

# “CLASSIC” COMMUNIQUE'

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS!

This holiday season, Elkhorn Middle School students will be engaging in various activities that promote social awareness. Many different groups will be trying to help those less fortunate have an enjoyable Holiday. Please take time to ask your student what type of activities are taking place to serve others. By supporting our school and students on these service projects, you will deepen the impact on both the families the students are trying to help and your child as well. Our canned food drive runs from December 7-17 with all proceeds going to the Western Douglas County Food Bank. Please help us make a difference.

From all of us here at the “Classic” middle school, thank you for all you do and have a wonderful Holiday season.



## HOLIDAY VACATION

No School

December 21-

January 1.

School resumes

January 4, 2009.



## WINTER APPAREL

As the winter season grows stronger, please make sure your student comes to school dressed for the weather. Many times students may arrive early in the morning and may have to wait outside in the cold until supervision begins and they can be brought inside. Students also may have an unexpectedly long wait after school due to unforeseen circumstances. We make every effort to make sure kids are not out in the cold for long periods of time. However, for the safety of your child, they need to dress appropriately.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports for the middle of second quarter were sent home with students on Wednesday, November 25. The reports are yours to keep. We ask that you sign the envelope and return it to school with your child. If you did not receive a progress report, or if you have questions regarding your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher(s).

## FROM THE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

TOM RAMSBOTTOM, A.D.

The NSAA (Nebraska Schools Activities Association) has informed schools of the no contact period for activities. On December 23-27th, there will be no practices for EPS students. **All buildings will also be closed for all activities, including outside groups throughout the entire district.**



## WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

When weather conditions exist that would jeopardize the safety of student's travel to or from school, information about school closing will be broadcast over radio stations KFAB (AM 1110) and the four local television stations. If school is to have a delayed start or be canceled, announcements will begin on those stations at approximately 6:00 a.m.

### ALERT NOW

The district will also be utilizing the new phone system (Alert Now) as one avenue to inform students and parents of school closings due to inclement weather.

## PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Thank you for your interest in your child's education. The following percentages represent the number of parents in attendance.

**Sixth grade: 91%**

**Seventh grade: 90%**

**Eighth grade: 81%**

Evaluation data showed that 99% of parents felt their conference was informative and 97% felt they had adequate time to talk to teachers.

## LET'S HAVE A MEETING!

On Thursday, December 3, there are 3 important meetings that parents are invited to. All meetings will be held in the Library.

6:30 p.m.—Booster Club Meeting

7:00 p.m.—Parent Communication Meeting

8:00 p.m.—\*Dad's Wanted Meeting

\*The Dad's Wanted Meeting is open to everyone. This will be our first planning meeting for our 8th Annual Antler Hoops Tournament. This has been an outstanding fundraiser for our school and a lot of fun. It takes many people to coordinate this event, and the need for Dads to be involved is critical. We look forward to seeing you all there.

## STATE OF SCHOOLS

State of Schools Report from the Nebraska Department of Education is available to view now at [www.nde.state.ne.us](http://www.nde.state.ne.us). Take time to visit the website and see how Elkhorn Public Schools are performing.

## 9TH ANNUAL ANTLER HOOPS BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT

The 9th Annual Antler Hoops Basketball Fundraiser Tournament will be held on March 19, 20, and 21, 2009. A group of volunteers will begin meeting to organize this year's event. Please watch future newsletters for details on how to get involved. Tournaments of this nature require a tremendous amount of organization and time commitment. But more importantly, it takes a tremendous amount of people who can help during the tournament days in some capacity. If you can help or would like more information, please contact Mike Tomjack at 289-2428 or email [mtomjack@epsne.org](mailto:mtomjack@epsne.org).

## ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

A student may not leave school without a written note or phone call from the parent or guardian. This note should have the parent's telephone number on it, so that the note may be verified by the school staff. This notice for early dismissal must be presented to the school secretary before the school day starts. When students are late for school, a note or phone call from the parent or guardian must be provided to main office.

**Students who must leave school during school hours will follow this procedure:**

1. Bring a written note or have your parent or guardian call the main office. The written note should have the parent or guardian's day-time phone number.
2. Submit the note to the main office before going to your first class.
3. Pick up an early dismissal slip (if necessary) from the main office before leaving.
4. Students must sign out in the main office when leaving the building during school hours for any reason.
5. If you return before the school day ends, report to the office to sign in and get a pass.

