

P W PRINTS

October 2017

Principal's Message

Dear Westridge Families,

It is hard to believe that next week is October already. This means Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up soon. Please see the information below for directions to sign up to schedule a conference time.

Pick a Time-Conference Scheduling Directions for Parents

Web address:

<https://pickatime.com/client?ven=11611722>

If this link does not connect to the website please copy and paste into your URL.

Register (kindergarten or students new to Westridge)

1. Enter your email address and push "Login/Create Account".
2. Fill in the required fields and register.
3. For each child, enter your child's first and last name, with no space, for the Student ID (example: JohnSmith) and Birth Date (example: 12/15/2005).

Sign In

If you've previously registered, all you need to do is enter your email address and password. The system will know about your appointments and the children you have added to your account.

Scheduling

1. Each colored square represents an available meeting time. The legend/key shows what each color means. **Click on a square to book that time.**
2. As an option, you have the choice of setting a time when you would like a reminder email delivered.
3. Click "**Create Appointment**" to finalize.

Repeat until you have a time for each of your children.

*At any time, you can click on "**printable schedule**" and print the resulting web page to get a hard copy of your schedule. You will also have the option to email your schedule to yourself.

*You have the ability to change your conference time through **October 15th**. You will need to log in with the email address and password you used to create your account. If you need to make a change after **October 15th**, you will need to contact the office at 402-289-2559.

*Click on "**Your Schedule**" to display and hide your appointments. There will be links to change the time or cancel the appointment.

Please Note: Specialists are also available for conferences during these times. Please feel free to stop in and visit with them during the conference days and times.

[TUESDAY] Oct 3

1st Grade Field Trip

DI Parent Meeting @ 4 PM in the library

PTO Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the library

[MONDAY] Oct 9

School Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM at Central Office

[TUESDAY] Oct 10

Picture Retakes

[WEDNESDAY] Oct 11

4th Grade Field Trip

[FRIDAY] Oct 13

No School- Teacher In-service

[TUES & WED] Oct 17 & 18

Parent/Teacher Conferences:
3:00 to 7:00 PM

[FRIDAY] Oct 20

No School

[FRIDAY] Oct 27

Fall Parties

Mr. Broshar



Westridge Elementary Mission Statement:

In an effort to create life-long learners, the staff at Westridge Elementary School working closely with parents and community strives to realize each child's fullest potential in the areas of personal, social, intellectual, emotional, and physical development.



Westridge Box Tops Classroom Competition...

Ends the LAST calendar week of every month! – Due Friday, October 27.

You can send your Box Tops to your child's classroom any time during the week each month. The top-contributing classroom throughout the school year earns a pizza or donut party. Each month, the monthly highest contributing classroom will receive a popcorn party prize. Congratulations to Mrs. Sorensen's class for winning the August classroom competition. September collection will happen Monday, October 2nd, so if you haven't already sent them this month, please send them with your child on Monday morning.

Reminder: Check to make sure the Box Tops have not expired.

Thanks for your help and support! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Hague at jhague@epsne.org or 402-289-2559.

You also might want to consider downloading the following app.: You can DOUBLE your contributions with this app! Go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/bonusapp> or <https://www.facebook.com/westridgeelkhorn/?fref=ts> for more information!

Question of the Month

What do I do if my child is sick or going to be absent from school?



We know that regular attendance at school is critical to students being able to reach their full potential. Students who maintain regular attendance develop responsibility, remain current with their class work, and receive the most benefit from the school day. However, there are times that students will not be in attendance for a variety of reasons.

When a student must be absent from school for illness, travel, family emergency, or medical appointments, parents are to call the school on the day of the absence and report their child's absence. If you know in advance of the absence, parents can call ahead of time, and even email the classroom teacher. This will allow the teacher time to plan for the student being gone. It gives the teacher time to get homework pulled together or get any work or tests that need to be done at school completed in a timely manner. We ask that parents notify the school by 9:30 AM on the day of the absence to eliminate any doubt as to the student's location.

It can be hard sometimes to know if you should or should not send your child to school. The district policy states that students should stay home if they have the following: contagious disease, suspicious skin rash, vomiting and/or diarrhea, temperature above 100 degrees, or head lice. Students do need to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

As always if you have specific questions about this or any of the district policies, please call the office at 402-289-2559.

Remember if you would like to submit any questions you have and in order to learn more about Westridge Elementary. Please go to the link below. If the link doesn't automatically open, please copy and paste it into your browser window.

Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbImM6Eo97sqJAeNdSrAUF36i38HfceX0xikTe3lhd_BItIA/viewf

P W PRINTS



October is Westridge month at Sports Clips in Elkhorn (located by the Donut Professor). Every Tuesday in October \$1 from every haircut comes back to Westridge Elementary. This money will go towards the new technology in the classrooms. So come get your haircut and support the school!

Thank you for all your support with the walk-a-thon. We raised over \$18,000!!! This is AMAZING! We have such a wonderful support system for our students and staff. These new smart boards will only help further our children's education. Keep watching for more ways to replace the boards!

You may have noticed some new "decorations" on some kids backpacks. This new trend is called spirit sticks and they can help your child show a piece of their personalities. These hot new trend will be sold at school twice a month. All proceeds will go towards the smart boards. Look for details to come.

Yearbook order forms are being sent home. Check your child's backpack to get one before the prices rise.

Don't want to worry about dinner during Parent Teacher conferences? We have you covered. Come out to Freddy's October 17th for Westridge night, a portion of the sales comes back to the school.

Thank you to everyone who came out to Chic-Fil-A night. We had a great turnout and love seeing familiar faces.

In October we will start our fall fundraiser, Cherrydale. The profits from these sales go to being able to provide a second field trip for each class, teacher appreciation, and so much more. Look for details to come.

Next PTO meeting is October 3rd at 6:30 in the media center. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come! Hope to see you there.

PTO MEETING SCHEDULE	
Next Meeting: October 3 rd	
November 7 th	March 6 th
December 5 th	April 3 rd
January 23 rd	May 1 st
February 6 th	
All meetings are held in the library at 6:30 PM.	



www.facebook.com/westridgeelkhorn



Tech Tips for Building Newsletters – October 2017

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.

YouTube – A Guide to Understanding Your Child's Video Watching

YouTube is a common video watching platform used by many youths to find content on subjects that they find interesting or enjoyable to watch. In order to have a better understanding of what your child is watching on YouTube, below is a list of questions that you can ask:

- 1) *What's trending today?* Trending videos appear on YouTube's home page and show the most recent viral videos, what's funny, and what's being shared. Knowing what's trending will give parents a better understanding of the type of content your child is being exposed to by them simply going to the YouTube home page.
- 2) *What channels do you subscribe to?* If a child is taking the time to subscribe to a specific channel, it's a guarantee that the content being shown is something of interest to them. Get involved and find out what those channels are, so you can get a better idea of what specific content your child finds interesting and why. This could turn out to be a significant subject area interest for your child and a good common ground topic for conversations.
- 3) *What's in your library?* One's YouTube library is the place where videos that the user has liked or shared are stored. This too, is a way to discover content that your child finds interesting.
- 4) *What was the last video you shared?* Youth share things with others only when they find them to be interesting or enjoyable, or they feel that others will enjoy them as well. Get a glimpse into what videos are catching their attention by asking this question.

Recently we have seen an increased number of requests for information regarding the importance of limiting screen time and engaging kids in other activities. Please read the below article regarding one idea that can be used to transition from a technology-filled day to a device-free night.

Device Free Dinner

Did you know that 92% of parents feel that quality conversations at dinner time are essential to connecting with their kids? Yet many worry that devices at the table are taking away from those moments. Curbing technology and device use at the table, including restaurants and not just home, is vital to keeping the conversation going and helping kids see that what's going on in their lives matters. Below are a few ways families can implement a device free dinner and connect over mealtimes:

1. *"What was the best thing that happened to you today?"* Get kids talking about their day and discover what brings them joy or what type of things make an impact on their day. It's this type of conversation that may just open your eyes to a new topic or activity that your child has recently discovered. Take this opportunity to find out what activities your child finds enjoyable, who they hang out with, etc.
2. *It's Your Turn, Pick A Topic.* Giving each member of the family a chance to choose the topic of conversation allows each individual to express themselves and gives insight into what's going on in each person's head. This can be done during every meal, where each member chooses a topic and it is discussed for a set amount of time, or it can be a daily opportunity, where each day, a different family member gets to choose the topic of conversation for the duration of the meal. Either way, make sure every individual participates, even if it's simply acknowledging a new area of interest for the family member that chose the topic.

P W PRINTS

3. *Practice What You Preach.* Kids follow the example of those around them, so parents taking phone calls and responding to emails or texts during dinner only shows them that the rules you put into place only apply to others. Show your children that you are taking the initiative seriously and give them your undivided attention. That phone call can be returned and the text message can certainly wait, and by doing so, you're showing your child that they matter to you more than the person on the other end of line.

