

NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Volume 2, Issue 2

ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Elkhorn Middle School will be conducting parent-teacher conferences on October 18 & 19 from 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. We will be utilizing the student-led format for conferences once again. We would like to recommend the following:

Student's last name A-M attend conferences on Tuesday

Student's last name N-Z attend conferences on Wednesday

You may come at any time on your recommended day. If you need to switch your day, please feel free to do so. As always, if you feel you need a private conference with a teacher or the team, call or email the Team Teacher Point of Contact to set up your appointment. We encourage you to visit with each teacher during conferences about the specifics of their class.

Team Teacher Point of Contact:

6th Grade, - Jenny Gragert - jgragert@epsne.org

7th Grade - Trina Lutes - klutes@epsne.org

8th Grade - Tracey Grisham - tgrisham@epsne.org

EMS BOOSTER CLUB MEETING — **OCTOBER 6, 2016 @ 6:30 PM**

Mr. Baker, Superintendent of Schools, will be here to discuss district enrollment growth and potential bond issues, along with a potential timeline for a 3rd high school. Please join us in the Media Center on October 6th.

NESA STUDENT REPORTS

The district has received NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) Individual Student Reports from the spring of 2016. These individual reports will be available to parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 18th and 19th. It is certainly also an option for parents to contact the school office and pick up the report prior to conferences. Elkhorn students once again demonstrated very strong performance, and the district is thankful for its hard-working students, dedicated staff, caring parents, and supportive community.

PURPLE HANDS RALLY

EMS is celebrating its 12th annual Purple Hands Rally at 8:30am, Thursday, October 13th in the gym.

This is an anti-bullying /tolerance program in which students, parents, and staff pledge to stop bullying at our school. There will be a play performed by RESPECT2ALL to emphasize how peer pressure and harassment can affect the entire student body. Whether the bully, the victim, or the by-stander, studies have shown that this behavior has negative consequences for all involved. As a school and community we need to teach acceptance of others and the issues they may be dealing with.

RESPECT2ALL is a research-based, nonprofit organization based in Omaha and was founded by child psychologist, Dr. Patricia Newman. In this program, actors interact with the students after the play to educate them on how to identify situations in which they may feel peer pressure and healthy strategies they may use if they feel pressure to engage in unhealthy behaviors. At times, these plays can bring out strong emotions.

We invite you to join us in the audience for the rally and the performances.



6TH GRADE NEWS

MRS. CHANDLER, MRS. CRAWFORD, MRS. GRAGERT, MR. PREISSLER, MRS. YOUNG, MS. MEIER, MRS. GOEHRING, MRS. MEYSENBURG

Lang Arts – We have learned about the different ways words can work together in sentences. This month, we will continue to focus on subjects and predicates and will also practice writing different types of sentences. We will have our sentences district assessment this month.

Reading – Sixth grade students are studying elements of fiction by reading stories from different genres. The AR (Accelerated Reader) Program is off to an amazing start with almost every student having earned AR points — some already well over 100!!!.

Science – In the beginning of October we will finish up our Science Inquiry Unit. For the rest of the month we will start the Environment Unit.

Social Studies – Social Studies students will continue studying the United States Government. We will also study our state and local government.

Math – Sixth grade math students will be focusing on order of operations, exponents, prime factorization and decimals.

Pre-Concepts – In the next month, students will be focusing on integers. They will understand how to add, subtract, multiply and divide integers.

IMPORTANT DATES!



Important Dates in October

Tuesday, 10/18 and
Wednesday, 10/19
Conferences
2:20 p.m. Dismissal

Friday, 10/14
Teacher In-Service
NO SCHOOL

Friday, 10/21
NO SCHOOL

7TH GRADE NEWS

MR. BEARD, MRS. HINGORANI, MS. LUTES, MRS. WELLS, MRS. PIKE, MRS. GOEHRING,

In Science, 7th graders will be wrapping up the scientific method and inquire unit. We will then move into Earth Science. In this unit we will study Earth's structure, plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes. The Student textbook will be online. We will continue to have Friday quizzes over material covered each week.

