

ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL



17880 Marcy Street
Omaha, NE 68118
(402) 334-9302

February 2018

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, and Thursday, February 15 from 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Students will be dismissed at 2:20 p.m. on those days. There will be no classes for students on Friday, February 16.

You can sign up for conferences online. To sign up go to:

8th Grade:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d45abaa292-spring11>

7th Grade:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/70A0D45ABAA292-spring10

6th Grade:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/70A0D45ABAA292-spring9

There you will find instructions on how to sign up. There is a sign up form for each grade level. You will be scheduled for a fifteen minute conference within the time slot you have chosen. All you need to do is log on and select the date and time that is most convenient for you and your student. Following the date in each slot is a number in parentheses. This number indicates the total number of spots available at that particular time. Spots will fill on a first come basis. If you need to change your conference time after you have scheduled just use the edit and delete buttons and reschedule. If you have any questions please contact the Elkhorn Ridge Middle School Office at 402-334-9302 or email bvinchur@epsne.org. We look forward to seeing you!

REPORT CARDS

Report cards for 2nd quarter were mailed out on Tuesday, January 9. If you did not receive your child's report card, please give us a call at 334-9302.

"FOLLOW" ERMS ON TWITTER

We are excited about the launching of our Twitter account (@ElkhornPS_ERMS). We would encourage you to "Follow" us on Twitter to get a glimpse into our active learning environment. We are excited to be able to share all of the amazing activities that are happening in our school in this format.



NO SCHOOL

Friday, February 16, 2018

NEBRASKA STUDENT - CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (NSCAS)

The Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) tests are no longer being administered. They are being replaced with the newly developed Nebraska Student - Centered Assessment System (NSCAS). Students in grades 6-8 will all take the Reading and Math tests. Eighth grade students only will take the Science test. The testing window is March 19th thru May 4th. We have not set testing dates, but will let you know as soon as that schedule is made.

ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT:

Provide a safe learning environment that nurtures, challenges and encourages each to reach his or her full learning potential.

Create an educational program teaching to the needs and characteristics of early adolescents.

Work collaboratively with students, families, school district personnel, and the community in equipping students with the necessary skills to become productive and responsible citizens.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL

All students will meet or exceed their RIT score on MAP in all four subject areas within the school year.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Regular, daily attendance at school is the responsibility of each student and his/her parents or guardians. Students who maintain regular attendance develop responsibility, remain current with their class work and class discussions, receive the most benefit from the school day and the extra-curricular activities in which they are involved. Good attendance is very important for the continued academic growth of a child. **A student who misses more than 20 days scored an average 30 points lower on the State's Reading Assessment.**

LOST AND FOUND

Please stop by the Lost and Found table during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Items left will be donated to charity after conferences.

PARENT BOOSTER MEETING

Our next Booster Club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 1:30 pm. We hope you can join us for this meeting! We believe parent involvement is critical to the success of our children's education and invite all of you to become involved. Please let me know if you have topics you would like additional information on or with any concerns you may have.

Jenny Haase

ERMS Booster President



6th Grade News

Mr. Ebers, Mrs. Finks, Mrs. Mitteis
Ms. Niebaum, Mrs. Ottens, Mr. Phelps,
Mrs. Randall, and
Ms. Stromgren

MATH - Ms. Niebaum

Students are using integers, absolute value, and graphing on the coordinate plane to solve real-world problems. We investigated another strategy to help us solve problems called the work backward strategy. This will help us when we are doing algebra and solving equations. We will review powers, exponents, properties, and the order of operations before we start simplifying expressions. The students will be working on writing expressions before we begin evaluating and solving equations. Geometry is our next emphasis of study. In February, we will have the opportunity to work on math skills while helping others by participating in the St. Jude Children's Hospital Math - a - thon. Look for information about this activity to come home with your student. Credit will be given for working math problems from the Math - a - thon booklets and students will not only achieve academically but work on citizenship skills. A student can still receive credit even if they do not want to participate in the fund raising part.

PRE - CONCEPTS - Ms. Niebaum and Mrs. Ottens

Students are focusing on solving expressions and equations. We reviewed the properties of operations to help write and solve expressions. Students will evaluate algebraic expressions when given the value for the variables and simplify expressions by combining like terms. Next, we will solve one and two-step equations. Gear up for geometry; it's next! In February, we will have the opportunity to work on math skills while helping others by participating in the St. Jude Children's Hospital Math - a - thon. Look for information about this activity to come home with your student. Credit will be given for working math problems from the Math - a - thon booklets and students will not only achieve academically but work on citizenship skills. A student can still receive credit even if they do not want to participate in the fund raising part.

