

January-February 2014

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Volume 44 Issue 4



A Message for All Students and Parents:

Lack of Respect & Bullying Addressed

We find it troubling to admit that we have an increasing number of students who believe it is okay to pick on, make fun of, tease, threaten, harass, torment and in some situations use physical actions toward other students.

The collective observations and concerns of staff and administration can be summarized as follows:

- The increasing lack of respect that students have for each other and sometimes the adults.
- The notion that some of our students are simply mean to other students.
- The fact that some students are bullying others.

Generally speaking, students fall into one of four categories:

- Unaware of the situation.
- See it happening but do nothing to stop it (bystander).
- One who receives the ridicule (victim).
- One who is guilty of participating in the mistreatment of other students.

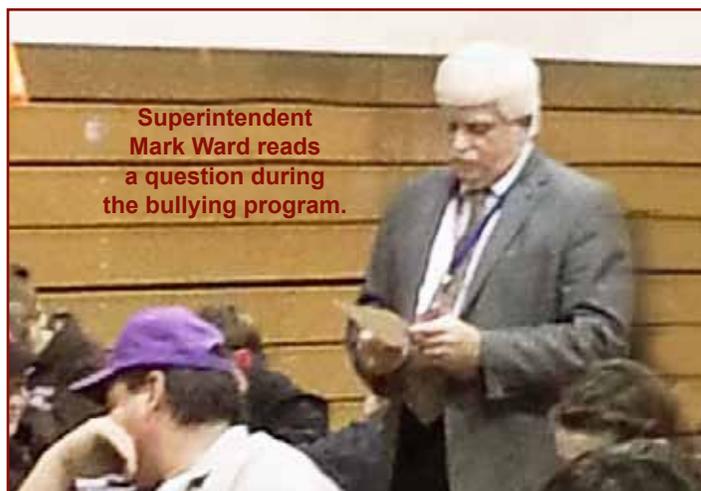
To address this situation head-on, the District held a meeting with over 120 parents, students and teachers in grades 7 & 8 on Wednesday, January 15, 2014. The District enlisted the assistance of Dr. Amanda Nickerson, Director, Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention located at the UB Graduate School of Education. Their mission is to reduce bullying abuse in schools and in the community by contributing knowledge and providing evidence-based tools to effectively change the language, attitudes, and behaviors of educators, parents, students, and society. After listening to Dr. Nickerson, students and parents broke up into 6 groups to discuss and work through scenarios. The conversations that took place were powerful and eye-opening. Students and parents freely shared ideas and solutions to each of the scenarios.



Dr. Amanda Nickerson

As successful and powerful as this evening was, our collective efforts (students, parents, community and the school) cannot stop there. We need to move forward with plans and strategies so that students do not come to school feeling as though they are going to be the target for other students to pick on. We need to maintain an environment and culture that accepts people for who they are; one that embraces differences whether they are academic, physical, interest based, religious, ethnic, sexual or cultural.

While this evening focused on 7th and 8th grade, we know that it is not limited to just those grades, and students at other



**Superintendent
Mark Ward reads
a question during
the bullying program.**

grade levels may be engaging in similar behaviors or experiencing similar harassment. This is a very serious matter and the staff and administration are committed to working with students and parents, as we know that we are in this together. Here are some ways you can help:

- ✓ We need parental participation, understanding and support. Your child may be part of the problem. Do not dismiss your child's actions.
- ✓ Students, you know right from wrong; you know if what you are saying is mean, thoughtless, hurtful and totally unnecessary. You need to accept responsibility for your actions.
- ✓ Understanding someone else is often difficult if we have not seen, observed or experienced what he/she is talking about.
- ✓ Please trust the school and trust the decisions we make concerning your children. We often are privy to more information than we can share.
- ✓ We will not tolerate any situations where students are subjected to forms of harassment. We need your assistance in supporting consequences if your child behaved inappropriately.

We want all students to be happy and successful. The behaviors that are negatively impacting the learning environment and student achievement need to stop. ECS is a unique and special place of which we are all proud to be a part. Let us pledge to recognize that we have a problem, confront the behaviors that are taking place and work together to eliminate them from our school.

(See Tips for Parents on page 5)

Budget Preview for 2014-15 ... Challenging!

