles Lost	4	14	Number of Penalties	56	43
Passes Completed	19	52	Yards Penalized	405	312
Passes Attempted	57	121	Penalty Yards/Game	40.5	31.2
Passes Intercepted	10	14	Total Offense Yards/Year	2,860	1,678
Completion Percentage	33.3%	43.0%	Average Rushing/Game	231.1	103.6
Passing Yards	549	642	Average Passing/Game	54.9	64.2
Number of Punts	20	38	Total Offense/Game	286.0	167.8

EPJ Activities Boosters

December

www.epjboosters.com

2004

Fall Activities Banquet a Success

The fall activities banquet was held Monday, November 29. Approximately 250 students, parents, faculty, and staff attended, and 220 dinners were served. The event was catered by Kathi Johnson and the EPJ kitchen.

Drawings were held between every activity, and we awarded 50 door prizes. Courtney Whitlock was the grand prize winner of a Husky Banner! Numerous activity awards and letters were handed out to participants in volleyball, football, baseball, softball, chorus, cheerleading, and National Honor Society.

Be sure to congratulate those recipients and stop by the EPJ cafeteria and tell Kathi what a nice job she did catering.

LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the following officers or directors. Also, our meetings are the first Wednesday of every month, and Booster members are welcome to

BOOSTERS OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

- ◆ Lora TrudeauPresident
- ◆ Leslie Erickson.....Vice-President
- ◆ Kristi Lehman Sec/Treasurer
- ◆ Kevin Connelly Board Member
- ◆ Katy Forsling Board Member
- ◆ Barb Wurtz Board Member

Concessions Volunteers Still Needed

We would like to thank all those who volunteered and helped staff the concession stand at the volleyball games. However, the basketball schedule is still a little empty in spots!

Please go to our web site at www.epjboosters.com and find a date that will work for you. Don't forget that if you volunteer and work, you are entered in a drawing to be held at the end of the year. You will be entered each time you work concessions. Thanks again to those who have already helped out.

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Upcoming Events

The new semester will bring parents' nights for boys and girls basketball, track, and golf. Be sure to attend those events to celebrate the athletes.

Fine Arts night will be held this spring, and band and chorus students provide excellent entertainment at the event. This event is also a good opportunity to see some of the artwork our students are creating.

Watch our announcement for other upcoming events.

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DON'T FORGET THE SALT DRIVE!

Remember that we will be holding our annual salt drive this spring, so be thinking about your softener salt needs. Details will be published in the next newsletter.

Photographs on EPJ Web Site

by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

Take a bit of time to view the school photographs displayed on the Elk Point-Jefferson web site. Click on the "School Photographs" link on the left side of the home page, then choose the set of photos that you would like to view. A variety of student activities are illustrated, with new photographs periodically added.



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 Sites---
<http://closings.sioxland.com>
<http://www.epj.k12.sd.us>

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

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