



Elk Point-Jefferson School District

Showing Pride . . . Taking Action

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February 2013

National Tragedy . . . *By Brian Shanks, Superintendent*

As a month or so has passed since the Sandy Hook school shootings, our school district has begun the process of looking at our security processes and equipment. This was a national tragedy and is evidence that our society is not the same one I knew as a youth. The reasons for this, of course, are many, and we measure the effectiveness of our society on how we handle this locally, at the state level, and at the national level. The age of innocence has been gone for a while, but this terrible incident just reaffirms that we are a violent society and we live in a “gun culture.” In fact, there are many who say that the answer is more guns and that the more people who carry guns, the safer we will be. It is time to reflect and find some reasonable solutions to a very complex problem.

The most important aspect of achieving a secure school is finding a balance between turning the school into a high-security prison and doing nothing. We know neither is an option; if we go overboard, we will have to look at eliminating such things as recess, ballgames, lunch as a group, etc. We would have metal detectors, armed officers, and barbed wire around the perimeter. In other words, we would simply “hunker down,” and school would become much like a penal institution.

Of course no one wants that, and doing nothing is not an option. We have begun the process of looking at our security and seeking ways that we can improve the things that we have as well as limiting the access to our school during the school day. We are working with law enforcement to improve our reaction to the “unthinkable” event of an armed intruder and purchasing more technology that will make this event more difficult for the perpetrator. The unfortunate fact is that if someone is determined to do harm to our students and staff, our ability to stop this is very limited. It is our duty as a school district to do what we can to both prevent and limit the damage if such an event were to occur.

At the state level, I am certain that there will be an attempt to help alleviate this problem. It is possible that the legislature might ask that certain trained staff be allowed to carry guns into the school. At the federal level, there is talk about having an armed guard in every school. It has even been suggested in some states that everyone who enters the school be allowed to carry a gun. I just think this accentuates that we are, indeed, a “gun culture.” Unfortunately, the Sandy Hook tragedy has become another “political football” to kick around, and we are talking about 2nd Amendment rights to own all the guns you want, no matter what kind they are and how many bullets a clip may hold.

It is our mission to do the best we can to provide a secure school without having to turn it into a prison type of atmosphere. We will find that balance, understanding that we will always be vulnerable to those who would do us harm. It is very sad that we must have these discussions, but it is reality, and we just hope that our leaders work to find some solutions and think about our kids and their safety rather than any political agenda.

8th Graders to Take NAEP Test

By Janet Ries, 6-8 Principal/K-12 Curriculum Director

On Tuesday, February 12, every 8th grade student at EPJ will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test. The NAEP test is administered biannually across all of the United States and is the largest national assessment used to represent what students in grades 4, 8, and 12 know and can do in the areas of math, reading, and science. Proctors for this assessment are hired and specifically trained by NAEP and the State of South Dakota. Student selection for this assessment is based on a representative sampling, or certain number, but because of South Dakota’s small population, all 8th grade students across South Dakota will participate to fulfill the required sampling. Not all grades are assessed each time. According to NCEs.gov, “Since NAEP assessments are administered uniformly using the same sets of test booklets across the nation, NAEP results serve as a common metric for all states and selected urban districts. The assessment stays essentially the same from year to year, with only carefully documented changes. This permits NAEP to provide a clear picture of student academic progress over time.” Students and schools are not given individual or group results of this assessment, but rather South Dakota students will be compared with students across the nation in those content areas. The NAEP assessment is also known as the Nation’s Report Card, and the results will be available in the future at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

Husky News

Backpack Program Receives Ongoing Community Support

By Amy Merkley, School Nurse/EPJ Weekend Backpack Committee

The Elk Point-Jefferson Weekend Backpack Program is blessed to be receiving ongoing support from our communities. Since the beginning of the school year, the program has received donations from several local churches, various individuals and families, and area corporations. The Elk Point Lions Club and the Clay-Union Foundation helped to provide a strong start. The Lions Club supports the prevention of blindness both locally and worldwide. They are involved locally with many community service projects, improving the quality of life for people of all ages. The Clay-Union Foundation matches children with an adult mentor. Mentors regularly spend time with the child with whom they are matched, providing friendship and guidance, and making a difference in a child's life.

The Southeast Farmers Elevator Co-op supported the program with a donation and then collaborated with their colleagues at Land-O-Lakes for a matching donation. Tyson Foods has a Casual Friday Program in which employees who wish to wear jeans on Friday pay several dollars for that privilege each week. The money collected is donated to charitable causes in the area, and the EPJ Weekend Backpack Program was selected as a recipient. Elk Point-Jefferson School is home to many students who have parents employed at Tyson. The Elk Point-Jefferson Education Association also has a Dollars for Scholars program, allowing school staff to wear jeans on Fridays for an annual donation. A portion of these proceeds was also donated to the program. The generosity of all of these organizations will assist us in continuing to provide healthy meal and snack food each week to students who are in need of additional food resources at home.



All School Play . . . By Kirsten Colt, Play Director

The next All School Play will be presented on Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, at 7:30 P.M. on the EPJ stage. The play promises to be a fun and entertaining evening filled with laughter and even a few tears! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend and support the EPJ high school students who will be involved in the play. Auditions will be held the week of February 18, and rehearsals will start March 4. All students are encouraged to audition, even if they have never been on stage before! If being on stage doesn't interest the students, there are lots of backstage opportunities as well. I am also always looking for parents who are interested in helping with costumes, sets, and props.