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

As I recently shared with the staff, this year's budget will be by far the most difficult we have faced in the time I have served as superintendent. We have taken many steps over the past five years to maintain programs, staff members, field trips, materials, training, bus replacement, equipment and a variety of opportunities that enhance the education of our students. We have generated savings through consolidation, reduction and efficiency in the areas of instruction, maintenance, cleaning, office staff, special education, transportation and cafeteria ... but we are running out of options.

The Board has used District reserves, kept the tax increases very moderate and have right sized every area of the staff in an effort to maintain everything we have.

The 2014-15 budget will force us to make some difficult

decisions. With new state aid projected to be 10% less than we received in 2008-09 (an actual increase of \$44,000 from the current year), it is increasingly difficult to maintain what we have given the increases we have seen in health insurance, retirement payments, salaries and almost everything else.

Without the use of District reserves, with less revenue and increased costs in some areas we must find ways to further cut the budget in order to develop a balanced budget plan. Other school districts have faced much tougher situations but we can no longer avoid some of the pain they have been experiencing.

In the March newsletter, I will share with you a variety of information about our spending, use of reserves, loss of state aid and other related data. The District will be faced with many difficult financial decisions as we approach the development of the 2014-15 spending plan.



Keeping up with Kindergarten

The Kindergarten classes participated in 2 safety programs in November. First, the State Police were kind enough to fingerprint the children. They were then able to provide each child's family with an I.D. card full of the child's personal data.

The State D.O.T. also provided a program revolving around a book – Katy the Snowplow. After listening to the story in Library with Mrs. Stark, a crew drove Katy the Snowplow into the parking lot. The children were eager to investigate the large truck and learn about its workings. Then the focus shifted to the importance of remaining a safe distance away from plows when they come down the street. A heartfelt thanks to the members of both groups for providing both of these terrific programs!

The character trait for December was 'Generosity' and the kindergarten students and their families certainly were model examples of the trait. The children brought in pennies from home to practice counting by ones and tens. Then they rolled them up to a total of \$226. All of the money was donated to our ECS Project Christmas. Thanks for showing your generosity 'K' families!



ESPRA Club Tours Western New York Book Arts Center



Written by Gwen Brown and
Photos by Alijah Fox

On January 3rd, the students of the ECS ESPRA literary club braved the snow and cold to visit the Western New York Book Arts Center! The center, located in downtown Buffalo, promotes a greater understanding of book-related arts through education, creation, and exhibition. The Western New York Book Arts Center offers classes in letter pressing, screen printing and book binding. In addition, the center also features a letter pressing and screen printing studio, a gallery, a working museum and a boutique of the creations made there. The ESPRA members were able to participate in a book binding class where they made "Blizzard Books," a fun, creative book that is made and bound with no glue!



The students also were able to experience a letter pressing class where they created their own posters. They learned not only how to use and operate the large letter pressing machinery, but also the fascinating history and trivia of the art of letter pressing. The studio was a gold mine of typography, and was beyond interesting to have a chance to work in.



School Calendar Reminders

Monday, February 17, 2014
Presidents' Day – School Closed

February 18-21, 2014
Winter Break – School Closed

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Parent/Teacher Conferences –
Noon dismissal, 1/2 day of school
for Grades K-5 (NO PM PreK)

April 10-21, 2014
Spring Recess - School Closed



Two Seats Open on 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 20, 2014 to fill the seats currently held by board members Mr. Steve Crowley and Mr. James Wiley. Nominating petitions must be filed with the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2014.

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, 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 receiving the two highest number of votes will each serve a five-year term, beginning on July 1, 2014 and expiring on June 30, 2019.

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.

Registration Under Way for ...

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

If your son or daughter will be turning 4 years old by December 1, 2014, please call the Elementary Office. We will then mail you a planning paperwork packet that will need to be completed and returned to the Elementary Office.

Each year New York State reviews the funding structure for the grant supported Pre-K programs. Our Pre-K program is a half day program. 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, 2009 and November 30, 2010.

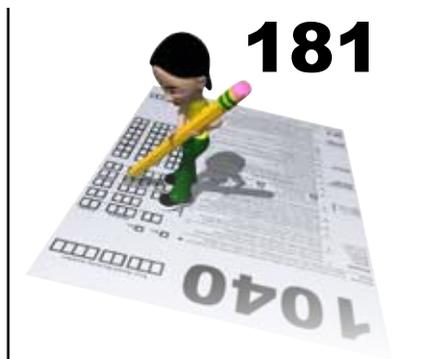
Please contact the Elementary Office at 699-2318 as we will be happy to answer any questions that you have at this time. We would appreciate having all planning packets returned to us by May 1, 2014.

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 so we may include your family in some upcoming activities this spring such as Kindergarten Screening and the annual Pre-K picnic. Our Kindergarten program is a full school day. The state considers a child Kindergarten age if they turn 5 years old before December 1, 2014.

Ellicottville Central School Income Tax Code:

181



Eagle's Nest Tutoring

The Eagle's Nest is a certified program, through the CRLA organization. CRLA is the College Reading and Learning Association. We are the first high school in New York State to earn this certification. Any tutor who completes the training and tutors a minimum of twenty-five hours will be internationally certified. Many colleges are affiliated with the CRLA organization, so certified tutors will often be able to join the tutoring staff at their college without going through the training process.



Hannah Chew and Jordan Curtis (*pictured above*) have earned their CRLA tutoring certification. To earn certification, a student must complete one year of training, which is every Tuesday from 3-4. In addition, the student must complete twenty-five hours of tutoring. This is a lot of work on top of an already busy schedule. Congratulations Jordan and Hannah!!

Is your report card not what you'd like it to be? See Mrs. Bauer about getting a tutor.

YEARBOOK NEWS

Will these pictures make the cut? Reserve a book and you'll get to find out.

- To reserve a yearbook you must put at least \$10 down. Your book must be reserved by May 31st. If you don't reserve one you'll only be able to get one a week after they come in, after all reserved ones have had a chance to be claimed.
- You may purchase old yearbooks while supplies last. 2013's book is \$30. Books from previous years are \$10 apiece, while supplies last.
- If you sold candy in the yearbook fundraiser you automatically have a reserved book. You'll just need to pay the difference when the books come in. If you sold 30 items or more you'll be getting a free yearbook.





Kourtney Robinson



Logan Knab

Meet our Top Spellers

This year's spelling bee had a very positive and optimistic attitude. As the top thirty-one spellers from grades six through eight lined up on the stage, I could feel the excitement of the students behind me. The audience was impressed as students continued to spell challenging words, and go some rounds without any students making a mistake. After 145 words, eighth grader Kourtney Robinson won by spelling the word vivacious correctly. Kourtney had taken second place two years ago when she was in sixth grade. This year second place went to seventh grader, Logan Knab. It will be exciting to see him return next year. Rounding out the top six of the final rounds were Noah Green, sixth grade; Sierra Maybee, eighth grade; Evan Palmatier, eighth grade; and Meganne Chapman, seventh grade.



Tips for Parents to Ease Students' Social Issues

(Many thanks to Dr. Nickerson and the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention)

- Listen to what your child is telling you to determine what the situation is, as it can fall into a variety of categories:
 - **Being rude:** Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else.
 - **Teasing:** Fun, good-natured, "give-and-take" between friends to get both parties to laugh.
 - **Conflict:** Struggle, dispute, or misunderstanding.
 - **Being mean:** Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone else (once or twice).
 - **Harassment:** The creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's: educational performance, opportunities or benefits; mental, emotional or physical well-being; fear for his or her safety.
 - **Bullying:** The intentional, usually repeated acts of verbal, physical, or written aggression by a peer (or group of peers) operating from a position of strength or power with the goal of hurting the victim physically or damaging status and/or social reputation.
- Ask your daughter / son what she / he would like you to do. She / He may be simply asking you for advice on how to handle a situation or just relaying that someone was rude to them as opposed to wanting you to immediately trying to solve or fix a problem. Of course, your actions should take into account what is happening; you may need to give your daughter / son advice if someone is being rude to them, while you may need to call the school if she / he is being physically bullied.
- Know what you daughter / son is doing on-line whether it is on a computer, iPad, cell phone or other device. She / He can literally be tormenting someone or be tormented while she / he is in the same room as you. Cyberbullying is truly 24/7.
- Visit the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention on-line and go to their "Resources" page (<http://gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter/resources/parents> or through the ECS Website at www.ellicotvillecentral.com). It has links for parents and students that contain print materials, videos, information on cyberbullying, and more.
- Watch a short (6 minute) video by Dr. Amanda Nickerson on YouTube at (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5nUZOUbFHk>)
- If your daughter / son is a bystander, encourage her / him to become an "Upstander" as follows:
 - Don't join in... speak up if it is safe to do so.
 - Band together as a group against bullies.
 - Tell an adult about the bullying:
 - ✓ Tattling/ratting = telling an adult to get someone in trouble.
 - ✓ Telling/reporting = telling an adult because someone's behavior is unsafe or hurtful to another.
 - Reach out to isolated peers and offer support!

