

February 2018

# ELLICOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 48, Issue 4

## Changing Lives

### ECS French Club Raises \$600

By Hannah DeChane

During the month of December, our French Club made hand-painted ornaments, which were available for purchase at the holiday concerts and during school days. By purchasing these ornaments, our community was raising money to donate to an organization called Heifer International. Heifer International's purpose is to send farm animals and other sustainable resources to third-world countries and under-privileged communities around the world. Along with the gift of animals, the workers involved in the organization educate those receiving the animals on how to care for them. Our club raised \$600, which allowed us to donate the following animals: two flocks of chicks, one trio of rabbits, two honeybee hives, one water buffalo, one pig, one "Flock of Hope" (which includes chicks, ducks,



and goslings), and a donation towards a sheep. This was all made possible by the hard work of our students, who gave up their free time to make the ornaments, Mrs. Whistler our French teacher, whose efforts and hard work made everything run smoothly, Ms. McGowan, who provided

the supplies for painting and the efforts of her art club, and the community's generous donations. This organization is changing the lives of communities around the world for the better, and we can all feel proud knowing that we are helping.



**SAVE THE DATE! March 15, 16 & 17!**



The ECS High School musical  
**The Drowsy Chaperone**  
 will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.



**Tickets will be on sale at the door each evening for \$7.**

**March 15, 16 & 17! SAVE THE DATE!**

**1/2 Day for Grades K-5 March 7, 2018**  
 Parent-Teacher Conferences

**No School for Students on Friday March 16th**  
 for Superintendent's Day



# THANK YOU!

The Project Christmas committee would like to thank the Ellicottville Central School Community for their continued and generous support of Project Christmas. This past December, the program was able to provide **food and presents for 48 families** as well as **“Thinking of You” bags for 60 senior citizens.**

*Best wishes to all, for a very healthy and happy 2018!*



## REQUESTS FOR TRANSPORTATION

Requests for transportation of non-public school children should be submitted to the Ellicottville Central School District Superintendent’s Office **prior to April 1, 2018.**

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.

**ELLICOTTVILLE  
CENTRAL SCHOOL  
INCOME TAX CODE:  
181**



# A Peek at the School Budget Season

ECS is now busy preparing the budget proposal for the 2018-19 school year. While the actual vote for this budget seems like it is a long ways away (Tuesday, May 15, 2018), we started putting a comprehensive and responsible budget together back in November 2017. We still have a great deal of work to do to put the entire package together, but I thought this would be a good time to share a little information about the process.

Each time a school creates a budget, there are portions with a good deal of local control as well as elements for which the school does not have a great amount of control. The New York State budget process, New York State Education Department (NYSED) mandates, retirement system contributions, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), certain specialized programs, etc. are examples of items that are mostly out of our control. Educational supplies and materials, equipment purchases, building maintenance, student programs, etc. are mostly within our control.

When looking at the items that are out of our control, the overall State budget is, perhaps, the biggest item. In general the revenue we get from the state often has strings, rules, and mandates attached with the funds; not only do we not have much control over what we receive, we often times do not have complete control over how we can spend those funds.

While we have the Governor’s proposed budget with dollar amounts, we need to keep in mind that it is “proposed.” It still needs to be reviewed by the State Senate and Assembly, and then approved. The deadline for approval is supposed to be April 1st each year. In recent years the budget has either been on time or close to the deadline. Schools cannot obviously wait until April 1st to start planning their budgets, so we have no other option than to use the proposed numbers at this time.

By now, I’m sure many of you have heard in the news that New York State is facing a major deficit. State revenues are down about \$4 billion, so building a budget is going to be very difficult. At the same time, the Governor’s proposed budget includes a \$769 million increase in School Aid. While this sounds good, not everyone will get large increases. With over 700 public schools in the State (not



including charter schools), districts receive varying amounts of state aid based on complicated and confusing formulas.

The largest category of State Aid is Foundation Aid, and it is proposed to go up by \$338 million. Currently, ECS is projected to receive a \$6,878 increase in this Foundation Aid. This may seem like a good amount of money to you or me when looking at a household budget, but, in a school budget of \$12 million, it is a very small increase. An increase of \$6,878 in the ECS budget is ONLY a 0.2% increase over the Foundation Aid we currently receive. To put this increase into perspective; it is roughly the cost of 1 “single” health insurance policy. And, I need to point out that, while there is an additional \$50 million increase proposed for the Community School Initiative for certain “high need districts,” under current funding guidelines ECS will NEVER be eligible to receive this funding.

