



# Husky News

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Elk Point-Jefferson School District

## Showing Pride . . . Taking Action

### Wynstone Development . . . *by Brian Shanks, Superintendent*

With the reorganization of the Elk Point and Jefferson School Districts in 1995 into the Elk Point-Jefferson and Dakota Valley School Districts came the determining of district boundaries and attempting to create two equal school districts. The process of creating these boundaries was difficult and, at times, even a bit contentious. After the boundaries were created, there was a period in which people could request boundary changes for various reasons. Since the reorganization, a development called Wynstone evolved about 1½ miles away from the Dakota Valley High School, and all these students attend the Dakota Valley Schools. Part of this development is in the Elk Point-Jefferson School District, and the bulk of the development is in the Dakota Valley School District. There are approximately 20 students from this development that are of school age and have open enrolled to the Dakota Valley Schools.

The parents of these children want to move their property into the Dakota Valley School District so they can run for the school board and pay taxes to the district where their children go to school. Because of the way school funding works, when a student open enrolls to a district, the state aid funding, based on a per-pupil basis, follows the child. There are three other types of school funding that do not move with the child based on property taxes; they are Capital Outlay, Special Education, and Pension Fund. The total valuation on this property is about 3% of Elk Point-Jefferson’s total valuation.

The Elk Point-Jefferson School Board is considering working with the Dakota Valley School District to move the residential portion of the Wynstone Development into the Dakota Valley School District. The Elk Point-Jefferson School Board understands the financial impact of moving property out of the district but also understands that, from a practical viewpoint, there might be some justification to allowing this property to be transferred to the Dakota Valley School District. The board is considering a 7-10 year plan where the land is turned over to Dakota Valley in small increments to reduce whatever financial impact might exist. The proximity to the school alone perhaps is enough to make it worth exploring, plus the fact that all the kids from this development go to the Dakota Valley School District.

At the November 13th school board meeting, the Elk Point-Jefferson School District is going to discuss the possibility of moving part of the Wynstone development into the Dakota Valley School District. We invite anyone concerned (either way) to attend the meeting, as this issue will be discussed with a possible resolution to be introduced at a future meeting. The school board understands that this might be a source of concern to some, and it wants to make sure that your concerns are heard either way.

### 2006 All State Chorus & Orchestra . . . *by Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal*

Eight students from the EPJ high school choir, Maria Fowler, Tommi Hanson, Chris Tow, Kyle Hanson, Kirstin Hanson, Erica Peter, Adrian Ries, and Doug Dailey, will attend the annual All State Chorus and Orchestra practices and performance from Friday, October 27 through Saturday, October 29. This South Dakota High School Activities Association event is sponsored by the South Dakota Music Educator’s Association. On Tuesday, October 24, these eight students, along with the chosen alternate quartet made up of Sara Peasley, Rachel Fehr, Darin Schmidt, and Alex Pedersen, will travel to six area schools to perform a musical tour to “show off” their talent and skill.

As in years past, the students will put in eleven-hour days of rehearsal with approximately 1,000 other students from across the state.

Music instructor Mary Schuh commented, “It will definitely be an outstanding performance. The students have worked so hard preparing for the trip. I can tell they all will grow musically from the experience and will bring back that maturity to help their own choir.”



### Fall Library Hours

<b>Monday - Thursday</b> .....	<b>7:45 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Friday</b> .....	<b>7:45 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Saturday</b> .....	<b>9:00 A.M. - Noon</b>

## North Central Association (NCA) . . . by Dan Swatek, NCA Committee Co-Chair

Founded in 1895, the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) is a non-governmental, voluntary organization that accredits 8,500 public and private schools in 19 states, the Navajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools worldwide. For over 100 years, it has focused on advancing the quality of education.

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District prides itself on being a district that is continually striving to improve and provide the best possible education to our students. For this reason, the EPJ school district has committed to being a member of the NCA CASI. Membership in NCA requires many steps that must be met to receive accreditation. The NCA process occurs in a five-year cycle. EPJ is currently in the second year. Here is a quick overview of where EPJ stands in its current NCA cycle.

Year one was spent sifting through data to help the school collectively develop two new goals and a new mission statement for our school district. After looking at test scores and other data from previous years, the district has concluded that the following will be our goals for the current NCA cycle.

**Goal 1:** All students will improve their reading comprehension skills across the curriculum.

**Goal 2:** All students will improve their written communication skills across the curriculum.

Along with developing new goals for our current NCA cycle, the staff at EPJ also created a new mission statement. Following is the new mission statement for the EPJ school district:

*The mission of the Elk Point-Jefferson School is to*

*provide a safe environment where students will be empowered with knowledge and skills to achieve successfully.*

Year two of the NCA cycle is marked by a spring visit by a NCA review team. We will have 10-15 staff members from other area schools come into EPJ and review the work that we have done in the past NCA cycle and the work we are going to accomplish in the current NCA cycle. Also, with year two, the school will be investigating possible interventions for each of the two goals that were established in year one.

Year three and four of the NCA cycle are spent implementing the plan that was put into place during the first two years. The staff will be applying the interventions toward both the reading and writing goals.

In year five, the final year of the cycle, the school district will have a final review of the school. This is also done by a visiting team. They will follow up on how the district has done with its interventions and do some research to see if it has improved our test scores in the two areas of writing and reading. Also, in year five, the process will start the beginning stages of the next cycle.

To earn accreditation, the EPJ School District must do the following:

- Meet quality standards.
- Implement a school improvement plan focused on increasing student performance.
- Host an external review team.
- Document the results of their school improvement efforts.

## Talking to your Food Service Director . . . by Kathi Brewer, EPJ Food Service Director

Have you ever wondered what your child eats for lunch? Has school lunch changed since you were a kid? Has your child come home from school upset about something that happened at lunchtime, whether the cafeteria ran out of a selection, or they didn't have time to eat their lunch?



Often parents don't know who to talk to about these questions. Well, your school food service director is always there and willing to help resolve or clarify issues concerning the school lunch program and policies. They encourage parents to be involved and be proactive when dealing with the school meals program and their child's nutritional well-being. In fact, federal regulations recommend parent and student involvement in their school's cafeterias. The following tips can make your meeting with your school's food service director more productive and effective for you both:

- Remember, you and your food service director both want your child to have a wholesome, well-balanced meal that he or she will enjoy and eat.
- Make sure you have all the facts. You may want to talk to other children or parents first.
- Visit your school cafeteria to make your own observations. It's fun to have lunch at school with your children.
- Make an appointment. We serve breakfast from 7:30 A.M. to 8:30 A.M. and lunch from 10:55 A.M. until 1:15 P.M. Please call at any other time to make sure the director will have time to sit with you and discuss any matter fully.
- Try to present your concerns in a positive manner. Everybody has a tendency to get defensive when they feel they are being accused of doing something, especially when it has to do with their professional responsibilities.
- Write down your questions. They tend to be more objective, and you won't forget to ask anything.
- Being a parent is a full-time job even if you have another career, so approach the meeting as a professional talking to a professional. Your school food service director is a trained professional in business, nutrition, and food service.
- Why wait to get to know your food service director? It's always nice when parents call to acknowledge the good things happening with their child's school meals.

## High School Guidance Department News . . . by Christine McMeekin, Guidance Department

### ACT Scores – One more reason to care.

As many of you know, ACT scores are important for several reasons. Schools use ACT scores to help make admissions decisions, and they also use the scores for academic scholarships. One use you may not be aware of is course selection. The South Dakota Board of Regent Schools (Black Hills State, Dakota State, Northern State, School of Mines, USD, and SDSU) use ACT scores to place students in math and English courses. If students receive an ACT of 17 or lower on the ACT English test, they will have to take a remedial English class. If students receive an ACT of 19 or lower on the ACT math test, students will have to take a remedial math class. Students pay for these credits, but the credits do not count toward graduation. Students can take a COMPASS test to see if they can achieve a score high enough to be placed in higher level courses.

When talking to colleges and universities, ask them about how they use ACT scores to place students in math and English courses. In addition, encourage your students to study for the ACT, and encourage them to take the ACT again if their scores fall in those lower ranges.

### Test Gear – ACT Prep Course

Thanks to the state, we are lucky to have Test Gear at our disposal. Test Gear is an Internet based ACT preparation program. Students can take a test to identify their weaknesses and then complete modules to improve in those areas. The initial diagnostic test takes about 30 minutes to complete. I will be talking to juniors and seniors about how to use the program in the next week or so.

### Opportunity Scholarship – Exciting changes for students who return to SD to complete their education.


Effective July 1, 2006, the Opportunity Scholarship program will extend scholarship eligibility to certain South Dakota students who attend college or technical school out-of-state and then return to South Dakota to attend school. Such students may be eligible for a partial scholarship award.

