

November 2021

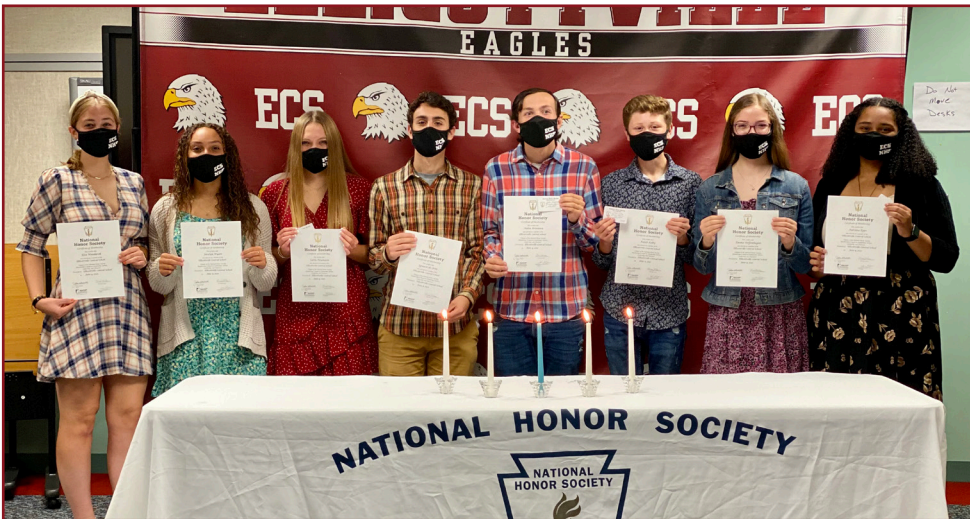
# ELLCOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 52, Issue 2

## NHS Induction Ceremony

**Eight New Members Welcomed on October 20, 2021!**



Congrats to our Senior NHS Members on their Induction Ceremony held on Wednesday, October 20th. *Pictured Left to Right:* Elsa Woodarek, Jocelyn Wyatt, Carly Neumann, Ignacio de Orbe, Aiden Privitera, Kaleb Kilby, Emma Steffenhagen and Antonia Epps.



### Important Dates:

**Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021**

**(1/2 day for Students  
–Noon Dismissal)**

Parent / Teacher Conferences

**Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021**

**(1/2 day for Students  
–Noon Dismissal)**

Parent / Teacher Conferences

**Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021**

**– Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021**

**Thanksgiving Break – No School**

**Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021**

**– Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022**

**Winter Recess – No School**

**School Resumes**

**Monday, Jan. 3, 2022**

### NHS/Ecology Club

## Poinsettia Sale!

Please help the National Honor Society and Ecology Club raise money by buying a poinsettia. It's a fantastic way to decorate for the holidays! THANK YOU!

Order forms can be found on the school website at: [www.ellicottvillecentral.com](http://www.ellicottvillecentral.com) and the District's Facebook page.

Please place all orders by Tuesday, November 30th. Please make checks payable to Ellicottville Central School. Orders will be available to pick up at the high school on Wednesday, December 8th after 12 pm. Color choice will be subject to availability. Red may need to be substituted, depending upon demand.

**Cost of Poinsettias = \$15 each**



### Senior Citizen Dinner

**Wednesday,  
December, 1st  
between 3:30 and 4:30 pm.**

This will be a

**TAKE-OUT  
ONLY EVENT.**

Pickup will be at the main front entrance of the High School.

District Residents should call  
(716) 699-2316 ext. 1400  
by Monday, November 22nd  
to secure a dinner.

# Thankful for Progress...

As I write this article for the November Newsletter, it is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner! To be sure, we have much to be thankful for this school year. With the exception of a plumbing issue, we have been open for in-person instruction since September 2nd! We have been able to enjoy the return of important events such as: assemblies, Homecoming, and the Halloween Parade in the Village! ALL of the varsity teams made the playoffs, and, at the time of this article, both the Girls and Boys Soccer teams are Section VI Champions! While we are not completely back to "normal" (and we still do not know what the "new" normal will look like), we are certainly heading in the right direction.

