

# ELLICOTTVILLE

DISTRICT • NEWSLETTER

Volume 53, Issue 4

## Elementary-High School Science Collaboration



In December, Mrs. Brierton proved, yet again, what a beloved asset she has been to ECS. As her days were winding down, she provided space and encouragement to a group of High School students who were interested in hosting a Science Lab for an elementary class. She helped them plan, organize and set-up an opportunity for 1st Graders to take a "field trip" to her classroom where they worked with high school volunteers to

make slime! Mrs. Brierton has always been so thoughtful about making Science exciting and accessible for students of all ages and we are so thankful to have had this one last great experience with a Master Teacher before her retirement. Best wishes to you, Mrs. Brierton!

## TWO SEATS OPEN ON THE ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL 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 16, 2023 to fill the seats currently held by board members, Mr. William Murphy and Mrs. Debra Colley. Nominating petitions must be filed with the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023.

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 candidates (two) receiving the highest number of votes will each serve a five-year term, beginning on July 1, 2023 and expiring on June 30, 2028.

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.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday, February 20, 2023**

**President's Day**

**School Building Closed**

**Tuesday, February 21 -**

**Sunday, February 26, 2023**

**February Break**

**No School for Students**

**Thursday, March 16, 2023**

**P/T Conferences**

**Noon Dismissal**

**Students in grades K-12 - No PM PreK**

**Friday, March 17, 2023**

**Superintendent's Day**

**Staff Development**

**No School for Students**

## ALL-WESTERN NEW YORK SCHOLAR ATHLETES

The 2022 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 Alysa Williams. Alysa, a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer team, was a key contributor on the soccer field, earning League First Team League All-Star

this season. Alysa was named to the Olean Times Herald Big 30 All-Star team, as well as 3rd Team All State in Class D. In addition to this, Alysa has also excelled in the classroom. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is very involved in school activities. Congratulations on a great senior season Alysa!

Fellow Class of 2022 classmates Aaliyah Winslow (Girls Soccer), Sarah Weber (Cross Country), and Lita Conklin (Volleyball) all received Honorable Mention. Congratulations to these seniors for representing Ellicottville both on and off the field!

# Welcome to 2023!

January not only brings us the “New Year,” it also signifies the half-way point of the school year as, January 30, 2023 is the beginning of the 2nd Semester.

## Resolutions:

Instead of talking about “New Year’s Resolutions,” I would like to talk about 2nd Semester Resolutions/Goals for students. I’m not thinking about complicated or unattainable resolutions, but, rather small changes students can make to improve or broaden their horizons. Some examples could be: signing up for a challenging class in high school, making new friends, joining a club or participating in a different activity, reading more books, etc. Some students could make resolutions (or set goals) to: improve their grades, work on better attendance, or making it to school on time. As a District, we stand ready to help students (and parents) with some of these resolutions and/or goals. Parents can encourage their child/children to talk to teachers, counselors, coaches, principals, etc., or parents can reach out directly to staff.

## Moving beyond COVID:

I’m happy to report that we continue to move away from the restrictive measures that we needed to take in the previous 2 years as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic. While we continue to move farther away from the many COVID restrictions / precautions, we also need to return to some of the items that are considered normal. This year, all students will be required to take applicable NYS Assessments. For some this will mean the 3-8 Math and ELA Assessments and the 8th Grade Science Assessment. For HS students, this means all the Regents will be given in June.

It also means we need to return to many of the school rules that were modified or “suspended”

during the Pandemic. Currently, the rules around attendance in the MS/HS will take precedence. During the Pandemic we “bent” the rules a little with respect to attendance. It allowed for better social distancing, smaller classes, and avoiding students sitting in big, long study halls due to nuances in schedules. Starting with the 2nd semester, we will return to following the Attendance Policy much closer, which reads:

To be able to practice, participate and/or attend any extra-curricular or after school activity, students must sign into school by 9 a.m. and remain in attendance, following their regular schedule for the remainder of the day. This includes Fridays, in order to participate in weekend activities. Extenuating circumstances will require PRIOR administrative approval.

Please note: very similar language is also in the Athletic and Extracurricular Policies.

In addition, the Student Agenda reads:

*School officially starts with the ringing of the 8:10 a.m. bell and continues through 2:55 p.m. **ALL** students are expected to be in attendance during these hours for **ALL** classes. Students **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** to report to school late if they have a 1st period study hall or leave early if they have a study hall last period. Students that leave early without appropriate parent/guardian permission will be subject to appropriate consequences. **NO** student can sign himself/herself out without parent/guardian permission (either in writing, via a phone call between the main office and the parent/guardian or an entry in the Pick Up Patrol app).*

I also need to point out that Administration is currently also looking into and will be meeting with the senior class to discuss possible senior privileges which may or may not impact the information above.

Parents we really need and appreciate your

help as we return to attendance rules as outlined in our policies. Our intent is to ensure students receive the instruction they need, have access to supports within the school, fill their schedules with challenging and meaningful classes, arrive to school on-time, and better ensure safety (i.e. often times road conditions are not really safe when students try to sign out and then return at lunchtime).