This change applies only to students who first attend full-time a regionally accredited institution out-of-state and then return to South Dakota to attend school within two years after their high school graduation date (or two years following release from active military service). Such students must meet initial eligibility requirements for the Opportunity Scholarship as well as continuing eligibility provisions (GPA and credit-hour load requirements) while they were enrolled out-of-state. Find more information by looking at the Opportunity Scholarship information at [www.sdbor.edu](http://www.sdbor.edu).

## Vision Screenings

by Lisa McInerney, RN, School Nurse

On Tuesday, October 3, students in grades K, 2, 4, and 6 participated in a vision screening. Dr. Ryan Arlt, optometrist from Vision Solutions, was on hand to perform a visual acuity, refraction, and lighted external inspection of the eyes for each student.



Students in grades 8, 10, and 12 were screened the week of October 9-13 by myself. The machine that was used checks near and far vision, color vision, and binocular vision.

Referrals were made by Dr. Arlt and myself for those students that fell out of the normal screening range. It was recommended that the child receive a complete vision examination.

Students in all even grades are screened each year. Any student, parent, or teacher that feels a referral is warranted in any grade can also be screened.

Children with vision problems are often not aware of their difficulty, nor do they complain or seek help. The purpose of a vision screening is to identify those children who should be further examined by a doctor of optometry for potential problems and possible treatment.

It should also be mentioned that any child who is unable to pay for glasses that may be needed can inform the school nurse, and arrangements can be made to provide glasses to them.

## Reading Counts

by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

Over the course of the past five years, Reading Counts has become a valuable tool in the Elk Point-Jefferson reading program.

Reading Counts is a software program published by Scholastic that is used in grades 1-12 at Elk Point-Jefferson. The program consists of a student database and a quiz database. Students are assigned to read books at an appropriate level, choosing their titles from a list of 4,888 quizzes.

Upon completion of a book, students take a quiz which measures their comprehension of the material. Students are given three opportunities to pass the quiz, with a minimum of twenty-four hours between quiz attempts.

Elementary students earn points for books read based upon the reading level and length of each book. Points can then be redeemed for different levels of prizes.

Student expectations vary according to grade level, but Reading Counts has proven to be both successful and popular as an additional strategy in the continuing effort to encourage student

### What's New at EPJ

Keep current with the happenings at Elk Point-Jefferson. Remember to regularly check the "What's New" page on the EPJ website at [www.epj.k12.sd.us](http://www.epj.k12.sd.us).

# New Faces at EPJ

(Interviews and articles prepared by Mrs. Limoges' CP English IV students.)

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## Todd Grassel . . . by Autumn Barnes, Tommi Hanson, and Tyler Chicoine



Todd Grassel is the new maintenance director at the Elk Point-Jefferson school. He replaces our former maintenance director Mitch McNeil.

Todd Grassel was born and raised in Artesian, South Dakota. Attending the University of South Dakota, he graduated in 1985. Residing in Richland, he lives each day with his loving wife Maggie Grassel, who is also a teacher at Elk Point-Jefferson, and his four kids, Mackenzie, Hannah, Ian, and Jack.

Formerly, he worked in heating and cooling, which made the process of transitioning easy. He enjoys working here at Elk Point-Jefferson because everyone is friendly and respectful. A bonus is the enjoyment of being closer to his family each day of the week, and it is also a closer commute to work.

Some interesting details about Todd are that he feels he is like corn. This is his favorite vegetable, which also symbolizes the comfort of home in good-old South Dakota. Because his favorite color is blue, it makes it easy for him to get into the Husky spirit. Todd Grassel is the man that keeps our school peachy clean and running in tip top shape. Not a single leaky faucet can get past this terrific guy.

## Jamie Wiebelhaus . . . by Abby Davis and Alex Staum

The junior kindergarten teacher for the 2006-2007 school year is Jamie Wiebelhaus. She was raised in Hartington, Nebraska, where she attended high school and graduated in 2001. She continued her education at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Her parents are Bruce and Julia Wiebelhaus. She has two younger brothers, Cal and Phil, and one younger sister, Laura.

As well as teaching, she is also coaching high school volleyball and will finish up the second half of the eighth grade girls' basketball season for Mr. Fletcher. Her interests and hobbies include coaching, sports, and traveling. Ms. Wiebelhaus went into the area of education because she wanted to give back to others what she had learned in her education, and she loves kids. She chose Elk Point-Jefferson because she heard it was a good school, located in a small town, and close to home. The fruit she chose to describe herself is a peach because it is sweet and squishy. The animal she chose to describe herself is a crocodile because it is feisty within but slowly approaches. Blue is the color she chose to describe herself because she is calm. Her most embarrassing coaching moment was when she was giving a demonstration on how to do box jumps in volleyball practice and she tripped and fell on her face. What made it worse was that Mr. Shanks was in the gym observing her!

Ms. Wiebelhaus loves EPJ because the people are great, and the volleyball girls are fun to coach and be around. Overall, she said the year is going super-fast, but she is enjoying every minute of it. Welcome to Elk Point-Jefferson Jamie, and good luck in the classroom and on the court.



## Jessica Sievers . . . by Hali Hutcheson, Josh Viereck, and Doug Dailey



Jessica Sievers is Elk Point-Jefferson's new first grade teacher. Her family consists of her parents, John and Donna, and her brother, Justin. Born and raised in Canton, South Dakota, Jessica graduated from Canton High School in 2001. She attended USD and graduated earlier this spring.

When she was asked to describe herself as a fruit, animal, and color, she came up with many creative answers. If she could be a fruit, she would be a watermelon because she is hard on the outside but sweet on the inside. She describes herself as a cat because she is very quiet until she gets to know someone, but then she shows her true colors. Speaking of colors, blue best fits Jessica because she describes herself as calm.

Jessica went into teaching because she enjoys working with children, and she wants to make a difference in children's lives. She chose to work at EPJ because she heard that it was a good school. The thing she enjoys most about EPJ is the helpfulness from the staff, students, and parents. Enjoying her first year of teaching, Jessica has not had an embarrassing moment yet. She said, "I don't feel like I am just teaching my students; I feel as though we are teaching each other. I really learn a lot from my kids every

day."

### Mrs. Karla Hinds . . . by Darin Schmidt, Chris Tow, and Kyle Hanson

Karla Hinds is a cool teacher to interview. She was born and raised in Randolph, NE. She graduated in 2003 from Wayne State College. She and her husband Levi have a 2½-year-old daughter named Kylie. So far, her year teaching at EPJ has been great.

Karla Hinds teaches many different subjects. She teaches Title I Math and Reading, and she runs a Homework Lab after school. The reason she went into teaching was to see the students' joy when they accomplish something new, and she gets the opportunity to work with great kids. She chose EPJ because she lives in Elk Point and enjoys the community.

Karla's life does not just consist of teaching. She also enjoys reading, camping, boating, and gardening...flower gardening. If she were a color, she would probably be yellow...like corn, her favorite vegetable. Corny, huh? She also said that if she were an animal she'd be a cat. When she was asked what her most embarrassing moment was, she jokingly said, "Trying to figure out what kind of vegetable I'd be." Hopefully, we will continue to see Karla Hinds as part of our Elk Point-Jefferson community for years to come.



### Amy Hayes . . . by Curt Truhe, Carly Rubida, and Kayla McInerney



This year the middle school has seen many new faces. One of those new faces is Amy Hayes. Amy teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies and reading and 7<sup>th</sup> grade history. She will also be the assistant girls basketball coach under head coach Daryl Fletcher.

Amy was born in Sioux City, Iowa. She grew up in Jefferson, South Dakota, and she attended Jefferson High School. Mrs. Hayes graduated from Jefferson High School in 1994, which was the final class to graduate from JHS. After high school, she attended the University of South Dakota, graduating in 1998.

Amy is now married to her husband Joe Hayes, and she has a daughter named Ella who is just one year old. Her interests include reading, watching basketball, and of course, playing with her daughter. If she had to describe herself as a color, she would be yellow because it is sunny, bright, puts light over everything, and most of all, it is cheerful.

Her most embarrassing moment as a teacher was when she was teaching at Centerville. It was April Fool's Day, and her 8<sup>th</sup> grade students tried to play a trick on her. They planted a "gas machine" above her intercom speaker. While the students were taking their Dakota Step Tests, the noises began to echo throughout the room. Panicking, Amy went to the room across the hall to see if other teachers were hearing this through their intercom. After finding out she was the only one hearing this in her room, she realized that her students played a trick on her. In redemption, she wrote a fake letter from the State Board of Education which stated that she would be suspended two months without pay, and the students would all have to retake their test. The next morning the superintendent read the letter to her class. It turns out she had the last laugh bringing the guilty boys to tears.

