



Husky News

Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Volume 7, Issue 2

December 2006

Showing Pride . . . Taking Action

Huskies Girls Make it to State Volleyball Tournament . . . *by Jamie Wiebelhaus, Head Volleyball Coach*



GOALS... The EPJ Husky volleyball team set three lofty goals for the 2006 season: 1) begin the season 4-0, 2) finish within the top 2 in the Big Sioux Conference, and 3) qualify for the Class A State Volleyball tournament in Watertown. Overcoming many obstacles, this talented and determined group of young ladies accomplished each of these aspirations and earned many notable achievements and recognitions along the way.

TEAMWORK... Along with a third place finish in the SE Area Classic and a second place finish in an elite Big Sioux Conference, the Huskies earned the honor of being District 8A and Region 4A Champions,

setting EPJ up for their first state tournament appearance since 1997. The Huskies volleyball team wrapped up their season with an impressive sixth place finish at the 2006 Class A State Tournament on November 16, 17, and 18 in Watertown. Behind a large group of very supportive fans, the Huskies maximized their volleyball season, going to five games each match played. Although not the finish the team had hoped, this 22-11 season is far from disappointing when you look at all this team has accomplished. Unselfish individual efforts earned this Husky team a season to never be forgotten and an experience to take with them forever. (See **Girls Volleyball**, Page 2)

Huskies Claim Back-to-Back Region 2 Championships. . . *by Rahn Bertram, Head Football Coach*

The EPJ football team ended a tremendous year with a 7-4 regular season and hosted the quarter-final game of the playoffs here at EPJ. The Huskies traveled to Garretson in the first round and avenged a regular season loss to the Blue Dragons 14-6 in OT. The Region 2 Championship game saw the Huskies come from behind to defeat Parkston 7-6 to claim back-to-back Region 2 titles before falling to eventual state runner-up St. Thomas More 28-21 in the semis in Rapid City. The EPJ Huskies made the playoffs for the fourth consecutive season and captured their second Region 2 championship, as well as finishing as one of the top four teams in 11B for the second year in a row.

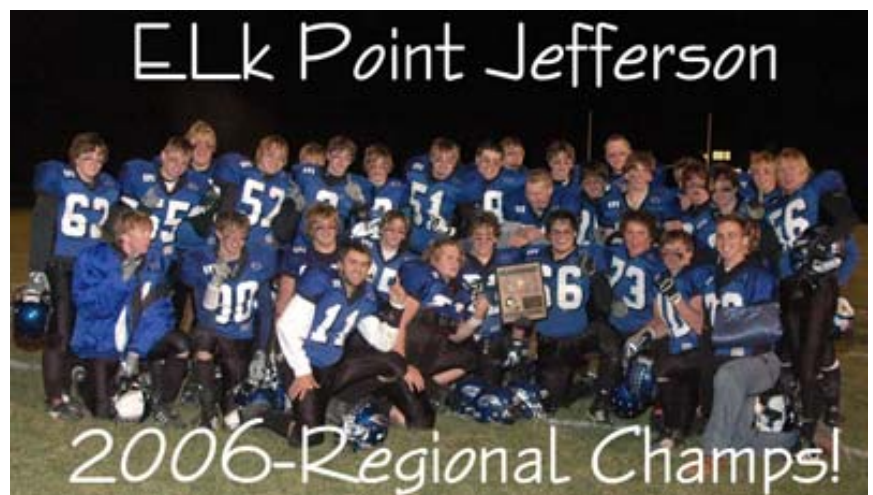
The Huskies will lose seven seniors but will return eighteen letter winners next year, including fourteen players who started or saw significant playing time either on offense, defense, or special teams during the year.

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 212.6 total yards per game on offense while holding their opponents to 168.6 yards. We outscored our opponents 130-117 and held our opponents to only 10.6 points per game, forcing 24 turnovers and giving up 13 for a +11 turnover ratio.

Leading the Huskies on offense was Curt Truhe with a school record 1,373 yards rushing on 269 carries, 63 yards receiving and 12 touchdowns; Jacob Hudelson with 266 yards rushing on 72 carries, 114 yards receiving on eight catches and 2 touchdowns; Josh Viereck with 379 yards passing; and Troy Turkleson with 233 rushing yards and 2 TD's. Bob Trudeau caught 5 passes for 42 yards; Troy Turkleson caught 10 passes for 98 yards and 1 touchdown. Curt Truhe led the team in all-purpose yards with 1,739 yards and 72 points scored. Troy Turkleson followed with 32 points scored. These young men also did an incredible job blocking for each other when not carrying the ball.

(See **Husky Football**, Page 2)



Picture courtesy of Peterman Photography

Girls Volleyball, Continued from Page 1

WORK... Five girls received All-Conference Honors for the 2006 season. Abby Davis, Kelsie Pace, and Hannah Wilkinson were named to the All-Conference team, while Alex Staum and Mary Nebelsick received honorable mention honors.

BELIEVE... The Husky team was led by All-Region 4A Player of the Year, Kelsie Pace, this season with her consistent and aggressive play at the net. Following her lead, Abby Davis and Hannah Wilkinson were named to the first team, while Mary Nebelsick earned a spot on the second team.

PRESSING ON... Making the All-Tournament team was junior Mary Nebelsick. She recorded 44 kills and 75 digs in three games from her outside position during her first state tournament.

FINISH... South Dakota All State Volleyball Honors went to Abby Davis and Kelsie Pace. Abby set herself a spot on the All-State second team, while Kelsie battled with some of the best middle hitters to earn a spot on the All-State Honorable Mention list.

APPRECIATION... The three seniors, Abby Davis, Alex Staum, and Heidi Erickson, will be dearly missed. An endless thank you goes to these three who have left their teammates with an excellent example of dedication and work ethic that should carry them into the next season. Leaving behind an excellent group of talented and experienced girls, Alex, Abby, and Heidi have left a mark on this team and have contributed to the expectation of success for next year's squad.

BUILDING... The varsity squad was not the only Husky team experiencing success in volleyball this year, as the Junior Varsity team posted a standout 15-4 season. The "C" squad also had a stellar year posting a 16-3 mark. Coach Hovden, Coach Zeller, and Coach Wiebelhaus could not be happier with the combined Husky squad record of 53-18 and the clear indication of a program with promising potential.

LEAVING A LEGACY... Abby Davis recorded 48 set assists vs. Tea this year, surpassing her previous record of 32. This talented setter also set a new school record with 837 set assists on the year, replacing Marni Allard's mark of 711 from the 1996-97 season. Hannah Wilkinson set a new mark for solo blocks with 128, and Kelsie Pace for points scored with 430, ousting Leslie Nebelsick's previous performance. Linley McInerney also tied the record for 8 ace serves in a single game with senior teammate Alex Staum.

Congratulations Huskies on a phenomenal season!

Husky Football, Continued from Page 1

Defensively, the Huskies were led in tackles by Curt Truhe with a school record of 106, Troy Turkleson with 97, Chris Hasenbank with 78 including a team high 10 tackles for losses, Nick Larson with 69 tackles, Bob Trudeau with 63 tackles, and Sam Turner with 62 tackles. Leading the Huskies in interceptions was Curt Truhe with 5 including one for a touchdown. Bob Trudeau, Chris Hasenbank, and Jacob Hudelson added 2 interceptions respectively. Troy Turkleson and Kyle Limoges had 1 interception each. The Husky offensive and defensive lines played extremely well this season and were the foundation for an offense that gained 2,334 yards of total offense including 1,942 yards on the ground. These young men are the unsung heroes of our football team and do their jobs without much recognition or glory. EPJ had a reputation again this year throughout the state as a smash mouth run team that was extremely physical up front. Teammates in the trenches were Nick Larson, Jimmy Leasure, Cody Whitlock, Marty Pierce, Sam Turner, Zac Raker, Jacob Renken, Jordan Patnaude, Kyle Limoges, Josh Gross, and Ethan Sundleaf. These guys don't get the stats or the glory, but they are the heart and soul of this football team.

I am tremendously proud of the hard work and dedication these young men put in throughout the year. This year's seniors, in their four years, have had 4 consecutive winning seasons with a record of 30-11, four playoff births with a 5-4 record, two region 2 championships, and they played in two semi-final playoff games. They were also part of 16 team records set during their four seasons. They have become the most successful class in EPJ football history.

This team has dedicated themselves to a winning tradition, and I have no doubt they will uphold that tradition in future years. I would also like to thank all of our assistant coaches, David Dohn, Scott Bruning, Justin Clercx, Troy McCreary, Terry Gardner, and Erik Johnson, for all their time, hard work, and commitment. These guys did a fantastic job this year! Thank you.

