

April 2022

# ELLICOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 52, Issue 5



## Battle of the Classes



## ECS Awarded STEM Kit Grant

### Allows Students to Explore the Science of Flying

We are pleased to announce that Leah Farnum has been awarded a 2021 STEM Kit/Grant from the Hess foundation. Applicants from around the country were notified this past month as 1,000 teachers were chosen nationwide. The Hess Corporation and Baylor College of Medicine have partnered in a STEM Educational Outreach program. The program offers learning kits that include Hess Toy Trucks as well as STEM Curriculum. This year the activities explore the science of flying and how key forces contribute to the motion that enables flight. Thus far students have used the kits to explore controlling airplanes while in flight. Students learned about Ailerons, Flaps, Elevators and Rudders. After using their Hess Planes to locate and demonstrate how to use these parts of a plane during flight, students built their own paper airplanes and observed how their planes would react to in-flight changes. After making some adaption to his model, Elias Norton was able to fly his plane 36 feet, a class record! This promising group of engineers cannot wait for their next lesson on aviation and aeronautics. A special thanks to the Hess Corporation for this incredible honor!



Each semester, students compete for their place as TOP READERS. For the first half of the year, the sophomores won, followed closely by the freshmen class. Participants enjoyed Sahlen's hot dogs and hot chocolate in the courtyard. Way to go, sophomore Eagles! Thanks, PTO, for providing the delicious treats.



### Important Dates:

**Saturday, April 9 –  
Monday, April 18, 2022**

Spring Break –  
No School for Students

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

**BUDGET HEARING  
6:00 pm in the  
HS Cafeteria**

# 2022-23 Budget Info...Exceeding the "Cap"

We have been busy working on the 2022-23 school budget. Throughout this process we have experienced feelings of excitement as well as frustrations. We were excited when NYS announced that it would be fully funding Foundation Aid. Unfortunately, while several schools across the State, including many of our neighbors will receive considerable aid payments Ellicottville will **only** see an increase of 3% in Foundation Aid. This means that for the 22-23 school year, our increase in Foundation Aid will be approximately \$88,000, while other districts may receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional aid.

A frustration we have encountered is that overall, NYS continues to estimate that it will give us more aid than we will actually receive. However, we have been dealing with this for the past several years, and, therefore, we are able to plan accordingly to avoid a shortfall in the budget at the end of the year.

We also experienced similar frustrations with the new Federal grants. These are the funds that are provided by the Federal Government to assist with dealing with costs associated with and/or attributed to COVID. While we were excited and grateful to find out that we would receive funding through these grants, our amounts were proportionally much lower than surrounding districts. For example, another district in WNY that is very similar in size to ECS received over \$2.5 million more than ECS.

At the same time, ECS, like all other schools in the State, is seeing inflationary increases to expenditures. Gas prices are sky-rocketing and electric is not far behind. Our share of payments into retirement systems will see increases. Health insurance costs will be increased by 10% (or approximately (\$110,000) in just one year! We estimate our largest increases will be in the Special Education budget at approximately \$400,000. These increases in Special Education are the result of a combination of: the Pandemic accelerating the need for some children to receive extra help; children moving into the District that already receive Special

Education services; and higher costs of running programs outside the District that we need to send children to being passed on to ECS (and other schools).

Another area that ECS **MUST** address is salaries/wages. We have always taken pride in having a great staff that does a superior job. This means all staff... everyone that works in the School. To provide a great education in a top-notch atmosphere, we have to stay competitive in paying employees. We have to offer salaries/wages that are competitive not only with other schools, but are competitive with the job market outside of schools. Many employers



are offering starting pay of a minimum of \$15/hour or more for jobs paid on an hourly basis. Simply put, we **MUST** provide competitive salaries/wages if we are going to retain our best employees and attract outstanding new candidates to continue to be an education leader in WNY.

