

March 2015

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Volume 45, Issue 5



ECS Drama Club Proudly Presents ...

'Cats' at Ray Evans Theatre April 10-11

ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB

PRESENTS

CATS

MUSIC BY
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
BASED ON OLD POSSUM'S
BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS
BY T. S. ELIOT
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN

FRIDAY APRIL 10
SATURDAY APRIL 11
2015
RAY EVANS
SENECA THEATRE
7:30 PM TICKETS \$7

You won't want to miss this year's musical, "Cats!" On Friday, April 10th, and Saturday, April 11th, the Ellicottville Central High School Drama Club will be performing at the RAY EVANS THEATRE in Salamanca at 7:30 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$7.

Based on T.S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats," with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, "Cats" is one of the longest running musicals on Broadway and West End history. The Jellicle cats are celebrating at the Jellicle Ball, awaiting Old Deuteronomy's choice of which cat will be reborn into a new life. One by one, the cats step forward to introduce themselves, auditioning for the chance to take the journey to the Heavy side layer.

"Cats" is directed by Jaye Zelko. Pat Waldron is the vocal director. Elizabeth Weber is the choreographer and Crystal Wilder is the producer/orchestra director.

Our cast includes the following students: Calum Watt, Alessia Filutze, Olivia Venezia, Jocelyn Steffan, Hannah Doro, Molly Woodarek, Alex Delity, Quinn O'Rourke, Max Paddock, Kaleigh Hunt, Leah Westfall, Nick Delity, Stone Wilson, Shelby Toth, Doug Bliss, Andee Pierce, Emma Chew, Hannah Chew, Kayla Stoehr, Rylie Aldrich, Ices Decker, Kayleigh Coolidge, Allyson Fisher, Malorie Chamberlain, Meganne Chapman, Ainsley Watt, and Cyrene Moore.

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Governor's Budget Offers No Clue

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

Governor Andrew Cuomo has done something that no previous Governor has done ... he has presented a budget with little details on expected revenue and a laundry list of demands the legislature must do in order for him to "release the funds." While legal experts have said he is technically within his right to present a budget this way, the fact that there are no specific details on how revenues will be distributed makes it very difficult for the Board to develop a responsible budget. What makes this more troubling is the fact he is demanding action on a number of highly controversial topics, making them part of the budget process.

The Governor has highlighted a highly controversial list of priorities that he wants to accomplish and has told the Legislature that if they agree, he will increase aid to education by over \$700,000,000 on top of what is already proposed ... if not then the school districts will lose the additional aid. Facing this kind of standoff in Albany, the Board and administration are struggling to put together a responsible budget.

What makes it even more frustrating is that there are a series of budget process deadlines that we must adhere to, yet we do not have the information we need to make good decisions for the district and our students. State aid comes in several forms to the District and I will break down those areas in an effort to help you to better understand what schools are up against without true revenue projections.

Foundation Aid - This form of aid was established in 2007 as a result of a 2006 court decision concerning the equitable funding of school districts. The State agreed to phase in the funding over a period of time, however this never happened. Since 2009-10 we have seen an increase of \$42,000. However, in 2010-11 the State legislature passed the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) that actually subtracts aid from districts before we get it!. For ECS, since 2010-11 the District has lost **\$1,763,321** and we are scheduled to lose \$166,522 more in 2015-16. In other words, we are given Foundation Aid and then the GEA is subtracted from the amount of aid we are scheduled to receive.

Expense Driven Aids - These type of aids are primarily made up of transportation, special education and BOCES services. Funds spent on services that qualify are reimbursed the following year, which means the State is reimbursing us for money we have already spent. For ECS, we receive 34% reimbursement on transportation costs and 36% reimbursement on BOCES services. Most Districts in this area receive between 85-90% reimbursements for the same expenses.

Building Aid - This is based on current and previous projects that have been approved by the State Education Department. We have two older projects that we are still paying on (Middle School and re-modeling of the High School area) and we will start receiving additional aid on the new capital project that is currently underway. You will start seeing increases in this budget area during the 2015-16 school year as we will start receiving aid (65.1%).

Textbook, Library & Software - This is based on a per pupil formula based on enrollment. It hovers between \$35,000 and \$42,000 for our school. This is basically a reimbursement for the funds spent on items that qualify under this category. If we do not spend it, we lose the funding for that year.

WHERE TO WRITE

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State

NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

email: gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us
1-518-474-8390

New York State Senator Catharine Young

700 West State Street
Olean, NY 14760

email: cyoung@senate.state.ny.us
716-372-4901

Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio

700 West State Street
Olean, NY 14760

email: giglioj@assembly.state.ny.us
716-373-7103

STAR (State Tax Relief Program) - The State reimburses our district for the money that taxpayers save based on the STAR and Enhanced STAR Programs. It does not actually increase the amount of money that we receive based on taxes, but it subsidizes the District for the money that the property owners save based on the program.