Again this year, the Dakota Players will be coming to our stage to present their new show *Space School Musical*. Auditions will be May 20 (time TBD) with the performance on May 24 at 7:00 P.M. All children ages K-8th grade are encouraged to audition, and up to 60 kids can be a part of the performance! Once again, there will be a modest fee for those who are in the performance to help cover the cost of having Dakota Players come to our community for the week. In addition, Dakota Players will be offering a workshop for high school students; more details about that will come later. Check out their website at <http://www.dakotaplayers.com/slide-show.html> as they have highlighted several pictures of EPJ students from one of our past performances.

I have been thinking of ways to help expand our theatre program and to get the younger kids more excited about theatre, so when they are in high school, they have more confidence to audition for the plays. I am considering offering theatre classes this summer for K-8th graders. The classes would consist of learning all aspects of theatre, including improv, back stage, comedy, drama, and basic acting techniques. Theatre played a huge role in my life, and I would like to give EPJ students the opportunity to love it as much as I do! At this point, I am just gauging to see if there would be interest, so please let me know if your child would be interested in taking a summer theatre class! You can contact me at kirstencolt@hotmail.com.

Vocal Students Step Up to Challenge . . . By Kathy Lawler, EPJ Music Booster

"Showing Pride, Taking Action" was evident in the recently completed trip to Orlando, Florida, by EPJ Vocal Director Dustin Rusche, 43 vocal students, and seven adults. The total cost of this trip was \$39,246. This cost was off-set by student fund raising activities, to the tune of \$20,541, the balance covered by student deposits leading up to the trip date. Funds raised included the additional ability to cover two additional meals, give each student \$60 cash to help offset miscellaneous expenses not covered in the trip package, as well as a small backpack to hold water and provided snacks. (Please see a full description of this trip in an article from Mr. Rusche.)

Mr. Rusche and the EPJ Music Boosters were blown away by the students' incredible job of stepping up to this challenge. Vocal students had numerous opportunities to gain fund raising credits for the trip over the past 18 months. Proceeds from tailgate meals, Kum & Go coupon books, Red Wheel food items, raffle packages, and donations combined to make this trip possible. Our students deserve praise for their efforts, but more importantly our thanks go to our supporters: parents, extended family, neighbors, friends, and businesses that believe in what we do. We extend a special 'thank you and job well done' to Mr. Rusche for organizing this trip and helping encourage and engage students to meet goals.

Graduation Quickly Approaches . . . By T.A. Aslesen, High School Principal

Graduation is and will always be an important time of celebration and reflection for our communities. As we prepare for the graduation of our seniors, we want to invite you as community members to participate in our exercises. Please read on for a few dates and times to include on your calendars as graduation time draws near.

Academic Awards Night: Monday, May 6, 2013 7:00 P.M., H.S. Gymnasium

We would like to encourage our community members, parents, and of course our seniors to attend Awards Night regardless of whether or not they believe that they will be recipients of scholarships and/or awards. This is an excellent night for all community members to share in the accomplishments of our seniors.

Graduation: Saturday, May 18, 2013 2:00 P.M., M.S. Gymnasium

Our communities are very much encouraged to join us for this exciting milestone in the lives of our seniors. Please feel welcome to be a part of our graduation activities.

Library News . . . By Deedra Holdhusen, School Librarian

Lucille Fowler Rothenbuehler Memorial Book Fund

The library is thankful for the generous ongoing support from the Lucille Fowler Rothenbuehler Memorial Book Fund, which honors the lifelong political interests and commitments of Lucille (Lou) F. Rothenbuehler. The fund generates money that is designated for the purchase of library books related to political science and history. Recent acquisitions include Sun Tsu's *The Art of War*, Larry Dane Brimner's *Black & White: The Confrontation between Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene "Bull" Connor*, Steve Sheinkin's *Two Miserable Presidents: The Amazing, Terrible, and Totally True Story of the Civil War and The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery*, and Karen Blumenthal's *Bootleg: Murder Moonshine and the Lawless Years of Prohibition*. We are grateful to the Fowler, Rothenbuehler, and Katz families for this wonderful memorial to Lou.

Please consider remembering the library in your will or making a contribution to our Friends of the Library organization.

Get Seussious About Reading

You are invited to be a guest reader on March 2 as we celebrate the National Education Association's Read Across America Day. This program, instituted in 1998, encourages children to read and helps create lifelong learners. On March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss, students meet with guest readers from the community who share books with students and talk about why reading is important in their lives. Guest readers often admit to having as much fun as the students. If you are interested in volunteering for an hour on the morning of March 2, please send an e-mail to deedra.holdhusen@k12.sd.us.

Library News... from the Friends of the Elk Point-Jefferson Community Library

Did you know?

1. Your membership in the Friends of the Library is tax deductible. Get a receipt from the library.
2. Fines for overdue books are forgiven with a membership!
3. The library has a large selection of audio books available for your travel plans.
4. E-books are coming March 1.
5. Biggest Ever Book Sale in April. A surprise will be given for each purchase of a bag of 20 books.

We need your support:

1. Book purchases are being limited because of budget restrictions.
2. Friends of the Library are initiating a membership drive for the year 2013.
3. Please fill out the form below and mail or drop it off at the library.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Willing to help with the book sale? Yes No

Please check membership:

Individual (\$5.00) Family (\$10.00) Organization or Business (\$25.00) Benefactor (\$50.00 or more)

Detach & Send to: Friends of the Elk Point-Jefferson Community Library • PO Box 190 • Elk Point, SD 57025

Problems, Patience, Persistence, & Progress

By Julie Koupal, DI Coordinator

The goal of Destination ImagiNation (DI) is to give students the chance to learn and experience the creative process. EPJ DI teams have been using that process attempting to solve their challenges and gear up for tournament time in March and April. In addition to learning how to solve problems and think on their feet, they have also been fundraising to help pay for this season's expenses. Participants at our tailgate in August endured some terribly hot weather, and we appreciate all those who supported us despite the melting temperatures.