This team proved that hard work, and sacrifice does pay off and that tough times never last, but tough people do. We had our ups and downs during the season, but these young men remained resilient, played for each other on every down, and made a tremendous run through the playoffs, finishing as one of the top four football teams in the state again in 2006. These young men will have memories and stories that will last a lifetime. They are a great group of young men. It has been a pleasure to work with them throughout their careers here at EPJ, and I am very proud of their accomplishments. I certainly hope they continue to build upon this past season's success next year.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the parents of these wonderful young men. The time and effort that you have put into them throughout the years certainly shows up in everything they do on and off the field and in the classroom. I am truly fortunate to have been a part of their lives.

Cross Country 2006 Season Highlights . . . by Maggie Grassel, Cross Country Coach

The 2006 cross country teams had many achievements to be proud of during the season. The first achievement was the growth of this year's team from six to eleven over the 2005 season. The 2006 members included Jessica Hudelson, Hope Metzgar, Allison Lawler, Bobbie McLaury, Jenna Donnelly, Haley Bosse, Jordyn Hudelson, Ashton Bird, Nick Bottger, Brandon Webb, and Derrick DeBuhr. Another accomplishment reached during the season was the girls' team placed in the top three teams in eight of the nine meets.

The highlight came during the region meet at Lennox. The girls' team achieved their goal of placing at regions and advancing, as a team, to the state meet in Huron. This accomplishment has not happened since 1994. The EPJ Huskies earned a third place finish. Bobbie McLaury led the Huskies with third place, followed by Jordyn Hudelson and Jenna Donnelly placing sixth and thirteenth, respectively. Others placing were Haley Bosse (28), Allison Lawler (41), and Hope Metzgar (45).

Although the Huskies did not advance any members from the boys' team to the state meet, they were well represented with a respectable finish from Nick Bottger (43) and Derrick DeBuhr (58).

In the state meet in Huron, Bobbie McLaury led the girls' team by placing seventeenth out of one hundred twenty-eight runners. As a team, EPJ earned a twelfth place finish.

The 2006 season was filled with many successes through hard work and dedication with the intent of setting the standard of seasons to come. One team member summed it up best by saying, "We're just getting started."

Funding of Education in South Dakota (Quick Glance)

by Brian Shanks, Superintendent

Periodically, it is important to review with our patrons how the state aid formula works and how schools are funded through the different types of funds created by state law. When the state legislature meets this year, it might help you to have this list of terms handy to have some idea what they are referring to. What will make this year even more interesting is that 60 schools in South Dakota have elected to challenge the school funding formula in court. The Elk Point-Jefferson School District elected not to join the legal effort as they felt it was an inappropriate way to use school funds.

There are five categories with which a school board generates revenue; they are General Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, Special Education, Bond Redemption, and Pension Fund. Below are the explanations of each fund and what it can finance.

General Fund: finances salaries, supplies, staff development, activities, transportation, etc.

Limit Ag (Agricultural Land) \$3.03, OO (Owner Occupied Home) \$4.76, Non-Ag Z (Non-Agricultural Land) \$4.03, Other (usually Commercial Property) \$10.19 per \$1,000 valuation.

Capital Outlay Fund: finances textbooks, remodeling projects, equipment, technology items, etc.

Limit \$3.00 per \$1,000 valuation; we currently are at \$.95 per \$1,000 valuation.

Special Education Fund: finances all salaries and services relating to special education, including out-of-district placements.

Limit of \$1.40 per \$1,000 valuation, we are at \$1.20 per \$1,000 valuation.

Bond Redemption Fund: may pay for all capital improvements (new facilities) and passed by 60 percent in district-wide election.

Approximately \$2.39 per \$1,000 valuation.

Pension Fund: must be used to pay South Dakota Retirement System payments or any district retirement programs.

Limit \$.30 per \$1,000 valuation.

State Aid Formula-General Fund (Foundation Formula): The foundation formula gives each school a common amount per student (\$4,364) to form the foundation to operate financially. This is different than it was 13 years ago when each district requested an amount from the taxpayers, and the wealth of the district dictated the amount each district could raise for their school. The old request and spend method has been found unfair by the courts throughout the nation. The rulings state that all students are entitled to a quality education and the wealth of the district should not dictate the quality of education, thus the per student foundation formula.

Local Effort (General Fund Levy) + State Funding: This year we receive \$4,364 x 694 Average Daily Membership (enrollment). Local effort is what you can raise at the maximum levys in General Fund (shown above). The state makes up the rest. In our case, the state funds 59 percent of the tab, and the local property taxes or local effort funds the other 41 percent. State law requires the amount per student to go up at least the rate of the cost of living or 3 percent, whatever is less.

Open Enrollment: In South Dakota, a student may elect to open enroll to any district in the state. They must simply apply to the school they wish to attend and get approved by the local school board. The funding then follows the student to the district they attend.

See **Funding of Education**, Page 7

A New Face at EPJ . . . by Nick Larson, Daniel Hollis, and James Leasure



Melissa McKee is new to our school. She's not a student. She's a teacher. To be more specific, she's a speech therapist.

Melissa was born and raised in Akron, Iowa. She graduated from Akron in 2001. She then went to USD in Vermillion to become a teacher. She has two brothers, a sister, a husband, and a beautiful newborn son, Daynen.

Melissa chose teaching for a few reasons. She loves kids and will do anything to help her students and others to succeed. She chose to teach at EPJ because it was close to home, and it was a friendly community.

Melissa would describe herself in a few certain ways. If she could be an animal, she would choose a giraffe because she would be able to see the world. Her color would be green because it's an easy-going color and suits her personality.

Melissa McKee enjoys her days at EPJ. She likes the kids, the faculty, and it's just a nice school. She believes that her year is going well. She has learned many things, and her year is going by quickly. Let's just hope that we will continue to see her around our school. Welcome, Mrs. McKee!

New Teacher at EPJ . . . by Eric Brandt, Josh Reed, and Chris Steeg

How many times have you walked through the halls of Elk Point-Jefferson and have seen old friends, younger students, and your old teachers? Every year, teachers and students return to these halls, and some come here for the first time. Sharon Petrik is new to the halls of EPJ.

Sharon Petrik was born in Brookings, South Dakota. She graduated in 1984. She attended SDSU and graduated with a bachelor's degree and then USD with a master's. She is happily married to Jim Petrik and has four kids: Ryan, Alison, Chase, and Olivia.

Outside of school, Sharon enjoys golfing, playing volleyball, walking, gardening, cooking, and swimming. During school she is a speech therapist.

She teaches students to speak well and to practice their social skills. She went into speech because it is a happy medium between teaching and nursing.

If Sharon could describe herself, it would be in three ways. Her favorite vegetable is a zucchini because it's used in cooking and it tastes good. Her favorite animal would be a cow because it's what's for dinner. Finally, the color to describe her best would be orange because it's a pretty color, and she looks good in it.

Sharon likes EPJ because of how friendly all the students and teachers are.

When she first walked into the halls of EPJ, she felt at home. Her first year has gone fast and furiously. So next time you see her in the halls, wave her down and ask her about her most embarrassing teaching moment!



Character Counts Kickoff . . . by Jeff Zeller, Elementary Guidance Department

The Elk Point-Jefferson Elementary students (grades K-6) recently completed a poster contest. This contest is a "kickoff" to the CHARACTER COUNTS effort at the Elk Point-Jefferson School. Each student colored a poster or created his or her own poster that sent a message about why having good character is important.

Jones Food Center and the Union County Child Protection Team sponsored a winners' pizza party for three winners in each grade. In addition, Jones Food Center also passed out the posters to customers as they sacked groceries. Following are the contest winners:

K – Callie Chicoine, Athena Love

1st – Cecil Gylfe, Matthew Noteboom, Matt Harris

2nd – Katie Reynolds, Katelyn Richards, Avery Zamzow

3rd – Alicia Nelson, Hazen Gunn, Victoria Johnson

4th – Kerrey Jorgensen, Alysa Gregg, Mickaela Fortna

5th – Lynn Moreland, Dillon Streets, Keely Bertram,
Jordan Brandon

6th – Charlie Nearman, Maggie Christensen, Haylee Erickson



Your Freshman Grades Matter (Source: The Princeton Review)

by Chris McMeekin, Guidance Department

The people who don't understand this fact as freshman are the same people who are most likely to panic during their junior and senior years. When you apply to college, the admissions committee will see your freshman grades and make judgments about you based on them. Poor freshman grades will pull down your grade point average, and that's definitely a bad thing.

Imagine that you sit on the admissions committee at a college. It's your job to decide who gets into the college and who doesn't. There are 1,000 applications and only 500 seats available. That means that you're going to have to reject a lot of applicants.