Property Taxes - For ECS, this is the largest source of funding the District receives to operate the school (60%) and there are specific legal limitations to the amount of money the district can raise each year without requiring a super majority vote (60%+). The tax CAP automatically limits taxes based on a rather complicated formula and the cost of living index. Our district prides itself in having the lowest school tax rate in WNY and we pledge to do our best to continue that goal.

Additional Revenues - There is a number of other revenues that go into the budget process, but they are not impacted by the Governor's budget. Things such as PILOT's (payments in lieu of taxes), Medicaid, Federal Funds, interest and penalties on real property and non-district tuition are a few of those "other sources."

The problem we are currently facing is we are not sure what State Aid will look like. Will it be the same, more or less? Will the Legislature negotiate with the Governor on his requests in an effort to get him to release the additional funds he has placed on the table? Do we have to cut more in order to balance the budget?

The District has a good idea what our expenses will be based on this year's costs and projected increases. However, there are several staffing, program and technology issues that the Board is considering that will require additional revenue. We are able to project the amount of money generated through taxes, but we continue to be in the dark on State Aid projections for 2015-16.

I would encourage you to write, email or call Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Catharine Young and Assemblyman Joseph Giglio (*see contact info above*) and express your concern over how the 2015-16 budget process is being handled.



COLD WEATHER DOESN'T HINDER PROGRESS



Ellicottville Central School Income Tax Code:

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Eagle's Nest News

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.



Shelby Spell

Shelby Spell has earned her 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 of academics and sports. Congratulations Shelby!!

Need to be tutored? Are your classes more difficult than you thought they'd be? See Mrs. Bauer about getting a tutor.

Walk for Fitness in the Halls of ECS

Ellicottville Central School will host a Walk Program for community members thru April 23rd. 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.

New Budget Considerations Highlight 2015-2016 Plan

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

We are focusing on four primary areas that will serve as the footprint for what we hope will be new at ECS in 2015-16! Since Governor Cuomo's budget offers no true revenue figures to go on, the ideas have been tentatively incorporated into the budget, but we are far from knowing what the final spending plan will look like. I know the Board does not plan to exceed the tax CAP, so our revenues are limited based on the state formulas. The rest of the revenue streams (*see page 2*) are at the discretion of the Legislature and Governor as they develop the 2015-16 budget. Since an on time budget is not required until April 1, 2015 we do not know at the time of this newsletter what to expect.

PROJECTED HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Primary Instruction** - We plan to add an additional teacher so we can offer three sections of Kindergarten and First Grade next year. Small classes in the lower primary grades allows the teacher to provide more individualized instruction to address any lags or lack of development a student might have. ECS has prided itself in small classes at this grade level and the results over the years speak for themselves. This is based on a combination of enrollment and what we know works best, especially as we address the higher standards set forth in the new Common Core.
- **Special Education** - We are looking to develop our own district run middle school special education program to meet the educational needs of our students. The program will serve as an excellent transition program for our students, addressing individual strengths and weaknesses, while still being able to attend school on our campus. We are excited about this development and regardless of the budget projections, we will offer this program in the fall.
- **Technology** - In an effort to prepare our students and provide our staff with the resources they need, we are constantly reviewing the changes that technology presents, practically overnight. The issues surround almost every aspect of education which includes data storage, curriculum, academic support, software, instruction, skills our students need, down to the type of computers we buy.

Currently, we are making some major decisions on the purchase of laptops that will be provided to all students in grades 9-12. This purchase itself could be close to \$100,000 (cost would be spread over five years), so we want to get it right. We envision our students having their textbooks downloaded on to their own personal computer with the ability to upload assignments, communicate with teachers and view materials at their finger tips!

As we prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, we must provide them with the level of technology they will experience in college or the work world. If we are able to purchase additional laptops, we plan to use the tablet computers in several class rooms and in a new middle school computer lab.

- **Business Program** - During the height of the budget problems and decrease in funding, the district dropped the Business program in 2012 when Gail Kaminski retired. With the increased importance of STEM education, expansion of the technology curriculum, and the need to teach keyboarding and basic technology skills from grade 3-12, the Board has decided to add business back into the curriculum. We will also be looking to offer college courses in business and technology through JCC.