LANGUAGE ARTS - Mrs. Randall and Ms. Stromgren

Language arts students will be completing their author research projects. The new semester brings a new routine. In place of spelling tests, students will be taking weekly grammar tests. The students are given grammar topics to study at the beginning of the week. Each day, there are activities to practice those skills. Websites like quizizz.com offer great opportunities to practice as well. After author research, students will be working on essay organization in preparation for the district writing assessment that will take place the week of February 19th. Continue to visit teacher's websites for updates, homework, and additional copies of notes and assignments. Ms. Stromgren, <https://sites.google.com/epsne.org/stromgren-reading-languagearts> and Mrs. Randall - <https://sites.google.com/epsne.org/randall>

READING - Ms. Stromgren and Mrs. Finks

During the month of February, students will read a biography chapter book, then complete a project that focuses on characteristics of nonfiction text. Students will also be reading a variety of nonfiction texts and studying Greek and Latin roots. **Third quarter AR goals are due on March 5TH.**

SOCIAL STUDIES - Mr. Ebers and Mrs. Randall

In February, 6th grade Social Studies students will take part in activities relating to the government and banking. Also, students will learn about how the government is financed and how international trade works with other countries. Just a reminder to be collecting any pictures, postcards, souvenirs, etc. from your Travelmate for the end of the year Travelmate project in May.

SCIENCE - Mr. Phelps and Mrs. Mitteis

We hope all those who attended the Australian Reef video conference enjoyed the experience! We have heard nothing but good things from those who attended. By the time you get this newsletter students will have participated in two video conferences with the International Wolf Center located in Ely, Minnesota and the Henry Doorly Zoo. Special thanks goes to the Elkhorn Foundation for funding these conferences.

We will begin our classification unit after taking the two district tests on life sciences. Don't be surprised if your child is emptying out their drawers at home and organizing them for practice. All living organisms have been organized by scientists and students will be learning why this is important. Hopefully this skill will carry over to everyday life!



7th Grade News

Mrs. Bradford, Mr. Breitkreutz,
Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Klein,
Mrs. Mitteis, Mrs. Nelson
Mrs. Ottens, and Ms. Pawoll

SCIENCE - Mr. Breitkreutz and Mrs. Mitteis

During the end of January, students wrapped up the human body system unit. Included topics of circulatory, endocrine, lymphatic, and nervous system. In February, students will be exploring the concepts of speed, velocity and motion. They will study Newton's Laws of Motion through lab experiments and applied math.

LANGUAGE ARTS - Mrs. Nelson and Ms. Pawoll

In February, students will research, write, and present persuasive speeches on "Inventions that have improved the quality of life". Students continue working on writing, parts of speech, quizzing with grammar minutes, and proofreading skills. Please encourage your child to practice his/her flash cards on grammar and quiz on the quia site.

READING - Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Bradford

Seventh grade reading students have been studying a variety of categories of idioms. We have also been focusing on non-fiction text structures and features that will help to improve comprehension. We will continue our study of non-fiction and then move into figurative language study next. AR continues with the goal period ending Monday, March 12. Vocabulary quizzes continue as well as we move into a new book which focuses on academic vocabulary. Friday, February 2 will be "Dress Like An Idiom" Day in 7th grade.

WORLD HISTORY - Mrs. Bryan and Mr. Breitreutz

Students will spend the first part of February exploring the later Middle Ages in Europe. We will be creating a 2D or 3D visual representation project focused on a topic related to the Middle Ages. We look forward to seeing the wide variety of topics, materials and outcomes this project will generate! We will then begin our examination of the Renaissance, the Reformation, Exploration, Enlightenment & Revolution.

HEALTH / HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT - Mrs. Fletcher

The following information pertains to 7th grade Health. All 7th graders will be taking Health class during 5th or 6th rotation this year **beginning February 19**. The 7th grade Health class focuses on aspects of human growth and development and family life education. Topics of study include: making healthy choices, self-respect, respect for others, puberty and adolescence, body image, responsible relationships, relationship skills, marriage and parenthood, human reproduction, pregnancy, prenatal development and child birth, dating, abstinence, teen pregnancy, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Parents (or guardians) are asked to be involved in this class by discussing four different take-home assignments with their child.