With double the number of children involved in DI this year, our Jungle Beans Coffee fundraiser was a huge success. Forty-four students sold 501 bags of coffee and hot cocoa which gave us the largest profit margin available! Nathan VonHaden (6th grade) was the highest seller with twenty-eight bags sold. Jessica Gates (12th grade) sold the second highest amount with twenty-seven bags, and Rian (5th grade) & Anne (2nd grade) Quam came in third, each selling twenty-five bags. All will receive an annual DI t-shirt free of charge to thank them for their efforts.

Thank you to all who participated in any of the DI fundraisers this year; we depend on your support and realize that you have many other opportunities to give. We appreciate your generosity.

All teams head to the Regional Tournament at Tri-Valley on March 2 armed with months of experience in their challenge, an original solution, teamwork, and some improv skills. Best of luck to all seven teams this tournament season!

Dear Parents,

In the midst of a widespread influenza season, here are a few things to remember:

- School and work attendance are important. So is staying home when you are sick.
- If a child has a temperature greater than 100 degrees, they should stay home.
- Students can return to school when they are fever free without the use of Tylenol or ibuprofen. Temperature should be checked six hours after taking Tylenol or eight hours after taking ibuprofen.
- If a child has a fever and is sent to school after taking Tylenol or ibuprofen, s/he is spreading germs to staff and students, some who have compromised immune systems and cannot fight infection very well.
- A cold is different than influenza. Fevers are not common with colds. Cough medicine or decongestant can help manage symptoms.
- If a child has vomited at home, s/he should not return to school before eating and drinking. Students should eat and drink at home without vomiting before returning to school.
- Symptoms of influenza are fever, headache, body aches, extreme tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and nausea, vomiting/diarrhea.
- If you or your child has flu symptoms, stay home, get plenty of rest and fluids, and contact your doctor for further guidance.
- Flu shots continue to be recommended.



8th Graders Chosen . . . By Janet Ries, M.S. Principal/K-12 Curriculum Director



The South Dakota Department of Education has notified the Elk Point-Jefferson Middle School that the 8th grade class has been chosen to take part in the Smarter Balanced Scientific Pilot Assessment in Mathematics this spring. This is a practice assessment that correlates with the new Common Core State Standards that are replacing the South Dakota Content Standards. "Schools selected for the scientific sample were based on certain demographic and psychometric variables and were determined to be critical for the post-test analysis of item performance. The student performance on items taken during the scientific sample will influence decisions made by the Consortium on future item development and test design." This is a special situation as we will be directly involved in the development activities for the multi-state assessment that will be administered to all students in grades 3-8 and 11 in the spring of 2015. It is also a unique opportunity for our district for a number of reasons; it will be an excellent experience for students to practice standardized testing online, they will see firsthand the new assessment model, and EPJ will be able to determine if our technology meets the system requirements to function properly during this online testing mode. The middle school office will be sending a parent notification letter to all 8th grade parents in February along with midterm reports. If you would like more information on the Common Core State Standards or Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, please visit their respective websites at <http://www.corestandards.org/> and <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>.

School Census Information Needed

We are in the process of updating our school census information. If you have a child who will be 3-5 years of age by September 1, 2013, please notify Norma in the elementary office either by phone (356-5800) or e-mail (Norma.Ferdig@k12.sd.us) with the following information: child's name, birth date, parent name, address, and phone number. If you know someone who is not receiving this message, please relay this information. Thank you.

Screening for 3-5 Year Olds

Elk Point-Jefferson School, the Southeast Area Cooperative, and USD Head Start will be holding a screening for 3-4 year olds in the EPJ district. The screening is being held on April 4 from 8:20-4:00 at the school. Children must be 3-4 years old by the date of screening. If you have a child to be screened, please call Norma at 356-5800 to schedule a time for a screening.

To the Parents of Driver Education Students . . . *from Justin Clercx, Instructor*

The Elk Point-Jefferson School District will be offering Driver Education this summer to students that have finished the 8th grade. This year there will be a fee of \$200 to cover expenses of textbooks and leasing of cars for the driving portion of the course. The fee must be paid before the student can begin the driving portion of the course. You MUST mail the money to this address at the school: Elk Point-Jefferson Schools, Attn: Jane Fletcher, Box 578, Elk Point, SD 57025. If you have difficulty paying the fee, please contact Mr. Shanks at 356-5951 or e-mail Brian.Shanks@k12.sd.us to make arrangements.

This year the classroom portion of Driver Education will take place the last week of May. The exact dates will be Tuesday, May 28 through Saturday, June 1. Each day will be six hours of classroom time with the first session 8 A.M.-11 A.M. and the second session 12 P.M.-3 P.M. Each student will be required to attend both sessions all five days.

The state of South Dakota requires that I prove each student has been present for 30 scheduled hours of classroom time. I will work with the students to reschedule one extra three-hour session if students need to make up time missed because of prior commitments. However, if your student misses more than three hours, s/he will be automatically dropped from the class, and the fee WILL NOT be refunded. Please keep this in mind when scheduling family vacations and doctor’s appointments.

Driving times will be available both before the classroom sessions and after. Only students who possess a valid South Dakota learner’s permit will be allowed to drive before the classroom portion of Driver Education. Students will be allowed to sign-up for driving times sometime before the end of the school year and will have to present their learner’s permit if they are going to drive before May 28. All students that do not have a learner’s permit will schedule their driving time after the classroom sessions.

Driving will be in four-hour blocks with each student driving two of the four hours. Each group must sign up for three driving blocks. It is up to you whether the blocks are consecutive or not. Keep in mind that the student will not pass the driving portion of the course until all six hours of behind-the-wheel training have been completed and a driving skills test has been passed.

