

# “CLASSIC” COMMUNIQUE'

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

### NEW SCHEDULING FORMAT—PLEASE READ!

Elkhorn Middle School will be conducting parent-teacher conferences on October 27 & 28 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 try a new format for scheduling conference times this year. 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 call the office at 289-2428 to notify us of your request.

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 - Linda Blomenkamp - lblomenkamp@epsne.org

7th Grade - Kari Pilkington - kpilkington@epsne.org

8th Grade - Rosie Rastovski - rrastovski@epsne.org

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### Parent Booster Club/Parent Communication Meetings

Parent Booster Club meetings are held each month at 6:30 p.m. in the EMS Library followed by Parent Communication meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting dates this year:

October 1

November 5

December 3

February 4

March 4

April 8

### Daily Bulletin

Parents may now view the EMS daily announcements at [www.elkhornweb.org](http://www.elkhornweb.org), EMS heading and then

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Elkhorn Public Schools is currently working on receiving District Accreditation from AdvancED. The staff at Elkhorn Middle School spent the September 28th inservice day working through the Standards Assessment Report. This report is designed to serve as a valuable self-assessment and as a tool to help schools prepare for their Quality Assurance Review. In order to earn and maintain accreditation, schools must meet the AdvancED standards, engage in a process of continuous improvement, and host a Quality Assurance Review at least once every five years.

The Standards Assessment Report engages the school community in an in-depth assessment of each of the seven AdvancED standards. In completing the report, the school identifies the data, information, evidence, and documented results that validate that it is meeting each standard. This self-assessment helps the school identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

It was a day filled with great discussion that affirmed our mission of a clear and defined focus on student learning in everything we do.

## QSP FUNDRAISER

Thanks to everyone for supporting our magazine fundraiser. The official counts are not in but the money raised goes to supporting student programs and activities throughout the year. **You can still visit the QSP website to order new magazines or renew and EMS still gets the proceeds.** Special thanks to fundraiser coordinator **Suzanne Rogers!** Thanks also goes out to the following parents for assisting: Lynn Daugherty, Carrie Gottsch, Courtney Heisey, Jill McCormick, Robin Nelson, Liz Otterberg, Liz Rohs, and Michelle Wiley Davis.

## POWERSCHOOL

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.

## PURPLE HANDS RALLY

EMS is celebrating its 5th annual Purple Hands Rally at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, October 5. This is an anti-bullying/tolerance program where students, parents, faculty, and community members pledge to stop bullying at our school. There will be two plays performed by RESPECT, entitled, "Drugs" and "Body Image" to emphasize how peer pressure and harassment can also result in making poor choices by teens. These are choices that can affect one's entire life. As a school and community, we need to teach acceptance of others and the issues they may be dealing with.

RESPECT is a research-based, non-profit organization based in Omaha and was founded by child psychologist, Dr. Patricia Newman. The play your student will see is called Choices. In this program, actors interact with the students throughout the play to educate them in 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. Anonymous note cards are used to facilitate the talk-back sessions immediately after the play with the actor/educator.

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

## DAD'S WANTED!!

There will be a "Dad's Wanted" meeting on Thursday, November 4 at 8:00 p.m. at EMS immediately following the Parent Communication Meeting. This meeting will be for all dads who can pitch in and help during the Antler Hoops Tournament that will be held in mid-March. It is important to get started on this early because we are hoping for continued growth with our tournament and will need many, many people to help during the tournament. Spread the word!



## PYRAMID RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

Elkhorn Middle School is continuously examining its practices to make sure we are doing what is truly best for our students. There are three critical questions that must be answered:

- 1) What is it we want kids to learn?
- 2) How will we know when they have learned it?
- 3) How will we respond when kids don't learn?

We have spent the last 3 years answering questions 1 and 2. The staff at EMS will spend time this school year searching for best practices to re-define how we respond when students don't learn. A team of teachers and administrators will be attending a 2 day workshop hosted by our Educational Service Unit entitled, Pyramid Response to Intervention. Our intent is to develop new systematic and strategic programs that will assist all students when they experience difficulties with learning.

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## 6TH GRADE NEWS

MRS. BAUMERT, MRS. BLOMENKAMP, MRS. CRAWFORD, MRS. GRAGERT, MS. PHELPS, MR. PREISSLER, MRS. SMITH

Lang Arts – In the upcoming month, students will work on a verb unit, as well as practicing for the state writing assessment by using the six traits of writing. The actual writing assessment will take place within the first two weeks in November. Please ask your child for their weekly spelling list. The list is given on Mondays and the test is on Fridays.

