

ELLICOTTVILLE

DISTRICT • NEWSLETTER

Volume 52, Issue 4

Gingerbread Baby Book

Kindergartners Decorate the Elementary Library

Mrs. Wild and the Kindergarten classes had a delightful time sharing Jan Brett's story of the naughty little Gingerbread Baby. A young boy and his mother bake a gingerbread baby that escapes from their oven and leads a crowd on a wild chase. It seems the little rascal ended up in our elementary library. Construction paper went flying, while scissors snipped away, and the kindergartners created their own paper cookie renditions that were used to cover our walls! The library is an imaginative place to have fun!!!



Fall Sports Scholar Athletes

ALL-WESTERN NEW YORK WINNERS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS

The 2021 All-Western New York Scholar Athlete fall sports team has been recently announced.

To be nominated for the team, students must have carried a 90-plus average for the previous six semesters and been a starter or significant player in their fall sport. The scholar-athlete team is open to seniors from Western New York's 100-plus public and private schools and the selections are made by a committee.

Representing Ellicottville Central School as a winner of the honor is Senior Elsa Woodarek. Elsa, a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer team, was a key contributor on the soccer field, earning League Second Team League All-Star this season. In addition to this, Elsa, has also excelled in the classroom. Congratulations on a great senior season Elsa!

Fellow Class of 2022 classmates Jocelyn Wyatt (Girls Soccer), Ignacio de Orbe (Boys Soccer), and Maddox Bush (Cross Country) all received Honorable Mention. Congratulations to these seniors for representing Ellicottville both on and off the field!



Important Dates:

Monday, Feb. 21, 2022

President's Day –
School Building Closed

**Tuesday, Feb. 22 –
Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022**

February Break –
No School for Students

Thursday, March 17, 2022

P/T Conferences
½ Day of School for
Students in grades K-12
No PM PreK

Friday, March 18, 2022

Superintendent's Day
Staff Development
No School for Students

LOADING...

2021 2022

Halfway Through the 2021-22 School Year!

By the time you receive this newsletter, the first half of the school year will be over. At times it has been a little hectic trying to figure all the changes that COVID has caused, but, more importantly, it has been successful. With the exception of 8 days that we had to switch to remote learning, ECS has been open for in-person instruction 5 days a week! It sure has been nice to have the students back in a more regular capacity.

We are now working on plans to move forward in a manner that ensures safety while restoring opportunities and activities:

- Youth basketball is up and running.
- The VEX robotics team will be engaged in an in-person competition in February.
- We have scheduled a MS/HS Band and Chorus concert for Wednesday, March 9th.
- National Honor Society is looking for dates for an Induction Ceremony.
- The High School is planning a Winter Weekend Dance.
- It is anticipated that we will have a HS Musical late winter/early spring.

COVID continues to present obstacles, but we remain committed to overcoming these obstacles. We will

continue to partner with the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) to offer vaccination clinics. I would like to commend and thank parents that obtained free COVID Test Kits from NYS through the school. If you have not yet had a chance to pick up a kit for your child/children, please call 716-699-6052 and leave a message; we will get back to you to make arrangements to obtain these kits. As NYS and the CCHD have put a hold on their contact tracing / quarantine program, we, too, will **dramatically** scale back on these items as well. Hopefully, sooner than later, we will be able to kick COVID and its impact on the school system to the curb, allowing for the school to return to more “normal” activities and schedules.

January–March is also the time of the year when we really start digging into the creation of the 2022-23 School Year Budget. New York State has released its estimates for School Aid next year, but these are estimates and they can still change. We have reviewed our current estimated numbers, and it appears that while several categories are over-estimated (this is a regular occurrence for ECS), we hope to see about a 3% increase in foundation aid which equals approximately \$88,000. Unfortunately, Ellicottville will not see any of the “extra” aid payments some of our neighbors are receiving as we have already been “fully funded” over recent years per the formulas. At the same time,

we have been notified of a number of increases that we will see for the 2022-23 fiscal year. These areas include (but are not limited to): health insurance, BOCES services (both CA and Erie 1 BOCES), utilities, and retirement systems payments. We also know that the “tax cap” (the small part of the overall tax picture that we control) will be 2% this year. While the District may need to exceed the tax cap this year, it is still too early to know this for sure until we can complete additional work on the budget. The budget will start to take its final shape throughout the month of March.

As we head into the 2nd half of the year, I have high hopes for the ECS Students and Community. We have better learned how to cope with COVID and mitigate its impact on the school. We are starting to see activities and events that have been missing for almost 2 years. The NYS budget and aid estimates look better than the past few years. The days are getting longer and the nights are getting shorter. Spring is just around the corner and will be here before we know it. The future is certainly looking brighter at ECS!