These assignments are:

1) Adolescence, 2) Dating, 3) Your Child's Arrival, 4) Your Family Beliefs & Values

Parents are welcome to ask questions and discuss any part of the curriculum with the teacher. Parents are also invited to check out a copy of the textbook and to preview any worksheets, videos, or other materials that are used during class.

If parents have any questions or concerns about 7th grade Health class, please feel free to contact our Health teacher, Mrs. Beth Fletcher, at ERMS, phone #402-334-9302 or by email, bfletcher@epsne.org.

Thank you for your involvement!



PRE - ALGEBRA - Mrs. Ottens and Mrs. Klein

Students in Pre-Algebra have been working on our geometry unit. They should be able to explain how the Pythagorean Theorem works and how to find angle measures of triangles using algebra. We will spend some time on transformations, followed by volume. Over the next couple months we will be spending some days reviewing topics for the new state math test. This test is a great way for the students to show how much they have learned in the past year! If your student wants to brush up on topics, please have them spend extra time at home working on the Learning Path on ALEKS.

MATH - Mrs. Klein

Students in Math 7 have been working on our unit on simplifying algebraic expressions. This helps give them some of the algebra basics for solving equations in the future. Next we will work on learning how to solve one-step equations and then 2-step equations. Over the next couple months we will be spending some days reviewing topics for the new state math test. This test is a great way for the students to show how much they have learned in the past year! If your student wants to brush up on topics, or seems to be struggling with math, please have them spend extra time at home working on the Learning Path on ALEKS; 15-20 minutes per day can go a long way in helping understanding!



8th Grade News

Mr. Barry, Mr. Breitreutz, Ms. Christie, Mrs. Hultman, Mrs. Kammerer, Mrs. Ottens, Ms. Pawoll, Mrs. Semin, and Ms. Stromgren

LANGUAGE ARTS - Mr. Barry and Ms. Pawoll

Students have just started on a very long District Common Assessment. This assessment will challenge students on the following skills: research, essay writing, and public speaking. All three of these skills have been taught and practiced prior to this assessment. Each student has received a calendar that contains due dates for particular items. The nice thing about this project is that students should not have homework if they are working hard in class and meeting the check points in order to not fall behind on the project.

SCIENCE - Mrs. Kammerer and Mr. Breitreutz

The month of January was spent studying cell parts and processes (photosynthesis, respiration, diffusion, and osmosis). Students learned about organelles of cells and their functions as well as how a cell exchanges food, waste and gasses necessary for survival. They also learned about microscopes and how scientists use them to observe the single-celled world. We ended January discovering how cells reproduce in processes called mitosis and meiosis. In February, we will focus on DNA and genetics. Students will learn about the structure of DNA, how traits are inherited, how to construct a Punnett square to determine probability of inheritance, and genetic mutations and disorders. There will be a district common assessment over cell reproduction and heredity near the end of the month.

PRE-ALGEBRA and ALGEBRA - Mrs. Semin and Mrs. Ottens

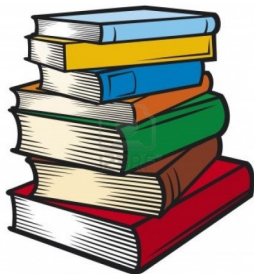
Pre-Algebra students are exploring line and angle relationships as well as the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will be working with transformations which include rotations, reflections, translations, and dilations over the next few weeks. We will wrap up our Geometry unit by working with finding the volume of cones, spheres, and cylinders.

ALGEBRA - Mrs. Semin

Algebra students recently completed a District Common Assessment on simplifying powers and exponents, and next will be studying rational exponents and exponential equations. In addition, Algebra students took the Geometry Readiness Test which helps to determine math placement in high school. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding high school math placement.

READING - Ms. Christie and Ms. Stromgren

In February, we will be wrapping up the NONFICTION UNIT and taking a DCA over Comprehension and Analysis of Nonfiction on February 8. Following that unit, we will be covering a unit on Figurative Language and Literary Devices, with an emphasis on poetry. Finally, students will be making progress on their 3rd quarter AR goals that will be due March 9. Students are required to read one nonfiction AR book this quarter and submit a reflection sheet on that book as well.



