

OCTOBER 2024

Eagle Tales

Message from Mr. Erickson

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the first quarter, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your ongoing support. It's been an incredible first two months to the school year, and your children continue to amaze us each day with their energy, curiosity, and dedication. Together, let's finish this quarter strong, encouraging students to stay focused and give their best effort.

I'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our amazing teachers, who have been working diligently to create meaningful learning experiences for our students. Their commitment to excellence is inspiring, and I'm proud of all the hard work they've put in so far.

One exciting update I'd like to share is our upcoming professional development in partnership with Grand Canyon University. All of our teachers will be participating in training on the Science of Reading, which will not only enhance literacy instruction but also provide our teachers with the opportunity to earn a K-5 Literacy Endorsement. This is a fantastic step forward in ensuring our students receive the best possible education.

A few important dates to keep in mind: Red Ribbon Week will take place from October 7th-11th where we will focus on promoting healthy, drug-free lifestyles and Fall Break will be from October 14-18. I hope everyone enjoys this well-deserved time to rest and recharge. - Our Fall Festival is scheduled for October 24. This promises to be a fun event for our community, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Please note that the Governing Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 5th has been moved to Wednesday, November 6th at 5:00 PM.

As always, my door is open. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, feel free to stop by.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. Let's continue to work together to ensure a successful year for all of our students.

Sincerely,



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Middle School ELA By Dr. Jerome Ramirez

From Poetry to Technology: A Holistic Learning Approach in the ELA Journey

This month has brought a whirlwind of activity to the middle school students of Elgin Elementary School, as they dive headfirst into an enriching journey through the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. Using the HMH Into Literature curriculum, they are not only meeting Arizona's rigorous ELA standards but also embracing a wide range of creative and technological activities designed to hone their skills. From crafting poetry to designing digital projects, students are engaged in a learning process that fuses artistic expression with modern technology.

Creativity in Poetry

At the heart of this multifaceted learning experience is poetry. Each grade level tackled this timeless literary form, showcasing their mastery of poetic devices and their ability to convey meaning through structure and sound.

The 6th-grade students explored the power of rhyme and figurative language, composing original poems that employed metaphors and personification. Their work was a vibrant display of emotion, enhanced by sound devices like rhyme and repetition, which lent their poems a musical quality.

For the 7th graders, the challenge was to deepen their understanding of sound devices—specifically alliteration, assonance, and consonance. They crafted poems that demonstrated not only technical skill but also creativity in how they used these devices to enhance the meaning and emotional impact of their work.

The 8th-grade students took their poetic exploration a step further by composing Petrarchan sonnets. This form, pioneered by the Italian scholar and poet Francesco Petrarca in the 14th century, follows a specific rhyme scheme (ABBAABBA for the octave, followed by either CDECDE or CDCDCD in the sestet) and a tight structure of 14 lines. Through this exercise, the students not only applied their knowledge of poetic form but also gained a deeper appreciation of how structure can shape meaning in poetry.

Integrating Technology in ELA Learning

In addition to their poetic endeavors, students demonstrated their understanding of the ELA curriculum through innovative digital projects, integrating educational technology into their learning process.

The 6th-grade students, building on their discussions of argument texts such as *Better Than Words: Say It with a Selfie* by Gloria Chang and *OMG, Not Another Selfie* by Shermakaye Bass, used Canva to create visually striking posters. These posters offered practical advice for reducing smartphone usage, with each student presenting ten tips to help peers manage their screen time. This activity allowed students to extend their learning beyond traditional written analysis, as they applied persuasive techniques to a real-world issue using a modern digital platform.

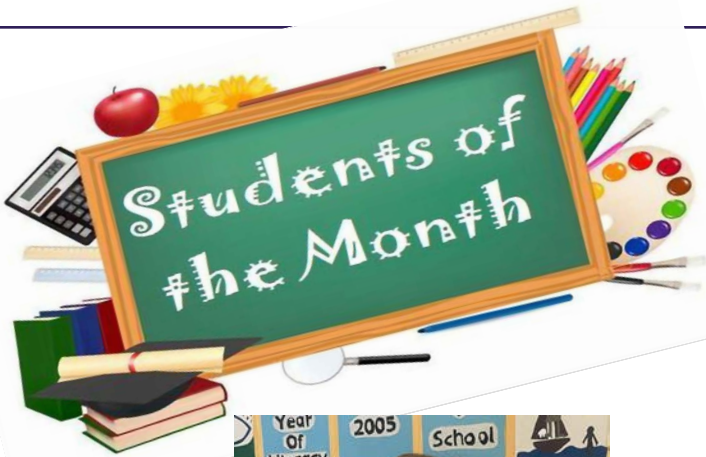
Meanwhile, the 7th graders showcased their grasp of character analysis and visual storytelling by creating digital storyboards based on *Monster: A Screenplay* and *Monster: A Graphic Novel* by Walter Dean Myers. Using an online storyboard maker, students designed six-panel storyboards that captured the emotional journey of Steve Harmon, the protagonist accused of murder. By incorporating key graphic novel features—such as setting, captions, speech bubbles, and thought bubbles—students reflected the complex emotions and experiences of the character, demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of both literary and visual narrative techniques.

Middle School ELA continued.

The 8th-grade students, tackling argument texts such as *Automation Paradox* by James Bressen and *Heads Up, Human* by Claudia Alarcón, used Canva to design mind maps that distilled the key arguments, evidence, and reasoning presented by the authors. This activity not only reinforced their comprehension of the texts but also encouraged them to think critically about the information and how to present it in a clear, visual format.

Through a seamless blend of poetry and technology, the students of Elgin Elementary School have embraced a holistic learning experience that fosters both creativity and critical thinking. The integration of artistic expression with modern tools like Canva and digital storyboard makers demonstrates the school's commitment to preparing students for a future where communication, creativity, and technology are intertwined. As they continue their ELA journey, these students are not only mastering the required standards but also developing skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom.





Gracie Mckearney
Kindergarten



Morgan King
6th Grade

Eagle Eye - Student of the Week

Recognizing elementary students who practice good character and citizenship



Elgin Eagle Athletics



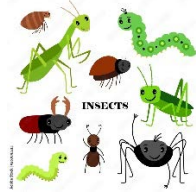
The Nurses Office and “Bugs”

We have been seeing some students coming in with complaints of “bugs.”

The germ type



&



The creepy crawly type

The Gergy Bugs are here now that the students are back into classrooms. There are many things that contribute to them being transferred. Remember, school is only one avenue where they can be shared. Other places they can transfer are: sleepovers, car rides lasting longer than 15 minutes, public pools, visiting family, and concerts and events. Social clubs also are an avenue of spread, such as 4-H, SAILA, youth groups, and sports-related clubs/participations.

Some of the things that can be done to decrease these exposures and transmission are:

- Wash your hands a lot, especially before eating and after using the restroom
- Stay home if you are not feeling well. Don't try to be the perfect attendance hero.
- Cover your cough
- Open windows in your house and car
- Stay hydrated and eat healthy foods



The crawling/Flying Bugs are also active out there, ranging from mosquitos, kissing bugs, and bed bugs. Some things that can be done to decrease these exposures are:

- Don't touch bugs, if you don't know what they are. They may sting, bite, or envenomate

A good resource on Basic First Aid for “Bites and Stings” is:

https://azpoison.com/sites/default/files/u116/bites_stings_broch_v4.pdf

For help in Identifying Biting Stinging and Venomous Pests/Insects:

<https://cales.arizona.edu/apmc/docs/4%20Biting,stingin,venom%20F.pdf>

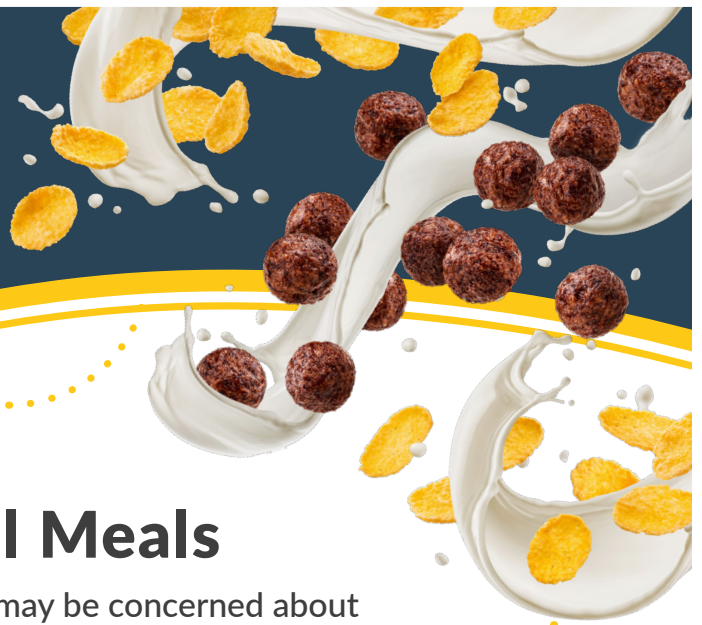
- Use mosquito repellent
- Wear light colored clothing when outside
- Dump out stagnant water in troughs, outside containers, old tires, wading pools, and other sources
- Put mosquito fish in livestock water troughs and ponds
- Use mosquito netting around your bed
- Keep doors closed and only open windows which have screens on them
- Wash your bed linens weekly, flip the mattress over during nighttime hours and check the crevices, cracks, and corners for bed bugs. If found, go to this Center of Disease Control (CDC) site to learn how to get rid of them

<https://www.cdc.gov/bed-bugs/about/index.html>



Cafeteria Connection

Connecting you to your child's school lunchroom



THE TRUTH ABOUT Added Sugar in School Meals

There is no denying it -- kids love sugar. You may be concerned about how much added sugar your kids consume. After all, too much sugar can lead to negative health consequences: obesity, heart disease, chronic inflammation, high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes.

What's the scoop about added sugar in school meals?

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which established the current USDA nutritional guidelines for school meals, was enacted to address rising childhood obesity rates and the nutritional quality of kids' diets. It requires schools to serve fruit, vegetables, and whole grains, and to limit sodium, fat, and overall calories. It also **eliminated the sale of sugary beverages and snacks** that were available in school vending machines and a la carte service.

While added sugar is not addressed in current nutrition guidelines, with calorie limits set for breakfast and lunch this naturally reduces the amount of sugar in school meals. At 4 calories per gram of sugar, added sugar can quickly account for many of those calories with little nutritional value in return.

Breakfast is our most challenging meal to keep sugar in check with so many sweet breakfast favorites. We tackle the challenge by offering breakfast items that are specially produced for schools to meet the USDA guidelines and have less sugar than similar foods found in stores. For example, a school breakfast Trix cereal cup has 25% less sugar than the version found in grocery stores.

While it's impossible to completely eliminate sugar from meals, our #1 goal is to feed kids – providing them fuel to focus and learn during class. Serving students with many different food preferences while following the USDA nutrition guidelines and fitting our budget can be challenging. Healthier foods, including those with artificial sweeteners, tend to be more expensive and are often rejected by a lot of kids. Every day, we must strike a balance between nutrition, budget, and kids' taste buds.



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



Elgin Elementary
School

PREKINDER Story Time

- *Join us to meet new friends, get to know our campus, and learn Kindergarten readiness skills!*
- *Story Time is open to students eligible to enroll in Kindergarten in Fall 2025. (Must be turning 5 by 9/1/2025)*



**Wednesdays at Elgin School
8:00 AM - Flag Ceremony, Gym
8:10-8:45 AM - Story Time & Activities, Library**



CAPTURE YOUR MEMORIES IN THIS YEAR'S

ELGIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARBOOK!

Customize Your 2 Free Pages

Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.

Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.

The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

1 Go to: www.treering.com/validate

2 Enter your school's passcode:

1016358278643056

Regular price: **\$18.70**

Create Custom Pages by: **Apr 1**

treering



Elgin School PTC

Fall Meeting Dates:
 Meetings are held in the
 Conference Room
 7:30 AM

Oct. 9th
 Nov. 13th
 Dec. 11th

Elgin School PTC & Title I
FALL festival

JOIN US AS WE
 "FALL INTO READING" AND HAVE A
 GREAT TIME!

TREATS, GAMES, AND MUCH MORE!

Thursday **OCT 24th** 5:00-7:00 PM

\$15.00 Family Meal Deal:
 Costco Pizza & 2-Liter of Soda
 Order details coming soon!

Open to the Public!
 We welcome all community members!

This is a family event,
 NO childcare is available. All
 children must be accompanied
 by a responsible adult.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

The PTC Is in need of a volunteer to play "The Grinch" at the community ugly sweater party. If you are willing, please contact Lindsay Taylor at lindsaydavis615@yahoo.com or 270-557-6970.

SAVE THE DATE!

Community Ugly Sweater PARTY

December 20th
 5:00-8:00 PM
 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

All are welcome!

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ELGIN SCHOOL STUDENT PROGRAMS



RED RIBBON SPIRIT WEEK



OCTOBER 7th-11th

Dress Code still applies to all Spirit Days!

MONDAY

Pajama Day!
Put drugs to bed by wearing your pajamas.

TUESDAY

Crazy Hair Day!
Let's see your wackiest hairstyles!

WEDNESDAY

School Spirit
Rock your Elgin Eagles Spirit Wear!

THURSDAY

Squad Day!
Team up against drugs! Get your squad together to match or wear your favorite team colors.

FRIDAY

Wear Red Day!
Rock your RED!

FALL BREAK

October 14th-18th
No School

We hope you enjoy your time with family and friends! We will see everyone on Monday, October 21st!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Go Pink!

Friday,
October 25th

Elgin Eagles
Show your support,
wear your pink!



NO TOYS AT SCHOOL PLEASE

Please support your children by reminding them that toys are not allowed at school. This will help to eliminate distractions during learning times.

Thank You For Your Help and Support.

MISSOULA
**CHILDREN'S
THEATRE**

A PRODUCTION OF MCT, INC.

Save the Date!



Elgin School's Missoula Children's Theatre Residency

December 9th-14th

The performance will be held on Saturday, December 14th at 6:00 PM

SCHOOL TIMES REMINDERS

7:30 AM

Gates Open

Supervision begins on campus
Breakfast available until 7:50 AM

7:55 AM

School Begins
Gates shut

Students arriving after this time are marked
Tardy and will need to enter through the office



Don't be late!

