



Cat Talk

USD 218 Elkhart, Kansas

Happy Valentine's Day!



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Preschool

By Kristy Gourley

The preschoolers came back from Winter Break ready to explore new worlds! The theme for January was “Exploration of the Arctic and Antarctic.” After the December snow as a point of reference, they were challenged with new vocabulary and concepts related to the biomes of ice and snow. We were all intrigued with the animals that are unique to the “ends of the earth.” A variety of white art activities helped to reinforce camouflage in a snowy environment. A science experiment gave first hand reference to the benefits of blubber. A double bubble hoop activity helped us to compare the opposite poles!

Early literacy and numeracy skills are ongoing in the curriculum even though the theme changes. Each month we look forward to an exciting new learning adventure in Elkhart Preschool!

ELEMENTARY MUSIC

By Jerry Chrin

Students have studied the various families of music instruments; woodwinds, brass, percussion, strings, and keyboards. They have watched videos and worked with the white-board. Students have also seen many of the instruments presented in the music room.

Third and Fourth grades have begun learning to play the recorder and follow written music. Many are using the instruments provided by the school and several other pupils have bought their own. The recorders are played two days a week switching with singing the other three days.

After Spring Break students will begin learning their songs for the Spring Program, which will be Tuesday, April 17. This year's program will be "HEROES, ALL." This presentation will feature songs celebrating Americans who accomplished remarkable feats with courage and dignity. They have made our country what it is today. Our men and women who are in service to our country will also be honored.

News from 1st Grade

By Debbie Harn and Abby Nease

First grade has had a fantastic start to 2012. The students enjoyed their break but came back refreshed and ready to learn.

January is a busy and exciting month in first grade with many themes to cover. Snow, penguins, states of matter, Clifford the Big Red Dog, and the great state of Kansas are all studied in January. We also have a lot to look forward to in February, with shadows, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and dental health all to come.

Math has also brought a lot of variety with students working on everything from shapes to money to graphs to patterns. Students have been doing a great job keeping up with their work and showing a lot of progress in their math skills. We can't wait to see what the rest of year will bring us!

Mrs. Harn

Miss Nease

Screenings Available

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.

More Elementary News



Third Grade News

By Nancy Morrison and Tracy Flanagan



Third graders have been busy sharpening their reading skills during the recent integrated units taught by Mrs. Flanagan and Mrs. Morrison. Students focused on animals across the curriculum and ended the first semester with a Holiday unit. Featured in the picture are students being rewarded with a s'mores party for meeting their reading goals in the second nine weeks. Students are given the opportunity to earn points by reading books from the library, classroom and guided reading groups. Looking forward to a great second semester, the third graders have Pioneers, Space and an Author's unit to round out their year. Congratulations 3rd Grade Readers☺

Middle School News



ESL News By Rita Walrod

“Blessed each are we
as we share our diversity,
how boring it would be
were we all the same
you and me!!!”

Why ESL? We have ESL because we learn from one another. I’m sure I learn as much from them as they do from me.

Fluency in different languages is a skill that can take you to the “far corners” of the earth! I have a great bunch of students who work very hard for me.

The 25 Elkhart Middle School ESL students have just finished MAP testing. They have already had their IPT test. They have state assessments coming soon and will finish with the KELPA test.

Veronica Ramos is a helpful para and together we seek to broaden students’ horizons by broadening their intellect.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank-you for a wonderful and supportive administration at every level.

Please come visit us. We love to learn. We love to share.

Middle School Music

By Shara Bane

A research team reports that early music training dramatically enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills. These findings indicate that music uniquely enhances higher brain functions required for mathematics, chess, science and engineering.

* From Neurological Research, Feb 28, 1997; Frances Rauscher, Ph.D., Gordon Shaw, Ph.D, University of California, Irvine

This year has been such a fun year in the music departments of Elkhart Middle and High School. We have such a talented group of kids in each class. It is so fun to watch them learn and improve their talents.

The Spring semester finds us in a very busy time of year. It is music festival time. The High School League music festival will take place in Leoti on February 22. This will include the band and choir, as well as many solos and ensembles. The Middle School League festival will take place in early May. We are in need of piano players to accompany solos and ensembles. If you are interested, please contact one of the schools and let them know.

High School News



High School Physical Science 2012

By Travis Johnson

The sophomores in Physical Science have finished the chemistry portion of the course and are now studying introduction to physics. We are working on Newton's Laws of Motion and try to see how they can be observed in everyday life. We will work through equations for velocity, acceleration, force, momentum, and friction. We must master the use of all of these equations in order to be ready for the state science assessment at the end of the year. The state assessment will include content from chemistry, physics, and earth science that we try to cover throughout the year.

HPEC

From the desk of Karen Jones

Did you know (or has your high school teen told you) that at Elkhart High School, the students are learning and using "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens" by Sean Covey? Every Wednesday during homeroom, the high school staff is teaching lessons based on the very powerful book that helps teach self-control and self-discipline to students, so they can achieve their personal goals while becoming successful students and adults. The seven habits include being proactive, begin with an end in mind, put first things first, think win-win, seek first to understand-then be understood, synergize and sharpen the saw. This book is based off of the successful book written by Stephen Covey, *Sean's Father*.

February Birthdays

Antonia Villa	2/2
Michelle Hanes	2/3
Julie Davis	2/4
Kristy Gourley	2/4
Jerry Chrin	2/5
Salvador Alvarado	2/8
Judith Jenkins	2/12
Kent Morrison	2/13



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