Another category of aid is Expense-Based Aids. We did receive an increase here, but this is only because we have spent additional funds during the 2017-18 school year. Examples of expense driven aids include expenditures in the area of transportation, BOCES, and Special Education.

There are also a number of proposed additional aid categories that do not or will not pertain to ECS. One of these is an incentive to convert to full-day kindergarten, which we already have. Funds for gang prevention, charter schools, and after-school programs earmarked for “high-need, vulnerable and at-risk communities” are examples of additional proposals offered by the State as part of the budget for which ECS does not qualify.

At this point, I think it is fair for ECS to plan based on the aid that has been proposed. We will certainly keep our eye on the multitude of proposals that the Governor has offered, and please be assured that if we find out that we qualify or can apply for aid in one or more of the proposals (after approval) we will work our hardest to secure the funds.

*Continued on page 4...*

# National Technical Honor Society

## Ashlee Ruiz Among Inductees

The Ellicottville Career and Technical Center BOCES inducted ten students, on January 31, 2018, into the National Technical Honor Society. The National Technical Honor Society membership is based on academic and technical scholarship, skill, attendance, leadership and citizenship.

Pictured here are Medical Assisting Program Senior, Ashlee Ruiz and Ellicottville Superintendent, Robert Miller.



## Battling A Tough Flu Season



### NOTES FROM THE ECS HEALTH OFFICE

This influenza "flu" season has been tough in our area. Here are some guidelines for sending your child to school and when to keep them home. If your child has a fever of 100.0 or greater, please keep them home. This is the time they are considered to be contagious. If they are sent home from the health office with a fever, please make arrangements for child care for the following day. A student needs to be kept home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of any Tylenol, Motrin. If your child has a harsh or loose sounding cough, please keep them home. Keeping your child home to rest a day or two allows them to regain their strength. If they return to school too soon, it affects their ability to learn and could possibly spread the illness to healthy students and staff.

The CDC recommendations of frequent hand washing, avoiding touching your face, and coughing into tissues or your elbow are tools that we all can use to prevent the spread of germs. Also, disinfecting common items and surfaces in your home such as countertops, doorknobs, remotes and computer keyboards will help decrease the virus transmission.

Please feel free to contact the health office for any questions/concerns you may have. Our phone number is (716) 699-2318 ext. #1604.

Wishing you health,

*Karin Hager, RN*

**\*\*We Have included more helpful information about the flu in this newsletter. Please take a moment to read "Flu Facts" found on page 6.**

# County Government Program





## Three ECS Students Complete Internship

Congratulations to Elizabeth Jacobson-Coolidge, Deric Leiper and Parker Reiman for completing the County Government Internship Program at the County Building in Little Valley, New York. Over the course of the first semester, these ECS Seniors had the opportunity to tour various facilities and speak with a wide variety of constituents making up the government and legislature of Cattaraugus County. On December 20, 2017, Deric Leiper and Parker Reiman gave a presentation on the office of the County Attorney and Paralegal, while Elizabeth Jacobson-Coolidge presented on the various components of emergency services coordinated through the County. Our ECS students are seen in this photo with their teacher through Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES, Mr. John Butler.



## Important Yearbook Information

*The school year will end before you know it:*

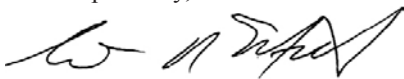
-  Old yearbooks are available for purchase, as long as supplies last. **The 2017 yearbook is \$30.** Books from previous years are \$10. Contact Mrs. Bauer ([cbauer@eville.wnyric.org](mailto:cbauer@eville.wnyric.org)) for more details.
-  **You need to put at least \$10 down to reserve a yearbook.** If you do not reserve one then you can purchase them a week after they come in, if there are any left after all reserved ones have had a chance to be claimed.
-  If you sold Easter candy, you have a yearbook reserved for you. **If you sold 30 items, your book is free.** If you sold less than 30 items, you will get a dollar off for each item you sold.
-  If you have great pictures you have taken that you think might be good for the yearbook, email them to Mrs. Bauer at [cbauer@eville.wnyric.org](mailto:cbauer@eville.wnyric.org).