You look over the application of Joe Bloggs. His grades are mostly Cs. He has a few Bs. He also has a few Ds and Fs. Are you going to want to give him a seat at your college? Are you going to want to give him a scholarship? If he didn't do well in high school, how's he going to handle college? Why should you risk it? Why should you give the seat to Joe Bloggs when you have lots of other applications on your desk from students who made As and Bs in high school? Why should you have confidence in Joe when Joe hasn't demonstrated that he has confidence in himself?

Don't give an admissions committee any reason to believe you don't take yourself seriously. Life is all about opportunities and what you do with them. High school is an opportunity. It's a very convenient way to prove to the world that you take yourself seriously or that you don't. If you don't make the effort to succeed in the opportunities you're given in high school, few people will want to give you opportunities after high school.

Some Other Factors Might Affect Your Grades

In addition to assignments, quizzes, projects, and tests, there might be other things that will affect your grade in a class. Lots of teachers give credit for participation, especially when it comes to classroom discussion, field trips, or projects. Simply by paying attention, asking a few questions, and answering some questions, you might be adding points to your overall grade.

Attitude is also a big factor with a lot of teachers. While most teachers won't lower your grade if you have an apathetic attitude, some teachers will reward you if you have a good attitude, especially when your grade is right on the borderline.

Finally, some teachers will allow you to do extra credit to earn bonus points. Always take advantage of it if it is offered. It's a great way to boost your grade. The cool thing about extra credit is that if you get something wrong, it won't hurt your grade, but if you get it right, your grade will go up.

Okay, so it's all about grades?

Plenty of high school is about grades—but grades should *reflect* your goals, rather than necessarily *be* your goals.

Memphis or Bust!

by Kathy Lawler, EPJ Music Booster

Wow, another calendar year is almost on the books! Did you keep your 2006 New Year's resolution? Do you remember what it was?

The EPJ Music Boosters are about to achieve their "resolution." On December 26, the EPJ band, flag line, chaperones, and instrumental director, Mr. Jeremy Schutter, will embark on the long-awaited Liberty Bowl trip to Memphis, Tennessee.

A year of planning and more fundraising than most of us want to remember has brought this trip to fruition. The students are excited; they've worked hard earning their trip expenses and practicing music, and they look forward to the experience of national exposure for their band, learning during the band clinics and, last but not least, the fun side trips planned during their week in Memphis.

Parents, neighbors, relatives, friends, businesses, civic groups, and our EPJ family, we could not have done this without your help. For this support we extend a most sincere thank you. The music booster board and its members gave countless hours month after month to make this trip a reality.

The Liberty Bowl Parade is on Thursday, December 28, 4:00 P.M., but will only be televised on Memphis networks, possibly available to satellite subscribers. The EPJ band will also perform during the halftime of the Liberty Bowl game; kickoff is 3:30 P.M. on Friday, December 29.

To all of our travelers we wish a safe, exciting, and memorable experience!

Dyrssen Wins Lions Poster Contest

by Pat Schurdevin, Lions Peace Poster Contest Chairperson

Christoffer Dyrssen, a seventh grader at Elk Point-Jefferson School, has won the local peace poster competition sponsored by the Elk Point Lions Club. Lions International is sponsoring the contest to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere. Dyrssen's poster will advance through the district, multiple district, and international levels.

The posters were judged on originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the contest theme, "Celebrate Peace."

Locally, Dyrssen and fifteen other EPJ students entered the contest. Mrs. Fesler (Turner), EPJ art instructor, was very helpful in coordinating the peace poster contest for the Lions Club. One grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners will be selected. The grand prize includes a cash award of \$2,500 plus a trip for the winner and two family members to New York City for an awards ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations.

Locally, Dyrssen and fifteen other students will be honored for their participation in the Lions Peace Poster contest at the EPJ School in mid-December.

Dyrssen is the son of Christian and Deborah Dyrssen.

Community College: Gateway to a 4-Year School *(Source: The Princeton Review)*

by Chris McMeekin, Guidance Department

Guess what actor Tom Hanks, poet Gwendolyn Brooks, Space Shuttle Commander Robert Gibson, baseball player Nolan Ryan, and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger all have in common... That's right: they all went to community college.

More than 11 million students currently attend the nation's 1,173 community colleges, making up 44% of all U.S. undergraduates. Community colleges, also known as junior colleges, give adult learners an easy, affordable way to fit learning around family and work responsibilities. Quite often they offer highly specialized vocational training, especially in the high-tech and healthcare fields. In fact, 60 percent of new nurses and 80 percent of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians come out of community colleges.

Community college can also serve as an excellent stepping stone to a four-year university. Studies show that students who transfer to four-year schools end up doing as well as those who started there as freshmen. Here are some reasons you might consider beginning your higher education at a two-year college:

You Want to Save Money

According to one report, the average annual tuition at a community college is \$1,905, compared to \$4,694 for a four-year public university and \$19,710 for a four-year private university. Add in room and board, and those figures jump up to \$10,636 total for a year at a public school and \$26,854 for a private school. Even with the relatively low rates at community colleges, nearly a third of students receive financial aid. It's no wonder then that these colleges are an attractive option for cutting costs, especially in a struggling economy. Spending two years in a junior college (and living at home) can give you time to work and save up for the four-year college of your choice. You might even find that you qualify for a scholarship from the school you're transferring to or from an outside organization like Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges.

You're Looking for Additional Academic Support

For some, community college is a chance to make up for a poor high school record. For others, it is an opportunity to get the extra academic guidance that a four-year school may be unable to offer. "At many four-year colleges, it's sink or swim," says Norma Kent, Vice President for Communications at the American Association of Community Colleges. "Community colleges have smaller class sizes and the priority of the faculty is on teaching. Plus there are lots of support services, like mentoring programs and organized study groups."

This support can give students the boost they need to get admitted to and succeed at a four-year school. Many community colleges have articulation agreements with universities outlining coursework and GPA requirements that, if met, guarantee admission. Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls and Western Iowa Technical & Community College in Sioux City both have articulation agreements with USD and other South Dakota State Schools.

Don't want to stick close to home forever? Community college graduates are not limited to transferring to schools within their region or state. Western Iowa Technical Community College in Sioux City has an articulation agreement with the University of Iowa. The stronger your plan as you enter a community college, the more success you will have when you apply to a four-year school down the line.

You Need or Want to Live at Home

There is a community college within commuter distance of 90 percent of the U.S. population, so convenience is a big selling point. If you have family obligations or just don't feel emotionally ready to strike out on your own, a community college can enable you to continue your education without changing your whole life.

And unlike the schedules at the majority of four-year schools, most community college students take classes part-time, leaving more time to maintain a job. A number of two-year colleges have multiple locations and offer courses online for added flexibility. Because of their convenience, open admissions policies, and low cost, community colleges draw a more varied population than the typical four-year school in terms of race, age, and socioeconomic background. This diversity is, in itself, a draw, particularly to international and older students.

If you decide that community college is right for you, try to pinpoint early what college you'd like to transfer to and find out about its articulation agreements. Meet with an advisor both at your community college and, if possible, the school you eventually hope to attend. Find out about costs and financial aid at your potential transfer school and start budgeting immediately. Perhaps most importantly, take your community college education seriously. College is college, whether it's a two-year or four-year school, and getting off to a good start can be your ticket to a great future.

EPJ Staff Members Attend Systems Change Conference . . . by David Dohn, H.S. Social Science

As part of Elk Point-Jefferson's ongoing NCA (North Central Accreditation) process, several staff members attended the System Change Conference in Sioux Falls November 12-14. The conference was designed around the idea of reflection and collaboration among teachers and administrators from across the state. The conference focused on knowledge, skills, and tools for improving our schools and communities. This focus was done through dialogue with other leaders about ways to produce a higher yield of school and community achievement. This dialogue provided a useful tool for learning, leading, and living with others in the school community. The conference allowed staff members to take stock of the cultural assets rooted within our schools and communities. These ideas are central to our upcoming NCA process and are another step in our school's preparation for its spring NCA visit for school improvement.

EPJ Successful in Reducing the Proportion of Children Who are Overweight

by Lisa McInerney, RN, School Nurse

Obesity in children and adolescents has been increasing both in South Dakota and nationally. Based on height and weight data that Elk Point-Jefferson School had submitted to the South Dakota Department of Health, we have successfully worked to reverse this trend. EPJ School has been identified as one of fifteen schools or districts statewide that have made a major improvement in their rates or have successfully kept rates lower than the state average.