CARNIVAL

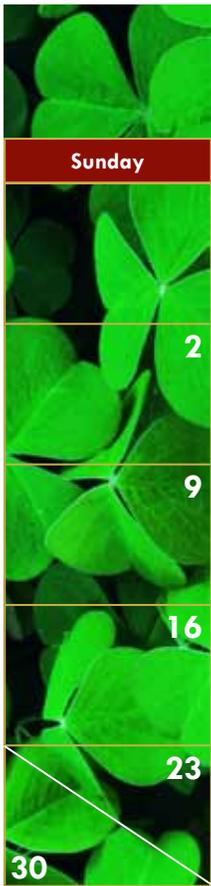
The Dime Carnival is back!

Friday, March 14th
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
High School Gymnasium

Again this year tickets will be used for the games at a cost of 10 tickets for \$1. The PTO will also be selling tickets for themed baskets at \$1 each, or 12 for \$10. If you would like to help the PTO by volunteering time, donating desserts for the cake walk, or donating clean glasses, plates, cups, etc. for the dime pitch, please contact Diana Olson at 378-6698 or dolson@eville.wnyric.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



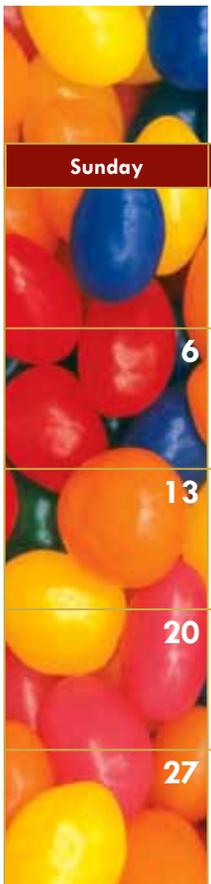
March 2014



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 - 7:00 pm MS/HS Pops Concert - ESPRA Book Sale - 7:30 pm Board of Ed. Budget Work Session HS Library - Homework Club | 5 - Homework Club | 6 | 7 - CCMTA Sr. High All-County @ Salamanca | 8 - CCMTA Sr. High All-County @ Salamanca |
| 9 | 10 - Class of 2018 Lollipop Sale - 5:30 pm Winter Sports Banquet | 11 - 7:30 pm Board of Education Budget Work Session HS Library - Homework Club | 12 - Grades K-5 Noon Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences - Homework Club | 13 | 14 - PTO Dime Carnival 5:30 to 7:30 pm | 15 - OM Regional Competition @ Wellsville |
| 16 | 17 - ECS Sports Booster Meeting 7:00 pm HS Café | 18 - 7:30 pm Board of Education Meeting HS Library - Homework Club | 19 - Spring Sports Picture Day - Homework Club | 20 - Ski Club Ends | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 - 7:00 pm National Honor Society Induction Ceremony | 25 - Homework Club | 26 | 27 - Homework Club | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2014