Whether it is a sit-down meal at your family table or a quick run through the drive through, avoiding the use of technology during dinnertime guarantees that families have the daily opportunity to connect with each other. Take the time to listen and learn about every family members' day, you never know what new thing you might learn from it.

For more information on managing a device-free meal, check out <https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/>.

Portable PowerSchool

PowerSchool has gone mobile! 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 code BFTS to find Elkhorn Public Schools and then log in using your PowerSchool parent access login. This app is only available for parents of students in grades 4-12 (4th grade parents cannot access until after the conclusion of the 1st quarter).

HEALTH SCREENING - ALL K-4TH GRADERS AND STUDENTS NEW TO THE DISTRICT

School health screening is not diagnostic nor is it intended to replace regular preventative health care. The goal is to assist parents in the identification of potential health problems so they may seek appropriate medical evaluation. The annual health screening will include: height, weight, BMI, vision (near & far), hearing and dental for all K-4th grade students and new students to the district. Students may be screened upon the request of a parent or teacher at any time. Students with abnormal results at the initial screening will be re-screened by the school nurse and a parent will be notified of abnormal re-screening results. **Our annual screening this year is set for Thursday November**

9th at 8:30am. Please be sure to wear any corrective lenses on the date of the screening in order to avoid re-screening at a later date. Thank you!!

We are partnering with SchoolStore.com again this year. This is a website that you can use to shop, and the school will receive a percentage of the online sales. This is just another opportunity for families to support our school by purchasing items they would already be buying. There is no pressure to use this website at all, but if you would like to take a look at this opportunity, there will be information coming home with your child today.

SchoolStore.com *You Shop, Schools Win!*



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**PRECISION HAIRCUT • LEGENDARY HOT STEAMED TOWEL
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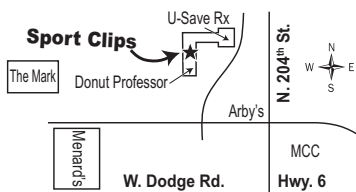
Elkhorn Skyline Pointe
 920 N 204th Ave
 Near Menard's
 402-999-8777
 SportClips.com/NE111

Special Offer for
Westridge Elementary School
 School of the Month

**Every Tuesday in
 October**

**\$1.00 for each haircut will be donated
 to Westridge Elementary School**

204th & Dodge location ONLY



SPORTS ON TV

GUY-SMART STYLISTS

Open EVERY DAY

NO APPOINTMENTS

SPORTCLIPS.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/SPORTCLIPSHAIRCUTS

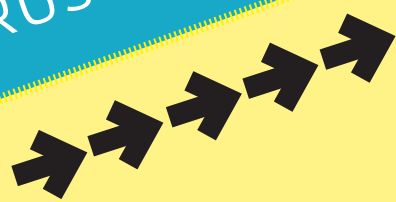
1ST
ANNUAL



5K RUN & SATURDAY STROLL



A CROSS COUNTRY RACE TO BENEFIT SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR ELKHORN YOUTH



Bring your family and come race with us! We are offering a professionally timed 5k cross-country race and a Saturday Stroll with a 100 yard Kids Dash! The 5k race will take place on the EHS Campus, beginning and ending in the football stadium. All minors participating in the 5K must be accompanied by an adult registered for the event. Saturday Strollers is an option for our parents with young kids who just want to stroll some laps around the track while other family members race! We will also hold a 100 yard Kids' Dash on the football field (12 years and under). Awards given for 5K by category.