The South Dakota Department of Health, in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Education, has collected height and weight data on students since the 1998-1999 school year. Schools voluntarily submit height and weight data. Data is analyzed for short stature, underweight, overweight, and at risk of overweight using the current national standards. **Overweight** is defined as at or above the 95th percentile BMI (Body Mass Index)-for-age when compared to children of the same age and gender. **At Risk of Overweight** is 85th to 94th percentile BMI-for-age when compared to children of the same age and gender. The South Dakota Department of Health 2010 Initiative is to "reverse the trend and reduce the percent of school age children and adolescents who are overweight or obese from 17% in 2003 to 15% by 2010.

EPJ school data indicates that students At Risk of Overweight has gone from 21.0% in 1998-1999 to 12.9% in 2004-2005. For Overweight, the percentage has gone from 19.5% in 1998-1999 to 16.5% in 2004-2005. Only age, ethnicity, height, and weight from students in grades K-8 are submitted to the SD Department of Health by the school nurse, in cooperation with the physical education staff.

Diet and exercise have both contributed to the success at EPJ school. The "Schools Walk" program and a more rigorous PE program have been a positive factor.

According to Kathi Brewer, Food Service Director, providing healthy foods for snacks and parties, eliminating soda and high calorie foods from vending machines, the addition of the salad bar, and increased education and awareness of how to eat healthier have all contributed to having healthier students.

Way to go EPJ students, keep up the good work!

Taking An Active Role in the School by Recycling and Collecting

The Elk Point-Jefferson School has identified some ways for parents and community members to take an active role in the school that does not require students going out door-to-door selling items. Following is a list of some of those programs:

- 1. Jones Food Center** is sponsoring a program to redeem cash register receipts. Collect cash register receipts from your purchases and turn them in to redeem for items to benefit the school.
- 2. General Mills Box Tops for Education** is another fundraising program. All you need to do is clip the Box Top for Education logos from participating General Mills products and send them to school with your children. The school gets ten cents for each Box Top collected. They also have a web site with other ways to support our school. This includes discounts at certain stores. Please log on to Boxtops4education.com to check it out.
- 3. Land O Lakes** milk bottle lids are worth 5 cents each.
- 4. Target Take Charge of Education** is one of the easiest fundraising programs the school has encountered. To participate in this program, all you have to do is shop at Target using your Target Guest Card, and 1% of the purchases will be donated to the school. If you have not designated the Elk Point-Jefferson School District to receive 1% of the purchases before, you can do this by informing the cashier at the time you use your Target Guest Card. To date over two hundred families in the school district participate in the program.
- 5. Recycle empty inkjet cartridges, printer cartridges, and cell phones.** The school district is participating in a recycling program for inkjet cartridges and toner cartridges for laser printers. This program is based on the premise that our students can earn money for our school and help recycle at the same time. We will collect these cartridges throughout the entire year. When students bring them to school, it is recommended that the empty cartridges be put in a Ziploc bag to prevent any possible leakage on their hands, clothes, etc. Cell phones are accepted, but not cords for cell phones.
- 6. Pop Tabs.** We collect the pop tabs from aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald house.

The School District would like to thank you for your participation in the programs listed above. The redemption items may be dropped off at the elementary office area.

Funding of Education, Continued from Page 3

Opting Out: A school board can opt out of the General Fund tax set levys by declaring a dollar figure, and the board can put it right to a vote, or it may require a petition by 5% of the eligible voters in the district to be put on the ballot. It must pass by a simple majority. The Elk Point-Jefferson School District has never pursued this avenue of state funding.

Other Sources of Funding for the General Fund (Significant Sources):

- Gross Receipts Taxes (Utility Taxes)
- County Apportionment (Fines on Highways including Truck Weigh Station)
- State Apportionment (School and Public Lands Trust Fund)
- Bank Franchise Taxes (Taxes on Local Banks in Lieu of Property Taxes)
- Federal Block Grants (Title I and others)

2006-2007 Budget Highlights:

- Elk Point-Jefferson spends \$5,015 per student in the General Fund, which rates us 152nd out of 165 schools.
- EPJ has 51 certified staff members, with a total of 85 employees.
- Seventy-six percent of General Fund expenditures are for salaries, only 4% for extra-curricular activities.

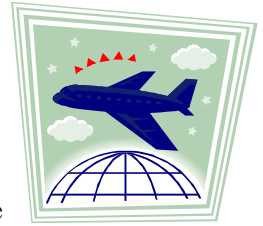
Truhe and Larson Named to 11B All-State Team and Truhe Named 11B All-American

by Rahn Bertram, Head Football Coach

The postseason awards for EPJ were a reflection of the accomplishments the Huskies attained on the field as a team this season. Two EPJ Huskies were named to the SDFBCA All-State team this year--Curt Truhe, FB and Nick Larson, DT. Curt Truhe was also chosen as the class 11B All-American for South Dakota for his efforts as a fullback and linebacker. This is the second year in a row that an athlete from EPJ was chosen for this honor. Curt is now eligible to become the NHSAA All-American for South Dakota. Daschle Larsen was chosen for this honor last year. This team is not introduced until January. Curt was also named to the Argus Leader Elite 45 All-State team for the second consecutive year as well. Curt Truhe, Nick Larson, Jacob Hudelson, Troy Turkleson, and Chris Hasenbank were selected to the Big Sioux All-Conference team, while Jimmy Leasure, Sam Turner, and Josh Viereck were chosen as Honorable Mention. The Huskies finished third in the Big Sioux Conference for the fourth year in a row. Curt Truhe and Josh Viereck were also named to the 11B Academic All-State team for 2006.

2008 East Coast Tour Preparations Underway

by Patty Skinner, Junior High Advisor



A parent-student informational meeting for the 2008 East Coast Tour will be held Monday, February 12, in the vocal room. Major stops for the trip include Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. We start to plan early so parents as well as students can start saving for the trip. Next year's 7-9 graders are eligible to go, and any adults that would like to take the trip are also welcome to participate.

Each participant is responsible for his/her own trip expense. We will work to earn money for our bus trip to Omaha, night's lodging in Omaha, and for lunch money. The rest is the family's expense.

Students heard a presentation November 3 and were given preliminary information. More information and registration forms will be given out the night of February 12.

If you have any questions, please telephone Patty Skinner at 356-5861 (school) or 356-2674 (home). You also may email her at patty.skinner@k12.sd.us.

Library News . . . by Carmen Wilcox, School Librarian

"Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations." Henry David Thoreau

Merry Christmas to all! The EPJ Library is ready for the season with our new nine foot Christmas tree. After a number of "spills" with last year's tree, it was decided that a new tree was what was needed. In addition to a new tree, the library has purchased a number of new children's Christmas books. A list has been provided below. Stop in the library to pick up some of these titles. They will be featured on the top of the children's bookshelves.

The Popcorn Book Club members have completed their semester novel entitled *Hoot*. They have been meeting each Thursday after school discussing the plot, theme, and characters from this award-winning book. These students will be enjoying the movie by the same title and pizza on Tuesday, December 19. This will be a celebration of their enthusiasm and commitment to reading. Mrs. Darcy Raker, middle school resource room teacher, has done a wonderful job of inspiring the students and providing a fun, learning-oriented atmosphere to the club. Many thanks go out to her for her volunteer time and efforts. A second semester Popcorn Book Club is in the making, which will begin some time in January 2007. The book chosen for next semester will be *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. The cost will be \$5.00 again. The Popcorn Book Club is open to any student in the fifth or sixth grades. Watch for further notice at school.

One of the sayings that goes with the season is, "Out with the old and in with the new." Unfortunately for the EPJ Library, our Alice Murphy will be leaving the EPJ Library Board. Alice has served on the Board for the last seven years. Alice's dedication to her appointment and her loyalty to the library have been unsurpassable. She will be greatly missed. Good luck to you, Alice, and best wishes in your future. We are greatly pleased to announce that Lois Taylor will be filling the vacated spot on the Board. We look forward to her wisdom and talent on the Library Board. Welcome aboard, Lois.