H.A.L.E. - Mrs. Cohen

Quiz Bowl is up and running again and the next competition is right around the corner. This time the kids in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade attend the tournament organized by Gretna. Five teams will be participating! Good luck! With the new year there are new opportunities in HALE such as 6th grade author study projects, 7th grade medieval times projects, and 8th graders will be attending a Cybersurgery simulation. The HALE kids are busy. To round out February, a group of students will be participating in a Vex Robotics seminar in Lincoln, several will attend a seminar at the Henry Doorly Zoo working closely with several of the zookeepers in the Hoofstock and Elephant areas, and all grades are participating in the Stock Market Game. Two teams of students will be attending the Science Bowl and any interested students participated in the History Bee. Congratulations to Enzo Pollino for winning the school Geography Bee!

AMERICAN HISTORY - Mrs. Hultman and Mrs. Semin

This month, we begin studying the differences between the North and South, and then we will begin looking at the causes and progression of the Civil War. This will include what led up to actual fighting, people involved, battles, consequences, etc... As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to e-mail or call!

8th GRADE SPANISH - Ms. Garrison and Mrs. Espinoza

This group of students is currently studying family descriptions with restaurant vocabulary and gustar-like verbs with indirect object pronouns. As the amount of vocabulary and grammar increases, we ask that you remind your student to take 10 -15 minutes a night to review notes and study vocab. Also, your student should be memorizing and or studying their important questions weekly, as this will help them improve their speaking skills. A great study habit would be to ask your student a few of these questions each night or have him/her teach them to you. Also they are writing a restaurant scene skit that they will be presenting from memory starting February 7th. We will then be starting a unit called "Viva el Verbo" which covers irregular verbs.

7th GRADE SPANISH - Ms. Garrison and Mrs. Espinoza

Students are finishing a chapter which focuses on the verb estar and expression the location of classroom objects using prepositions. As the amount of vocabulary and grammar increases, I ask that you remind your student to take 10 -15 minutes a night to review notes and study vocab. Also, your student should be memorizing and or studying their important questions weekly, as this will help them improve their speaking skills. A great study habit would be to ask your student a few of these questions each night or have him/her teach them to you. It would also be helpful for them to study their subject pronouns and ar verb conjugations as our next chapter will focus on er and ir verb conjugation.

6th GRADE LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE - Ms. Garrison and Mrs. Espinoza

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! Students have been researching countries in Central and South America as well as reviewing numbers, greetings, and the alphabet. Since this semester is the first chapter of the high school Spanish One curriculum, students need to spend at least 10 – 15 minutes a night practicing spelling and pronunciation of their vocab and notes. Please check Google Classroom and or Moodle to find practice activities. Also, if your student is absent, please remind them to come see Ms. Garrison or Mrs. Espinoza in the morning, the day they return to school.

SE
HABLA
ESPAÑOL

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Mr. Everingham and Mrs. Finn

If your student misses a day of PE you will see a "0" in Powerschool. All they need to do is get a PE Homework slip from me, complete the exercises, and turn the form back into me within 7 school days of the absence and they will get their full points. I talked to the students at the beginning of school and remind them several times throughout the year so they know where the slips are located.



ERMS ATHLETIC NEWS:

Thursday, February 1 – 8th GBB @ Valley View

Thursday, February 1 – 7th GBB vs Valley View

Monday, February 5 - 7th GBB vs. Gretna Aspen Creek

Monday, February 5 - 8th GBB @ Gretna Aspen Creek

Tuesday, February 6 – Wrestling @ EMS with EVV and EGMS

Thursday, February 8- 7th GBB vs Waverly

Thursday, February 8- 8th GBB @ Waverly

Monday, February 12- 8th GBB vs Bennington

Monday, February 12- 7th GBB @ Bennington

Tuesday, February 13 - Wrestling @ Blair with Waverly

Tuesday, February 13- 7th GBB vs Blair

Tuesday, February 13- 8th GBB @ Blair

Tuesday, February 20 - 8th GBB @. Grandview

Tuesday, February 20 - 7th GBB vs. Grandview

Tuesday, February 20 - WR @ Bennington with Grandview

Friday, February 23 - WR @ Yutan TBD

Monday, February 26 – 7th GBB @ Norris

Monday. February 28- 8th GBB vs Norris

Tuesday, February 27- Wrestling @ NE City

Home games are in bold. Start times for Basketball and Wrestling is 4:15PM unless noted otherwise.



