

March 2012

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Volume 42 Issue 5



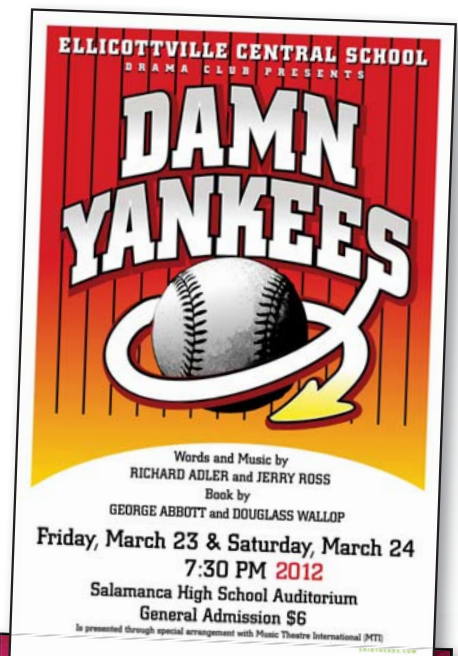
Drama Club Presents ...

'DAMN YANKEES' MARCH 23rd & 24th

What has something for all ages -- comedy, music, a literary classic? Why, Ellicottville Central School's production of *Damn Yankees*, of course! Join us at the Salamanca High School auditorium on Friday, March 23rd and Saturday, March 24th @ 7:30 pm! The musical is directed by Mrs. Jaye Zelko and Mrs. Pat Waldron. Not only that, but it has our own star-studded student cast.

Based on the German Classic *Faust*, *Damn Yankees* is the musical adaptation of the novel The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant by Douglass Wallop. Joe Boyd sells his soul to the devil, Mr. Applegate, for "one good Long ball hitter" for his team, the Washington Senators. Mr. Applegate grants his wish, turning him into a 22-year-old sports superstar who must go back to his wife before 9 pm on the final game day if he doesn't want Mr. Applegate to get his soul. Gripping, isn't it?

To find out how the story "plays" out, join us for this spell-binding production! Tickets will be on sale for \$6 at the door, or purchased presale from drama club students. Hope to see you there!



The Cast includes:

- Calum Watt Joe Boyd
- Elizabeth Wendel Meg Boyd
- Connor Hellwig Applegate
- Samantha Brooks Sister
- Natalia Fiorini Palombi Doris
- Josh Bower Joe Hardy
- Max Paddock Henry
- Alex Delity Sohovik
- Noah Butler Linville
- Ciara Peters Gloria Thorpe
- Emily Uhrinek Lynch
- Stone Wilson Mr. Welch
- Kaleigh Hunt Bryant
- Breanna Coolidge Lola
- Phil Kurtis Radio Broadcaster
- Nick Delity Rocky
- Courtney Antholzner Miss Weston
- Shelby Toth Mickey
- Quinn O'Rourke Smokey
- Doug Bliss Commissioner
- Olivia Venezia Mrs. Hawkins
- Alessia Filutze Bouley
- Molly Woodarek Vernon
- Hannah Doro Lowe
- Jocelyn Steffan First Girl
- Mary Bohn Devilette
- Katie Barry Guard

And last but, not least, the fans:

- Ices Decker
- Rylie Aldrich
- Emilee Delity
- Allison Raecher
- Leah Westfall



Funding Education In NYS... Is Simply Not Fair

PART 2 OF A 3-PART SERIES

By Mark J. Ward,
Superintendent

Some years ago (2000) a movie entitled "The Perfect Storm" based on a dramatic disaster storm featuring George Clooney, with the plot based on a 1997 book written by Sebastian Junger, captivated audiences at the theater. You may be asking yourself, what does this have to do with funding education at ECS?

Well, it seems that a series of factors have come together that are greatly impacting our ability to maintain the programs and staff we have been accustomed to:

- Decrease in State Aid...projected to be over **-\$63,000**
- End of ARRA Funds...**-\$117,000** (Federal Jobs money)
- Foundation Aid has been frozen for the past four years
- Gap Elimination **-\$422,837 in state aid**
- Implementation of the Tax Cap which limits the tax levy
- Increased retirement costs
- Steady increase in health insurance
- No real mandate relief
- Increase in fuel, utilities and everything else



NYS has over 150 unfunded mandates that account for nearly 20% of our budget!

We have asked for help in this area but the Governor and legislature have done nothing.

Area school districts are cutting large numbers of teachers, closing school buildings, eliminating/reducing non-mandated programs like elementary art, music, library and physical education, reducing electives in the high school, class sizes are increasing, sports are being dropped, wage freezes and benefit reductions are being talked about and districts are looking to share services, programs and teachers.

We have been fortunate that we have not had to take any dramatic steps to keep our budget in line. However, over the past four years we have been reducing staff and continuing to right-size district operations. We have cut staff in cafeteria, transportation, teacher aides, teachers, office and shifted administrative duties.

If you look at the budget picture over the past four years, the State has froze funding (Foundation Aid) while they have actually taken money away from the districts each year through something called a "Gap Elimination." In 2011-12 ECS lost \$462,831 and we are projected to lose \$422,837 in 2012-13. The only aids that actually increase are those associated with BOCES, transportation and special education as they are expense driven. This means the more you spend, the more aid you will receive the following year.

(continued on page 3)



PART 2 OF A 3-PART SERIES, CONTINUED

Notice the vast difference shown in the box below in the amount of money that a school similar to ours has to fund programs and provide opportunities for their students ... it is simply not fair!

	# Students	11-12 Budget	Spending Per pupil	Gap Elimination Adjustment	Per Pupil Loss	Amount Raised by 1%	Increase in Levy Needed to Offset Loss
Ellicottville	614	\$10,495,000	\$17,093	-\$422,837	-\$689	\$ 56,717	7.5%
Pocantico Hills (Weschester County)	634	\$26,019,046	\$41,040	-\$191,442	-\$302	\$205,732	0.9%

Loses in state aid have disproportionately impacted upstate districts more than our wealthier downstate counter-parts. You can clearly see from the above facts that we are not on an even playing field with wealthier districts across the state.

We pledge to you that we will continue to do everything possible to maintain the high quality education that Ellicottville parents and community members expect. During these challenging financial times, we must continue to be creative in maximizing the use of our staff and district resources to meet the changing needs of our students.

(The third part of the three-part series will focus on the 2012-13 budget, revenue projections, finalizing the tax cap and a chart showing how ECS tax rates compare to neighboring districts.)



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE ECS CHEERLEADERS

Congratulations to the ECS Basketball cheerleaders for a job well done at competition. The girls took 3rd place out of 5 teams competing in their division at SUNY Fredonia's annual cheer competition on January 22, 2012.



Language Club Cooks CREPES FOR A CAUSE

The members of the Foreign Language Club showed some heart on Valentine's Day by hosting Crepes for A Cause. Tasty French crepes, filled with strawberries, Nutella, bananas, jams and whipped cream were prepared and available at High School and Middle School lunches, for a donation to a great cause. Business was brisk, and club members worked with real dedication to see that the event was a success. All proceeds from the event will be split between Doctors Without Borders and The City of Children Orphanage, in Matamoros, Mexico. One of the goals of the club is to encourage the members to have a global vision, while having fun and enjoying other cultures.



KINDERGARTEN SCREENING PLANNED FOR MARCH 21 & 22



The annual ECS Kindergarten screening is scheduled for March 21st and 22nd. You will need to bring your child's birth certificate, health and immunization records and social security card to the screening.

Please call the elementary office at 699-2318 to schedule your appointment for the Kindergarten Screening. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at screening. We have some fun activities planned for our youngest ECS students!



Second Quarter 5-12 HONOR ROLLS LISTED

HIGH HONORS

Grade 12 - Katelynn Andera, Billie Jo Bliss, Joshua Bower, Samantha Brooks, Zakary Fisher, Ashley Golley, Elizabeth Havers, Jessica Howard, Jaimee Olson, Michaela Pierce, Kaysie Raecher, Kaitlyn Riethmiller, Cedella Sergel, Clarissa Toner, Courtney Wilson

Grade 11 - Courtney Bradley, Alyssa Costello, Nicholas DeChane, Rachel McMahon-Eagan, William Murphy, Cam Musall, Ciara Peters, Kate Seiflein, Alex Steinbronner, Madison Szaicher, Caitlin Toth, Rachel Welch, Shannon Wilson, Rachel Woodin, Luke Zlockie

Grade 10 - John Alzate, Courtney Antholzner, Gwendolyn Brown, Isabella Brown, Ashley Charlesworth, Jordan Curtis, Sierra DeChane, Alijah Fox, Fletcher Macomb, Liam O'Rourke, Natalia Palombi, Chantel Perez, Jesse Pollock, McKenzie Robinson, Monica Rubeck, Courtney Scanlan, Julia Schwartz, Emily Timkey, Emily Uhrinek, Samantha Uhrinek, Elizabeth Wendel, Megan Westfall, Cameron Wilson, Sarah Wojtowicz

Grade 9 - Kevin Bower, Hannah Doro, John Elizondo, Zaryan Evans, Alessia Filutze, Patrick McMahon-Eagan, Alex Paddock, Jocelyn Steffan, Hunter Steffenhagen, Shelby Swalcy, Calum Watt, Aidan Wilson, Finn Wilson, Molly Woodarek, Alexis Woodin

Grade 8 - Courtney Charlesworth, Brenna Cole, Elijah DeChane, Matthew DiDonato, Nicholas DiDonato, Caitlyn Golley, Kaleigh Hunt, Cole Lapi, Jaelee Macomb, Cheyenne Maybee, Quinn O'Rourke, Max Paddock, Lindsey Robinson, Robert Sawicki Jr., Kaitlyn Smith, Shelby Spell, William Timkey, Shelby Toth, Leah Westfall, Kevin Woodin

Grade 7 - Jenna Aldrich, Katherine Barry, Emma Chew, Hannah Chew, Anya Elizondo, Marissa Hamilton, Madison Harris, Shelby Imhoff, Benjamin Marsh, Victor Rieman, Tarah Scharf, Jayden Slaughenhaupt, Madison Swalcy, Liam Watt

Grade 6 - Rylie Aldrich, Griffin Chudy,

Evelyn Cortez, Zachary Golley, Hannah DeChane, Kirkland Kaleta, Lisa Krotz, Halie Mowery, Samuel Riley, Kourtney Robinson, Mitchell Sexton, McKenna Stayer, Andelain Wilson, Walter Woodarek

HONORS

Grade 12 - Joshua Bordini, Karley Brooks, Falcia Elom, Mark Flanagan, Connor Hellwig, Kiana Michael, Laszlo Neuwirth, Nicholas Oliverio, Donald Prentice Jr., James Snider, Alissa Wallace, Paige Wyatt

Grade 11 - Breanna Coolidge, Grace Hall, Janae Hamilton, Cheyanne Hurley, Trevor Kilby, Alexander Murphy, Danna Scharf, Patrick Snyder, Liza Wienk

Grade 10 - Amy Borowiak, Hailey Musall, Kara Piscitelli, Emily Rinko, Cory Tomblin, David Toner, Christopher Wojtowicz

Grade 9 - Alexander Delity, Nathan Dunkleman, Rebecca Hagon, Tyler Slaughenhaupt, Olivia Venezia

Grade 8 - Hunter Cooper, Thomas Easton, Alex Fisher, Cameron Lamphier-Miller, Caleb Rinko, Jasmine Valentine, Morgan Zlockie

Grade 7 - Jordan Andrews, Aaron

Blank, Nolan Dunkleman, Jerrett Gebauer, Jacob Marsh, Robert Spell

Grade 6 - Brooke Andera, Jackson Bacon, Christian Colbert, Emilee Delity, Deric Leiper, Joran Lyford, Mickala Michael, Evan Palmatier, Allison Raecher, Parker Rieman, Noah Stuve, Deni Whitmore

GR. 5 HONOR ROLL & B.U.G.

(Bringing Up Grades) AWARDS

MRS. MOORE

Honor Roll - Elissa Cole, Brennan Finn, Lucas Goodin, Samantha Karns, Logan Knab, Zackary Krotz, Sierra Maybee

B.U.G. - Kobbie Decker, Hannah Delity, Makayla Eschborn, Lucas Goodin, Samantha Karns, Logan Knab, Zackary Krotz, Cole Light, Sierra Maybee, Steven Rowland

MRS. FITZPATRICK

Honor Roll - Meganne Chapman, Brenden Chudy, Kayleigh Coolidge, Alana Curtis, Travis Goodin, Ned Hartsell, Ginna Hensel, Jacob Perkins

B.U.G. - Brenden Chudy, Kayleigh Coolidge, Alana Curtis, Allyson Fisher, Travis Goodin, Mitchell Gregory, Ned Hartsell, Ginna Hensel, Jacob Perkins, Logan Tabak, Grace Young

'REPORT A CONCERN': YOUR LINK TO CONNECTING WITH ECS ADMINISTRATION

Please keep an eye on the ECS Webpage, as in the near future you will see a "Report a Concern" link. This link will take the user to a secure on-line form that can be filled out to report concerns related to bullying, transportation, safety, etc. Once submitted, the report will automatically be forwarded to ECS administration so that it can be addressed in the most appropriate manner. Individuals electing to report a concern in this manner can remain anonymous if they so choose. It is hoped that this link will encourage students, parents and concerned citizens to notify the school when they observe problems.



2ND QTR. PERFECT ATTENDANCE

KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Bower –Alivia Fisher, Tessa Higgins, Dylan Timblin

Miss Olson –Reese Benjamin, Owen Chudy, Colt Green, Morgan Krotz

Mrs. Simpson – Alex Bergan, Samuel Edwards, Cameron Kaleta, Isabella Morlock, Sofia Royer

Mr. Wilson – Brooke Butler, Jase Curtis, Gwendolyn DeChane, Madison Halloran, Layla Kerns, Jason Provorse

FIRST GRADE

Ms. Gemza – Erik Shattenberg, Alexander Silvernail, Caedon Wyatt

Mrs. Peters – Breana Andrews, Charles Hensel, Lillian Maynard, Kayla Romero, Alysa Williams

Mr. Smith – Zachary Clark, Gavin Dietrich, Katryna Jennings, Katie Krotz, Errol Moore, Allison Rowland

SECOND GRADE

Mr. Hintz – Andrew Bolya, Marissa Clark, Mandy Hurlburt, Jallyssa Lafferty

Mrs. Polasik – Ignacio de Orbe, Logan Grinols, Kaleb Kilby, Star Light, Victoria Pearl, Emma Steffenhagen, Jocelyn Wyatt

THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Donoghue – Morganne Chapman, Madison Delity, Hayly Fredrickson, Jake Hadley, Rexx Paddock, Braedyn Palmatier, Orry Shattenberg, Gabriel Snyder, Kelsea Tomczak

Mr. Przybyla – Kolby Aldrich, Bryce Butler, Jamison Caldwell, Jenna Hadley, Alex Hunt, Noah Lehr, Adam Silvernail

Mrs. Woodarek – Saidy Bolya, Logan Fredrickson, Blaise Konarski, Brett Kryniski, Mallory Little, Erin Quinn, Hayden Rust, Coryn Yarnes

FOURTH GRADE

Mr. Delity – Jessie Cook, Megan Hartsell, Hunter Puszcz, Jacob Rust, John Snyder

Mrs. Tomblin – Nathan Andera, Brooke Eddy, Julianna Giannicchi, Jordan Grinols, Madisyn Kilby, Aliya Michael, Jordan Peplinski, Audra Perkins

FIFTH GRADE

Mrs. Fitzpatrick – Meganne Chapman, Alana Curtis, Allyson Fisher, Ned Hartsell, Christopher Ives, Elijah Little, Logan Tabak, Grace Young

Mrs. Moore – Kobee Decker, Lucas Goodin, Zackary Krotz, Cole Light, Steven Rowland

REVISED NYS ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Starting in April 2012, students in grades 3-8 throughout New York State will once again be taking various State Assessments in ELA, Mathematics, and Science.

The schedule of these exams will be:

3-8 English Language Arts (ELA)

Tuesday, April 17th

Wednesday, April 18th

Thursday, April 19th

3-8 Mathematics*

Wednesday, April 25th

Thursday, April 26th

Friday, April 27th

* Please note that accelerated 7th grade students will take the 7th grade math assessment.

* Please note that accelerated 8th grade students will take the 8th grade math assessment.

4th and 8th Science*

Written Assessment: Monday June 4th

Performance Assessment: Wednesday, May 23rd – Friday, June 1st (Exact days TBD)

* Please note that accelerated 7th grade students will take the 8th grade science assessment.

* Please note that accelerated 8th grade students will NOT take the 8th grade science assessment.

As parents, you can play an important role in helping children prepare for these tests. One way to assist with preparation is to ensure that your child / children have a good night's sleep and breakfast each morning, as these can increase attention. Additional ways to assist with preparation are to encourage your child to read the tests carefully, and to talk with them to ease any apprehension they may have.

If you would like more information about these assessments, you may contact the school to pick up informational materials.

TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

A written request for transportation to nonpublic schools must be received by the Ellicottville Central School District by April 1, 2012 for the 2012-2013 school year.

If a family moves into the district after April 1, 2012 the request must be made within 30 days of establishing residency.

Written requests should be sent to the attention of:
Ellicottville Central School
Mark J. Ward, Superintendent
5873 Route 219
Ellicottville, New York 14731



A Conversation with the Superintendent ...

TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

To say that today's world is much different than the world I came into would be an understatement. The world that our students will live the majority of their life in will be vastly different from the one we see today. As a school district, we are asked to do many more things today than ever before and this often presents us with some difficult issues/topics to tackle. However, it is our job to prepare our students for the future and that is why I am scheduling a series of meetings with our students in grades 6-8 to discuss the words and topics listed below.

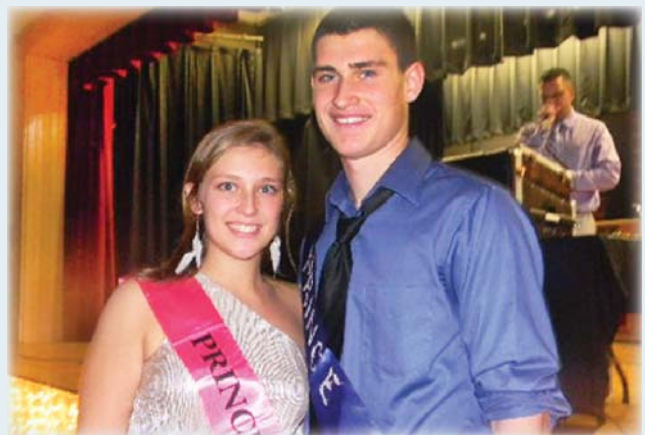
It is important for our students to be able to understand how their own actions impact others.

- * Bullying
- * Social networking
- * Sportsmanship
- * Texting
- * Discipline
- * Honesty
- * Respect
- * Internet
- * Quality work
- * Future
- * College readiness
- * Work force readiness
- * Self respect
- * Responsibility
- * Tolerance
- * Careers

Many of these words are already part of our "Character Education Program" that is taught monthly in grades K-6. These qualities are fundamental values that will serve as a "foundation" students should be building their future on. As we look more closely at student behavior, many of the issues associated with social networking, bullying and the improper use of the internet can be addressed by reviewing what "character" is all about.

Our students will be competing in a global economy with students from China, India, Brazil, Russia, Philippines and countless other nations across the world. Gone are the days of an abundance of factory jobs in Ellicottville. Gone are the days when a high school diploma will guarantee economic success for your career. The jobs available and the skills needed are vastly different and our students need to understand that sooner not later so that they are preparing themselves for the job market they are facing.

I believe these "conversations" will provide an opportunity to talk about issues, problems and situations that involve our young people. It will also provide a sounding board and dialogue for the reasons why their education is more important now than any generation that has come before them.



WINTER WEEKEND 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Weekend activities took place during the week of January 17 – 20, culminating with a dance on Saturday, January 21st. The winter weekend court was selected at the dance, which was held in the ECS High School cafeteria. The following students were the members of the court: Queen - Kaitlyn Riethmiller; King - Zak Fisher; Princess - Madison Szapaicher; Prince - Alex Steinbronner. Our own

Dan LaCroix was the DJ, and everyone had a great time!!

The following athletes were also honored at the dance for their accomplishments in their particular sport: Boys Basketball – Colin Lapi; Girls Basketball – Janae Hamilton; Cheerleading – Courtney Bradley; Girls Bowling – Courtney Scanlan; Boys Bowling – James Snider. Congratulations to all our student athletes and honor attendants!!



Ellicottville Central School

PUBLIC HEARING & BUDGET VOTE INFORMATION

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN, that a public hearing for the voters of the Ellicottville Central School District on the 2012-2013 budget and expenditure of funds will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 commencing at 7:30 p.m. Prevailing Time in the High School Cafeteria of Ellicottville Central School, 5873 Route 219, Ellicottville, New York.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual School District vote of the Ellicottville Central School District ("District"), Cattaraugus County, New York will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, from 1:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Prevailing Time in the Elementary School Foyer, as follows for the purposes of electing two (2) Members of the Board of Education, voting on the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, and transacting such other business as is authorized by law:

Polling Place

Ellicottville Central School – Elementary Foyer

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill two (2) positions on the Board. An election will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 to fill the seat currently held by board member Mr. Roger Spell and the seat vacated by the resignation of Mrs. Mary Ellen Campbell. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve a five-year term, beginning on July 1, 2012 and expiring on June 30, 2017. The candidate with the second highest number of votes will serve a one-year term to fill out the remainder of the term left vacated by the resignation of Mrs. Mary Ellen Campbell (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013). Nominating petitions are available in District Office, between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:00 pm (Monday-Friday) when school is in session.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that all candidates for the office of Member of the Board of Education shall be nominated by petition. Each petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District, shall be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the District, shall state the residence of each signer, and shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. Prevailing Time and 4:00 P.M. Prevailing Time not later than April 16, 2012.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that voting on the budget and propositions shall consist of voting on the following propositions, and on each other propositions as are authorized by law and the rules of this Board to be voted on at said time:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 - 2012-2013 Basic Budget

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED that the basic budget for the Ellicottville Central School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on

the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 - 2012-2013 Library Tax

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District in the County of Cattaraugus, State of New York, be and is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$28,000 in tax money to support the Ellicottville Memorial Library. This reflects a \$500 increase from last year.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that voting machines will be used to record the vote on the budget, on the propositions, and on the election of Members of the Board of Education.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the Board of Education of this District has adopted Rules for the Use of Voting Machines and the Submission of Questions or Propositions to be Placed Thereon. Printed copies for general distribution in the District are available at the office of the District Clerk.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that applications for absentee ballots for the Annual District Vote may be applied for during school business hours (8:00 am – 4:00 pm) at the Office of the Clerk of the District beginning April 30, 2012. Complete applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available in the Office of the District Clerk on each of the five business days prior to the Annual District Vote, and such list will also be posted at the polling places for the Annual District Vote.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the Board of Education of this District will have prepared and completed a detailed statement in writing of the amount of money which will be required during the ensuing 2012-2013 fiscal year for school purposes, specifying the several purposes and the amount for each. The amount of each purpose estimated necessary for payments to boards of cooperative education services shall be set forth in full with no deduction of estimated state aid. Said statement will be available, upon request, to taxpayers within this District during the hours of 8:00 A.M. Prevailing Time to 4:00 P.M. Prevailing Time from May 1, 2012, to May 15, 2012 exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, in the Business Office of Ellicottville Central School.

By Order of the Board of Education Ellicottville Central School District that the District Clerk is hereby directed to arrange for the use of voting machines for said Annual School District Vote.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MELISSA SAWICKI
DISTRICT CLERK



Pair Inducted Into NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY

On February 8, 2012, the Ellicottville Career and Technical Center BOCES inducted 11 students from component districts into the National Technical Honor Society. Students selected for this honor from Ellicottville Central School were Kaysie Racher and Billie Jo Bliss, who are pictured at right with ECS Principal Bob Miller. The evening's ceremony featured dinner provided by the Culinary Arts class and NTHS induction certificates framed in a mix of choice woods that were crafted by the Building Technology class. The National Technical Honor Society award and membership is based on academic and technical grades, attendance, leadership and character.



YEARBOOK NEWS

Did these pictures make the cut? It will be here before you know it so if you reserved one you'll get to find out.

- You need to put at least \$10 down to reserve a yearbook. Make checks payable to ECS yearbook. Yearbooks must be reserved before June 1st. If you don't reserve one you won't be able to purchase one until a week after they come in, if there are any left after reserved ones have had a chance to be claimed. Reserve one with Mrs. Bauer and don't forget to hold on to your receipt.
- You may purchase old yearbooks while supplies last. 2011's book is \$30. Books from previous years are \$10 apiece, while supplies last.
- If you sold items in the fundraiser, the candy should be here the week before vacation so be sure to stop in and pick yours up. Also, as long as you sold at least one item you have reserved a yearbook, which you'll be able to get in June when you pay the balance.



HELP US REACH OUR BOX TOP GOAL BY THE END OF MARCH

We would really like to reach our goal of raising \$1,200 in Box Tops! Please keep sending them in! We will be sending our next shipment at the end of March.

Please feel free to send Box Tops in with your students or drop them off in our collection boxes located at TOPS Market in Ellicottville or at the Great Valley Post Office.

We have received several Box Tops at all three locations! Thank you!!!

Ellicottville Central School Income Tax Code:

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Grading Outlined: WEIGHTED VS. UNWEIGHTED

By Bob Miller,
6-12 Principal

This article is being written to clarify some confusion that may take place with the way grades are computed and utilized in the middle and high school. Throughout one's high school career, a number of decisions are based on grades, and, at times, these same grades are used differently.

A student's cumulative grade point average, or GPA, is based on the average of all grades for which a student receives high school credit. For most students, the computation of their GPA starts when they pass their foreign language proficiency exam and class in 8th grade. For students in the accelerated math and science program, high school classes taken in 8th grade will also count towards their GPA. Otherwise, a student's final GPA will be comprised of all the classes he /she takes starting in September of 9th grade.

ECS calculates two GPAs for all high school students; **weighted** and **un-weighted**. An un-weighted GPA is simply the average of all high school courses taken. Students taking a more demanding schedule will be rewarded for their efforts through a weighted GPA. Final weighted and un-weighted GPAs are not rounded up.

To determine a student's **weighted** GPA, the following process is used:

- The five (5) required Regents exams are not weighted.
- Additional Regents courses that have a corresponding Regents exam are **weighted**.
- Only college level courses offered at ECS and taught by ECS teachers will be considered **weighted** courses by a factor of .01 per 3 credit course.
- Sometimes select non-regents subjects will be identified as subjects receiving weighting for class rank. These courses will be clearly identified in the course catalog each year.
- The student's un-weighted GPA is then multiplied by a factor of .01 for each weighted course a student takes and successfully passes. For example, if a student takes two weighted courses, the un-weighted GPA will be multiplied by 1.02 to determine the **weighted** GPA.

Once a student's weighted and un-weighted GPAs are determined, the two are used as follows:

- High School Transcripts sent to colleges will reflect both **weighted** and **un-weighted** GPAs.
- Class Rank is determined using the **weighted** GPA. Class rank is updated every semester with final class rank for seniors determined at the end of the third quarter.
- Scholarship applications may ask for one or the other, or both!
- ECS National Honor Society criteria calls for an **un-rounded, un-weighted** GPA.

In addition to GPAs, ECS also computes quarterly averages for all students in grades 7-12. Quarterly averages are simple, un-weighted averages of all classes taken that marking period. Students achieving a grade of 85% or higher are placed on the Honor Roll, while students earning a grade of 90% or higher are placed on the High Honor Roll. A student's quarterly average is rounded for the purpose of determining honor roll status.

There are a few other notes pertaining to grades and averages as follows:

- Only the average of grades earned in classes taught at Ellicottville Central School by ECS teachers (including Distance Learning classes taught by ECS staff) will be used to determine class rank.
- Course credits earned in other high schools or in summer schools other than those conducted or endorsed by Ellicottville Central School District will not be used in determining the final selection of a valedictorian, salutatorian or a "top 10 graduate."
- By policy, a student needs to attend ECS for all 10th, 11th and 12th grade in order to be considered for either valedictorian or salutatorian.
- A student taking on-line courses, Distance Learning courses taught by non-ECS teachers and independent study courses will earn the proper respective credit for such classes towards fulfilling his / her graduation requirement, but these courses will not be used in determining a student's final GPA or class rank.
- Physical Education grades are **not** used in determining GPAs or honor roll status.

HELP US KEEP UPDATE GLOBAL CONNECT

The Ellicottville Central School District utilizes Global Connect to send important announcements to parents and staff. The effectiveness of the system is based solely on the accuracy of the information provided for input. If your telephone number has changed or any of your child's emergency contact phone numbers have changed, please inform the school (elementary office 699-2318 or middle school/high school 699-2316). To insure prompt notification, it is vital that we have accurate information on hand. Please note, cell phone numbers that answer with a musical wait time cause delays to the entire system. Thank you!





Girls' Bowling Team

QUALIFIES FOR SECTIONALS

By Coach Sandy Olson

This year's Girls' Bowling Team consisted of four Seniors: Billie Jo Bliss, Jessica Howard, Trisha Gebauer, and Jaimee Olson; Sophomores: Courtney Scanlan and Jasmine White; Freshman: Amber Davies. More than half of the team was first year bowlers. The competition for the season was tougher than we thought it would be. All the girls, with the exception of one, had honor game(s) and/or honor series during the season, which is a great accomplishment! Courtney Scanlan made First Team All Stars and was MVP for the league with the league's highest average of 169. The girls finished the season 4th place in the league with enough wins to make it into sectionals. Sectionals were held in Cheektowaga at Thruway Lanes on Friday, February 17th. It was a tough competition. The girls were in first place in Class D for the first two games, unfortunately, the changing lane conditions made it difficult for the girls to continue. The girls were defeated finishing out of the top 3. It was a great season and the seniors will all be greatly missed next year!

BOYS' MODIFIED BASKETBALL FINISHES SUCCESSFUL SEASON

By Coach Chris Keenan

The boy's modified basketball season concluded with a rather successful year. The combined record of the 7th and 8th grade team was 9 wins and 9 losses, but a breakdown of the season shows that the boys mixed teams that competed against schools our size was undefeated. The 8th grade team had 4 losses and those were to Portville, Olean, Allegany-Limestone and Salamanca, with the Eagles defeating the Portville 8th graders when they met at home the second time. The boy's worked hard during the season to develop some new skills and use them in game situations.

The 7th graders this year were, William Quinn, Ethan Blank, Aaron Blank, Jordan Andrews, Robert Spell and Liam Watt. I look forward to working with these boys again next year as we continue to strive for an improved basketball program.

Congratulations to the following 8th graders, who have survived 2 years with me now: Cam Eddy, Robert Sawicki Jr., Caleb Rinko, Alex Fisher, Cole Lapi, Cameron Lamphier-Miller, Dylan Sherman, we also had 2 new 8th graders who only had to deal with me for 1 year, Jay Borowiak and Andrew Quinn. I look forward to watching all of you progress at the next level.

A special thanks to all of the parents for allowing me the opportunity to work with your kids, and dropping them off and picking them up in a timely manner. Thank you to Mr. Roger Spell who helped us out during the entire season.

ECS HOSTS HOLIDAY VALLEY SKI TEAM MEMBERS

Each winter, Ellicottville Central School has been host to a number of students who participate on the Holiday Valley Ski Team. This year we are host to 8 students from 6 different school districts. The students transfer from their home school to ECS for part of the 2nd and 3rd quarters. This affords them the opportunity to train with their teammates and travel to area ski races

to compete.

This year we are host to two seniors Maddie Brown from Ithaca, NY and Mallory Keener from Rocky River, OH. This is Maddie's 4th year at ECS and Mallory's 5th year. We are hosting one Junior, Scott Vining from Rocky River, OH. This is Scott's first year at ECS. This is the 3rd year for Aiden and Anya Elizondo who are from Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Aiden is in 9th

grade and Anya is in 7th.

We have two first year students who are in 8th grade, Ben Finickle from Bay Village, OH and Kaison Lavicka from Chagrin Falls, OH. Also, 7th grader Thomas Shantler is a first year attendee. He is from Williamsville, NY.

We welcome our winter visitors who are all wonderful students and are a nice addition to our student body.



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



ECS TEAMS COMPETITIVE IN SCHOLASTIC CHALLENGE

The ECS Quiz Bowlers competed in the Scholastic Challenge in Portville on February 4. The two junior and two high school teams were competitive and did a great job representing the school in their matches.