Just what does all of this mean? In simplest terms, it means that ECS will have to increase the overall budget from \$13,523,285 to \$14,325,144, or by \$801,859. If we realized the larger jumps in aid and grants seen by other districts across the State we would be OK to simply move forward and work within the "cap" as established by NYS. But, that is not the case. NYS sees ECS as a wealthy District and, therefore, often provides the minimum amounts of aid as allowed by law. The State feels we should be able to be more self-reliant than other Districts in the State through local taxes. While it is true that Ellicottville has a tremendous amount of property wealth when compared

proportionally to our neighbors, we also have one of the lowest tax rates in WNY, which is still under \$10/\$1000. Over the years, ECS has been fiscally prudent and maintained taxes within the amounts allowed by the tax cap formulas. However, no district that sees the low amounts of aid that we do can operate long term without needing to exceed the "cap" from time to time, and this year we will have to exceed the "cap."

To keep this increase to a minimum, we have carefully reviewed every aspect of the budget. We have reduced expenditures in some areas while identifying other areas where we may have underestimated revenues. We have re-worked our grants to assist with some general budget costs (but, note that this can't be done every year). **We will look to use our funds from the Transportation Reserve to purchase used buses with no tax increase to the taxpayer for this purchase.** (Please note that the proposition to use the Transportation Reserves is in addition to the "normal" proposition to lease buses per our

lease cycle.) Taking all of these steps has helped tremendously, but they do not completely cover the difference in the increase that is needed.

The fact is, the District needs to realize an additional increase of \$559,778 in revenues to balance this budget. An increase of one percent (1%) on the current tax levy only yields about \$84,000. So, in order to meet our needs, we need to increase taxes by 6.85%. For comparison, over the past 4 years our average increase, as allowed by the formulas, has been 2.92%

Aside from percentages, most people want to know what the monetary difference in their taxes will be. While no district can provide that exact number accurately, as the final assessed values are not established by the Office of Real Property Services (ORPS) until August after all assessments are completed, a good estimate of the monetary impact can be obtained using this year's assessments.

*Continued on next page...*



## Challenger Learning Center Trip

First Graders were able to take a trip to space when they visited the Challenger Learning Center at St. Bonaventure University. Classes took a simulated trip to a newly discovered planet, learned about the properties of light, and participated in a variety of fun science experiments!



## Budget Info Continued...

If we use those numbers, the average rate will change from \$9.05/\$1000 to \$9.64/\$1000. In terms of dollars, this equates to an average increase of \$0.59/\$1000.00 or \$59/\$100,000. If the numbers hold “true,” the average tax rate in the District will still be under \$10/\$1000. I would also like to point out, **but cannot guarantee**, that in some years, the final tax rate in August is slightly lower than estimates in May.

As an example, for this year, we needed to increase overall taxes by \$183,997, yet the average taxpayer saw a decrease of \$0.06/\$1000 in their tax bill due to an increase in the assessments in the District. However, like I said, we simply **cannot make any guarantees** at this time; the best we can do is provide estimates and trend data.

I realize that this is not the exact information that everyone wants. But, I also feel strongly that the numbers are responsible and they are what is needed to provide the education that the students of ECS deserve. We are still making final adjustments, and in the next newsletter we will break the final “numbers” down in more detail.

Sincerely,

*Bob*

Bob



# ECS Eagles Sports Roundup...



## Hurlburt Signs to Play Soccer at Monroe CC

Recently, ECS Senior, Mandy Hurlburt signed to play soccer at Monroe Community College. Hurlburt, a Big 30 All-Star, scored 21 goals this past season. Mandy will be studying Early Childhood Education. Congratulations Mandy and best of luck at MCC!

*Picture above: Darrell (father), Mandy, Tammy Eddy (Head Coach), Katie Taylor (Assistant Coach), Alisha (mother)*



Champions with the Pine Valley Panthers with a 10-1 League Record. The Lady Eagles used their tenacious defense to hold their opponents to less than 25 points in 12 games this season.

The Team was made up of four sophomores; Gwen Dechane, Keelin Finn, Audrey Hurlburt, and Madison Potter, four freshmen; Elizabeth Ball, Courtney Marsh, Hailey Rzucek, and Sophie Sundeen, and two 8th Graders; Ande Northrup and Daliana Velazquez-Garcia.

