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Eagle Tales

Elgin Elementary School

Your Community School

In this Issue:

- ❖ Board Talk
- ❖ School News & Updates
- ❖ Upcoming Events

Connect with Elgin School!

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www.elgink12.com

Upcoming Community Events:

Community Showcase &

Open House

Friday, May 6th

4:00-6:30 PM

(see flyer in this issue)

Public Safety Day

Friday, May 13th

8:30 AM

(see flyer in this issue)

Message from the Superintendent, Mrs. Mary Faley

It's an exciting time to be an Elgin Eagle! As was the case with many schools, our enrollment declined when schools were closed statewide in the Spring of 2020. While we were able to reopen our campus during the 2020-21 school year, we have declined to enroll students from outside the district. Still, our enrollment has steadily increased, and is projected to return to pre-pandemic levels during the 2022-23 school year.

Zayo has completed the Fiber Project, which is now bringing high speed internet to the school. This is good news for our students! Through the Emergency Connectivity Grant, we were able to purchase approximately 100 new devices: iPads for K-1st and laptops for grades 2nd-8th. These devices will be ready for students when they return to school for the 2022-23 school year. In addition, we are currently participating in the Final Mile Project. If successful, this project will make high-speed, low-cost internet available to our students' homes and to the community.

At this time, we are fully staffed for the 2022-23 school year. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Anna Coleman will be able to return to teaching Art. In addition to our current staff, we received a grant for a full-time school nurse for the upcoming school-year. If you, or someone you know is a registered nurse and are interested in working in the school setting, please let us know.

We have two community events planned for May, Public Safety Day and Elgin Community Showcase. You can find more about these events, and about our school by visiting our new website www.elgink12.com.

Primary Elementary (K-2) News – by Mrs. Cubillas

Technology Integration: Kindergarten, First and Second grades all have been working on and learning the important life skill of keyboarding with Ms. Caitlyn, our librarian. First grade also had an aquatic interactive VR application on their iPads, where they learned about marine life. Second grade took a virtual tour of the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia's Old City District after researching the Revolutionary War and how it affected the rights and responsibilities of Americans today. Students also explored various biomes around the world through VR applications and goggles. Technology is a crucial and exciting way for all of us to explore the world around us every day!



February was Black History Month and found Kindergarten learning about Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Ruby Bridges. They watched videos, read stories, made books, and wrote about what they learned. First grade also learned about Ruby Bridges by watching videos, making books, coloring pictures, and writing about her. Second graders each chose an important leader in the Civil Rights Movement to research and present.

STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math): In February Kindergarten students learned all about groundhogs, how the human heart and arteries work, they made plastic milk also known as, casein plastic or paneer, and they made modern art hearts. March brought on the making of Oobleck *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* and learning all about rainbows, how they work and why. The students made their own rainbows by using the movement of color and water. They also had to count and graph Lucky Charms cereal. They completed an art project where they had to follow verbal directions using shapes that ended with them drawing a leprechaun. They also learned all about alligators; and drew and measured a life-sized alligator with chalk and rulers in the courtyard.

First grade also had a very busy 3rd quarter with three days of STEAM. For their Valentine's Day STEAM, the 1st graders practiced making fractions with heart candies. They built card houses and Eiffel Towers. They completed experiments with different acidic and non-acidic liquids that included a tooth in Coke. The Coke ended up disintegrating the tooth. For the Snow STEAM day, the class took advantage of the snow by experimenting with snow, salt, and dirt. The students mixed snow with salt in one cup, dirt in another cup, and had a control cup with only snow. They observed whether the snow melted faster in the salt, dirt or the cup with only snow. They found that the salt melted the snow the fastest because salt water has a lower freezing point. That is why salt is used on sidewalks and roads. The class made a snowman while waiting for the results of their experiment. For the St. Patrick's Day STEAM, the class learned about the holiday, then designed, built and tested a rainbow. They also built a catapult and made a four-leaf clover that they wrote four reasons why they are lucky.

Second Grade: For Valentine's Day, students practiced collecting data and graphing candy conversation hearts, as well as testing hypotheses on which type of liquid would dissolve the candies quicker. 2nd graders also celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with a STEAM filled day of making "Oobleck", painting portraits of *Cat in the Hat*, measuring distances with feet after reading *The Foot Book*, and creating three-dimensional hot air balloons to help them travel through *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* St. Patrick's Day brought even more STEAM fun, when students used the scientific method to dissolve Skittle candies in a variety of liquids to create the most colorful and long-lasting rainbow. 2nd graders have also been using STEAM to learn about ecosystems around the world and how plants and animals have adapted over time to survive in their habitats.

