

ELLICOTTVILLE

DISTRICT • NEWSLETTER

Volume 47, Issue 4

Area All-State

ECS Sends Thirteen Students

Congrats to our ECS Students for being accepted into Junior High Area All – State on November 4th & 5th in Akron, NY. This is a wonderful honor for these students.

- Willow Comstock/Eastlick - SSA
- Devon Fish - SATB
- Madisyn Kilby - SSA
- Heli Kongats - SSA
- Cyrene Moore - SSA
- Erin Quinn - SSA
- Callie Rounds - SATB
- Gabriel Snyder - SATB
- Brianna Winship - SSA
- Saily Boyla - Clarinet
- Megan Hartsell - Trumpet



Congrats to our ECS Students for being accepted into Senior High Area All-State on November 18th & 19th at SUNY Fredonia. This is a wonderful honor for these students.

- Kourtney Robinson – Flute
- Madison Harris - Trumpet

Thanks to everyone that supported the music department in our annual Little Caesar Pizza Sale! We made a

great profit!

Next Concert: • March 9th MIOSM (Music In Our School Month) Concert @7 PM!

JCC English Class Attends Research Workshop



On December 8th, members of the JCC English class attended a research workshop at the Hultquist Library in Jamestown. Afterwards, they visited Off the Beaten Path Bookstore and Ryder's Cup Coffee, where each student received a free copy of the book, *Chautauqua Haunts*, by Chris Redmond.

SAVE THE DATE

ECS Musical:

ANYTHING GOES

March 30 & 31 @ 7pm
April 1 @ 2pm

**1/2 Day for Grades K-5
March 8, 2017**

Parent-Teacher Conferences

**No School for Students
on Friday March 17th
for Superintendent's Day
School Closed March 20th**

THANK YOU!

The Project Christmas committee would like to thank the Ellicottville Central School community for their continued and generous support of Project Christmas. This past December, the program was able to provide **food and presents for 40 families** as well as **"Thinking of You" bags for 65 senior citizens**.

Best wishes to all, for a very healthy and happy 2017!



REQUESTS FOR TRANSPORTATION

Requests for transportation of non-public school children should be submitted to the Ellicottville Central School District Superintendent's Office **prior to April 1, 2017**.

Regulations require that the district transport students to non-public schools when a student resides within 15 miles of the non-public school. The 15 miles is measured from the home of the student to the non-public school.

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL INCOME TAX CODE: 181



ECS Continues to Face Financial Challenges (Part 1)

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

Over the past seven years the Ellicottville Central School District like all other school districts has faced a number of financial challenges due to the U.S. economy, decreases in state funding (GEA), mandates, increasing health insurance costs, major fluctuations in TRS and ERS payments and contractual obligations. The Board has undertaken a variety of steps to right-sized the staff, reduced spending, changed insurance plans, used well over a million dollars in district reserves to cover one-time expenses and necessary repairs and improvements to our facilities. However, we refuse to compromise the educational programs that have made Ellicottville what it is!

Salamanca who is now aided greatly by Federal funds and the money the district receives from the Casino.

In 2016-17 the Governor and State Legislature put a lot of money into education with the elimination of the GEA, the number one piece of good news for us and something the Senate pushed hard to make happen! On top of that the District receives Foundation Aid and a series of expense driven aids that are based on expenditures from the year before. **I want to give you a very clear picture on how state aid played out for us this year.** (Special Education, another expense driven aid, and Building Aid have not been included.)

Even though we did get the GEA eliminated, the overall gain for the

Type of State Aid	2008-09	2015-16	to 2016-17	= Net Gain
Foundation Aid	\$2,601,950	\$2,657,525	\$2,677,993	\$20,468
GEA Restoration		-\$84,365	\$84,365	\$84,365
Transportation	\$230,567	\$157,443	\$140,049	-\$17,396
Software, Library, textbook	\$40,987	\$34,324	\$39,146	\$4,822
Lottery Aid		\$207,238	\$195,492	-\$11,746
Universal Pre-K	\$65,075	\$50,614	\$50,614	-0-
BOCES (estimate)		\$327,085	\$378,290	-\$71,607
(actual)	\$419,011	\$309,203	\$306,683	
				\$8,906

We have worked hard to maintain small class sizes in the elementary, brought back the high school business program, provide after school programming for students who need additional academic help, created a wireless internet learning environment, provided all students in grades 7-12 with their own laptop computer and introduced a robotics and engineering program grades 3-12.