Thank you Ladies for representing ECS with pride at every game!



## GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

*By Coach Rozler*

The Varsity Girls Basketball team had a great season! I could not be more proud of their accomplishments. We finished the league 11-1 and won the league, overall we were 13-7. Our only league loss was to Salamanca in overtime, with the ending score of 56-53. The girls had a first game bye and went onto the semi-finals on March 2nd at JCC. There we played Pine Valley, who we beat twice during league play. The girls fought hard to the very second, but ended up losing a heartbreaker, 42-38.

Emilee Ruiz led the team in scoring, averaging 14.3 points per game. Allison Rowland led the team in rebounds, averaging 9 per game. Dalayla Alexander

led the team in steals, averaging 5.7 per game.

The team consisted of 3 seniors - Emilee Ruiz, Harley Ficek, and Mandy Hurlburt; 4 Juniors - Ryah Quinn, Allison Rowland, Katie Krotz, and Baylee Ruiz; 2 Sophomores - Dalayla Alexander and Cora Norton; 2 Freshman - Addison John and Natalee Leiper.

This season was truly a team effort. Good luck to my seniors! I am going to miss you all very much!

## GIRLS' JV BASKETBALL

*By Coach Matt Finn*

The Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Team finished their season with an 11-5 record. The Eagles tied for League



## GIRLS' MODIFIED BASKETBALL

*By Coach Tammy Eddy*

This past season we were fortunate to have enough girls for both a 7th & 8th grade team. Both teams had successful seasons and showed great improvement throughout the season. Members of this year's team include: Alexa Burrell, Juliana O'Connell, Riley Whitmer, Abby Krause, Ainsley Edwards, Yani Velazquez-Garcia, Ady Andrews, Jailah John, Dani Dunkleman, Izzy Coburn, Lanie Wilson, Faith Burlingame, Teaghan Finn, Drew Ficek, Jordan O'Connell, Olivia Tighe, Shyann Harber, Brogann Howard, Makayla Potter and Ava Adamucci. The future of Girl's Basketball looks promising with these rising athletes. Thanks for a great season!



### BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

By Coach Dave McCann

The Boys Varsity Basketball team finished their season with a record of 8-13. In league play, the Boys finished with a 7-3 record, which tied for the CCAA East League Championship. With a young and relatively inexperienced team, the Eagles battled and improved throughout the season. As they gained experience and confidence, the Eagles began to play quality basketball. Unfortunately, the season ended in the Section 6, Class D Quarterfinals after a hard fought loss to Pine Valley.

This Eagles team will graduate 2 seniors that had outstanding careers this year. Logan Grinols and Lucas Marsh played 4 and 3 years on the Varsity team respectively. Their leadership and efforts will be missed next season. Best of luck in the future!

The bulk of the roster this year consisted of underclassmen. Juniors Braylon Wyatt, Caedon Wyatt, Giancarlo Nuzzo, Liam Jimerson, Errol Moore, Brad John, Zac Clark, and Gavin Dietrich all gained valuable experience this season. The lone sophomore on this year's team was Owen Chudy. Thank you to freshman Carter Smith for joining the team for playoffs! With this much returning talent next year, expectations will be high for the Eagles.

A few Eagle players were recognized as CCAA East League All-Stars. Senior Logan Grinols was recognized as a First Team All-Star. Logan led the Eagles in both scoring and assists during league play. Sophomore Owen Chudy earned Second Team All-Star recognition for his tenacious rebounding and defense. Junior Caedon Wyatt was recognized as an Honorable Mention All Star for his overall play on the hardwood. Thank you to all of the fans and

students that came out to support the team this year. We will work hard in the off-season and look forward to next season!

### BOYS' JV BASKETBALL

By Coach Zach Gelen

The Ellicottville JV Boys' Basketball team played a total of 18 games this season, finishing with a record of 5-13. It was a rough start to the year, but the JV Eagles finished the last 11 games of the season with a record of 5-6 after starting the first seven games winless. The hard work the team put in was evident with the progress and improvements the boys made throughout the season. Nice job boys! We look forward to watching you play in the years to come! The boys that were on the JV Boys' Basketball team this year were: Carter Smith, Ej Doherty, Blake Smith, Parker John, Owen Doherty, William Benatovich, Aiden Harrington, Merek Peters, Chris Polino, Ryan Norton, Chris Calarco, and Ryan Metzger.

### BOYS' MODIFIED BASKETBALL

By Coach Keenan

The Boy's Modified Basketball team was grateful for the opportunity to play a complete basketball schedule this season. The boys worked hard in practice and grew as a team as the season progressed. This was a "blended" 7th and 8th grade team that had only 3 players returning from last year. Camden Palmatier, Oliver Wedvik and Hunter Woodarek were the returning 8th grade players, and they were joined by 8th grade newcomers; Aidan Gascon and Cameron Mendell. The 7th graders that balanced out the team were; Rylan Benjamin, Coleman Carls, Timothy DeChane, Jaxson LaCroix, Reed Nazareth, Ben Wedvik, and Raiddan Wilson.

The team started the season 2 and 2,



but then closed out the season winning 6 of their last 8 games. They had a win at Allegany-Limestone and also won the second game against Portville after losing to them by 13 points in the second game of the year. The young Eagles responded to this challenge by defeating the Portville team by 20 points.

I would like to extend a special "Thank You" to Mr. Dan LaCroix, Mr. Todd Palmatier and Mr. Cale Benjamin for stepping up and keeping our scorebook and running the shot clock to help our games run smoothly. I would also like to thank Mr. Dave McCann for all the time and work that was required to reschedule cancelled/postponed games.

Finally, I would like to thank the 8th grade boys for their work this year and wish them the best of luck with their future basketball plans next year.

*Continued on next page...*

# LET'S GO EAGLES!

# ECS Eagles Sports Roundup Continued...



## BASKETBALL CHEERLEADING

By Coach Randi Metzger

This season our squad consisted of 9 awesome cheerleaders. Leading the squad this year were our four returning seniors Elsa Woodarek, Kyleigh Dimpfl, Marissa Clark, and Carly Neumann. Completing our squad were sophomores Abby Chudy, Cameron Kaleta, Allison Pfeffer, Keelin Finn along with freshman, Laurena Mooney. Through their hard work and dedication, the girls were able to learn new cheers this season and design a new halftime routine. Although we will miss the seniors, I cannot wait to see what next season has in store for us.



## VARSITY BOWLING

By Coach Diana Olson

The 2021-2022 Girls Bowling team ended their season on February 9th with the Roll-Off Tournament at Bylle Lanes in Bradford. They competed against 17 other schools from Divisions 1, 2, and 3. The team was at a disadvantage as they only had 4 bowlers instead of 5 like all the other teams, however, they still finished in 13th place at this tournament. Emma Lafferty got an award for high game handicap with a 284 and had a career high game of 213. Emma was chosen to attend sectionals at Airport Lanes in Cheektowaga. She placed 107 out of 229 other bowlers, great job Emma! Other game high scores for the season were Gracie Vassar (151), Keira

Baldwin (136), Hannah Jacobson-Coolidge (126), and Alarice Krause (120). Thanks for a great season, I'm looking forward to an even better season next year!



The 2021-2022 Boys Bowling team ended their season on February 8th with the Roll-Off Tournament at Bylle Lanes in Bradford where they competed against 20 other schools from Divisions 1, 2, and 3. The boys were at a disadvantage as they only had 4 bowlers instead of 5 like all the other teams, however, they still placed 13th out of the 21 teams. Season high scores were Merek Peters (189), Ben Edwards (153), Corbin Hesse (152), Mason Perks (151), Patrick Hesse (127). Great job boys!

Thank you for a great season, next year is going to be great!

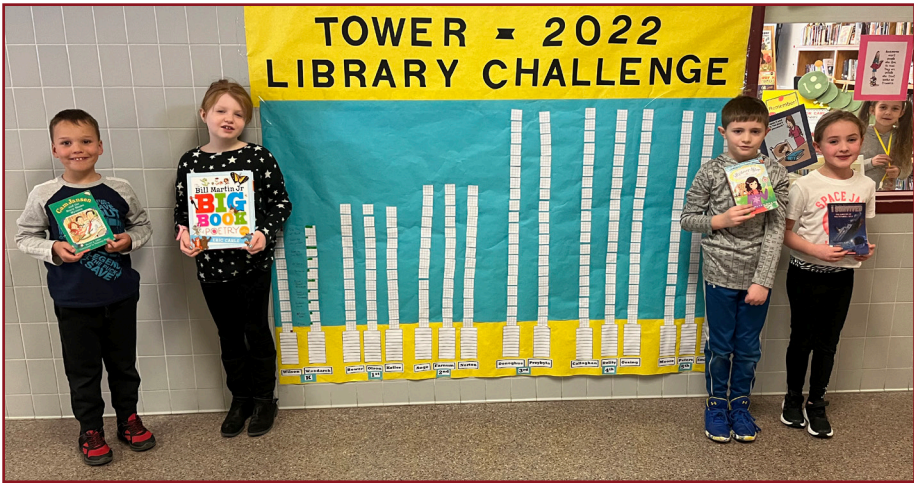
## ALPINE SKIING

By Coach Kelly Fredrickson

This years Alpine Ski team consisted of 7 members. Returning skiers were CeCe Carls, Emmylu Carls, Emmett Jacobson Coolidge, Kaleb Kilby, Maddox

Johnson, Bianca Bush, and Harper Klein. The weather played a big part in the schedule this winter, five of the six Section 6 races were held at Holiday Valley and one race was at Kissing Bridge. The entire group developed better racing techniques along with bonding as a team. Whether they were skiing in the rain, on icy slopes, or racing in a blizzard, they were having fun. In Section 6 the team competes against Williamsville and GOW. Most races had around 30 skiers completing two runs for a combined time in either Slalom or Giant Slalom. There are so many variables that can impact the run down the slope, just ask the best, it happens to everyone. For the boys, Emmett Jacobson Coolidge finished 3rd, Kaleb Kilby was 6th and Maddox Johnson was 9th in Section 6 while for the girls Emmylu Carls was 1st, Bianca Bush was 2nd, CeCe Carls was 4th and Harper Klein was 6th. The members that competed in New York State Championships held at Gore Mountain are Emmylu Carls, Bianca Bush, CeCe Carls, Harper Klein, Emmett Jacobson Coolidge, and Kaleb Kilby. Day 1 included the following Slalom finishes; EmmyLu-22nd, Bianca-40th, Harper-50th, and Cece had a DNF in her second run. Emmett finished in 41st place and Kaleb in 48th. Team support helped in the Giant Slalom on Day 2. Everyone finished as follows; CeCe-14th, Emmylu-17th, Bianca-35th, and Harper-55th. For the boys Emmett finished in 51st, and Kaleb in 53rd. They all finished both runs. Be proud young racers, you are all amazing and Ellicottville supports you!





# Reading Challenge Accepted!

After months of assessing our students' reading choices, Mrs. Sharon Wild and Mrs. Illig decided that they would challenge the classrooms to read various genres of grade-level books as a way of exposing the children to the wonders of all types of reading. With prizes galore and the encouragement of the library staff, the students are willingly accepting the challenge at hand!

**We're sorry, your name was left out of the February/March Newsletter**  
 Second Quarter: November 2021-January 2022, High Honor Roll  
**7th Grade: Amberlynn Freundsuh**

## ECS YEARBOOK NEWS

- Old yearbooks are available for purchase, as long as supplies last. The 2021 yearbook is \$40. Books from previous years are \$10. Contact Mrs. Bauer for more details.
- If you want a yearbook you need to put at least \$10 down before May 1st. Checks should be made out to ECS Yearbook. Yearbooks are \$60.
- There is an elementary yearbook. There are limited copies and they MUST be reserved ahead of time. They are \$20. Please send payment in with your elementary (PreK-5) child and include the child's name and the name of their teacher.