## School Budget *Continued from pg. 2...*

At the local level, we have already collected requests from the faculty and staff for next year. This includes everything from pencils for the classroom to furniture, computers, maintenance equipment and vehicles. These requests will be closely scrutinized by administration before being placed on a draft of the budget. At the same time, we are analyzing other costs that we know we will incur: increases in health insurance, bond payments for capital projects, increase in staff wages, utilities (i.e. electric), etc. Once these items have been compiled, the Business Office will sit down with Administration to merge them with anticipated State Aid, estimated revenue from school taxes, etc. to build a comprehensive and fiscally responsible budget, which will then be presented to the Board of Education for review and changes. **The final steps of the process will be the presentation of the budget to the public on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 (7:00pm) and the actual budget vote on Tuesday, May 15, 2018.**

We have a great deal of work to complete on this process between now and the vote. Please be assured that we are working our hardest to provide the best education possible for our students while being responsible to the taxpayers of the community.

Respectfully,



Robert Miller  
Superintendent of Schools

*\*Please note: a great deal of this information on the Governor's Proposed Budget was obtained from:*

- Documents received from the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSOCSS), Robert Lowry (NYSOCSS Deputy Director for Advocacy Research and Communications), and Greg Berck (NYSOCSS Assistant Director for Governmental Relations and Assistant Counsel)

- New York State Governor Cuomo's Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget Briefing Book

- State Aid & Financial Planning Service-Questar III BOCES' 2018-19 Executive Budget Proposal Summary

## Bringing Back the Spelling Bee

### ***Batavia Daily News Helps Make It P-O-S-S-I-B-L-E***

The middle school was excited to bring back the spelling bee this year after a one year absence due to the lack of a regional sponsor. The Batavia Daily News picked up the sponsorship for Cattaraugus County in addition to most of Western New York and the Southern Tier. Without a sponsor, the spelling bee ends at the school level. However, with this sponsorship the winner of the school bee has the opportunity to continue to compete possibly all the way to Washington, D.C. for the national competition.

Ellicottville held the school wide bee on Wednesday, January 3, 2018. The top thirty spellers, as predetermined through classroom competitions, competed in the cafeteria in front of their peers, parents, and teachers. Every contestant remained in the competition through the first round of spelling. After the first round, students slowly started to stumble. It wasn't until the fifth round that multiple students misspelled. Two particularly tricky words this year were "severely" and "agog." The sixth round left the top six spellers: Bella Bacon (8th grade), Nick LoGiudice (8th grade), Daniel Pfeffer (8th grade), Yahir Velazquez-Garcia (7th grade), Sarah Weber (7th grade), and Bryce Wood (7th grade). Three students remained in the seventh round: Nick, Daniel, and Sarah. The ninth round brought the competition to the top two spellers, and these students continued to spell words correctly for seven more rounds. Ellicottville's Spelling Bee winner was Sarah Weber (*pictured*) with the word "segregation." She will now go on to a written competition to find out if she will compete in the regional competition in March to be held at Genesee Community College. As the runner up, Daniel Pfeffer will fill in for Sarah if she is unable to compete.



## MS Leadership Workshop

Congratulations to ECS 7th Grade students Olivia Bacon, Erik Shattenberg, Christian Swalcy and Alysa Williams for their selection and participation in the annual Middle Level Student Leadership Workshop organized by the Cattaraugus-Allegany County Principal's Association. On January 18, 2018, these four students attended a workshop at the Challenger Center on the campus of St. Bonaventure University where they were led by speaker and presenter Mr. Ed Gerety. Our students enjoyed a day full of motivational activities and anecdotes, encouraging students to "dream big," make the very most of every opportunity, and to help improve our campus upon return. Thank you, students, for representing ECS well!

# MARCH

# 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Ski Club 1	All County 1: Elementary Chorus, MS Chorus, HS Band (at Catt-Little Valley) 2	All County 1: Elementary Chorus, MS Chorus, HS Band (at Catt-Little Valley) 3
4	3:00 pm Homework Club 5	3:00 Homework Club 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting - Budget Worksession (HS Library) 6	12:00 pm Dismissal Grades K-5 (Parent Teacher Conferences) 7	Ski Club 7:00 pm MS/HS Music Concert 8	All County 2: Elementary Band, MS Band, HS Chorus (Franklinville) 9	All County 2: Elementary Band, MS Band, HS Chorus (Franklinville) 10
11	3:00 pm Homework Club 12	3:00 pm Homework Club 13	3:00 pm Homework Club 3:00 pm Spring Sports Pictures 14	Ski Club 7:00 pm Musical - Drowsy Chaperone 15	<b>No School for Students - Staff Development Day</b> 7:00 pm Musical - Drowsy Chaperone 16	7:00 pm Musical - Drowsy Chaperone 17
18	3:00 pm Homework Club 6:00 pm Winter Sports Banquet 19	3:00 pm Homework Club 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting - Budget Worksession (HS Library) 20	3:00 pm Homework Club 21	22	23	Odyssey of the Mind @Allegany-Limestone 24
6:00 pm ECS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 25	3:00 pm Homework Club 26	3:00 pm Homework Club 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) 27	3:00 pm Homework Club 28	29	<b>School Closed - Spring Break</b> 30	31