If you have any questions, please contact Justin Clercx at 356-5859 (school) or e-mail at Justin.Clercx@k12.sd.us.

Please detach and return the completed form with fee payment.

I, _____ (parent/guardian), understand that if my student does not complete the terms of the course outlined above I will not receive any portion of my fee payment back.

Student Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Parent Signature _____

Send to: Elk Point-Jefferson Schools, Attn: Jane Fletcher, Box 578, Elk Point, SD 57025

Eliminate the Stress . . . *By Doug Brusseau, Elementary Principal*

Every adult experiences happiness, frustration, success, anxiety, lack of focus toward a task, and feelings of being down throughout each day of their life. Those same feelings affect today’s children from the moment they get up to dress, eat breakfast, run out to get on the bus for school, put a pencil to paper to do a test, meet friends, play in an activity, or go to bed. As the stress levels increase in children, we begin to hear children making statements of being overwhelmed when they say, “I can’t control my anger,” “I can’t focus,” or just simply, “I can’t think straight or focus.” As these emotions build, the brain has difficulty moving newly-learned information to long-term memory or concentrating.

There are different solutions to dealing with today’s demands in children’s and adult’s lives. One of those solutions has been practiced for many years; you can find it on many of the popular exercise DVDs such as P90X and Insanity. Some high school athletic teams use it prior to games to stretch and develop a mind set to play a game. This concept is yoga.

Yoga is the art of knowing your feelings, controlling your feelings, and developing the strength and flexibility of the physical body.

If you or your child feel things are getting out of control, try this. Close your eyes, place one hand on the heart, and the other on the belly button. Take five breaths. As you inhale, you will feel your stomach inflate like a balloon. Exhaling, you should feel the balloon deflate. With each breath you take, you should begin to notice your breathing is slowing down. This should work prior to a test or a task that appears to be beyond expectations.

Yoga has many potential benefits to help improve confidence and focus in the classroom. It improves physical well being through quieting the mind, teaching us about our body, and making us physically fit. A great thing about yoga is that it can be done as a group, with a friend, or all alone.

Do not worry; eat three square meals a day; say your prayers; be courteous to your creditors; keep your digestion good; exercise; go slow and easy. Maybe there are other things your special case requires to make you happy, but my friend, these I reckon will give you a good life.

- Abraham Lincoln

Seven Singers Chosen for Elementary Festival Honor Choir

By Cheryl Tatro and Dustin Rusche, Vocal Directors

Each year, students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades from across the state are able to audition for the South Dakota Elementary Festival Honor Choir held in Brookings. This year Elk Point-Jefferson had seven students selected to perform with this group: Matthew Giorgio, Trevor Nilson, Elisabeth Peirce, Kacie Stepp, Hannah VanKirk, Aubrie Franken, and Emma Robinson (not pictured).

These students auditioned by singing several musical exercises and "My Country Tis Of Thee." Over 600 audition CD's were submitted to the faculty at SDSU, with only 170 selected, representing a total of 45 schools from across the state. Our students have been rehearsing weekly, learning a total of six songs in English, German, and Hebrew. The choir will be under the direction of Karen Bruno, Director of the Lawrence Academy of Appleton, WI. A concert will be held on the campus of SDSU on Thursday, February 7, at 4:45 P.M. at the Performing Arts Center.



Sleep Deprivation 101

By Janet Ries, M.S. Principal/K-12 Curriculum Director

Sleep—how much uninterrupted sleep are you able to get each night? Are you feeling sluggish and tired? Have you been blaming the short days and lack of sunshine or the long cold winter nights for making you feel lethargic?



Have you thought about how busy you are during your day? Our lives have become even more hectic and even more time is eaten up each day multitasking because of the need to spend time talking to others and telling them what we are doing via Facebook, My Space, texting or tweeting? But what about at night when you should be in bed resting? Our culture has changed, and most folks have TVs and computers in their bedrooms and now have begun to take their phones to bed with them. Chatting with others has become a major part of our day and even part of our night. People's sleep is interrupted because of it. With all of these 'noise makers' in our bedrooms, sleep isn't as peaceful as it is supposed to be. According to sleep experts, our bodies don't go into complete deep sleep when there is noise or other stimulation happening around us. In order to acquire the optimum amount of rest your mind and body require, experts say we need to arrange our bedrooms so that TV's, computers, and other gadgets are not present. I would like to challenge you to go for one week without the use of your phone, TV, and computer in your bedroom. You can improve your sleep habits and get the rest your body needs.

Get your yearbook!

It is that time of the year to start ordering your yearbook for next year! Please pre-order your yearbook in order to reserve your 2012-13 copy. The yearbooks are \$35.00. Checks may be written to EPJ, and the payment along with the order form below may be dropped off in the high school office. Orders are due by March 30.

Thank you,
Ms. Jones and the Yearbook Staff

(Submit Form to the High School Office)

Name: _____

Quantity: _____ Cash/Check: _____

Total Amount: _____

(Insert form in envelope with payment.)



ELK POINT-JEFFERSON SCHOOL

2013-14 Kindergarten & Jr. Kindergarten Registration

For: Parents with children 5 years old by 9/1/13

When: March 11, 2013, at 6:30 P.M.

Where: Elk Point-Jefferson School Lunchroom Area, 402 S. Douglas Street

Only parents should attend this meeting. Please call the elementary office at 356-5800 if you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2013.