New Children's Book List

Juvenile Readers:

- *When Santa Fell To Earth* by Cornelia Funke
- *Artemis Fowl: The Lost Colony* by Eoin Colfer
- *On Christmas Eve* by Ann Martin
- *Christmas After All: The Great Depression Diary of Minnie Swift* by Kathryn Lasky

Easy Readers:

- *My Very First Christmas* by Lois Rock
- *Little Honey Bear and the Smiley Moon* by Tim Warnes
- *The Little Drummer Mouse* by Mercer Mayer
- *My Penguin Osbert* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
- *I'll Be Home For Christmas* by Holly Hobbie
- *Mortimer's Christmas Manger* by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman
- *Flotsam* by David Wiesner
- *Thomas' Christmas Delivery* based on series by Rev. W. Awdry
- *Corduroy's Christmas* by Don Freeman
- *Merry Christmas, Curious George* by Margret and H.A. Rey
- *The Little Fir Tree* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Olive, The Other Reindeer* by J. Otto Seibold and Vivian Walsh
- *One Snowy Night* by M. Christina Butler
- *A Creature Was Stirring* by Carter Goodrich

Classroom Expectations . . . by Douglas Brusseau, K-6 Principal

At the beginning of each school year, I try to go back to 1958 when I was attending elementary school and remember what it was like being a student. One of my memories was going to the neighborhood drug store to purchase school supplies. At the beginning of the school year, the drug store would have a figure standing by the door singing the song "School Days." The following is a part of the song that I remember listening to a number of times:

Let's take a trip	Anchor outside the school door,	School days, school days,
On the Memory Ship,	Look in and see,	Dear old golden rule days.
And sail back to the good old days.	There's you and there's me,	'Readin' and 'ritin' and 'rithmetic,
Sail to the old village schoolhouse,	A couple of kids once more.	Taught to the tune of a hick'ry stick.

After I recall the song, my thoughts go back to what I was expected to learn in the classroom. In kindergarten, I was expected to learn the alphabet, the names of the eight primary colors, and a couple of nursery rhymes. First grade through eighth grade in math, the teachers expected all students to be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. In reading, everyone got to learn the adventures of Dick and Jane. I really enjoyed some of the situations Spot got them into. In social studies, the teachers stressed the Greek and Roman empires along with the early American history of exploration and revolutionary war. My memories of science through my elementary days are a little foggy until eighth grade, but I do remember what I learned in biology as a sophomore.

Hopefully, each of you have fond memories of the past and reflect upon what you were expected to learn. If you do remember those days, take a look at what your child is expected to know today and when you learned that concept.

The evolution of what children are expected to learn started with the *A Nation at Risk* report more than twenty years ago and continues today with the No Child Left Behind Act.

Today schools are developing academic standards and student achievement by establishing standards for reading, math, and other subject areas. The mathematics standards for each of the grades has five different strands that include algebra, geometry, measurement, number sense, and statistics and probability. Many of you may be surprised about this because you were not taught this until high school. Today each of the strands provides instruction on specific skills that can be used to solve problems and gain information. The skills continue to build on each other, from basic learning to more complex learning.

Science standards for each of the grades in the elementary school include understanding the nature of scientific knowledge, physical science, life science, earth science, and technology and environmental sciences. If you have time, I would encourage you to review today's science textbooks to see what students at each of the grades are expected to know. Do you remember studying about metamorphosis in the fourth grade?

Reading has many standards that schools and students must meet for each year. The standards include decoding, word recognition, fluency, literary elements, research skills, and text organization.

If you want additional information about what your child is learning at school, please talk to your child's teacher. For other learning at home ideas, visit the South Dakota Parent Resource Network online at www.sdprn.org.

At this time, I would like to wish each of you a safe and Merry Christmas.

Elementary Students Earn Singing Honors

by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Vocal Director

Elk Point-Jefferson students from the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades were given the opportunity to audition for the South Dakota Elementary Honor Choir. The choir is sponsored by the state music organization, South Dakota Music Educators Association. Students in grades four through six are eligible to compete. EPJ had eight students qualify for a spot in the choir. They were sixth graders Haylee Erickson and Taylor Donnelly; fifth graders Hope Erickson, Ely Buehner, Skylore Curry, Jade Rosenbaum, Brittany Hanson, and Katherine Mickelson; and fourth graders Hannah McLean and John Schuh.

Audition tapes were sent in for soprano or alto position. Forty-eight schools qualified students after hundreds of tapes were judged. EPJ had the most students qualify, along with one other school. This includes all the Sioux Falls schools and larger communities across the state.

It was noted that only two students at the concert had attended all three years of eligibility. It is quite difficult for fourth graders to compete against the older students. We are very excited about the excellent talent here at EPJ. A special thanks goes to the EPJ Music Boosters for helping support this project.



Second Graders Cheer Local Residents . . . by Rachel Foltz, Dena Donnelly, and Melissa Shanks; Second Grade



The second graders visited the Prairie Estates Care Center on Monday, November 20. The students sang three turkey-related songs to cheer the residents. The class wore turkey masks that they had made during art class. After singing, they enjoyed the wonderful turkey-shaped cookies that were shared with them by the nursing home staff. The students enjoyed singing and visiting with the residents.

Christmas Is Many Things . . . by Jeanne Hanson, K-4 Vocal Director

The K-4 music department presented their Christmas concert on December 7. The classes worked hard learning the songs and instrumentation. Each grade is given a new challenge to work on for the concert. The songs are selected according to national standards and what is needed to complete curriculum requirements.

Kindergarten students are learning to keep a steady beat. The movements we do and the instruments we play all help to teach and feel that steady beat. We also work on opposites in the music world: loud-soft, high-low, in-out, up-down, and fast-slow.

In the first and second grade, we work to increase our vocabulary. This includes tempo, pitch, dynamics, ostinato, music form, verse, refrain, canon, and improvise. We start working on playing two different patterns at the same time. We can sing this (like a round), or we play a pattern on the Orff instruments while the rest of the class sings a song. We also move to music. This can be as simple as a march or as complex as a dance pattern to a song.

Third graders and fourth graders begin to read music. We talk about the similarities between reading in class and reading music. We use flashcards to learn the names of the notes on the treble clef. Recorders are a big hit for these classrooms. The concert songs involve more than one chord. Students must learn to play a chord pattern on the instruments. Multiple patterns are played at the same time. This requires great concentration and focus.

To finish the semester, the second graders will watch *The Nutcracker* ballet featuring the New York City ballet. The third graders will get to watch *The Sound of Music*, a classic in modern musical films.



Science on the Move Mobile Lab Visits EPJ . . . by Vicki Nearman and Gwen Billings, Fourth and Fifth Grade

Science on the Move is a program involving quality, high-tech, hands-on science to the students in South Dakota schools. The goal is to excite students and teachers about science and to encourage students to consider science as a possible career choice. The two mobile labs are set up in 53 foot semi-trailer trucks which travel to schools throughout the state. Bob Vanderlinde, retired high school teacher from EPJ, is one of the instructors. At each school visited, Mr. Vanderlinde sets up the equipment, instructs the classes, and assists the local teachers in making the mobile labs an enjoyable and educational experience for the students.

On Monday, November 20, the fourth and fifth grade students did experiments in the mobile lab. The fourth graders did the "Get a Grip!" experiment measuring their gripping power. Plastic bottles with rubber stoppers and a tube in them were attached to a pressure sensor connected to computers. When the students gripped the bottle, the computer collected and graphed information about the amount of pressure used over a minute's time. The experiment varied by having the students grip with one hand, then two hands, and finally with their knees. The students learned that when volume in an area decreases, air pressure increases.



The fifth graders explored the topic of household acids and bases. When the fifth graders started their experiments, they were instructed on the range of acids and bases. They were given seven different household products and ran tests to see if they were acids or bases. After they had done this part of the experiment, they used the pH sensor that was attached to the computers. They determined the pH of the solutions and then printed out a graph of their readings. After they had finished with the pH tests, they added a pipette full of red cabbage juice indicator to each of the seven test tubes. They recorded their observation. It was a rewarding experience for the fifth graders to use a wide variety of science tools.



Fourth Graders Learn the Importance of Healthy Eating . . . by Mrs. Vicki Nearman, Fourth Grade

The fourth graders have been studying the digestive and circulatory systems in science. They learned the problems these systems can have and the importance of a healthy diet, not doing drugs, and exercise to avoid some of these problems.



The school nurse, Mrs. Lisa McInerney, was invited to talk to the students as a follow-up to these lessons. Mrs. McInerney talked about the heart and blood vessels and their part of the circulatory system. She discussed problems such as high blood pressure and atherosclerosis (fatty build up in the arteries). Mrs. McInerney had test tubes that showed the amounts of sugar, fats, and salt contained in certain foods and drinks. Some examples were french fries, hot dogs, hamburgers, a piece of apple pie, and soft drinks. The students were amazed at the amounts of fats, salt, and sugar present in these foods and drinks.

Mrs. McInerney explained the importance of eating healthy and limiting the quantity of some foods. Mrs. McInerney concluded by answering questions.

Physical Education: President's Challenge . . . by Scott Bruning, K-12 Physical Education

As a physical education staff, we feel that staying active is important. When you make staying active part of your daily life, you have more energy. You're more alert. You do better at school! Through the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Program, our students are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle with regular physical activity.

At the beginning of the school year, our elementary and middle school physical education classes are tested in numerous activities. These activities consist of five events that measure muscular strength/endurance, cardio respiratory endurance, speed, agility and flexibility. After completing these events, each student will know which fitness areas need to be improved throughout the year. In the spring, each student will again be tested to see what progress has been made.