# APRIL

# 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	<b>School Closed - Spring Break</b> 2	<b>School Closed - Spring Break</b> 3	<b>School Closed - Spring Break</b> 4	<b>School Closed - Spring Break</b> 5	<b>School Closed - Spring Break</b> 6	Odyssey of the Mind States (Binghamton) 7
8	3:00 pm Homework Club 9	3:00 pm Homework Club 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) 10	Grades 3-8 ELA Testing 11	Grades 3-8 ELA Testing 3:00 pm Homework Club 12	Grades 3-8 ELA Testing (Make-ups) 5:30 pm Dime Carnival 13	14
15	3:00 pm Homework Club 16	3:00 pm Homework Club 4:30 pm BOE Meeting: BOCES Budget Vote 17	18	3:00 pm Homework Club 19	20	21
22	3:00 pm Homework Club 23	NHS Blood Drive 3:00 pm Homework Club 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) 24	25	PTO Spring Book Fair 3:00 pm Homework Club 26	PTO Spring Book Fair 6:00 pm Student Council Father/Daughter Dance 27	28
29	3:00 pm Homework Club 30					

# Influenza (Flu) Fact Sheet

**What is the flu?** The “flu” or influenza is a serious disease. At times it can lead to death. It is very contagious and spreads in the U.S. each year, starting in the fall and continuing through spring.

The flu is caused by a virus and spread mainly by coughing, sneezing or close contact. Young children and older adults are at highest risk of getting the flu but anyone can get it.

**What are the symptoms?** Unlike a cold, flu symptoms start suddenly. They appear about 1-4 days after a person is exposed to the flu.

*Symptoms may include:*

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills.
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Some people may have vomiting or diarrhea; this is more common in children.

**How long is a person with the flu contagious?** You can pass the flu to others from 1 day before you have symptoms up to 5-7 days after you get sick. Some people might be able to infect others even longer.

**Is there treatment?** The flu can be treated with antiviral drugs if started soon after you get sick. They will help reduce how sick you get and how long you are ill. Over the counter drugs like acetaminophen or

ibuprofen may be taken to increase comfort. People with the flu need rest and fluids.

**If my child or another family member has been exposed, what should I do?** Call your doctor or clinic for advice. Some people with a sick family member may be given an antiviral medicine to help prevent the flu.

**Who’s at higher risk for the flu?**

Young children, older adults and people with weaker immune symptoms sometimes become sicker from the flu. This is also true if you have a condition such as heart and lung disease, asthma or diabetes. Having the flu while you’re pregnant increases the risk of premature labor and delivery.

**What are the complications of the flu?** Some complications include pneumonia, ear infections and dehydration. The flu can be serious and may require care in a hospital. Some people who get the flu could die.

**What is the best way to prevent flu?** The single best way to prevent the flu is to get the flu shot. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get the flu vaccine every year. The flu shot cannot cause the flu.

- The flu shot is given with a needle, usually in the arm. It can be given to people 6 months of age and older.

**Why do I need to get the flu vaccine every year?** New flu vaccines are produced every year to keep up with flu viruses that change rapidly over time. Antibodies to flu vaccine decline over time too – another reason to get a flu vaccine annually.

**When should I get the flu vaccine?** Every year, as soon as it is available. It takes about two weeks to be fully effective, so it is important to get it before flu season begins, if possible. But, you can still get vaccinated through the spring and beyond. Even though flu season usually peaks in February, it can continue at least through May. Flu vaccine is offered at health care providers’ offices, clinics and pharmacies.

**What should I or my family members do if we travel out of the country?** Your risk for being exposed to the flu depends on what time of year you travel and where you go. In the Northern Hemisphere, flu season can begin as early as October and last until May. In the Southern Hemisphere flu season occurs from April through September. In tropical climates, flu can occur all year. Traveling with groups of international travelers, such as on a cruise ship, can increase your risk of exposure.