Speaking of heading in the right direction, progress is being made on the Capital Project. Although we have seen some setbacks (i.e. delay of cooler and freezer for new kitchen), evidence of progress can be seen all around the campus. Most visible from outside the school are the new parking lots, exterior lights, drainage work (north end of the elementary and athletic fields), a new generator adjacent to the high school parking lot, a new walking track, a terrace for the concession stand, and new sidewalks around the building. Inside the school, the construction in the kitchens are almost complete, the high school cafeteria has a new look, the elementary gym floor has been completely replaced (and looks sharp!), and clocks and door locks are being installed. Less evident, but important is the completed work that most will not see: the work in the bus garage, the roof on the garage, and the roof on the high school wing. We still have much to do as ongoing work is taking place in the school for message boards, upgrades to

the PA and alarm systems, replacement of the terrazzo steps in the HS Entrance, etc. We will be starting the "second" phase of the project which will be completed in Summer 2022, and may include things such as: flooring in the elementary, resurfacing of the playground area, minor roof work to address some leaks, etc.

Switching gears...as you have most likely heard by now, the COVID-19 Vaccination has been approved for children between the ages of 5 and 11 (students 12 years old and older were approved last year). In light of this, ECS will be working with NYS, the Cattaraugus County Department of Health (CCDOH) and Cattaraugus County Emergency Management Services to host one or more vaccination clinics here at the school. We are still working on these plans, but do know that the clinic for students from 5 yrs old to 11 yrs old will be held after school and into the early evening so that parents who would like their child/children to receive the vaccination can be here. Once these details are finalized, letters will be sent home to parents.

On a related note, I would like to remind everyone of the District's reopening plans as they pertain to symptomatic students / individuals.

*Students and staff **MUST** stay home when they do not feel well or have COVID 19 symptoms. Parents / Staff should consult with their physician or the school nurse for "next steps" including testing for COVID-19. **THIS CANNOT BE IGNORED.** If your child (or a staff member) is symptomatic and attends school, he/she could subject many others to quarantine protocols.*

Unfortunately, we have already seen a few cases this year where an individual reported to school with symptoms thinking

they were something other than COVID. This unfairly subjects other students to quarantine. Compounding this concern is the fact that it may mean that quarantined students will miss important events both in and/or out of school (i.e. picture day, an exam that may be used for scholarships, an athletic event, a wedding, etc.). PLEASE... if your child/children are symptomatic, it is absolutely imperative that you keep them at home and contact either our school nurse (Mrs. Hager at 716-699-2318 extension 1604) or their physician. This best ensures everyone's safety, and that people are not unfairly placed into quarantine.

An important additional topic related to quarantining is that individuals that are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic. Fortunately, Mrs. Hager can look in the NYS Immunization Database to see if an individual is vaccinated. However, it is our understanding that we need permission to look this information up. To streamline the process, starting Wednesday, November 17th, we are going to assume that parents/guardians are granting the school this permission, unless they contact us in writing and expressly tell us that we do not have said permission. This will save everyone time when we do have a positive case and we have to identify who may need to be quarantined.

In closing, and aside from all the information I have shared, on behalf of the entire District, I wish everyone a relaxing, enjoyable and safe Thanksgiving!

Bob Miller



## ECS YEARBOOK NEWS

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



# Looking Ahead to the Budget

It's hard to believe.... We have not yet finished the first marking period of the 2021-22 school year, but we have also started looking at the preliminary creation of the 2022-23 budget. The actual 2022-23 budget vote will not take place until May 17, 2022 and months of work will go into putting it together, so it is imperative that we start sooner than later.

As we start this process, one area that is imperative that the District address is attracting **AND** retaining employees in all staff areas. This is proving tougher every year. As New York State continues to increase the minimum wage, a significant number of employers have started to exceed the minimum wage in order to attract employees. As a result, schools, too, must do the same for all of their staff, and Ellicottville Central is no exception. We want to attract and retain the **BEST** in order to provide the **BEST** for our students. This will require a significant financial commitment on the part of the District. While State Aid will certainly be factored into this financial commitment, we will not know what State Aid estimates will look like until they are released in January 2022, and we need to move forward with budget planning before then.