Amy went into teaching and coaching because she enjoys history, basketball, and working with kids. EPJ is the perfect school for her because she thinks it is a great school, and she loves working close to her family. Her favorite part about EPJ is working with the fun kids. As of right now she is very happy with how the year is going, and she is very excited to continue her career at EPJ.

### Welcome Wagner! . . . by Maria Fowler, Kaitlin Forsling, and Alisha Limoges



A fresh, new-faced 20 something is eager to teach and coach. Kerri Wagner, born and raised in Ethan, South Dakota, is a spunky math teacher with a spirited heart. Kerri is the new math teacher here at Elk Point-Jefferson High School.

Kerri graduated from high school in 1999 and attended SDSU to further her education. Always liking high school kids, Kerri found her "calling" teaching math, which always came easy to her.

Being a former cheerleader, she knew she wanted to get involved immediately. She lives with her newly wed husband Ryan and dog. Outside of school, she enjoys running, piano, quilting, and reading.

A little trivia for future parties, Kerri would be an eggplant after being asked to describe herself as a veggie. This could be because her favorite color is purple. After being asked what animal best described her she replied with a kitten, we are guessing this is because she has a sweet, playful side, but is ready to pounce at any minute.

You may find yourself asking, "Why EPJ?" Kerri knew EPJ had a good reputation and wanted to be a part of its legacy. When a job opened, she leaped at the chance; fortunately, her husband was willing and able to relocate. She loves all of her kids and especially her dedicated cheerleaders. So far her year is going great, and every day she gets to experience something new and exciting. We wish Kerri Wagner a great year and all the luck!

## Boosters Hold Golf Challenge . . . by Jeff Zeller, Activities Director

On Saturday, July 29, the All Activities Booster Club at EPJ held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Booster Club Golf Challenge at the Elk Point Country Club. Thirty-six golfers participated in the four person scramble format. Proceeds from this event support all of the activities of the students at Elk Point-Jefferson. The event was shortened to 13 holes due to the heat. The format of the challenge included a four person scramble (best shot) format but also included some zany challenges: A happy Gilmore hole (putting with a hockey stick), a tin cup hole, a caddyshack hole, and hitting from the wrong side of the ball on the tee. The results were as follows:

First Flight			Second Flight		
1 <sup>st</sup> Place -	Kevin Connelly	42 (12 under par)	1 <sup>st</sup> Place -	Jeff Strassburg	48 (6 under par)
	Elva Connelly			Corey Nelson	
	Jeff Zeller			Toni Hall	
	Jodi Zeller			Jim Kelly	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place -	Mark Turner	45 (9 under par)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place -	Daryl Fletcher	50 (4 under par)
	Dave Davis			Jane Fletcher	
	Scott Davis			Mark Hoffman	
	Doug Karper			Kim Hoffman	
Bob Davis (47)	Bob Murphy (48)		Larry Laudner (54)	Dan Swatek (54)	Jay Rystrom (57)
Ray Davis	Suzanne Murphy		Dave Sorenson	Nikki Swatek	Denise Taggart
Randy Davis	Lee Schaffer		Matt Sorenson	Kevin Hueser	Bill Taggart
Jerry Gengler	Brenda Schaffer		Jerry Wolfe	Michelle Hueser	Matt Taggart

Due to the participants, pin prize donators, and the very generous hole sponsors, \$2,744 was raised for Husky activities. Following are the hole sponsors for this year's event:

- ◆ Leader Courier
- ◆ Peterman Photography
- ◆ Jeff's Lawn Service
- ◆ DTM Electric
- ◆ Aaladin Industries
- ◆ Rugged Gear
- ◆ Southeast Farmers Elevator
- ◆ Developers & Associates, Inc.
- ◆ Lenny Huber Construction
- ◆ First Federal Bank
- ◆ Dr. Erik Johnson, Chiropractor
- ◆ Independence Waste
- ◆ Rubida Insurance
- ◆ Hoffman Oil
- ◆ Thermo Bond
- ◆ State Farm Insurance, Brad Fowler
- ◆ Quam and Berglin, CPA's
- ◆ St. Luke's Sports Medicine
- ◆ Joe Trudeau
- ◆ Zimmerman, Duncan and Cole
- ◆ Office Supply Systems
- ◆ RW Rice
- ◆ Hillyards
- ◆ Dunham Homes
- ◆ Nogg Chemical
- ◆ The Graphic Edge
- ◆ EPJ Middle School Student Council

## Library News . . . by Carmen Wilcox, School Librarian

*"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting."* Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

The Annual Scholastic Book Fair will take place during the week of October 23 through October 26, coinciding with Parent-Teacher conferences. Monday will be a preview day only, with no sales. Book sales will be held in the EPJ Library:

Monday, October 24 ..... 2:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.                      Wednesday, October 26 ..... 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
 Tuesday, October 25 ..... 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.                      Thursday, October 26 ..... 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Parents are encouraged to attend the Book Fair with their children. Sales tax of 6% will be charged on all sales. Proceeds from the Book Fair will be used to purchase additional books for the library's collection. Please come, visit, and experience all of the new books and other items available.

Do you have a preschool-age child in your home who would enjoy a story time? If so, come to the library on Thursdays from 2:15 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. Your child will enjoy that special experience that reading aloud can bring. There is no cost to participate.

Students from the fifth and sixth grades are enjoying Thursday afternoons after school in the library. The weekly Popcorn Book Club meets to read and discuss their current novel, *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Lively discussions have resulted from the leadership of Darcy Raker, a local teacher, who has volunteered her time and organizational skills to the Popcorn Book Club. The library would like to recognize her efforts. Thank you, Darcy.

The EPJ Library will be experiencing some change of hours in the future. Please check these times and dates for future reference.

Friday, October 27 ..... 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.                      Monday, December 25 ..... CLOSED  
 Thursday, November 23 ..... CLOSED                              Monday, January 1, 2007 ..... CLOSED  
 Friday, November 24 ..... 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.                      Tuesday, January 2, 2007 ..... 1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
 Saturday, November 25 ..... 9:00 A.M. – Noon                      Wednesday, January 3, 2007 ..... 1:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
 Saturday, December 23 ..... CLOSED                              Thursday, January 4, 2007 ..... Resume regular hours

## Growing Healthy Children in Our Schools . . . by Kathi Brewer, Food Service Director



We can work together to help children make the right food and health choices.

### 1. The Challenge

The millions of school lunches provided throughout the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program are nutritious, balanced meals, provided in age-appropriate sizes that meet federal nutrition requirements limiting calories from fat and saturated fat, while providing the fruits, vegetables, dairy, protein, and grains that children need to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

Too often, however, children do not take advantage of these low-cost, high quality meals because other foods—often of low nutritive value—are available throughout the school and home. Research shows that this has become a contributing factor to America's child obesity epidemic.

A recent federal law requires schools to establish teams to create wellness policies that address all foods available on campus, as well as nutrition education and physical activity. But the development, implementation, and enforcement of such policies will rely on the leadership and dedication of parents, teachers, and administrators working together with school nutrition managers.

### 2. How Your School Nutrition Program Can Help

Many school cafeterias have become reliable sources of nutrition education, providing information about healthy eating through signage, displays, newsletters, web sites, and assistance with classroom projects.

Your school food service director can answer questions or concerns you may have about product offerings, meal preparation methods, waiting time in line, shortages of favorite items, and so on.

### 3. The Role of Parents

Parents are essential partners in the health and wellness of children, both during and outside of the school day. Students are more likely to adopt healthy eating and activity habits if they see and experience them at home as well as at school. A partnership between school nutrition professionals, parents, and kids can have positive results years down the road. Take a look at what you can do at school and at home.

#### • At School

Review the cafeteria menu with your children. Ask questions. Be encouraging about trying new menu items. Have lunch with your child in the school cafeteria. See for yourself how school meals look, smell, and taste. Your school features a salad bar, yogurt, and reduced fat versions of traditional favorites—like pizza with low fat cheese and whole grain crust and fries that are baked and not fried. If you go in with an open mind, you may be surprised how cafeteria offerings have changed since you were a student!

#### • At Home

Familiarize yourself and your child with the Nutrition Facts label printed on all food and beverage packaging. Be sure to review the listed serving size and number of servings contained in the package. Many items presumed to be single servings are not.

When it comes to food and exercise in your family, is it "Do as I say" or "Do as I do"? Parents are important role models for their children. Try new foods—especially fruits and vegetables—at home. It takes repeated tries for most of us to accept new foods. Make menu planning and grocery shopping a family activity; it can help all of you to generate greater attention to healthy options.