Students will be looking to meet qualifying standards for either a Presidential Fitness Award or a National Fitness Award. In order to achieve the Presidential Award, each student must score in at least the 85th percentile in all five of the events. To qualify for a National Award, participants must achieve at least the 50th percentile in all five events. All of our students put forth a great effort when competing in the events and are looking forward to improving their scores for spring testing.

Curriculum Mapping, NCA Accreditation, DACS, Achievement Series...

by T.A. Aslesen, HS/MS Principal

What a great opportunity our newsletter is to share with you the happenings going on in our middle school and high school. You are always invited to stop in and say hello, drink a little coffee (unless the doctor says not to – join the club!), or just check out what is going on at our school. If you are like everyone else, it is hard to find the time to stop, so it makes this newsletter a great chance to share our victories and challenges with you. The title of this article is intended to give you an idea of how busy a place we are and how the educational directives we receive tie together into improving education for our students. Read on.

One of the greatest challenges all districts in our state are facing is continuing legislation in regards to NCLB and how states have set the bar, so to say, in regards to the responsibilities of local districts in the learning of curriculum by their student bodies. To deal with these directives and continue to provide a quality education at Elk Point-Jefferson, our state has begun to provide tools for schools to use to insure that the hard work and dedication of staff can continue through the use of new technology and in finding ways to more efficiently teach skills and standards.

A process/tool with a great deal of potential for us is referred to as "curriculum mapping." Curriculum mapping is a way for staff to share what standards and skills are being taught throughout the K-12 continuum. It is a way to organize thought, develop clear expectations of standards at each grade level, and to incorporate the skills and knowledge of all staff in regards to meeting said standards. When you examine the overall scheme of education in a middle or high school, it is amazing how many instructors teach mathematics, writing, or communication skills, just to name a few. This development of staff awareness is one of many products created from this process. In essence then, the overall goal of mapping is to create opportunities for open dialogue between staff to truly make skills and standards meaningful throughout our students' time with us.

Another tool which is being supplied by the state is referred to as the "Achievement Series." This assessment tool is an online data bank of test items that address the standards in the areas of math, reading, and science. Staff can use this tool to more efficiently isolate standards which require more attention, and in effect improve the learning of standards by their students. Tests can be taken at any time during the school year with immediate feedback and reports at the staff person's fingertips. Again, this information is then used to confirm or improve the quality of instruction in the classroom.

These two educational tools hold a great deal of promise and potential as we strive to maintain and improve the education which our students receive at Elk Point-Jefferson. If you would like more information about these or other educational initiatives, please do not hesitate to ask. Your input is always appreciated.

Dateline: Mrs. Raker's Resource Room

by Darcy Raker, Resource Room

Things are adding up for students in Mrs. Raker's Resource Room as indicated by the Interactive Math Bulletin Board. Students from the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades have contributed to this math project. Each student created five cookie-cutter cutouts that are mounted on the bulletin board. On the outside of the cutout a math problem is posed. Students can test their math skills by working the problem out and finding the solution. They can check their work by opening the cutout to reveal the correct answer. Each student making the cutouts uses math problems that are appropriate to his or her grade and skill level so the Interactive Math Bulletin Board has something for everyone.

Stop by Mrs. Raker's resource room and test your math skills.



Eighth and Ninth Graders Sing with South Dakota Junior Honor Choir

by Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal Director

Zach Corio, ninth grader at EPJ, Ethan Pace, and Liz Schuh, eighth graders, have been chosen to sing with the South Dakota Junior Honors Choir. They will be representing our school and communities in Rapid City on Friday, January 19 and 20. Cassie Hilbrands, eighth grader, was chosen as an alternate. If any young woman cannot attend the event, Cassie will be picked to join the honor choir.

The Junior Honor Choir consists of 96 of the best seventh, eighth, and ninth grade singers from across the state. Zach, Ethan, Liz and Cassie, along with twenty other EPJ students, auditioned by tape in October.

The EPJ Music and Activities Booster clubs support these special select choirs by paying all costs for our students to attend events like this.



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



The students in grades 5-12 have been singing and dancing to the holiday beat the last few weeks in November and December. The fifth-eighth graders performed "North Pole Exposure," a holiday musical, on Thursday, December 14. Featured character parts were played by Tyler Hall, Taylor Targonski, Jessica Minor, Natalie Hoffman, Michelle Corio, Liz Schuh, Rayce Monahan, Justin Boulware, Ryan Donnelly, Lexie Branson, Billy Wisemen, Ellie Dailey, Brittany Paulson, Jenna Donnelly, Kelly Reed, and Scott Shanks. Soloists for the fifth and sixth grade classes were Kristen Rarrat, Anna Chicoine, Jared Limoges, Jessica Gates, Joe Lyon, Cole Moyle, Dakota Navrkal, Wyatt Crow, Dillon Borchardt, Alex Lawler, Connor Kneip, Amy Zeller, Skylore Curry, Cody Reed, Amber Hudelson, Dillon Streets, and Emma McInerney.

The high school choir performed at their holiday concert on Monday, December 11. Volunteers from the choir have been performing at various community functions.

Local Singer Chosen for a National Honor Choir

by Mary Schuh, 5-12 Vocal Director

The American Choral Director's Association has chosen an honor choir from hundreds of students from across the nation. This year's Honor Choir will be held in Miami, Florida, in March.

The choir will consist of approximately 160 members selected from recorded auditions of high school, college, and adult vocalists.

Elk Point-Jefferson senior Chris Tow was selected to represent our communities as well as our state at this national event.

Chris will have many community sponsors, including the Elk Point-Jefferson Music Booster organization, to help him pay entry fees and travel fees.

Middle School Science Fair 2006

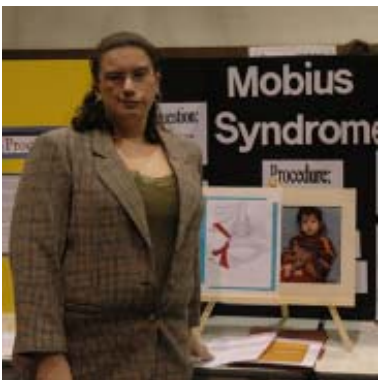
by Daryl Fletcher, Dan Swatek, and Gwen Billings; Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh/Eighth Grade Science

The Middle School Science Fair was held November 22 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 166 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 7:00 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, March 27, 2007.

In grades five and six, Matt Lehman was awarded the Grand Prize award, and Seth Petra was the runner-up. In the seventh and eighth grade competition, Danielle Gille was first, and Christoffer Dyrssen was the runner-up. The local teacher's association, EPJEA, recognized the award winners with a \$25 prize to each winner. Below are listed this year's local award winners.

Grade 5:	Biological Science	Earth Science	Physical Science
1st Place	Keeley Bertram	Nick Kraayenbrink	Noeland Cloud
2nd Place	Ian Grassel	Jordan Brandon	Cody Reed
3rd Place	Hope Erickson	Jeff Leitru	Eli Buehner
4th Place	Emma McInerney	Blake Klein	Katherine Mickelson
Grade 6:	Biological Science	Earth Science	Physical Science
1st Place	Matt Lehman	Nick Stamp	Seth Petra
2nd Place	Kristen Rarrat	Haylee Erickson	D.J. Borchardt
3rd Place	Taylor Donnelly	Nathan Ambrose	Kelsey Abbey
4th Place	Caitlin Davis	Charlie Nearman	Cody Wagner
Grade 7:	Biological Science	Earth Science	Physical Science
1st Place	Danielle Gille	Ashlee Stepp	Christoffer Dyrssen
2nd Place	Tony Metzgar/Corey Chicoine	Morgan Hueser/Tory McCreary	Micah Baker/Tyler Carter
3rd Place	Natalie Hoffman	Sarah Tow/Stephanie Watkins	Tyler Lynch
4th Place	Nick Murphy/Ryne Donnelly	Briley Gosnell	Mike Wurtz
Grade 8:	Biological Science	Earth Science	Physical Science
1st Place	Ashley Geary	Michelle Corio	Stephanie Teply
2nd Place	Alisha Gosnell		Jenna Donnelly
3rd Place	Rayce Monahan		Taylor Hall
4th Place			Tascha Donnelly



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 2006 Mini Courses:

Dennis Ferdig Autobody Repair
 Delores Vondrak Snacks
 Pat Schurdevin Snacks
 Leif West Scrapbooking
 Lisa McNerney Babysitter's First Aid
 Linda Talbott Crochet and Cross Stitch
 Travis Aslesen Hearts
 Cammy Abbey Massage
 Glen Bosse Taxidermy
 Nicki Swatek Skin and Hand Care
 Aaladin Staff Aaladin Tour

Steve Hofland Taekwondo
 Jim Langstraat Taekwondo
 Abbey Langstraat Taekwondo
 Angie Langle Garden Name Decors
 Bill Busker Tucker Car
 Curry Staff Curry Tour
 Beth Rosenbaum Fireworks
 Ryan Brandt Chess
 Myron Hertel NASCAR
 John Gille Biotechnology
 Rhonda Weidner Dips
 Brian Shanks Fishing



National Honor Society Notes . . . by Rita Ahmann, NHS Advisor

Members of the Husky Chapter of the National Honor Society have been involved in two service activities so far this school year. The first event was the community blood drive on October 24. Members distributed posters advertising the blood drive. They also called previous donors with a reminder to donate. On the day of the drive, members set up tables to be used and provided cookies and juice boxes for donors.