Sincerely,



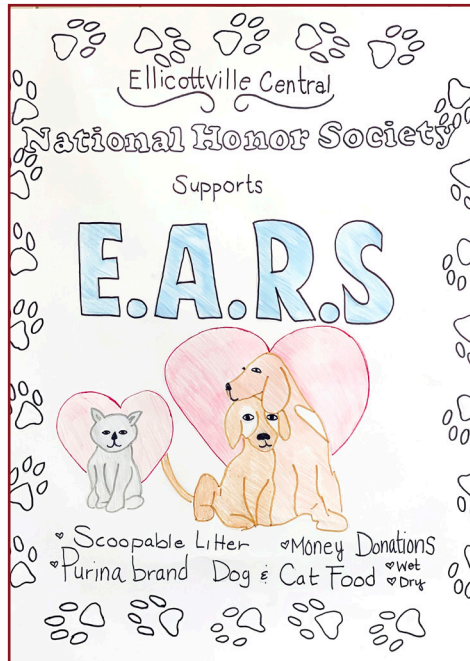
Bob

ELLCOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL TAX CODE: 181

Send Love to the Animals



Ellicottville Central National Honor Society is hosting a **“Send Love to the Animals”** campaign during the month of February. We are partnered with E.A.R.S. and will be accepting: PURINA dry and wet cat/dog food, scoopable litter and monetary donations. There will be a bin placed in the high school foyer for food/ litter drop off during normal school hours. Checks can be made out to: *ECS National Honor Society*. They can be mailed to ECS NHS in care of Crystal Wilder or dropped off at the HS office before February 21st. Senior NHS member; Jocelyn Wyatt states, “We wanted to give back to an organization that works hard to keep animals safe. A little gratitude for all they do for pets with no homes.” Senior NHS member; Elsa Woodarek states, “We want to make sure the animals in our area our taken care of and donating to E.A.R.S. will definitely accomplish that!”



A little about Empire Animal Rescue Society (EARS):

Empire Animal Rescue Society, (EARS), located in Salamanca, N.Y., is a registered 501(c)(3) corporation engaged primarily in the rescue, foster and eventual lifetime placement of companion pets. Other areas of focus include the trap/ neuter/release of feral cats, facilitation of spay and neuter through low-cost clinics, and endorsement of responsible pet ownership through all available means. We are a 100% volunteer, foster based organization. Animals in our care are accepted without regard to breed or severity of need. All aspects of what we do is aimed at reducing the pet overpopulation epidemic and alleviating the suffering that stems from it.

Ears was established in 2011. They work closely with local rescues and other agencies including law enforcement, social services and local dog control officers to meet the needs of animals and people who need assistance. Over 500 spay and neuter surgeries were completed in 2021. They also have a heavy social media presence to highlight pets up for adoption, and a good working relationship with the Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI). They even have established a prison partnership and animal training program called Rescue Under Federal Fences (R.U.F.F.)

Find them on Facebook, Instagram- [@empirerescue](#) and on the Petfinder website at www.empire.petfinder.com

EARS also began a partnership with Purrfect Cat Café' in Buffalo, NY in March of 2021. Since then, 200 cats and kittens have been adopted into their forever homes. This location offers 15 cats and kittens at a time a safe space to be fostered and visible to the public as they wait for their new families. The facility allows the animals to roam freely and enjoy the company of the other cats and the people who come in to visit and attend the multiple events they offer including paint nights, private parties, seasonal activities and cat yoga.

EARS is always looking for extra help and foster homes.

Contact them: empirerescue@gmail.com



ECS YEARBOOK NEWS

- Old yearbooks are available for purchase, as long as supplies last. The 2021 yearbook is \$40. Books from previous years are \$10. Contact Mrs. Bauer for more details.
- We would love to have pictures of students unmasked, but they can't be taken on campus (except outside). So if you have pictures email them to Mrs. Bauer.
- If you want a yearbook you need to put at least \$10 down before May 1st. Checks should be made out to ECS Yearbook. Yearbooks are \$60.
- There is an elementary yearbook. There are limited copies and they MUST be reserved ahead of time. They are \$20. Please send payment in with your elementary (PreK-5) child and include the child's name and the name of their teacher.





Kindergarten & PreK Registration:

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

If you are a parent/guardian of a child turning 4 years old by December 1, 2022 and have interest in enrolling your child in our half-day Pre-K program, please contact Mrs. Kosinski in the Elementary Office at 699-2318, ext. 1600.