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## YEARBOOKS ON SALE

Elkhorn Middle School yearbooks are on sale now for \$20.00. This price is good until January 31 when the price will go up to \$25.00. A limited number of books have been ordered, so it is important to place an order to be guaranteed a book.

## GIFT GIVING AND SCHOOL DISRUPTIONS

Every holiday season brings with it the latest electronic device, gadget, or toy to hit the market. Often times these devices find their way to school. While we appreciate middle school students' desire to own these items, they may not be appropriate in a school environment. One of our primary goals is to provide an environment free from distractions. Parents and students need to be aware of the guidelines typically used to address these "popular" gifts that are not suited for school. These guidelines are located on page 25 of the student handbook. If your child receives these types of gifts this season, please have a discussion with them about the school's policy and expectations.

First Offense: Item may be taken from the student and given to the office. Item will be returned to the student at the end of the day.

Second Offense: Item may be taken from the student and given to the office. Item will be returned to the parent or guardian.

Third Offense: Item may be taken from the student and given to the office. Item will be returned to the student at the end of the year.

## THANK YOU EMS BOOSTER CLUB

We would like to extend a BIG thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help our nurse with the height, weight and vision screening. We couldn't have done it without all of you...Anna Musselman, Courtney Heisy, Jeannie Fran-son, Debra Masters, Dionne Housley, Rachelle Epp, Liz Otterberg, Sheri Trapp and Kimn Fagervik.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION TO VISIT EMS

The school board will visit Elkhorn Middle School on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The purpose of the visit will be to see the new class-room wing and other renovation projects, as well as what is happening in the classroom!

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## POWERSCHOOL PASSWORDS

You may still pick up your username and password information from the office that 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 stu-dents. Please take advantage of this powerful tool.

## QSP FUNDRAISER

Final numbers are in! Our QSP fundraiser was a tremendous success. Our school will receive 40% of total sales which were \$19,906.52. Thanks to all students who participated. If you should have any questions concerning your orders, please go to the website [www.qsp.com](http://www.qsp.com)

## LUNCH ROOM REMINDER

Students are not allowed to purchase a regular school lunch if they have a negative balance. Watch for stamps on the hand or written reminders from your child if they have a low balance.

## 6TH GRADE NEWS

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

In Reading, students will be finishing the novel, [A Day No Pigs Would Die](#). They will end the unit by taking a test covering the book's information. Students will then begin a research unit by writing a research paper about a famous author.

Language Arts students will begin the month by working on an adjective unit. The students are also in the middle of a student-led spelling unit where the students are in charge of creating the spelling lists, assignments, and tests. They have enjoyed getting to be the teacher!

Sixth grade math classes will be working with the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions. They will also be putting fractions in specific orders. Pre-Concepts students will begin working on integers.

In Science, the students will be determining how organisms are classified. They will also be studying and observing the six kingdoms of the living world.

Social Studies students will begin a unit on Geography. This unit will also focus on the use of map skills.

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## 7TH GRADE NEWS

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

In Science, 7<sup>th</sup> graders are just beginning the Astronomy unit. In this unit, we will study the Earth and how it compares to the other planets in our solar system. We will also study meteors, asteroids, and other objects in space. At the end of this unit, students will take a state standard assessment, and will complete an Astronomy project to show what they have learned during the unit.

When we return to Language Arts from Thanksgiving Break, we will begin a public speaking unit. This will include an overview of public speaking skills and 2 small speeches. The large project will be a "How To" speech. The project will cover writing outlines, organization, and finally presenting to an audience.

Math classes have just finished all operations with integers and have just started a pre-algebra unit in solving one and two-step equations. Remembering all those rules with integers can be difficult, but everyone is working hard! Great job!

Pre-Algebra classes are working with fractions and factors. We are starting our next unit involving operations with fractions. We are also plugging away on our State Standards (4 down, many to go :). Keep up the great work!