Get involved! Find out how you can be a part of our wellness committee and help make a difference in our children's healthy future.

## We are Partners . . . by Brian Shanks, Superintendent

For the last ten years we have thrived as the Elk Point-Jefferson School District. I am a bit concerned as time goes on as I hear more people refer to us as the Elk Point School District. I have to admit that I am a bit sensitive to that and have politely corrected many people in my six plus years here. I really don't want to let this slip as we are a district that serves two very wonderful communities, and both are important in the well-being of the school district. There are reorganized communities in the state in which, after a period of time, one of the communities has been dropped when referring to the school, and it is an insult to the people in Jefferson when we don't remember to include them when talking about our school.

We have wonderful students and parents that come from both communities, and I have seen instances where both communities have come together to help out people in need. We need each other to have a successful school district, and we need to find ways to pull together, not only concerning the school but in many other ways. Both communities have a rich history concerning the traditions that both the Jefferson School District and the Elk Point School District had as separate districts, and those wonderful things should not be forgotten. We are in a different era, and we need to make sure that we don't forget who we are! We are the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies with all the new, rich, and memorable accomplishments that our district will compile. Remember, we are partners in our school.

Go Huskies!

## Parent E-mail Addresses . . . by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

Parent e-mail addresses are used to provide immediate notification of weather-related school closings and cancellations, as well as reminders of school activities. E-mail addresses will again be collected during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please take the time to record your current e-mail address. This allows us to update and make needed corrections to our current list of parental e-mail addresses.

**Elk Point-Jefferson Students Make Adequate Yearly Progress . . .** *By Douglas Brusseau, Elementary Principal*

Students at the Elk Point-Jefferson School District under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) continue to make adequate yearly progress in math and reading for the 2005-06 school year.

Students within the Elk Point-Jefferson School District's three schools, elementary, middle, and high school, should celebrate the fact that last year all three schools had 87% of the students in grades three through eight and eleven, including special education students, scoring proficient or advanced on the Dakota Step Test for reading and 75% of the students scoring proficient or advanced in math (see Figures 1-6).

The No Child Left Behind Act requires each school district to establish goals for reading and math for each year. In the 2006-07 school year, each school district must have established goals for science in each grade. Each school district across the nation currently is working to help students obtain adequate yearly progress (hereafter known as AYP) toward these goals in reading and math. The ultimate goal for each school district is to have 100% of the students considered proficient in math, reading, and science by 2014.

During the 2005-06 school year, reading and math were the classes NCLB deemed necessary to be measured to see if school districts are making AYP toward the established goals in reading and math. Students in grades five, eight, and eleven will be required to take a science test in 2007 to determine if students are making AYP in science. However, reading and math are not the only criteria used to determine if the school district is meeting AYP. AYP considers performances of students in nine subgroups. The subgroups are categorized by students who may be deemed economically disadvantaged, may have limited English proficiency, may be a student with disabilities, may be grouped by gender, or may be a member of one of the five ethnic groups. One thing to remember is that one student's scores in reading and math could affect the goal of meeting AYP for a district in four different subgroups. Thus, one student's scores in reading and math could affect the whole district.

One hundred percent of the students in grades 3-8 and 11 in the Elk Point-Jefferson School District took the Dakota Step Test during the spring of the 2005-06 school year. In reading and math, the Elk Point-Jefferson School District exceeded or equaled the state average for all students who were considered to be in the advanced to proficient category for math or reading. In the elementary school, grade 3 through 5, 92% of the students, including special education students, were considered proficient in reading with 78% in math (see Figure 1 & 2). During the 2005-06 school year, the middle school students, grades 6 through 8, had 78% of the students earned a score of proficient or advanced for math, with 89% considered proficient in reading (see Figure 3 & 4). Seventy percent of the eleventh grade students are considered advanced or proficient in math, with 75% proficient in their ability to read (see Figure 5 & 6). Overall, the Elk Point-Jefferson School District had 87% of its students score in the advanced to proficient range in reading and 83% in math (see Figure 7 & 8).

Figure 1:

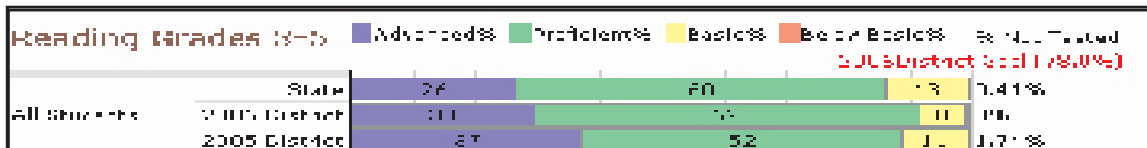


Figure 2:

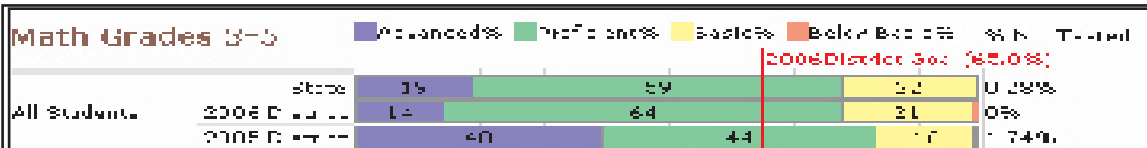


Figure 3:

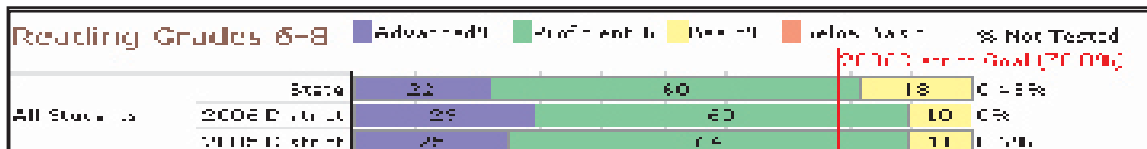


Figure 4:

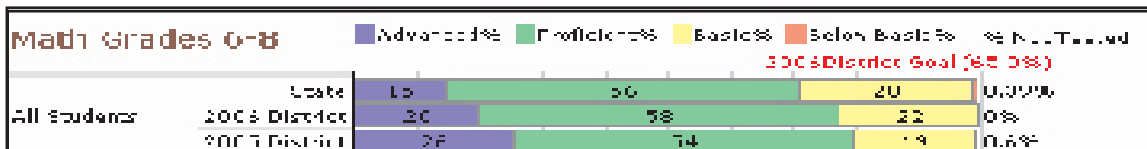


Figure 5:





Figure 6:

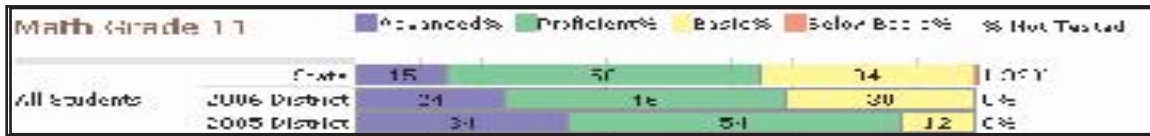


Figure 7:

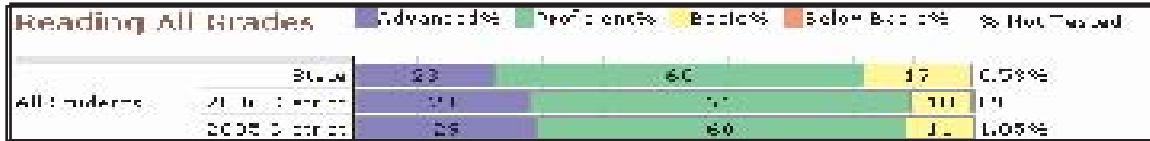
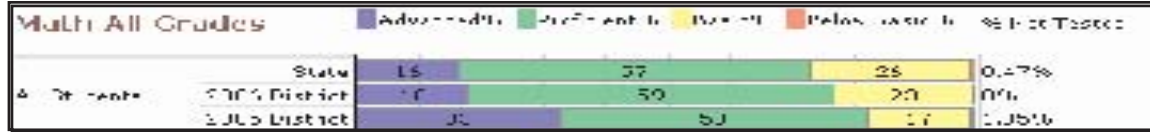


Figure 8:



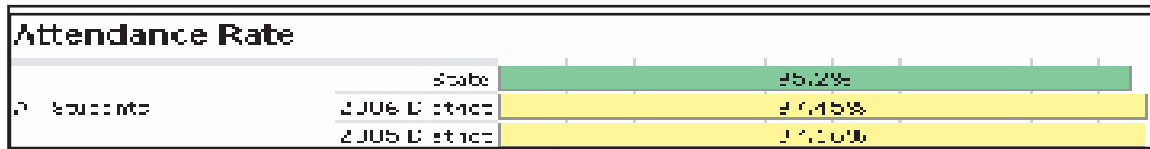
The students, community, and educational staff should be proud of themselves for the academic achievement the students attained during the 2005-06 school year. The efforts by students, instructional staff, and parents demonstrate a commitment to ensure that students are making AYP in the Elk Point-Jefferson School District.