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | 1 - Grades 3-8 NYS English Language Arts Assessments - 7:30 pm Board of Education Meeting HS Library - Homework Club | 2 - Grades 3-8 NYS English Language Arts Assessments | 3 - Grades 3-8 NYS English Language Arts Assessments - Homework Club | 4 - Grades 3-8 NYS English Language Arts Assessments - 7:30 pm Musical @ Salamanca High School | 5 - 7:30 pm Musical @ Salamanca High School |
| 6 | 7 - Homework Club | 8 | 9 | 10 - Spring Break | 11 - Spring Break | 12 - OM State Competition @ Binghamton University |
| 13 - Spring Break | 14 - Spring Break | 15 - Spring Break | 16 - Spring Break | 17 - Spring Break | 18 - Spring Break | 19 |
| 20 - Spring Break - ECS Sports Booster Meeting 7:00 pm HS Café | 21 | 22 - Class of 2016 Hanging Basket Sale - 7:30 pm Board of Ed. Meeting BOCES Budget Vote HS Library - Homework Club | 23 - Envirothon | 24 - Homework Club | 25 - End of 3rd Marking Period | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 - 9:30 am - 2:30 pm NHS Blood Drive - 7:30 pm Board of Education Meeting HS Library - Homework Club | 30 - Grades 3-8 NYS Mathematics Assessments | 1 - Grades 3-8 NYS Mathematics Assessments | 2 - Grades 3-8 NYS Mathematics Assessments | |



Career Tech Corner



The Animal Science class at CA BOCES Ellicottville Career and Technical Education Center visited the Seneca Animal Hospital in East Aurora. The students took several animals that were in need of medical attention and were able to do the examination alongside veterinarians, Dr. Fijas and Dr. Tomaschke (photos upper and lower left).

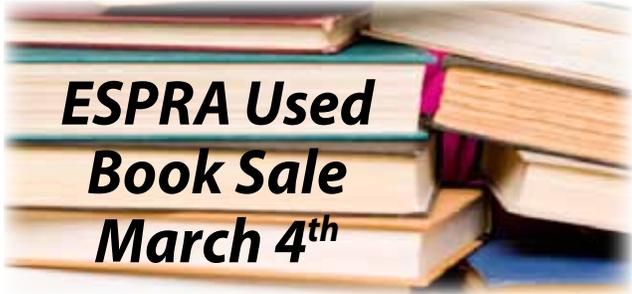
ECS student Kaleb Gebauer (photo lower right) is a senior in the Welding and Metal Fabrication program at the Ellicottville Career and Technical Education Center. He used his MIG welding and metal working skills to fabricate a trailer hitch cargo carrier. The carrier was a perfect fit for his father's truck.



Walkers Welcome!

Ellicottville Central School will host a Walk Program for community members thru April 24th. The building will be open Monday-Thursday from 6-9 pm (when school is in session).

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



ESPRA, ECS's literary club, is holding a used book sale on March 4th. We are now accepting donations. Books can be dropped off at the high school office. Please no encyclopedias or used textbooks!

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

Board Members

Mr. Roger Spell, President
Mr. Carl Calarco, Vice President
Mr. Steve Crowley
Mrs. Connie Hellwig
Mr. William Murphy
Mr. James Wiley
Mr. Leonard Zlockie

Administration

Mr. Mark J. Ward, Superintendent / Business Administrator
Mr. Robert Miller, 7-12 Principal
Mrs. Connie Poulin, Pre K-6 Principal / CSE-CPSE Chairperson

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POSTAL PATRON

ECRWSS

Or CURRENT RESIDENT



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



Students Play Political 'Hunger Games'

Tradition has it that in Ms. James's senior government class, the students get in groups and create mock political parties. Everything in the political party is authentic except the task of actually running for president of the United States. The students formed their own views on controversial topics existing in the modern-day country. It proves to be hard sometimes, because not everyone in the group may agree on a position. This teaches the students to compromise and listen to others, and maybe, in the end, changed their own views because they were shown a new way of thinking. Since the class of 2014 is larger than past classes, we had to first have a debate within our class, then the winners of each government class had to go against one another in front of the school. Having many different debates going on helped ensure that each student, at some point, would get to witness or be a part of one. This not only helped the senior class but the rest of the school benefited from watching a debate as well. Through this process we saw that everyone has a different opinion, or maybe the same opinion just a different way of looking at issues. These mock



Pictured are (l-r): Tanner Gregory, John Alzate, Jordan Curtis, Isabella Brown, Megan Westfall and Phillip Kurtis.

political parties and debates help teach the student's team work, respect, responsibility, and that sometimes politics can be engaging. We would like to congratulate

John Alzate, Tanner Gregory, and the rest of the U-Nighted party on a hard-fought win for this presidential election- Hunger Games style.