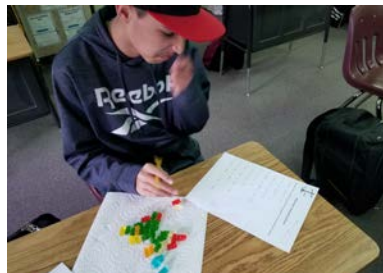
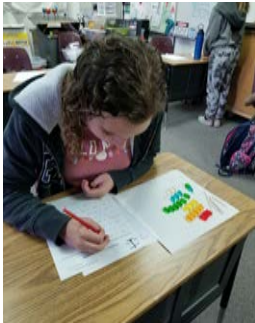


Middle School Update – by Mr. Neal

Middle School students wrapped up the third quarter March 11th. The Middle School also spent third quarter participating in ELA and Math skills review and enrichment. Students revisited and reinforced previous learning from the past three years. Students also participated in a number of electives including P.E., STEAM, DuoLingo, and Study Hall.

English: 6th grade explored creative expression by creating Photo Essays. Many took on themes that captured "A Day in the Life" with their subjects ranging from teachers to pets, and took pictures to reflect over the time period. 7th grade explored various geographic sights by creating their own Atlas Obscura posts. The website highlights strange or uncommon places of interest throughout the United States. 8th grade read and analyzed *The Hobbit* through the lens of Campbell's "Hero's Journey".

Social Studies: 6th Grade have been demonstrating their mastery of ancient Egypt by constructing their own pyramids chock full of information about this one great civilization. 7th Grade became authors of a new series of nursery rhymes covering the events of the Crusades in the Middle Ages in a more innocent way ala "Humpty Dumpty" and "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary". 8th Grade has taken on the role of judges and been investigating whether certain real-world situations would be constitutional or not.



Julie Rodriguez – SARSEF Award Winner

8th grader, Julie Rodriguez, recently won two awards at SARSEF - the regional science and engineering fair held each year in Tucson. She engineered a door for her chicken coop that only her chickens could enter, preventing crows from getting in and stealing eggs! Julie designed a door that opened and closed based upon a radio-frequency chip worn on the ankles of each chicken. Julie worked very hard and we are so proud of her!

If you would like to see her project, please visit <https://virtualfair.sarsef.org/.../chicken-radio.../>



Preschool Story Time – by Dr. Christine Clouse

Elgin Elementary School has preschool story time on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 8:30 AM. Children join the school for the pledge of allegiance and school cheer, then go to the library to listen to a story and make a craft. This is a chance to practice listening skills and fine motor skills like cutting, pasting, coloring, and painting in preparation for Kindergarten. Story time is open to children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2022. For more information, contact Christine Clouse at cclouse@elgink12.com or 520-455-5514 ext. 117.

Board Talk

By Ginny Cosbey, Board President

We never know what the future holds, but we do know the only thing constant is change!

With the election cycle coming up in November 2022, the Elgin School Board may experience changes as the terms of two Board members, Nancy Webster and Harry Dotson will be expiring. We may be fortunate enough to see them rerun for their board seats, but that is not a given.

That being said, have you ever thought about running for a seat on the school board? If you have sound judgement, an even temper, a willingness to collaborate, and a sincere interest in public education, you might consider running for our Elgin School Board.

The board works as a team. Its members collaborate well with others and are respectful of other board members and the Superintendent. The board adopts a fiscally sound district budget and pays attention to finances by regularly monitoring the fiscal health of the district. The board's

emphasis is on what is best for all students. By focusing on student achievement, it implements policies that will ensure the success for all students.

If you have any questions about school board service, please contact the school or any school board member and we would gladly answer your questions. You can contact the Superintendent of Schools office in Nogales to get the paperwork in order to run for the Elgin School Board in the November election.

We encourage you to attend the school board meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month in the conference room at the school beginning at 5:00 pm. If there is a date change for the meeting, it will be posted, Meeting agendas are posted at the Sonoita Post Office, the school's outdoor bulletin board and on the school website: www.elgink12.com.



Public Safety Day



When: May 13 | 8:30am-10:30am

Where: Elgin School's track and field

Who: **EVERYONE!** Families, neighbors, community members, homeschooled families, etc.

What: A great opportunity to learn from our first responders about public safety!

FREE event!

State and local police, K9s, D.A.R.E., Firefighters, EMTs, US Border Patrol, Ranger helicopter, and more!



Elgin School Crisis Response & Social-Emotional Health – by Mrs.

Coleman

The Crisis Response/Social-Emotional Health Committee is one of Elgin School’s hardworking academic committees that the Elgin teachers participate in. Coach Harper, Mrs. Clouse, Mrs. Koweek, and Mrs. Coleman make up this committee. They have been working together for the past two years, increasing the awareness of social emotional needs and providing support/resources for staff and students when needed.

Last year, the committee wrote up a Crisis Response Manual for Elgin School. They obtained picture, chapter, and activity books to be available for various social emotional needs. The committee also purchased resource books that are available to all staff if crisis needs occur.

This year, each member of the committee has taken on a project to enhance the strength of mental health awareness at Elgin School.

Coach Harper’s main committee focus is to find activities that promote health through fitness. There is also a focus on mental health with the peer mediation group. The peer mediation group is currently learning different ways to promote a healthy and positive lifestyle in and outside of school. At the end of the school year, we will have a “Color Run” to promote health through physical activity at Elgin School.

