

February 2010

# ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Volume 40 Issue 6



Mark Your Calendars:  
**ECS Dime Carnival**  
**March 5<sup>th</sup>!**

*True Spirit of Giving:*

## ECS COLLECTS \$3,531 FOR HAITI RECOVERY

The true spirit of giving was never more present as the students, staff and community came together to raise an astounding \$3,531 in only four days! Superintendent Ward commented, "Though we are a small school, this was an opportunity to teach our students the importance of being part of the world response to the disaster. No matter how large or small, we can be part of the humanitarian efforts to assist with the relief, recovery and rebuilding of a Nation devastated by this earthquake."

The personal outpouring of money was beyond what anyone could have imagined. Everything started on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, when Club Jazz donated 50% of their proceeds (\$500). On Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, a "District Wide Hat Day" was held with \$372 collected. The Student Council "ECS Staff Jeans Day" on Friday, January 22 netted \$200. Varsity Club donated \$300 and assorted individual donations from students, staff and community members totaled \$2,159. All funds will be sent to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.

Our staff did an outstanding job covering the disaster with our students by not only allowing them to view the news reports, but also to discuss the disaster and allow them to truly understand what all of it means to the people of Haiti. The degree of devastation, loss of life, destruction of property and suffering is very hard to comprehend. We are so proud of our community and their willingness to reach into their pockets, piggy banks and checkbooks to donate to this cause. At a time when finances are tough here, the generosity of our community was nothing short of heart warming.

Schools are responsible to teach many



**Ellicottville Central School Haiti Fund Raiser roster: (first row, l-r) Noah Steinbroner, Hali Fish, Samantha VanWicklin, Elsa Woodarek, Jordan Andrews, Jackson Bacon; (second row, l-r) Ryan Chiemera, Alicia Thorpe, Alijah Fox, Avery Chase; (third row, l-r) Josh Bower, Sam Doro, Aidan Wilson, Mary Abbinati and Connor Schmick.**

things but opportunities like this often teach things that no textbook, test or power point presentation can capture. When we talk about character education this is a perfect example of taking words and putting them into practice. The feeling you get by helping others is something special and is hard to describe. Whether it

is time, money or some other gift that you give, the feeling that you helped others in need makes it all worthwhile.

The Ellicottville area has always been a very special place to live, work and raise a family. It is times like this that makes us especially proud to be part of this community.

## Message from the Superintendent

# NYS PROBLEMS HIT ECS ... RESERVES HELP

By Mark J. Ward,  
Superintendent

The recent release of Governor Patterson's 2010-11 New York State budget paints a very dismissal picture for State finances, particularly aid to education. The latest figures show our district receiving a decrease of \$156,889 or 4.65% reduction. Last year the governor and legislature implemented a deficit reduction plan which was designed to actually take money away from the Districts but the Federal Stimulus Funds (\$267,926) will be used to make up most of the difference over two years (2009-10 and 2010-11).

In the end, the District will go two years without any increase in "Foundation Aid", which is the largest area of school aid based on a variety of factors including but not limited to attendance, enrollment and district wealth. Thus, the District will receive the same amount of State funding for two years (\$2,601,950). Special Education, transportation and BOCES aid varies based on actual expenditures.

What complicates this further is the fact

that operational costs continue to increase with no additional support from the state to make up the difference. Therefore, the District must look at a combination of steps which include cutting programs, reduce spending, using reserves to make up the revenue shortfall or increase taxes. It is too early in the budget process to know what option or combination of options we will choose.

The 2009-2010 budget featured a 3% decrease in spending and a 3% decrease in the tax levy. This was done by reducing staff and taking some strategic steps that helped to reduce district spending. We also budgeted the use of district reserves to make up some of the difference and it appears we will be using roughly \$400,000 in reserves to cover district expenditures.