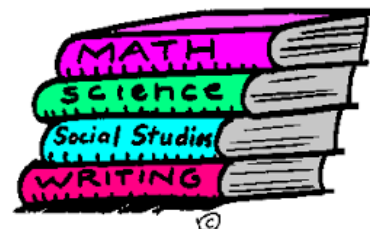
In Language Arts we will begin second quarter with a writing project. We will be practicing the steps of the writing process and be taking our work from prewriting to publishing. We will also begin our study of the eight parts of speech in mid-October. That will take us through the end of the month.

7th grade Math students will be finishing Chapter 2 and starting Chapter 3. This will start an application of percentages unit.

Pre-Algebra students have begun Chapter 3, which includes simplifying expressions and solving equations using all operations.

In World History we are finishing up with the Fertile Crescent Empires. We have been looking at the ancient areas of Mesopotamia, Sumer, Babylon, and Assyria. In addition, we have been studying the different empires that were established in these areas and how the civilizations and empires were developed. In the next chapter we will be studying Ancient Egypt.

In Reading class, we will spend the month of October working through short stories in our textbook as we study the elements of fiction. We will continue writing weekly letters over AR books each week, and vocabulary units will continue to happen every full week of school.



8TH GRADE NEWS

MS. GUTSCHOW, MRS. BAUMERT, MRS. GRISHAM, MR. HULTMAN,
MRS. COLLINGSWORTH, MRS. HOLLMAN, MRS. VALASEK

Our year is off to a fantastic start. We are enjoying your students. We will soon begin preparation for Student-Led Conferences which will be held October 18 & 19.

In Language Arts we are beginning our descriptive writing unit. We are focusing on powerful sentence structure, effective paragraphing, and zooming in on specific/precise details. We are preparing for the district writing assessment which will take place the first week in November.

In Reading, students are finishing this quarter's theme of comprehension and analysis of fiction, with emphasis upon inferring and drawing conclusions. Students will take the common assessment over fiction in mid-October.

In American History we will be working toward our first common assessment, Duties and Responsibilities of American citizens.

In Science we will finish working on our science inquiry project and then begin studying weathering, erosion, and Earth history.

In Pre-Algebra we will be covering positive and negative exponents, scientific notation, along with divisibility rules. In Algebra we will be writing, solving and graphing (compound) inequalities.

CHORUS NEWS

MRS. WORTMAN



Congratulations to the 2016/17 "Classics" show choir! I am so very proud of all who tried out! I am sure the judges had a tough time rating the auditions! Members are:

Ryan Akey, Pilar Arellano, Braydon Ballard, Victoria Bashara, Beau Beard, Trevon Beekman, Chloe Biddle, Nolan Bowes, Tyler Callan, Tarah Cook, Patton Engel, Sara Espinoza, Megan Garcia, Makaela Gebeke, Sophie Grace, Emilee Hanfland, Peyton Hardy, Kaylene Haskett, Ben Hastreiter, Trevor Haugen, Jacob Huss, Hailee Janousek, Larissa Lee, Braydon Lindsley-Lawver, Jordan Lockner, Ethan Lorensen, Lewis Morton, Carly Nichols, Dane Peterson, Jamie Riley, Hailey Sant, Grace Scott, Gavin Shea, Avery Sufficool, Elijah Sutton, Colton Uhing, Abby Van Blarcom, Marissa Wheeler, Isaac Workman, Keegan Worner

All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choirs are busy working on music concepts and the songs for our 1st concert on Tuesday, November 1st. The concert is held in the EMS gymnasium at 6:30 PM. All students should be in their designated spots by 6:15. Concert attire is the EMS "Noteworthy" polo shirt with black pants, socks, and shoes. The students look forward

DISCOVERY CENTER NEWS

MS. HARTMAN

EMS will be hosting a fall Scholastic Book Fair October 11-13 and 17-19. The book fair will run from 8:00 a.m.—3:40 p.m. on normal school days. During parent-teacher conferences it will be open from 8:00 am—2:30 p.m. and from 4:30 pm—8:30 p.m. Please feel free to stop into the library anytime to check out the new titles and series that our students are reading. For those who prefer to shop online, a link will be posted soon on the library web page under EMS Links. The online fair will be accepting orders from October 6th through October 19th and can be found at <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/elkhornmiddleschool1>. Thanks for supporting the EMS library!