Mrs. Clouse attended training with the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI). CPI teaches staff to identify stages a student can go through when they are stressed and unable to cope. It teaches staff how to respond to student behaviors and de-escalate situations. Mrs. Clouse is now certified to train others at Elgin Elementary School.

Mrs. Koweek is reviewing and will update as needed, the school’s Wellness Policy. This document guides the support of the health and well-being of Elgin students in order to improve their readiness to learn. The Wellness Policy outlines goals for healthy eating and physical activity.

Mrs. Coleman is Elgin’s social emotional health coordinator, working with other schools in Santa Cruz County to form a system that ensures all students, families, and staff access to information and resources at any time. Mrs. Coleman is also attending training to become certified to teach others about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) at Elgin School.

The Crisis Response/Social-Emotional Health Committee will continue to work together to support Elgin families, students and staff in the area of mental health.

Character Counts – By Mrs. Cubillas

The Character Education Committee put out, “You are Kind Valentine” slips in the gym for February and a giant red heart. Students and staff were asked to write something kind about someone. This project was well received. For March, the committee placed green cups in the fence spelling, “BE KIND!!!”

Character Counts is embedded within our daily curriculum in one way or another, in the classroom or specials, at flag, and in our sports programs. We remind students that having good character does not stop on school campus, but continues with us wherever we go. “Who are you when no one is looking?”





Tami Cubillas, Kindergarten
18 Years of Service



Norma Etchart, Business Office
17 Years of Service



Angela Brown, 4th Grade
8 Years of Service

Thank you for your dedication to
the students of Elgin School.
Good luck, you will be missed!



Kim Crawford - Kindergarten



Hello, my name is Kim Crawford and I am very excited to be part of Elgin School as the new kindergarten teacher. I have been a substitute teacher in the community since last September while working to earn my teaching certificate. I have a strong passion for teaching in the early elementary years when young students begin developing important foundational skills for lifelong learning.

My husband and I moved to Sonoita in back in 2018 from northwest Tucson where we built our family business and raised our two children. I attended the University of Arizona where I obtained my undergraduate degree in early childhood education and a graduate degree in special education and rehabilitation.

Outside of the classroom, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, being outdoors, and working on DIY projects around the house.

"It's better to know how to learn than to know." – Dr. Seuss

Kat Greacen – 5th Grade



Hello! I'm thrilled to be an Eagle! I've taught 4th/5th grade for that last 6 years. Prior to that I owned a Kumon Math and Reading Center for 5 years, and I had a long career in IT programming phone systems and managing projects. Teaching is what I love. My goal is to inspire young learners, to open their minds to possibilities, and to excite them about the world. I especially love math and science.

My husband and I live in Sonoita and we also have family here. We love hiking, kayaking, walking our dogs - and rooting for the U of A Wildcats as our daughter is a student there. Bear down!

Site-Based Council Update – by Mrs. Cubillas

Elgin School's Character Counts Student and Staff members of the Month:

February:

K-2 - Arizona Beal
3-5 - Joseph Heinzl
6-8 - Julie Rodriguez
Staff- Chris Clouse

March:

K-2 - Sven Swanson
3-5 – Lizzie Watson
6-8 - Reyan Heinzl
Staff - Regina Padilla

April:

K-2 – Sarah Watson
3-5 – Audrey Stephens
6-8 – Sapphira Bandelin
Staff – Kyndra Ortiz

A big round of applause goes out to everyone! How does one become a student or staff member of the month you might ask? Anyone can nominate a staff member or student by writing a letter and passing it along to the Site-Based Council. The Site-Based Council members then read the letters and accept the nominations and vote on the winners. Each month, already accepted nominations are rolled over to the next month, if not chosen.

Sonoita Elementary School District

2022-2023 Elgin School Staff

Elementary Faculty

Kindergarten	Kim Crawford
1 st Grade	Sheree Gronlund
2 nd Grade	Callie Mattus
3 rd Grade	Kerry Newberry
4 th Grade	Candee Rinde
5 th Grade	Kat Greacen

Middle School Faculty

Science	Annette Koweek
6 th Grade Advisor/Language Arts	Jacob Masters
7 th Grade Advisor/Social Studies	Neal Ryan
8 th Grade advisor/Math	Kyndra Ortiz

Associate Faculty

Fine Arts	Anna Coleman
Library/Media Center	Caitlyn Coleman
Special Education	Christine Clouse
Counselor, Health & PE	Terrell Harper



Para-Professionals (Educational Aides)

Yana Carter
Aubrey Gallardo
Lucy Reyes
Jayci Whittington
Linnette Weisel

Administration

Superintendent/Principal	Mary Faley
Business Manager	Heidi Gonzales
Executive Assistant/Office Manager	Melissa Paul
Business Office Administrative Asst.	Regina Padilla
Information Technology Director	Leonard Sadorf
Maintenance/Custodial	Jim Reindl
Maintenance/Custodial	Lisa Lopez
Kitchen Manager	Valerie Etchart