Each year, New York State reviews the funding structure for the grant supported Pre-K programs. If our Pre-K program is again funded, acceptance letters for the program will be mailed this June.

The state considers a child pre-school age if their birth date is between December 1, 2017 and November 30, 2018.

In order for your child to be considered for our program, a Pre-K application will need to be filled out and returned to the elementary office.

If you have any questions or need assistance with this application process, please feel free to call the elementary office.

KINDERGARTEN

Do you have a child that will be Kindergarten age this fall, but is not currently enrolled in our Pre-K program?

If you do, please notify the Elementary Office at 699-2318, ext. 1600 so we may include your family in any upcoming activities this spring such as Kindergarten Screening.

Our Kindergarten program is a full school day. The state considers a child Kindergarten age if they turn 5 years old before December 1, 2022.



Making A Difference Locally



P.U.N.T is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2004 by former Buffalo Bills punter, Brian Moorman. Brian and his wife, Amber, wanted to make a difference for families in WNY, who had kids fighting pediatric cancer. The P.U.N.T. acronym stands for Perseverance, Understanding, Need and Teamwork. With passionate staff and leadership and abiding financial support from the WNY community, P.U.N.T.'s programs have grown significantly in both scope and impact over the past years. This made the nonprofit organization a well-respected and heavily relied upon source of assistance for local families dealing with the effects of pediatric cancer. Today, Buffalo Bills players such as Dawson Knox, Tommy Sweeney, and kicker, Tyler Bass have been working with a great group of people to host many charity events to continue to help these families. This holiday season, the "Adopt a Family" event was held. Donors would volunteer to buy gifts or give monetary donations to a family in need. Many gracious staff members here at ECS proudly donated gifts to a local family to make their Christmas extra special. THANK YOU to all involved. The family was deeply appreciative and very happy with all that was given. ECS is truly a great school, and community to be a part of.



Mrs. Wilder's 7th grade band students took advantage of the latest snowfall and enjoyed some bonding time building snowmen.

Snow Buddies





**MS/HS
Band & Chorus
ONLINE
Fundraiser**

*Pizzas will be delivered
to your home!*



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<https://fundraising.littlecaesars.com/fundraisers/support/6d6e61a8-9607-4052-8e8d-488d3d38dce6>

Fifth Grade Honor Roll ★ ★ ★

Second Quarter: November 2020–January 2021

Mrs. Moore's Class

Cayda Kruszynski
AJ Myers
Calvin Pearl
Emmalea Reuman
Stella Tupchik

Mrs. Peter's Class

Marjorie Brown
Gabriel DeChane
Marshall DeChane

Mr. Smith's Class

Carsten Kosinski
Patricia Ross
Briyona Tarr

B.U.G. Awards (*Bringing Up Grades*)

Mrs. Moore's Class

Kaegan Bauer
Tareyn Foster
Timothy Green
Lillian Horton
Ricky Howard
Landon Jensen
Autumn Kaltenbach
Cayda Kruszynski
McKenna Mendell
AJ Myers
Calvin Pearl
Emmalea Reuman
Stella Tupchik

Mrs. Peter's Class

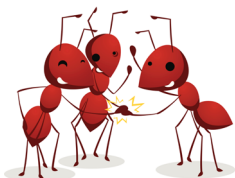
Audrey Krause
Rae Ann Meyer
Whalyn Wyatt

Mr. Smith's Class

Christian Butcher
Brody Erlandson
Grace Griffith
Marlee Maynard
Lillian Pearl
Ella Weber

Awesome!

**Excellent
WORK!**



**Don't miss the
last days to ski!**

March 3, 2022

March 10, 2022

**LAST DAY IS
March 17, 2022**

No ECS Transportation/
No Lessons
(students have a
½ day of school)

Please send any questions to
ecsski@ecsnny.org

Thank you!

Honor & High Honor Roll, Grades 6-12

Second Quarter: November 2021–January 2022

High Honor Roll

6th Grade

Zachary Brennan
Jersie Czaplá
Audrianna Finch
Camden Howard
Rian Johnson
Daniel Kruszynski
Carson Mendell
Coleman Milks
Sawyer Miller
Meegan Olson
Nigel Poulin
Payton Quinn
Abigail Rust
Matthew Rzucek
Cooper Sciara
Collin Weber

7th Grade

Adalynn Andrews
Eli Atwater
Austin Kuna-Beck
Kristen Bless
Rylan Benjamin
Breanna Byroads
Timothy DeChane
Trinity DeChane
Danielle Dunkleman
Ainsley Edwards
Christopher Edwards
Ava Fuller
Yanieliz Velazquez-Garcia
McKenzie Green
Ella Grundy
Kaiser Joesel
Tosh Klein
Jaxon LaCroix
Jonah Mann
Eliza Murray
Juliana O'Connell
Dominic Polino
Nora Santiago
Blake Smith

Ava Weber
Benjamin Wedvik
Riley Whitmer
Isabella Wilder

8th Grade

Patrick Andera
Bianca Bush
Grady Byroads
Isabelle Coburn
Kalyn Crowley
Drew Ficek
Teaghan Finn
Jordan Folts
Parker John
Riyaan Khan
Harper Klein
Jackson Kruszynski
Alexa Liskow
Cameron Mendell
Delaney Myers
Anna Nazareth
Mackenzie Noga
Ande Northrup
Jordan O'Connell
Olivia Tighe
Oliver Wedvik
Skye Wood

9th Grade

Kathryn Bless
Benjamin Edwards
Sara Epps
Tea Fuller
Kade Hilliman
Maddox Johnson
Michael Kerns
Courtney Marsh
Liam McGuire
Sophia Sundeen
Adelaide Weber

10th Grade

William Benatovich
Brooke Butler

Emmylu Carls
Abby Chudy
Shelby Colburn
Jase Curtis
Adrynn Dederick
Samuel Edwards
Keelin Finn
Aiden Harrington
Cameron Kaleta
Layla Kerns
Morgan Krotz
Emma Lafferty
Bailey Lewis
Hunter Smith
Gabrielle Spross

11th Grade

Lita Conklin
Katrina DeChane
Katryna Jennings
Katie Krotz
Olivia Knab
Kayla Romero
Alexander Silvernail
Samantha Stock
Leah Tupchik
Sarah Weber
Cody Wickham
Alysa Williams
Aaliyah Winslow
Bryce Wood

12th Grade

Maddox Bush
Ignacio de Orbe
Kyleigh Dimpfl
Antonia Epps
Isabella Haskell
Caleb Johnson
Kaleb Kilby
Carly Neumann
Aiden Privitera
Alexis Redeye
Emilee Ruiz
Samuel Schwartz

Emma Steffenhagen
Courtney Venturin
Elsa Woodarek
Jocelyn Wyatt

Honor Roll

6th Grade

Kelsey Feldbauer
Carter Kaleta
Keegan Kaleta
Katie Lafferty
Brodie Latimer
Grayson Neal
Karle Northrup
Riley Northrup
Trenton Pierce
Jackson Tomsick

7th Grade

Coleman Carls
Malie Curtis
Parker Gebauer
Bentley Lewis
Jadyn Nevins
Ava Pasinski

8th Grade

Ava Adamucci
Faith Burlingame
Daliana Velazquez-Garcia
Makayla Potter
Curtis Robison
Zachary Vassar
Lanie Wilson

9th Grade

Hayden Andera
Lauren Button
Tobias Coburn
Owen Doherty
Jayden Doult
Alivia Fisher
Jack Flagg
Ryan Metzger

Grace Privitera
Parker Quinn
Kyle Robinson
Cheyenne Rust
Ava Woodarek

10th Grade

Jacob Atwater
Evan Bauer
Mikaya Carney
Gracie Conklin
Edward Doherty
David Freundsuh
Zoe Goode
Aaron LoGiudice
Madison Potter
Isabelle Woodmancy

11th Grade

Breana Andrews
Jacob Ballard
Tristin Bomberly
Yahir Velazquez-Garcia
Bryan Grundy
Madeline Hawkins
Errol Moore
Giancarlo Nuzzo
Ryah Quinn

12th Grade

Hannah Jacobson-Coolidge
Joshua Coolidge
Shawn Clancy
Harley Ficek
Ethan Frank
Mandy Hurlburt
Alexander Traina
Kimberly Weaver
Erica Wilber

AWESOME JOB!

Updates to Reopening Plan and Grants

As this year has progressed, we have seen many changes to the “mandates,” guidelines, processes, etc. related to COVID. At times, it seems as if these changes came faster than we could keep up. Sometimes the changes were significant and other times they were minor. At this point, it is necessary to make changes to the ECS Reopening Plan for 2021-22. Please note that the updated plan is still subject to change as we move forward. In fact, as this article is being prepared, we know that changes may be just around the corner; the most notable being possible changes to masking in schools. Despite these pending changes, it is important to make updates to the plan now so that we can make additional changes as necessary. If we wait for all announcements of changes from NYS, the plan would be completely outdated.

