

April 2010

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Volume 40 Issue 9



Teams Advance in **ODYSSEY OF THE MIND**

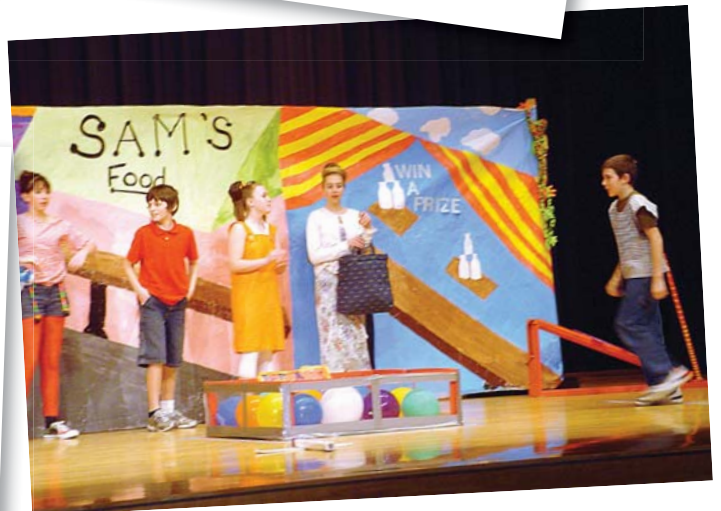
Five of the seven teams that represented ECS at the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition went to the state competition in Binghamton on March 27th. All three elementary teams are now moving on to the next level of competition!

Ms. Chew's Food Court team won first place beating out 8 other school to win. Team members included: 4th graders Walter Woodarek, Mitchell Sexton, Deni Whitmore, Hannah DeChane and 5th graders Katie Barry, Emma Chew and Hannah DeChane.

Mrs. Donoghue's Discovered Treasures placed 2nd but was awarded a chance to compete at the state competition as well as the first place team. Team members included: 4th graders Kourtney Robinson, Mickala Michael and 5th graders Maddie Harris, Maddie Swalcy, Robert Spell, Victor Rieman and Liam Watt.

Mrs. JoAnn Kurtis's Return to the Gift of Flight's team had no other competition and will move on to compete again at the State Competition. Team members included: 4th graders Rylie Aldrich, Zachary Kurtis and 5th graders Ben Marsh and Jenna Aldrich.

(continued on page 3)



Message from the Superintendent

2010-2011 BUDGET WILL BE TIGHT

**By Mark J. Ward,
Superintendent**

As we finalize plans for the 2010-2011 District budget the mood is one of restraint and belt tightening. We reported in the March newsletter that we froze the current year's budget in an effort to generate more savings as we prepare for some tough years ahead. The District has typically been fiscally conservative in the past but we are taking that to a new level as we blend cuts and reductions with a large use of district reserves. With the uncertainty of State funding and the economic crisis that our country is struggling with we are anticipating the worst and preparing for an even more difficult year in 2011-2012.

Throughout the budget process, the staff has been great when asked to conserve and reduce their budgets for next year. The supplies, textbooks, and equipment purchases have been reduced across the board. At this time we are continuing to fine tune the budget in an effort to produce a lean spending plan.

What are the major areas impacting the budget?

- ✓ Employee Retirement System (ERS) for support staff has seen a \$50,000 increase due to higher contribution rates that are a result of the losses investments have suffered in the stock market.
- ✓ Utilities continue to see increases from year to year that we must plan for.
- ✓ Fuel costs have seen a steady increase (again).
- ✓ Increases in wages and salaries are tied to negotiated contracts and salary agreements.
- ✓ Some BOCES services are showing a small increase.
- ✓ We have seen a dramatic increase in special education costs (214% increase since 2008-09) due to increased number of students requiring special services.
- ✓ Health insurance costs continue to rise (8-9%).

Do we have a plan in mind going into the future?

- ✓ Yes, we have developed a multi-year budget plan that is designed to closely monitor spending, explore ways to cut costs and use district reserves to help reduce tax increases.
- ✓ We want to maintain small class sizes, quality programs and a wide range of educational opportunities for our

students. Education is the key to their future and we must make sure our students are prepared.