ECS has been fiscally prudent to accumulate some good reserves and at a time like this we are very fortunate to be in a position to use some of them to reduce tax increases. The Board and administration understand the importance of reserves and will use them to help support but not

to totally fund the budget. Using reserves to support reoccurring costs (i.e. wages, utilities and insurance) is a dangerous pattern to get into because the impact doubles each year due to the fact that the expense does not go away. The Board does not want to develop a spending pattern that creates large swings (tax increases or decreases) one way or the other because they create hardships on people with fixed or limited incomes.

It will be a very difficult budget to develop because it is really a multiple year problem. With the Federal Stimulus money going away in 2011 the financial issues facing the State in 2011-12 will be even more difficult than this year. The District will be working on a multiple year budget in an effort to spread the impact over a longer period of time. We accept the challenge of developing a responsible budget that will maintain quality educational programming for our students while keeping property taxes reasonable.

## SALUTING STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Student Council and Middle School teachers would like to congratulate the following students for being chosen Students of the Month.

### NOVEMBER (upper photo)

Hunter Steffenhagen (4)

Molly Woodarek (1)

Brian Harrison (2)

Alijah Fox (3)

### DECEMBER (lower photo)

Sierra Dechane (2)

Cory Tomblin (4)

Jocelyn Steffan (3)

Connor Schmick (1)

**WAY  
To Go!**





# Genocide Speaker SHARING STORY OF SURVIVAL

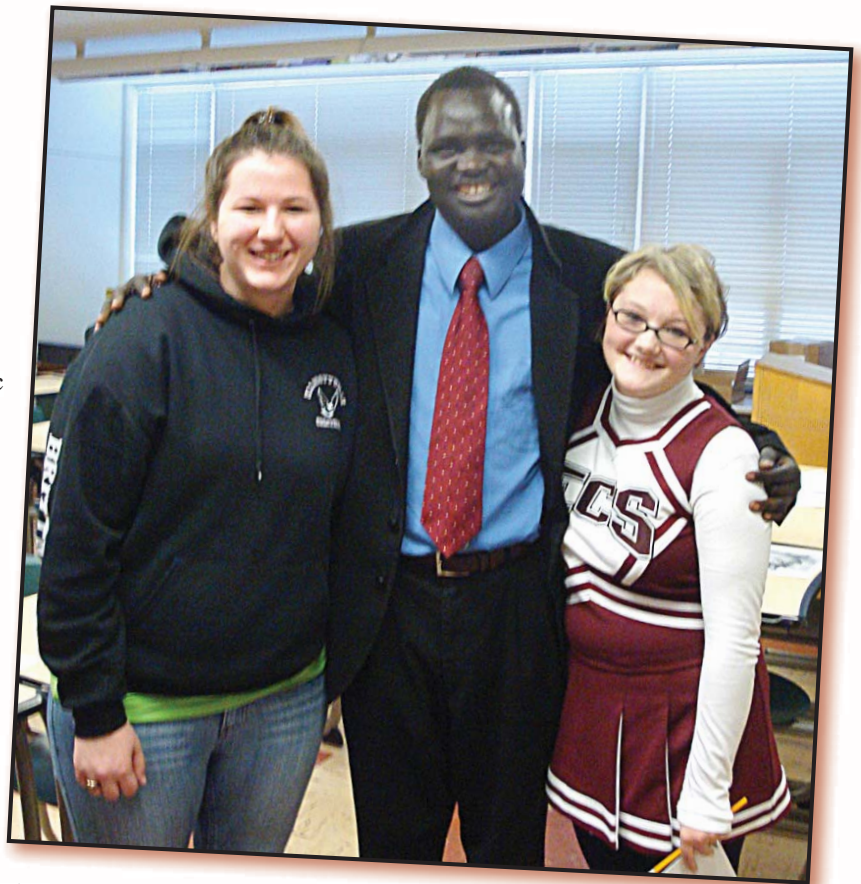
By Deanna Michael

For my final project in Participation in Government, I choose the topic Genocide. I feel that this topic is very important but most people feel it is a problem of the past, but for Dominic Ding, it is a problem that still exists today in his native country of Sudan.

On January 15th 2010, Mr. Ding came to ECS to talk with our senior history class about his life story of survival. He told it what it was like to live in a country that had nothing, facing killers who wanted to take everything. In order to survive he walked for 14 months to escape his country, only to have to turn around and go back. At the age of 14 he was taught to use a weapon and to kill. He was placed in a refugee camp where conditions were very bad and unclear. While in the camp, struggling to simply survive, one thing happened that changed everything...he started his education. It seemed strange for him that he was given the opportunity to go to class but it truly changed his life. Dominic emphasized to all of us that he believes that education is the key to doing well in life and no one should ever give that up. It is a message that everyone needs to hear.

Luckily, Dominic and a few other refugees were able to come over to America and start a better life. While in this country he took several advanced programs which led to a Bachelors degree and two Masters degrees. Dominic lives in Buffalo and works for Buffalo City Schools. He and several of his Sudanese friends have formed an organization called Aid and Care to help the people of Sudan. The organization helps to build schools and provides food and supplies. The group also has survivors speak to bring more awareness to the genocide that has taken place in Sudan. This group and others like it have a mission to bring worldwide awareness.

After listening to Dominic, he has inspired me to help make a difference much like Gandhi once said, "Be the change the world you want to see." Due to the impact his story and struggle had on many of us we made arrangements with the administration to invite Dominic back to share his story with the Middle School/High School. Our school is going to have a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear from someone who survived conditions most could never imagine.



## *Spaghetti and Spirit* DISH UP GREAT FUNDRAISER

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Varsity Basketball Cheerleaders hosted a spaghetti dinner. The cheerleaders would like to thank the Great Valley Fire Department for donating the clubhouse, the Ellicottville Depot, Kwik Fill, Hoagies, and Sandy's Bakery for donating food and items for the event. A special thank you goes out to Lori Fuller, Clara Reynolds, and Mr. and Mrs. Rinko for helping at the dinner by cooking and helping set up. Thank you to all who either came out and enjoyed the dinner or donated money. A great time was had by all!





## 'THE MUSIC MAN' IS COMING MARCH 26-27

Attention!!! Attention!!!!

Mark Your Calendars!!! The cast has been chosen and rehearsals have begun for this year's musical **The Music Man**! The performances will be on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM in the Salamanca High School Auditorium. We are very excited to be able to use the auditorium in Salamanca this year to be able to experience a true performance using a stage! Please come see this year's exciting show, you won't want to miss this one! Pre-sale tickets will be sold in the high school office and at the door for \$5.

We are now accepting business advertisements to display in our beautiful professionally printed program. Please use the form located at right. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Crystal Wilder at 699-2368, ext. 122.

## Drama Club 2010 Ellicottville High School

### Business Sponsorship

- ☐ Back Cover - \$125.00 (first come first serve)
- ☐ Inside Back or Inside Front Cover - \$100 (first come first serve)
- ☐ Full Page - \$60.00
- ☐ Half Page - \$40.00

Please place text/graphics in the text box above or send an attachment to [cwilder@eville.wnyric.org](mailto:cwilder@eville.wnyric.org) Please be sure that the material in the text box or on your attachment is exactly the way you would like it advertised in the program.

### Type of Payment:

Enclosed is our business sponsorship of advertisement in the form of:

- ☐ **Check** (Please make checks payable to: Ellicottville Central School Drama Club)
- ☐ **Net 10 days**

Please send order form and payment by February 22<sup>nd</sup> to:

Crystal M. Wilder  
Ellicottville Central School  
5873 Route 219  
Ellicottville, New York 14731

Thank you for supporting us!

