

DECEMBER 2023

Eagle Tales

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Message from Mrs. Faley

It is with mixed emotions that I share with you my decision to retire from my position as the Superintendent/Principal of Sonoita Elementary School District at the end of this academic year. Having served for thirty years in public education, the last six at Elgin School, I'm confident that this is the right time for me to begin a new chapter. While I may be retiring, my husband and I will continue to live in Sonoita and look forward to continuing to support the school as community members.

As you may have heard, the Governing Board began a search for the new Superintendent/Principal in early November. Currently, the Governing Board has narrowed the field of eight applicants to a single finalist. The community will have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of the finalist, Mr. Daniel Erickson, at the Community Forum on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room. I hope that you'll be able to attend.

I look forward to spending the next few months at Elgin School, finishing strong, and leaving the school and district in the hands of the next Superintendent/Principal. As always, thank you for entrusting Elgin School with the education of your children.



Sign up for important updates from Elgin School.

Get information for Elgin School right on your phone—not on handhelds.

Pick a way to receive messages for Elgin School:

1. If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your apps browser and go to the following link:

remind.at/Elginsch

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind! You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

2. If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message (designated to the number 81010).

If you're having trouble with iPhone, try texting Elginsch to 1420-437-8900.

* Standard text messaging rates apply.

Don't have a mobile phone? Go to remind.at/Elginsch on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Superintendent Search

By Ginny Cosbey, Board President

With the recent announcement of Superintendent Mary Faley's retirement, the Board has been tasked with hiring a new District Superintendent. Selecting a new Superintendent is probably the most important decision the Board will ever make.

Our search commenced in late September when the Board met with our search consultant. An online community survey was conducted from October 9th thru October 31st. The survey results were reviewed by the Board.

Attributes for the job posting as well as specific questions for the applicants were discussed and agreed upon by the Board. The search opened on October 4th and closed on November 1st. The Board screened 8 applicants and on November 14th and 16th interviewed, via Zoom, the 4 qualifying candidates in Executive Session. After discussion of our candidates, the

Board reconvened into regular open session and named Daniel Erickson as our sole finalist.

The final interview with Mr. Erickson will take place on December 5th in Executive Session. Following this in-person interview, there will be a Community Forum for the finalist to answer questions put forth by the public. After the Community Forum, the Governing Board will reconvene into Executive Session to review input from the Community. It is our hope to be able to name our new District Superintendent that evening after the final Executive Session.

We would encourage all parents, teachers, staff, and community members to engage in this important process by attending the Community Forum on December 5th at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room.

Sonoita Elementary School District #25
Community Forum
Superintendent Candidate

**Tuesday, December 5th
5:00 PM
Elgin School Conference Room**

**Join us to meet the
Candidate for
Superintendent/Principal!**

Sonoita Elementary School District #25 will host a community forum for the final candidate for the Superintendent position chosen by the School Board.

The forum will be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 5:00 PM in the Elgin School conference room and is open to the public. The candidate will have an opportunity to introduce himself and answer questions put forth by the public in attendance.



Sonoita Elementary School District #25
Elgin School
www.elgink12.com
23 Elgin Rd
Elgin, AZ 85611
(520) 455-5514



1st Grade

By Mrs. Sheree Gronlund

First grade had a very busy fall in 2023! The highlights of our fall include States of Matter experiments, a field trip to Apple Annie's, and Halloween and Thanksgiving STEAM days.

We studied the different states of matter in which, at the end of the experiments, the students were able to see the actual possible states of matter can make. One experiment involved using vinegar and baking soda to cause a chemical reaction to blow up a balloon. First graders really enjoyed seeing what could happen with different states of matter.

The 1st grade and kindergarten classes went on a field trip to Apple Annie's in Willcox, in October. We all went through the corn maze several times and every student was able to pick out and take home a pumpkin. The 1st grade class also got to take a pumpkin back to the classroom to dissect and learn about its life cycle.

Halloween and Thanksgiving STEAM days were filled with fun science, technology, engineering, art, and math learning projects. Activities included labeling the parts of a pumpkin, building straw bridges, testing the density of objects, and making flying bats. Additionally, each student made a pie in a cup by following a recipe on their own. They also made pilgrim hats while learning about the first Thanksgiving.

We had so much fun! We can't wait to see what next quarter holds.





Middle School Scient

By Mrs. Annette Kowek

Middle school science students are challenged to communicate their understanding of natural phenomena and the workings of human-designed inventions. We first look at what we think is happening and then we examine our ideas to see if we are on the right track. Uncovering our possible misconceptions is a constant backdrop for growing our new understanding.

The first topic that 6th graders tackled is the particle nature of matter including how molecules move during changes in states of matter and how heat transfers. We learned how to draw models by showing how ice cubes affect the temperature of lemonade (hint: heat always transfers from the warmer substance), and we tested how insulation works in model houses.