Middle School Students Attend Local Science Fair . . . *By M.S. Science Teachers*

The EPJ Middle School Science Department held its annual science fair on January 26 in the middle school gym. This year saw lots of new ideas. Many comments were heard about how good the science fair projects were this year. The students were judged by USD students in three different categories. The categories were biology, earth science, and physical science. The judges selected the top four winners in each category as well as an overall winner in the 5th grade and 1st-3rd places overall in grades 6-8. The top four winners in each category will be invited to participate in the State Science and Engineering Fair on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings on March 12.

Listed below are the students who placed in the top four places from the Elk Point-Jefferson Middle School Science Fair. Congratulations and good luck to all local science fair winners.

5th Grade:

Earth Science: 1st) Justin Jutila 2nd) Joshua Lehman 3rd) Katelyn Chytka 4th) DeeAndra Duke

Biology: 1st) Sydney Bousquet 2nd) Miles Herrity 3rd) Grayson McCuin 4th) Brody Weavill

Physical Science: 1st) Bryce Moore 2nd) Caleb Modlin 3rd) Adam Grashoff 4th) Austin Hand

5th Grade Overall Winner: Sydney Bousquet

6th Grade:

Earth Science: 1st) Hannah VanKirk 2nd) Lida Conway 3rd) Anthony Woody 4th) Athena Love

Biology: 1st) Caden Stabe 2nd) Kody LaFleur 3rd) Zach Branson 4th) Emma Prouty

Physical Science: 1st) Connor Taylor 2nd) Lukas Larson 3rd) Parker Berghult 4th) Jacob Quiett

7th Grade:

Earth Science: 1st) Addison Ludwig/Taylor Trudeau 2nd) Morgan Swanson 3rd) Aaron Corbin 4th) Wendy Bernard

Biology: 1st) Jessica Huber/Elsie Aslesen 2nd) Jill Donnelly/Tianna Stokely 3rd) Matthew Noteboom/Preston Fejfar 4th) Cecil Gylfe

Physical Science: 1st) Presston Kollbaum/Logan Donelan 2nd) Alex Grashoff/Hunter Goehring 3rd) Jordan/Noah VonSeggern
4th) Eric Nelson/Garret Chicoine

8th Grade:

Earth Science: 1st) Mariah Heckathorn 2nd) Emily Peirce/Lynsey Klunder 3rd) Taylor Branson/Bethany Dillon

Biology: 1st) Bradie Timmins/Elena Giorgio 2nd) Alexa Montagne 3rd) Emily Mickelson/Kylee Donnelly

Physical Science: 1st) Daniel Petra/Matt Ambrose

6th-8th Grade Overall Winners: **1st Place)** Mariah Heckathorn
2nd Place) Daniel Petra/Matt Ambrose
3rd Place) Presston Kollbaum/Logan Donelan



Pictured are this year's Middle School Science Fair overall winners. Pictured to the left are the 6th-8th grade overall winners (left to right) Presston Kollbaum and Logan Donelan (3rd place), Matt Ambrose and Daniel Petra (2nd place), and Mariah Heckathorn (1st place). Pictured to the right is 5th grade overall winner Sydney Bousquet.



Secret Santa/Angel Tree Project . . . *By Jan Baagoe, FACS*

Mrs. Baagoe, Family Living Class, and the High School Student Council would like to thank everyone for taking angels off the Angel Tree and participating in giving gifts for the Husky Angel Tree project. Your generosity was greatly appreciated in making a brighter holiday for kids in families from our school this past holiday season. In all of the years doing this, it always makes my Christmas mean more to me knowing two things: 1) hopefully, I taught my students in class the value of "paying it forward" and reaching out to others, and 2) hopefully, we put some smiles on some faces of those who received gifts through our program. I hope this program continues for many years to come.

Rumelhart Shares Re-Enactment with EPJ Students . . . *By Justin Clercx, M.S. Social Science*

Most of you know Randy Rumelhart as one of the senior members of the EPJ custodial staff, but in his spare time Randy serves as Captain William Clark in historical re-enactments of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. His group is based out of Sioux City, but they travel around the Midwest teaching people about the expedition and performing re-enactments. On December 12, Rumelhart stopped at the school in full costume to educate the 7th and 8th grade students of EPJ about William Clark and the Corps of Discovery.

As citizens in southern Union County, we have the privilege of living in an area that is rich with American history, although many of us may not realize it. In the early 1800's, our American President Thomas Jefferson made a decision that shaped the state and the country in which we live today. Jefferson spent \$15 million to purchase 828,000 square miles of land from the French known as the Louisiana Purchase. He then called on a friend, Merriweather Lewis, to explore, map, and document the President's new purchase. Lewis put together a group of men known as the Corps of Discovery to assist him in his job and asked William Clark to help him lead the group. In the course of three years, the group traveled from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean and back, stopping twice in the Elk Point area to camp, bringing a wealth of knowledge and artifacts back to Washington, DC, which was used to help shape our young nation.

Rumelhart brought over 100 reproductions of supplies and artifacts that the Corps used on its adventure, including weapons, uniforms, mapping equipment, and items that were traded with the Native Americans as they passed through their land. He talked to the students about how a good soldier could fire his smooth-bore rifle about six times in a minute before he would have to stop and clean it. He also told them that Lewis had purchased an air rifle to take on the expedition. The technology for the air rifle was newly developed by the French, and the Native Americans feared these new guns because they could be fired with very little sound.

As the expedition traveled West, it encountered many Native American tribes. The government planned to have these encounters, sending many gifts with the expedition that Lewis and Clark could use to give as gifts of peace or trade for needed supplies. Rumelhart showed the students some of the gifts that the expedition took with them, including multi-colored beads, peace pipes that look like hatchets, a rifle with powder and musket balls, and an 8 oz. block of tea that at the time was worth \$100.

