

W I N T E R 2 0 2 1 / 2 0 2 2



Eagle Tales

Elgin Elementary School

Your Community School

Message from the Superintendent, Mrs. Mary Faley

As you may have heard, Sonoita Elementary School District is launching three major technology initiatives: Broadband Fiber, The Final Mile Project, and the Emergency Connectivity Grant. The process for bringing Broadband to Elgin School began almost a year ago, when the district submitted a Request for Proposals (RFP). The proposals received were then evaluated by a district committee, who awarded the contract to Zayo. Zayo has already begun installing the fiber and expects to complete the project within the first quarter of this year. While the total cost of the construction is \$782,000.00, one hundred percent of the costs are grant funded. As a result, our staff and students will benefit from internet speeds ten times faster than our current service provides and at a lower monthly rate.

Milan Eaton, Arizona Department of Education (ADE) e-Rate Director, was instrumental in securing funding for the Broadband project. He then invited the district to participate in the Final Mile Project. The goal of this project is to provide reliable, low cost, internet to families in rural communities sufficient to access distance learning. An RFP for this project has been released. Once received, a district committee will review the bids and award a contract to one of the vendors. The vendor will then be responsible for providing reliable, low-cost internet to the families of Elgin School students who currently do not have access to reliable internet. The hope is that the Final Mile Project will create a much more competitive market for internet providers in the community.

At Elgin School, each of our students are assigned a device for their personal use in the classroom. Students in grades K-2 are assigned iPads, while students in grades 3-8 are assigned MacBook's. The Emergency Connectivity Grant is new this year and will allow us to replace older devices with newer ones, much sooner than planned. As with the other technology initiative, this is 100% grant funded.

Taken together, the three technology initiatives will ensure that Elgin School students have the tools needed to access a world class education and to compete in a global economy.

In this Issue:

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

Connect with Elgin School!

- ❖ Facebook
- ❖ Website:
www.elgink12.com

Upcoming Community Events:

Pre-K Story Time
Tuesdays @ 8:00 AM

Kindergarten and 1st Grade News – by Mrs. Gronlund

Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes had STEAM Days before the holiday break. Both classes had an extra fun time with activities that challenged them to use their problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Kindergarten had a Grinch STEAM Day. They all wore green, in honor of the Grinch. The class covered every STEAM point with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. They did science with green grinch balloon races by coloring red hearts on the balloon before blowing them up. The Grinch's heart grew three sizes. They covered technology by coding a game where the Grinch made his way to Whooville, to return Christmas presents. Engineering was included with the class building a Grinch House with graham crackers, frosting and candy. They created Art by following directions to make a Grinch out of 3 hearts. Lastly, students did math with the grinch addition math toss. The day ended with the classic movie, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", popcorn and Green Grinch Punch.

First Grade also had a Holiday STEAM Celebration Day. Science entailed making holiday green glitter slime by following instructions and observing the results of a special activator. They practiced Technology by playing online Chess. They learned the basic engineering process of designing, testing and improving by building graham cracker houses. They then tested the sturdiness of the house and then made improvements on their houses. Students created art by making ornaments and then decorated them with paint and lots of glitter. Math was done by solving a Rudolph mystery number picture. 1st Grade's STEAM Celebration ended with a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" and the movie, "Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas."

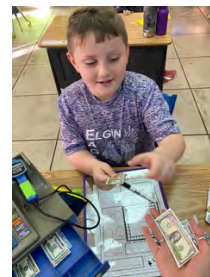


2nd Grade News – by Ms. Mattus

Ms. Mattus's 2nd graders worked very hard on an economics Project-Based Learning (PBL) unit where students have learned how to manage income, spending, and investments to create and operate their own businesses here at school. Their overall learning target was to explain the process of the market system and how it shapes our economy. Students built an understanding of basic economic concepts and their individual roles in the economy and demonstrated basic economic reasoning skills.

Everyday students received a salary and paid taxes, while also earning and losing money throughout the day for various reasons. They learned about goods and services, wants versus needs, producers and consumers, supply and demand, savings and profits, loans and interests, and setting goals. Our student entrepreneurs determined the type of businesses they wanted to open and began their business plans, including their business name, expenditure goals, supply lists, logos, their stand designs, and much more! They worked hard making their product to sell at the Student Entrepreneur Market Day to other grades.

We invited various local business owners and managers to our class to help us learn about real-life skills and lessons! Lacy Beyer, the Manager of the Sonoita Fairgrounds, came in to teach our young entrepreneurs about being a vendor at the Sonoita Rodeo. She had the vendors take out a loan from the bank, purchase supplies from a supplier, pay their dues to the fairgrounds and the health department, and sell their products at the event. The vendors then had to pay back their loan, plus interest, to the bank and find their net profit. The kiddos had a fun time playing this game and learning what it takes to be a vendor. They learned that they have to spend money before they can make it! Lori Reynolds, from Sonoita Vineyards, shared her experiences with our young entrepreneurs as well, including creating business logos, marketing strategies, professionalism, hours of operation, having business partners, and the importance of taking time for yourself! Anthony Fennell, owner of Patriot Printing Southern Arizona and a member of the school's governing board, came into 2nd grade to talk about his own entrepreneurial experiences. We learned a lot and appreciated his time, stories, and lessons!



5th Grade DARE Education – by Mrs. Rinde

Our fifth graders have just begun the D.A.R.E. program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) put on by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and led by Deputy Estrada. This ten-week program helps students learn to resist pressures which may influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, and other drugs. The D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model is used to assist the students in problem solving and help them make wise decisions. Students are expected to attend and complete a D.A.R.E. student workbook, demonstrate good behavior during class by following the D.A.R.E. rules, keep their bodies free from drugs, write a D.A.R.E. essay, and make a Pledge Statement to make wise decisions about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Upon completion of the program, the students will earn a certificate and participate in a special culmination program. D.A.R.E. graduates will then join millions of other D.A.R.E. students around the world who have chosen to be drug-free. If you see Deputy Estrada around town, be sure to thank her for all the work she's doing with our fifth graders across Santa Cruz County. Our Elgin 5th graders last year really enjoyed it and got a lot out of this worthwhile program.

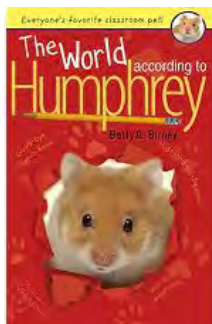
One School One Book

"When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about!"

Elgin Elementary School is excited to announce One School One Book - a school-wide reading event. This year, we are reading *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney. Every family and all school employees are given a copy of the book and read a chapter each night during the month of January.

At school, we have daily trivia questions and activities about the book. We even have Humphrey visit different classrooms each day in his cage with his notebook and pencil! Students have opportunities to illustrate scenes and create skits about their favorite parts of the book. Classes have a variety of experiences, like designing a deluxe hamster cage for Humphrey.

One School One Book is one of the ways Elgin Elementary School is building a community of readers. Throughout the month, students, parents, teachers, and staff follow along and discuss the book - everyone is talking about Humphrey! Everyone had a great time at the kickoff assembly when the book was announced and we even had a special guest show up to help hype the student up!



Elementary Field Trip – by Ms. Callie Mattus

Elementary students learned about different systems, including life cycles of plants and animals. They learned about the life cycle of pumpkins and continued their exploration with pumpkins at school during a pumpkin Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) Day.

This field trip was filled with fun and educational information about agriculture and the importance of teamwork! Our trip began with an agricultural lesson, then our students and teachers explored the corn maze and had to find the hidden questions at various turns throughout the maze. Students worked together to correctly answer the questions and navigated their way out of the maze. Then students went out to the pumpkin patch to pick pumpkins! Each participant chose their own pumpkin, selecting from the thousands of varying shapes and sizes in the pumpkin patch!



Board Talk

By Ginny Cosbey, Board President

We have had a remarkable start to our 2021-2022 school year! This is due to a simple goal at the heart of the Elgin School: each student will be known and loved for their individual passions, learning styles and needs, by caring teachers, para-professionals and our loyal substitutes who are dedicated to fostering a strong sense of character. Each day, our talented faculty and staff create engaging opportunities for our students to explore their interests, discover their talents and gain invaluable social-emotional life skills on our campus in our learning environment.

The School Board acknowledges and thanks Superintendent Mary Faley for her persistence in pursuing the Fiber Project to bring broadband to our school and the Final Mile Project to bring internet to our rural district households at no cost to our school district or district taxpayers' rates.

As we enter 2022, the Board will be considering many issues including salaries, benefits, staffing, academic rigor and school enrollment. Our Covid mitigation plans are and will be evaluated every month.

We encourage members in our community, and especially our new residents to Sonoita and Elgin, to attend our school board meetings. They are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm in the school's conference room. The January meeting will be held on Tuesday January 11th. The meeting agenda is posted at the school on the outside bulletin board, [on our website: www.elgink12.com](#), and at the Sonoita post office.



Site-Based Council Update – by Mrs. Cubillas

Elgin School's Site-Based Council would like to invite you to participate in our Character Counts Student and Staff of the Month recognition program. Why? Because it is important to nominate and recognize those who go above and beyond their regular duties as a staff member or a student. The Site-Based Council committee will vote on one student from each of the following grades: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and one staff member every month. Students, staff, parents, and or community members are invited to write a nomination letter for a student or staff member. Nominations can be dropped off to the office or mailed to Elgin School, 23 Elgin Rd, Elgin AZ 85611. Every month the chosen students and staff will be recognized at morning flag, at the school board meeting, and have their picture placed in the local paper as well as posted on Elgin School's Facebook page. Character Counts is embedded in our school culture and has been part of our curriculum since 2004, when it was introduced to staff and students. There are six pillars of character that we follow: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship, we incorporate these into our morning flag, programs and classrooms throughout each school year.

Missoula Children's Theatre – by Mr. Masters

On December 11th, Elgin students performed *The Snow Queen*, a musical adaptation of Hans Christen Andersen's 1844 folktale. The production was made possible by the Missoula Children's Theatre, a National Endowment for The Arts funded organization that has made theatre accessible to rural school districts since the 1970s. Students auditioned on Monday, & the curtain dropped on Saturday.

Audrey Hintsala & Henry Beal starred as Gerda & Kay, two children in Northern Europe. Kay is kidnapped by the Snow Queen, played by Mina Sanchez, & Gerda ventures across the land to rescue him. She encounters a number of colorful characters from Scandinavian folklore. Along the way, Gerda learns lessons about accepting help from others, forces of nature, & the value of friendship. The play was directed by MCT staff members Staci Weidner, who also starred as the narrating hobgoblin, & Molly Carter. The remainder of the cast included Arabella Matthews as the Gardener Woman/Finnish Woman, Sage Beal as Gerda's Grandma/Old Robber Woman, Natalie Sanchez as Kay's Grandma/Lappish Woman, Lauren Kalso as Bae the Reindeer, Christopher Gutierrez as the Yeti, Dosie Hardt as Little Robber Girl, Collin Lindsey & Claire King as Mr. & Mrs. Crow, Rex Reynolds & Julie Rodriguez as the Prince & Princess, Olivia Gallardo, Louis Reyes, Nathan Rodriguez, & Nexus Wagner as Hobgoblins, Hazelle Bandelin, Lincoln Beal, Caellum Blevins, Cheyenne Conover, Grant Gehlert, Ryker Hintsala, Valerie Hintsala, Zeke Kramer, & Aimee Lindsey as Snow Animals, Morgan King, Ashtynn Pope, Robert Reynolds, & Sophie Vendituoli as Robbers, Hayden Baker, Arizona Beal, Lillian Blevins, Rydia Fennell, Goldie Hardt, Laliah Hernandez, Zaila Hintsala, Lexi Marshall, Onesimo Reyes, & Revel Whittington as Snow Chickens.

This production follows Elgin's middle school production of *Macbeth*, & a prior MCT production of *Peter Pan*. Thanks are owed to Lenoard Sadorf for technical support, & to the Bostock family for providing the MCT directors with lodgings during their week-long residency.



Elgin School Veterans Day Program – by Mrs. Cubillas

Elgin School's Annual Veterans Day Program was once again held on campus after a hiatus due to COVID last year. November 10th was a crisp and clear day and found everyone anxious to begin. The program started with the Fort Huachuca Color Guard presenting the colors, followed by the National Anthem sung by Sonora Cubillas-Schmitt. The Kindergarten class led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mrs. Faley opened with a welcome speech.

This year's program included student essay contest winners and our student choirs. This year's essay winners were Alayna Swanson (7th grade) and Ben Baez (8th grade) who both read their essays aloud for the audience. Song selections performed by our students were "Thank You Soldier," "Because of You," and "Thank A Vet."

This year's guest speaker was Mr. Manuel "Manny" F. Gatica, a former Elgin School Teacher. Mr. Gatica enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1973, after ten years of military service he entered Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in 1984. After his commission he held numerous duty positions: squad leader, platoon sergeant, platoon leader, company commander, and battalion staff officer. During his last two years before retiring he served as a military instructor, and during this assignment, he developed his desire, becoming a teacher. In 1994, Mr. Gatica transitioned into his new career and taught for twenty-seven years. During his distinguished teaching career, he earned numerous academic and coaching awards.

Special Thanks go out to the following: Elgin School 8th Grade, Ft. Huachuca Color Guard, Coronado Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, USS Submarine Veterans - Tucson Base, Pastor Steve Lindsey, Sonora Cubillas-Schmitt, Gloria Small and Candi Smith of Sonoita Hills Community Church, Elgin School PTC, Elgin School Parents, and the Elgin Staff and Students.



Middle School Social Studies – by Mr. Neal

Middle School Social Studies at Elgin Elementary has been going through a wide variety of subjects across time and space! From history to government to geography, our students have been exploring the past and learning how it connects to our modern world. Social studies is so much more than memorizing dates and our students have gotten to experience that first-hand.

Our 6th Grade students have recently been learning about life in ancient Mesopotamia! The citizens lived in a very different society than ours today with radically different beliefs. Students were allowed to immerse themselves in how their society was structured by studying the Code of Hammurabi, one of the oldest series of laws in human history. They were able to illustrate their own takes on these different laws! Some of them were quite specific so students got creative to convey their meaning through their art!

Our 7th Grade students have recently learned about Mesoamerican civilizations and their interactions with European colonists. We spent a good amount of time discussing the Incas of South America and their many accomplishments such as how they communicated across thousands of miles without horses or wheels. The students got to play a few rounds of telephone to demonstrate that final point and how hard it can be to keep messages memorized between people and how impressive it was that they were able to do so effectively!

Our 8th Grade students have been diving deep into the Constitutional Convention and how it shaped the American government today! To let them get a first-hand experience of what that was like, students have been given the chance to take on the role of the thirteen original states and debate some of those same issues regarding representation, structure of government, and national ideals. They all got quite creative with their name tags so there would be no question as to which state they were representing.

8th Grade Marine Biology Club – by Mrs. Koweek

Students continue to fundraise for our trip to Catalina Island Marine Institute in May, when we will spend a week at a marine biology camp and learn about the ocean through labs, kayaking, snorkeling, and other amazing activities! Snack sales at home sports games concessions stands and our school store have been a success so far this year, and we held our annual Walk-a-Thon in late October (we even wore costumes during it!). We also hosted a holiday gift shop for Elgin students to shop at and then we gift wrapped their purchases to bring home for their parents, siblings, pets, and whomever else they shopped for. We are also very thankful for the tax credit donations we receive toward this trip. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Koweek at akoweek@elgink12.com.



Desert Museum Visit – by Ms. Ortiz

The middle school students, teachers, and a few parents took a field trip to the Sonoran Desert Museum in Tucson in November. Middle school students have been learning about things like ecosystems, minerals, animal cells, and Arizona history. The field trip gave students the opportunity to utilize some of their classroom knowledge towards real world experiences. Highlights of the trip included touching stingrays, watching birds of prey take flight, searching for quartz and other minerals, and observing native plants and animals.



Annette Koweek

ASTA Middle School Science Teacher of the Year!



Elgin School is proud to announce that Mrs. Annette Koweek has been named the Arizona Science Teachers Association's 2021 Arizona Middle School Science Teacher of the Year! We are honored and privileged to have Mrs. Koweek as a member of our faculty!

Mrs. Koweek began her official career at Elgin School in 2004 as the school nurse, health teacher, and office assistant, although for years prior she was a dedicated parent volunteer. It wasn't long before she added school counselor to her list of many duties. When the science position opened up, she moved over to the middle school faculty. In addition to her amazing science classes, Mrs. Koweek has also been the 8th grade class advisor, and the Marine Biology Club chair, leading the 8th grade each year on their annual trip to Catalina Island Marine Institute.

Congratulations Mrs. Koweek for this well-deserved honor!

Ben Baez

VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Winner



Congratulations to 8th grade student, Ben Baez, for his winning essay in the VFW's "Patriot's Pen" essay contest. Ben along with other participating students had to answer the question "How can I be a Good American?" Ben's essay was selected as the southern Arizona district winner and was sent on to the state level competition where he placed 4th! Great job Ben!

Elgin School Spelling Bee



Congratulations to our school spelling bee winners! James "Jet" Thomas is our elementary champion, Gus Newberry is the middle school alternate, and Reyan Heinzl is the middle school champion! Jet and Reyan will go on to the district spelling bee in Nogales in February.



Sonoita Elementary School District #25

Elgin Elementary School

Elgin, AZ Santa Cruz County

2022-23 Available Positions

Elementary Teachers

Position Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher
- Valid Arizona Teaching Certificate
- Ability to teach to the Arizona State Standards
- Special Education experience preferred
- Fingerprint clearance card
- Proof of MMR immunization
- Primary responsibilities include but are not limited to:
 - Making knowledge accessible to all students
 - Developing student's cognitive capacity and respect for learning
 - Fostering students' self-esteem, motivation, and sense of civic responsibility

Substitute Teachers

Position Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher
- Valid Arizona Teaching Certificate
- Ability to teach to the Arizona State Standards
- Special Education experience preferred
- Fingerprint clearance card
- Proof of MMR immunization
- Primary responsibilities include but are not limited to:
 - Ability to follow lesson plans for grades K-8 in multiple subject matter
 - Classroom management
 - Making knowledge accessible to all students

Para-Professional-Substitute

Position Summary:

- On-call, substitute to cover during staff absences
- Assignment to students with special needs to assist them within their learning environment
- Assistant for teachers in performing classroom teaching responsibilities
- Playground and cafeteria supervision as needed

Position Requirements:

- Ability to speak, read, and write in English
- Related education or experience
- High school diploma or GED
- Fingerprint clearance card
- Proof of MMR immunization

Interested applicants must provide the following:

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- 3 Letters of reference (less than 3 months old)
- Copy of Arizona fingerprint clearance card

Send resume packet to:
Heidi Gonzales
hgonzales@elgink12.com
23 Elgin Rd
Elgin, AZ 85611

Elgin School Tax Credit

Save up to \$400 on your tax credit
donation to Elgin School!

Give your tax dollars to Elgin School and you can deduct 100% of that donation from your Arizona State Income Taxes!

Arizona Revised Statute 43-1089.01 allows you to deduct up to \$200 per year when filing an Individual Return or up to \$400 when filing as a married couple on a Joint Return. These tax deductible donations are unrestricted funds which specific schools can use to support extracurricular activities. Tax credit contributions are donated directly to schools, not to the state. The funds are not subject to revenue control limits that prevent schools from spending more than a fixed amount for programs. Additional funding from tax credit contributions will allow all children to participate in events and activities the schools may not be able to afford.

Contributions can be made to the following extracurricular activities:

8th Grade Marine Biology Club Athletics Drama (Missoula Children's Theater) Field Trips

✂

Ready to donate today? Just send in this form with your donation to:

Elgin School
Attn. Tax Credit
23 Elgin Road
Elgin, AZ 85611

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please use my contribution for the following extracurricular activity:
