

February 2011

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Senior Attends STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

By Sam Doro

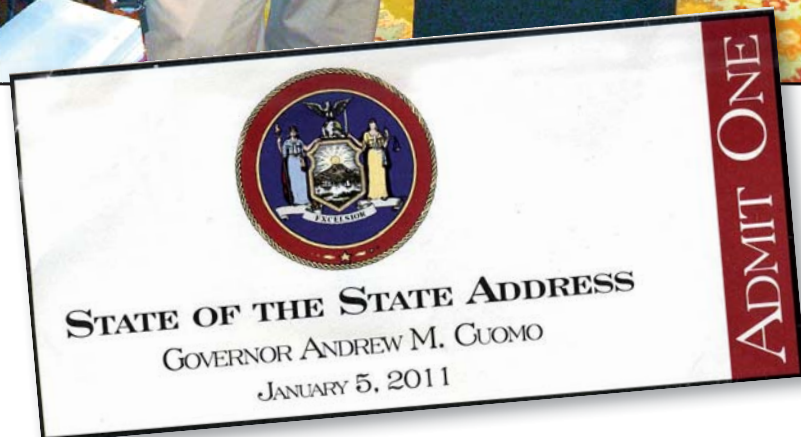
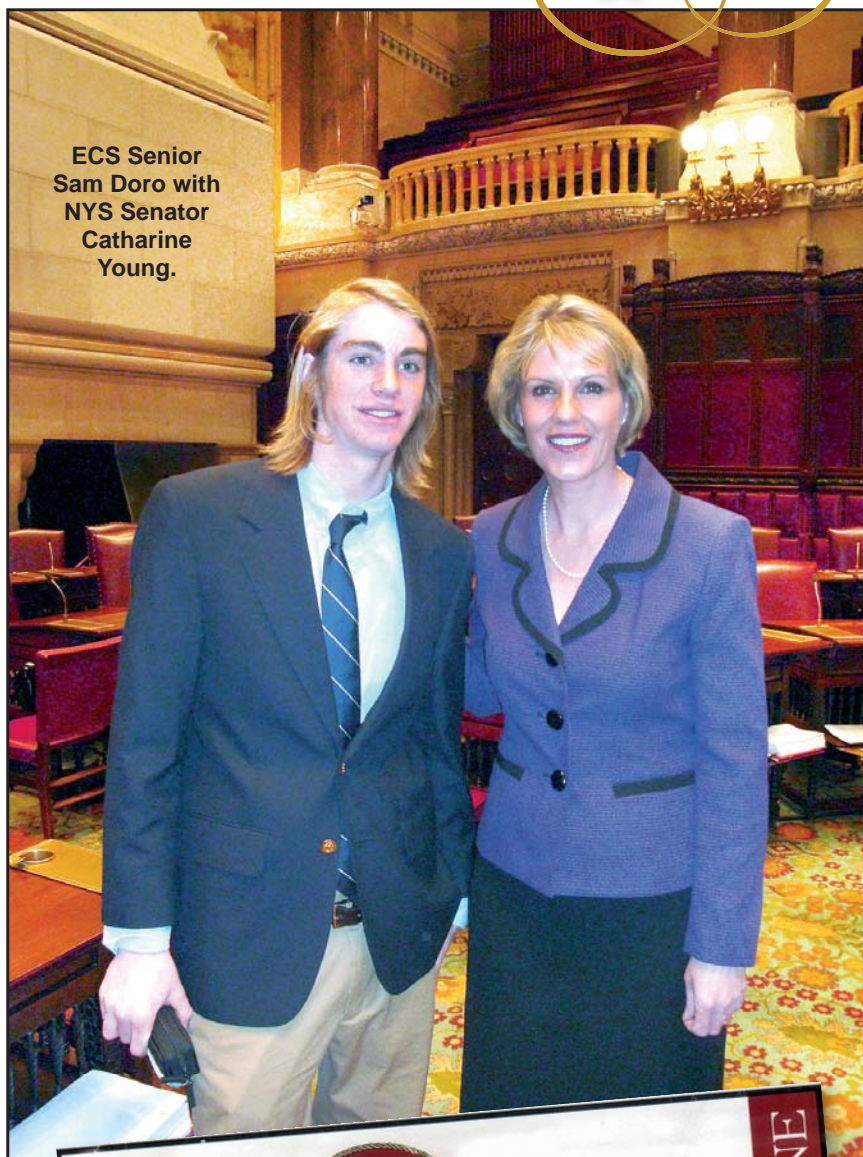
On January 5th, 2011, I attended Governor Andrew Cuomo's State of the State Address at the state Capital in Albany. The governor announced his plan to the 2,200 people in the room and to the rest of the state. He was there to— as he said— "... talk about our government in a way that had never been done before." Cuomo's speech was compelling; he addressed the real problems that the state faces and gave commendable solutions. Now Cuomo needs to put his plans to action. He needs to draw business to the state and help stop the exponential deficit spending; it has already become unbearable.

Sixty-one other high school seniors and I actually had the honor of being up on the stage sitting right behind the governor, as he gave his speech. Each one of us was from a high school which represented the 62 counties in New York State. Governor Cuomo addressed us as "... the future of New York." He said how he wanted to leave us with a better New York than the one now, so that we will stay in the state. People have already started leaving, if nothing changes, then the citizens of New York, especially the youth, will leave.

While attending this event, I also had the privilege of meeting Senator Cathy Young from our area. She was able take us on a tour of the floor of the Senate Chambers, which is an area that is not typically open to the public. I was able to see her desk in the chambers and she explained how the many laws of New York pass through the legislature.

This was a fascinating experience, especially when only 62 high school seniors in the entire State of New York were invited to attend, and I was one of them. I feel that now, I will be more interested in what goes on in our State Government, and possibly somewhere down the road, get more involved.

ECS Senior
Sam Doro with
NYS Senator
Catharine
Young.



Bleak Outlook for EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

During the past two years most Americans have felt the pain caused by the economic recession that forced prices up, increased unemployment and saw many banks and major car companies teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. These sobering realities have impacted personal savings, credit card debt, mortgages and what money people have left to spend on their families.

The State of New York has spent beyond its means for several decades and the mounting debt has finally caught up with us as we face an eleven billion dollar deficit. Taxpayers are frustrated and angry and rightly so, as we have continued to live beyond our means. Spending has continued to increase, but the revenues to support them do not exist. There is no magic left, no pot of gold out there, only the reality that we have to face the decisions we have made.

As we begin to make plans for the 2011-12 budget, we know that there will be no increase in State aid, in fact, it will likely be reduced from what we are receiving this year. The ARRA Funding that came from the Federal Government over the past two years to soften the State reductions will not be available. The State government has continued to shift costs and pass legislation that mandates schools to spend additional monies to satisfy these "mandates," but the cost associated with them rests with the local taxpayers.

We at Ellicottville Central School have been very fortunate to have a Board of Education that was fiscally conservative and accumulated a large enough fund balance to help us through the last two years. We were able to provide a 3.2% tax decrease in 2009-10 by using \$800,000 in reserves. This money helped to give our taxpayers a "break" and we also paid off a lunch fund debt of over \$200,000. Additional funds were used to supplement the tax levy and cover an unexpected increase in special education costs.

Using large amounts of fund balance is not a sound long range budgeting plan. If reserves are used to fund reoccurring costs like wages, utilities and insurance, the district will have to find or use additional reserves the following year to cover the same costs.

The real challenge facing the Board is to maintain the quality education programming that we are use to within the framework of what our taxpayers can support. There is no question that it will be a difficult balancing act.

What are we facing?

- Reduction in State aid
- Tax cap that will limit future tax increases
- Rising health insurance (8-10% increase=\$90,000)
- Mandated retirement increases totaling \$106,000
- No more ARRA Funds from the Federal government
- Negotiated wage increases
- Rising energy costs
- Changing educational standards and increased accountability

What is the District's plan for 2011-12?

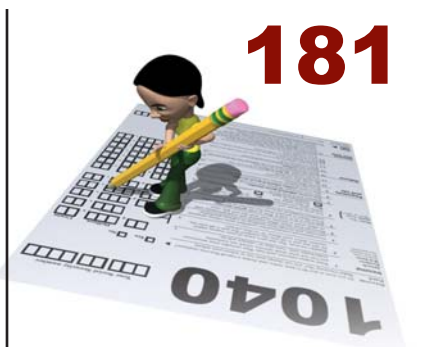
- Continue to reduce expenditures wherever possible
- We will continue to monitor staffing levels, enrollment and services. Since 2008 we have reduced the overall staff by 11 full-time positions.
- Freeze expenditures for the remainder of year in an effort to conserve wherever possible
- Explore energy saving options in order to reduce utility costs
- Develop more long range planning including a four-year plan to address the driveways and parking lots
- Further reduce the purchasing of supplies and non-essential classroom items
- Carefully monitor and evaluate supply inventories

It is far too early to predict what all of this will mean, but, if revenues are down and expenditures are up, we have several choices to pick from: reduce programs/staff, reduce non-mandated expenditures, use additional reserves as a revenue, find additional ways to share/consolidate costs with other districts, ask employees for concessions.

With the great amount of debt facing the State of New York our funding problems are not going to improve anytime soon. We pledge to our parents, taxpayers and most importantly our students that we will do everything we can to continue to provide the same quality education they are accustomed to, but "business as usual" will not be possible.

Ellicottville Central School Income Tax Code:

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HELP US PLAN FOR PRE-K PROGRAM

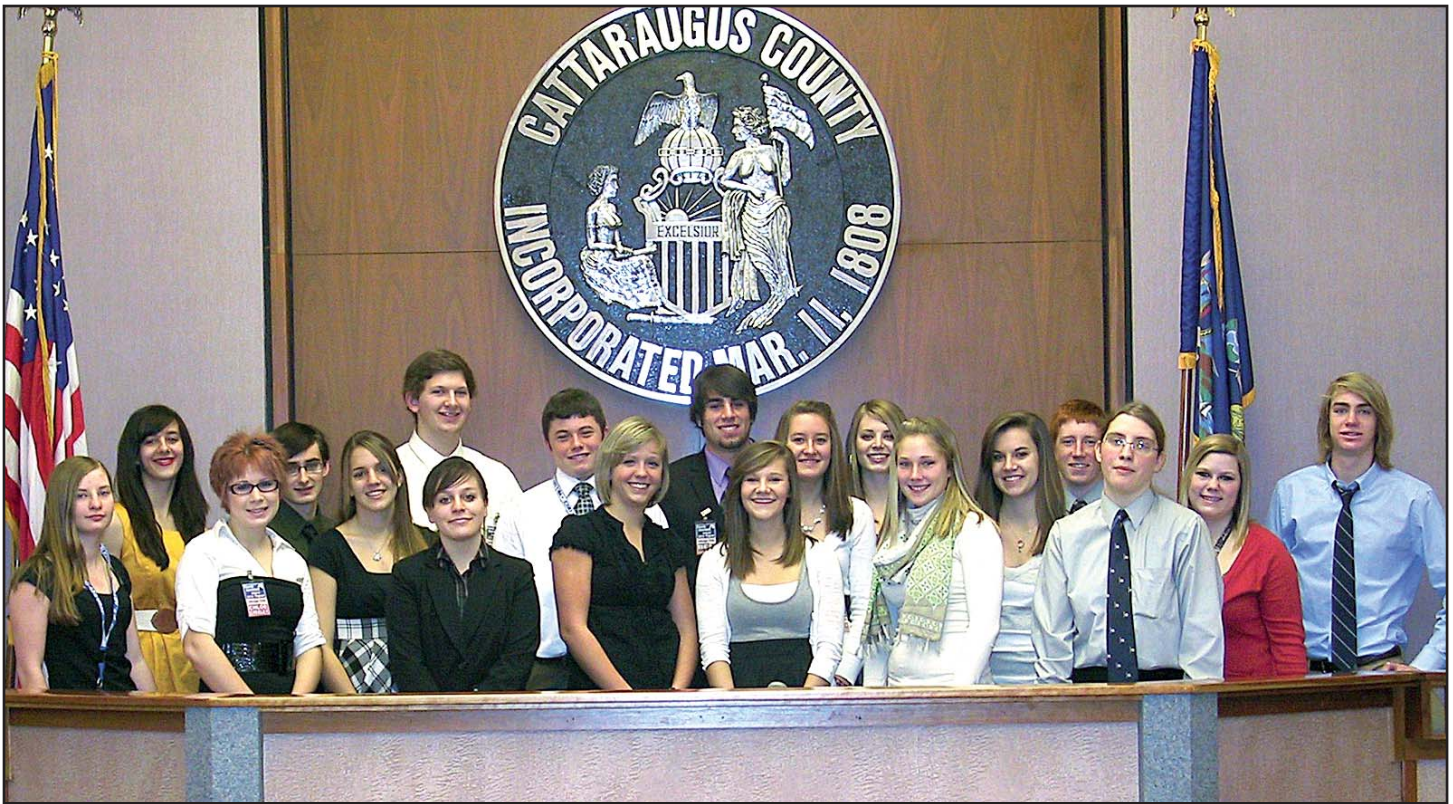
We are beginning to plan for PreK for next year!

If your son or daughter will be turning 4 years old by December 1, 2011, please contact Mrs. Connie Poulin at the Elementary Office.

We will then mail you a planning paperwork packet that will need to be completed and returned to the office. Each year New York State reviews the funding structure for the grant supported Pre-K programs.

If our PreK program is again funded, acceptance letters for the program will be mailed out by the end of June, 2011. The state considers a child Pre-school age if their birth date is between December 1, 2006 and November 30, 2007. Please contact the Elementary Office at 699-2318 as we will be happy to answer any questions that you have at this time. We would appreciate having all planning packets returned to us by May 1, 2011.





Internship Program: GOVERNMENT FIRST-HAND

Each year the Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES sponsors the County Government Legislative Internship Program. This is an exciting opportunity for students throughout Cattaraugus County to learn about government first hand. On Wednesdays from September through December, participating students travel to the County Legislative Chambers in Little Valley to spend the day learning about our government by working with legislators, elected officials, and teachers. Student learning culminates in December with a mock-legislative session. To prepare for this session, the students elect officials, form committees, submit proposals for action, and then present, discuss, debate and vote on the proposals. This year (*shown at right*) Crystal Stover, Alissa Spaulding, Kayla Goode, and Sam Doro participated in this program. Sam Doro was elected by his peers in the program to be the minority speaker for the mock-legislative session. Congratulations to all students on a job well done!



PTO HOSTS MOVIE DAY

On Monday, January 17th the ECS PTO and AmeriCorps member Diana Olson hosted a movie day in the elementary gym. There were about 60 students from grades Pre-K through 6th that attended. With the help of Student Council members and other volunteers, we were able to serve popcorn and hot chocolate. Children also watched a short clip about Martin Luther King, Jr. before the movie, "Hotel for Dogs," began. Everyone had a great time! The PTO would like to thank all of the volunteers for their help and the students for being such a great audience!



Reflecting on our Past ...

24 Washington Street/ Earth Arts

For those who have lived in or visited Ellicottville during the last thirty years, 24 Washington Street has been anchored by **Earth Arts**, which during this time has been owned and operated by Avis King. In a community that has seen many main street businesses come and go, Earth Arts has been a mainstay since 1980!

As you can imagine, since the site is the corner of Washington and Monroe Streets in the heart of the village, it has been a popular site for a variety of businesses. The **Vinton House** first occupied the corner

sometime between 1818-1820 and was owned by William and Lothrop Vinton and was later referred to as the **Eagle**. Later it was called the **Old Eagle** to distinguish it from the **Eagle Inn**. I must make an editorial comment, "Maybe these early early businesses led to selection of the schools "Eagle mascot" which likely was coined in the late 19th century!

In December 1835, the Vinton House was the site of a meeting held to petition the county legislature to incorporate the Village of Ellicottville (from 1817-1868 Ellicottville was the County Seat of Cattaraugus County). The village was eventually incorporated in 1837. The Vinton House later became a **Newspaper Office** and eventually burned in 1885.

It is believed that a place called **Turano's Photos Shop** was housed at this location in 1905-06. In the 1920's it was the site of the **Central Hotel** and later the hotel was converted into the **A & P Grocery Store**.

The Brislane family owned and operated the **Quality Cash Store** from the 1940's through the 1960's. Gerald Taylor, former County Legislator and Ellicottville School Board Member, who will soon turn 102, recalls the manager of the store was a nice jolly man. He told the clerks to "put the eggs on the bottom of the bag" so patrons would come back! Ruth Schultz and Grace Lincoln both worked there for many years.

Betty Bush ran the **Greenery Plant Shop** there in the 1970's until Bob Irvin bought and renovated the building in 1980 and it has been home to Earth Arts ever since!



Snowy Climate Contributes to 'Aspen of the East'

Little would the people of 19th century Ellicottville know how our location, cold weather and snow would shape the economic future of this community which is often referred to as the "Aspen of the East". This picture, taken somewhere between 1870-1889, shows a great amount of snow covering everything in a view of East Washington Street. You will notice that many of the buildings are of wood construction. While this area was not part of the great fire of 1890 that destroyed the north side of Washington Street, all of these buildings would later disappear.



Mark Your Calendars for 'THE SOUND OF MUSIC'

The cast has been chosen and rehearsals have begun for this year's musical "The Sound of Music!" The performances will be on Friday and Saturday, March 25th & 26th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Salamanca High School Auditorium. We are very excited to be able to use the auditorium in Salamanca again this year! Please come see this year's exciting show, you won't want to miss this one! Pre-sale tickets will be sold in the ECS high school office and at the door for \$5.

We are now accepting business advertisements to display in our beautiful professionally printed program printed by BOCES. Please use the form below. If you have any questions/concerns please contact Crystal Wilder at 699-2316, ext. 122 or cwilder@eville.wnyric.org

ECS DRAMA CLUB SPONSORSHIP FORM

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 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 16th to:

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

Thank you for supporting us!

The Sound of Music

March 25th & March 26th ~ 7:30 PM ~ Salamanca High School Auditorium

DIME CARNIVAL IS BACK!

The Dime Carnival is back! This year's Dime Carnival is being held on Friday, March 4th, from 6 to 8 p.m. Come to the High School Gymnasium to join in on all the fun. We will be using tickets for the games this year. The cost will be \$1 for 10 tickets. Tickets for themed baskets also will be for sale at \$1 each or \$10 for 12. If you would like to help the PTO out by volunteering your time, donating desserts for the cake walk, or donating clean glasses, plates, cups, etc. for the dime pitch, please contact Diana Olson at 699-2318 or dolson@eville.wnyric.org. We look forward to seeing you at the Dime Carnival!

MRS. POLASIK'S CLASS WINS \$250

Each year during the Buffalo Bills regular season, **Cellino & Barnes** selects 10 classrooms (each week) to receive cash awards of \$250 to be used for classroom supplies. Mrs. Marion Polasik's class was a recipient during week 15.

Thanks go out to the ECS parent, Michelle Steinbronner, who completed the on-line application for the class to be selected for this money award. Great Teamwork!



Technology Takes French Class on AFRICAN ADVENTURE

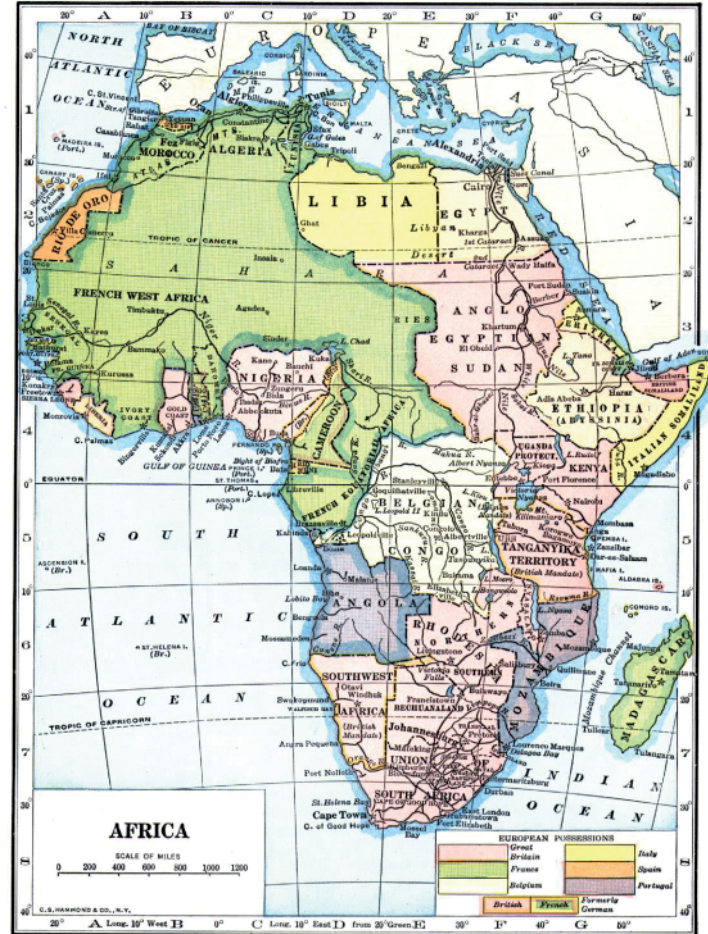
French 2 students were introduced through Skype and Web Cam to two fascinating women in California, with stories to tell, who were raised in a small village in Gabon, Africa. Gabon, an oil rich country with precious wood forests, is an equatorial country on the Atlantic Ocean.

The speakers, Stella McMahon, sister-in-law of Ellicottville teachers, Therese Pierce and Kelly McMahon and her friend Therese, also of Gabon, talked to students about what it was like being raised in a village of two hundred people, in the brush of Africa.

Both women speak a native dialect and also French, which is the official language of fourteen African countries. Students asked questions in French, about the women's families, wild animals, homes, foods and sports in Gabon. The women told of never having shoes before the age of seven and living in houses made of mud, without water, electricity or toilets.

Also discussed were common illnesses such as worms and malaria, and eating from a communal family plate. Education was almost impossible for the poor, and fixed marriages for very young girls was traditional. They spoke of the happiness in the village and the joy of having a candy cane to share with five others for Christmas.

Both women, now living in California, also talked of the dream of coming to America and the sadness of never returning to their homes. Students are awaiting the arrival of a recipe of peanut sauce from Stella and Therese. Served with fried plantain bananas, the sauce made in class will be a final treat for the African adventure.



STUDENTS SING AT 'STARS & PROMISES' CONCERT

The Ellicottville community was treated to a special musical event on December 8th, 2010! Peter Mayer - guitarist for Jimmy Buffet - and several of his musician friends presented a concert entitled "Stars & Promises: The Story of Christmas 2010" at Holiday Valley's Yodeler Lodge. It was a breathtaking concert, and the audience was treated to some exciting and unique music! A small group of 6th graders from ECS were invited to sing with Peter for a couple of songs. They were: Katie Barry, Jacob Bower, Emma Chew, Hannah Chew, Alissa Gregory, Marissa Hamilton, Madison Harris, Robert Spell, Madison Swalcy and Dylan Wilson! The group recorded a live CD that was available for purchase after the performance, with 10% of the proceeds going to charity! It was an exciting experience for our young singers! One that they won't soon forget!!