Rumelhart's group gives many demonstrations throughout the year, and if you are interested in learning more about the expedition, these demonstrations are a good source of information. He also noted that they are always looking for new people to join the group. If you are interested in being a part of a historical re-enactment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, contact Randy Rumelhart at 605-659-0513.



Middle School Student Council Happenings . . . *By Marla Jo Mickelson & Angie Langle, M.S. Council Advisors*

Elk Point-Jefferson Middle School was an exciting place to be as 2012 came to a close. The student council prepared some fun events to help students enjoy the end of the year at a time that can be a little stressful with semester test preparation.

December started with decorating of homerooms. The council picked *Cities* as the theme this year, including Las Vegas, New York, Athens, Honolulu, Paris, Washington, DC, and Dallas. Holiday decorations were combined with concepts related to the specific city to create an enjoyable atmosphere in the classrooms. Homerooms were judged, and Mickelson's Mullets won the competition for best decorated room. Hayes's Hunters came in second place, and Zeller's Zeroes placed third.

The Middle School Council sponsored a coat drive to help keep kids in our communities warm this winter. Bagfuls of coats, hats, mittens, and scarves were delivered to KMEG's collection area. The homerooms competed with this collection to encourage everyone to participate. Third place went to Kalda's Khaos, and second place was awarded to Zeller's Zeroes. First place winners were Mickelson's Mullets. Each of these homerooms received bonus points for their efforts in the Battle of the Homerooms held the last day of school in 2012.



Classes at EPJ ended on December 21 in an exciting way for the middle school students and staff. The day started with homeroom breakfasts and a dance in the gym. After lunch, the student body met back in the gym for the Annual Battle of the Homerooms. This was an afternoon of events including obstacle courses, blanket relay, three-legged race, and many more. This is a great time for homerooms to bond and work together toward a common goal. Third place was awarded to Langle's Lumberjacks, while second place went to Mickelson's Mullets. After a hard-fought battle, first place was earned by Kalda's Khaos.



The Middle School Council will continue to work hard to provide memorable opportunities for 2013. Upcoming events include Valentine Grahams and Winter Meltdown. Council members will also work toward helping the community by working concession stands, recycling paper, and participating in the Have a Heart Food Drive.

Middle School All-State Band 2013

By Aaron Schmeling, 5-12 Band

Congratulations go out to three of our middle school band students. Eighth graders Emily Peirce (clarinet), Lynsey Klunder (flute), and Elena Giorgio (percussion) auditioned and have all been selected for South Dakota Middle School All-State Band. We travel to Pierre on March 1 to rehearse with students from across the state and guest directors, culminating in a concert on March 2. The performance will be at 4:00 P.M. at the T.F. Riggs High School Auditorium. Emily Peirce has now been selected for this honor for her second time. Congratulations to all three young ladies for their accomplishment and hard work.



Video Games and Sleep . . . By T.A. Aslesen, High School Principal

A fairly common issue faced by parents and educators alike revolves around students not getting enough sleep at night. This can be for a variety of reasons such as school activities, late bus trips, staying up to study or complete homework, texting, and even playing video games, just to name a few. I have personal experience as we all have with the majority of these except for staying up to text all night or playing video games into the small hours. I am not up for texting all night long or really for texting at all, so I thought I would give playing a video game a try. It sounds silly, but I wanted to find out just what effect it would have on my ability to sleep and function the following day. What I discovered surprised me.

Of course, you would think that losing sleep would be a direct result of playing video games past my usual bedtime. That was an obvious one. What surprised me was trying to go to sleep following "gaming." My mind continued to run through the scenarios, problem-solving, and stress of the game. I could feel my body tense up as my mind continued to spiral through the series of events being replayed in my mind. It was intriguing to consider the connection between mind and body as I tried to continue to unwind. It took me another hour to feel drowsy enough to fall asleep. Amazing. Even more so when I woke, my muscles were tired and sore which I, being in less than top physical shape, attributed to tense muscles throughout the night as I subconsciously continued to decode the game. I was certainly impressed that the experience made me so tense for such a long duration.

Through my little experiment on myself, it is incredibly obvious to me that playing video games until midnight has a serious influence on how productive one can be the following day. If your child enjoys video games, I have three who enjoy them, consider establishing a definite time each evening when games need to be put away. Keep in mind the after-effect of games and the influence they may have on the sleep patterns of your child. If you don't believe me, give it a try for yourself. You will appreciate the experiment and have a whole new perspective on the issue.

Quad State Honor Band . . . By Aaron Schmeling, 5-12 Band

Congratulations go out to the ten members of the high school band who auditioned for and were selected for the Quad State Honor Band hosted by the University of South Dakota. Each student recorded an etude to be judged by the assorted faculty in the music department at USD. Auditions for this honor band can come from South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota. Their (extra) efforts paid off as we had so many students selected, and I am incredibly proud of their work. The students selected were flute players Anna Chicoine, Brittany Hanson, and Katherine Giorgio, clarinet player Tori Johnson, horn player Kelsey Abbey, trumpet players Charlie Nearman and Meghan Schenk, trombone player Matthew Lehman, tuba player Jordan Brandon, and percussionist Ely Buehner. The concert took place at Aalfs Auditorium in Slagle Hall on the USD campus on January 28.

Need a Storage Shed or Playhouse?

By Kelly Conger, Industrial Technology

The Introduction to Building Trades classes would like to build some storage sheds and some children's playhouses this semester. We need to have these sheds sold before we can build them. The storage sheds will be 8' X 10' or 8' X 12' and can be custom-made to



your measurements and style. The sheds will be made with 3/4" floors, 2 X 4 walls, plywood roofs, and 3 tab shingles. These sheds would have to be picked up at the school and moved to your residence. The children's playhouses can be made to your dimensions and can be delivered to your home. Menards has kits for both playhouses and sheds; if you want to get a kit, we can assemble it at EPJ High School. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Mr. Conger at 605-356-5950. Thank you.