Each school district is required to review the educational achievement of the different student groups that make up the student population. The different subgroups that school districts must review are the different ethnic backgrounds of students, economic considerations, limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, mobility of students, and the differences of achievement related to gender.

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District ethnic, limited English proficiency population is too small to be of consideration at this time. This may change in the near future. Students, district-wide, who were considered economically disadvantaged demonstrated that the district was meeting the AYP for this year in math and reading. Students with disabilities, who are required to take the same test as all other students, improved over the past in their goal to meet AYP for the year. The differences between achievement of males and females were minimal in both reading and math for the 2005-06 school year.

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District and the state may select additional indicators of AYP that reflect the values of the state. The school district and most South Dakotans place a high value on attendance in school and in the work force after school. In Figure 9, the data shows the Elk Point-Jefferson School District student attendance for the school district in 2005-06 was 97.45%, a slight increase over the 2004-05 school year which was 97.16%.

Figure 9:



Graduation rate is the second indicator that many South Dakotans value. The Elk Point-Jefferson School District graduation rate for the 2005-06 school year has shown an increase from 2004-05 (see Figure 10).

Figure 10:



The last area of the NCLB requires that all schools must employ highly qualified teachers in the core classes of reading, math, science and language arts. The definition of a highly qualified teacher, at a minimum, is one who has a bachelor's degree from a college, has a teaching certificate from the state, and has taught for three years or has taken the Praxis test in one of the core subjects. For the 2005-06 school year, all members of the Elk Point-Jefferson School District staff met the standard as highly qualified. If you have questions about the qualifications of your child's teacher, you may contact Superintendent Brian Shanks.

Remember, using test data requires understanding and care and is only one indicator of how a student is doing in school. Test results will be used by the school district to assist in developing a road map to reach the goals established by the district to have all students be considered proficient or advanced in reading, math, and science by the year 2014. As the school district develops a picture of the student needs based on this test and other sources of information, the curriculum map will provide a clear picture of the school district's direction.

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

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

## Preparing for the Flu Season . . . by Lisa McInerney, RN, School Nurse

It is that time of year again! We need to prepare for the 2006-07 flu season.

The flu is a respiratory illness caused by influenza virus. It can cause mild to severe illness. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each fall. Following are the CDC recommendations for the flu vaccine:

1. Children aged 6 to 59 months.
2. Women who will be pregnant during the influenza season.
3. Persons aged > 50 years.
4. Children and adolescents (ages 6 months-18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after a flu infection.
5. Adults and children who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma.
6. Adults and children who have any condition that can compromise respiratory function.
7. Nursing home residents.
8. Persons who live with or care for persons at high risk for influenza-related complications, including healthy household contacts and caregivers of children 0-59 months.
9. Health care workers.

The optimal time to receive the flu vaccine is late October – December. During the 2005-06 flu season in South Dakota, the first case of the flu was identified the last week of October. Following this case, detection remained low until January. Activity then steadily increased until the peak was reached during the first full week of March. This coincided with the peak in national influenza data. Every year in the United States, on average 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu.

Symptoms of flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches.

Complications of flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes. Following are the most important preventative steps you can take:

1. Wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap, especially after you cough or sneeze.
2. Cough into your elbow, not hands where there are more bacteria and viruses through touch.
3. Disinfect hot spots. Kids can touch up to 300 surfaces in 30 minutes, so be sure to disinfect surfaces like the doorknobs, light switches, faucets, or toys.
4. Follow good health guidelines: eat right, exercise, and get plenty of sleep to help boost your ability to fight the effects of colds and flu.
5. For school children, keep them home if they are sick. Check their temperature before they go to school.

## I am Related

by Amanda Chicoine, EPJ Sophomore

I am sure you have all heard that David Chicoine is the new president of South Dakota State University. However, did you know that he is also my uncle? During high school, Uncle David was a class officer, enjoyed hunting, and played his saxophone and guitar in a rock and roll band. His favorite high school memory was playing basketball and almost making it to the state tournament. Currently, Uncle David likes to attend athletic events, read, and work in his yard. Uncle David never thought he would be president of the college he graduated from; he just hoped to graduate. The most important thing he wants to accomplish at SDSU is giving students an opportunity to be successful in whatever professions they choose. Uncle David will be a passionate leader. Becoming a new grandpa and president of the state's largest university makes him feel terrific. Go Jackrabbits and Go Uncle David!

## Resource for Parents

by Mary Ann Michalsky, Title Program

South Dakota has a parent network available to all residents of the state for the purpose of offering an opportunity for parents to become more involved. It is sponsored by the West River Foundation in partnership with parents, school, and community organizations. It is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. If you haven't had the opportunity to view their free printed material or the workshops that they offer, please take a moment to contact them through one of the following methods:

South Dakota Parent Resource Network  
P.O. Box 218  
Sturgis, South Dakota 57785-0218  
Phone: 605-348-9276 or 800-219-6247  
Website: [www.bhssc.org/sdprn](http://www.bhssc.org/sdprn)



## American Education Week

The week of November 12-18, 2006, has been designated as American Education Week. This 82<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration is using the theme of "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility."

**Corps of Discovery Visits Fourth Graders . . .** *by Tama Zeller, Fourth Grade*

The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Missouri, which had been following the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, made an early morning stop with the fourth grade in late August.

The children attended four outdoor stations describing highlights of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The men wore 1800s attire and presented topics of learning such as clothing worn, equipment, medical supplies, animal skins, weapons, maps, and how they traveled and traded as they encountered many tribes of Native Americans. There was a large "Chinook Canoe" replica for the children to view. Many artifacts such as muskets, knives, axes, tomahawks, jewelry, arrowheads, belts, buttons, century pipes, coins, canteens, clothing, and pouches were on display to show the students.



Elk Point Community Health Clinic PA-C Pete Murray, who joined the expedition as Private Thomas Howard, was a presenter for one of the stations on medical supplies and treatments. A special guest in the group was Payton C. Clark, great, great, great grandson of William Clark, who showed the children many of the artifacts and told stories of Lewis and Clark's adventures.

Payton C. Clark said that if he could change something about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, he would change the title "The Corps of Discovery" to "The Journey through the Land of the American Indians," because there were thousands of Indians across the country that discovered Lewis and Clark.

The men ended their presentation by singing a song to the children about Elk Point, and they fired a salute of farewell by yelling "fire in the hole."

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



**Music Department Busy with Honor Groups**

*by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Music*

The music department of EPJ is buzzing with activity. This is the season for Honor Choir auditions. Several opportunities are available to send our budding musicians to state and region bands and choirs. These extra opportunities give our best musicians a chance to perform with other outstanding musicians around the region. It affords them the challenge to excel in their musical skills.

In the vocal department, Mrs. Hanson and Mrs. Schuh are recording audition tapes for the South Dakota Elementary Honor Choir. This choir is opened to fourth through sixth grades. Those that are accepted will travel to Brookings, South Dakota, in February for a one-day festival. One hundred and twenty young people will be chosen to sing together. Over 800 tapes are received for this competition. Last year Elk Point-Jefferson sent one of the largest groups of singers with 13 of our young musicians receiving the honor.

Mrs. Schuh is also working with the junior high vocalists who desire to perform in an honor choir. The junior high students are auditioning for a state Junior High Honor Choir to be held in Rapid City. In the high school, Chris Tow has sent an audition tape in for a national honor choir.



## Parent-Teacher Conference for High School and Middle School

by Travis Aslesen, M.S./H.S. Principal

The end of the first quarter is quickly approaching and will conclude on Thursday, October 19. With both the first and soon to come second quarter in mind, parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, October 23, and Thursday, October 26, from 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. both days.

### High School

Our high school staff constantly strives to keep parents as educationally informed as possible. Our staff has done an admirable job in preparing and maintaining their assignment pages. You may find these pages on our home page at [http://www.epj.k12.sd.us/assignments/assignment\\_page\\_index.htm](http://www.epj.k12.sd.us/assignments/assignment_page_index.htm). In addition to our assignment pages, you as parents have access to your student's grades at any time you wish by logging on to our school website, entering your Parent Portal password, and navigating through your child's classes. If you do not have a Parent Portal password and are unfamiliar with this option, please call the school to request your password and a brief tutorial. Our goal is to keep you as parents as informed as possible about the educational happenings of your student.