A second activity was providing child care for the children of parents attending the Boys' Town Model parenting classes. On five Tuesday evenings in October and November, students cared for two to seven children. Due to school activities, nonmembers Lanie Florke, Rachael Tow, and Sarah Tow helped as well.

The annual induction of new members to the National Honor Society was held on Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 P.M. in the band room. Eight new members were pledged into the Husky Chapter. They were seniors Kayla McInerney, Emily Rosenbaum, and Carly Rubida and juniors Kristin Marshall, Kelsie Pace, Sara Peasley, Adrian Ries, and Kim Wurtz. Current members reviewed the characteristics of scholarship, leadership, character, and service according to which the new members were selected. Then a short listing of each new member's activities was read while a PowerPoint presentation of pictures of each student was shown. The new members recited the National Honor Society pledge. They were presented with a membership pin and card by a chosen relative. The officers of the local chapter were also installed at the ceremony. This year's president is Curt Truhe. The vice president/treasurer is Kyle Hanson. Doug Dailey is the treasurer.



A Day Just for Moles . . . 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. In the Advanced Chemistry class, Cody Whitlock and Alisha Limoges were crowned Mole Day King and Queen. The seniors took part in the Avogadro Cup. They competed in "Moling," a Mole Toss, Mole-in-One Golf, a basketmole shoot out, and the Mole Stroll. The Mole Stroll had students racing blind-folded on a skate board and "Moling" involved a bowling ball and Styrofoam cups. Juniors in Chemistry participated in the 4th Annual Husky Mole-a-thon. The freshmen were able to participate in various activities as well. The

day was made complete with a few Mole Day snacks, such as Donut Moles, Mole Juice, and Ani-mole Crackers. The students would like to thank the EPJ Booster Club for providing funding for this great day.

The Aztec and Mayan Day of the Dead Beliefs

by Jane Patnaude, Spanish

Our Latino neighbors to the south have a great attitude concerning death. They believe that their souls continue to exist after death, resting not for judgment or resurrection, but for the day each year when they can return home to visit their loved ones. The act of preparing an altar by placing photographs, flowers, candles, favorite foods, and drink for the loved one provides a special time to remember and to transform grief into acceptance. The living invite the spirits of the family to return home for a few hours of laughter, tears, and memories. The two Spanish II classes researched and prepared a place of honor by erecting altars with tablecloths, candles, incense, water, salt, bread, streamers, flowers, crosses, pictures, wreaths, favorite foods, and their daily necessities. They selected Chris Farley, Walter Payton, Johnny Cash, and Ray Charles to honor. The altars were judged by Mr. Aslesen, Sandy Mockler, and Rita Ahmann. Culturally, the students encountered a new view of death as a transition of life—a natural progression, not an ending.



Core Ideas in Non-Core Classes . . . by Katie Turner, 6-12 Art

The timeline of education has seen massive shifts and upward growth, from chalkboards to laptops, from one-room schools to student-centered complexes, and so on. However, in our educational time, we are seeing a refocus on those basic components of a well-grounded learning, the “core” of learning, in reading/writing (English), mathematics, science, and history (social studies). It is not surprising then, that with this refocus to our roots, sometimes the importance of the other non-core classes may be questioned. These classes include such things as art, music, family and consumer science, industrial technologies, physical education, and foreign languages. Why should students spend time in these classes when the tests are specifically geared towards “core” classes, and in turn, why should our school continue to fund them? In this question lies the key to better learning.

As educators and parents, we see how each child looks and acts differently. As an underlying continuation of this idea, so too does every child learn differently. Some of us are auditory learners, some are visual, and some need hands-on application. Some learn by repetition, some by structure, some by free experimentation, and some by trial and error. Some of us thrive in a quiet, structured environment and others prefer more stimuli and multi-tasking. The goal of each educator then is to meet the needs of each student in a way that plays to their ideal learning style. Not only does this apply to learning styles, but to interests as well. A student who does not do well when presented with a graph in a math book may understand the same concept in an auto-rating chart in a car magazine only because that information has become real and relevant to the student.

In any class, there is only so much time and so many students that sometimes, not by fault of the highly qualified teachers, all of these needs just can't be met in one place. It then falls upon the other classes to reinforce the knowledge from all areas of curriculum in other multi-learning styles. For instance, hands-on application of math concepts is used every day to measure materials in crafts/clothing and woods classes. Ingredients are measured, divided, multiplied, and fractioned in foods classes. Geometry, measurements, and proportions are used in both art and woods classes. Rhythmic counting is used in music, and rates, ratios, and statistics are used in physical education. Science is supplied in the reactions of ingredients in foods classes and the chemical reactions of paints and clays in art classes, as well as the components of welding and effects of weather on materials in industrial arts classes and studies of the body in physical education. English is practiced each time a foreign language student studies the forms of speech, or an art student writes a reflective essay. It is also used when they read the directions for a project, follow a recipe, or practice a musical composition. History, human relations, and cultural/societal influences are not only studied, but are critical components to each activity in foreign language classes, food and cultural classes, and art classes. I know that in my room, each lesson is enriched with that important contextual knowledge. How can you truly appreciate an art form if you do not understand the society it came from, the materials that were available at that time in history, the catalyst that formed it, and the impact it had? These are just a few examples, but the message is clear.

As you can see, the important knowledge from these core classes is used every day in the non-core classes. In these classes, students practice what they have already learned in new, hands-on ways that may connect personally with the learner on a different level. While learning these things, they are also learning critical thinking skills, problem-solving, creativity, building self-confidence, and becoming more well-rounded learners. As a non-core teacher, I could not enjoy the high level of standards that I can set in my room if my students had not come to me with the previous knowledge learned in their core classes. In turn, the core classes often use concepts like art or foreign language in their room for further support of their materials. It is like the old idea of the tree of knowledge. The cores provide a solid root system and strong trunk, and the non-core classes provide shoots and limbs that allow the student to branch out even farther and in more directions.

Secret Santa's Shopping . . . by Jan Baagoe, FACS



Thirteen students, along with Mrs. Baagoe and Mrs. McMeekin, ventured off to Sioux City for the annual Family Living Class Christmas Shopping Trip for Kids. With an increased number of children to shop for this year, we truly did some major power shopping. In about seven hours, we managed to fulfill the wishes of 53 children from 22 families from the Elk Point-Jefferson district.

The class raises money from the snack vending machine at school throughout the year. The machine is filled with healthier snacks, along with the cookies and brownies made by the family living students. We also received some donations from people in the district.

After shopping, the students will wrap all of the gifts and get the packages ready for the families to pick up before Christmas break. One student's statement while shopping best sums up the project: “This is the best day of school ever.” It truly is a highlight of the family living class realizing the importance of being a helping hand and the rewards of making Christmas brighter for others.



Industrial Tech News . . . by Terry Gardner, *Industrial Technology*



Two students in industrial technology have been working extremely hard on a great project. Chris Tow and Andrew McIntosh have taken an antique oak table and restored it to look fantastic. They have spent many hours and class periods working on the restoration of this table by taking off the top and stabilizing the base. They have sanded out the majority of the little imperfections and removed several dents. Chris and Andrew have put a new look to an older table. This table will be auctioned off on December 15, 2006, and all the money is being donated to the Ruben Chicoine family. Please come and help support this family during the holidays.



High School Students Prepare for 1-Act Play . . . by Lori Hawley, *Drama Advisor*

Rehearsals are underway for this fall's 1-act play contest entry, *The Rules of Comedy*, by Peter Bloedel. A dress rehearsal performance will be held on Monday, January 22, 2007, for anyone interested in seeing the show before it goes on the road. Region I 1-Act Play Contest will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota. EPJ's entry will compete against area schools for a chance to enter state-level competition. Actors in the production include Autumn Barnes, Rachel Fehr, Kyle Hanson, Doug Dailey, Mike Brandt, Ryan Peter, Adrian Ries, Megan Weidner, Eric VanRoekel, Kelsey Mapstone, Cody Whitlock, Amanda Connelly, Alex Pedersen, Lanie Florke, Kirstin Hanson, Chelsey Borchardt, Emily Connelly, Rachael Tow, and Bailey Johns. Assistant Directors for the show include Erica Peter and Hope Metzgar. Lighting Director is Mel Engeldinger, and Sound Director is Sara Peasley.