In World History we are currently finishing up the Ancient Greeks. We will be learning about the Ancient Romans next. We will be studying their beginnings, their culture, and the end of their empire. We are discussing such leaders as Julius Caesar and Augustus. Learning about their daily life and taking a look at the difference in how the rich and poor were treated in Rome, is also something the students will become familiar with.

In Reading, students are working through their mystery unit. Mr. Ortmeier's classes are reading THE WESTING GAME. Mrs. Kudrna's classes have two groups, THE WESTING GAME and AND THEN THERE WERE NONE. Students reading THE WESTING GAME are completing a study guide for each chapter as they read; AND THEN THERE WERE NONE students are taking a quiz every four chapters of their novel. Please ask your child about the novel, as both are very suspenseful. We are playing the role of detective as we try to piece together the clues and solve the mystery! We will complete this novel unit right before winter break. Students will take the AR quiz before break so they will know how many points still need to be earned by January 8th. (Both novels are worth 8 AR points.)

We continue to do our weekly vocabulary units. The big test over units #5, #6, #7, and #8 will be the week of Thanksgiving break. Vocabulary notebooks are due on Friday each week; please check with your child to be sure he/she isn't falling behind.

## HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

MRS. HORNER

Beginning Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> the second half of the **7<sup>th</sup> grade students** begin their Human Growth and Development exploratory health class. This class is designed to reinforce the values of home and family. It is a comprehensive class that is strongly abstinence-based. It respects parents, adolescents, and human sexuality. We always stress the importance of parents, family, and healthy decision-making.

We encourage parents to ask questions, discuss concerns, and look over curriculum materials by checking out a packet of materials to review. Parents will also be asked to complete four discussion homework assignments with their students. Research shows that the best Human Growth and Development/Family Life programs are those in which schools and families work together as a team to educate young people. We appreciate your support.

I have parent packets available for checkout at any time. Please contact me at the Elkhorn Middle School though email at [shorner@epsne.org](mailto:shorner@epsne.org) or by calling the school with any questions, requests, or concerns.

## 8TH GRADE NEWS

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

Things are going well this quarter. We are all busy with projects, competitions, and state standards. Students are doing a lot of reading as well. We hope you all have a wonderful holiday break!

In Language Arts, we will finish our research project which will culminate in an oral presentation the week of December 7-11. We will then be working on spelling and grammar until the winter break.

In Science, we just completed science projects, and students did an outstanding job. We are next going to finish chemistry. We will continue with state standards.

In American History, we will be working toward our standard on Manifest Destiny.

In Reading, we will complete our non-fiction packet and take the standard that goes with it. We will also take the fiction standard.

In Algebra, we will be working with linear functions. In Pre-Algebra we will be studying rational numbers.

## BAND NEWS

MR. JOHNSON

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade All-State Band** – Congratulations to Grant Petrmichl for being selected for the 2010 Nebraska State Bandmasters Association 8<sup>th</sup> Grade All-State Band! He is one of only 82 students selected out of over 400 who auditioned from across the entire state. In addition, Kinsey Ronne was selected as one of the 21 alternates also chosen for the group. The event will be held on January 16 at the University of Nebraska-Kearney with the final concert being held at 4:00. Although not accepted, a big thank you should go out to the following students who also auditioned for the group: Amanda Ewoldt, Mandy Houston, Alex Janvrin, Amber Laakso, Blake Pfeil, Haley Rolf, and Michael Shavlik. They all put in countless hours practicing and preparing their audition materials. Their efforts and hard work are greatly appreciated!

**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 boys basketball game between Elkhorn and Blair. More details will be sent home with the students as we get closer to the event, but students should plan to report to the EHS Auditorium by 6:45 PM. Students will be dismissed following Half Time of the game. Participating students will be admitted to the game free, but parents and siblings will need to pay normal admission or show their Elkhorn Activity Passes. Dress for this event will be jeans, tennis shoes, and their white EMS “Noteworthy” t-shirts (tucked in!). This is always a fun evening for the students, so please put it on your calendar!