In addition, our staff and students have recently been working hard in homeroom in regards to learning about scholarships, grants, and loans in an effort to understand the importance of working hard in high school to help pave the way for post-secondary education or the work force. This is a crucial aspect as costs for college and post-secondary education continue to skyrocket. Feel free to ask your student what he/she has learned. You are also welcome to request a copy of the information presented in an effort to educate yourself about the coming financial responsibility of higher education.

### Middle School

Our middle school staff has also spent much energy in the ongoing commitment to keep parents informed regarding the education of our children. You can find the middle school assignment pages at the same location as those of the high school. Simply choose the name of the staff person from the list and navigate to the class of your choice.

In our middle school, we are preparing for our mini-courses and quiz bowl. Our mini-courses allow our students and community members to come together in our school through the medium of hobbies, interests, and job related knowledge. The goal is to help students expand their interests and ultimately their life choices by this involvement of community. Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Langle, and the middle school student council do a fine job of preparing and organizing this event. If you have a hobby, interest, or job related skill that you believe would be of interest and you might be willing to share in a small group setting to middle schoolers, please contact Mrs. Skinner at the school: 356-5900.

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## Eighth Graders Visit Astronaut . . . Collaborated by Michelle Corio, Tyler Hall and Taylor Targonski

Richard James Hieb, U.S. astronaut from Mandan, North Dakota, visited with the eighth graders via a DDN hookup on September 14. Students could not only watch and hear Hieb but also ask questions through the hook-up, although time ran out before Elk Point-Jefferson students could ask any questions.

Five schools from South Dakota joined students from Michigan, North Dakota, and Missouri for the visit with Hieb who was being broadcast from Cape Canaveral in Florida. Kristie (Rosenbaum) Maher, a 1987 graduate of Elk Point High School and director of the Discovery Center in Pierre, coordinated the event for the South Dakota schools.

Hieb not only told students of his experiences and missions in space but also about some odd facts they had never heard before. An example would be that astronauts must wear a disposable diaper on a space walk because they never know how long the walk will last. Also, they shower with wet wipes.

He further explained they eat dehydrated foods because some foods spoil so easily in space. They then learned more about the principles of gravity and its effects on the body. When astronauts go to bed in space or use a toilet, they have to belt themselves down so they do not float away.

During the presentation, Hieb also shared a video with his audience that showed the various jobs and activities astronauts perform in space.

He stressed that if students want to be astronauts, they need to earn a good education, especially with emphasis in math and science. All of his years of study and work were rewarded when he became an astronaut. Before retiring from the space program, Hieb went on three shuttle missions for a total of thirty-two days in space.

The eighth graders enjoyed this experience and were appreciative to participate in the live broadcast with Astronaut Hieb.

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## Upgrade in Software Could Affect Access to Parent Portal . . . by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

Internet Explorer 7.0 is now available. Problems accessing the Infinite Campus Parent Portal using this newer version of Internet Explorer have been reported. These issues will be resolved in the next release of Infinite Campus. It has been advised that in the interim, parents either remain with Internet Explorer 6.0, or download and use the Firefox browser if problems are experienced when accessing the Parent Portal while using Internet Explorer 7.0. Firefox is a free download from <http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/>.

**Students Travel to East Coast . . .** *by Patty Skinner, Group Organizer*

Thirty-two middle school students, along with nine adults, traveled to the East Coast May 31-June 6. The group visited Boston and Salem, Massachusetts, before heading to New York City, Philadelphia, and finally Washington, DC.

Highlights included the Witch Museum in Salem, Paul Revere's home and the Old North Church in Boston, the Statue of Liberty, the *Lion King* and a Mets vs. Giants baseball game in New York, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, and the Capitol Building and White House in Washington.

The trip proved educational and fun for all the participants. Plans are now being made for the 2008 East Coast Tour for grades seven, eight, and nine. All participants are responsible for funding their own trips.

Students will see a PowerPoint of this year's trip during their Mini Courses on November 3. An organizational meeting will be held in February for parents and students.

Further information will be in the next newsletter and notes sent home with the students.



EPJ students taking a break.



Participants gather around one of the newest statues in Salem, Samantha from the television show **Bewitched**.



EPJ participants taking ferry boat to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

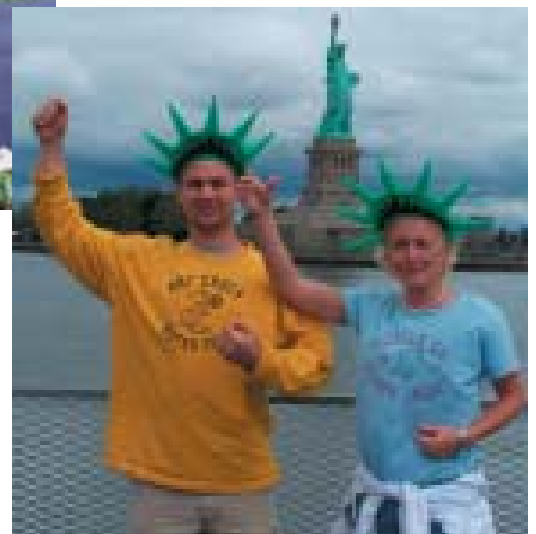


Sculpture that survived when Twin Towers collapsed on 9/11. It is now located in Battery Park as a symbol of survival.

*Start planning now for the 2008 East Coast Tour!*



A favorite eating place for the participants was Ben's Chili Bowl in Washington, DC.



The Swatek's pose in front of the Statue of Liberty for a picture.

## Greetings from Mrs. Stabe, H.S. Science

**Biology:** These past four weeks, you may have seen some biology students roaming around town collecting leaves. The students have been working on putting together a leaf book for class, which compliments a unit that we have done on taxonomy and classification. This is the project that I usually hear the most grumbling over, but in the end it is the project that they take the most pride in. The students in the past have always done an excellent job on this long-term project, and I look forward to once again testing my tree expertise with correcting them.

**Anatomy:** In anatomy, the students have been studying the basic unit of life—cells. They learned all of the parts of the cells and their functions, in addition to learning how things move into and out of their cells. They now know the scientific reason behind why they shouldn't throw a catfish from the Big Sioux into their salt water tank at home, or why they can smell lunch all the way across the school building. To compliment this lesson, the students made an analogy poster and found items in a magazine that represented the functions of each organelle. This helped them visually tie together a function with the part.

Organ and tissue donation is an incredible gift of life. Just one organ and tissue donor can provide life-saving or life-enhancing transplants to more than 50 people. There are nearly 84,000 men, women, and children who are on a national waiting list for organ transplants, and thousands die every year because there are too few organ donors. We are all asked on our drivers license if we want to be an organ donor, so it affects all of us, and since education and awareness are the keys to increasing organ and tissue donation, I had a gentleman from Sioux City, who was an organ donor recipient, come speak to my anatomy class. He shared his experience as a heart recipient, informed the students on what organ donation entails, and cleared up any misconceptions and questions that they had. They truly enjoyed his story and are all proud to say that they are organ donors. If you would like any information or might have questions yourself, feel free to drop me a line or give me a call.

**Ecology:** In ecology the students once again are participating in the JAMES Project, which is through USD. JAMES stands for "joining across miles environmental systems." The students go to the Big Sioux River five times from September through December and perform water quality tests. They test the water for nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen, pH, hardness, turbidity, and total dissolved solids. This information is then sent to USD and put on a bulletin board system. The students then have access to this bulletin board system to see what other schools that have tested this body of water found with each of their tests. This is an excellent hands-on, real life application of science in which the students truly enjoy participating.

## Art Room Goals . . . by Katie Turner, 6-12 Art



It is starting out to be another great year in the art room! We have already been Cubists, Impressionists, Realists, sculptors, painters, drawers, and master craftsmen. I wanted to take this opportunity to share my goals for each student who enters my class this year. They are that each student who takes any of my art classes will gain (1) a beginning appreciation for the various styles, media, artists, historical periods, cultural and societal aspects, and components of art; (2) an understanding of the basic terminology of art including media, tools, and elements; (3) an ability to critique an art piece using the elements and principles of

design; (4) personal confidence, exposure, and experience in various types and styles of artistic production; and (5) the ability to be an independent, critical, and creative visual thinker. We will accomplish these goals through hands-on production in both 2-D and 3-D form and through reading, writing, analyzing, and reflecting on the art we create and art throughout history. Check out my web page on the EPJ Homepage for some examples of the work we will be doing, and feel free to contact me any time!