YEARBOOK NEWS

See great pictures like these ... and more!
Reserve a yearbook for yourself.

- 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 Mrs. Bauer. 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. Yearbooks are scheduled to come a little earlier this year so the final prepayment date has been moved up to May 16th.
- You may purchase old yearbooks while supplies last. 2010's book is \$30. Books from previous years are \$10 apiece, while supplies last.
- The fundraiser has been completed. If you sold candy see Mrs. Bauer to find out the balance you owe for a yearbook. Any credit for selling candy counts as a down payment for the yearbook and reserves you a copy once you have completed payment.



THANK YOU PROJECT CHRISTMAS SUPPORTERS!

The kindness and generosity of the Ellicottville Central School community came through once again as 49 families' and 55 senior citizens' Christmas Holiday was enhanced by food, presents and special goodies! The community donated over \$3,500 and the students brought in 100's of canned goods that were distributed to families and the community soup kitchen. We would also like to thank M&T Bank, Five Star Bank, Ellicottville Pharmacy, Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church for "hosting" trees for tags.



At this very special time of the year, it is good to know that we live in a community that cares for each other. Thank you for making Project Christmas a success!

Spelling Bee: CAPITAL LETTERS DO MATTER

You could feel the excitement and tension in the cafetorium on January 5, 2011 for Ellicottville's second annual spelling bee. Thirty of the middle school's top spellers competed to see who would have an opportunity to qualify for the regional bee in Buffalo. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade each sent their top 10 spellers after competing and taking a written test within their English Language Arts classes. Unfortunately, seventeen students misspelled during round one of competition. By round six there were only four students left. Morgan Zlockie, grade seven, placed fourth after leaving this round. Aemile Donoghue, grade eight, continued to spell flawlessly until round 16 which left only two spellers to battle it out. In round twenty, both competitors struggled with the word nostalgia. After correctly spelling several more words, Patrick McMahon-Eagan, reigning local champion and seventh place winner in last year's regional bee in Buffalo, forgot the capital C in the proper adjective Caribbean. When given the opportunity, Kaleigh Hunt, grade seven, knew what to do and took the first place title for 2011. She has won an online language course of her choice and her own dictionary, as well as the chance to take the written test on February 2nd to qualify for the regional bee held on March 6th at 1:30 pm at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society Auditorium. Congratulations to all spellers, and best of luck to Kaleigh as she continues on in competition.



Kaleigh Hunt



Ellicottville Central School
5873 Route 219
Ellicottville, NY 14731
www.eville.wnyric.org

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ORGANIZATION

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Ellicottville, NY 14731

Board Members

Mrs. Linda McAndrew, President
Mrs. Mary Ellen Campbell, Vice President
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Mr. Lynn Eddy
Mrs. Connie Hellwig
Mr. Roger Spell
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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



Seventh-Graders Attend **LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

On Thursday, January 20, four 7th grade students attended the 5th annual Middle School Leadership Conference at the Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES Center in Olean, with Mr. Miller, Middle / High School Principal. This exciting event is sponsored each year by the Cattaraugus-Allegany Principals' Association.

Students were selected for this event based on teacher recommendations. Attending this year from Ellicottville were Kaleigh Hunt, Quinn O'Rourke, Lindsey Robinson and Morgan Zlockie. At the conference, students heard important messages from nationally renowned speaker Ed Gerrety. Mr. Gerrety's speeches and activities focused on the importance of promoting and engaging in positive interactions with others, setting goals, improving communication skills and working as a team to make necessary changes happen within an organization.

One of the activities at this conference involved students meeting with their respective principals to brainstorm and plan ways to make improvements within the school. Our students discussed the



concept of having 7th graders each make a motivational poster to display in the hallways throughout the remainder of the

year. Students will continue to meet with Mr. Miller to explore ways to implement this plan.