



# Wildcat Safety

Elgin ISD's Safety Newsletter

April 2020

## Ready.Gov Prepares Kids, Teens, and Adults With Online Resources

In the world of emergency and risk management, one unwritten motto is: "Expect the unexpected!" which lends itself to the well-known motto of "Be Prepared!"

Over the last several decades, schools have increased the number and types of drills for employees and students. Fire drills are routine and common, occurring on a monthly basis. As adults, many of us may remember the old fashioned tornado drills, which honestly, were nothing more than the old cold-war era "duck and cover" nuclear drills.

Over the last few decades, school safety training and drills have included CPR fundamentals, implementing incident command system protocols for emergency operations, and basic trauma care (bleed control training).

Despite all the training and preparedness, when students and teachers leave school at the end of the day, many of these skills are left behind as well.

Being prepared at home is equally important as being prepared at school or work. When was the last time you had a fire drill at your home? Do you have a designated meeting point if you had to evacuate? Do you have enough food for your family to last two weeks? Do you have a first-aid kit in your house or car? Unfortunately, most people probably would answer "No" to these questions.

To help people prepare for emergencies, [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) has a variety of resources and at-home activities for kids, teens, and adults to do.

[Ready.gov/kids](https://www.ready.gov/kids) provides excellent resources for kids and teens, including games and interactive activities.

Teachers can find classroom curriculum and resource materials at: <https://www.ready.gov/kids/educators-organizations>

Emergencies can happen at any time! Are you and your family ready?



## April is Autism Awareness Month

For more information about the signs, symptoms, and general awareness, please visit the Health Line website at: <https://www.healthline.com/health/autism>

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



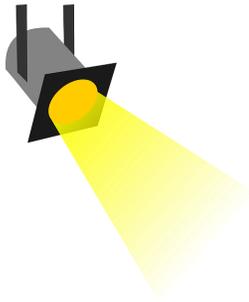
## The National Weather Service Provides Educational Resources for Students and Educators Alike!

Although we may not think of it, one of the most important sciences in the world is meteorology! Mark Twain once said, "Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get." As we can tell by watching our favorite TV weather personality, forecasting the weather has yet to be perfected! Despite the shortcomings of trying to predict the weather, scientists have done a phenomenal job of unlocking some of the greatest mysteries of weather!

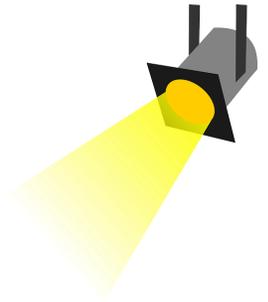
In fact, weather is one of the few subjects that allow for the all-in-one use of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, making it a great resource for STEM projects.

If you are interested in educational weather resources, to include on-line classes for adults as well as projects and games for kids, you can visit the National Weather Service's website at: <https://www.weather.gov/learning>

Interested in becoming a Storm Spotter with Sky Warn? Classes are held periodically throughout the year in person, but you can take an online course at: [https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training\\_course.php?id=23](https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23)



# The Spotlight



By: Matthew West

You may notice a slight change in this edition's title from "Safety Spotlight" to just "The Spotlight". Truth be known, this section probably should be appropriately titled, "The Spotlights" as I am putting the entire Elgin ISD family in the Safety Spotlight this month!

In 1918, the Spanish Flu Pandemic hit the world, including Central Texas. Public schools and universities were closed, business shuttered their doors, people were obliged to take their temperatures before leaving the house, and cloth surgical masks were a common sight!

Fast-forward 102 years later, and it seems as if we are in the Twilight zone, repeating some of the exact protocols that many of our great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents lived through. The Spanish Flu knew no boundaries, it affected people all over the world, including Elgin and the surrounding areas. World-War I was in full-swing, and thousands of soldiers were stationed in the Austin area at Camp Mabry and even at the University of Texas where makeshift hospitals were treating patients, and the world was afraid.

Despite the hardships and health concerns, the citizens of this area came together! They helped each other out when and where they could. Provided resources for others that may have been down on their luck, and volunteered to help their fellow citizen, just as our community is doing now!

Elgin ISD is proud to display our "One Town, One Team, One Family" motto. It is not only something we talk about or display on amazing art displays, but it is a motto we truly live by!

After our educational world was upheaved during spring break amongst the COVID-19 breakout, our schools had to make a tough decision to close their doors, all of the sudden, we were left scratching our heads asking, "How do we do this?"

In what seemed like an overnight whirlwind of activity, our EISD family came together as a team. We figured out how to provide online educational access to thousands of students, deliver meals to our families in need, produce pages upon pages of take-home packets, and coordinated with local, county, state, and federal governmental authorities to ensure information was being delivered to our community stakeholders in an accurate and timely manner.

Do you know an EISD employee who goes above and beyond to keep EISD safe? If so, please e-mail [matthew.west@elginisd.net](mailto:matthew.west@elginisd.net) so they can be featured in the "Safety Spotlight"!