## Industrial Tech News . . . by Terry Gardner, Industrial Tech

The sawdust is flying with two periods of construction, two periods of woods and an exploratory class with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. With the second construction class being offered, we are taking on another new challenge; we are building a gazebo and a playhouse. These products will be available to the public when they are finished. Woods class is building several projects such as a coffee table, a trebuchet, a water bed frame, and several smaller projects. Please feel free to stop in and take a look at all the different products that are being constructed.

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

As mid-October rolls on, the EPJ High School Band begins to transition from marching band to concert band. To put a final thought into our fall marching season, the marching band marched this fall at the DV Homecoming Parade, our own EPJ Homecoming Parade, the Augustana College Homecoming Parade, and finally, at the USD Dakota Days Parade. At the Dakota Days Parade, the marching band placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in class B. What a fun, rewarding way to finish out parade season!!

Recently, several EPJ high school band members were selected to the Augustana College Honor Band Festival. Hope Metzgar (clarinet), Sara Peasley (flute), and Adrian Ries (percussion) were all selected as members of the top honor band. This band consists of the 70 best musicians nominated to the festival by their local band director. Darin Schmidt will represent EPJ as a member of the Gold Festival Band on tenor saxophone. Josh Reed (trumpet) and Kelsey Mapstone (bass clarinet) have also been selected to be members of the Blue Festival Band. The Augustana College Honor Band Festival will take place Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11, culminating with a concert at the Washington Pavilion. Call the Pavilion Box Office for tickets.

It is not too long now before the high school band will be loading charter buses and heading down the road to Memphis, Tennessee. We will be leaving on the 26th of December and returning on January 1. The Liberty Bowl is currently scheduled to air on the ESPN networks (probably ESPN 2) at 3:30 P.M. While we are in Memphis, we will be sight-seeing at the National Civil Rights Museum, the National Rock n Soul Museum, and Graceland. Keep in mind, the next deposit is due on November 1. Also, be watching for Official Liberty Bowl Band sweatshirt and t-shirt order forms to be coming home in the very near future. These sweatshirts and t-shirts will be personalized for the Elk Point-Jefferson High School Band. Orders will be open to the public. If you are interested in ordering, please contact Mr. Schutter or any EPJ High School Band member.

A great big THANK YOU is extended to the community for supporting the trip by supporting our fundraising efforts or by making a donation. Without your support, this opportunity could not happen. I want to recognize these businesses for their show of support as well: Southeast Farmers Elevator, Dakota Mechanical, Inc., Eye Care Eyeware, Wal-Mart (Sioux City), General Surgery & Diagnostics, Jefferson Telephone Co., CW Suter, Jim's Water Treatment, Inc., and Prairie Wave.

If you are still interested in making a donation, you can send your donation to the Elk Point-Jefferson Schools, c/o Mr. Jeremy Schutter, Band Director, PO Box 578, Elk Point, SD 57025. Again, thank you for everyone's support.

Last, we started 34 fifth graders in 5<sup>th</sup> grade band. There are 24 members in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, 33 middle school band members, and 47 high school band members. The high school jazz band carries 21 members, and new to the band department, there is a new middle school jazz band with 13 members. This band will learn the basic knowledge to join the high school jazz band in the future.

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## Music Boosters . . . *by Kathy Lawler, Representative*

Did you tune in to your favorite radio station today, or maybe push in your favorite CD? Were you able to just take a few minutes and let that favorite song take you to a different place, a special memory, or time? I think we've all been there, when we least expected it. You heard THAT song and immediately you were back in time, knowing just where you were, who you were with, and having the time of your life. Music does this for us like no other medium of entertainment. Every generation can relate to the power of music to soothe and comfort, to celebrate, to commemorate. Do you ever wonder what your life would be like without music? Imagine a party and no music. Imagine Sunday in church without music. Imagine looking at our American flag and not having the anthem to sing. If you stop for a minute, I think we all will realize just how important music is in our everyday life.

Encouraging your kids to appreciate music in all its aspects, that's what the EPJ Music Boosters are all about. Like every other group, we get caught up raising money for current needs and trying to bring new opportunities to our students. The bottom line is we want to allow music to have its fullest impact on our students as possible. For this, we thank our music educators, parents, and communities for supporting us in our endeavors to let music become a lifelong passion for our students.

As most of you know, our largest emphasis during the current year has been doing everything possible to help our band students get to Memphis in late December to perform at the Liberty Bowl parade. It is the largest project we have ever undertaken. Several fundraising activities have occurred, with several more in the planning stages. Red Wheel foods and new candle items will be offered for sale in October. Both band and vocal students will be out offering these items for sale. If you would like to purchase an item and haven't been contacted, please reach Mr. Schutter or Mrs. Schuh at the school for ordering information. All purchases will be delivered well in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Music Boosters continue to provide support to both the vocal and instrumental departments with monies to send students to competitions, covering the cost of a choreographer for show choir, and other special events. Several of our EPJ students were able to attend music camps this past summer with the aid of a scholarship provided by our general fund. Scholarships were also given to two graduating seniors.

The executive committee leading our EPJ Music Boosters this year include Cathy Teply, Sonja Swanson, MaryBeth Peter, Cindy Marshall, and Teresa Geary. Their commitment and strong leadership are the basis of our success as a group. They appreciate the help and support the music parents and students contribute to our projects.

## Local Oral Interpretation Contest

by Lori Hawley, Advisor

The local oral interpretation contest was held on Monday, October 16, 2006. Students competed in seven categories, including oratory, poetry, dramatic prose, dramatic plays, humorous, duet interpretation, and reader's theater. Winners from each category will advance to the Region Oral Interpretation Contest on Tuesday, November 14. Local winners are Tommi Hanson, Adrian Ries, Lanie Florke, Nathan Harding, Autumn Barnes, Hope Metzgar, Mike Brandt, Mel Engeldinger, Sara Peasley, and Ryan Peter.

## National Honor Society Notes

by Rita Ahmann, advisor

The Husky Chapter of the National Honor Society will be sponsoring the community blood drive on Tuesday, October 24, from 1 P.M. until 6 P.M. The Blood Mobile from the Siouxland Blood Bank will be here by the entrance to the Commons to accept donations. Honor Society members have distributed posters and table toppers throughout the communities of Jefferson and Elk Point. Students will recruit their peers to become blood donors during lunchtime on Thursday, October 19. They will also make phone contact with potential donors and will help with set up on the day of the collection. Juice boxes and home-baked bars and cookies will be provided for the donors' nourishment.

Any community member wishing to set up an appointment time to donate blood can call the school at 356-2606. In order to be a donor, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health. It is advisable to eat a good meal before donating. Please bring a photo ID with you.

## EPJ Boy's Golf Team Goes to State

by Daryl Fletcher, Head Golf Coach

The EPJ boy's golf team finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place in a field of thirteen teams at the 2006 Class A State Tournament on October 2 and 3 in Spearfish. The team, composed of John Frankl, Luke Frankl, Jeremiah Curry, James Joffer, and Mike Strassburg, carded a team score of 727 for the two-day event. This same team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in a field of ten regional entrants at Central Valley in Hartford on September 25.

John Frankl finished in a tie for the 15<sup>th</sup> place at the state meet, winning the only individual medal for the Huskies. The state tournament team shot 358-369 for the two days of competition.

Earning letters for the 2006 season are John Frankl, Luke Frankl, Jeremiah Curry, James Joffer, Mike Strassburg, Zeb Irwin, Myles Larsen, Eric Rosenbaum, and Matt Chytka. Also, participating for the Huskies this year were Allan Groethe and Jesse Hofland. All the golfers return next year except for seniors Rosenbaum and Chytka.

John Frankl ended the year with an average of 41.52 to capture MVP honors for the season. Seasonal averages for the other team members were Luke Frankl-44.21, Jeremiah Curry-44.60, Mike Strassburg-45.80, James Joffer-46.57, Myles Larsen-47.41, Eric Rosenbaum-48.06, Zeb Irwin-50.00, Allan Groethe-50.66, Jesse Hofland-53.06, and Matt Chytka-55.50.

## JV Football Gains Experience

by Scott Bruning, JV Football Coach

The JV football team has gained valuable experience this year that should help them down the road as their Husky football career continues. This group has played very well at home, with a 2-1 record. Away from home, the young Huskies have been very competitive, losing close games to both Vermillion and Garretson in the final minutes.

"The opportunity for these young players to get out and gain experience is extremely important for the future of our program," stated head coach Rahn Bertram. "They get to go out every Monday and play a full game. Many of these young men do not get to see much playing time on Friday, so they get to make up for it on Monday." JV Coach Justin Clercx added, "Practice is always good, but these players gain much more by having the opportunity to go out and compete against other schools and represent EPJ."