BAND NEWS

MR. EDWARDS

This year we are fortunate to have Miss Cassandra Rathman, EHS assistant band director, working with our students. Miss Rathman is a recent graduate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and flute is her major instrument. This semester we are enjoying having Mr. Sam Christensen as an EHS teacher cadet working with our period 7 and 8 classes. Mr. Christensen is a French horn and trumpet player who is also one of the drum majors of the EHS Marching Band. Welcome Miss Rathman and Mr. Christensen!



October 6th – 8th Grade Band to EHS– On Thursday, October 6th, the 8th grade band will go to EHS to observe and participate in a high school marching band rehearsal. This is always a really good experience for the students. This helps educate the 8th graders about what marching band is like at the high school level.

November 15th - Concert @ EMS – On Tuesday, November 15th, all the band students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be performing their first concert of the year. The concert will take place in the EMS gym and will start at 6:30 PM. All students should arrive at EMS by 6:00 PM for warm-ups. Please come to encourage your students and enjoy the concert. Concert attire will be expected for all students and will include black pants, black shoes and socks, and the EMS “Noteworthy” polo shirt (tucked in).

December 16th - 6th Grade Pep-Band @ EHS – On Friday, **December 16th**, the 6th grade band has been invited to perform with the EHS high school band at a varsity basketball game. More details will be sent home with the students as we get closer to the event, but students should plan to report to the EHS music rooms by 6:15 PM. Students will be dismissed following half time of the game. Participating students will be admitted to the game free, but parents and siblings will need to pay normal admission or show their Elkhorn Activity Passes. Dress for this event will be jeans, tennis shoes, and the EMS “Noteworthy” polo shirts (tucked in). This is always a fun evening for the students, so please put it on your calendar!

APPOINTMENT REMINDER

Any student who needs to leave school during the day for an appointment **must check out with the office before leaving**. No student will be dismissed unless the following has occurred:

Parents/guardians have contacted the school office and arranged for the dismissal (by phone or note). You may notify the office up to a week before, but preferably no later than 8:30 am the day of the appointment. The student will be given a pass to leave the classroom, go to their locker, sign out in the office, and meet you at the front door at the requested time. This process allows for minimal disruption to the classroom while allowing you to pick your child up as needed. We appreciate your efforts to schedule appointments outside of school hours when possible.



HEALTH SCREENINGS

Health screening will be held on Friday, October 28th at EMS. Screenings being done are measuring height, weight, vision, hearing and dental. Twenty-two volunteers will be needed to get this accomplished in a short period of time. The success of this screening will depend on the volunteers so please consider helping. Please e-mail MaryJo at mgiesselmann@epsne.org to volunteer. The screening will be in the morning between 8:30 and 10:30 am. It is helpful if small children are not brought along as there is no place for them to be and you are busy during this time. Your help is appreciated! Please let us know if you are interested.

MIX-IT-UP AT LUNCH



We will be having Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day on October 25th for 6th and 7th graders. Students will be encouraged to break out of a rut and sit with different students at lunch. They may even end up making a new friend! For 8th graders, we will “mix it up” during Hi-5.

DAILY BULLETIN

Parents may view the EMS daily announcements at: www.elkhornweb.org, EMS heading under the Schools Tab, and then click on Daily Bulletin.

POWER SCHOOL

If you did not attend Open House, you may still pick up your username and password information from the office. This will give you access to your child's grade book for each class. District policy states that parents/guardians must personally come in to the office to sign and pick up this confidential information. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to mail or send this information home with students. Please take advantage of this powerful tool.

TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION PROGRAM

EMS would like to thank families and friends who have EMS designated as their school of choice in the Take Charge of Education program. EMS received a check last year for \$600.00 from Target Stores. This is 1% of charge sales during the past year generated from Target charge cards that have EMS designated as their school. If you have a charge card at Target or get one at some point in the future, we would appreciate you choosing us as your partner school. Thanks again to all!!

BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

APPAREL ORDERS are completely distributed to your students. If there are issues with your order, please contact Wendy Moore at (402) 850-0121 or WendyMooreOmaha@aol.com

8TH GRADE CELEBRATION The 8th Grade Celebration Committee is being formed! Any interested 8th grade parents who would like to assist with the planning of the springtime event should contact Renee Gebeke at RENEE.MJMJ@GMAIL.COM or (402) 618-0468.

SNACK PACKS Snack Packs continue to be a hit with our EMS students as they travel to represent our school. Thanks to all who have helped build snack packs so far: Becky Wieneke, Lori Lindberg, Toni Nichols, Callie Vavra, Robin Nelson, Bobbi Jo Howard, Angela Sherrill, Janet Degan, Jen Sharar, and Tricia Rager. It is a simple way to help on YOUR schedule. If you would like to help build Snack Packs for future EMS activity trips, please contact Wendy Moore (402) 850-0121 or WendyMooreOmaha@aol.com.

EMS Booster Club wants to thank you in advance for signing up to volunteer for a concession stand shift. It is a fun and easy way to connect with other parents while helping raise funds for your school!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eaba722aafd0-emsboys>

The **NEON** DANCE was a really fun night for our EMS students. We would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped before and during the dance: Callie Vavra, Toni Nichols, Robin Nelson, Gigi Jensen, Angela Sherrill, Kerry Benes, Amanda Mangiamelli, Hilarie & Jay Calek, Mike Elser, April & John Cook, Cassie Bratcher, Christan Ford, Christy Todd, Deb & Jon Thomas, Erica Barsi, Ethel Hartman, Heather Witt, Jen Sharar, Kate Spellerberg, Kelli Swanson, Kristi Gross, Lori Brunner-Buck, Maria Rath, Jodi Hague, Lori Lindberg, and Marisa Trautman. We would also like to thank the Hi-5 Teachers and the students who helped make those AWESOME NEON POSTERS! Great decor for the night!



OCTOBER BOX TOPS CONTEST

Bring in 10 BoxTops (must be in a baggy or envelope with your name & your Hi-5) and you will be entered into a drawing for \$10 CASH! Each Box Top is worth 10 cents for EMS! Collecting them is an easy way to help raise money for EMS. A complete list of products is available at: www.boxtops4education.com. Thanks for your support!!



CLOTHING DRIVE

It's time to clean out our closets and get rid of those unwanted clothes!

Womenade of Elkhorn is once again sponsoring a Clothing Drive for Elkhorn families in need and we can sure use your help!

Drop off your gently used clothing items to our school between Monday, October 17th and Thursday, October 20th 2016. We can especially use fall and winter clothing. Families in need will then be invited to come and shop for FREE! Anything remaining will be donated to COPE (who also gives away clothes for Free).

We do have some additional good news . . . Target Stores will be helping us with the drive. They are lending us their clothing racks, hangers, size dividers, mannequins, bags, and providing volunteers for the event. We will set up the Westridge Elementary gym just like a store to give them a wonderful shopping experience. We are really excited about this and couldn't wait to share the news.

Thank You all so very much for your support. This is a great community.

This is an amazing opportunity for Elkhorn families to help other Elkhorn families. We are happy to report that all of our elementary, middle, and high schools are participating.

If you would like a donation receipt, please make sure to attach a list of donated items, your name, address, and phone number to your bag. Please contact Theresa Johnson at mommatathome@cox.net or at 402-290-9293 with any questions.

TECH SAVVY PARENT TIPS

OCTOBER 2016

Elkhorn Public Schools Policy 507.13—Internet Safety Policy was written in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act. Tech Savvy Parent tips are intended to inform and educate parents of technology that may be available to their students. Tips may feature apps that are educational as well as those that may be a cause for concern to parents.

SchoolMessenger—Are you up-to-date?

EPS uses a parent messaging system called SchoolMessenger to send emails and phone calls to parents. To ensure you are receiving important messages from your school, be sure to let the office know of any changes to your email addresses or phone numbers.

Popular Apps—Photo Vaults and Secret Folders

Several free (or low-cost) apps allow users to hide information, photos and videos on electronic devices. Apps such as KYMS (Keep Your Media Safe), Vaulty, PhotoVault, Private Photo Vault and Gallery Lock store media in password protected folders, which can even be disguised as other applications, such as a calculator. Similar applications, like Secret Folder, allow users to store apps and media under a folder labeled as *My Utilities*.

PowerSchool—the app

PowerSchool is portable! The PowerSchool for Parents app is available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play. Parents can easily view each child's progress in a single feed to check grades, review assignments and more. After downloading the app, enter 68022 for the zip code and choose search. Select Elkhorn Public Schools and then log in using



WOMENADE CLOTHING DRIVE

Community Clothing drive benefiting
Elkhorn Families

How do I help?

- * Collect your gently used children's clothing (all children ages up through high school). We really need fall and winter items.
- * make sure it is clean and tidy,
- * please pack items in bags or boxes,
- * then load it up and drop it off.



When: We will be accepting gently used clothing
Monday, October 17th through Thursday, October 20th.

Where: Drop clothing items at **Any Elkhorn Elementary, Middle, or High School.**

Shopping: Families in need will be contacted by their schools and invited to shop. All clothing is FREE.

Donation: Womenade of Elkhorn is a 501c3 organization. If you would like a donation form, please attach a list of articles to your bag along with your name, address, and phone number.

Questions: Theresa Johnson 402-290-9293 or mommatathome@cox.net



We hope you will join us for our 22nd Annual Hall of Fame Reception on Sunday, October 23rd at Elkhorn South High School. Hors d'oeuvres and assorted desserts will be served from 2:00-2:45pm with the awards ceremony from 2:45-4pm. The event is **free** to attend, but we request that you rsvp using the button below. Seating is limited. Please make your reservation by October 7th on our website at <http://www.elkhornfoundation.org/hall-of-fame-rsvp/>.



Please join us for a tailgate party with the Stormin' Antler Swim Team on October 7th, prior to the EHS/ESHS football game. For ticket information, please contact Stacey Selk at sselk1@epsne.org. If you are an EPS alumni, don't forget to fill out your alumni profile at www.elkhornfoundation.org/alumni and encourage your fellow classmates to do the same. To further stay connected, follow us on our Facebook or Twitter pages!



Elkhorn Kids Campus is hiring! Are you bright, energetic and creative? Do you like working with children? Then EKC is for you! Stop in to the foundation office for an application, or download it online at <http://www.elkhornfoundation.org/kids-campus-and-ace/ekc-application/>. Email your completed application to awhorlow@epsne.org



Over \$119,000 was awarded to Elkhorn Public Schools classrooms through the Classroom Grants Program this year, which represents a total of 92 wishes granted! Please consider supporting our classroom grant program so we can continue to grant more wishes for grants like new technology, robotics, books,

schools plays, and more! You can even designate your school or specific grant for your donation. See the listing of your school's grants on our website at <http://www.elkhornfoundation.org/sample-page/classroom-grants-2/>.

October 2016



Elkhorn Middle School

The "Classic" One

Home of the Antlers

3200 North 207th Plaza

Elkhorn, NE 68022

Phone: 402-289-2428

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 7 VB vs. ERMS 4:15 pm 8 VB @ ERMS 4:15pm	4 7FB @ Norris 4:15pm 8FB vs Norris 4:15pm @ EMS	5	6 7VB vs EVVMS @4:15pm 8VB @ EVVMS 4:15pm EMS Booster Club Meeting 6:30pm	7	8
9	10 School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m	11	12	13 End of 1st Quarter 7FB @ Bennington 4:15pm 8FB VS Bennington 6:00 pm @ EMS Purple Hands Rally 8:30 am EMS DC TRIP	14 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service EMS DC TRIP	15 EMS DC TRIP
16	17	18 One Hour Early Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-8:30 p.m.	19 One Hour Early Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-8:30 p.m.	20	21 NO SCHOOL	22
23 EPSF Hall of Fame Reception	24	25 Mix-It Up at Lunch Day	26	27	28 Health Screening 8:30—10:30	29
30	31					