ON-GOING EXPENDITURES:

- **Bus Leasing** - As we continue to replace our bus fleet with leased buses, we anticipate offering a proposition for leasing two more buses at a price that will not exceed \$32,200. This will bring us to a total of 7 buses leased, with a goal of reaching 11 by 2017-18. All leases are for a period of five years.
- **Capital Project** - We will be budgeting for the remaining debt on the two capital projects that are currently under construction. This will represent a \$154,344 increase in the debt service portion of the budget. We do anticipate receiving at least a partial year's payment in state aid. The district portion of the project will be paid over sixteen years and we will receive 65.1% aid on all expenditures eligible for aid.



Elementary Classes Explore 'Science Below Zero'

The Ellicottville Central PTO would like to thank the Ellicottville Rotary and their staff for hosting the Buffalo Museum of Science. On January 27th the ECS PTO sponsored a field trip through the Buffalo Museum of Science. "Science Below Zero" was presented to our K-5 students.

This exciting liquid nitrogen program reinforced basic concepts of heat and kinetic energy in a really cool way. Students learned about molecules, phase changes, explosions, pressure, and density through a series of exciting and engaging demonstrations using liquid nitrogen.

Thank you again to the Ellicottville Rotary for allowing us to use your facility.



Mother's Day Hanging Plant Sale

Buy a hanging plant or two, and **honor your mother, decorate your porch, and help the Class of 2016** raise money for their senior trip.

Please mail (or drop off) the following order form with money to: Junior Class Advisors, Ellicottville Central School, 5873 Rt. 219, Ellicottville, NY 14731.

Please place all orders by Thursday, April 30. Make checks payable to ECS Class of 2016.

Customer Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Cost of hanging plants is \$20 each (please indicate quantity and color):

Million Bells (Sun/Semi-shade) – Pink _____, Purple _____, Mixed _____

Double Rosebud Impatiens (Partial Shade) – Pink _____, Purple _____, Red _____, Orange _____

Petunias (Sun) – Pink _____ or Purple _____

Ivy Geraniums (Partial Sun) – Red _____, Pink _____, or Lavender _____

Boston Fern (Partial Shade) _____



Orders will be available to pick up at the high school on Thursday, May 7; perfect for celebrating Mother's Day on May 10. Thank you for your purchase!

Student Qualifies for Buffalo News Spelling Bee

By Mrs. Elizabeth Weber

The middle school spelling bee was held the morning of Wednesday, January 14, 2015. It was a beautiful day which created a wonderful "portrait" for the winner. Portrait being the operative word since it was the winning word this year for the spelling bee.

The bee started with the top thirty spellers in grades six through eight. The top ten from each grade were included. After seven rounds, there were only five contestants left: Eighth grader, Louisa Benatovich; sixth grader, Bryce Butler; sixth grader, Jalee Evans; sixth grader, Orry Shattenburg; and sixth grader, Noah Steinbronner. All students clearly knew their spelling, but regrettably some found something which caused them to stumble. Unfortunately, when Louisa received the word portrait, she accidentally skipped a letter. She knew immediately and took a step backward. According to the rules, she cannot start her spelling over unless she uses the same letters, so when Jalee was able to spell the word correctly, she became the winner!

Jalee took a written spelling test on February 4th and placed among the top scorers in all of Western New York. She has qualified for the oral finals of the 2015 Buffalo News Spelling Bee. This competition was held on Sunday, March 8, 2015 at The Buffalo History Museum. At the time of writing this article, we are unsure of her placement, but I'm sure she did a fantastic job! We are all very proud of you, Jalee!!



PTO in Action

The Dime Carnival Is Back!

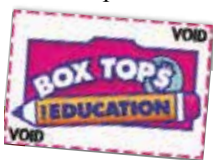
This year's Dime Carnival is being held on **Friday, April 24th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** There will be some changes this year. Come to the Elementary Gymnasium and select rooms to join in on all the fun. We will be using tickets for the games again this year and they will be sold 10 tickets for \$1. We



will also have tickets for our themed baskets for sale at \$1 each or 12 for \$10. 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 378-6698 or dolson@eville.wnyric.org. We look forward to seeing you at the Dime Carnival!

Keep Those Box Tops Coming!

Please continue to send in your Box Tops and Labels for Education. You can send them in to the school or drop them off at TOPS in Ellicottville and the Great Valley Post Office. Every little bit helps!



Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration

PRE-KINDERGARTEN - If your son or daughter will be 4 years old by December 1, 2015, please call the Elementary Office. We will mail you a planning paperwork packet 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, 2010 and November 30, 2011.

Please contact the Elementary Office at 699-2318 as we will be happy to answer any questions that you have at this time.

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 upcoming spring activities 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, 2015.)