National Honor Society Notes

By Rita Ahmann, NHS Advisor

The annual induction of new members to the National Honor Society was held on Tuesday, November 20, at 7:00 P.M. in the band room. A group of twenty-three new members was pledged into the Husky Chapter. The seniors were Tatum Adema, Caitlin Davis, Joshua Dodsall, Haylee Erickson, Dakota Navrkal, Gabriela Perez, and Kristen Rarrat. The new junior members inducted were Keely Bertram, Jordan Brandon, Elysia Buehner, Skylore Curry, Hope Erickson, Ian Grassel, Brittany Hanson, Conner Kneip, Emma McInerney, Alex McLaury, Stacie McLaury, Katherine Mickelson, Cody Reed, Adam Shanks, Amy Zeller, and Heaven Zevenbergen. 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. The new members recited the National Honor Society pledge. They were presented with a membership pin and card by a person of their choosing. The officers of the local chapter were also installed at the ceremony. This year's president is Matthew Lehman. The vice president/treasurer is Hannah Klinkhammer. Taylor Donnelly is the secretary. Members of the National Honor Society inducted last school year were Kelsey Abbey, Anna Chicoine, Taylor Donnelly, Hannah Klinkhammer, Matthew Lehman, Charles Nearman, Seth Petra, Audrey Truhe, Chelsea Weidner, Brock Zeller, and Katie Zeller.



One big project that the NHS has completed so far this year is the Soles4Souls shoe collection. For two weeks in November, new and used shoes poured in from the communities of Elk Point and Jefferson. A total of 848 pairs plus some single shoes were collected. Considering that over 1,000 pairs were donated two years ago, the outcome this year was greater than anticipated. The shoes were stored at Lori and Chuck Donnelly's, where students paired and boxed the shoes in only one hour one evening. Later, the Donnellys transported the shoes to Village Northwest in Sheldon, IA, which is an area collection point for Soles4Souls. There, the residents clean up the shoes and prepare them for shipment throughout the United States and abroad.

The next project for NHS members was a food drive on "Soup-er" Bowl Sunday, February 3. Nonperishable items and paper products were collected at local churches that day and the week following Super Bowl Sunday. Contributions were taken to the Union County Food Pantry in Elk Point.

Clay-Union Foundation Seeks Donors for Scholarships

The Clay-Union Foundation began in 1997 and matches youth ages 5-17 in Clay and Union County with adult mentors. The Foundation is offering a \$500 community service scholarship. The first scholarship was awarded last year to a graduating senior from Elk Point-Jefferson. Again this year, the scholarship is being offered to EPJ graduating seniors.

The foundation is seeking donors who would like to continue the scholarship with any donation amount, large or small. The funds are managed professionally by the SD Community Foundation in Pierre, SD, and the foundation is capable of accepting donations of any amount. Endowments are also available.

The Clay-Union Foundation is a recognized 501c3 nonprofit agency, and all donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donations should be made payable to the Clay-Union Foundation, marked scholarship on the memo line, and mailed to John Gille, 31911 3rd Avenue, Elk Point, SD 57025. Every donation makes a difference so we can continue to offer the scholarship to EPJ students for generations.

Little Huskies Storm the Court

By T.A. Aslesen, High School Principal

Squeaky shoes and jump shots ruled November and December as our elementary students participated in our Monday night Little Huskies Basketball program. This year marks the fifth year of our program with 38 1st grade through 2nd grade boys and 39 3rd grade through 5th grade boys for a total of 77 participants! Both groups have done an outstanding job in learning and developing a love for the game of basketball which we hope continues for a lifetime of enjoyment.

The organizers would like to take a line or two and thank those people who have made the program possible as well as our parents for encouraging your Little Husky to be a part of the program. Thank you for your commitment to the lives of our youth.

Basketball Advisors: Coach Knippling, Coach Haberling, Coach Oetken, and Coach Timmins

Volunteers: EPJ Boosters and Boys Varsity Basketball Team

Parent Coaches/Volunteers: Dan Schmitz, Dan Peed, Brian McInerney, Matt Hammitt, Mark Buenger, Josh Nearman, Mitch Herrity, Scott Hanson, Jeremy Lichtenberg, Eric Fornia, Matt McDermott, Greg Buckley, Matt Goehring, Jessie Hailey, Roger Sayler, Nick Hammitt, and Chris Trometer

Elk Point-Jefferson High School Choir Makes Disney Debut . . . By Dustin Rusche, 5-12 Vocal

During the final week of Christmas break, 43 members of the Elk Point-Jefferson High School Choir traveled to Orlando to perform at Ron Jon Surf Shop and Downtown Disney. Many preparations were taken by the students, chaperones, and EPJ Music Boosters to make this trip a success. Here is our story...

In the fall of 2011, I began conversation with Disney about the requirements for application to perform at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Our fall concert in October 2011 was recorded, and video was sent to Disney for acceptance. In early 2012, we received word that the group was accepted to perform, which led to the formal organization of this trip, including among other things, dates, fundraisers, rehearsing music, and finding chaperones.

Fast forward...after a three-hour final rehearsal on the night of January 1, 2013, the group loaded the bus and departed for Florida at 12:30 A.M. on January 2. The motor coach traveled through the night and day, making several stops for meals and restroom breaks before arriving in Florida on the morning of January 3. Our first major destination was Ron Jon Surf Shop near Cocoa Beach. Students were given a chance to shop at the store before giving a 20-minute performance in the store for the customers. Ron Jon Surf Shop graciously awarded us a Surf Board Plaque as well as a goody bag for each student that participated. After performing, we had a grill-out lunch at a restaurant located along the ocean at Cocoa Beach. Students had several hours of beach time, including swimming, sand volleyball, playing in the sand, and even a few surfing lessons from the locals. The evening concluded with a pizza party at the hotel and a good night's rest to be ready for the busy days ahead.