Reading – Your child's AR goal is due Oct. 9th. Please ask them frequently where they are on their goal. The State Standard dealing with main idea and supporting details will be a point of emphasis in the month of October.

Science – Students have just finished a unit on Scientific Method. During the month of October, they will apply their knowledge to the unit of ecosystems and environments.

Social Studies – Social Studies students have been sharing current events in class. Please discuss these events at home with your student. Economics will be the next unit for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies. At the end of the unit, a test will be given over key economic terms.

Math – Sixth grade math students will be focusing on operations, exponents, and problem solving dealing with mean, median, and mode.

Pre-Concepts – In the next month, students will be focusing on properties, sequences, scientific notation, and measures of central tendency.

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## 7TH GRADE NEWS

MR. BLUHM, MRS. BODYFIELD, MRS. KUDRNA, MS. LUTES, MR. ORTMEIER, MRS. PILKINGTON, MRS. REESE

In Science, 7<sup>th</sup> graders have begun the Motion and Forces unit. In this unit, we will work on measuring and describing motion and will study how different types of forces affect the motion of an object. We will also study Newton's Laws of Motion.

In Language Arts, we will begin studying the parts and types of sentences. We will also be using songs and stories to learn the 23 Helping Verbs. At the end of the month we will take the knowledge we have of the 6-Traits to begin writing descriptive essays. This project will prepare us for a District Writing Assessment which will occur in November. Remember spelling tests are always taken on Fridays, and students should be studying words throughout the week!!

7<sup>th</sup> grade Math students are finishing up their introduction to Algebra. Soon we will begin Chapter 2, which looks at displaying data through graphs and charts. At the conclusion of the chapter, we will be taking a state standard on constructing and interpreting data displays as well as computing mean, median, and mode. Pre-Algebra students have begun Chapter 2, which includes working with integers and using the ding-ding rule.

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 throughout the month of October, seventh graders will be working out of their textbooks during our short story unit. This unit does involve more homework than others, so please remind your child to keep up with daily assignments. AR goals for 1st Quarter are due Friday, October 16, 2009. Your children are aware of their goals, but please check with them regularly to make sure they are working towards that goal. Reading logs have started; students either need to read 200 minutes per week, or 100 pages per week, depending which system they are using. Organization seems to be a problem for several students; we recommend having a folder or binder to keep all reading materials organized. Thank you! Upcoming exams: Elements of Fiction Exam (notes were given) and a short story exam over the content of all stories after we complete the unit (we outline each story).

## 8TH GRADE NEWS

MR. BEARD, MS. EVERLY, MR. HULTMAN, MRS. RASTOVSKI, MS. WITT

Our year is off to a fantastic start. We are enjoying your students and are noticing their great work ethic.

We will soon begin preparation for Student-Led Conferences which will be held October 27-28. You will be receiving a letter to select your conference time.

Antler Academy has begun. Students who qualify will attend the day of or the following day of a late assignment.

In Language Arts we will be participating in the Statewide Writing Assessment the second week of October. We will then be returning to punctuation and will take our first Common Assessment the week of October 19.

In Reading we will be working on State Standards 8.1.1, 8.1.3, 8.1.4, and 8.1.5. AR goal period is due October 16. **Students are encouraged to complete this goal one week prior to the deadline.** Current AR Goals are listed in the students' contract.

In American History we will continue with our unit on Government and will have assessments on the three branches.

In Science we will begin working on our science inquiry project and study the properties of matter in Chemistry.

In Math the Pre-Algebra students will be solving linear equations. The Algebra students will be dealing with inequalities.

Both classes can get on-line notes from the Myelearning website under the lessons tab. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.

Students will be moving to a new rotation the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 8TH GRADE HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION NIGHT

**Reminder to all 8th grade parents and their students**—October 7, 2009 is the orientation and freshman registration at Elkhorn High School. Registration runs from 6:15—8:00 p.m. It is extremely important that students and parents attend this session in order to get registered properly for their high school classes. If you cannot attend, please turn in your silver registration sheet to the EMS counseling office.

If you have questions about high school registration, you can contact the high school counseling department at 289-1675.

You will know who to speak to based on your students last name.

<u>High School Counselor</u>	<u>Student's Last Name</u>
Desiree Merrihew	A-F
Meggan Coghill	G-L
Jeanne Hightower	M-Q
Steve Patras	R-Z

## DISCOVERY CENTER NEWS

MS. HARTMAN

The Discovery Center opened the school year with new library software and spent the first few weeks working out the bugs.

