

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3

Eagle Tales

Message from Mrs. Faley

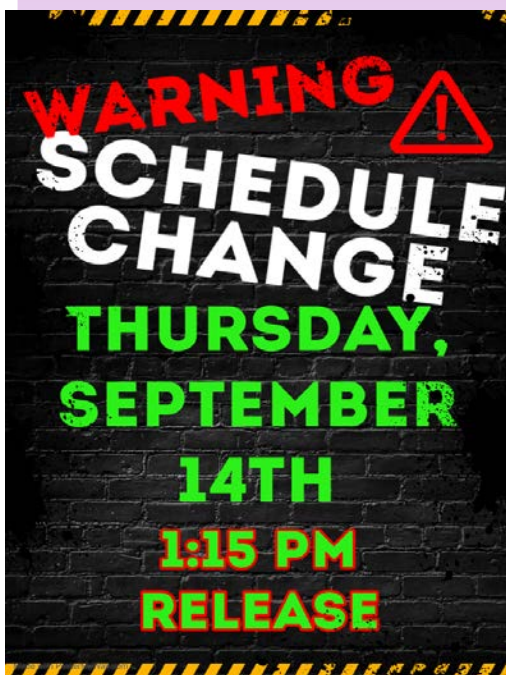
This is my sixth year serving Sonoita Elementary School District as the Superintendent/Principal and I'm still amazed at the excitement that comes with the start of each school year. The kindergartners who demonstrated a whole range of emotions during the first couple of weeks are now quite comfortable with the routines and with their classmates. Students who are new to our school are making new friends and learning about our school community. Hopefully our new staff members and those who are new to their positions feel welcomed and supported.

During the month of September, our students will join the community in celebrating the Labor Day Rodeo and the County Fair. Many of our students participate in one or both community events. On Friday, September 15th, it will be Kids Day at the Santa Cruz County Fair. There will be no school on that day and admission for Kids Day is free. In addition to visiting the students with their animals and the exhibits in Pioneer Hall, please take time to visit the student exhibits. The theme this year is "Life in the Old West." The idea behind this theme is to highlight the rich history of Santa Cruz County including farming, ranching, and agriculture.

Thank you for all that you're doing to make Elgin School a great place to learn and I hope to see you on campus or at one of our upcoming community events!

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MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE
A PRODUCTION OF MCT, INC.

Save the Date!

Elgin School's Missoula Children's Theatre Residency
December 11th-16th
The performance will be held on Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 PM

Blackbeard the Pirate





Middle School Language Arts

By Ms. Dana Brothers

"Writing is an escape from a world that crowds me. I like being alone in a room; it's almost a meditation, an investigation of my own life."

The above quote is from Neil Simon, an American playwright known for his brilliant, witty work such as "The Odd Couple," and "Lost in Yonkers," the latter of which earned him a Pulitzer Prize in 1991. Introducing the middle school ELA students to individuals like Neil Simon is part of the theme for this semester: 'Self Discovery.' The objective is to acquaint them with a diverse range of influential writers and speakers, all while fostering an understanding and appreciation of the English language. They are given a new vocabulary word daily, and each Monday they're introduced to a quote from a significant individual from the world of literature, poetry, or theater. Additionally, my hope is that with their structured class including a minimum of 10 minutes of reading each day, the students might learn to appreciate the power of reading a book. In a world filled with technology, I endeavor to carve out a window each day where they are able to escape from the mundane and enter the sublime world created by immersion into a captivating story.

Another task the students have is to write twice weekly in their journals. This is a less structured exercise, allowing them the opportunity to describe how they feel and how they experience the world around them. Pictured below is an image of one student's journal; they are encouraged to personalize it with drawings, quotes, and words that are meaningful to them. One of the recent assignments they completed was to imagine what it would be like to travel to a country where English is not spoken. They also have listened to various inspirational speeches and were tasked with writing about them. Below are some excerpts from their work:

"I traveled to Tokyo, but I can't understand the language or (read) any of the signs. However, I can use gestures to explain what I want. To make friends, I would use what I learned at home to get around. If I took a trip like this (to several countries), I would see many iconic landmarks, hear many different languages, and meet interesting people."

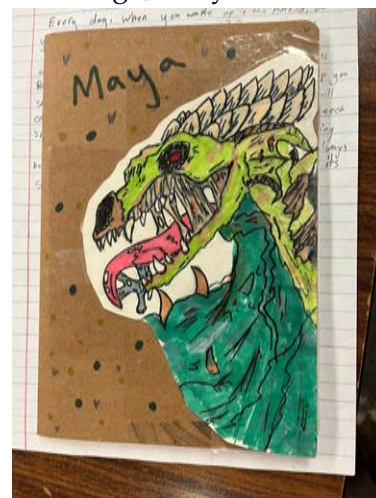
- Ryder Reynolds, 6th grader

"Michelle Obama gave a very inspiring speech titled, 'Who are you going to be?' She said...some phrases that stood out to me, and I think they were things that she never got told (when she was younger). As an adult, she wishes to share these thoughts with young people. The real world can be tough, but you can always find a way to survive."

- McKenna Cass, 7th grader

"When Admiral McRaven first started talking, I was thinking, 'I'm tired and I don't want to (listen to) this.' However, when I actually started listening, I realized he might have a point. I genuinely thought it was dumb at first that making your bed might help you have a better tomorrow. When you really think about it, though, it makes sense... Doing a small task will help you build towards bigger tasks: I related to that so much."

- Mina Sanchez, 8th grader





Board Talk

By Nancy Webster, Board Member

The energy is explosive! You can feel the dynamics as you enter the room and it stays with you for days...even weeks afterwards. Put a group of educators together: be it two or two hundred, and the conversation is non-stop, organized pandemonium. Child-centered, impromptu discussions run the gamut from curriculum development to mental health; from local, state, and federal issues involving child care to college entrance exams; from philosophy to methodology; the conversations are bubbling everywhere.

There are not enough hours in the day or weeks in the year to explore the issues that encompass the teaching profession. Over 45 years as a teacher, a volunteer working with educators in numerous capacities, and as a Board Member, I have come to realize that **TEACHING IS A PASSION.**

Walk into any school, (my favorite is elementary), and you can feel the energy, the

vibrancy, the emotional charge and the challenge that comes from being in a place so vital to society – A SCHOOL, a place of learning. The desire to explore, to learn, to share new horizons and new dimensions can be intoxicating and challenging, as well as emotionally and physically draining to both student and teacher.

For a teacher, this is a lifestyle. Your students are your reason for taking on that challenge because you know that you are making a difference in so many lives...and you want to make sure that you are a positive difference. Everything you do and say has an impact on each life.

And so, no matter how tired you are, or frustrated by all that goes on in your world, you continue to strive, to find that spark that will ignite and broaden each student's world...because **TEACHING IS A PASSION.**

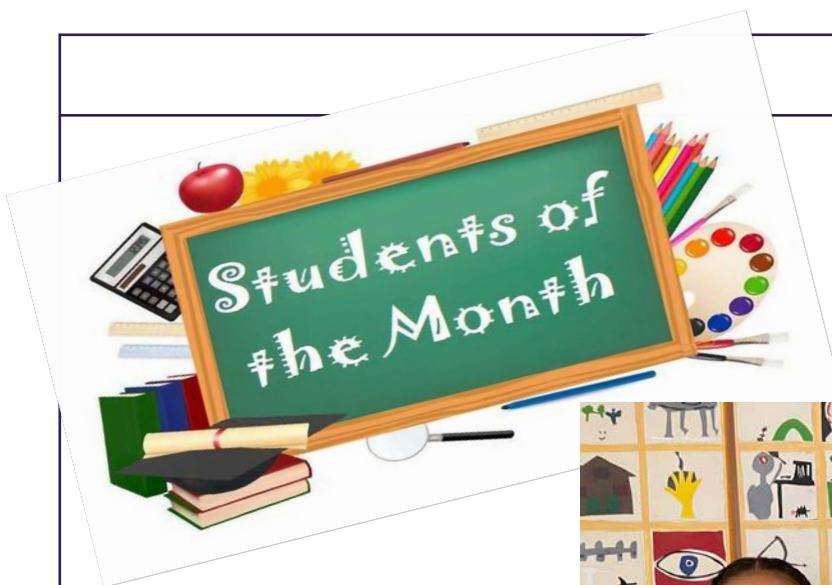
Elgin School's Teacher of the Year Nominee

Kerry Newberry

It is with great pride and admiration that we take a moment to celebrate an extraordinary educator who shapes the minds and hearts of our students every day, our wonderful Teacher of the Year, Kerry Newberry! Kerry's impact within our school is undeniable. Her dedication to her teaching and her students is evident. Her classroom is a safe and welcoming place of inspiration, where creativity meets rigor, and students are encouraged to explore, inquire, and grow. Congratulations, Mrs. Newberry, on this well-deserved honor! Your dedication continues to inspire us all.

Congratulations!





Henry Beal

8th Grade

"The other students in your class - and the whole middle school - recognize that you are a person of character and they admire you for who you are."

Vianney Mejia Robles

3rd Grade

"She is always eager to learn and makes it known she is excited to be in class."

Lucita Battle

2nd Grade

"She is a natural leader within 2nd grade and is an excellent role model for her peers and younger students."

Eagle Eye - Student of the Week

Recognizing elementary students who practice good character and citizenship



8th Grade Marine Biology Club - By Ms. Kyndra Ortiz

Nestled about 26 miles off the coast of Southern California, Catalina Island feels almost like another world. Each May, Elgin School's 8th Grade Marine Biology Club has the opportunity to attend a week-long educational camp on this beautiful island. Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI) provides students the chance to engage in confidence and team building activities, such as snorkeling, kayaking, rock-climbing, and tide-pooling, all while learning about the ocean and unique ecosystems of the island.



Catalina Island and the waters around it are home to numerous species of wildlife such as bison, fox, woodpeckers, blue whales, dolphins, sea lions, sunfish, and maybe the most notably, the Garibaldi, California's state marine fish, which is bright orange in color. While on the island, students are housed in ocean front cabins and provided delicious balanced meals by the camp's kitchen staff. All educational labs and activities are overseen by Camp Counselors and the 8th Grade sponsors-Coach Harper and Ms. Ortiz.

Camp Counselors are typically collegiate level Marine Biology students seeking further education and research opportunities while employed at CIMI. Kailey was the Eagle's counselor in 2021-22 and shared her passion and knowledge of algae and kelp with Elgin students. Giant Kelp forests are found just off the coast of Catalina Island. Students snorkeled through, took samples, and even got to taste the kelp. Jules hosted the 2022-23 Elgin Eagles and shared her expertise of marine mammals. Jules has worked with dolphins, orcas, and other marine mammals in Aquarium (captivity) environments. During a kayaking trip students were able to observe a baby sea lion sunbathing on a rock while another adult sea lion swam nearby.

The 2023-24 8th Grade Marine Biology club will be hosting multiple fundraising opportunities including the Annual Walk-A-Thon, Krispy Kreme doughnut sales, and sports concessions to fund their CIMI trip May 13-17th, 2024. It is the generous support of the community that has allowed the CIMI trip to occur for the past 15 years, with the exception of 2 years that the camp was closed due to COVID restrictions. Donations up to \$400 are eligible for Tax Credit.



Fine Arts - By Mrs. Anna Coleman

The Art classroom has been bustling with activity! We spent the first few classes learning the basics and navigating the classroom procedures. Then, the creativity began!

We have been creating with watercolor paints and chalk, free form drawing, and guided drawing. We have been learning about primary, secondary, and analogous colors as well as warm and cool colors and how to put them all together in our compositions. We are collecting pieces to enter into the Santa Cruz County Fair later in the month.

The middle school classes have been making resin projects and learning how to manipulate their art pieces with planning and placement. It has been fun to see the final results. The students have been working with alcohol ink, miniature items, mica powder, and glitter in their creations with some fabulous results.

The art room also has a classroom pet. "Sizzles", a water turtle that belongs to Mrs. Coleman's daughter, has taken up residence. He loves swimming for the students and follows their fingers along the glass. He is set up in the Calming Corner, where students are able to sit and read quietly or just watch him in his tank when they are finished with their projects.

The school year is off to a wonderful start in the art room!

Kinder Readiness - By Dr. Chris Clouse

Elgin Elementary School and The Family Resource Center from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension provide weekly Kinder Readiness classes. Families with children ages 4 and 5 are welcome to join us on Wednesdays. Children meet in the gym for flag at 7:55 and then go to the library at 8:15 for story time and activities.

During class, children are introduced to different books. They practice literacy skills like sequencing, predicting, and finding similarities and differences. They work on fine motor skills with writing, coloring, cutting, crafts, and educational toys. Books are provided for students to take home and read.

For more information, contact Christine Clouse @ (520) 455-5514, ext. 117 or cclouse@elgink12.com.

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



SAVE THE DATES!

Elgin School Quarterly Awards Assemblies

October 26th

January 18th

March 28th

May TBD

K& 1st Grades - 1:50-2:10 PM

2nd-8th Grades - 2:15-2:55 PM

Elgin School
PTC

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 7th 6:00 PM

Monthly Meeting
Conference Room

Sept. 25th 7:30 AM

Coffee Hour

WELCOME ABOARD!



Amanda Leavitt – Para-Professional

My name is Amanda Leavitt. I have been a homeschool mom for the last 10 years. After graduating my oldest 2 from homeschool high school last year, and having 2 here at Elgin, my other 2 decided it was time for them to jump into the public school experience this year as well, and I decided to join them. I thoroughly enjoy being around kids and helping them grasp new concepts as well as those they struggle with. I have helped coach the Eagles Girls Basketball Team for the past 2 years. I instantly admired the kids and staff I met, so I knew Elgin was the school I wanted my kids to attend for their first public school experience. I am originally from Gilbert, but have been in Southern AZ for the past 19 years. I really enjoy being outdoors, playing basketball, and going on adventures with my family. I am delighted to be an Elgin Eagle!



