



March

NEWSLETTER



Elba Public  
School



**MARCH 2026**

# Elba Public Schools Newsletter

HOME OF THE BLUEJAYS



## **March Superintendent Update!**

### **Welcome to March!**

It's hard to believe we are already turning the calendar to March. With it comes longer days, the promise of spring weather, and the excitement that this season brings to our school and community. Students and staff are looking forward to warmer temperatures, spring activities, and the start of track season. This time of year always brings renewed energy, and we are excited for what the remainder of the school year has in store.

### **Board of Education Meeting Highlights**

The Board of Education met on February 9, 2026, for its regular meeting. The meeting included recognition of Board Appreciation Week and School Counselors Week, highlighting the important contributions of those who serve our students and district. The board received reports from the Athletic Director, K-12 Principal, Superintendent, and board committees. Key discussion and action items included approval of the senior trip, adoption of the 2026–2027 school calendar, approval of the ESU 10 special education service contract, and approval of summer facilities projects. The board also reviewed district policies, discussed a new school management system, addressed personnel matters, and conducted executive sessions as permitted under the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

### **Spring and Summer Facility Projects**

Looking ahead to spring and summer, the district has several important facility improvement projects planned. These include the installation of air conditioning in the gym, replacement of windows, construction of a new press box for the football field, and the addition of a shop ventilation system. These projects are designed to improve comfort, safety, and functionality for students, staff, and community members who use our facilities.

Funding for these improvements comes from the district's Special Building Fund. The Board of Education has been intentionally setting aside funds over several years to ensure that large-scale projects like these can be completed without placing additional strain on the district's general operating budget. Careful long-term planning has allowed the district to address facility needs responsibly.

These projects are important investments in our school community. Improved climate control and ventilation enhance learning and working conditions, upgraded windows support energy efficiency, and facility improvements such as the press box ensure safe and appropriate spaces for school activities and events. Together, these upgrades help ensure our facilities continue to serve students and the community well for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and students as we move into an exciting and busy spring season.

— **Bobby Kelley, Superintendent**

**The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates and individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The school district's Title IX policy, notice, and other information may be accessed [elbaps.org](http://elbaps.org) .**

March 2026

# PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

NEWS & NOTES



## SMALL CLASSES, BIG FUTURES

If you see something, say something. Maintaining awareness of surroundings, respecting personal space, and following emergency procedures.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WRITTEN BY: MR. POTTER

It is amazing that it is already March.

Women's History Month is celebrated in March. In the United States, Women's History Month traces its beginning back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. Our country finally found it appropriate to acknowledge a group of citizens who have historically been silenced. As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us also lift up the voices, contributions and bravery of women in the margins. This Women's History Month, is the time for our celebrating and amplifying women's contributions to academia, art and popular culture.

As we continue to move through the year, I would like to remind you and encourage you as a parent to keep reading with your child for at least 20 minutes a day. This is truly the best thing that you can do for your child as a parent. Not only is there a lot of power in reading as it supports their academic growth; but it also can be a nice quiet time together.

It's a fact that students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not. Parents who make regular school attendance a priority also are helping their children learn to accept responsibility. And that's an important lesson for a successful life.

- March 6 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- March 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Spring Break
- March 17 No School Teacher In-Service

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH!

**"Content of a book holds the power of education and it is with this power that we can shape our future and change lives". Malala Yousafzai**



# ELBA ACTIVITIES



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

- **3/9/26**
  - JH Quiz Bowl at Kearney
- **3/17/26**
  - Science Olympiad
- **3/17/26**
  - District Speech
- **3/19/26**
  - HS UNK Indoor Track Meet
- **3/23/26**
  - HS Quiz Bowl at Kearney
- **3/24/26**
  - HS Central City Track Meet
- **3/25/26 - 3/27/26**
  - State FFA
- **3/26/26**
  - HS Rebel Invitational at Loup City
- **3/28/26**
  - State Speech @ Lincoln
- **3/28/26**
  - PROM

Written by: Mr.Simmerman

# BLUEJAYS

## Spring Sports

*"You don't have to feel fast to be fast. You just have to show up and keep going."*

### HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

HEAD COACH: SARAH MORROW  
ASSISTANT COACHES: MR NIELSEN AND MRS. MCGEE

Thursday, March 19th	UNK Indoor Invite at Kearney (UNK)	11:00am
Tuesday, March 24th	Bison Invite @ Central City	12:00pm
Thursday, March 26th	Rebel Invite @ Loup City	11:00am
Monday, March 30th	Bulldog Invite @ Humphrey	1:00pm
Tuesday, April 7th	Warrior Invite @ Fullerton	10:00am
Friday, April 10th	Wildcat Invite @ Axtell	10:00am
Thursday, April 16th	Bulldog Invite @ Shelton	10:00am
Monday, April 20th	Chanticleers JV Invite @ Ord	TBA
Thursday, April 23rd	Tiger Invite @ Palmer	9:30am
Friday, May 1st	Goldenrod Conference Meet @ TBD	10:00am
Thursday, May 7th	Mustang Invite @ McCool Junction	10:00am
Wednesday, May 13th	D-5 District Track Meet	TBA
Friday-Sunday May 22nd-24th	State Track Meet at Omaha Burke	TBA

### JUNIOR HIGH TRACK

COACHES: SARAH MORROW AND LOGAN SIMMERMAN

Thursday, April 9th	High Plains Storm Invite @ Osceola	10:00am
Tuesday, April 14th	Centurions Invite @ Centura	2:00pm
Tuesday, April 21st	Wildcat Invite @ St. Paul	1:00pm
Wednesday, April 22nd	Warrior Invite @ Fullerton	10:00am
Tuesday, April 28th	Twin River Titan Invite @ Genoa	9:00am
Monday, May 4th	Goldenrod Conference Meet @ Humphrey	10:00am
Tuesday, May 5th	Rebel Invite @ Loup City	1:00pm
Tuesday, May 12th	Warrior Invite @ Red Cloud	9:00am
Saturday, May 16th	State Track at Gothenburg	TBA

### E-SPORTS

COACH: MR. WALTERS

Saturday, March 28th

Nebraska State E-sports

TBA



### Jr. High Girls Basketball Finishes Season

The Jr. High Girls Basketball team wrapped up their season with a solid 7-7 record. The girls' determination to improve was evident throughout the season. This season had tremendous growth. Players developed their skills, strengthened their basketball IQ, and built confidence on and off the court. The biggest area for improvement is scoring. Congratulations to the Jr. High Girls Basketball team on a fantastic season! We look forward to seeing Hadlee, Brooklynn, Elsie, and Arianna next year in high school basketball. The future of Bluejay athletics is bright!



Elba Public Schools

# School News

MARCH EDITION

## Bring on Warm Weather

As we bloom into March, it's a wonderful time to focus on growth, renewal, and setting fresh goals! This month, we're celebrating resiliency, exploring college readiness, and preparing for standardized testing. Remember, I'm here to support you every step of the way!

Jason Folkers-School Counselor

[jason.folkers@elbaps.org](mailto:jason.folkers@elbaps.org)

308-863-2228



Self  
LOVE

## What's New?

This month we're focusing on resilience—the ability to bounce back from challenges. Resilience isn't about avoiding difficulties; it's about developing the skills to handle them. Students will participate in activities that teach problem-solving, positive self-talk, and seeking support when needed. Parents, encourage your children to view mistakes as learning opportunities!

## Upcoming Tests/H.S. Info

- ✓ Juniors ACT-April 14
- ✓ Sophomores-PreACT April 15
- ✓ MAPS
- ✓ NSCAS

# Tips for success!

- 1 Practice mindfulness: Take 5 minutes daily for deep breathing or meditation to reduce stress and improve focus.
- 2 Create a study schedule: Break large projects into smaller tasks and set realistic deadlines to avoid last-minute cramming.
- 3 Spread kindness: Random acts of kindness boost both giver and receiver. Challenge yourself to one kind act per day!

## Helpful Resources



Mental Health Support: Crisis Text Line – Text HOME to 741741 for 24/7 support



Study Tools: On to College offers free tutoring in math, science, and test prep at [ontocollege.com](https://ontocollege.com). This is for those taking the ACT and Pre/ACT. Also a good resource for grades 6-12 to explore careers and colleges.



# FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA



## **FFA Labor Auction**

On behalf of the Elba FFA chapter, we want to extend our thanks and appreciation to the parents, families, and community members that attended, donated food and donated financially during our Labor Auction on February 13th. Your generous donations totaled over \$5,000. Proceeds will be used for students to attend State and National Conventions, which provide opportunities for students to develop as leaders and innovators in the field of Agriculture. These opportunities are not possible without everyone's continual support.

## **District CDEs**

On February 11th Elba FFA competed in district Career Development Events (CDEs) at Central Community College, Grand Island Campus. Students competed in Livestock Management, Veterinary Science, Floriculture and Welding. Livestock Management team of Shia Rasmussen, Blake Barg, Quentin Doncheske, Jordyn Haug and Carter Hancock placed 12/16 teams. Veterinary Science team of Marissa Usasz, Jordyn Poss, Shia Rasmussen, and Jordyn Haug placed 10/12 teams. Floriculture team of Ayva Gregoski, Ethan Lange, Lacey Barg, and Marena Paczosa placed 19/21 teams. Welding team of Bladen Rathman, Quentin Doncheske, Garrett Wells, and Blake Barg placed 13/18 teams with Bladen Rathman placing 10th overall for Tig Welding and receiving a white ribbon.

## **FFA Week**

Elba will celebrate National FFA week, February 23-27. Daily themes are as follows: Monday: America Day, Tuesday: Country vs Country Club Day, Wednesday: Camo Day, Thursday: Blue and Gold Day, and Friday: Tractor Day.  
March Events.

Elba FFA will be attending the State FFA Convention March 25-27 in Lincoln, NE.

# -LABOR AUCTION

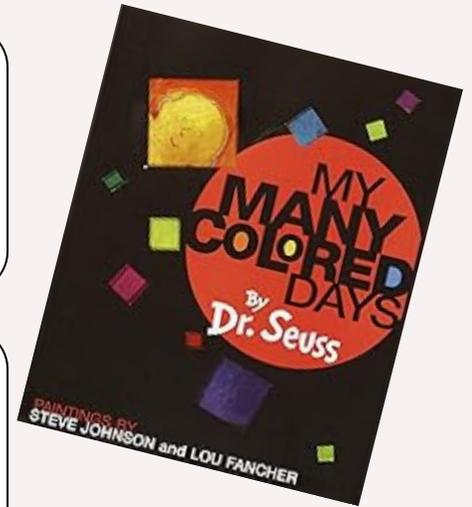
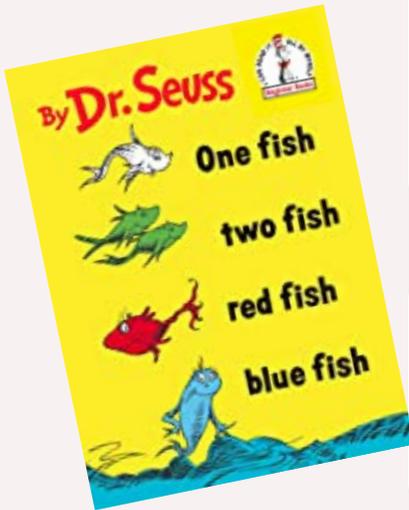


# READ ACROSS AMERICA DRESS UP DAYS

## SEUSS-IFY YOURSELF!

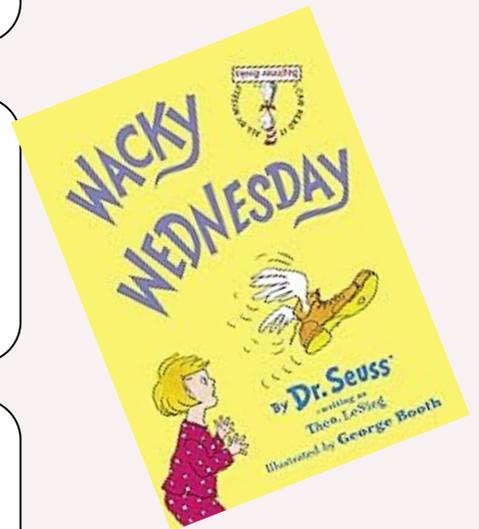
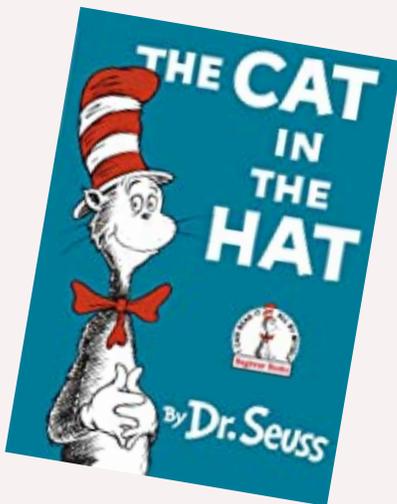
Monday, March 2nd

MY MANY-COLORED MONDAY!  
-wear as many colors as you can



Tuesday, March 3rd

TERRIFIC HAT TUESDAY!  
-wear a fun hat

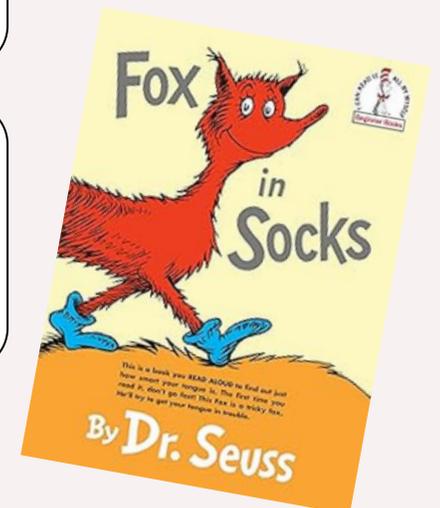
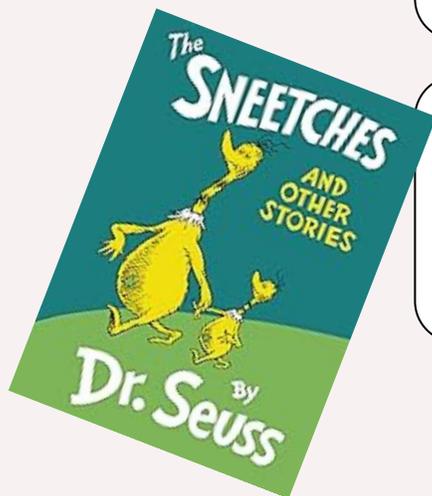


Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

WACKY WEDNESDAY!  
-dress wacky

Thursday, March 5th

TO BE A SNEETCH!  
-wear stars



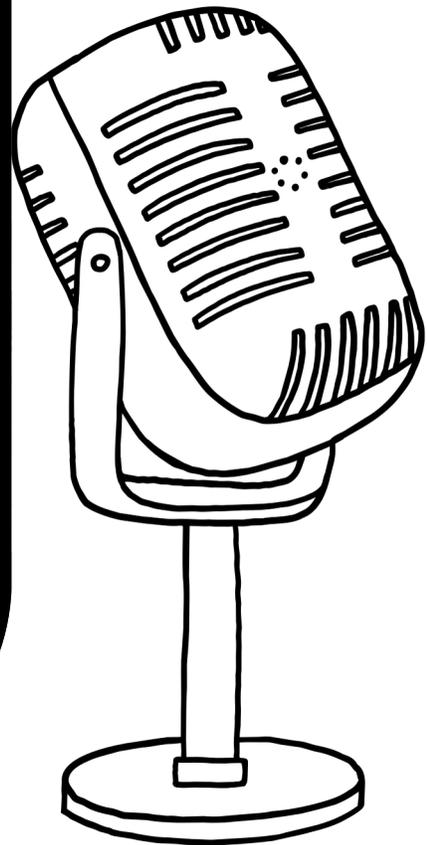
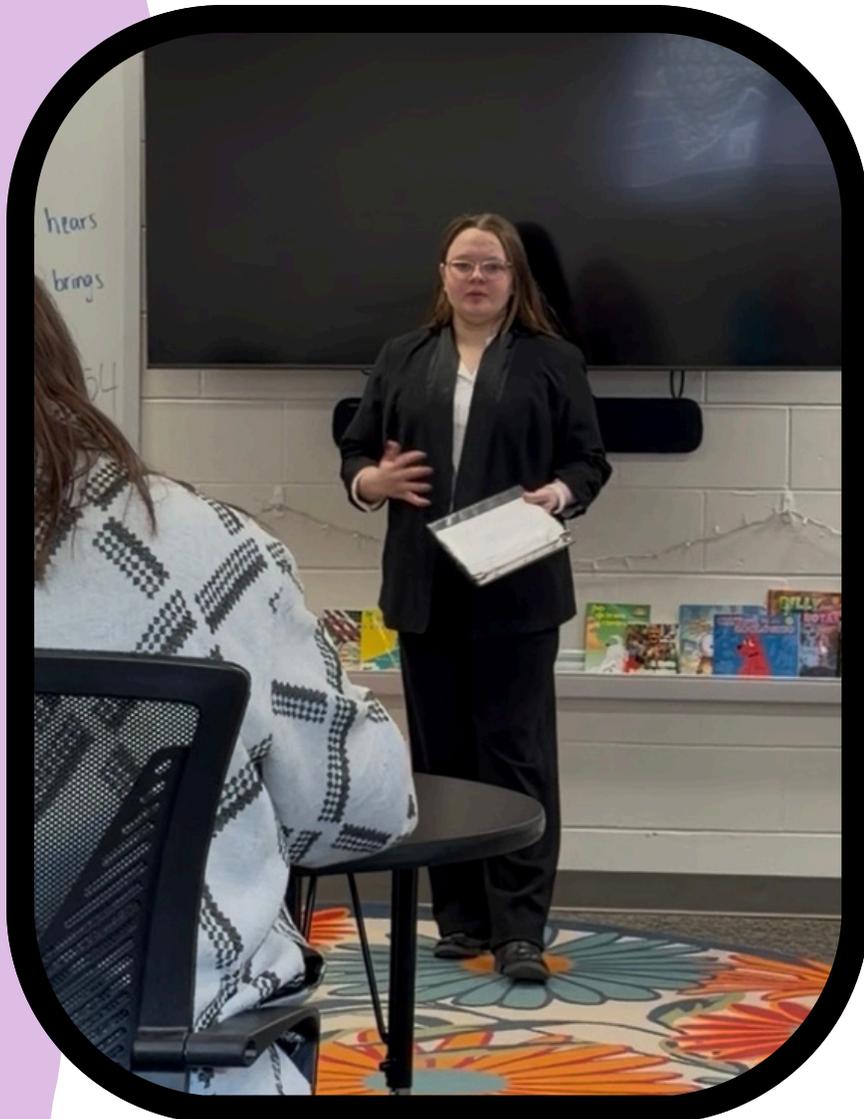
Friday, March 6th

FUN SOCK FRIDAY!  
-wear crazy socks

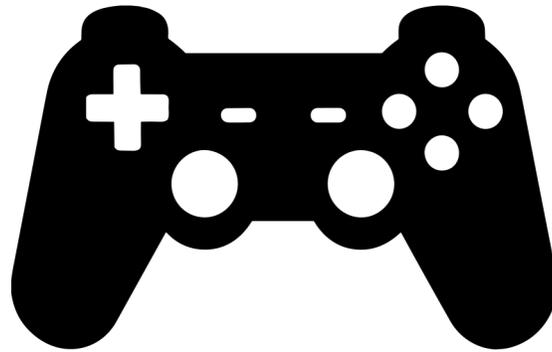
# SPEECH

---

OUR SPEECH TEAM IS GEARING UP, WITH OUR FIRST COMPETITION THIS COMING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, IN AURORA. MARENA PACZOSA IS DOING A PERSUASIVE SPEECH, AND KENNA DVORAK IS DOING AN INFORMATIVE ONE. OUR ENTIRE SEASON IS IN FEBRUARY, SO ONCE WE START, IT WILL GO BY FAST. NEXT UP IS MINDEN ON THE 14TH, NORTHWEST ON THE 21ST, DISTRICTS ON THE 25TH, AND FINALLY CENTURA ON THE 28TH. WHEE, SPRING GOES BY FAST!



# ESPORTS

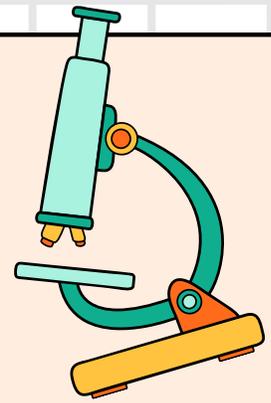
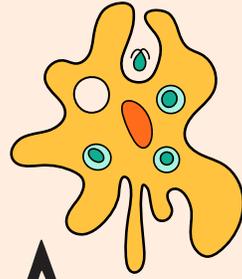
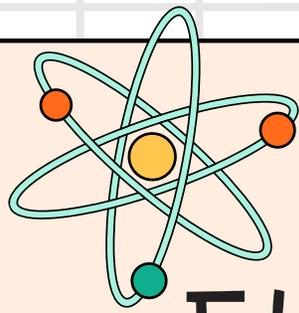
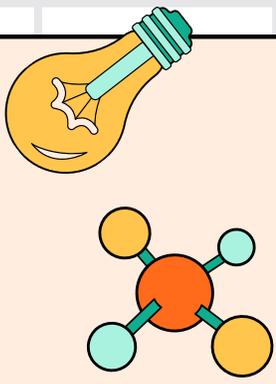


THE SPRING ESPORTS SEASON IS GETTING UNDERWAY FOR THE BLUEJAYS. WE WILL BE COMPETING IN 2 GAMES - FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE, AND MARIO KART 8. ON THE FORTNITE TEAM, WE HAVE JAYDIN LARSEN, DAKOTA WAMPLER, WILLIAM WALTERS, BREXTON RADKE, COOPER DVORAK, AND RYKER HOFF. THE MARIO KART TEAM IS MADE UP OF ALANA BERNEY, MARISSA USASZ, MARENA PACZOSA, AND ELLA WALTERS. BOTH TEAMS LOOK TO EQUAL OR EVEN IMPROVE ON PREVIOUS SUCCESS. LAST YEAR, THE MARIO KART TEAM WAS JUST ONE WIN FROM QUALIFYING FOR STATE COMPETITION, AND THE FORTNITE TEAM TOOK 4TH PLACE.

THERE WILL BE FORTNITE COMPETITIONS EVERY THURSDAY AT 4:15 (STARTING FEB 19TH) WITH STATE ON MARCH 28TH.