BAND - Mr. Dreessen and Mr. Bluford, Band TA

Congratulations to Josh Fee! He participated in the 8th-grade All-State band in Kearney on January 13. Next performances on the calendar are February 6th - 8th Grade Band at ESHS, March 8th - 7th and 8th Grade Band to the EMC Concert Band Festival in Waverly, March 12th - 7th Grade Band and Jazz Bands at ERMS, March 13th - 6th Grade Band and Jazz Bands at ERMS and the 5th Grade Recorders. ERMS is hosting the first ever EMC Middle School Jazz Band Festival on Thursday, April 5th. We will need parent help to monitor rooms, run a small concession stand, and have food and drinks available for our judges. Please keep an eye out for an email with ways to help make this event a success. The Fourth Annual Night of Stars for the Southside Instrumental Music Departments is set for Saturday, April 28th and will be at Elkhorn South High School. This event will feature solos, small ensembles, and both of our ERMS Jazz Bands. If your student is interested in performing in a solo or small ensemble please talk to Mr. Dreessen. If your young musician is interested in getting better at their instrument, private lessons are always a great way to improve their skills. Mr. Dreessen has a list of instructors and can help you get in contact with them. Thank you for your continued support of the ERMS Band Program.

CHORUS - Mrs. Ballou, ERMS Vocal Music Instructor and Mrs. Foley, Accompanist

February starts off concert palooza for the ERMS choir program. Here are dates that should already be on your calendar...

Thursday, Feb 1: 8th Grade Choir Performs at ESHS @ 7:00 PM; Call Time is 6:50 PM

Saturday, Feb. 3: Bravo Show Choir Performs at EHS @ 11:00 AM; Call Time is 9:00 AM

Friday, Feb. 9: Bravo Show Choir Performs at ESHS @ 7:40 PM; Call Time is 5:30 PM

Saturday, Feb. 24: Bravo Show Choir Performs at Westside Middle School @ 4:55 PM; Meet at ERMS @ 1:15 PM (Home by 8:00 PM)

Friday, March 2: Bravo Show Choir Performs at Lewis Central @ 6:50 PM; Meet at ERMS @ 4:15 PM

Monday, March 12: 7th Grade Choir, Bravo, Encore and Applause Show Choirs perform at ERMS @ 7 PM; Call Time is 6:50 PM

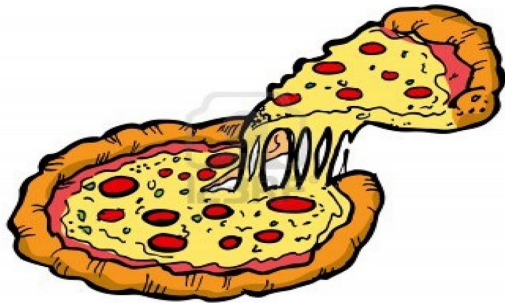
Tuesday, March 13: 6th Grade Choir, Bravo, Encore and Applause Show Choirs perform at ERMS @ 6 PM; Call Time is 5:50 PM

In class, all three grade levels are working on improving our vocal technique while learning repertoire for our upcoming concerts. Following the 8th grade concert, the 8th grade choir kids will choose a solo/ small group performance to prepare for their class. Each class will vote on their favorite performance to be part of a 'pre-show' at our end of the year pop concert. Ask your 8th grader what they are working on.

Just a reminder for show choir parents to keep checking their emails for performance information. Bravo parents especially should be on the look out for more specific info coming home by February 1.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Our February Family Fun Night will be at **Oscar's Pizza** on **Tuesday, February 13th from 5:00-10:00 p.m.** Dine in and carry out orders will both be accepted. Make sure you let them know you are from ERMS.



YEARBOOK - Mr. Phelps

During the month of February the yearbook staff is finalizing the yearbook and sending it off to the printer by mid-March. Any pictures taken after we finish with this year's yearbook will be of 6th and 7th graders to be used in next year's yearbook.

There are a bunch of students that have not ordered a yearbook, so this is the final call to order your copy. Orders will be taken until February 16th. Any orders after Feb. 16th will have no guarantee of delivery. All orders must be accompanied by a check for \$50, which will be reimbursed if you don't get a copy. Don't procrastinate! We usually get an extra 10 or so copies just in case some books have defects. Last year, one book was defective, but even that one was bought because we ran out.

Elkhorn Ridge Middle School Booster Club Meeting

January, 2018

President Jenny Haase called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The November 2017 minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Laura Sartore presented the current financials. Vice President Teresa Svoboda will inquire about recycling costs and other possible options.

Old Business: President Jenny Haase reported that the office is scheduled to be painted during the weekend of January 13th and decorating will follow. Mr. Riggert previously discussed the purchase of hallway shelving with Ryan Lindquist and reported the cost will be below our \$2,000 budget. The results of the Great America Fundraising effort is yet to be determined.