Changes in the software made it necessary to also make some changes in the library checkout policy. Books may now be checked out for three weeks (instead of two) however there will not be a grace period as there has been for the last few years.

We have asked that reading teachers share this information with students and have also posted it on the library web page.

October 19th - 28th we will be hosting our fall Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair will be open during the school day and also during parent-teacher conferences. Each reading class will have the opportunity to preview the fair and make their own wish list. Opportunities will also be available to donate to the classroom library of their choice. Please stop in during conferences and join us in this celebration of reading.

## WASHINGTON D.C. 2010

MR. GLOVER

There is still time to sign up for the Washington DC Trip. We will be leaving March 25, 2010 and return March 27. Contact Mr. Glover at dglover@epsne.org for more information.

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## BAND NEWS

MR. JOHNSON

**Jazz Band** – Our EMS Jazz Band will complete its audition process on October 14 and begin regular rehearsals on Wednesday, October 21. We anticipate 30-35 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students will be participating in this year’s group.

**November 3 Concert** – On Tuesday, November 3, all the band students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be performing their first concert of the year. It will take place in the EMS gym and starts at 7:30 PM. All students will be expected to arrive in the EMS music rooms at 7:00 PM for warm-ups. Please come to encourage your students and enjoy a fabulous concert. Concert attire will be expected for all students and will include: black pants, black socks, black shoes, and the EMS “Noteworthy” t-shirt. This shirt may be purchased through Mrs. Wortman for \$8.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Pep-Band** – On Tuesday, December 8, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band has been invited to perform with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band from ERMS and the high school band at a varsity girls and boys basketball game night. More details will be sent home with the students as we get closer to the event, but students should plan to reserve the entire evening. Dress for this event will be jeans, tennis shoes, and their white EMS “Noteworthy” t-shirts (tucked in!). This is always a fun evening for the students, so please put it on your calendar!

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## CHORUS NEWS

MRS. WORTMAN

Congratulations to the “Classics” Show Choir for 2009/2010: Madeline Aldridge, Oscar Askerup, Presley Bezousek, Molly Bond, Jessica Butler, Kayla Epp, Tessa Glatte, Alex Janvrin, Nicole Jewett, Alessia Jones, Bailey Kelly, Lizzie Lange, Allie Marshall, Bailee Moravec, Jordan Mrsny, Makenna Mull, Caroline Musselmann, Andrea Pena, Taylor Penn, Amara Pope, Sam Rouse, Alexis Svasek, Jenna Wiebelhaus, Maddie Wurgler, Connor Cameron, Jacob Carlson, Caleb Craven, Darin Einspahr, Jake Feikert, John Friedenbach, Val Hahn, Sam Martin, Derek McClure, Christian McKenzie, Jacob Merrill, Jason Meyer, Adam Miller, Logan Paasch, Bo Peterson, Blake Pfeil, Connor Seagren, Michael Shavlik, Sam Stevens, Nate Wight, Kolton Wiley, Jesse Zhang.

Show Choir will rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:15 a.m. and perform at most concerts. We will also attend a show choir festival in March and go on tour to the elementary schools in April or May.

Music t-shirts will be ordered soon—get your forms and money in ASAP!

**Upcoming concerts**—all are at 7:30 p.m. and in the EMS gym unless indicated.

Thursday, November 12—6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> choirs and show choir

Thursday, February 11—7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> choirs with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Bands

Tuesday, February 23—8<sup>th</sup> choirs from EMS and ERMS with High School Freshman chorus in the auditorium at the High School—7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 18—6<sup>th</sup> Choir and Band with 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Also the “Classics” Show Choir

Thursday, May 13—6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> choirs and Show Choir

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## LOVE AND LOGIC PARENTING CLASS

**Do you want your kids to be responsible, respectful and successful?**

**Do you want to feel more successful as a parent?**

**Would you like to be stress-free at the end of the day?**

**LOVE AND LOGIC** believes that all kids can grow up to be wonderful, independent adults. This class, **LOVE AND LOGIC**, has powerful, practical ideas for parents to help bring their children up to become successful and responsible. It is never too early or too late to learn this simple approach to parenting.

This class runs seven Tuesday sessions beginning October 6 from **6:30-8:30 p.m.** Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, November 3, 10, 17, 24.