LET'S GO BLUEJAY ESPORTS!  
- COACH WALTERS

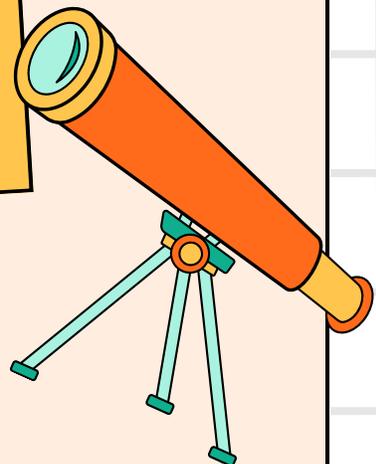
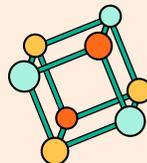
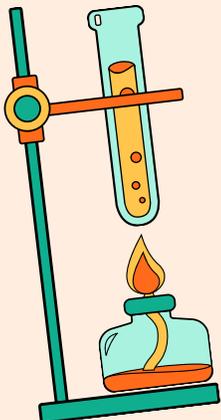




# ELBA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



THIS YEAR, WE HAVE 3 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD, ALONG WITH OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL COHORT OF 8. WE HAVE BOTH A HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM DOING THE HELICOPTER BUILD, A MS SCHOOL TEAM DOING THE HOVERCRAFT (SUPPORTED BY THE PTO, THANK YOU SO MUCH!), AS WELL AS TEAMS FOR WRITE IT, DO IT (TECHNICAL WRITING), AND POTIONS AND POISONS (CHEMISTRY). OUR COMPETITION IS AT KEARNEY ON MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>, EXCEPT FOR THE HOVERCRAFT TEAM, WHO WILL BE GOING TO ESU 3'S TOURNAMENT ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup>.



# Challenge Accepted

A Congratulations to our Howard County Spelling Bee participants. Special shout out to Brooklynn Fredrick and Saige Adela for qualifying for the oral rounds. Saige finished in the top 7 and Brooklynn in the top 5. Saige also received an award for top 6th grade speller on the written test.



100

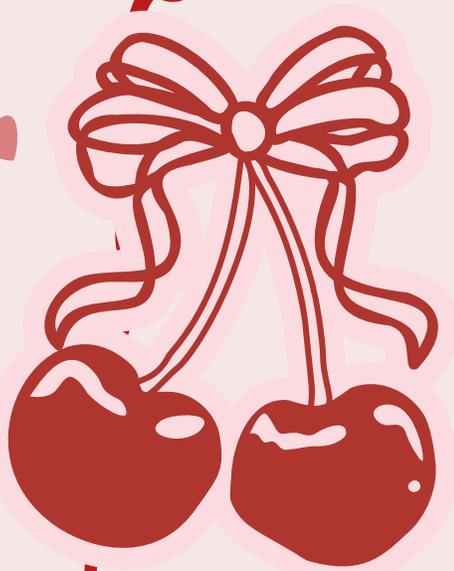
# Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School!

The elementary celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day on January 28<sup>th</sup> by doing 100 themed activities, including a 100 balloon pop in the gym!



Elba Elementary says...

# Happy Valentine's Day!





# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Chicken Drumstick Donut	Walking Taco Burrito	Corn Dogs Muffin	Chicken Patty-Bun Breakfast Bagel	Grilled Cheese French Toast	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Country Fried Steak Cinnamon Roll	Chicken Fajita Hashbrown Bowl	Ham Patty on Bun Sausage-Toast	Bosco Sticks Mini Donuts	NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK	NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK	Chicken Patty on Bun Donut	Sloppy Joes Apple Turnovers	Cheese Pizza Waffle Sticks	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Hamburger Cinnamon Roll	Soft Shell Taco Scrambled Eggs	Creamed Chicken on Biscuit Biscuits N Gravy	Corn Dog Sausage-Cheese-Toast	Mac N Cheese Pancakes	
29	30	31				
	Breaded Beef Patty Donuts	Walking Taco Sausage-Scrambled Eggs				



• Hatching •

Please Return  
w/dates  
your child will  
attend Hatching

# March 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

←  
→  
Spring  
Break

Teacher  
in service  
no school

Spring  
Break  
→