BJ Hintsala – Para-Professional

I was born and raised in CA but have lived in GA, NM and AZ. I moved here in 2009 with my husband Brett and baby Audrey. I have 4 kids: Audrey 15, Valerie 13, Ryker 10 and Zaila 8. I have 5 dogs and 3 cats. I love food and reading anything. My favorite subject is history. My hobbies are reading, cooking, jogging, and spending time with my family. My happy places are home and Disneyland. I have traveled to every state except ME and AK. My dream trip is to travel to Ireland, Scotland, and Portugal to find out about my heritage.



Damaris Dumont – Facilities & Maintenance

My name is Damaris Dumont. I was born in Obregon, Sonora and raised in Durango, Mexico. I came to the United States in 2003 and lived in Tucson for many years. My son is a retired Marine and Police Officer in Yuma, and my daughter is a medical assistant. I also have 5 beautiful grandchildren, 2 dogs, 1 cat, 6 desert tortoises, 2 love birds, and numerous indoor and outdoor plants! I have resided in Patagonia since 2021. My husband, Kevin, helped me live my dream by supporting me in the opening of El Pancho Villa Tacos y Burros until its recent closure. I enjoy the outdoors and we love motorcycle riding on the weekend. I feel very lucky to have found a job here at Elgin School!



10 TIPS ON GOOD BACKPACK ERGONOMICS



1. Choose a backpack with wide padded shoulder straps.



2. Wear both shoulder straps to prevent shoulder alignment issues.



3. Never overpack! Backpack should never weigh more than 15% of your body weight.



4. Always lift your backpack by squatting down and using your legs to lift, not your back.



5. Look for backpacks with a waist and chest belt to better distribute heavy loads.



6. Position the backpack below your shoulders and above your hips.



7. A backpack with multiple compartments can better distribute the load.



8. Encourage your child to remove their backpack when waiting in line or standing for a long time.



9. Every few weeks, clean out your backpack for unused items that may be weighing you down.



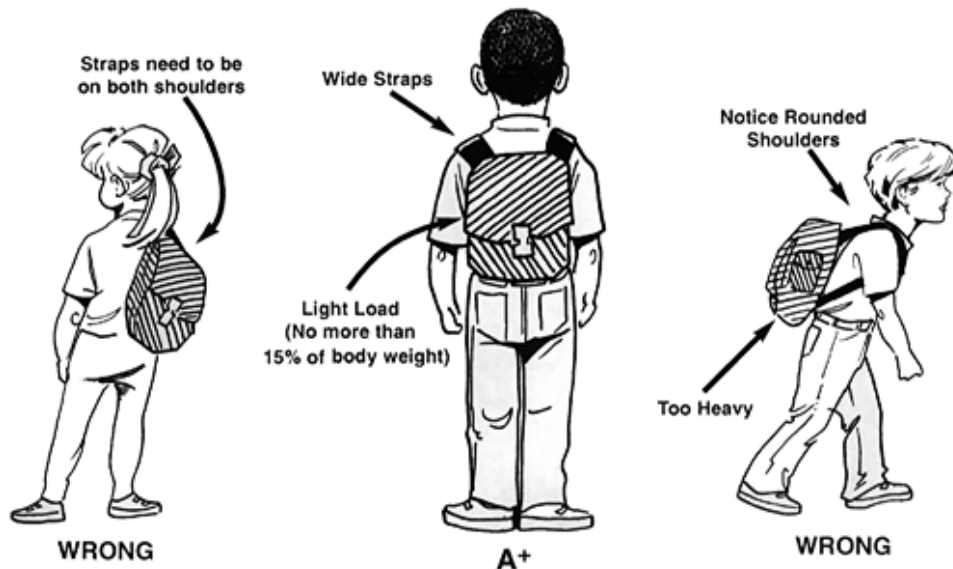
10. Look for backpacks that stand upright when placed on the ground.

ERGONOMIC TRENDS

Original Illustrations by Kate Lite

<http://ergonomictrends.com>

Is Your Child's Backpack Making The Grade?



Celebrate the beginning of the
NFL Season at Elgin School!



FOOTBALL KICKOFF

Wear your favorite team's jersey or
colors and show your support!
Dress Code Applies

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

FAIR DAYS



NO SCHOOL

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH &
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Picture Day for Elgin School is scheduled for
Thursday, August 25th.

This event's Order Code is **71674XF**.
Order online at <https://inter-state.com/FlyerEntry/71674XF>.