Huskies Make South Dakota All-time 11-Man Records List . . . by Rahn Bertram, *Head Football Coach*

Three Former Elk Point-Jefferson Husky football players have set records that have made the all-time best list according to Mariah Press, a publishing company based out of Sioux Falls, who is currently updating all 9-man and 11-man football records compiled by coaches and AD's throughout the state for the past 100 years of football. Congratulation to Jason Donnelly, Daschle Larsen, and Curt Truhe, who together have set 19 all-time state records in rushing, points scored, interceptions, and rushing attempts respectively.


Rank	Record/Player	Year	Rank	Record/Player	Year
#1	Most Interceptions - Career Daschle Larsen - 16	2002-2005	#6	Most Rushing Touchdowns - Season Jason Donnelly - 12	
#8	Most Interceptions - Season Daschle Larsen - 8	2005	#4	Most Rushing Yards - Career Curt Truhe - 3,697	2003-2006
#5	Most Interceptions - Game Daschle Larsen - 3	2003	#17	Most Rushing Yards - Season Curt Truhe - 1,373	2006
	Jason Donnelly - 3	2003	#23	Curt Truhe - 1,304	2005
	Daschle Larsen - 3	2004		Most Rushing Yards - Game Jason Donnelly - 218	2004
	Daschle Larsen - 3	2005	#22		
#1	100 Yard Games - Career Curt Truhe - 16		#3	Most Points - Career Jason Donnelly - 2001-2004	
#1	Most Rushing Attempts - Career Curt Truhe - 705		#5	Curt Truhe - 2003-2006	
#3	Most Rushing Touchdowns - Career Curt Truhe - 31		#7	Most Points - Season Jason Donnelly - 132	2004
			#8	Most Points - Game Jason Donnelly - 32	2004


These statistics are currently being updated by Dave Kemp of the Mariah Press. If anyone has any stats from the Jefferson Blackhawks and would like to contribute them, contact me and we can submit them. To view a complete list, go to www.sdsportshistory.com.

2006-07 Newsletter Sponsors

Jeff's
LAWN CARE, INC.

PO Box 733 • Elk Point, SD
356-2325

**Bradley Fowler, Agent**
State Farm Insurance
Elk Point, SD 57025
605-356-3371 or 800-287-3371
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR  STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Tep's Refrigeration
Appliance Sales & Service

Heating
Air Conditioning
Heat Pumps
Repair Most Brands

Dan Teply • Licensed & Insured

356-2513
712-259-0529

Independence WASTE
"You Buy It, We'll Take It"


- ★ Portable Toilet Rentals
- ★ Residential & Commercial Waste Pickup
- ★ Construction Roll-off Containers
- ★ Compactor Service
- ★ Transfer Trailer Hauling

PETER G. KRAMER
P.O. Box 1010
Elk Point, SD 57025
605-356-2929 • 800-515-0051
Fax: 605-356-2800


**Union County Abstract & Title Company**
THE TITLE RESOURCE NETWORK

104 West Main Street • PO Box 40
Elk Point, South Dakota 57025
Voice: 605.356.3180 Fax: 605.356.3112
cherity@thetitleresource.com

Charity Herity
Assistant Vice President/Manager

**Elk Point Community Health Clinic** (605) 356-3317
a division of the Union County Health Foundation
With Over 25 years of service


Your Health is Important to us!!

 **TEREX | LOAD KING**

Terex/Load King is a proud supporter of the Elk Point-Jefferson school district.

GO HUSKIES!

David (Troy) McCreary
Owner

**DTM electric**

P.O. Box 772
Elk Point, SD 57025

Cell: 712-251-9734
Fax: 605-356-3574


**tudogs computing**

Computer Repair ~ Digital Imaging ~ Tutoring

Brian L. Wells www.tudogs.biz 
125 Green Court Drive
Elk Point, SD 57025

office: 605.356.2238
mobile: 712.495.8882
e-mail: topdog@tudogs.biz


 **CompTIA** A+ Certified

**VALLEY INSURANCE AGENCY**

LYNN KANNE
Office at Valley Bank locations in
Elk Point, Jefferson, North Sioux City & Sioux Falls

Office: 605-356-2037
Fax: 605-356-2905
Toll Free: 888-356-2037
Email: valleyinsurance@valleybanks.com

112 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 10
Elk Point, SD 57025


**THERMO BOND**

Mike Pottebaum
President/CEO

109 E. Pleasant • P.O. Box 445
Elk Point, SD 57025

Ph. 800-356-2686
E-Mail: mike@thermobond.com

Cell (712) 490-7473
www.thermobond.com

**Southeast Farmers Elevator Co-op**

DON TRUHE
General Manager


32702 479th Ave
Elk Point, SD 57025
Fax: 605-966-5387

Phone: 605-966-5474
605-356-3034
888-966-7475

QUAM & BERGLIN
Certified Public Accountants

110 W Main, Elk Point, SD 57025
605-356-3374

Andrew Jacobs
Branch Manager

 **FIRST FEDERAL BANK, fsb**

117 West Main
P.O. Box 220
Elk Point, SD 57025

Phone: (605) 356-0289
Fax: (605) 356-0291
E-Mail: ffbank@fw.net

Visit our website at www.ffbanks.com

HUBER CONSTRUCTION
"Building up Elk Point for over 25 years."

 For all your construction needs
Call: Lenny Huber
605-356-3463

**JIM'S WATER TREATMENT, INC.**


Softeners • RO Systems • Salt Delivery
Rentals • Sales • Service

Jim & Rose Rosenbaum
(805) 232-4577

206 Bison Trail
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

Toll Free: (866) WATER-03 or (866) 928-3703

Gary's Tree Service, Inc



Tree Trimming • Removing
Stump Grinding • Landscaping
Tree Moving • Hedge Work

Gary D. Nebelsick

Home: (605) 356-2877
Cell: (605) 670-1199

PO Box 696, 308 S. Grant
Elk Point, SD 57025-0696


**Aaladin CLEANING SYSTEMS**

32584 - 477th Ave. Elk Point, SD 57025
605-356-3325

**Dunham COMPANY**

PATRICIA CURRY
BROKER ASSOCIATE

208 S. PULLIN AVE., SUITE 202 • ROCK FALLS, SD 57054-4411
Home: (605) 256-2666 • Fax: (605) 356-6388
Cell: (605) 663-2860 • Cell: (605) 319-3186
www.dunhamcompany.com


**Total Developers & Associates, Inc.**

General Construction
Construction Management

P.O. Box 59 • Elk Point, SD 57025
(605) 356-3331

Jefferson Telephone Company, LLC

P.O. Box 26
Jefferson, SD 57038

**4 Cedars Storage, Inc.**
Boat and RV Storage

phone# 605-356-2749
fax# 605-356-3628
cell# 605-670-2064

P.O. BOX 162
Elk Point, SD 57025

Technology News . . . by Jerry Klumper, Technology Director

It is hardly breaking news that Microsoft has released Internet Explorer 7.0. However, as mentioned in a previous newsletter, 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 parents either remain with Internet Explorer 6.0 or download and use the Firefox 2.0, which is a free download from <http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/>. You may find that you prefer using Firefox!

Minutes of previous Board of Education meetings are now available on the EPJ homepage. Click on the Board of Education link located on the left side of the EPJ homepage.

That time of year is upon us; remember to check the EPJ homepage for immediate notification of weather-related late starts and school cancellations. It is always good practice to use the Control + F5 key combination to force the web page to refresh, giving you the latest changes in the EPJ homepage.

Did you know that you can use Google as an online dictionary?

1. Open Google.
2. In the search field, type "define:" (no quotes), followed by your search term, e.g., Define: aardvark.
3. Definitions and/or links to definitions, depending upon your search term will be displayed.

Did you know that you can use Google to find weather forecasts?

1. Open Google.
2. In the search field, type "weather:" (no quotes), followed by the name of a city, e.g., Weather: Albuquerque.
3. Weather forecasts and/or links to forecasts, depending upon the size of the city selected, will be displayed.



Seasons Greetings
from the
Administration and Staff
of the
Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!



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

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Elk Point, SD 57025
 Permit No. 30

**POSTAL PATRON
 BOXHOLDER
 ELK POINT SD 57025**