

# April Newsletter

Elba Public School





APRIL 2026

# Elba Public Schools Newsletter

HOME OF THE BLUEJAYS



## April Superintendent Update!

### Well...Hello April!

It's hard to believe we are already turning the calendar to April. With it comes longer days, the full arrival of spring, and a busy stretch of activities to close out the school year. Students and staff are enjoying the warmer weather, spring practices, and the many events that come with this time of year. There is a renewed sense of energy throughout the building, and we are excited to see our students continue to grow and finish the year strong.

### Board of Education Meeting Highlights

At our March Board of Education meeting, we had the opportunity to celebrate the great things happening in our school. Our Science Olympiad team is preparing for its first competition, and track season is off to a strong start with great participation at both the junior high and high school levels. The board approved the purchase of a new K–12 science curriculum resource, which will provide both print and online tools to enhance instruction for our students. We also discussed upcoming changes to graduation requirements, including an increased focus on career pathways, additional credit requirements, and ensuring students are well-prepared for postsecondary opportunities. In addition, the board approved adjustments to the 2026–2027 school calendar, updates to policies, and continued efforts to align services—such as speech therapy—through ESU 10. As always, we remain focused on providing the best possible opportunities and support for our students while being mindful of future financial considerations.

### New Faces for the 2026-2027 School Year

We are also excited to share several staffing updates for the upcoming school year. We are pleased to welcome **Sydne Sims** as our new Math teacher. Sydne previously worked at Elba and has most recently been teaching at Grand Island Public Schools. We are excited to bring her back to Elba, as she understands our school culture and brings valuable experience that will benefit our students.

We will also be welcoming **Amelia Retzlaff** as our new Special Education teacher. Amelia is currently working as a paraprofessional at Central Valley, where she has built strong relationships with students and developed a passion for supporting diverse learning needs. Her dedication to helping students succeed will be a great addition to our team.

In addition, **Cassidy Frey** will be joining us as our FFA/Ag teacher. Cassidy is currently the Ag/FFA teacher at Central Valley and brings strong experience in agricultural education and FFA leadership. We are excited for the opportunities she will provide our students both in the classroom and through FFA programming.

We look forward to finishing the school year strong and continuing to build on the great things happening at Elba Public Schools. As always, thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and community.

— **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).

April 2026

# PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

NEWS & NOTES



## SMALL CLASSES, BIG FUTURES

Always walk and engage in activities with friends. Be prepared for sudden spring storms.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WRITTEN BY: MR. POTTER

It is hard to believe that we are in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. That means only a few more weeks left of the school year. It is a very busy time of year. Seniors are focusing on graduation, track season is in full swing, and the weather is allowing us more time outside. Student will soon be registering for next year's classes. I encourage parents to have conversations with your students about what careers they are interested in and what classes will help them prepare for those careers.

April brings state testing. Student will be taking MAPS/NSCAS testing, Sophomores will be taking Pre-Act and Junior will be taking the ACT. Just a few reminders to students to get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast prior to testing. Study have shown that with plenty of rest and nourishment students do better on tests.

With the warmer weather just a reminder to still send a jacket to school with your student. The weather can change frequently so make sure your students are prepared.

- Easter Break April 3-6
- Conference Music April 8
- ACT for Juniors April 14
- PreAct for Sophomores April 15
- Conference Art April 29

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH!

**"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go". Dr. Seuss**



# ELBA ACTIVITIES



## **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL**

- 4/1/26 - Goldenrod Conference Music @ St. Edward
- 4/2/26 - Osceola Invite 9:00am
- 4/7/26 - Fullerton Invite 10:00am
- 4/9/26 - JH High Plains Invite @ Osceola 10:00am
- 4/10/26 - Axtell Invitational 10:00am
- 4/14/26 - JH Centura Invite 2:00am
- 4/16/26 - Shelton Invitational 10:00am
- 4/18/26 - State Science Olympiad @ UNL East Campus
- 4/20/26 - Ord JV Meet 4:00pm
- 4/21/26 - JH St Paul Meet 2:00pm
- 4/22/26 - JH Fullerton Meet 10:00am
- 4/23/26 - Palmer Invitational @ Fullerton 9:30am
- 4/27/26 - Elementary Field Day 12:30pm; FFA Banquet
- 4/28/26 - JH Twin River Invitational 9:00am
- 4/29/26 - Goldenrod Conference Art @ Greeley 10:00am
- 4/30/26 - Spring Concert 6:30pm