YEARBOOK NEWS

*Did this pictures make the cut?
Reserve a yearbook and you will find out in June.*

- You may purchase old yearbooks while supplies last. 2014's book is \$30. Books from previous years are \$10 apiece, while supplies last.
- Yearbooks are \$60 and you must reserve one by May 31st in order to guarantee you get one. Otherwise you'll only be able to get one if we have any left after all reserved ones have had a chance to be claimed. To reserve one you need to put at least \$10 down. See Mrs. Bauer for details.
- The fundraiser is complete. If you sold anything for the fundraiser you already have a yearbook reserved. You just need to pay the balance to get your book.



Second Quarter 5-12 Honor Rolls Listed

HIGH HONOR ROLL

12th Grade - Hannah Birchall, Kevin Bower, Amber Davies, Hannah Doro, Alessia Filutze, Rebecca Hagon, Georg Lavman, Patrick McMahon-Eagan, Jakob Morton, Alexis Saunders, Jocelyn Steffan, Hunter Steffenhagen, Lacey Tabak, Olivia Venezia, Aidan Wilson, Finn Wilson, Molly Woodarek, Alexis Woodin

11th Grade - Austin Bishop, Courtney Charlesworth, Brenna Cole, Elijah DeChane, Katlin Gage, Caitlyn Golley, Kaleigh Hunt, Cole Lapi, Jaelee Macomb, Quinn O'Rourke, Max Paddock, Lindsey Robinson, Kaitlyn Smith, Shelby Spell, William Timkey, Shelby Toth, Leah Westfall, Stone Wilson, Morgan Zlockie

10th Grade - Emma Chew, Hannah Chew, Madison Harris, Shelby Imhoff, Victor Rieman, Haley Saunders, Madison Swalcy, Liam Watt

9th Grade - Rylie Aldrich, Hannah DeChane, Kirkland Kaleta, Lisa Krotz, Kourtney Robinson, Andelain Wilson

8th Grade - Louisa Benatovich, Meganne Chapman, Brenden Chudy, Kayleigh Coolidge, Brennan Finn, Ned Hartsell, Ginna Hensel, Linnea Jimerson, Logan Knab, Zackary Krotz, Sierra Maybee

7th Grade - Allison Calarco, Adrian deOrbe, Abbey DeChane, Abaigeal Donoghue, Brooke Eddy, Julianna Giannicchi, Megan Hartsell, McKenna Kaleta, Madisyn Kilby, Simon Lin, Cyrene Moore, John Snyder, Samantha VanWicklin, Ainsley Watt

6th Grade - Lucas Adams, Kolby Aldrich, Saily Bolya, Bryce Butler, Willow Comstock-Eastlick, Patrick Dineen, Jalee Evans, Dairinn Finn, Brianna Freaney, Hayly Fredrickson, Logan Fredrickson, Jake Hadley, Jenna Hadley, Alexander Hunt, Xander Ireland, Caleb Jennings, Leif Jimerson, Aidan Joyce, Brett Krynski, Sammi Lin, Mallory Little, Rexx Paddock, Clayton Rowland, Sydney Saunders, Courtney Sexton, Orry Shattenberg, Adam Silvernail, Gabriel Snyder, Noah Steinbroner, Lindsay Swalcy, Kelsea Tomczak, Jillian Tomsick, Courtney Venturin, Summer Wilson, Brianna Winship, Coryn Yarnes

HONOR ROLL

12th Grade - Dominic Campbell, Alexander Delity, Taylor Martin, Alex Paddock, Tyler Slaughenaupt, Shelby Swalcy, Calum Watt

11th Grade - Hunter Cooper, Lauren Dukes, Thomas Easton, Alex Fisher, Taylor Fruehauf, Cheyenne Maybee, AnnMarie Prentice, Caleb Rinko, Robert Sawicki Jr., Jules Steckman, Jasmine Valentine, Kevin Woodin

10th Grade - Jenna Aldrich, Katherine Barry, Marissa Hamilton, Noehah Knight, Benjamin Marsh, Jacob Marsh, Andee Pierce, Jayden Slaughenaupt, Robert Spell

9th Grade - Emily Durandetto, Elizabeth Jacobson Coolidge, Halie Mowery, Robert Neumann Jr., Mitchell Sexton

8th Grade - Hunter Bishop, Elissa Cole,

Allyson Fisher, Gabrielle Squires

7th Grade - Noah Greene, Evelyn Nuzzo, Audra Perkins, Cameron Terhune

6th Grade - Jamison Caldwell, Morganne Chapman, Wyatt Chudy, Adam Delity, Madison Delity, Jianna Flora, Justin Imhoff, Harrison Newark, Braedyn Palmatier, John Pfeffer, Konner Pierce, Erin Quinn, Hayden Rust, Jarett Slaughenaupt

GRADE 5 HONOR ROLL

Mrs. Fitzpatrick - Andrew Bolya, Emilio Chavarria, Leilani Foster, Nicholas LoGiudice, Daniel Pfeffer, Elsa Woodarek

Mrs. Moore - Isabella Bacon, Maddox Bush, Marissa Clark, Matthew Ives, Samuel Schwartz, Emma Steffenhagen, Jocelyn Wyatt

GR. 5 B.U.G.