While the entire reopening plan can be found on the District Website at: <https://www.ellicottvillecentral.com/Page/2221>, a summary of the updates include, but are not limited to:

- While we will continue to social distance to the best extent possible, we may not be able to always maintain 6 feet. This includes both classrooms and lunches. At the same time, we will ensure that in classrooms and lunches, at least 3 feet will be maintained.

- We will move study halls and MS/HS lunches off the HS Stage. Students that had study halls or lunches on the stage will be moved to other locations. To best ensure safety, we will continue to ensure a minimum of 3 feet in these changes. These changes are necessary, as we are now at a point where we need to utilize the stage for chorus, band and the HS Musical.
- As you may be aware, NYS has discontinued its “Contact Tracing” program and modified its quarantine guidelines. In light of this, and for the time being, for elementary students the school will attempt to notify parents (letter and/or robo-call) if their child is identified as a close contact. For MS/HS students, parents of the child testing positive will be asked to have their child notify possible close contacts. Information on quarantining and isolation is located on the Cattaraugus County COVID Website: <https://www.cattco.org/coronavirus>.

Switching gears, we have made good progress with the CRRSA, ARP-ESSER, and FCC Connectivity grants. In summary, we secured two FCC Grants that will allow us to purchase technology (laptops and iPads) and free up funds in the ARP-ESSER grant to purchase Halo Vape Detectors to curb vaping and improve air

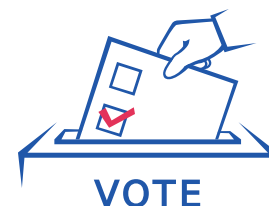
quality within the school. Other items of note include, but are not limited to:

- Purchase and installation of 7 water fountains that include bottle filling dispensers.
- The hiring of a third 6th grade teacher.
- The hiring of a MS/HS Transition Teacher
- The purchase and implementation of programs such as “Sources of Strength,” a program to better address the social emotional needs of students.
- Please note that the ARP-ESSER Grant actually covers three years, so there is still much work to be done with the funds from this grant. More information about these grants can be found on the District Website at: <https://www.ellicottvillecentral.com/domain/241>.

If, after reviewing information for the reopening plans and grant information you have questions, thoughts or suggestions, please e-mail them to Robert Miller, District Superintendent, at bmiller@ecsny.org. If you cannot access any of these documents and would like a copy you can contact the school at the same e-mail address or by calling the school at 716-699-2368.

ONE SEAT OPEN ON THE ECS BOARD OF EDUCATION:

- Nominating petitions for the Ellicottville Central School District Board of Education are now available. **The annual election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022** to fill the seat currently held by board member, Mr. Leonard Zlockie. **Nominating petitions must be filed with the District Clerk by 5:00p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2022.**
- Petitions must contain the signatures and legal addresses of at least 25 qualified voters living in the Ellicottville Central School District. A qualified voter must be a United States citizen, be at least 18 years of age, a district resident for 30 days prior to the election, with their current address on the nominating petition. To qualify as a candidate, one must be a qualified voter and a district resident for one year immediately prior to the election.
- The candidate (one) receiving the highest number of votes will serve a five-year term, beginning on July 1, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2027.
- Nominating petitions are available in the District Office, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday) when school is in session.



Ellicottville Central School
5873 Route 219
Ellicottville, NY 14731
www.ellicottvillecentral.com

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Robert Van Wicklin, President
Leonard Zlockie, Vice President
Shana Chudy
Erin Schweers Cornelius
Debra Golley
William Murphy
Karl Northrup

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Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent
Mr. Erich Ploetz, 6-12 Principal
Mrs. Maren Bush, Elementary Principal / Director of Curriculum

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The Project Christmas committee would like to thank the Ellicottville Central School community for their continued and very generous support. This past December, the program was able to provide assistance to over 29 families. While things may have looked a bit different, one thing that did not change was the support the Project received. We are all so fortunate to live in a community where support is available when it is needed. Best wishes to everyone, for a very Healthy and Happy 2022!

Upcoming Music Concerts!

We will have the following concerts on
March 9, 2022 in the "Ward"

5:00 pm—MS Band & Chorus • 7:00 pm—HS Band & Chorus

**Seating will be limited to immediate household members.*

The ECS Music Department would like to give a warm welcome to Ms. Wendy Regan as our new Chorus teacher!

Non-Public School Transportation Requests

Requests for transportation of non-public school children should be submitted to the Ellicottville Central School District Superintendent's Office by **April 1, 2022**.

Regulations require that the district transport students to non-public schools when a student resides within 15 miles of the non-public school. The 15 miles is measured from the home of the student to the non-public school.

Please send requests to:

Ellicottville Central School, ATTN: Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent
5873 Route 219, Ellicottville, New York 14731