## **IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES**

- 5/3/26 - Academic Night 6:30pm
  - 5/14/26 - Athletic Banquet Eating at 6:00pm event starting at 6:30pm
- Due to the length of our one night banquet in previous years and cutting the length of speaking time down as well, we're going to separate it into two different nights to try and help make it easier. The Athletic Banquet will be our normal potluck style, while Academic Night will be everyone bringing desserts with light refreshments available.

**Written by: Mr.Simmerman**

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Elba Public Schools  
APRIL 2026

## CONNECTION POINT

Empathy means taking a walk in someone else's shoes and imagining how someone else might feel. Encourage your child to pause and think, "If that happened to me, how would I feel?" This helps them notice clues like facial expressions, tone of voice, and body language. When they understand those feelings, they can respond in caring ways, like offering a kind word, listening or helping. These moments strengthen connections and build understanding.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 14<sup>th</sup> ACT**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> PreACT**

**Spring State  
Testing**

## GUIDING WORDS

**FOR CAREGIVERS: I CAN HELP MY CHILD PRACTICE NOTICING AND UNDERSTANDING OTHERS' FEELINGS.**

**FOR STUDENTS: I USE EMPATHY TO TREAT OTHERS THE WAY I WANT TO BE TREATED.**

# FEBRUARY

## STUDENT-STAFF OF THE MONTH



TEACHER- MISS LEACH



STAFF- MRS. SPILINEK



HS STUDENT- QUENTIN DONCHESKE



ELEMENTARY- BRIGGSTON MORROW

# Q3 HONOR ROLL

**ALL A**



**A/B**



**A/B**

**ALL A**



# FFA

STATE FFA-THE FFA OFFICERS AND JH QUIZ BOWL TEAM WILL BE ATTENDING STATE FFA MARCH 26TH AND 27TH. THE JH QUIZ BOWL WILL BE COMPETING FRIDAY MORNING.

BARNYARD DAY- THE ELBA FFA CHAPTER WILL BE HOSTING A BARNYARD DAY ON APRIL 24TH. STUDENTS CAN BRING IN ANIMALS AND APPROPRIATE MATERIALS TO CONTAIN THEIR ANIMALS. CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS TO SEE AND SHOWCASE FOR THEIR CLASSMATES AND THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS.

FFA OFFICER ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD APRIL 21 ST AT 6:30. INTERESTED CANDIDATES NEED TO HAVE AN APPROVED APPLICATION FOR THEIR CHAPTER DEGREE, PLAN TO ENROLL IN AN AG EDUCATION CLASS FOR 26-27 AND HAVE A 2.5 GPA OR HIGHER.

ELECTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE FFA BANQUET. DATE TBD

ELBA PTO'S

# BUBBLE FUN WALK/RUN

Meet at the Front Doors at School  
Cost: \$5 for kids, \$10 for Adults  
Children 3 & Under Free

APRIL  
**24TH**

FUN STATIONS  
RAFFLE PRIZES

BE  
PREPARED  
TO BE WET

REGISTRATION AT 6:30 P.M.  
WALK/RUN STARTS AT 7 P.M.

# QUIZ BOWL

High School Quiz Bowl The High School Quiz Bowl team had an impressive showing on March 23 at UNK, competing against 33 teams and earning a spot in the top 16. They finished the day with a solid 2-2 record. This year's team was led by a knowledgeable group of seniors whose leadership and contributions have been invaluable and will be greatly missed. At the same time, the future looks bright, with several returning competitors ready to step up and continue building on this success next season.