(Bringing Up Grades)

Mrs. Fitzpatrick - Andrew Bolya, Erin Cortez, Ignacio de Orbe, Leilani Foster, Logan Grinols, Kaleb Kilby, Nicholas LoGiudice, Daniel Pfeffer, Erica Wilber, Elsa Woodarek

Mrs. Moore - Isabella Bacon, Marissa Clark, Joshua Coolidge, Harley Ficek, Phillip Goodwill, Mandy Hurlburt, Matthew Ives, Anastasia Licht, Samuel Schwartz, Emma Steffenhagen, Jocelyn Wyatt

Perfect Attendance for Second Quarter

KINDERGARTEN

Mr. Wilson: Kristen Bless, Ainsley Edwards, Sarah Hart, Jaxson LaCroix, Isabella Wilder

Mrs. Woodarek: Adalynn Andrews, Ava Fuller, Daniel Kruszynski, Blake Smith

FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Bower: Teaghan Finn, Shyann Harber, Christian Morneau, Hunter Woodarek

Mrs. Keller: Maitlin Brown, Bianca Bush, Kalyn Crowley, Kathryn Greene, Harper Klein, Adrian Taylor

SECOND GRADE

Mrs. Peters: Michael Kerns, Ava Woodarek

Mr. Smith: Lauren Button, Maxine Girard, Jamie Hart, Alarice Krause

THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Donoghue: Calin Brady, Brooke Butler, Abby Chudy, Owen Chudy, Sean Crowley, Adrynn Dederick, Dylan Timblin

Miss Klahn: Keelin Finn, Mason Perks

Mr. Przybyla: Jase Curtis, Samuel Edwards, Zoe Goode

FOURTH GRADE

Mr. Delity: Zachary Clark, Hali Fish, Dat Nguyen, Hailey Turner, Alysa Williams

Mrs. Tomblin: Breana Andrews, Charlie Hensel, Katryna Jennings, Olivia Knab, Katie Krotz, Allison Rowland, Alex Silvernail

FIFTH GRADE

Mrs. Fitzpatrick: Andrew Bolya, Aedin Greene, Kaleb Kilby, Nicholas LoGiudice

Mrs. Moore: Isaac Alexander, Maddox Bush, Marissa Clark



Board Votes to Accept West Valley Athletes

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

After nearly six years of on and off discussions, the ECS Board approved West Valley's request to accept their athletes to participate on our interscholastic sports teams. Due to decreasing enrollment, West Valley can no longer offer a competitive athletic program for their students. Through a series of forums, meetings and surveys, the WV school/community favored Ellicottville over Franklinville and Springville. The WV Board voted unanimously to ask the ECS if they would enter into an agreement and the ECS Board voted on March 4th to approve a multi-year agreement.

The landscape of athletics across the entire area is changing as decreasing numbers and interest are making it difficult to field competitive teams. Schools have developed sports mergers in an effort to maintain programs and, in some cases, to offer even more opportunities for their students.

ECS is no stranger to this since we have experienced the same issue with our girl's volleyball program in 2014 when we combined with Cattaraugus-Little Valley. For many years, we have combined in girls' swimming with Franklinville, and are once again combining with Franklinville for boys' and girls' track. This past fall ECS, Franklinville and WV joined forces in football. Additionally, some of our own programs have suffered from low numbers that have forced game cancellations, and, in some cases, we have had to reduce the number of programs offered in a sport.

The world has changed dramatically over the past forty years, and the same is true of high school athletics. There are simply more things to choose from and we have less students; yet we offer more teams and sports than we did years ago. With small numbers, our coaches are sometimes at the mercy of students and cannot maintain the standards they would like due to a simple lack of numbers. The coaches strongly believe that additional students competing for teams will be a positive outcome of this merger. More competition will raise the level of achievement and performance for everyone because students will have to work harder to get playing time.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ✦ Merged programs with Franklinville will not be impacted;
- ✦ West Valley athletes can compete in those programs as well since they will be part of the ECS interscholastic sports program
- ✦ All teams will be referred to as Ellicottville Eagles
- ✦ Maroon/White colors will be maintained
- ✦ Practice facilities at WV will be used
- ✦ Lower level participation will be encouraged and students will not be cut at the modified level based on ability
- ✦ WV will not be paying for their students to compete in the ECS athletic program
- ✦ ECS will continue to hire the staff to coach all teams
- ✦ Some sporting events may be played in WV
- ✦ Transportation to Ellicottville and back will be the responsibility of WV
- ✦ WV students will follow ECS academic eligibility standards