A part of the equation that must be considered when looking at this financial commitment is the possibility of needing to exceed the "tax cap." Please recall that the "tax cap" is only one part of the equation used to calculate total school taxes, but it is the part of the equation that the District can "control" to generate extra funds. At this point, we do not know for sure if we will have to exceed the "tax cap," and if we do, by how much we will need to exceed it. A lot can change between now and the creation of the final budget. What we do know is that exceeding the "cap" has to be considered, as it may be impossible to maintain current programming **AND** provide wages and salaries that are competitive with private employers as well as other school districts. As we proceed, please know that the District will strive to create a fiscally responsible budget that provides for the best possible learning environment across all areas for the students.

## ECS Consent to Verify COVID-19 Vaccination

In order to minimize the quarantining of asymptomatic fully vaccinated individuals and streamline the contact tracing process, ECS is seeking parental permission to access the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) to verify a child's/children's COVID-19 vaccination status.

If you **give permission** for the school nurse to access NYSIIS to verify your child's/children's COVID-19 vaccination status **you do not need to do anything & consent is implied.** This permission will be in effect (year to year) unless you change this status by contacting the school.

Otherwise, please complete the information below and return it to the school by Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

### ECS Consent to Verify COVID-19 Vaccination

☐ I do not give permission for the school nurse to access the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) to verify your child's/children's COVID-19 vaccination status.

CHILD'S/CHILDREN'S NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



*We need your help!*

The Ellicottville Central School Project Christmas committee would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the Ellicottville Community for their support of Project Christmas over the past decades.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, Project Christmas will look like it did in 2020. In lieu of our traditional gift tags being sent out to various locations in the community and food drives being held, we are asking that if you would like to help, please consider a monetary donation.

Project Christmas will continue to provide Ellicottville Central School District families with a means to obtain food and gifts for their children, but it will be in a similar fashion to last year.

Monetary donations to assist this service in our community may be sent to:  
(Checks should be made out to **Project Christmas**)

**Ellicottville Central School**  
ATTN: Karin Hager, School Nurse,  
5873 Route 219  
Ellicottville, New York 14731.

Questions may also be directed to Nurse Hager @ 716-699-2318 (ext. 1604) or email: [khager@ecsny.org](mailto:khager@ecsny.org)

Thank you for your anticipated continued support. May you and your families have a very safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season!



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

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### Board Members

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

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL**  
**Or CURRENT RESIDENT**

### Administration

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



## MS Students of the Month!

### SEPTEMBER: 7th Grade

Social Studies..... Ella Grudy  
 Math..... Timothy DeChane  
 Spanish..... Riley Whitmer  
 Gym..... Juliana O'Connell  
 Science..... Jaxson LaCroix  
 Art..... Audrey Meacham-Williams  
 Band..... Christopher Edwards  
 Chorus..... Nora Santiago

### SEPTEMBER: 8th Grade

Social Studies..... Oliver Wedvik  
 Math..... Jordan O'Connell  
 Spanish..... Jordan O'Connell  
 Gym..... Patrick Andera  
 Science..... Mackenzie Noga  
 Band..... Oliver Wedvik  
 Chorus..... Jackson Kruszynski



## Searching for Welcome Rocks

The 8th grade and 2nd grade students teamed up for a lesson on community this past month at ECS. The 8th grade students created welcome rocks for the students in 2nd grade and hid them in the courtyard for a day of fun. These rocks were painted with messages of encouragement and strength. The 2nd grade students who found the rocks were allowed to take them home as a reminder that there are others in the school community that are behind them and rooting for their success. Plans for more activities linking the two grade levels have been planned for the future. What a wonderful welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!



### Great Valley Food Pantry

#### UPDATED HOURS:

**Every Thursday, 4:30pm – 6:30pm**

**Every Saturday, 8am – 10am**

**The Great Valley Town Hall**  
**4808 Rt. 219 ~ Great Valley, NY**