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Instrument Switchers and Doublers** – We have reached that time of the year where we are looking for some 6<sup>th</sup> graders to switch to some of the “color” instruments of the band. These instruments include French horns, tubas, saxophones, bass clarinets, and double reeds. While limited in number, these instruments play a vital role in every quality band program. These instruments help add sound quality and depth to support the sounds produced by the instrument we already have, including flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, baritones, and percussion. Over the coming weeks, we will be letting interested students try these instruments to see if they are a good match. Interested students should talk to their parents about the possibility of switching, demonstrate a desire to practice often, and excel at their current instrument. For those interested, it is possible for students to double (play 2 instruments) rather than switching all out. In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, this would mean playing one instrument for concert band during school and another instrument for jazz band before school. For most of these instruments, there are school instruments available, although the quantity is limited. Please feel free to contact Mr. Johnson by email or by phone at school if you have any questions. Parents will be contacted personally before any decisions are made. Thanks again to all parents for their continuing support of music in our schools.

### CHORUS NEWS

MRS. WORTMAN

Congratulations to all the 6th, 7th and 8th grade choruses, "Classics" Show Choir, and Voice Lesson classes on a fine first performance at your "Musical Medleys" concert.

We are busy working on music for our upcoming concerts. The 7th and 8th grade choruses have a concert on February 11. The 8th grade then goes to the High School on February 23 for their combined concert with ERMS and the High School Freshmen choruses.

The Voice Lesson classes will be working on music for the Malcolm Music Contest on March 19.

The 6th grade Chorus will be working on developing more harmony and blend for their concert on March 13 which will be with the 6th grade Band and 5th graders from Hillrise, Manchester, and Westridge.

The "Classics" Show Choir is busy preparing for concerts and the Midland Music Festival at Midland College on Friday, March 26.

Congratulations also goes out to Oscar Askerup, Madeline Eldridge, Val Hahn, Alex Janvrin, and Bo Peterson who will be attending UNO Middle School Honor Choir on Friday, January 8.

### H.A.L.E. NEWS

MRS. KLEIN

- \*Quiz bowl practices
- \*Readers Theater (6-8)
- \*6<sup>th</sup> grade Talent Show
- \*7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Talent Show
- \*Future Cities Team field trip to Peter Kiewit Institute
- \*8<sup>th</sup> grade Seminar: Gallup Strengths and Community Service

## Elkhorn Public Schools Preschool Parent Pay Option Application for 2010-2011

The Elkhorn Public Schools Preschool will offer a limited number of parent pay placements for the 2010-2011 school year. The preschool offers an educational a setting for 3 and 4 year old children to develop their cognitive, social, language, emotional, and motor and self help skills. It provides a developmental approach to learning that incorporates a variety of techniques and strategies. Since children learn by doing, hands on activities are emphasized.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

4-Day Program. 3 hours per day. \$150.00 per month

Please indicate your preference (Subject to availability)

Sessions            \_\_\_ Mon.-Thurs. 8:20-11:20            \_\_\_ Mon.-Thurs. 12:20-3:20  
 Locations            \_\_\_ West Dodge Station Elementary            \_\_\_ Early Education Center

\*Please note: \$35 registration fee is due with the application. Please make checks payable to: Elkhorn Public Schools. The registration fee is non-refundable if your child is offered a place in Elkhorn Early Education Preschool. A drawing will be held on February 12 to select students offered a placement at the preschool. Students placed on the waiting list will have the registration fee refunded.

**Please call Christie Dean 289-3790 extension 1 if you have questions**

**Mail registration form and \$35.00 registration fee to:**

Christie Dean  
 Elkhorn Early Education Center  
 20650 Glenn St.  
 Elkhorn, NE 68022

## ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

KIM RIGGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### GIVING *Thanks* AT YEAR-END

#### WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

The deadline for signing up for the Washington D.C. trip in March of 2010 is December 20, 2009. Contact Mr. Glover for more information at 289-2428 or [dglover@epsne.org](mailto:dglover@epsne.org)

This is the time of the year when we take a moment or two from our busy lives and consider our blessings and good fortune. For many people, it's also a time for sharing with others. As the year draws to a close, we'd like to thank you for sharing with us, through volunteering, financial gifts, etc. – you've made a difference through your benevolence! Please continue to consider us as you review your year-end gift giving; our classroom grants, scholarships and Kids in Need funds are just a few of the programs that could benefit from your kindness. For details on how to leverage gifts, please call our office or visit our website at [www.elkhornfoundation.org](http://www.elkhornfoundation.org).