- ✦ Adding WV students to our programs will not change our State classification
- ✦ It is possible that increased interest could mean that we need additional levels of sports teams
- ✦ This will be a multi-year agreement (3/4 years)
- ✦ Financially, inter-scholastic sports makes up 1.8% of the District budget (\$200,000)
- ✦ Costs for athletics will only increase if we add additional teams (\$15,000-\$20,000 increase would represent one tenth of 1% of the current tax levy)

POSITIVE OUTCOMES:

The coaches and administration clearly believe this is an excellent opportunity for our school and will only enhance what we already offer! Having more students competing for positions and teams will encourage them to work harder to become a productive member of the squad. It will provide more depth to teams and give coaches more options than they currently have in a number of sports. More students competing will raise the bar for everyone.

- Athletics is very similar to academic achievement in the classroom. A classroom with a number of high achieving students challenges and often pushes each other to work harder to get good grades. Classrooms with few students who are motivated to excel will actually hold back the overall performance in the classroom. We believe that with more students competing for playing time, it will push other teammates to work harder and in the end the teams and individual athletes will be more successful.
- Sometimes younger students are moved up because there are simply not enough students to field a varsity program. In some cases, this is really a disservice to students because they are not ready to play at that level (physical and emotional maturation). More athletes could translate into more levels of programs (Varsity, JV and Modified) and this could help in the development of our athletes, since fundamental skills are focused on at the lower level. This could end up providing our students with more opportunities to participate; if there is adequate student interest.
- In many ways, some of the best things that are learned in athletics have nothing to do with the sport itself. It is the lifelong skills that are embedded in athletics that will have a lasting impact on the students who take advantage of this opportunity. Things like teamwork, hard work, character building, responsibility, dedication to goals, following rules, dealing with success/failure, being able to accept your strengths and weaknesses and keeping sports in perspective are all important lessons that can be learned competing on sports teams.
- Like anything new, we understand that there will be a few logistical bumps in the road that will take patience and understanding. However, if our merger in football with Franklinville and West Valley is any indication, we are in for an exciting year that is truly a win-win for both schools!!





Ambitious Students Getting a Head Start on SAT Prep

Each morning, ambitious sophomores and juniors wake up early to head to SAT Preparation, a course designed to give students extra help in test prep. The class begins at 7:15. For 45 minutes before the first bell, the group spends their morning gearing up for this high stakes test and earning a half credit towards graduation. Thank you to all of the parents who drive their children to school so early!

Students enrolled this semester: Jenna Aldrich, Katie Barry, Emma Chew, Hannah Chew, Brenna Cole, Lauren Dukes, Cheyenne Maybee, Cameron Miller, AnnMarie Prentice, Victor Rieman, Robert Spell, Shelby Spell, Jasmine Valentine.

Enrolled last semester: Matt DiDonato, Nick DiDonato, Jack Haley, Quinn O'Rourke, William Timkey.

Boys' Modified Basketball Wrap-Up

By Coach Keenan

The 2015 boys' modified basketball team finished a successful campaign with a 6 and 3 record. After starting the season with 2 consecutive losses, the young eagles went on to win 6 of their last 7 games. The boys worked hard to eventually become a pretty good defensive team which allowed them to compete with any team they played. The season was highlighted by first time wins at Allegany-Limestone and Portville against their 7th grade teams.

Coach Keenan would like to thank Coach Tim Grinols for all his help this year, and we would both like to thank our players for their consistent effort during the season. The team had two 7th grad-

ers, Jordan Grinols and Niklas Logel, and we look forward to working with these boys again next year. We would also like to thank the 8th graders who were new to the program this year: Hunter Bishop, Griffin Haley, Thomas Hackett and Chris Ives. These boys worked hard to learn our systems and all contributed positively to our season.

Finally, I would like to thank the 8th graders who had the courage to return for a second year with me: Brenden Chudy, Mitchell Gregory, Jacob Perkins and Steven Rowland. Each of these boys worked hard and led the rest of the team in both practices and games. I wish each of you continued success as you progress to the JV and Varsity level in future years.

Important Reminder about School Physicals

You are encouraged to use your private health care provider for all required school health appraisals for optimal continuity of care. However, we are aware that some parents may need to have their child's physical performed at school. The Health Office will be holding our Yearly Spring Physicals on April 14, 15, and 16, 2015.