ECS has been blessed with a great deal of property wealth that has been a by-product of the ski business and most recently Ellicottville's year around status as a "destination". The large tax base has allowed the school district to keep tax raises in line and we are proud of the fact the true value tax rate here is the **LOWEST** in Western New York except for

district in state aid was roughly \$8,906 this year from the state. Many area districts received six figure increases (not including special education or building aid)... Hinsdale (\$614,000), West Valley (\$245,000), Andover (\$440,000), Genesee Valley (\$397,000), Alfred Almond (\$303,000), Franklinville (\$531,000), Randolph (\$733,000), Catt-LV (\$962,697). While there are a lot of factors and variables that go into state aid I want to demonstrate to you that other similar sized districts are receiving far more aid than ECS. Ellicottville, as a school district, receives the lowest amount of state aid of all districts in WNY!

On top of this, with the implementation of the Tax Cap in 2011,
Continued on page 5...

Ward to Retire End of June

BOE Initiates Replacement Search

To Our ECS Community:

On January 10, 2017, at a regular meeting of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education (Board), the Board received a letter from our Superintendent Mark J. Ward notifying the Board of his intent to retire, effective June 30, 2017. With a great deal of emotion and our deepest regrets, the Board formally accepted his letter as the last order of business that night.

It would be a monumental task to try and sum up all that Mark has done and given to our District over the past 33 years...*33 and a half to be exact!* As it is typical for a teacher to spend an entire career in one District, it is unprecedented to have an administrator, in particular a superintendent, work so many years in the same District. To do so, you must have a true love for your job, for the people you work with, and for the community you serve. Mark's commitment and dedication to this District, and this community, has been unmatched. All while raising a family of his own. He truly has ECS maroon and white running through his veins. We cannot thank him enough for all he has done, and the many years of service he has provided us. We wish him the best in retirement, and whatever else his future may hold.

Given Mark's pending retirement, the Board has initiated a superintendent search to fill the position. We will solicit applications through February, and conduct interviews in March. It is our hope to make an offer for the position by the end of April, with a July 1st start date. As the process moves forward, we will provide general updates as to how the search is going during our regular board meetings. Once we have narrowed the field down to three, we will provide an opportunity for our ECS community to meet our candidates, and for the candidates to meet our ECS community.

The changing of a superintendent is one of the most critical actions any Board makes. It brings with it a great deal of anxiety with both the staff, and the community. The superintendent is the most important position to any District. Having a good relationship with the staff, the Board, and the community is vital for the success of the District. As such, I would like to assure our staff and our community that the Board will be working very hard at finding the right person. I ask for your support and trust with our endeavour to do so.

In closing, I would like to ask all of you to please reach out to Mark, to thank him for all the years of service he has provided us, and for all he has done for the educational process of our children. He has certainly earned it.

Thank you.
Carl Calarco, President
ECS Board of Education



Superintendent Search Underway

At the January 10, 2017 meeting of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education, Superintendent Mark J. Ward submitted his letter of resignation for retirement effective June 30, 2017. Mr. Ward has served the District as Superintendent since July 1, 2008. He originally returned to his alma mater in 1975 serving in a number of capacities as a social studies teacher, coach, athletic director, Associate Principal and Principal. Mr. Ward left the district from 2000-2008, serving as Superintendent of the Salamanca and Olean City School Districts.

The Board of Education is conducting a Board directed search for Superintendent.

Projected Timeline:

Application Deadline

February 17, 2017

Initial Interviews

Week of March 6, 2017

Second Round Interviews

Week of March 13, 2017

Finalists/Site Visit

Week of March 27, 2017

Final Interviews with BOE

Week of April 17, 2017

Superintendent Appointment

By April 26, 2017

Starting Date

July 1, 2017

A brochure with information about the search, including the application will be available at the district web site:

www.ellicottvillecentral.com

and in the District Office with all inquiries and information directed to:

Melissa Sawicki
District Clerk/Superintendent's Secretary
Ellicottville Central School
5873 Route 219
Ellicottville, NY 14731

**ESPRA
USED
BOOK
SALE**



It's that time of year again...