## ***The Music Man***

**March 26<sup>th</sup> & March 27<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:30 PM ~ Salamanca High School Auditorium**

## LET'S CELEBRATE READING TOGETHER!

While athletes from around the world are competing in the Vancouver Winter Olympics, ECS Elementary students will be having their own "READING OLYMPICS".

The Elementary foyer and hallways will be decorated with an Olympic theme. The morning announcements will offer "Olympic Fun Facts" and several inter-

national lunches are planned throughout the month. For all their Olympic reading efforts, students will be able to earn tickets that can be used at the Dime Carnival. The books read can also be submitted for the Read to Ride Program at Darien Lake.

The celebration kicks off with our "Opening Ceremony" on Thurs. February 4, featuring the music of jazz guitarist

Miche Fambro. Our "Closing and Medal Ceremony" will be held on Thurs. March 4, followed by the fun filled PTO Dime Carnival on Fri. March 5.

As always, we hope everyone will join in the celebration as we encourage the children of ECS to develop a lifelong love of reading.





## 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. Prepayment must be received by May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- You may purchase old yearbooks while supplies last. 2009's book is \$30. Books from previous years are \$10 apiece.
- One way to earn a free book is by winning the Photography Challenge. See Ms. Dineen in room 185 for details.



## STUDENT COUNCIL SPONSORING PENNIES FOR PEACE

The Pennies for Peace program has currently been running throughout the school. The elementary hasn't had as much involvement so Jenna Aldrich, Tarah Scharf, and Shelby Imhoff have started to get kids in the elementary involved by having a challenge to see which class can raise the most by the end of the school year. This program is helping Afghanistan and Pakistan build schools and other supplies they may need.

The Pennies for Peace program originated from Greg Mortenson. He started climbing a mountain, in honor of his sister who had died. The mountain was located in Pakistan. He was climbing up to the top to place her necklace there to honor her. He became ill and lost the group he was traveling with, and he stumbled into a village. After being nursed back to health he asked the villagers how he could repay them. They said they would like a school because they couldn't afford to pay a dollar a day for the teacher's salary. In the past other people had promised to come back, but they never did. He promised them that he would return and he did!

This is how Pennies for Peace got started. After reading this story we all felt that this would be a good way to help schools and students our age. We have an "Eagle Time" assembly every month and the class collecting the most pennies will be announced and the Student Council will present them with a prize. A very special thank you goes out to all the classes that are participating.



## WALKERS WELCOME IN THE HALLS OF ECS

Ellicottville Central School is hosting a Walk Program for community members which will run through April 8<sup>th</sup>. The building will be open Monday through Thursday from 6-9 p.m.

Community members are asked to check-in at the High School back parking lot entrance each time they walk.



# *Reading Society Tours* CHAUTAUQUA REGION

On December 18, 2009, members of the Ellicottville Society for the Preservation of Reading in America (ESPRA) took their annual field trip; this year they visited the Chautauqua region.

Members visited the Chautauqua Institution where students learned the history of the institute, walked the grounds and visited the bookstore. Most students had no knowledge of the institute prior to the trip, and many plan to return in warm weather to explore it further. Students also visited independent booksellers Barbara Berry's Bookshop and Off the Beaten Path which are near Chautauqua Lake.

Off the Beaten Path is owned by ECS teacher Holly Richardson. While at Ms. Richardson's store, students asked countless questions about starting a business, learned about "indie books," and poured over the shelves looking for favorite titles. The stores were full of happy teenagers all talking about reading and books! It was a wonderful time.