**Cost:** \$15

Where: ERMS Discovery Center

**Facilitated by:** Barb Baumert and Jani Nunnenkamp

**REGISTER** for class by calling Barb at 334-9302 or email at [bbaumert@epsne.org](mailto:bbaumert@epsne.org)

## H.A.L.E. NEWS

MRS. KLEIN

### Upcoming HALE events:

High school HALE teacher to meet with 8<sup>th</sup> graders to talk about the program at the high school: lunch on Oct. 2

Future City meeting times (all month): 8<sup>th</sup> grade

8<sup>th</sup> grade SEMINAR: Oct. 7

Quiz Bowl try-outs TBA

Poetry continued for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades

SIGMA tests will be week of Oct. 19

8<sup>th</sup> grade Med Center workshop at UNMC Oct. 21

Math Monday: October 6 during lunches

Cosmosphere Field Trip Oct. 15 and 16 to Hutchinson, KS: 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Fontenelle Forest: Animal Exploration 6<sup>th</sup> grade Oct. 26

DUKE TIPP meeting for 7<sup>th</sup> graders taking ACT or SAT Oct. 28

## ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION MENTORING PROGRAM

The Elkhorn Public Schools is pleased to sponsor a program offered to students who would benefit from another caring adult in their life. The Partners in Education Mentoring Program is a cooperative effort of educators and volunteers from the community. It is designed with an academic focus to provide on-going support to help students be successful. An adult mentor volunteers for one school year and meets with his or her mentee on school grounds.

Mentors are asked to volunteer for at least one hour each week for the entire school year and may indicate preferred grade levels and times. Orientation will be provided and each building has a facilitator available to answer questions.

Please call 289-2428 to contact Deb Wesch or write Elkhorn Public Schools, Attn: Kevin Krauss Westridge Elementary School, Elkhorn, NE 68022 for additional information. You may also access the Elkhorn Public School web site at : <http://205.202.101.100/> for more information under the Programs link.

**YOU CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE IN A STUDENT'S LIFE!!**

## VNA FLU IMMUNIZATION CLINICS AT COMMON GROUND

VNA is offering flu immunization clinics for Elkhorn families. Family Friendly, Say "Boo"! To the Flu clinics are scheduled to be held at Common Ground. The clinics are open to the public and flu immunizations will be available for persons 6 months of age and older. Persons may select a time from the following clinics scheduled at Common Ground:

Wednesday	October 7	9 a.m.—11 a.m.
Saturday	October 10	9 a.m.—12 p.m.
Monday	October 19	5 p.m.—7 p.m.
Saturday	November 7	9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Cost of the immunizations will be: \$25.00 for shot

\$30.00 for mist



20214 Veterans Drive • Elkhorn NE 68022 • 402-289-1727  
[www.elkhornfoundation.org](http://www.elkhornfoundation.org)

**Sunday, November 1st** – What a great night to join us at Manchester Elementary for food, fun and tributes as we celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Hall of Fame banquet! Educator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Golden Apple Outstanding Educator, Alumni of the Year, Community Booster, Mentor of the Year, Support Staff Person of the Year – enjoy an evening out as we honor outstanding community members and educators! Please visit our website at [elkhornfoundation.org](http://elkhornfoundation.org) or call 289-1727 for ticket information – it's Elkhorn camaraderie at its best!

**Peep, peep, peep; Authors for Elkhorn; Kinder Cares for the Community** – these are just a few of over \$100,000 in creative learning opportunities submitted by our teachers through our classroom grant program. Our Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation hopes to fund these educational opportunities with the support of folks like you! If you'd like more information on how you can help, please visit our website at [elkhornfoundation.org](http://elkhornfoundation.org) or call Kim at 289-1727, ext. 202; your contribution is tax-deductible and can be applied to the school of your choice. When considering a donation to our Foundation, please also check with your place of business – many times they will match your donation, as we're a 501c3 organization. It's a great way to double your impact!

**United Way can make such a community impact** – if you or your business participates in the United Way campaign, the Foundation has been designated as a United Way organization. It would be wonderful if you would consider choosing us as one of the United Way organizations you'd like to support! To do so, please write our name on your designation form – thank you for your consideration.

**Middle School Care** – We are excited to announce the opening of our after school study center program at each of our middle schools. The program is available after school until 6:00 p.m. each day school is in session, and provides an opportunity for middle school students to complete homework in a monitored environment. Students can also participate in board games, team-building activities, card games, etc. Registration numbers are limited so please contact Kim at 289-1727, ext. 202 for more information!

**Our Foundation** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage, support and recognize excellence in education, civic involvement and student achievement in Elkhorn. For more information regarding the Foundation, its programs and volunteer opportunities, please visit our website or call us at 289-1727 – we have all sorts of involvement possibilities!

Kim Riggle  
Executive Director  
Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation