

December 2009

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Volume 40 Issue 4



PROJECT CHRISTMAS ALIVE AND WELL

With the spirit of the Christmas season upon us, it is once again time for our community to come together to support those in need. Project Christmas started as a school-based program in the late 1960's under Josie Zeltwanger (school nurse) and then was expanded even more in the 1970's and 80's by Betty Westfall (school nurse) to brighten up the holidays for those less fortunate. Thanks to the school community, the spirit of giving continues to be alive and well as we make plans for 2009.

In earlier years the program only provided food, but it has now branched out into local businesses and churches where community members may take "tags" off Christmas trees and buy personalized gifts. Families are also provided a wide range of food to make a special Christmas meal.

The classes throughout our school have engaged in "challenges" to bring in canned goods, while some of the younger classes collect pennies. Events are also held with the proceeds donated to Project Christmas (*recent faculty vs. retired Sabres basketball game*). Area businesses and individuals continue to make donations that are handled by contacting Mrs. Shirley Morton, Project Christmas Coordinator, at 945-1818 or by mail at 5157 Route 219, Great Valley, NY 14741.

Project Christmas is a direct reflection of the type of community we live in where people care about each other and are willing to help when the need arises. Over the years, the program has brought tears of joy, needed support and smiles to many families in the true spirit of giving. If you are able to help, please take the time to donate, take a tag or bring in non-perishable foods to the school.

The feeling you will get from being involved in this very heartwarming community program will make your Christmas truly "special".



50 DAYS OF SCHOOL ... ALREADY?

Staff and students at ECS couldn't let the 50th day of school slide by without recognition. The front entrance was decorated with a 1950's theme. Jitterbug music played all day near a display including old photos and toys. Everyone had a great time dressing up like it was 1950 again. Fonzie even made an appearance and our super cafeteria staff made the best cheeseburgers, fries, and chocolate sundaes ever.



Senior Citizens' Holiday Dinner planned for Dec. 13th

The ECS Student Council will host a holiday dinner for all senior citizens on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m in the school cafeteria.

There will be music and prizes as the students recognize and thank the senior citizens of our school district.

Please call the school at 699-2316 no later than December 11 to make reservations.

HERE'S WHAT WE ARE DOING!

**By Mark J. Ward,
Superintendent**

We plan to provide a periodic update of the activities and actions that are taking place that relate to the District's Strategic Plan that was developed last year. It will serve as a guide as well as a good way to communicate the results of the plan. The plan is scheduled to take place over the next five years so some items will not appear in the initial update. There will be items that we are just starting to address while others are a "work-in-progress" and some may even be completed! We publicized the entire plan in the October newsletter so you should use that as a "guide" to what is actually in the plan and scheduled to be addressed over the next few months and years.

On November 16th a public presentation was made following a meeting with the CORE Team. The meeting reviewed the four (4) major "Task Forces" that were developed, strategic intents, key initiatives and the action plans that were developed to address the various areas the group targeted. The "plan" is a living document that will be adjusted and modified as we begin to address the many issues that were identified. Below is a summary of what is going on and what we are currently working on.

- ✓ Items that have been addressed
- Items that we are "working on!"

Systems and Structures

- ✓ Look closely at the "transitional points" (Pre-K to K, 5 to 6, 8 to 9) in an effort analyze the relationship between the curricular obstacles and challenges presented to students and the cognitive and developmental needs of students
- ✓ Implemented some major design changes to 6th grade and divided the year into two distinct phases (elementary and middle school)
- ✓ Accelerated math students were identified and scheduled separately
- ✓ Expanded the opportunity for students to be placed in accelerated courses
- ✓ Expanded college level offerings for our students (Physics, Calculus, Ceramics)
- ✓ Redesigned the structure and size of ELA classes in grades 7-8
- ✓ Increased the academic support resources in the middle schools
- ✓ Restructured the delivery of special education services in grades K-12
- ✓ "Principals Cabinet" has been developed to give students a greater voice in their school
 - Working specifically with teachers by grade levels and departments to update their curriculum and address instructional gaps
 - Emphasize the importance of developing additional opportunities for students that take place outside the

- home whether they are school or community based
- We will be starting a program called "Fit and Fun" in January 2010 designed to increase physical fitness and healthy choices
- In the process of developing an after school program for students with a variety of activities planned
- In the process of developing a curriculum map for technology that will integrate skills across grade levels and content areas

Fiscal and Facilities

- ✓ Develop and maintain a long term plan for programming and budget (three years)
- ✓ Manage reserves in a fiscally responsible manner
- ✓ Collaborate with other school districts and BOCES to reduce costs and develop economies of scale
- ✓ Find alternative funding opportunities
- ✓ Maintain a stable tax levy ... 2009-10 budget and tax levy were 3% less than 2008-09!
- ✓ District voters approved the establishment of a Capital Reserve Account to assist with the local share of future capital projects
 - Develop a brochure to assist in marketing our school and community
 - Study district finances to determine fixed costs versus variable costs
 - Use the Building Condition Survey in assessing the physical condition of our building as we look to meet the instructional and program needs for 21st century learners
 - Develop a long range plan for the improvement and modernization of facilities

Academic Excellence and Rigor

- ✓ Review NYS Assessment Data
- ✓ Communicate with schools and BOCES curriculum experts to better understand "strategies" that we can implement to improve our test results
- ✓ Provide professional development opportunities for our staff to assist in formative assessment training to increase student success
- ✓ Purchase new software designed to assist students with special needs
- ✓ Activated the Parent Portal PowerSchool option for parents of students in grades 6-12 to access grades and attendance
 - Guidance department introduced "Career Zone" to students in grades 6-12 to assist in developing a Career Plan for every student
 - Introduce the use of RTI (Response To Intervention) as a strategy for students in grades K-4
 - Begin the development of a competency based profile that will insure that our students will be prepared to successfully pursue post graduation plans

(Continued on page 3)





Strategic Planning,

(continued from page 2)

Community Partnerships

- ✓ 2008-09 surveys have provided us with baseline data that we will be able to compare to moving forward
- ✓ Installed a new sign out front of the school to provide more effective and timely communication with our school community
- ✓ Continued use of the District Newsletter to inform the public
- ✓ Improved the format, content and made it easier to navigate our District web site
 - Develop an ongoing list of "key communicators" from the community
 - Working on the development of a brochure that will contain information about of school as well as the District Strategic Plan

The next meeting of the CORE Team is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the HS Library. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in attending. The group will continue to monitor the strategic plan and chart the progress we are making. We want to keep each of the committees active so we are encouraging original members and anyone who is interested to come to the meeting on Feb. 2. We believe this plan will help guide many of the future decisions that the District will be making and we encourage you to be actively involved in the process!

Brittini Fuller attends YOUTH FORUM ON MEDICINE

In the summer of 2009, Brittini Fuller attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED) in Boston, Mass. Brittini was selected to participate based on her outstanding academic achievement, leadership abilities and interest in the field of Medicine.

The Forum on Medicine is a 10-day program, where she was given a unique, interactive and educational look into the medical field.

Throughout the forum, Brittini visited top medical facilities where she met professionals and was introduced to a variety of concepts in public health, medical ethics, research and general practices. Upon her completion of the NYLF/MED, Brittini was chosen to serve as a delegate of the NYLF Alumni Leadership Council. Brittini shadowed a Cath Doctor and watched a live knee surgery replacement. It was the greatest experience of her life, and she made lots of new friends from all over the world!



Girls' Varsity Soccer: 'HEART, HUSTLE, SOUL'

By Mary Neilon,
Girls' Varsity
Soccer Coach

The Girls Varsity Soccer team lost a close game to Maple Grove in the sectional finals on Nov. 6th. On a clear and chilly night, the Lady Eagles put forth a gallant effort but were unable to net a goal in the heartbreaking 1-0 loss. Although it ended with a loss it was a very rewarding season for our players and coaches, and managers too.

The first round of playoffs was on Oct. 28 versus the first year varsity squad from Pine Valley. ECS dominated the game and advanced to the semi-finals with a 6-0 victory. In the semi-finals, it was the battle of the Lady Eagles from ECS and North Collins. Mother Nature tried her hardest to make a difference in the outcome of the game but the ECS Lady Eagles would not be denied in their efforts to overcome the rain, wind and slippery field conditions. In a nail-biter of a match, ECS triumphed 2-1.

In its second year in the new CCAA League, the team won the league title, finishing with a league record of 10-1-1. The title was on the line, between ECS and Maple Grove, all the way down to the last league game of the season. The Lady Eagles traveled to North Collins on Oct. 22 to play in a must win situation to secure the league title. And win, we did!

For three incredible months these young ladies have learned



Pictured is the soccer team at a ropes course team-building activity.

to gel as a team. A nurturing environment was created by our team captains and veteran players to ease the first-year jitters of many new players on the squad. As the season progressed our confidence continued to blossom and our play on the field picked up speed. Our team motto was "Heart, Hustle, Soul." We pushed each other to the limit in practices and in games. We put our hearts and souls into making this the best team ever. And that we are proud of accomplishing!

Members of our team are seniors Courtney McNeight, Erika Neuwirth, Anna Pierce, Kaitlyn Schena, Kim Telaak, and Cassie Uhrinek. Rynne Tomblin, Alexis Vail, Samantha Woodin, Kate Crowley, Alissa Spaulding and Kyla Piscitelli are all juniors. Sophomores are Katie Andera, Falcia Elom, Ashley Golley, Kaitlyn Riethmiller, Courtney Wilson, and Shannon Scott. Our freshman is Rachel McMahon-Eagan. Our trusty managers are Kara Piscitelli, Katie Barry, Shelby Imhoff, Tarah Scharf, and Evelyn Cortez.

Our team is very grateful for the support we received from our assistant coaches, parents, families, friends, teachers, administrators, staff, grounds crews, bus drivers and our fans. Thanks for cheering us on!

GIRLS' SOCCER ALL-STARS

Congratulations go out to six Lady Eagle Soccer players for being named to the CCAA Division III Soccer League All-Star teams. The Defensive Player of the Year honor was earned by senior midfielder Kim Telaak. Kim was also named to the East Division First Team. In addition to her league honors, Kim was selected to the Big 30 All-Star team. Senior midfielder Anna Pierce was named to the All-Division First Team and to the East Division First Team. Also receiving East Division First Team honors was sophomore defender Katie Andera. East Division Second Team honors were earned by senior forward Courtney McNeight, junior forward Samantha Woodin, and sophomore midfielder Kaitlyn Riethmiller. Way to go ladies!! Well deserved!

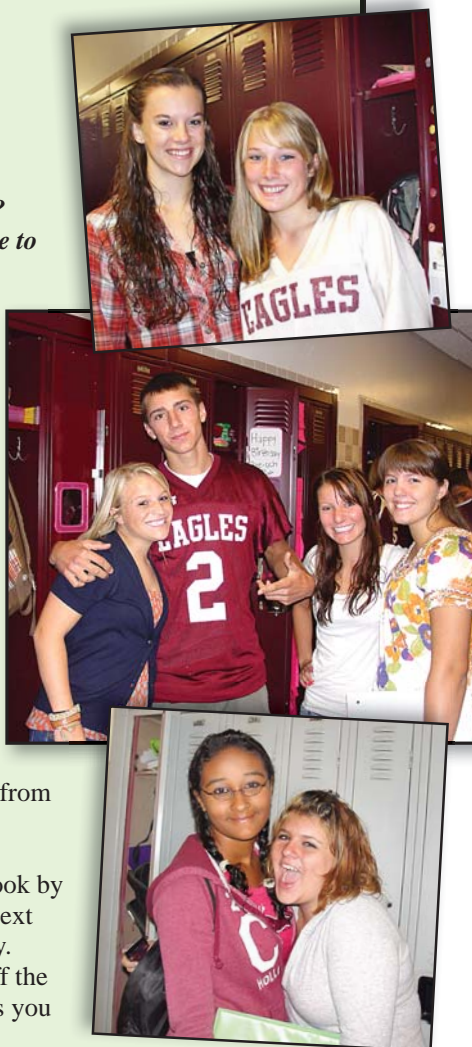


YEARBOOK NEWS

*Will these pictures be in the yearbook?
Reserve a book and you'll get a chance to find out!*

- You need to prepay for a yearbook to ensure you get one. The books are \$50 and you need to put down at least \$10 to reserve one. You may turn the money in to Ms. Dineen. If you don't reserve a book you'll only be able to get one if there are any left after all reserved ones have been claimed or a week after the books come in.
- You may purchase old yearbooks while supplies last. 2009's book is \$30. Books from previous years are \$10 apiece.

You can earn credit toward the yearbook by participating in the fundraiser. Our next fundraiser will be selling Easter candy. Each item you sell can earn you \$1 off the price of the book. If you sell 30 items you get a free book.



HELP US WIN A VISIT FROM CHANNEL 2 WEATHER MACHINE

Channel 2 and the Daybreak Show are having a contest! Andy Parker, Channel 2's weatherman, would like to bring his own Weather Machine to your school.

This Weather Machine produces all types of weather, from actual tornados to wind whipped snowstorms and just about anything in between. It allows students to experience the weather rather than just seeing pictures.

Here's what schools have to do to win. Every morning around 5:20 and 6:20 a.m. during the weather forecast a 'Weather Word' is given. Viewers can then log onto Channel 2's website, www.WGRZ.com, click on the weather machine link and submit the word along with the school's name. Anyone can submit the word for our school, so we need all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, friends, and the kids to participate! We'll try to provide the word of the day here at school as well.

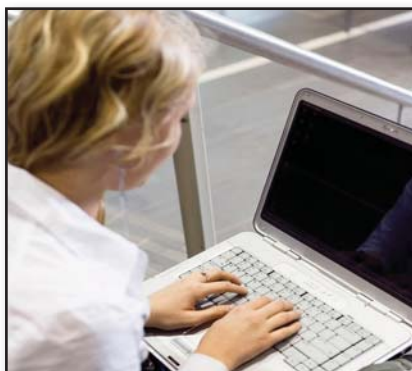
So log on and submit the word of the day for the Ellicottville Elementary School. Then pass it on to as many people you know. Submit the word as often as you like. Let's get everyone involved and show them how ECS and the Ellicottville community can work together!

Girls' Day encourages CAREERS IN TECHNOLOGY

By Gail Kaminski

On November 7th, several sixth grade girls became instant "college girls" by attending the 8th annual St. Bonaventure Girls' Day. This program is designed to encourage girls to consider careers in information technology.

The students attended a variety of workshops including: robotics, computer gaming, computer generated animation, digital scrapbooking, encryption, social networks, instant messaging and internet safety. Several workshops were conducted by Saint Bonaventure graduates like Barbara McNally. Mrs. McNally who has previously worked for America Online and Birthday in a Box, currently manages the development of accounting software as senior project manager at Deltek. The girls learned of the path Mrs. McNally took to reach her current position. She also en-



couraged them to believe they are capable of working at careers in the information technology field.

In addition to learning about information technology, the students also learned that St. Bonaventure has terrific food! They were treated to lunch in the student cafeteria. Students always find this an

important learning experience!

When asked what they learned, the students had the following to say:

"I learned how to make robots go through obstacles." ~ *Katlin Gage*

"I loved making my own movie." ~ *Ryanna Scott*

"The encryption was fun because I love to solve puzzles!" ~ *Alicia Thorpe*

"I enjoyed making things animated." ~ *Kaleigh Hunt*

"I learned to use the Rover to make shapes and music." ~ *Leah Westfall*

"I learned how to use the computer program Alice to make a computer game." ~ *Courtney Charlesworth*

"I learned about decoding things. It was great!" ~ *Shelby Toth*

As you can see, the "college girls" thought the 8th Annual Girl's Day was a huge success!



1ST QUARTER PERFECT ATTENDANCE

KINDERGARTEN

Simpson - Cecelia Carls,
Marissa Clark, Phillip Goodwill,
Dommnick Hunt

Wilson - Kaleb Kilby, Jallyssa
Lafferty, Sam Schwartz

FIRST GRADE

Gemza - Saidy Bolya, Mor-
ganne Chapman

Hintz D - Blaise Konarski, Abi-
gail Ploetz, Gabriel Snyder

Hintz J - Logan Fredrickson,
Mallory Little, Colby O'Stricker

Smith - Kolby Aldrich, Wyatt
Chudy, Justin Imhoff, Noah Lehr,
Lindsay Swalcy

SECOND GRADE

Polasik - Nathan Andera, Heli
Kongats, Hunter Puszcz, John Sny-
der, Ainsley Watt

Przybyla - Ila Decker, Brooke
Eddy, Logan Fuller, Megan Hart-
sell, Madisyn Kilby, Jacob Rust

THIRD GRADE

Donoghue - Malorie Cham-
berlain, Brenden Chudy, Allyson
Fisher, Zackary Krotz, Elijah Little,
Timothy Venturin

Woodarek - Hannah Delity,
Gina Hensel, Christopher Ives

FOURTH GRADE

Delity - Jackson Bacon, Evelyn
Cortez, Ices Decker, Lisa Krotz,
Hunter O'Stricker, Allison Raecher,
Mitchell Sexton, Janel Stuve, John
Thorpe

Tomblin - Rylie Aldrich, Grif-
fin Chudy, Paul Crouch, Britany
Hunt, Joran Lyford, Halie Mowery,
Kourtney Robinson, Deni Whit-
more

FIFTH GRADE

Fitzpatrick - Kelsey Bohn,
Madison Harris, Jacob Marsh,
Dylan Wilson

Moore - Robert Spell, Kayla
Stoehr

Elementary gathers for **EAGLE TIME ASSEMBLIES**

Eagle Time assemblies at the elementary school included a presentation in November from the 4th graders on the topic of "Citizenship". The 4th graders provided the audience with a fantastic visual and speaking presentation which included a tremendous amount of information about democracy and our nation. Our local scouts were active participants in the pro-gram. Great job everyone!

In the month of October, the audience was treated to a program that was prepared by the 5th graders. The focus of the 5th grade was "Fairness". The 5th graders prepared a presentation which included information on Fairy Tales and Fairness. How Creative and Clever!

This month we will be treated to a program prepared by our 3rd graders with a focus on the month's trait of "Generosity".



'OUR FUTURES LOOK BRIGHT!'

As an extension of the Red Ribbon week activities, Mrs. Donoghue's third grade class dressed up to show they are united to make healthy choices. They wore their shirts on backwards to school to show they can "turn their backs" on unhealthy choices. They wore sunglasses to school to show "our futures look bright". They also wore sweats to school one day to show that "being drug and alcohol free is no sweat".



1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL LISTED FOR 2009-10

HIGH HONORS

Grade 12 - Avery Chase, Jolene Dunkleman, Kohl Halloran, Rosemary Lanza, Garret Lapi, Bethany Loveless, Courtney McNeight, Kim Li Musall, Troy Phillips, Kathryn Rinko, Christina Stover, Heather Stover, Kimberly Telaak, Robert Toner, Camron Zerbian

Grade 11 - Joseph Alzate, Katelyn Crowley, Zachary DeChane, Samuel Doro, Kayla Goode, Stella Hovey, Thomas Lamphier, Melissa Mack-Beardsley, Jaylyn Rinko, Rynne Tomblin, Carolyn Wellman, Amy Westfall, Samantha Woodin

Grade 10 - Katelynn Andera, Erin Bohn, Joshua Bower, Falcia Elom, Zakary Fisher, Mark Flanagan, Ashley Golley, Connor Hellwig, Kaitlyn Riethmiller, Clarissa Toner

Grade 9 - Breanna Coolidge, Nicholas DeChane, Janae Hamilton, Carl Herman, Trevor Kilby, Rachel McMahon-Eagan, William Murphy, Cam Musall, Ciara Peters, Patrick Snyder, Alex Steinbronner, Madison Szpaicher, Caitlin Toth, Rachel Welch, Shannon Wilson, Luke Zlockie

Grade 8 - John Alzate, Courtney Antholzner, Maria Baransky, Gwendolyn Brown, Isabella Brown, Ashley Charlesworth, Sierra DeChane, Alijah Fox, Bryan Harrison, Fletcher Macomb, Liam O'Rourke, Natalia Palombi, Jesse Pollock, Emily Rinko, McKenzie Robinson, Monica Rubeck, Courtney Elise Scanlan, Julia Schwartz, Emily Timkey, Emily Uhrinek, Samantha Uhrinek, Elizabeth Wendel, Megan Westfall, Christopher Wojtowicz, Jessica Wojtowicz, Sarah Wojtowicz

Grade 7 - Kevin Bower, Amber Davies, Aemile Donoghue, Hannah Doro, Alessia Filutze, Rebecca Hagon, Patrick McMahon-Eagan, Alex Paddock, Jocelyn Steffan, Hunter Steffenhagen, Shelby Swalcy, Lacey Tabak, Calum Watt, Aidan Wilson, Finn Wilson, Molly Woodarek, Alexis Woodin

Grade 6 - Courtney Charlesworth, Elijah Dechane, Matthew DiDonato, Nicholas DiDonato, Thomas Easton, Cameron Eddy, Caitlyn Golley, Gavin Goodin, Kaleigh Hunt, Cameron Lamphier-Miller, Cole Lapi, Jaelee Macomb, Quinn O'Rourke, Max Paddock, Caleb Rinko, Lindsey Robinson, Robert Sawicki Jr., Kaitlyn Smith, Shelby Spell, Alicia Thorpe, William Timkey, Shelby Toth, Leah Westfall, Stone Wilson, Kevin Woodin, Morgan Zlockie

HONORS

Grade 12 - Michael Crowley, Jami Curtis, Brittni Fuller, Ashley Gerwitz, Jesse McMahon-Eagan, Erika Neuwirth, Michael Wendel, Ariel Wiser

Grade 11 - Kristen Hall, Adam Hiller, Melissa Howard, Kevin Krotz, Katlynn Paprocki, Kaitlyn Reese, Taylor Sherman, Christopher Snyder, Clint Stoltenberg, Crystal Stover

Grade 10 - Joshua Bordini, Colin Lapi, Lakota Lyford, Nicholas Oliverio, Jaimee Olson, Shannon Scott, James Snider, Alissa Wallace, Sierra Whitmore, Courtney Wilson

Grade 9 - Catherine DeBoy, Cheyanne Hurley, Eric Oliverio, Kate Seiflein, Sabrina Tocha

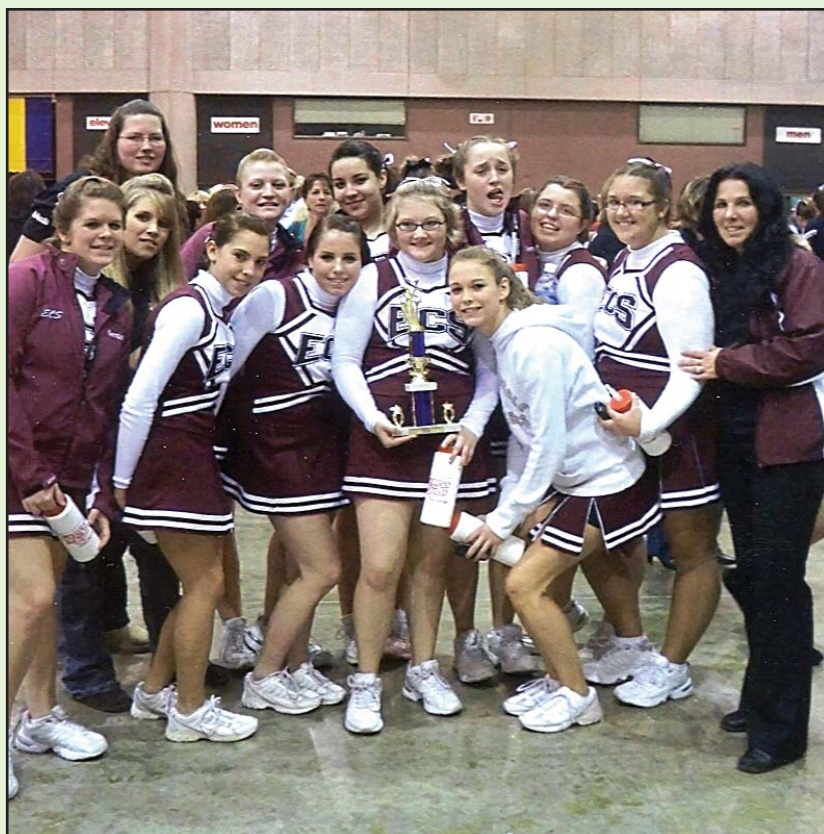
Grade 8 - Phillip Kurtis, Hailey Musall, Chantel Perez, Michaela Pierce, Melinda Rust, Cory Tomblin, David Toner, Elizabeth Wellman