Lunch was at a few small places along Chautauqua Avenue in Lakewood where proprietors were pleasantly surprised at the courteous behavior of our group

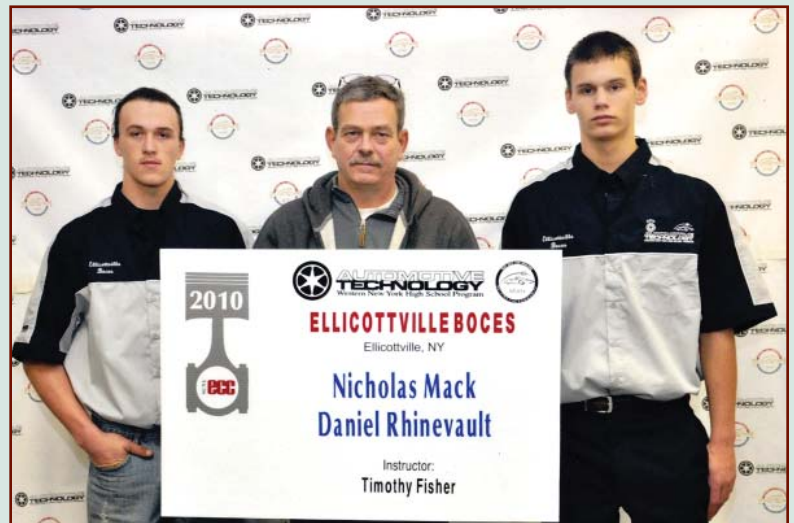


members. The trip had to be postponed due to weather and shortened due to athletic events that evening, but all in all it was another great year of exploration and friendship.

ESPRA is always looking for new members to attend poetry readings, potluck lunches and exciting field trips. Come join us if you love reading as much as we do!



## **BOCES CORNER**



Once again Team Chevrolet, on Route 16 in Olean, has partnered with BOCES/ Ellicottville Career and Technical Education Center to assist and help educate their Automotive Technology students. Seniors Nick Mack of Ellicottville Central School and Dan Rhinevault of Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School spent a week at Team Chevrolet with their "Class A" auto technician, Rich Kreamer, who helped them prepare for the annual Niagara Frontier Dealership Association "Trouble Shooting" competition held at Erie Community College. At the competition a 2010 Chevy Malibu is bugged with 10 or more problems and the students have to find and fix them within an allotted time period. Nick and Dan competed and did very well. They felt good about their performance and had learned a lot training at Team Chevrolet.





# *Save Lives:* USE SEAT BELTS & SAFETY SEATS

Seat belts save lives and help prevent serious injuries in a traffic crash. This is why New York State requires seat belt use by adults in motor vehicles and seat belts, booster seats, or child safety seats for children.

New York is a “primary enforcement” state. A law enforcement officer can issue a traffic ticket just for failure to wear a seat belt. A ticket can be issued to the driver who fails to make sure a child passenger is properly secured in a safety seat or with a seat belt. This law also applies to visitors from outside New York State.

## **Highlights of New York State’s occupant restraint law:**

- In the front seat, the driver and each passenger must wear a seat belt, one person per belt. The driver and front-seat passengers aged 16 or older can be fined up to \$50 each for failure to buckle up.
- Every occupant, regardless of age or seating position, of a motor vehicle being operated by the holder of a Class-DJ Learner Permit, a Limited Class-DJ, or Class-DJ Driver License must be restrained by a safety restraint.
- Each passenger under age 16 must wear a seat belt or use an appropriate child safety restraint system. The restraint system must comply with the child height and weight recommendations determined by the manufacturer. Depending on the size of the child, the restraint system may be a safety seat or a booster seat used in combination with a lap and shoulder belt.
- The driver must make sure that each passenger under age 16 obeys the law. The driver can be fined \$25 to \$100 and receive three driver license penalty points for each violation.
- Seat belt use is not required in taxis or livery vehicles, emergency vehicles, 1964 or older vehicles, or by passengers in buses other than school buses (seat belt use may be required by the school district). Rural letter Carriers are also exempt while they are delivering mail.



*Tip: Keep your seat belt tight but comfortable.*

## **CHILDREN IN SEAT BELTS**

Every child under age 16 in the vehicle must use a safety restraint. If under age four, he or she must be properly secured in a federally-approved child safety seat that is attached to a vehicle by a safety belt or universal child restraint anchorage (LATCH) system. A child under age four who weighs more than 40 pounds may be restrained in a booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt. A child of age 4, 5, 6 or 7 must use a booster seat with lap and shoulder belt or a child safety seat (The child and safety restraint system must meet the height and weight recommendations of the restraint manufacturer).