Jr. High Quiz Bowl The Junior High Quiz Bowl team has completed its season with a competition at UNK on March 9. They finished with a 1-2 record, but more importantly, showed growth. The team showed increased confidence and participation, answering many more questions than at their earlier conference competition. Their progress is a great sign of their future success in Quiz Bowl.



# ELBA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



"On March 17th, Brooklynn Fredrick and Arianna Pohl competed at ESU 10's Science Olympiad in Kearney in the event Write It, Do It. This event focuses on technical writing and building skills, and the girls demonstrated great communication skills, and the ability to use context clues in the execution of their event. The following Saturday, March 21, Nolan Gross and Jaxson Pohl traveled to Omaha for the ESU 3's inaugural Science Olympiad tourney to compete in Hovercraft, where the boys won first place in their division. All 4 students competed in Division B, the middle school division."

# READ ACROSS AMERICA

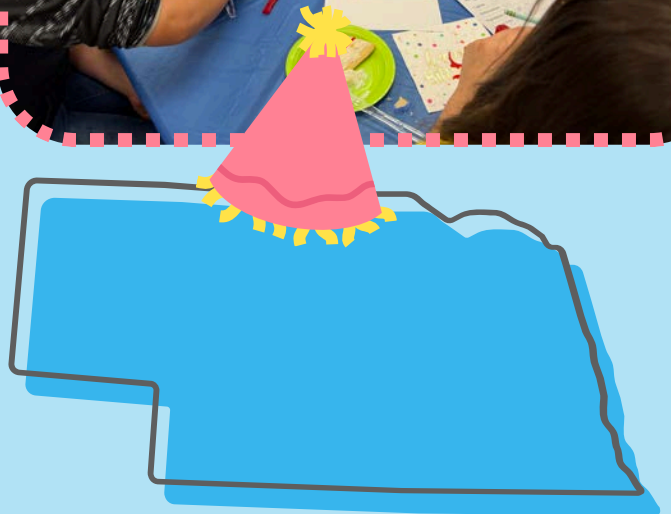


# Skating + Friends = Fun





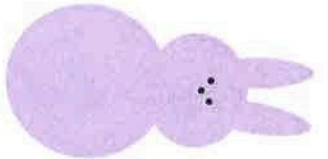
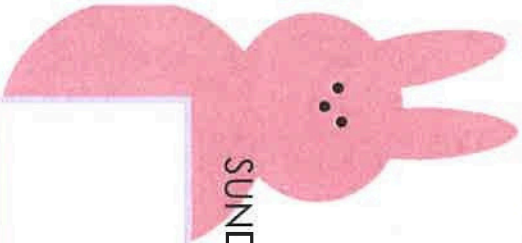
# Happy Birthday Nebraska!



•Hatchings.

Plus Peewee!...

# April 2026



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

# APRIL

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2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
30 Beef Patty Donuts	31 Walking Taco Scrambled Eggs n Sausage	1 Pizza Sticks Sausage Pancake on a stick	2 Tator tot casserole Sausage, n toast	3 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
6 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	7 Chicken Fajita Hashbrown Bowl	8 Steak n Rice Bowl Apple Turnovers	9 Chicken Nuggets Muffin	10 Spaghetti with meat sauce French Toast Sticks
13 Chicken Drumstick Donut	14 Softshell Taco Scrambled Eggs	15 Ham Patty Muffin	16 Chicken N Noodles Sausage n toast	17 Pizza Pancakes
20 Hamburger Cinnamon Roll	21 Walking Taco Breakfast Burrito	22 Pulled Pork Banana Bread	23 Bosco Sticks Sausage-Cheese -toast	24 Coulash Waffle Sticks
27 Breaded Pork Patty Donut	28 Nacho De Grande Scrambled Eggs	29 Biscuits-Sausage- Gravy Mini Donuts	30 Hot Ham n Cheese Sausage-toast	1 Pizza Sticks Pancakes

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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