The JV will wind up their season on Monday, October 16, at home against Bon Homme.

## 7th and 8th Grade JH Football

by Terry Gardner, 7th Grade Football Coach

This was an exciting year for JH football, with several new faces on the field. I was one of the many new faces that you could have seen on the JH football field, along with all the energetic 7<sup>th</sup> grade players.

The football season started off exceptionally well for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team by playing a strong game against Akron-Westfield and coming up just short in the fourth quarter. After making a few adjustments with the front line, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade won 3 out of the 4 games at the Bon Homme Jamboree. The middle of the season had its ups and downs, with big plays taking a toll on us. We practiced hard and cleaned up a lot of mistakes to come out at the end of the year with a win over Bon Homme (16-0). The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team was led by Tony Metzgar at quarterback, and Jon Hasenbank, Keegan Welch, Shaun Donelan, and Drew DeBuhr as ball handlers. The front line was made up of Connor Penfield, Ryan Donnelly, Corey Chicoine, Nick Murphy, John Vosberg, Nick Oliver, Colin Smith, Mike Wurtz, Josh Umphress, and Christoffer Dyrssen. Defense was made up of several of the same players, with guys on the side to help give breaks. The front line consisted of the same linemen; the backfield was filled with Jon Hasenbank, Tyler Lynch, Drew DeBuhr, Seth Cloud, and Brendan Kelly. Overall the 7<sup>th</sup> grade had a great year learning the fundamentals and learning the game as a team.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade football team brought a lot of different skills. The front line was full of strong players such as Kyle Barnes, Ethan Pace, Casson Dennison, Drake Zeller, and Dustin Wagner. The backfield had several different option players they could use, with Josh Curry as the quarterback, Riley Braun, Brian Leitru, and Gavin Lee as their strong running backs. If the running game wasn't there, they could use their passing game with Alex Hepburn, Justin Montagne, and Scott Shanks. Despite their record, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade had a great year. They played every game strong, all four quarters. They kept every game close all the way through. They will be a great addition to the Elk Point-Jefferson high





# Homecoming 2006

by Roger Smith, High School Student Council Advisor

The EPJ homecoming was held during the week of September 25–September 30. Disney was selected as the theme.

On Monday, students dressed as their favorite Disney characters. Coronation was held in the middle school gym at 7:00 P.M. Following a selection of Disney songs by the EPJ chorus, emcees Doug Dailey and Carly Rubida announced Nick Larson, son of Brian and Diane Larson, as homecoming king and Maria Fowler, daughter of Brad and Jeannine Fowler, as homecoming queen.

Other senior royalty included Tyler Chicoine, son of Mike Chicoine; Curt Truhe, son of Don and Brenda Truhe; Cody Whitlock, son of Larry and Julie Whitlock; Hali Hutcheson, daughter of Dan and Kim Hutcheson; Emily Rosenbaum, daughter of Eric and Rhonda Rosenbaum; and Alex Staum, daughter of Dave and Jeanne Staum. Junior attendants were Aaron Gill, son of Jodi Gill; Adrian Ries, son of John and Janet Ries; Linley McInerney, daughter of Marty and Lisa McInerney; and Katie Weis, daughter of Louis and Cindy Weis. Sophomore attendants included Chris Hasenbank, son of Mike Hasenbank and Jo Hasenbank, and Maddie Pace, daughter of Allan and Terri Pace. The freshman attendants were Ben Staum, son of Dave and Jeanne Staum, and Shelby Larsen, daughter of Todd and Patty Larsen. Crown bearers and flower girls were Christopher Hindman, son of Daniel Hindman; Drew Johnson, son of Eric Johnson and Shelly Johnson; Scott Winborn, son of Andrew and Patricia Winborn; Erin Schuldt, daughter of Mike and Joy Schuldt; Breanna Hutcheson, daughter of Bob and Melanie Hutcheson; and Jess Huber, daughter of Lenny and Shelley Huber.

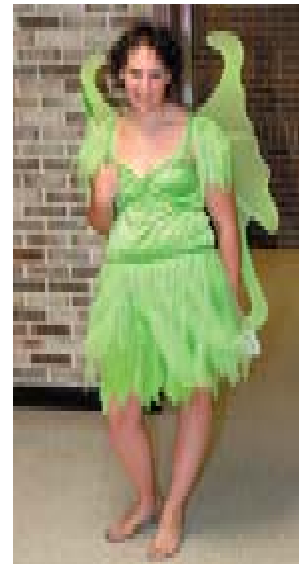
On Tuesday, the student body dressed as Pirates of the Caribbean, and on Wednesday, they dressed in crazy polka dots and stripes.

Thursday was class color day. The seniors wore black, the juniors wore green, the sophomores wore yellow, the freshmen wore orange, the middle school students wore their homeroom shirts, and the elementary students wore red. The student council sponsored a barbeque in the city park. A class tug-of-war contest was won by the juniors. Following the barbeque, a talent show was held in the middle school gym. Adrian Ries, Amanda Connelly, Tommy Bottger, and Eric VanRoekel placed first. A piano solo by Adrian Ries was second, and a skit by Jennifer Engeldinger, Melanie Engeldinger, Eric Brandt, Ryan Brandt, and Chrissy Stamp was third. Judges for the talent show were Mr. Aslesen, Senora Patnaude, and Mrs. Stabe.

Friday morning brought spirit day, class bonding, and float building. The parade began at 1:00 P.M. Parade marshals were John and Mary Curry and Randy and Linda Christiansen. In the float competition, the senior class placed 1<sup>st</sup>, the sophomore class (the Brave Little Toaster) placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the junior class placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Middle school winners included Mr. Fletcher's 8<sup>th</sup> grade (1<sup>st</sup>), Mrs. Skinner's 8<sup>th</sup> grade (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Mr. Swatek's 7<sup>th</sup> grade (3<sup>rd</sup>). The commercial club's winning floats included Load King (1<sup>st</sup>), Rubida Insurance (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Union County Abstract and Jones' Food Center (3<sup>rd</sup>).

A tailgate supper was held prior to the game by the middle school council and the Music Boosters. The EPJ Huskies defeated the Dakota Valley Panthers 7-6 in the football game.

A homecoming dance was held on Saturday night in the middle school gym from 9:00 to 12:00. Celebrations provided the music.



## Thanks to Those Groups and Organizations who Have Worked Concessions

We want to take this opportunity to recognize all of the students, teachers, and coaches who have worked the volleyball concessions this year. The concessions have been quite busy as our volleyball team is enjoying a very successful season, and the hard work of these volunteers is appreciated.

Because the EPJ Activities Boosters serves all of the district's students, you may encounter anything from a basketball player to an actor to a math whiz at the counter. So when you are purchasing your popcorn and candy, be sure to visit with these individuals and thank them for their time.

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## Apparel Update

We now have coats and jackets available. See Mona or Norma at the school or check our website to order yours now. Sizes are available for both youth and adults.

We have ordered Husky bleacher seats, and those will be in by the end of the month. These are the canvas and metal fold-up type that have become very popular at both inside and outside events.

Samples of both the jackets and the seat are available for viewing in the apparel sales cart.

Watch for apparel sales at home games, and apparel is always available at Pioneer Drug and EPI Fitness Center.

## Parents Night

We want to thank those parents who organize and arrange parents' night for cross country, boy's golf, volleyball, and football. Thanks to all who attend and volunteer to help for these events.

## 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

.....

## Fall Activities Banquet

The fall activities banquet is scheduled for Monday, November 27. We will be serving an Italian dinner including lasagna, salad, bread, and dessert, and the cost will be \$3 per person if you RSVP and \$5 at the door. This will not only pay for your dinner, but also enter you in the drawing for numerous door prizes!

Call Mona at the high school office to RSVP. Come for an evening of good food and to celebrate the extra-curricular accomplishments of our students.

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\* \* **R e m i n d e r** \* \***Parent-Teacher  
Conferences****Monday, October 23**

and

**Thursday, October 26****4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.****Pick up your child's MS/HS  
report card in the MS/HS Office****No School on Friday, October 27****Winter School Late Starts  
and Cancellations**

It is approaching that time of year when we need to start talking about how your family will be informed in the event we are forced to postpone or cancel school. The easiest thing to do is to simply go to our website, since that will be the first place it is posted. That website is [www.epj.k12.sd.us](http://www.epj.k12.sd.us), and it will be posted on the homepage in colored letters. If you don't have a computer, please listen to WNAX 570 AM in Yankton or watch KELO-TV in Sioux Falls. All the Sioux City TV stations will have the announcement, but KTIV will be the first because of their system.

Thank you, and let us hope for a good winter.

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