Exception: A child more than four feet nine inches tall or more than 100 pounds is allowed to use a seat belt that has both a lap belt and a shoulder harness. To use the seat belt, the child must be able to sit straight up against the vehicle’s seat back with his or her knees bent comfortably over the edge of the seat. The lap belt should be placed low and tight across the upper thighs; the shoulder belt should rest tightly but comfortably across the child’s chest and shoulder (collar bone) without touching the throat. If the seat belt does not fit properly, the child should use a booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt.

**A booster seat can be used only with a lap and shoulder belt together.** If all the combination lap and shoulder belt positions in the vehicle are already occupied by children using child safety

seats or booster seats, a child who ordinarily would use a booster seat should be restrained using only the lap belt.

An appropriate child safety restraint system:

- Is required for all children until their 8th birthday and,
- Must meet the size and weight requirements for the child based on the Federal requirements and the recommendations of the manufacturer, and
- Can be a child safety seat, a harness, a vest or a booster seat attached with the vehicle seat belt or latch system, but not the vehicle seat belt alone, and
- Should *not* be used in the front seat of the vehicle.

If the child is eight years old and is under 4’9” tall or weighs less than 100 lbs, it is *recommended* that you continue to use a child restraint system.

## **WHY YOU NEED TO WEAR A SEAT BELT**

A seat belt absorbs the force of impact in a traffic crash and reduces your risk of being killed or injured. It holds you securely to help prevent you from striking hard objects inside the vehicle while being tossed around. You are less likely to be thrown (ejected) through the vehicle’s windshield or doors - and vehicle ejection usually results in death.

Your seat belt offers the most protection when you sit upright. Most seat belts easily adjust to allow some comfort and free movement until you need it for protection. To properly wear your seat belt, the lap belt portion should be tight but comfortable across your upper thighs at your hip joints and the shoulder belt should rest snugly across your chest and shoulder, away from your face or neck. Never place the shoulder belt behind your back or under your arm. Improper use of a seat belt or shoulder belt can cause internal injuries in a crash.

If you would like more information or have questions on seat belt requirements, please feel free to contact Tpr. Alan Ciesla by e-mail: [aciesla@eville.wnyc.org](mailto:aciesla@eville.wnyc.org) or by calling 699-2316 (ext. 405).



**Ellicottville Central School**  
5873 Route 219  
Ellicottville, NY 14731  
[www.eville.wnyric.org](http://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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**POSTAL PATRON**

### **Administration**

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

**ECRWSS**



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



## THE GREAT DEBATERS



**By Kaitlyn Schena  
and Christina Stover**

For the last few weeks we have been working on creating political parties in our P.I.G class. Each class was split into groups and each group had to come up with their parties name, a slogan, a fundraiser, and a platform. We ended up forming seven different groups, and each group had a unique name.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, a Presidential Debate was held in the high school cafeteria.

Almost every seat was filled and the audience was very enthusiastic. The debate consisted of seven political parties, each having their own presidential candidate and unique platform. The parties and candidates were as follows: The Peace Party (Avery Chase), The Party Crashers (Aaron Thomas), National Party for the Advancement of Awesome People (Mike Wendel), The Casual Party (Clark Glendinning), The Freedom Riders (Deanna Michael), The Stronghold Party (Logan Harris), and

Normerica (Audun Johnsen).

Each candidate in the debate gave their opinion on the questions asked, and gave a scenario of what they would do if they were president. Everyone in the debate put their best foot forward, asking one another questions and answering them to the best of his or her ability. But, in the end, there could only be one winner. The winner for the presidency was AJ of the Normerica Party and in second place was Clark for the Casual Party.