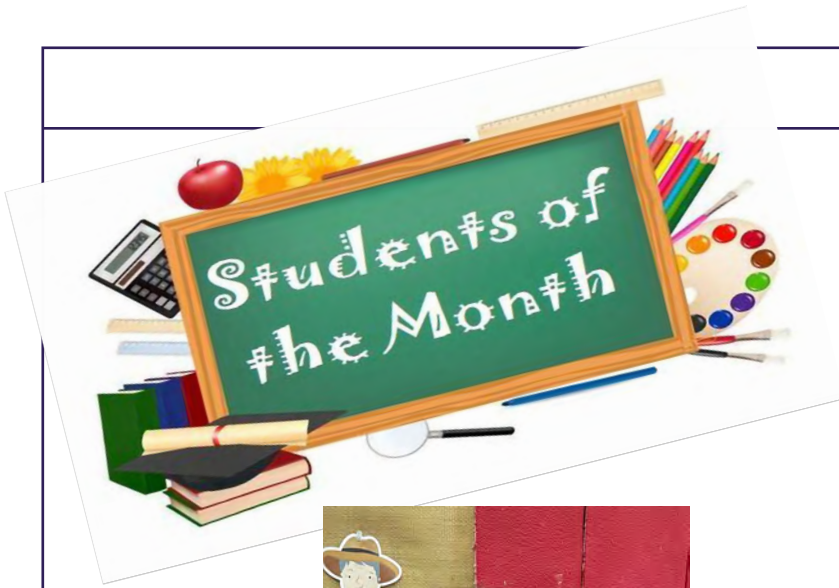


Seventh grade students started the year learning about Newton's laws of motion and noncontact forces. We attempted a new activity (spinning a water balloon) to investigate terminal velocity - it was fun and wet! And, we made our own speakers while learning about electromagnetism. We also had fun making slime during our annual Halloween science lab.



And, 8th grade students started the year off learning the foundations of chemistry and now they are studying how light travels as electromagnetic waves. We do have fun as we learn these sometimes hard concepts in preparation for high school science. Who doesn't like wearing cool science goggles and watching chemical reactions occur!?





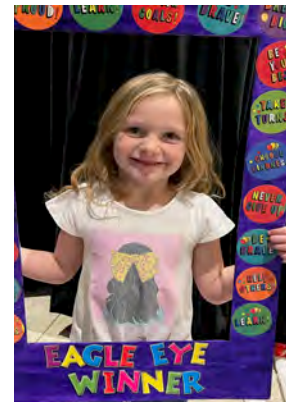
Sophia Baker
Kindergarten



Ayla Stockton
6th Grade

Eagle Eye - Student of the Week

Recognizing elementary students who practice good character and citizenship





THEATER! DRAMA! MUSIC! COSTUMES! FUN!!!!

The renowned Missoula Children's Theatre is coming to Elgin School December 11th—16th! This week-long residency is made possible for Elgin students through tax credit and parent donations. A little red truck will pull into our town with everything it takes to mount a full-scale musical production of "Blackbeard the Pirate." The truck will have a team of directors, lights, costumes, props, and make-up, everything except the cast. That's where Elgin students come in. The school has declared that week "No Homework Week" for participants, so any student who would like to try out for this performance must be able to attend the week-long rehearsals if given a part. Up to 50 students are needed for this production!

Please note that if a student is given a part in the play, he/she needs to be available Monday through Friday from 2:00 PM until 6:30 PM, and on Saturday, performance day, for morning dress rehearsals and the 6:00 PM evening performance. Students who commit to this endeavor will be expected to follow through on that commitment. More details will be sent home with the students.

Mark your calendars for this incredible opportunity for our Elgin community.

Elgin Eagle Athletics



Nurse's Tips for December

This month brings lots of exciting times. Changes in the weather, the Missoula Children's Theatre, preparations for the holidays, and time with family. Some tips for December are:

1. Dress your child in layers to accommodate for the changing temperatures and days this month. Mark clothing with names on the tags. Escort your child into the gym to search the "Lost and Found" bin and retrieve their items. Many times, children can't remember or identify them.
2. Encourage oral fluids to keep hydrated. The colder weather can be deceiving, as many of us forget to drink. Water bottles should go home at a minimum **every Friday** to get sanitized at home with hot soapy water or vinegar for a good scrubbing. Bacteria and other contaminants can grow quickly. Wouldn't you want a clean beverage container to drink from on a daily basis?
3. Wash hands frequently. Encourage rinsing all the way up and past the forearms. Many smaller children forget to rinse off the soap, and come in with contact dermatitis or rashes that are red and painful. Lotion for dry skin in the morning can also help keep the skin in good condition. Your skin is the biggest barrier in preventing germs from getting into your body.
4. Days are long in preparing for the Missoula Children's Theatre. Pack extra drinks and protein packed snacks for eating after school and between practices. Stomachs are small, and growth spurts result in needed additional calories. Hunger pains are real, and it is hard to concentrate when your belly hurts.
5. Consider getting your flu shots. Also, use the winter break as a time to catch up on needed immunizations and doctor's appointments.
6. Stay home if feeling poorly. Viruses are contagious 24-hours before a fever shows up. Don't show up to school and "try and make it through the day." Stay home one day to rest and hydrate. Many times, this is all that is needed to overcome an illness.
7. Shop as a family for safe toys. December is "Safe Toy Month" (see tips below).