- ✓ In year one, 2009-10, we reduced spending by 3% and the local tax effort was reduced by 3%. We are also projecting that we will use @\$300,000 in district reserves to make up for the lack of an increase in state aid.
- ✓ In year two, 2010-11, we are still finalizing the budget but are projecting a budget increase of 2.2%. We are presently projecting the use of \$400,000 in reserves to reduce taxes.
- ✓ In year three, 2011-12, we are anticipating the most difficult year of all. While it is hard to project that far ahead, the financial state of affairs in New York State leaves a very bleak outlook for increases in state aid. We must make some decisions now that will put us in position to handle the more difficult decisions we may have to face in the future.

Why not use more reserves and reduce the tax increase?

- ✓ Using reserves is a one-time fix and if it is budgeted for reoccurring costs we will have to find the same amount the following year. That is why we are reducing spending (lowering budgets), adjusting staff and exploring a variety of creative options designed to slow down increased spending over a period of time.
- ✓ The Board wants to avoid having year-to-year budgets with large swings in taxes. Extremes either way are difficult to plan for and are particularly hard on people with fixed incomes.

By the time you receive this newsletter the Board will have adopted a spending plan for 2010-2011. We know there will be a slight increase in spending, increased use of reserves and a small tax increase with all those numbers still to be finalized.

The Board is working hard to maintain the programs and educational opportunities our students will need to successfully compete in a global economy. We will do our very best to provide you with a spending plan that you can afford and not compromise the quality education that Ellicottville Central School is known for throughout the area.



Ten Members Join NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

On Monday, March 15, 2010, ten new members were inducted into the Ellicottville Central School chapter of the National Honor Society: Joseph Alzate, Melissa Mack-Beardsley, Katelyn Crowley, Zachary DeChane, Kayla Goode, Rianne Tomblin, Carolyn Wellman, Samantha Woodin, Samuel Doro, and Alexis Vail.

Held at the Great Valley Fire Hall, the induction ceremony included a candle-lighting ceremony and a heart-warming tribute to the parents of the new inductees. Afterwards, new and senior NHS members joined parents and loved ones for a celebratory dinner.



ODYSSEY OF THE MIND,

continued from page 1

In the Middle School Division, The Return to the Gift of Flight team placed first scoring 181 points out of a possible 200 points for their Long Term problem and a 42 out 50 points for style. Coached by Mr. Paul Timkey, team members included 6th graders Will Timkey, Eli DeChane, Courtney Charlesworth and 8th graders Ashley Charlesworth, McKenzie Robinson, Emily Timkey and Gwen Brown.

The structure team placed second overall after their structure held 176 pounds. They were able to place first in their Spontaneous Problem.

Eighth-grader, Christopher Wojtowicz was awarded the Renatra Fusca Creativity Award! This is one of the highest awards given within Odyssey of the Mind and Chris was the only student to receive this award at Saturday's competition. The judges of the structure problem recognized his creative use in his design and nominated him for the honor. Way to go Chris!

The High School team of Discovered Treasures placed first. With scores of 174 out of 200 for Long Term, 40 out of 50 for Style and placing 1st in the Spontaneous Problem, this team was able to beat out the teams from Wellsville and Olean.

Coached by Ms. Lisa Pawlowski, team members included: Anna Pierce, Jesse McMahon-Eagan, Robert Toner, Kaitlyn Schena and Alexis Vail.



Special points of interest:

- o Egyptians weren't the only ones that built pyramids!
- o Traditional Architecture
- o Tenochtitlan

Tenochtitlan

Tenochtitlan was the Aztecs' capital city. It was built in 1325 A.D. It was built in the center of lake Texcoco. There is a reason why their home was here. They believed that they were the "chosen people" of their god Huitzilopochtli. He said The Aztec's new homeland would be on the **isla**, which means island, located in lake Texcoco. They built this city to honor him. Soon, the city grew to a **poblacion**, or population of about 200,000. They needed to expand the island so that they could continue to live there. They invented floating gardens. To make these, they bunched twigs together and stacked mud on the top. The Aztecs built canals to navigate through the chinampas as the floating gardens were called. Then, in 1519, Hernando Cortez and his army invaded and **capturado** it, which means captured the amazing floating city. The reason why Hernando Cortez so easily captured the city was because the Aztecs believed that Cortez was the far-skinned God Quetzalcoatl. He destroyed most of their buildings and the diseases the Spanish brought from **España**, or Spain. Whipped out many Aztecs.

México Hoy

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 3rd, 2010

Egyptians weren't the only ones that built Pyramids!

Did you know that Egyptians weren't the only ones that built pyramids? The early Mexicans did also. One of the **pirámides**, or pyramids that built was the famous **Chichén Itza**. Chichén Itza was a pyramid built by the Mayan Indians. It means: at the mouth of the well of Itza. The Mayans were one of the first people in México. They used the pyramids for human sacrifice and religion.

These pyramids were a big part of the Mayan's life. They considered

it an honor to be chosen as a human sacrifice. Usually, the ones that were chosen were the elders, which didn't have much longer to live. The **estructura**, or structure, of the pyramid is what is key to this process. The top is tall so that it is close to the sky, where the gods live. The top is flat so that they can offer the human sacrifices to their **gal-lineros**, or gods. In return, they believed that they would have good a good, or harvest.

The pyramids had

their unusual shape for a reason also. The tops were flat not only because they used them for human sacrifice, but also because the Mayans used them for their religion.



This is a picture of Chichén Itza.

Tradicional Arquitectura



This is a picture of Tenochtitlan

The traditional architecture of México is built with bricks of sun-dried **pecina**, or mud called **adobe**. Along with the mud, grass is added for strength. When building,

mud is used as **mortero**, or mud.

The traditional homes were made of these materials because they had a large supply of these materials.



Spanish Projects Show

CULTURE OF MEXICO

Spanish 7 students recently completed a library project with Mrs. Illig. The students were asked to create a one page newsletter based on a topic concerning the culture of Mexico. Publication in the District newsletter was the end result for the best projects. Shown here are: Publication for Spanish Class by Aemile Donoghue (at left) and Mexican Food by Jocelyn Steffenhagen (below).



La Comida Mexicano

Desayuno Mexicano

Have you ever wondered what Mexicans have for **desayuno**? What they have for breakfast is similar to what they **comer** for lunch and dinner. For example, **Chilaquiles** are a common dish in **Mexico**. They are just **Tortillas** that are fried with onions, spices, sometimes chicken, topped with cheese, and served with gravy. Take stale tortillas and fry them up. If you use fresh ones they fall apart very easy. Another common breakfast is simply **Plato de frutas**. It is just mixed **la fruta**. Fruits such as melon, papaya, and bananas, ect, ect. It is a light healthy breakfast.



Champurrado

Have you ever sat by the fire in December and wanted a nice, hot drink? Well how about a **champurrado**. It's a common

drink I Mexico loved by many. For example, Americans would drink hot coco in the winter. Mexicans would

drink champurrado. It consists of corn meal, water, piloncillo, cinnamon, vanilla and chocolate or fruit (optional).

- Index
- Desayuno
 - Mexico
 - Champurrado
 - Apple enchiladas

Apple Enchiladas

It's an amazing combination you will never forget. Once you taste this you will never settle for hot chocolate again. You will go with a **Champurrado**.

Enchiladas sound like a Mexican dinner food. Right? Well, think again. A typical Mexican desert would be an Apple Enchilada.. Just like regular enchiladas, They are quick and easy to make. They are just



flour **tortillas** filled with apples and spices such as cinnamon. It's a nice tasty treat for after dinner, birthday parties.

Sources Cited

"Chilaquiles ; a new adventure in Mexican food. Mysisterskitchen.wordpress.com. n.p 2007.(3 March 2009).

"Champurrado" - Mexican "Hot Chocolate." about.com. n.p 2008.(4 March 2010)

"Apple enchilada desert" all recipes .com n.p (5 March 2010)



A Beautiful Day for a WINTER NATURE WALK

Mrs. Woodarek's 3rd grade and Mr. Wilson's Kindergarten classes went on a winter nature walk on March 10th. They visited their usual spot along the creek behind the school. They looked for animal tracks and other evidence of animals in the area. They also took note of the many differences in the surroundings since their last visit in November.

It was a long, difficult, walk through the snow but the children all agreed that it was well worth it. We'd like to give a special thank you to 7 of Mr. Edward's Digital Photography students who joined us on the trek. We made a video of the nature walk that you can all access at either Mrs. Woodarek's or Mr. Wilson's website at www.ellicottvillecentral.com.



THIRD-GRADE PALEONTOLOGISTS AT WORK



By Mrs. April Donoghue

The third graders were recently treated to a visit from our favorite BOCES Environmental Educator, Mrs. Barb Busack. Mrs. Busack brought hands-on activities to help us learn more about fossils. She let us examine specimens from the age of the dinosaurs. We also dug for fossils and pretended to be paleontologists. At the end of the session, each child was able to create a fossil print using plastic replicas. What a great opportunity!



Musical Talents Shine at ALL-COUNTY FESTIVAL

These students just participated in one of the finest All-County Festivals ever! It was held at Allegany-Limestone Middle/High School on March 12 & 13. Each group received a standing ovation at the conclusion of their portion of the concert! Bravo to the following musicians: SH All-County Band - Hope Wienk & Kaitlyn Riethmiller; SH All-County Chorus - Kattie Beeles, Josh Bower, Avery Chase, Logan Harris, Olivia Harris (*not pictured*), Adam Hiller, Aaron Thomas, & Mike Wendel; JH All-County Chorus: John



Alzate, Hollie Chamberlain, Breanna Coolidge, Tanner Gregory (*not pictured*), Greg Knier, Chantel Perez, Ciara Peters, Lindsey Roblee, Konnor Sanders, Calum Watt, Elizabeth Wendel, Storm Wilson and Chris Wojtowicz.

ALUMNA VISITS TO PERFORM WITH 'POTSDAM PITCHES'

The "Potsdam Pitches" - an a cappella performing group from the Crane School of Music recently presented a concert for the Ellicottville students on March 9th, 2010. The group spent their "spring break" touring and performing at several area schools. Ellicottville's 2008 graduate, Lauren Scharf (*lower right photo*), is a member of this group, and it was a real pleasure to hear her sing again!



Mother's Day Hanging Plants Sale

Buy a hanging plant, and **honor your mother, decorate your porch, and help the Class of 2012** raise money for their senior trip.

Please mail the following order form with money to: Sophomore Class Advisors, Ellicottville Central School, 5873 Rt. 219, Ellicottville, NY 14731

Please place all orders by Thursday, April 29. Make checks payable to ECS Class of 2012

Customer Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Hanging Plants (Indicate Quantity and Color):

Portulaca – _____

Impatiens – Pink _____, Orange _____, Red _____, or Purple _____

Petunias – Pink _____ or Purple _____

Ivy Geraniums – Red _____, Pink _____, or Purple _____

Bacopa – White _____ or Blue _____



Cost of Hanging Plants is \$17 each. Orders will be available to pick up at the high school on Thursday, May 6, perfect for celebrating Mother's Day on May 9. Thank you for your purchase!

NEW LAWS FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

As of February 22, 2010, the following changes to New York's Licensing Laws will affect young drivers:



▼ **Reduce from two to one the number of non-family passengers** under age 21 riding in a motor vehicle operated by a junior license holder when not accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian.

▼ **Elimination of the limited use junior license** and require that a junior permit be held for at least 6 months before a junior or senior license may be issued.

▼ Increase the number of supervised driving hours before scheduling a road test from 20 to **50 hours**, that includes **15 hours** of driving after sunset.

Effective November 1, 2009, for all drivers it is illegal to text or use any portable electronic device while the vehicle is in motion.

Parents make a difference when it comes to teen driving

- ▼ 89% of teens say their parents are most influential in encouraging safe driving.
- ▼ 59% of parents know that motor vehicle crashes are the number 1 killer of teens.
- ▼ Nearly half (49%) incorrectly believe that driving drunk is the main cause of teen crashes when in reality **driver error, speeding and distracted driving** are the main causes.
- ▼ 50% of teens are less likely to be in a crash if their parents set rules and monitor their activities.
- ▼ 71% of teens are less likely to drive intoxicated when their parents are involved in their driving.

For additional information, please visit:
www.nysdmv.com/youngerdriver

GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL SEASON

By Coach Tim Bergan

It was a very successful season this year for the Girls' Varsity Basketball Team as they finished with a 10-9 overall record and were 10-6 in a very difficult league. Janae Hamilton was named to the first team All-Stars and Kim Telaak was named a second team selection. Kate Schena, Madison Szpaicher, Anna Pierce and Alexis Vail all received honorable mentions. Finally, Kim Telaak and Anna Pierce will be playing in the exceptional senior game this year.

I would like to thank seniors Kim Telaak, Kate Schena and Anna Pierce for their hard work and leadership with this year's team. I also hope that all returning players will put time in this summer to get us ready for a great year next season. Also thanks to the parents and fans that followed us all year.





Elementary Hosts 2010 **READING OLYMPICS**



YEARBOOK NEWS

Time is winding down and the yearbook will be here before you know it. Reserve yours to find out if these pictures make it in.