Time for the ESPRA USED BOOK SALE! We would appreciate book donations for our yearly fundraiser which will be held the week of March 6-10. Books and DVDs will be accepted. *Please no encyclopedias, magazines, Reader's Digest books, or dated books (ex: Fodor's 1997 Guide to Spain).* Books can be dropped off at either office. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Homework Club 1	2	3	4
5	ESPRA Book Sale - All Week Homework Club 6	7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) Homework Club 7	1/2 Day of School-- Grades K-5 Parent Teacher Conferences 8	7:00 pm MS/HS Music Concert 9	All County #1: Elementary Chorus, MS Chorus, HS Band 10	All County #1: Elementary Chorus, MS Chorus, HS Band 11
12	6:00 pm Winter Sports Banquet Homework Club 13	7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) Homework Club 14	3:00 pm Spring Sports Pictures Homework Club 15	16	No School For Students: Staff Development Day All County #2: Elementary Band, MS Band, HS Chorus 17	All County #2: Elementary Band, MS Band, HS Chorus 18
19	SCHOOL CLOSED 20	Homework Club 21	Homework Club 22	23	24	Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition (Wellsville) 25
6:00 pm ECS National Honors Society Inductions 26	Homework Club 27	Grades 3-8 ELA Tests 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) Homework Club 28	Grades 3-8 ELA Tests Homework Club 29	Grades 3-8 ELA Tests 7:00 pm HS Musical 30	7:00 pm HS Musical 31	

ECS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						2:00 pm HS Musical 1
2	Homework Club 3	7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) Homework Club 4	5	Homework Club 6	End of 3rd Marking Quarter 7	Odyssey of the Mind States (Binghamton) 8
9	School Closed-- Spring Break 10	School Closed-- Spring Break 11	School Closed-- Spring Break 12	School Closed-- Spring Break 13	School Closed-- Spring Break 14	15
16	School Closed-- Spring Break 17	4:30 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) Homework Club 18	19	Homework Club 20	5:30 pm PTO Dime Carnival 21	22
23	Class of 2017 Flower Basket Sale Homework Club 24	NHS Blood Drive 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) Homework Club 25	26	Homework Club 27	28	29
30						

Sec. VI Sports Hall of Fame



Mark Ward Inducted in December

On December 9, 2016, Ellicottville's own Mark Ward was inducted into the Section VI Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Ward is very deserving of this distinguished honor as he has been involved in interscholastic athletics for more than 40 years! His involvement began when he played high school sports here as an eagle and continued as he became a teacher and coach at ECS. In addition to coaching, Mr. Ward has been involved with athletics on a multitude of levels which include: Ellicottville Athletic Director, Section VI Football Federation Committee, Athletic Council Member, Athletic Council President, and President of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA)!



Pictured L to R: Mark Ward and Robert Zayas (NYSPHSAA Executive Director).

Over the years Mr. Ward has worked tirelessly to promote athletics in high school. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Ward would consider some of his greatest to be: Becoming only the second person in the 94 year history of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association to serve as President from the western part of New York State; thirty seven years of involvement with Section VI athletics; provided leadership for combining sports at ECS; expanding athletic opportunities for ECS athletes and helping to provide our students with quality facilities both indoors and out.

Ellicottville Central School is so proud of all that Mr. Ward has done for student athletes here and across New York State. Please join us in extending our sincere congratulations to him on his induction into the Section VI Sports Hall of Fame.

Exploring Asia

The Second Graders had a very busy month at ECS. As part of the CORE Knowledge Listening and Learning Strand, students recently studied Ancient Asia.

Throughout the month students explored the ancient lands of the Indus River Valley, The Yellow River Valley and the Yangtze River Valley. While on their "voyage," students studied not only the geography of each area, but also inventions, customs and beliefs of the inhabitants living in each ancient civilization.

At the commencement of the unit, students were visited by two young adults who have become friends with ECS Speech Language Pathologist Alice Alessi. Cornelia Zhao is attending Penn State College in State College, PA, and Acuzio Day is attending Cornell in Ithaca, NY. Both Cornelia and Acuzio brought mementos from their homes in China. Students learned to form Chinese characters with the guidance of Cornelia and Acuzio. Acuzio even brought each class an inspiring quote written in Chinese sent from his father.

One of the most exciting events of the unit took place in mid January when all of the students in grade two met to enjoy a Chinese luncheon. Students sampled various foods including Sweet and Sour Chicken, Fried Rice, and Wontons. As with any delicious Chinese meal, students received a fortune cookie at the end. According to our fortunes, it seems as though our futures are bright, and a fantastic 2017 is in store for us all! The Second Grade would like to thank Mrs. Poulin and Mr. Ward for their support in making this unit such a memorable one!