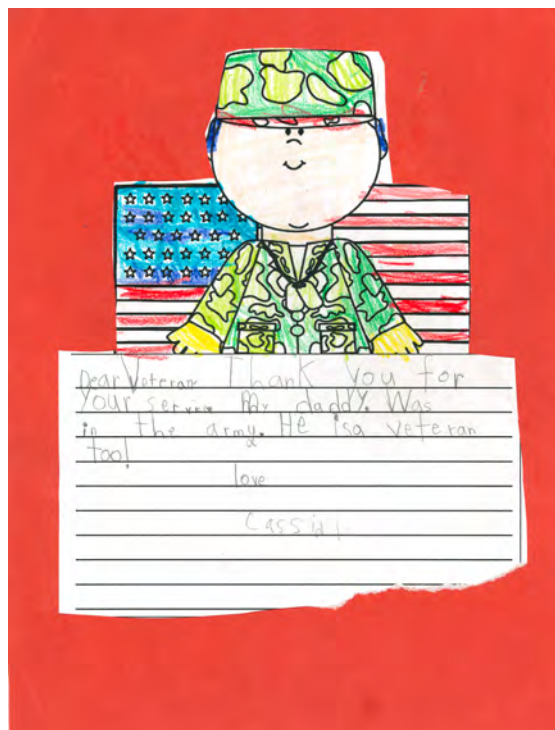


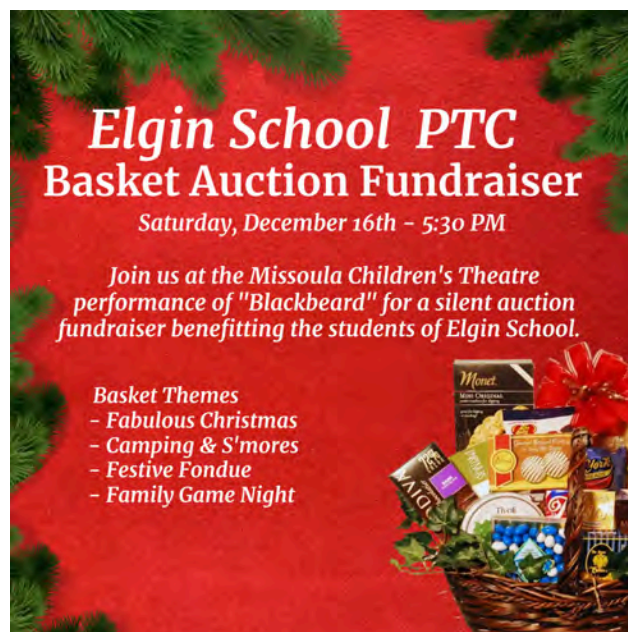
(Photo: www.toptoystoday.com)

VETERANS DAY



Essay & Poster Winners





Childfind Screenings

If you have concerns about your child's development from ages 3 to 21 years of age in these areas:

**VISION/HEARING * SPEECH/LANGUAGE * THINKING SKILLS
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT * BEHAVIOR *
NORMAL DEVELOPMENT**

Your school's CHILDFIND can help – with a free screening, and if needed, referral for diagnostic evaluation and/or early intervention programs (birth to three). If you have any concerns about your child's development, certain benefits are available through your local school district.

Screenings are available **by appointment**. To schedule your appointment or for more information please contact:

Christine Clouse- Student Services
455-5514 cclouse@elgink12.com



Elgin School
8th Grade CIMI Club

Holiday Shop

Students in K-8 can shop for family and friends!

Gift wrapping included!
All gifts will be wrapped and tagged by the 8th Grade Students

Our personal shoppers (8th graders) will assist younger students. Just send them with a list of names and their budget!

DEC 4th-6th
12:30-2:30 PM

ALL ITEMS UNDER \$10.00
Many items are in the \$3.00-5.00 Range



Elgin School's
Holiday
Food Drive

December 4th-18th

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Bring your non-perishable canned food items to Elgin School by December 18th to help local families this holiday season!



UGLY SWEATER DAY

Wednesday
December 13th





Winter Break

Wednesday, December 20th through Tuesday, January 2nd

School resumes on
Wednesday, January 3rd

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



2024 Testing Dates

5th & 8th Grades Science
April 2nd-4th

3rd-8th Grades Writing & Reading
April 9th-11th



3rd-8th Math
April 16th & 17th

3rd Grade Oral Proficiency
April 18th