# ★ ★ ★ MS Students of the Month! ★ ★ ★

### DECEMBER: 7th Grade

Social Studies.....Julianna O'Connell  
 English..... Kristen Bless  
 Math.....Riley Whitmer  
 Spanish .....Ava Fuller  
 Gym..... Eli Atwater  
 Science ..... Trinity DeChane  
 Art..... Justin Pearl  
 Band..... Nora Santiago  
 Chorus.....Ben Wedvik

### JANUARY: 7th Grade

Social Studies..... Kristen Bless  
 English..... Rylan Benjamin  
 Math..... Ava Weber  
 Spanish ..... Timothy DeChane  
 Gym..... Rylan Benjamin  
 Science..... Christopher Edwards  
 Art..... Ryah Blalock  
 Band ..... Eliza Murray  
 Chorus..... Isabella Wilder

### FEBRUARY: 7th Grade

Social Studies..... Eliza Murray  
 English..... Justin Pearl  
 Math..... Juliana O'Connell  
 Spanish ..... Ainsley Edwards  
 Gym..... Ben Wedvik  
 Science..... Timothy DeChane  
 Art..... Ava Pasinski  
 Band ..... Ava Weber  
 Chorus..... McKenzie Newark

### DECEMBER: 8th Grade

Social Studies..... Harper Klein  
 English..... Jordan Folts  
 Math..... Olivia Tighe  
 Spanish ..... Riyann Khan  
 Gym..... Ande Northrup  
 Science ..... Jackson Kruszynski  
 Band ..... Ande Northrup  
 Chorus..... Makayla Potter

### JANUARY: 8th Grade

Social Studies..... Skye Wood  
 English..... Emma Kaminski  
 Math..... Jordan Folts  
 Spanish..... Ava Adamucci  
 Gym..... Bianca Bush  
 Science..... Olivia Tighe  
 Band ..... Teaghan Finn  
 Chorus..... Patrick Hesse

### FEBRUARY: 8th Grade

Social Studies..... Grady Byroads  
 English..... Riyann Khan  
 Math..... MacKenzie Noga  
 Spanish..... Oliver Wedvik  
 Band ..... Faith Burlingame  
 Chorus..... Brogann Howard

**Ellicottville Central School**  
5873 Route 219  
Ellicottville, NY 14731  
[www.ellicottvillecentral.com](http://www.ellicottvillecentral.com)

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

### Board Members

Robert Van Wicklin, President  
Leonard Zlockie, Vice President  
Shana Chudy  
Erin Schweers Cornelius  
Debra Golley  
William Murphy  
Karl Northrup

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL**  
**Or CURRENT RESIDENT**

### Administration

Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent  
Mr. Erich Ploetz, 6-12 Principal  
Mrs. Maren Bush, Elementary Principal / Director of Curriculum



## WENDEL'S CHICKEN BBQ \$15.00

*Includes 1/2 chicken, roll/butter, buttered potato and beans*



**When-**

**Thursday, May 5th**

**3:30 pm - 7:00 pm or (Sold-out)**

**Outside ECS High School Entrance**

Pre-sale tickets available April 4th – April 22nd  
from any Class of 2023 student

**Come support the Class of 2023 !**

Proceeds help offset the cost of:  
*Graduation Caps/Gowns, Senior Shirts,  
Prom Expenses and Senior Class Trip*



## Paging All Book Doctors!

The book hospital has been very busy lately using glue, tape, and scissors to get our books back in tiptop condition. Mr. Wiggles decided it was time to pay a visit to the Elementary Library along with Marion Hedgehog. Mrs. Sharon Wild, Marion the Hedgehog, and Mr. Wiggles have been reviewing book care rules. Hopefully, this instruction will help the boys and girls remember to respect the books so that everyone can enjoy reading them!