A more comprehensive letter will be mailed to parents regarding attendance procedures in the near future.

## 2023-24 School Budget:

While we have started working on next year’s budget, at the current time, we really do not have a reliable estimate on our increase in aid from NYS (which we have usually received by now). The estimated increases in foundation aid we have seen are as low as 0% and as high as 3%. At the same time, we have been told about increases in insurance, utilities, inflation for many of the materials/supplies we need, etc. Given this lack of information, it is really not prudent to discuss next year’s budget in depth at this time, including how all of this will impact taxes. We are hoping to get more accurate numbers in the very near future so we can proceed accordingly with planning. We will have more information to share with you in the upcoming newsletter.

As we continue into the New Year and the 2nd Semester, my hope is that we will all find ways to challenge ourselves to improve, stay healthy, be happy, and prosper.

Sincerely,



Bob Miller  
Superintendent

## SECOND GRADE CLASSES VISIT THE CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

In early December our 2nd grade classes visited the Challenger Learning Center of the Twin Tier Region in Allegany. While at the Center, students participated in a variety of tasks and challenges. Students enjoyed time working collaboratively to solve problems while thinking like a scientist and an engineer. They used their knowledge of the phases of matter to complete

tasks in the Learning Lab (pictured). Perhaps the most fun portion of the trip was visiting a newly discovered planet as an astronaut, taking off in a spaceship simulator. Students were tasked with searching for materials that would sustain life on this newly discovered planet, and transmitting their information back to Earth. A fantastic day of learning was had by all!







## THIRD GRADERS SHARE DURING CIRCLE TIME *by Mrs. Gesing*

In our third-grade classroom, we begin each day with a morning circle time. This time is used for relationship and community building in our classroom. Each day, students are given a different prompt and take turns answering and listening to their peers' responses. It is our time as a class to connect with each other. We also spend some of this time sharing stories or exciting news with each other. This allows them to have insight into the thoughts and ideas of others and opens the door to important conversations. This circle time strategy helps teach problem solving, empathy, and is an opportunity to practice active listening. Here is what some students are saying about our daily practice:

SIMONE-  
"I LIKE THAT  
WE GET TO  
SHARE STORIES AND  
LAUGH WITH OUR  
CLASSMATES."

PHOEBE-  
"I LIKE HOW WE GET  
TO DO DIFFERENT THINGS, LIKE  
'WOULD YOU RATHER?', ANSWER  
QUESTION CARDS, AND ROLL THE  
DICE WITH QUESTIONS."

KENZIE-  
"WE GET TO  
SPEND TIME WITH OUR  
CLASSMATES AND SHARE  
ABOUT THINGS THAT  
WE'VE DONE."

LILLY-  
"I LIKE THAT  
YOU CAN SHARE  
WHAT'S GOING ON IN  
YOUR LIFE WITH YOUR  
CLASSMATES."

JOHN-  
"IT'S NICE TO BE  
ABLE TO SHARE STUFF  
WITH OUR CLASS."

## SCHOLASTIC CHALLENGE!



The ECS Quiz Bowl team competed in the Scholastic Challenge run by Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES on December 3rd in Olean. The three Senior Division teams and one Junior Division team had a great time! The Junior team won their division with (left to right in picture) 9th grader Jackson Kruzynski and 8th graders Jaxson LaCroix and Christopher Edwards. The teams had to show their knowledge in many "Jeopardy-like" categories.



## NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Requests for transportation of non-public school children should be submitted to the Ellicottville Central School District Superintendent's Office by April 1, 2023.

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

## ADVISORY PERIOD DECEMBER 5, 2022



REMAINING SKI CLUB DATES:  
February: 2, 9, 16  
March: 2, 9 (extra lessons)

## ECS FITNESS CENTER

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | 4-7 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (when school is in session)  
You **MUST** sign in each time you use the Fitness Center.



**Ellicottville Central School**  
5873 Route 219  
Ellicottville, NY 14731  
[www.ellicottvillecentral.com](http://www.ellicottvillecentral.com)

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### Board Members

Mr. William Murphy – President  
Mrs. Debra Golley – Vice President  
Mrs. Shana Chudy  
Mrs. Erin Schweers Cornelius  
Mr. Karl Northrup  
Mrs. Kristen Pearl  
Mr. Robert Van Wicklin

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL  
Or CURRENT RESIDENT**

### Administration

Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent  
Mr. Erich Ploetz, 6-12 Principal  
Kathryn Mendell, Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum



# PROJECT CHRISTMAS

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 help over 40 Ellicottville Central School District families. 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 2023!

## PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN

If you are a parent/guardian of a child turning 4 years old by December 1, 2023 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 the district will notify you by mail.

The state considers a child pre-school age if their birth date is between December 1, 2018 and November 30, 2019.

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? 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, 2023.



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