Grade 7 - Alexander Delity, Nathan Dunkleman, Zachary Logel, Sage Lyford, Phalla Musall, Tyler Slaughenhaupt, Kelsey Tabak, Olivia Venezia

Grade 6 - Nicholas Delity, Alex Fisher, Katlin Gage, Joshua Garthwaite, Annmarie Prentice, Andrew Quinn

Grade 5 - Mrs. Moore - Jenna Aldrich, Hannah Chew, Marissa Hamilton, Shelby Imhoff, Kayla Kovacs, Benjamin Marsh, Victor Rieman, Jayden Slaughenhaupt, Robert Spell

Grade 5 - Mrs. Fitzpatrick - Katie (Katherine) Barry, Emma Chew, Nolan Dunkleman, Jacob Marsh, Madison Swalcy, Liam Watt



CHEERLEADERS WIN TROPHY

By Coach Lori Fuller

On Sunday November 8, the Varsity Football Cheerleaders attended the All Star Fitness for Kids Competition in Buffalo, NY. The girls learned a lot, bringing home a 3rd place trophy. It was a fun and great experience, learning lots of new techniques. Thank you, ladies, for a fun season. ECS is proud!



Ellicottville Central School
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Ellicottville, NY 14731
www.eville.wnyric.org

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Mrs. Mary Ellen Campbell, Vice President
Mr. Stephen Ward
Mr. Steve Crowley
Mr. Roger Spell
Mr. Lynn Eddy
Mr. James Wiley

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Administration

Mr. Mark J. Ward, Superintendent
Mr. Robert Miller, 6-12 Principal
Mrs. Connie Poulin, Pre K-5 Principal/Director of Curriculum



E - Embracing Change
C - Celebrating Success
S - Surpassing Expectations



8TH GRADERS STARTING TRADITION WITH TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

The eighth grade class is currently planning a May 2010 trip to Washington, D.C. They are going to go on a two-day/one-night tour of our nation's capital. This trip will include the opportunity to see Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, an illuminated tour of Washington's memorials, and the Smithsonian Institution. Students are very excited about this opportunity and we here at ECS plan to make this a tradition for our future eighth graders.

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER PLANNED

There will be a silent auction of theme baskets to raise funds for the eighth grade class trip to Washington, D.C. You may view the baskets in the high school foyer and purchase tickets from November 30 until December 17, 2009. The drawing will take place after the middle school/high school holiday concert. Tickets will be available in the high school office or by contacting Miss Opferbeck (ext. 145) or Mrs. Hart (ext. 183) at 699-2316. Please support our eighth grade students!



WAY TO GO, STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

The Student Council and middle school teachers would like to congratulate the following Students of the Month:

September/RESPECT

Jordan Green (*back, 1*)
Monica Rubeck (*back, 4*)
Shelby Swalcy (*front, 2*)
John Alzate (*front, 1*)

October/FAIRNESS

Aemile Donoghue (*front, 3*)
Ashley Charlesworth (*back, 2*)
Hannah Doro (*back, 3*)
Elizabeth Wendel (*front, 4*)