ECS Continues to Face Financial Challenges (Part 1)

Continued from pg. 2...

all local government's ability to raise taxes was limited to no more than a 2% increase, or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. There are some exceptions to this and the levy can be overridden by a 60% approval, but the fact is, in the past four (4) years the tax cap was below the 2% figure with the current year .12% and 2017-18 projected to be 1.26%. We fully understand the Governor and Legislature want to get spending under control and we certainly do not want to overburden our taxpayers. **However, we cannot sustain the district with little or no increase in state aid and a tax cap that restricts reasonable increases.**

This year the district could only raise an additional \$8,300 based on the .12% tax cap. We actually ended up with a 1% tax decrease with the true value tax rate dropping from \$8.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$8.46. Due to the fact our taxes are much lower than other area schools; small increases do not have the same impact on our taxpayers.

What does all of this mean?

The district cannot continue to offer a quality education program that prepares our students for the challenges of a global world and technological changes that are happening without making sure the district finances can keep pace. There is no question that Ellicottville is unique because of its property base wealth but our state aid is greatly impacted because of that. We receive less than 25% reimbursement on transportation costs and our BOCES aid ratio is 36.6%. Most school districts in the two- county area get 80-90% in transportation aid and 77-92% in BOCES aid. The local share of funds needed to operate the school district has increase steadily due to the factors explained in this article.

If you look carefully at what has happened in 2016-17, with limited help from the State in the form of state aid, our unwillingness to use any additional reserves (we used \$351,000 in 2015-16) and a limiting tax cap; the options are few.

Leadership Workshop



On Wednesday, January 18, 2017, four seventh grade student leaders were chosen to attend the Cattaraugus/Allegany Principals' Association's leadership workshop. The students in attendance were seventh grade class president, Elsa Woodarek; seventh grade treasurer, Jocelyn Wyatt; and student council members, Emma Steffenhagen and Nicholas LoGuidice. The workshop was led by professional Speaker and author Ed Gerety who spoke to the students about the principals of gratitude, responsibility, kindness, and attitude. During the workshop students wrote letters of gratitude to someone they love, created a dream board, and brainstormed positives about our school along with ways to improve our school. It was an eye opening and motivating day.

Written and chaperoned by Seventh grade advisor Elizabeth Weber



Senior Citizen Luncheon

On Thursday, December 8, 2016 the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon was held at Ellicottville Central School. Students performed holiday music for the attendees.

Thank you to the Student Council for sponsoring our annual event.



A Lesson Out of This World

Students Explore Our Solar System with STARLAB

ECS recently had the opportunity to host a STARLAB provided by Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES. The STARLAB is a portable planetarium which inflates to accommodate an entire class. Once inside, a projector displays a view of the night sky devoid of any light pollution. Classes from Pre-K to 5th Grade participated in lessons inside the planetarium learning about various celestial subjects including an Overview of the Solar System, Constellations and Star Lore, Moon Phases, Eclipses, and Seasonal Changes. Elementary students greatly enjoyed taking a break from their daily lessons to take a "field trip" to Outer Space by simply walking down the hall.

Sec. VI Sports Hall of Fame

Tim Bergan Inducted in December

This past December, Tim Bergan was inducted into the Section VI Sports Hall of Fame.

For over 30 years, Coach Bergan was a familiar face on the ECS sidelines. Tim coached at the varsity level for four major sports (football, boys basketball, girls basketball and softball), as well as a multitude of other sports and various levels. Coach Bergan's overall record for all of these sports is 1286-728-4. In reaching this record, Coach Bergan can count 4 sectional football titles and 24 league titles (for all sports coached). He has been named "Coach of the Year" for several sports over 20 times! Beyond ECS, Coach Bergan has coached at the Jim Kelly Football Camp, the Larry Wiese Basketball Camp and the Jim Crowley Basketball Camp.

Perhaps more impressive than all of these wins and awards, are the facts that Coach Bergan always promoted good sportsmanship; strived to help students become productive citizens; and stressed three rules: do the right thing, be a good person who treats others with respect, and that an individual is never more important than the team.

ECS thanks Tim for his years of service and congratulates him on his induction into the Section VI Sports Hall of Fame.



Pictured L to R: Timm Slade (Section VI Executive Director) and Tim Bergan.

PTO Update and Upcoming Events

Our Next Meeting is Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 4:30 pm



Box Top Contest!