- 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. Prepayment must be received by May 31st.
- You may purchase old yearbooks while supplies last. 2009's book is \$30. Books from previous years are \$10 apiece.



STUDENT PLACES IN CAREER TECH COMPETITION

Deanna Michaels placed 2nd in Medical Assisting at the regional SkillsUSA competition held at Alfred State College on March 9. She will next compete at the state level at Syracuse in April. Deanna is a senior that attends the Ellicottville Career and Technical Center BOCES for Medical Assisting. SkillsUSA is a national technical and vocational club that emphasizes technical excellence, character and community service.



A STYLISH LESSON ABOUT RECYCLING

Mrs. Simpson's class has been learning about recycling. They recently made Valentine's Day capes from recycled felt from the CUTCO Company in Olean. The children love to recycle and have a great time making art projects!





MEET OUR STAR KINDERGARTEN WEB READERS

Mr. Wilson's Kindergarten students have been working hard to become readers. Recently, each child has been digitally taped reading a book. We invite you to visit our class website at www.ellicottvillecentral.com and see these awesome readers. The children will be doing more books, so the movies will be updated every month. Check it out!

Students Volunteer at BOCES WINTER CARNIVAL

On March 2nd, 16 of our ECS high school students had the opportunity to assist special education students from throughout the county at the annual BOCES winter carnival.

The day consisted of snow tubing, broom hockey, hayrides, soccer, & an obstacle course. This was a great opportunity for our students to help students with disabilities enjoy the wonderful day that BOCES puts on for these students at the Holiday Valley Tubing Park. Many would not be able to fully enjoy all of the events offered if our students were not there to assist them with the activities. While our students were there to help, they all agreed that the feeling they got from volunteering was very special and extremely rewarding.

We want to thank Mrs. Debbie Golley for allowing us to be a part of such a unique and educational experience!



SCHEDULE FOR NYS GRADES 3-8 ASSESSMENTS

New York State has changed the schedule of the Grades 3-8 Assessments this year. Instead of spreading out the exams from January through June, this year the schedule has been compressed such that the exams will not start until the end of April and will continue through June.

While the dates of these exams have previously been posted in our district calendar, we wanted to provide a little more detail for the exact schedule of these exams as follows:

3-8 English Language Arts (ELA)

April 28 th - Wednesday	April 29 th - Thursday	April 30 th - Friday
3 rd Grade ELA	3 rd Grade ELA	
4 th Grade ELA	4 th Grade ELA	4 th Grade ELA
5 th Grade ELA	5 th Grade ELA	
6 th Grade ELA	6 th Grade ELA	6 th Grade ELA
7 th Grade ELA	7 th Grade ELA	
8 th Grade ELA	8 th Grade ELA	

3-8 Mathematics

May 5 th - Wednesday	May 6 th - Thursday	May 7 th - Friday
3 rd Grade	3 rd Grade	
4 th Grade	4 th Grade	4 th Grade
5 th Grade	5 th Grade	
6 th Grade	6 th Grade	
7 th Grade	7 th Grade	
8 th Grade	8 th Grade	

4th and 8th Grade Science

May 25 th - Tuesday	May 27 th - Thursday	June 7 th - Monday
4 th Grade Performance	8 th Grade Performance*	4 th & 8 th Grade Written

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

8th Grade Social Studies

June 14 th - Monday	June 15 th - Tuesday
8 th Grade	8 th Grade

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, or you may access much of the same information on-line at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/parentguide/home.htm>



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



BUSINESSES THANKED FOR SUPPORTING OUR DRAMA PROGRAM

A special thank you to the area businesses that helped support this year's musical. Our show was a great success thanks to your support!

Bean & Rinko
Cattaraugus County Bank
Century Carpet & Bedding
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Eddy's Restaurant
Ellicottville Teachers Association
Ellicottville Varsity Club
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John Harvard's Brew House
The Red Door Ski Shop
Riley's Bar & Restaurant
Sandy Goode
Salamanca Beverage
Salamanca Drama Club
Tips -Up Cafe
Worth W. Smith



FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to these students who were chosen by the middle school teachers as February's Students of the Month for the character traits of Honesty and Trustworthiness: (l-r) Courtney Charlesworth, Stone Wilson, Chris Wojtowicz and Louis Robinson (not pictured: Kevin Bower, Sara Wojtowicz). Keep up the good work!