The advantages of having your son/daughter have a Spring Physical at the school is that it will ensure they have an updated physical for the next year's sports and for employment. Please remember that this exam is not meant to take the place of your child's yearly well child visit with his/her own health care provider. The discussions that take place about any current concerns and the health education are often the most important parts of that visit and should not be missed.

If you do not want your son/daughter to partake in the Yearly Spring Physicals, please call Mrs. Watt at 699-2318 ext 604. Please be aware that all student athletes in grades 7-12 are required to have a urinalysis to test for protein and glucose in order to play sports. If your health care provider does not do this test, your son/daughter will have to have it done in the school Health Office. Thank you.

Mark Your Calendars ...

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Noon dismissal, 1/2 day of school for Grades K-5 (NO PM PreK)

MARCH 30-APRIL 6, 2015

Spring Recess - School Closed

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015

Junior/Senior Prom

Elkdale Country Club

7 - 11 p.m.

April 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 - Spring Recess	2 - Spring Recess	3 - Spring Recess	4
5 - Spring Recess	6 - Spring Recess	7 - Homework Club	8	9 - Homework Club	10 - 7:30 pm ECS Musical @ Ray Evans Seneca Theater (Salamanca)	11 - 7:30 pm ECS Musical @ Ray Evans Seneca Theater (Salamanca)
12	13	14 - Grades 3-8 NYS ELA Assessments - 7:30 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) - Homework Club	15 - Grades 3-8 NYS ELA Assessments	16 - Grades 3-8 NYS ELA Assessments - Homework Club	17 - End of 3rd Quarter Marking Period	18
19	20 - Class of 2016 Hanging Basket Sale - 7:00 pm Sports Boosters Meeting	21 - 4:30 pm Board of Education Meeting - BOCES Budget Vote (HS Library) - Homework Club	22 - Grades 3-8 NYS Mathematics Assessments	23 - Grades 3-8 NYS Mathematics Assessments - Homework Club	24 - Grades 3-8 NYS Mathematics Assessment - 5:30-7:30 PTO Dime Carnival	25
26	27	28 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm NHS Blood Drive - 7:30 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) - Homework Club	29	30 - Homework Club		

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 - PTO Bookfair	4 - Homework Club	5 - Homework Club	6 - 6:00 pm NHS County Banquet	7 - Homework Club	8	9
10	11	12 - 7:30 pm Budget Hearing (HS Cafeteria) - Homework Club	13	14 - Homework Club	15	16 - Senior Class Trip
17 Senior Class Trip	18 - Senior Class Trip - 7:00 pm Sports Boosters Meeting	19 - 1-8 pm Budget Vote & Board Member Election - 6 pm PTO Science & Tech Expo - 7:30 pm BOE Mtg. (HS Library) - Senior Class Trip - Homework Club	20 - Grade 4 NYS Science Performance Assessment	21 - Eagle Time - Kindergarten "Respect" - 7:00 pm Moving Up Parent Night Grades 5, 6 & 8 - Homework Club	22	23
24	25 - School Closed - Memorial Day - 8:00 am MS/HS Performance @ Gazebo in Ellicottville	26 - Homework Club	27 - Grade 8 NYS Science Performance Assessment	28 - Homework Club	29	30 - 7:00-11:00 pm Jr. & Sr. Prom @ Elkdale
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SPRING 2015 SPORTS SCHEDULE

VARSITY BASEBALL

Coach Chris Mendell

3/26	5:00 pm @ Bolivar-Richburg
4/7	4:30 pm vs. Sherman
4/9	4:30 pm vs. Catt-LV/Salamanca
4/11	10:00 am @ Sherman
4/13	4:30 pm vs. North Collins
4/15	4:30 pm @ Randolph
4/17	4:30 pm @ Catt-LV/Salamanca
4/22	4:30 pm @ Pine Valley
4/24	4:30 pm vs. Franklinville
4/27	4:30 pm @ Alleg-Limestone
4/29	4:30 pm @ North Collins
5/1	4:30 pm vs. Randolph
5/5	5:00 pm @ Scio
5/8	4:30 pm vs. Pine Valley
5/9	12:00 pm Walsh @ Bradner Stadium
5/11	4:30 pm @ Franklinville
5/14	5:00 pm vs. Scio
5/19	5:00 pm vs. Walsh
5/20	4:45 pm Brocton @ Dietrich Park

MODIFIED BASEBALL

Coach Nick Smith

4/13	4:30 pm @ North Collins
4/15	4:30 pm vs. Randolph
4/17	4:30 pm @ Catt-Little Valley
4/20	4:30 pm @ Franklinville
4/23	4:30 pm vs. Pine Valley
4/27	4:30 pm vs. West Valley
4/29	4:30 pm vs. North Collins
5/1	4:30 pm @ Randolph
5/6	4:30 pm @ West Valley
5/12	4:30 pm vs. Franklinville
5/14	4:30 pm @ Pine Valley