SAT. OCT 21, 2017

Elkhorn High School Football Stadium

Registration: 7:00 AM

Start Time: 8:00 AM

PRE-REGISTRATION

Deadline: OCTOBER 7

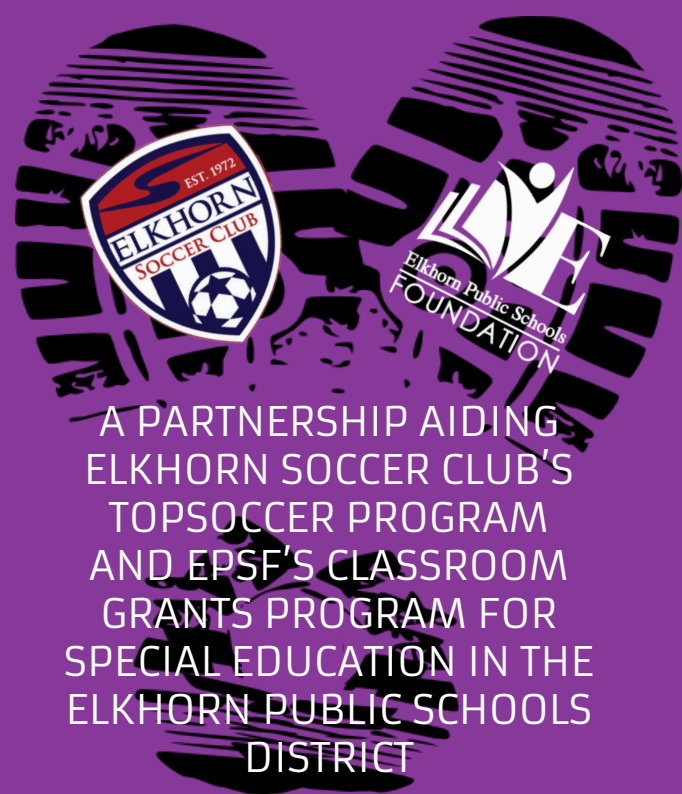
5k: \$30 Fee w/T-shirt

Saturday Stroll or Kids Dash (12&U): \$15 Fee w/T-shirt

DAY OF EVENT:

5k: \$40 Fee

Saturday Stroll & Kids Dash: \$20 Fee



A PARTNERSHIP AIDING
ELKHORN SOCCER CLUB'S
TOPSOCCER PROGRAM
AND EPSF'S CLASSROOM
GRANTS PROGRAM FOR
SPECIAL EDUCATION IN THE
ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT

For More Info or to Register Online, visit:

www.elkhornsoccer.org or www.elkhornfoundation.org

OUR PROGRAM

The Elkhorn Public Schools Partners in Education Mentoring Program differs from other mentoring programs in two key ways:

1) **Academically-focused:** the primary goal of mentors in our program is to assist students with their academic needs and curriculum understanding.

2) **Based at school:** all mentoring sessions occur during school hours. This ensures that the focus remains on academics. Mentors are welcome to meet with their mentees outside of school hours if permission is granted by the mentee's guardians.

By focusing primarily on academics, our students are regularly reminded of the importance of education.

THE MENTORING IMPACT

Mentors help keep students in school - studies show that students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class.

Mentors can improve academic skills by assisting in developing positive study habits and growing a passion for learning. The development of these skills increases the likelihood of students going on to pursue a higher education and improves attitudes towards education and learning.

Youth who meet regularly with their mentors see them as role models and are generally 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking due to a mentor's positive influence.

MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide academic support at the appropriate level
- Be a positive role model
- Provide guided/independent practice
- Reinforce classroom objectives, skills, and strategies
- Follow confidentiality guidelines
- Attend weekly sessions with mentee
- Come prepared and be on time

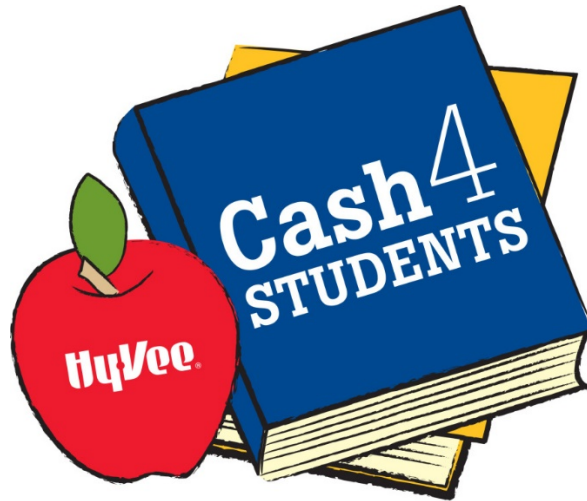
Make a difference in a child's life
by becoming a mentor today!

For additional information or to get an application to become a mentor, please contact Kara Perchal at (402) 289-2579 or kperchal@epsne.org or visit www.elkhornweb.org/programs/mentoring-partners.

ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARTNERS IN
EDUCATION

MENTORING PROGRAM



BENEFITING ALL AREA STUDENTS

**HYVEE Presents:
Westridge Elementary School
CASH FOR STUDENTS**

During the months of September 1st to December 31st, collect HyVee receipts and submit them to your child's teacher and our school gets money back that goes directly to WESTRIDGE!

Thanks fantastic...and all you have to do is send in those receipts from shopping! 😊

Oh and receipts can come from any HyVee and our shopping and dining nights will be at the 156th and Maple Location! More information to come on that soon! We appreciate your support with this and happy shopping!