BRING THEM IN: between January 9th – February 17th

Your child can bring their Box Tops into their classroom teacher and the PTO will collect them on February 17th. The classroom with the greatest amount wins a treat for the entire class. There will be more contests throughout the year so always continue to save them! Many Box Tops expire 3/1/17 so please check expiration dates and send in expiring ones ASAP.

You can always send your Box Tops in to the elementary office or drop them off at our two local drop off places, the Great Valley Post Office or TOPS in Ellicottville.

NEW!!! Box Tops recently created a new phone app that will help us to earn more Box Tops on certain items that we purchase.



NEW BOX TOPS BONUS APP

Earn even more cash to help your school get what it needs through the Box Tops for Education® Bonus App. Turn your everyday receipts into cash for your school. It's free and as easy as 1-2-3. Here's how it works:



You can earn Bonus Box Tops in the Box Tops Bonus App in combination with the on-pack Box Tops clip and any other coupon, discount, store program or promotion.

Talent Show!

Come participate in the PTO's Talent Show! Students can sing, play an instrument, juggle, dance, lip sync, or perform other talents. You can perform solo or with a group of friends.

When: Wednesday, February 15th @ 6:00pm

Where: High School Gymnasium

Who: Grades 4th – 8th

You must sign-up in the elementary or high school office by Tuesday, January 31st. There will be tryouts held Tuesday, February 7th at 3:00pm in the high school cafeteria. You should bring any music, costumes, or materials that you will need to perform with you. Only those students who are signed up by January 31st will be allowed to tryout.

2016- 2017 Activities:

- **Lip Sync/Talent Show:**
Wednesday, February 15th (6:00pm)
- **Dime Carnival:**
Friday, April 21st (5:30pm-7:30pm)
- **Mother/Son Dance:**
Friday, May 12th (6:00pm)
- **Science Exposition:**
Tuesday, May 16th (6:00pm-7:00pm)
- **Spring Book Fair:**
Monday, May 15th and
Tuesday, May 16th

Upcoming Meetings:

Our meetings for the remainder of the year are listed below:

- February 7th
 - March 14th
 - April 7th – We will start at 3:00 right after school. This meeting will be dedicated to making baskets for the Chinese Auction at the Dime Carnival.
 - May 2nd
- **All of these meetings are at 4:30 in the Elementary Art Room.****

Get Involved!

Come find out what the PTO is doing and get involved. PTO continues to help K-12 students and the surrounding community. These activities can't be done without all of the volunteers!



If you would like more information please feel free to attend any of our meetings or you can email **Diana Olson at dolson@eville.wnyric.org.**

School Will Be Closed for Spring Break from April 10th through April 17th, 2017

Ellicottville Central School
5873 Route 219
Ellicottville, NY 14731
www.eville.wnyric.org

Board Members

Carl Calarco, President
Connie Hellwig, Vice President
Nicole Klein
William Murphy
Roger Spell
Robert Van Wicklin
Leonard Zlockie

Administration

Mr. Mark J. Ward, Superintendent / Business Administrator
Mr. Robert Miller, 7-12 Principal
Mrs. Connie Poulin, Pre K-6 Principal / CSE-CPSE Chairperson

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1825
Olean, NY 14760
ECRWSS

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL
Or CURRENT RESIDENT**



Wishes for Alex

First Graders Create Candy Card

This fall students and staff at ECS learned that one of our own is battling cancer. So to spread good wishes and maybe a chuckle while Alex is in the hospital receiving treatment or at home recuperating, elementary students have been busy making **AWESOME** get well cards!

Every other week different elementary classes have used their creativity to make cards. These special cards are then delivered home by his brother, Harrison, who is in the 8th grade. However, this special card was too big to send with Harrison, so his mom Penny, needed to pick up this unique delivery.

First Graders did a Tri-fold card with well wishes that were spelled out with over 14 pieces of candy and a debit card was also included. The card read as follows:

Hey Alex,

*We hope you don't think we are **NERDS** and **SNICKER** at us for making this poster. We just wanted to take a **FASTBREAK** and tell you some reasons why we miss you to **PIECES**.*

*#1 You make us **LAFF**.*

*#2 You are a **SMARTIE**.*

*#3 You are so **FUN** to be around.*

*#4 You bring us so much **JOY**.*

*#5 You are **EXTRA** special. We think you are the strongest kid in the **MILKY WAY**. And we think you are worth **100 GRAND**. Hang in there **GOOBER**...*

We Love You!!!

Nice job Ellicottville Elementary Students!