Good afternoon! We are one week away from Spring Break and we have some upcoming events to be aware of for specific grade levels. If you have a 4th or 5th grader in Battle of the Books, we will have our building battle on Monday. More information will be included in this email from Mrs. Coon. Jump Rope for Heart for all grades will be held on Wednesday so please make sure that your child comes in tennis shoes. Thursday evening, we will host our Family Math Night. This is an hour and a half of fun math activities for the entire family. Finally, on Friday, you and your family can begin Spring Break early as we have our March In-service. Enjoy!

**Absences:** If you know your student will be gone, you may call Mrs. Edwards in the office or email her at [aedwards@epsne.org](mailto:aedwards@epsne.org) and explain the reason for the absence. Thank you.

**Battle of the Books-** Our school Battle of the Books will be held this Monday, March 12th.  Parents and students should meet in the library at 3:15.  We will begin competition at 3:30.  This should last until around 4:30-5:00.  This competition will decide which three teams will advance onto the District Battle of the Books which will be held on Monday, April 2nd.  Please make sure rides are available for your child at 4:30.  Questions can be directed to Mrs. Coon [acoon@epsne.org](mailto:acoon@epsne.org) or Mrs. Mauer [jmauer@epsne.org](mailto:jmauer@epsne.org).

**Family Math Night:** Plan on joining us for a fun-filled evening of math activities with your child next Thursday night. This is our third annual Family Math Night with activities focused on math concepts for all grade levels and a drawing for math games to be won! The flier is attached.

**Summer Enrichment Programs:** Elkhorn Public Schools is excited to launch a new Summer Enrichment Program for incoming students in grades 1-8 (for the 2018-2019 school year).  Inspiring courses are designed and taught by EPS certified staff members to expand student experiences and enrich summer learning. Courses will run in two (2), one-week long sessions.

**DATES**:  
Session One: June 25th-29th  
Session Two: July 9th-13th

**LOCATION**:  
Elkhorn Ridge Middle School, [17880 Marcy Street Omaha, NE 68118](https://maps.google.com/?q=17880+Marcy+Street+Omaha,+NE+68118&entry=gmail&source=g)  
\*Some courses being offered will take place at off-site locations to enhance the hands-on learning experience.  A full course listing, including the location of each offering, can be found at [*https://goo.gl/nKHB8R*](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/QqkyKyc9huKeL9WA2tL1fA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRcgSQgP0QVaHR0cHM6Ly9nb28uZ2wvbktIQjhSVwdzY2hvb2xtWAQAAAABQgoAA6Dwn1rP94v7UhNqcGV0ZXJzb25AZXBzbmUub3Jn).

**REGISTRATION**:  
Opens Friday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. at [**summerenrichment.elkhornweb.org**](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/dm3DzBWazi06aNya8Bb5vw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRcgSQgP0QoaHR0cHM6Ly9zdW1tZXJlbnJpY2htZW50LmVsa2hvcm53ZWIub3JnL1cHc2Nob29sbVgEAAAAAUIKAAOg8J9az_eL-1ITanBldGVyc29uQGVwc25lLm9yZw~~)

For additional information or with questions, contact:  
Jen Coltvet 402-289-9045, [jcoltvet@epsne.org](mailto:jcoltvet@epsne.org) or Troy Sidders at 402-289-1007, [tsidders@epsne.org](mailto:tsidders@epsne.org)

**Tech Tips for Building Newsletters – March 2018**

***‘Cookies’ and Targeted Advertising***

The ads you see when you search the web aren’t by chance—your browser is using your cookies, or bits of data sent from the websites you visit, to collect and store data about you. Websites also track your search history, purchase history and profile information you provide to send targeted advertising as you browse the web. It is important to periodically clear your cookies, cache and search history from your browser to ensure your device is running as fast and secure as possible.

***Time Savers***

For students, procrastination generally takes on the form of “multitasking”, which often leads to distractions and wasted time. In order to curb this occurrence prior to it becoming a bad habit that will move with them into adulthood, take a look at a few options for apps and plug-ins that help reduce the instances of this current trend.

*RescueTime*: this plug-in tracks how much time is being spent on specific sites and generates reports showing the results. By reviewing these reports, you and your child can see exactly where the majority of their time is being wasted.

*Work Mode:* *Work Mode* blocks access to all social media feeds during any time frame that the plug-in is turned on. What better way to ensure your child is focused solely on the task at hand than by making the distractions they typically default to inaccessible during the time they need to be focusing on other important things?

*For more information on these and other time saving apps and plug-ins, please visit www.commonsensemedia.org.*

*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.*

***Wait Until 8th Campaign***

Did you know that the average age a child gets a smartphone is 10 years old and that children are spending between 6 and 9 hours a day engaging in some form of media? Childhood is changing, and the negative impact of too much screen time is becoming evident.

A new resource called the “Wait Until 8th” pledge has recently been made available as a way to help parents delay the use of smartphones, giving their children more time smartphone free.

The Wait Until 8th pledge empowers parents to rally together to delay giving children a smartphone until at least 8th grade.  By banding together, the pressure felt by kids and parents alike over youth having a smartphone will decrease.

A pledge becomes "active" for an individual grade level once 10 or more families from that grade at a specific school sign up. The organizers designed the pledge this way to reduce the fear of "what if I am the only parent that signs this in my kid's grade."

To learn more or sign the pledge, please visit [www.waituntil8th.org](http://www.waituntil8th.org/)

**MARCH DATES:**

**12th- Building Battle of the Books 3:45**

**14th- Jump Rope for Heart**

**15th- Family Math Night 6-7:30**

**16th- Inservice Day (no students)**

**19th-23rd Spring Break**

**26th- PTO 6:30**

**28th- Report cards go home**

**30th- 8:30 Grandview jazz band and show choir 8:30**

**NEWS FROM PTO:**

**FAMILY DINNER NIGHTS:**  Our next family dinner night will be on Tuesday, March 13th at the NEW Don & Millie's on Maple street.  Come between4 & 9pm and support Sagewood!  20% of sales will be donated back to Sagewood PTO!  Hope to see you there!  [(Don & Millie’s Flier)](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1olwg7rBMi2FCXrjqMl0kB9uKoqcAUpLu)

**YEARBOOK:**  The deadline for Yearbook orders is rapidly approaching.  Forms were sent home in earlier last month and are due back no later than March 16th. You may also order online at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/Bek_TCb7V2sv44my_e9V7Q~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRcevsJP0QbaHR0cDovL3licGF5LmxpZmV0b3VjaC5jb20vVwdzY2hvb2xtWAQAAAABQgoAAYnHmVq9fbKnUg5KTWluaW5vQGt3LmNvbQ~~)  Yearbook ID Code: 11832118

**BOX TOPS:**We will have two more competitions to collect Box Tops to round out this school year. It is up to you how you want to submit your Box Tops:

Submit your non-expired, clipped Box Tops TO HELP YOUR CLASS win a frozen treat party by Friday, April 13th. These submissions do not need to be attached to any forms or labeled with your child's name.

                                                                        -OR-

Tape your non-expired and clipped Box Tops to any of the collection sheets printed from the link below. Make sure to include your child's name, as well as their teacher's name, on the form. Submit the forms by Friday May 18th to earn an INDIVIDUAL prize- one of three $10 Target giftcards! Of course, loose, clipped Box Tops will be accepted, but they will not be eligible for the prize!

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/about/collection-sheets>