VARSITY SOFTBALL

Coach Matt Finn

3/26	5:00 pm @ Bolivar-Richburg
4/7	4:30 pm @ Sherman
4/9	4:30 pm @ Alleg-Limestone
4/11	10:00 am @ Sherman
4/13	4:30 pm vs. North Collins
4/15	4:30 pm @ Randolph
4/17	4:30 pm vs. Catt-Little Valley
4/18	11:00 am vs. Salamanca
4/20	4:30 pm vs. Forestville
4/22	4:30 pm @ Pine Valley
4/24	4:30 pm vs. Franklinville
4/27	4:30 pm @ West Valley
4/29	4:30 pm @ North Collins
5/1	4:30 pm vs. Randolph
5/6	4:30 pm @ Forestville
5/8	4:30 pm vs. Pine Valley
5/11	4:30 pm @ Franklinville
5/13	4:30 pm vs. West Valley
5/15	5:00 pm vs. Portville
5/20	4:30 pm @ Salamanca

MODIFIED SOFTBALL

Coach Tammy Eddy

4/13	4:30 pm @ North Collins
4/15	4:30 pm vs. Randolph
4/17	4:30 pm @ Catt-Little Valley
4/20	4:30 pm @ Franklinville
4/23	4:30 pm vs. Pine Valley
4/27	4:30 pm vs. West Valley
4/29	4:30 pm vs. North Collins
5/1	4:30 pm @ Randolph
5/6	4:30 pm @ West Valley
5/12	4:30 pm vs. Franklinville
5/14	4:30 pm @ Pine Valley

GOLF

Coach Dan LaCroix

4/20	3:30 pm Eville/Fville @ Salamanca/Catt-LV @ Elkdale
4/22	3:30 pm Eville/Catt-LV @ Randolph @ Cardinal Hills
4/27	3:30 pm Pville/Fville/Randolph @ Eville @ Double Black Diamond

5/1	3:30 pm Eville/Salamanca @ Alleg-Limestone @ Birch Run
5/4	3:30 pm Eville/Catt-LV @ Portville @ Bolivar
5/11	9:00 am Sectional Qualifier @ Bartlett
5/18	9:00 am Sectional Tournament @ River Oaks
5/27	9:00 am 3-Man Tournament @ Gowanda

TRACK

Combined w/Franklinville Central

4/28	4:30 pm vs. CSP
5/5	4:30 pm vs. West Valley
5/12	4:30 pm @ Frewsburg
5/19	4:30 pm vs. Maple Grove
5/25	4:30 pm @ Westfield-Brocton
5/23	CCAA Pentathlon/Steeple Chase
5/29	CCAA Meet
5/30	CCAA Meet
6/5	Sectionals @ Niagara Wheatfield
6/6	Sectionals @ Niagara Wheatfield



Watt Signs Agreement with Ashland

Calum Watt has received a scholarship to play Division II Football at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. This scholarship is based on his performance on the football field and his high grades in his academic studies. On Monday, March 2, 2015, Calum signed his national letter of intent, which indicates that he is committed to playing football at Ashland in the fall. Calum hopes to play linebacker at Ashland and will major in biology and toxicology. Best wishes to Calum on his endeavors at Ashland!

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Connie Hellwig, Vice President
Michelle Cortez
Nicole Klein
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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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E - Embracing Change
C - Celebrating Success
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Petitions Due for One Open Seat 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 19, 2015 to fill the seat currently held by board member Mrs. Connie Hellwig. Nominating petitions must be filed with the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2015.

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 year of age, a district resident for 30 days prior to the election, and include 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 receiving the highest number of votes will serve a five-year term, beginning on July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2020.

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.



Europe: Experience of a Lifetime

Our trip to Europe was really fun and exciting. It was an experience of a lifetime. In Spain we visited Plaza Mayor and the soccer stadium as well as Plaza Sol. A bus ride to Toledo took us to an ancient medieval city that was all walled in. In Barcelona, we visited "Parque Guell" and the cathedral "La Familia Sagrada," both designed by Antonio Gaudi. His works of art were unusual to say the least.

The bus ride to France gave us the opportunity to stand in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea at sunset and to visit "Pont de Garde." And, we climbed over 400 steps to the top of the Duomo in Florence. Italy was the Coliseum, Vatican, the Sistine Chapel and the amazing works of art by Michelangelo.

Our 12 days were tiring but exciting, long but interesting and the most amazing too all at the same time. Thanks to our families, teachers and administration of ECS for allowing us to experience this opportunity.