*More Helpful Info is available on the Web:*

**Travel and the Flu:**

[www.cdc.gov/flu/travelers/travelersfacts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/travelers/travelersfacts.htm)

**How can I learn about flu outbreaks?** The New York State Department of Health and the CDC track influenza throughout the flu season. For up-to-date information:

- [www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/surveillance/](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/surveillance/)
- [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm)

**Learn more about the flu:** [www.cdc.gov/flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/)

**For more information about vaccine-preventable diseases:** [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/)



# PTO Update and Upcoming Events

**Our Next Meeting is Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 5:30 pm in ES Art Room**



## Box Top Contest!

Please continue to save your Box Tops as we will have more contests throughout the year. This year we are having a contest for the entire year to see which grade can bring in the most from September to June. Students can turn Box Tops in to their teachers all year long to add to the contest.

Here are the current standings for the Box Top Contest as of January 1, 2018:

- 1st Place- 4th Grade
- 2nd Place- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Place- 3rd Grade
- 4th Place- 1st Grade
- 5th Place- Kindergarten
- 6th Place- 5th Grade
- 7th Place- Pre-K

You can always send your Box Tops in to the elementary office or drop them off at our two local drop off places, the Great Valley Post Office or TOPS in Ellicottville.

**Reminder:** Box Tops created a phone app that helps us earn more Box Tops on certain items that you purchase.

## 2017- 2018 Activities:

- **Lip Sync/Talent Show:**  
Wednesday, February 7th (6:00pm)
- **Dime Carnival:**  
Friday, April 13th (5:30pm-7:30pm)
- **Mother/Son Dance:**  
Friday, May 11th (6:00pm)
- **Science Exposition:**  
Tuesday, May 15th (6:00pm-7:00pm)
- **Field Day:**  
June 19th (8:30am-10:30 am)

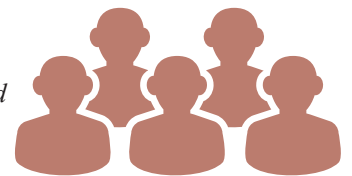
# BOGO BOOKS

## SPRING BOOK FAIR:

Our "Buy 1 Get 1 Free" Spring Book Fair will be held on Thursday, April 26th and Friday, April 27th 8:00am-3:30pm and on Friday, April 27th 5:30-7:30 during Daddy Daughter Dance

## Get Involved!

*Come find out what the PTO is doing and get involved. PTO continues to help K-12 students and the surrounding community. These activities can't be done without all of the volunteers!*



If you would like more information please feel free to attend any of our meetings or you can email **Diana Olson** at [dolson@eville.wnyric.org](mailto:dolson@eville.wnyric.org).

# OUT & ABOUT AT EGS



# PLEASE NOTE

**School Will Be Closed for Spring Break from March 30th through April 8th, 2018**

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

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Connie Hellwig, President  
William Murphy, Vice President  
Carl Calarco  
Nicole Klein  
Roger Spell  
Robert Van Wicklin  
Leonard Zlockie

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL  
Or CURRENT RESIDENT**

**Administration**

Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent  
Mr. Erich Ploetz, 7-12 Principal  
Mrs. Connie Poulin, Pre K-6 Principal / CSE-CPSE Chairperson  
Mrs. Aimee Kilby, Business Administrator



# Teacher's Desk

## **ESPRA Members Make Donations**

After weeks of filling boxes with books, binders, and pencils, ESPRA (Ellicottville Students Preserving the Reading of America) was finally able to deliver donations to their rightful home. The Teacher's Desk, a wonderful organization based out of Buffalo, provides a free school supply shopping experience for teachers in low-income districts. As we walked in with brimming boxes, we were met with the beaming smiles of the volunteers and the organization's founder, John Mika.

While showing us around the warehouse and wonderfully stocked shopping area, Mr. Mika told us stories and shared the wisdom he gained throughout his journey to bringing The Teacher's Desk, his self-proclaimed life's mission, into fruition. He told us that as long as people don't act entitled (he believes entitlement is a curse word) and are working to benefit others, that help would come. That's how, thanks to the Hein Foundation, he is able to focus on giving rather than the rent and utilities of the warehouse.

The senior ESPRA members and club officers who attended had a chance to volunteer, as well. After some minor paper cuts from breaking down boxes, we all left with a full heart—we'd helped people that day. The Teacher's Desk's current project is to fill and donate backpacks to the hundreds of students arriving in Buffalo from ravaged Puerto Rico. "Sure, we get people questioning us, 'Why are you doing this? Why don't you let them figure it out for themselves?'" said John Mika. "All I say is 'Look at their little hands.' Those hands clutch the backpacks so tightly. Those kids just have the clothes on their backs. The bookbags we donate are all they have."

ESPRA hopes to work with The Teacher's Desk in the future as they strive to give, promote education, and spread hope.