New Business: Vice President Teresa Svoboda reported GOAL meeting updates. Jenny Haase reminded those in attendance of Bary Habrock's meeting at ERMS on January 30th at 1:30 p.m. where he will be discussing the upcoming bond issue.

Parent Communication: Mr. Riggert reported that girls' basketball and wrestling have begun and the parent meeting for both sports will be January 11th. There is no school on January 15th due to teacher in-service. The 8th grade Career Day is January 26th. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held February 14th/15th with no school on the 16th. NESA testing will no longer occur and will be replaced by NSCAS (Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System). The NSCAS testing will begin in March and will include Math, Science, and Reading. MAP testing will follow NSCAS testing.

Committee Reports:

Apparel-Stacey Haussler reported that holiday apparel profit totaled \$318.50 but the check has not been received yet. There will be no further apparel sales this school year.

Box Tops-Mindy Foral stated the Box Tops collection will begin soon and end mid-February.

HyVee Receipts-Jenny Haase reported that a total of \$104,257.87 was collected in HyVee receipts so the total profit will be around \$520 and has not yet been received.

Family Fun Nights-Freddy's profited \$100 in November. The next Family Fun Night will be January 22nd at The Good Life (180th and Pacific location) from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. They will have a magician as well as 50% off pizza and donate 10% profit.

Student Recognition-Laura Sartore purchased mechanical pencils for this semester's Honor Roll students.

Kindness-An email will be sent from the Kindness Committee asking for donations for both the staff's conference meals and Staff Appreciation Week. A Paypal link will be included in the email.

The January meeting of the ERMS Booster Club was adjourned at 2:43 p.m. The next Booster Club meeting will be held February 13th, at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ricci Nisley, Secretary.

WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

When weather conditions exist that would jeopardize the safety of students traveling to or from school, information about closing will be broadcast over stations KFAB (AM 1110), KETV, KMTV, WOWT, and KPTM. If school is to have a delayed start or be cancelled, announcements will begin on those stations at approximately 6:00 a.m. regarding early dismissals due to bad weather. The district has adopted the Alert Now Notification Service which will also be used to notify parents of school closings and cancellations.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOOSTER CLUB

Wow! The school year is flying by. It is hard to believe that we have passed the halfway mark of the school year. The Booster Club activities are back in full swing after our long holiday break and February promises to be another busy month at ERMS. Here are a few things happening in February: The 7th and 8th grade girl's basketball games are underway. Wrestling practice has begun as well. We will again be in need of volunteers for the concessions stands at our home basketball games and wrestling meets. Please volunteer to work our concessions stand. Remember, your child does not need to be involved with sports in order for you to volunteer.

Melanie Nielsen, chair of our Kindness Committee, will oversee conference meals for the teachers again on February 14 & 15. Thank you Melanie for organizing! Looking ahead...Teacher Appreciation week will be chaired by Christy Croom - March 12-16. Thanks Christy for organizing this as well. Donations are being accepted for both Conference Meals as well as Staff Appreciation. Thanks in advance for making these events special for our staff.

In January our front office received its "Office Make-Over". A HUGE thanks goes out to Laura and Paul Sartore for volunteering their time by painting - it's amazing what a coat of paint can do! BIG thanks goes also to Christy Croom and Jaime Hoskinson for making the office look beautiful, they donated their decorating expertise - and I thank them for that!

In closing, we will soon begin the process of finding volunteers for the Booster Club officers and committee chairpersons for the 2018-2019 school year. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Booster Club please contact Jenny Haase at j.t.haase@ocox.net
Sincerely, Jenny Haase

ERMS Booster Club President

SPRING RIDGE BOOK SWAP

The annual Spring Ridge Book Swap will be back this February. If you are going through your children's books this month to make room for new ones, please save some for the Book Swap. We especially need books for our older readers. **Parents of 4th & 5th graders, we welcome any chapter books you may be able to donate!**

New to Spring Ridge and wondering what a Book Swap is? Book Swap is a time when students can trade in their lightly used books for books that other students have turned into the swap. Here's how it works:

- 1. In early February, students can bring in as many lightly used books as they want to donate.**
- 2. On the date of the Book Swap (Wednesday, February 21st), students can shop the Swap! They can take up to 4 new-to-them books home. If your child brought 4 or more books to trade, he/she may take 4 books. If your child brings 3 books to trade, he/she may choose 3 to take home, etc.**
- 3. What do we do with the extra books? Teachers get to shop the Swap as well! Any remaining books will be donated to an Omaha school or the A Book of My Own program run by the Jr. League of Omaha.**

Questions? Please contact Rachel Cotten at rachelcotten@gmail.com.

