

Cat Talk

USD 218 Elkhart, Kansas

Merry Christmas...Have a Great Break!



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Grade School News



Elementary Holiday Program

By Jerry Chrin

The Elkhart Elementary program will be Tuesday, December 13, beginning at 7:00 PM in the EHS auditorium. The show this year will be “NORTH POLE EXPOSURE.”

You will get a first-hand look at the characters that make the holiday season dreams come true. Reindeer, elves, snowmen, ladies from the North Pole, and the jolly old elf and his wife will sing about their problems and needs. It will be an exciting moment for all involved. Kindergarten through fourth grade will be on stage to present their show. Come early so you won't miss any part of the show. Mark it on your calendar: Tuesday, December 13 starting at 7:00 PM.

PRE SCHOOL SCREENING

By Janie Shelden

USD 218 Elkhart and High Plains Educational Cooperative are offering free Early Childhood Screenings for preschool children ages 3-5 years.

The following areas will be screened:

- Vision / Hearing
- Speech / Language Development
- Cognitive / Educational Skills
- Social Development
- Adaptive / Self Help Skills
- Fine and Gross Motor Skills

To find out more about your child's development schedule a screening with your local Early Childhood Specialist.

For more information and/or to schedule a screening contact Janie Shelden at Elkhart Elementary 697-2133.



Middle School News



Middle School Library

By Mrs. Eiland

We've been really busy in the Elkhart Middle School Library. 5th and 6th grade writing rotation students are finishing up their poem books and working on illustrations. We plan to have them completed by Dec. 17th and sent in to the publisher. Hopefully they will be returned to us the middle of January.

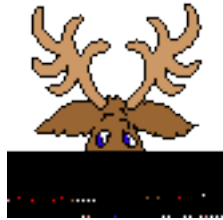
One reading rotation, which consists of three literature circles, meets in the library. We are finishing *The Light in the Forest* by Conrad and will be starting *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* by Craven. Each student has a "job" for discussion group such as Summarizer, Discussion Director, Literary Luminary, and Word Wizard.

Mrs. Harlow and her art students brought over their pencil drawings for display in the library. Also Mr. Hendersen is displaying projects turned in to illustrate a book they read. Come in and look at all their hard work!

We have many new books arriving in the library. We added many nonfiction books that were so needed. 8th grade Language Art students will be researching significant people during World War II, and these books will fill in some of those gaps. Also we added some nutrition nonfiction books as well as hunting and fishing books that are often requested.

This year with the assistance of Mrs. Finn, we are promoting William Allen White Award books. Each year a list is sent out to each library for the students to read. In March they vote for their favorite book, as do all of the students in the state of Kansas. The winning author then goes to Emporia, the home of William Allen White, a journalist for the Emporia Gazette, to speak to the children of Kansas. If the student reads 2 books that month, Mrs. Finn will honor them with a luncheon where everyone eats and talks about the books they have read. This has been very successful. Thank you Mrs. Finn!

High School News



Houtz Happenings December 2011

It seems every year it goes by quicker and quicker. I cannot believe that this school year is all but half over. Things have changed up quite a bit in my world because of state regulations on vocational classes for funding. To make it really crazy, all of my classes have even changed names and several have had quite a bit of course content changed as well. We are aiming to help our students better choose a career by using the career pipeline software and aligning our curriculum for one of those paths.

This year the Computer Technology I class has been changed to Computer Applications. It is basically the same content but just a new name. We are still learning Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher, and some basic Computer Concept.

We are still offering web classes but our classes are now called Web Design for the first year and Graphic Design will be a second year and students will be doing a lot more designing using programs such as Illustrator and Photoshop. Interactive Media will now take the place of Web Design 2 and the students will become proficient in the use of Flash. I am looking forward to becoming a lot more active in Flash and what creative projects that the students can create.

Emerging Technologies is a new class that we will be basically taking everything that the student has learned from all of their computer classes and doing jobs around the school and for various community members. It provides the students with the ability to see how the previous years of study can actually be used in a “real world” situation. We will still be in charge of the play and musical publicity, but we will challenge ourselves with our creativity. We will also still be doing the senior videos but hope to make them a little more professional as we go.

As well as doing the class work, this year my students will be working toward a certification in IC3. This is a national certification test and it is our goal to get all computer students to be certified in IC3. We will be taking several practice tests throughout the year as well as the main test 4 times a year for all computer students. Hopefully we will be able to use this for more areas of certification for our Elkhart High School students.

More High School News



Welcome to My Worlds....

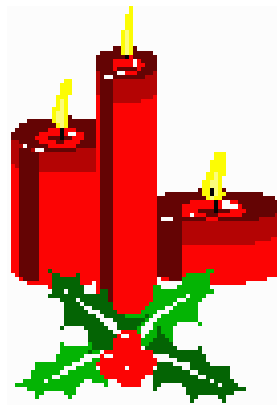
By Penny Forbes

I say *worlds* because I teach both English and 21st Century Journalism, better known as *yearbook*.

The English classes are and have been busy this year with covering punctuation, grammar, and literary devices. The sophomores are learning how to analyze a story and the English IV are buried in epic poetry and wild tales by Geoffrey Chaucer. They are about to embark on a pilgrimage of their own to tell their own “Canterbury Tale.”

The Comp. I classes are classes that run concurrently through Seward County Community College. These students work twice as hard as the English IV students because they cover not only SCCC curriculum but also English IV. They write a minimum of three essays a week; therefore, when they get to college next year, writing will be a familiar assignment and not a chore.

The yearbook staff is busy working on the 2011-2012 annual. The cover is progressing nicely as are the ad pages and fall sports. Once again, the staff is working diligently to represent every student a minimum of three times in the yearbook. So if you see the girls in the halls and on the grounds...give them a big smile and a thumbs up, for they are probably trying to catch more students and staff for candid shots.



December Birthdays

Karen McGuire	12/5
Andrew Stauffer	12/7
Joe Rodriguez	12/8
Michelle Prieto	12/14
Retta Eiland	12/15
Tiffany Keegan	12/15
Lana Daves	12/17
Debbie Harn	12/22
Bobbie Horton	12/23
Pat Anderson	12/31



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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