January 4 started with an amazing opportunity for the EPJ students; they were able to spend two hours with Disney musicians in the Performance Hall at Saratoga Springs Resort. In this workshop, students created sound effects and learned two musical selections that were recorded by a Disney Sound Technician. The workshop provided students with insight on how to become a performing musician or dancer, highlighting the audition process that Disney follows. Our clinician also taught choreography to the students which they performed for fun on the stage in the Performance Hall. The workshop concluded with the debut of the EPJ High School Choir performing *The Lion King*. In this short amount of time, the sound effects and songs learned and performed by the EPJ Choir were set to a condensed six-minute version of *The Lion King*. It was truly an experience that the students will remember for a lifetime. The remainder of the day was spent seeing the sights at Epcot, where students were able to visit many countries from around the world. "Illuminations: Reflections of the Earth" finished our day at Epcot, which included a mesmerizing fireworks, laser, and water show seen atop the World Showcase Lagoon.

On Saturday, January 5, we spent some time shopping at Downtown Disney and scoping out our performance venue, the Waterside Stage at Downtown Disney's Market Place. We were able to have a rehearsal prior to our performance which gave the group time to come together as a team and to recognize and appreciate the importance of hard work, dedication, and unity as we prepared for this performance. Without these characteristics of teamwork, we would not have the success that we did that day. This performance at Disney was especially touching to me, as I was granted this same opportunity in June 1998 by my high school music directors, Ms. Lori Looyenga and Mr. Tom Musel. This experience was much different being on the director side, but it was so very rewarding to see the growth, success, and true happiness in the students. Our performance at the Waterside Stage was very successful and received many compliments from audience members from across the globe. Following our performance, the group traveled to Magic Kingdom where students rode many rides, experienced the Celebrate A Dream Come True Parade, Main Street Electrical Parade, and Wishes Nighttime Spectacular.

On January 6, our final day in Florida, our original plans included a Show Choir Magic Workshop with a Disney Choreographer. Due to medical complications, our workshop was cancelled. We were able to spend the day seeing the sights at Disney's Animal Kingdom and Hollywood Studios. The final highlight of Disney for many of the students was experiencing the breathtaking fireworks and water show Fantasmic.

This trip would not have been possible without the support of the EPJ Music Boosters, EPJ Administration, local businesses, parents, and community members. Thank you to the parent chaperones that donated their time to care for and be of assistance to the students on this trip. I would like to extend a special thank you to Amy Giorgio for the hours given up during her work day to come and rehearse with the choir leading up to the trip. Lastly, thank you to everyone that supported our many fundraisers through the process; this trip could not have happened without your generosity.



EPJ Alumni Basketball Tournament



Who: Any and all Elk Point, Jefferson, or EPJ alumni
What: Alumni Basketball Tourney
When: Saturday, March 30, 2013 (weekend of Easter)
All games will be played on Saturday
Where: Elk Point-Jefferson School
Why: Fund Raiser for Boys Basketball Team

Team Rules:

- Teams will consist of no more than 8 males per team (females are allowed).
- High school players are only able to play on high school teams.
- HANDICAP Points available (if average age is over 30, points may be given to level playing field).
- If you did not graduate from Elk Point, Jefferson, or EPJ, you are not allowed to play.
 - Staff is an exception—anyone who has taught at any of the three schools can play.
- Tournament rules will be provided on the date.

Team Registration:

- Please get teams created as soon as possible for organization reasons:
 - Check graduation records
 - Get officials organized
 - Set up bracket & rosters
- Contact either of the following to register a team:
 - Cole Knippling (605) 730-1771 or Cole.Knippling@k12.sd.us
 - Kelly Haberling (605) 670-6504 or Kelly.Haberling@k12.sd.us
- Register your whole team so rosters can be set and programs made.
- Cost will be \$12 per player. Payment is due before first game is played.



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
 Tuesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 21
 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

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What: Chili Cook Off & Live Auction
When: Friday, April 5, beginning at 6:30 P.M.
Where: Bump N Sam's basement
For: EPJ Community Commitment Fund (funding local scholarships)

Needed:

- Teams to enter the chili cook off contest—bring a crockpot full of your best chili and win the traveling trophy!
Be creative!
The winning recipe will be auctioned off
- Items for the live auction which will begin at 8:30 P.M.

Questions or to enter: [Contact Melissa Curry at Melissa.Curry@k12.sd.us](mailto:Melissa.Curry@k12.sd.us)

We are proud of our EPJ graduates! Wear Husky apparel that night in support of our current EPJ seniors and our future Husky graduates! Admission is free with Husky apparel and \$2 without.

The **Elk Point-Jefferson Community Commitment Fund** is supported through annual donations from community members and fundraisers. The fund is a show of support and encouragement for all students to continue their education at a post-secondary institution including a college, university, community, technical, or vocational school. The long-term goal is to have a Community Commitment Fund endowment that reduces or even eliminates the need for annual fundraising.

2014 East Coast Trip Deadline Set . . . *By Patty Skinner, Trip Coordinator*

May 10 is the deadline for signing up for the 2014 East Coast Trip. With this deadline, Explorica, the student tour company, can begin making plans and reservations for the upcoming trip.

The trip is May 31-June 6, 2014. Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and New York City are the major stops on the itinerary. It is open to middle school students, any high school students who missed previous trips, and interested adults.

For more information, please contact Patty Skinner at muppet@iw.net or telephone 605-356-2674.

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