8TH GRADE PARENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 8th Grade Celebration will be held **Friday, May 11th**, 7-10pm in the ERMS Gym. Please look for more details to come!

SPRING BOX TOPS

It's a new year and Box Tops for Education collection time is here again! Our goal is to collect at least 2,500 before Feb. 15!

Please look for Box Tops on General Mills products, clip the Box Tops and follow instructions below. Students can turn in Box Tops to collection boxes in the office or library beginning Tuesday, January 16. Collection will end Thursday, Feb. 15.

EASY STEPS:

Place all trimmed box tops into a clear plastic baggie or envelope.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE NOT EXPIRED!
Be sure to include your student's name and the total number of box tops.

Ask your student to deliver to one of the drop-off locations listed above.

For each group of 10 Box Tops that a student submits, he or she will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card! Good luck and thanks for supporting ERMS!

Questions? Please contact Mindy Foral at mforal@cox.net or Lori Doyle at sldoyle@cox.net.

THANK YOU!

STUDENT COUNCIL - Mrs. Bradford

Student Council will be selling Lip Pops February 12-14. Proceeds to benefit ERMS. Pennies for Patients fundraiser at ERMS will be from February 12-23 this year. The money goes directly to help Nebraska patients with blood cancers and to support the local chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. We will have collection jars out at conferences, and we will have "Jar Wars" at school. Prizes will be awarded to winning home teams.

Monday, February 19: Penny Day (bring pennies to your home team or any other type of change to another home team's jar to subtract from their total)

Tuesday, February 20: Nickel Day (bring nickels to your home team or any other type of change to another home team's jar to subtract from their total)

Wednesday, February 21: Dime Day (bring dimes to your home team or any other type of change to another home team's jar to subtract from their total)

Thursday, February 22: Quarter Day (bring quarters to your home team or any other type of change to another home team's jar to subtract from their total)

Friday, February 23: Loose Change Day (student council will be outside at drop off and pick up to collect loose change from your cars. Check your cup holders and seats and help out a great cause!) We will also be selling duct tape tickets and rolls to tape Mr. Riggert to the wall. Details to come. Stay tuned!

TECH TIPS

Upcoming Bond Resolution

During the January Board of Education meeting, the EPS School Board approved a bond issue resolution that would provide funds for land acquisition for future building sites, the construction of new schools and updates and remodels to several district buildings. Superintendent Dr. Bary Habrock is currently hosting community meetings to address the District's rapid growth and discuss plans for projects funded through the potential bond. For a full break out of the proposed projects and a list of the remaining community meetings, please visit <https://goo.gl/RHkjhQ>.

SchoolMessenger Alerts

Both the EPS District and each individual building regularly use a parent messaging system called **SchoolMessenger** to send emails and phone calls to parents, including monthly information about building happenings, as well as school closings.

SchoolMessenger also allows recipients the option to "unsubscribe" from its mailing list; please understand that by "unsubscribing" you are completely removing your email address from ALL lists, including both District and building specific emails.

If you have previously unsubscribed from **SchoolMessenger** and would like to begin receiving emails again, please let your building secretary know.

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.



PARENTS OF CURRENT 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

In recent years we have heard from parents that students are spending more and more time at home doing school work with their family computers. As part of the EPS 5-Year Instructional Technology Plan approved by the school board in October 2016, next year's 8th grade students (current 7th grade students) will receive an individual Chromebook for educational use next fall. In addition, all high school students will also be receiving a Chromebook next fall. Therefore, current 8th grade students will receive an individual Chromebook for educational use when they transition to 9th grade. Please note, current 8th grade students will receive a different Chromebook than the one they used during the 17-18 school year.



The district is finding that much of our educational content requires access to technology, and Chromebooks allow us a cost-effective way to assure that students have this access when it is needed. As part of this initiative, parents of 2018-19 eighth and ninth grade students are encouraged to attend an orientation either during Back to School 101 or Open House in August. The exact dates for these orientations are not yet set, but the district wanted to begin communication with parents of current 7th-11th grade students. We are very excited about providing a computing device for these students next school year.