If you are looking for a gift to give that oh-so-hard-to-buy-for person on your list, consider an Elkhorn Forever baseball cap and wear your community spirit proudly! A 2010 historic calendar of Elkhorn containing many pictures of Elkhorn's early days would make a wonderful gift as well. Proceeds from the cap and calendar sales will support scholarships for our graduating seniors. Please contact me at 289-1727 for more information on how to make a purchase and benefit our graduates at the same time! With thanks and best wishes.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

TOM RAMSBOTTOM

### **Did you Know? What is considered a student's legal domicile? Is your student eligible for high school activities next year?**

*As we make plans to split into TWO high schools, this information from the NSAA may be beneficial:*

#### **From the Nebraska Schools Activities Association**

Bylaw 2.6.1.1. states, "It shall not be considered a change of domicile if the parents have moved to a new home but do not intend to make it their permanent home, have not given up their former home, or have not sold their personal property or moved it to a new domicile, unless complete information is presented at a hearing before the Board of Control and a ruling has been given that a bona fide change of domicile has been made."

If the parent retains their former property or if they do not move all of their personal belongings to the new property, the student cannot be eligible in the new school unless there is a hearing before the Board of Control and the Board makes a determination that it was, in fact, a bona fide domicile change.

Proof that we often see at such hearings are pictures of the former home, showing that all of the personal belongings have been moved; realtor listing agreements of former home; utility connect/disconnect paperwork; voter registration papers; change of drivers license documentation; and purchase or lease agreements on new home.

Parents should make themselves aware of the NSAA rules, to insure that your student is eligible. If you have any questions, please call Tom Ramsbottom, A.D. at (402) 289-1688.

## WE NEED MORE MENTORS!!!

The Partners in Education mentoring program is in need of more mentors for our EMS students. We currently have eleven mentors who are spending thirty to sixty minutes a week with their mentees. It can have a tremendous impact on students who just need another adult in their lives encouraging them and helping them succeed. Most of our mentors are people who have been mentoring for many years. I think once you get started with a student, the rewards for both the mentor and mentee are evident. So during these busy next few weeks, please consider becoming a mentor. Or if you know of someone whom you think would be good at mentoring, please encourage them to call Deb Wesch at 289-2428. At EMS, we are very flexible with schedules to make it work for our mentors.

## GRACE THE THERAPY DOG

Parents and students, you may notice a dog in the building a couple times a week. This is Grace, a trained therapy dog. SuZanne Rogers, and EMS parent, has generously made herself and Grace available to EMS and students a couple times a week. There is much evidence to support the value dogs can offer in schools, hospitals, and retirement homes. Studies show that pets can lower blood pressure and stress, and enhance learning and aid in emotional leveling in children. We appreciate Mrs. Rogers and Grace spending time here at EMS.



## CELEBRATION OF GIVING PROJECT—”MITTEN TREE”

Womenade, along with Elkhorn Elementary and Middle Schools, will be sponsoring a Mitten Tree this year to help Elkhorn families who may need some assistance during this time of year. This is the first year EMS has been given this opportunity to have EMS parents, students, and staff help build a sense of community with this Giving Project. We are encouraging students to check with parents before selecting a mitten. A flier will also be sent home with your student with this information.

EMS Student Council will also be involved in this project, as it takes much time and organization to make sure we get mittens and gifts back in time for the families.

If you would like to participate in this project, here is what you need to do:

1. Select a mitten or mittens with an item or items that you are comfortable purchasing.
2. Record the mitten(s) you have taken in the Celebration of Giving notebook.
3. Purchase the item(s).
4. Gift wrap your item(s) at home.
5. Firmly secure the mitten(s) to the outside of the wrapped item. This is the only way we know what is inside of the gift and who the gift belongs to.
6. Return the wrapped item to your school, no later than WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th.

You may select a mitten(s) before and after school, starting on Monday, November 23rd—Wednesday, December 3rd. There may also be time during lunch to select a mitten.

Let's make our first year of the Mitten Tree a success. Thank you for participating! If you have any questions, please call: Deb Wesch or Teri Schaefer, EMS counselors at 289-2428.

