



Empowering All Students to Achieve Success
September 22, 2017
The "Knighly" News

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR ELEMENTARY PARENTS AND STUDENTS
Elmwood-Murdock Elementary School – 400 West F St. – Elmwood, NE 68349
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School begins at 8:15 a.m. – School is dismissed at 3:20 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sept. 25** – Rainforest Assembly at 1:30 p.m. for elementary students. This assembly is funded by the S.O.S. parent organization. Parents are welcome to attend.
- Sept. 27** - Fifth grade will be attending the Cass County Environmental Fair at the Cass County Fairgrounds.
- Sept. 29** – No Preschool
- Oct. 3** - S.O.S. Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in elementary lunchroom.
- Oct. 4** - No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Scheduled times for Parent/Teacher Conferences are being sent home today. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for October 4, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school. We will not have school that day.

THE SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR IS COMING!!

We are excited to once again host the Scholastic Book Fair. The fair will be set up the whole week of October 2-6 and will be open during Parent-Teacher Conferences. The book fair is a great way to raise money for our school libraries and we use our profits to update our titles throughout the year. Our goal this year is to sell \$2500 worth of books, if we accomplish our goal, we will get 50% of the profits back to use for our libraries. Thank you in advance for supporting this great cause.

ELEMENTARY ART: 3rd GRADE ABSTRACT SUNFLOWERS

3rd grade students learned about abstract art. Abstract art many times is based on real things, but doesn't have to look "real". We discussed the reasons why they think artists make the choice to make things "abstract". We looked at "The Yellow Cow" by Franz Marc and discussed how the artist merely changed the color of the cow to make his painting abstract. We also looked at different paintings by Vincent Van Gogh including his paintings of sunflowers. Students used this for inspiration to create their own sunflower drawings. Using oil pastels, students used creative color choices to make their drawings abstract.

SIXTH GRADE QUIZ BOWL TEAM

This year we are trying something new with our Sixth Grade Quiz Bowl Team. We have been having mini competitions in library every week to help build our team and everyone seems to be really excited. The sixth grade team competes four times a year at the Cass County Quad Quiz Bowl Competition in Conestoga. I will be taking the five students who have earned the most points during our mini competitions. The five students who will be representing our class at the October 2 meet will be: **Sammie Shelsta (captain), Kearah Perreault, Tyson Mans, Toby Cox, and Sam Clements**. The next meet will be November 13 and I will announce that team when it gets closer to the date.

(Continued)

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

The Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools is in need of bus route drivers and substitute route and activity drivers. Drivers are paid \$43.68 for each route, \$7.12 for a shuttle route between schools, and \$14.56 per hour for activity driving. Drivers must have a CDL and complete a Level One bus driving class. The school district will pay for the classes, the mileage to and from the class, and for the time to complete the classes. We will also need a full-time route driver for the 2018-19 school year. Please contact Bruce Friedrich, Transportation Director, if you are interested in becoming a driver or have questions regarding these positions. You may contact Mr. Friedrich at 402-994-2125 or bfriedrich@emknights.org.

ELMWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Please come join The Elmwood Public Library for the Midwest Book Signing Tour for *The Perfect Stone* on Monday, October 2nd from 5-8 pm. The book was written and illustrated by local Southeastern Nebraskans, Matt Leatherwood and Daryl Wills. There will be a reading for the kids at 6 and 7. Come get your personal copy of the book signed. Talk with the authors and hear about the process of bringing a book from concept to publication. We will have kids' activities and refreshments. Fun for the whole family! Books will be available at the event for \$12.95 or you can pre-purchase your own copy on Amazon. Can't wait to see you there!!

Elmwood-Murdock Schools Shifts Communication Strategy to Tell Student Stories

Elmwood-Murdock Schools has launched a new public relations campaign to increase parental engagement through the use of technology. The campaign is part of a larger effort to inform the Elmwood-Murdock Schools community of the positive stories that happen inside the District. The administration announced the release of new mobile applications for iPhone and Android with school information such as events, sports scores, cafeteria menus, emergency notifications, and other pertinent information. The effort is in partnership with Apptegy, an education technology company based in Little Rock, Ark.

Elmwood-Murdock Schools is taking this initiative to engage community members on the devices and social networks they use most. A ComScore study shows that Americans use mobile technologies at twice the rate of desktop computers, and a Pew study shows that 65 percent of adults use social media. With the newly-adopted tools, the administration and teaching staff can share across all of these communication channels.

The Elmwood-Murdock Schools leadership sees sharing news and updates on mobile devices and social media as critical to educating in the 21st century.

"We know we have a lot of great things taking place at Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools that we want people to know about," explained Ryan Knippelmeyer, superintendent of Elmwood-Murdock Schools. "Our new school app will provide easy access to information pertaining to our school."

"Apptegy will allow us to communicate via multiple avenues. Time spent sending out messages will be streamlined as we will be able to create one message and send it out multiple ways at one time," Knippelmeyer said.

Apptegy builds simple communication tools for school districts across the country. "School districts like Elmwood-Murdock have a unique opportunity to grow connections with their community by sharing all of the great things that happen on a daily basis," said Jeston George, CEO of Apptegy. "Educators are extremely busy, so they need tools that make it easy and efficient to share across different types of devices and social networks."

The free mobile apps in the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store are available by searching for "Elmwood-Murdock" in the respective stores. A revamped, mobile-friendly website, www.emknights.org, will be launched on Monday, September 11. Community members can expect to see more positive stories and regular updates from Elmwood-Murdock Schools.