ATTENTION ALL 8TH GRADERS

Important Registration Information from Elkhorn South High School Counselors

Week of February 12: High School Counselors Visit Middle School

ESHS Counselors will travel to Elkhorn Ridge Middle School and Elkhorn Valley View Middle School to distribute 9th grade registration materials. Students will receive a copy of their registration sheet outlining courses offered to ninth graders and specific course recommendations for each student. (Recommendations are based upon advice from middle school and high school teachers, counselors and standardized test scores.) Students will also receive a copy of the Curriculum Guide.

Wednesday, February 21 5:00 pm OR 7:00 pm

8th Grade Registration/Parent Night

ESHS Auditorium

Parents and 8th graders are invited to Elkhorn South High School on February 21 at 5:00 pm **OR** 7:00 pm. Please choose the time that fits best for your family's schedule. Parents and students will hear information about curriculum and four-year planning, clubs, and high school activities. Tours of the building are available after the presentation. Registration will be finalized during this event.

Attendance is VERY important; this is how your student gets registered for high school.

August 2018: Freshman Orientation at Elkhorn South High School

Additional information will be sent home in early August.

Activities include:

- Tour the building to find classrooms, media center, locker rooms, counseling center, & office
- Visit lockers to practice combinations.
- Deposit money into lunch accounts.
- Turn in enrollment forms to the office.

Turn in athletic forms to the Athletic Director if you are out for sports or enrolled in PE.

SCHOLARSHIPS NOW ONLINE!



ATTENTION SENIORS:

Scholarship applications are due

FEBRUARY 1 at 6PM!

Last year the Foundation awarded over \$263,000 in scholarships. Please visit our website for a listing of scholarships available to 2018 graduates.

www.elkhornfoundation.org/scholarships



SHOP • EAT • MINGLE • SUPPORT

Mark your Calendar: Bids 4 Kids will be held on April 5 at Noah's Event Venue from 6-9PM. Join us for a fun evening of silent auction bidding! We are grateful for any and all donations. For donation or sponsorship information, please contact Stacey Selk at sselk1@epsne.org.

Tickets now available for purchase at

www.elkhornfoundation.org/bids-4-kids





We are now accepting nominations for our 2018 Hall of Fame Reception! To submit a nomination, or to view all past honorees, please visit our website www.elkhornfoundation.org/hall-of-fame-nomination-form



FEBRUARY 2018

ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
 17880 MARCY STREET
 OMAHA, NE 68118
 402 334-9302

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>*** ALL GAMES AT 4:15 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED***</p>		<p>1 7th GBB vs EVVMS 8th GBB @ EVVMS</p> <p>8th Choir Concert @ESHS 7 pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Bravo Show Choir @ EHS 11 AM Science Bowl @ Wayne State College</p>
4	<p>5 8th GBB @ Gretna Aspen Creek MS 7th GBB vs. Gretna Aspen Creek MS</p>	<p>6 8th Band Concert 7pm @ ESHS</p> <p>7th/8th WR EGVMS, EMS, EVVMS @ EMS</p>	7	<p>8 7th GBB vs Waverly MS 4:15 pm 8th GBB @ Waverly MS</p>	<p>9 Bravo Show Choir @ ESHS 7:40 pm</p>	10
11	<p>12 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm</p> <p>8th GBB vs Bennington 7th GBB @ Bennington</p>	<p>13 Booster Meeting 1:30 pm 7th/8th WR Blair/Waverly@ Blair MS 4:15 pm</p> <p>7th GBB vs Blair Otte MS 8th GBB @ Blair Otte MS</p>	<p>14 One Hour Early Dismissal</p> <p>Student Led Conferences 4:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>15 End Rotation # 4 One Hour Early Dismissal</p> <p>Student Led Conferences 4:30-8:30pm</p>	<p>16 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>17</p> 
18	<p>19 Start Rotation # 5</p> <p>8 GBB vs Norris MS 7th GBB @ Norris MS</p>	<p>20 7/8 Wrestling Bennington JH, Plattsmouth MS @ Bennington MS</p> <p>7th GBB vs. EGVMS 8th GBB @ EGVMS</p> <p>7/8 WR Quad @ Nebraska City MS</p>	<p>21 8th Grade HS Registration @ ESHS 5 & 7 pm</p>	22	<p>23 7th / 8th Wrestling Invite @ Yutan High School TBD</p> 	<p>24 Bravo Show Choir @ Westside</p>
25	26	27	28			