

December 2024

ELLICOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 55, Issue 3

Second Graders Sample Chinese Food



On Friday, October 18th, second grade students got to enjoy a Chinese Food Sampling complete with sweet and sour chicken, vegetable lo mein, two types of rice, and fortune cookies! They spent the last several weeks learning all about the seven continents. Prior to the Chinese Food Sampling, they learned about the continent of Asia. Students also got to take home a pair of chopsticks! They have enjoyed learning all about the seven continents!

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, December 21, 2024 -

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

**WINTER RECESS
NO SCHOOL**

Thursday, January 2, 2025

SCHOOL RESUMES

Monday, January 20, 2025

**SCHOOL CLOSED
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

Friday, January 24, 2025

**RATING DAY
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

Season's Greetings from ECS!

Maybe it's me, but it seems like each year the holiday season starts a little earlier. As I'm writing this article, it is still almost two weeks to Thanksgiving, yet Christmas movies are already on TV and select radio/streaming stations are playing Christmas music 24/7. While it would be easy to become frustrated with this rushing of the seasons, I'm finding that it's not all bad, as the Holiday season at ECS is truly a magical time of the year.

Students, staff and community all come together each year to make the holiday season a special time for everyone. It starts with the Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon complete with student performances in early December and continues on with Family Fun Night (which includes a visit from Santa!). In addition to these two community activities, the students are always eager to showcase their musical abilities in the Grades 3-6 and Grade 7-12 Holiday Concerts. Perhaps the biggest shining light is Project Christmas. This program has been a tradition at ECS for many, many years. Each year, I am in awe of this program and how it ensures that as many people as possible have a special holiday season filled with cheer. There is no one person that makes sure this event takes

place; it is a true community effort and a perfect example of what takes place when a community works together for the good of all.

Throughout the season, the ECS community and family know how to come together in the true spirit of the holidays to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be filled with happiness and joy!

In addition to the busy holiday season this year, ECS will also be sharing information and holding a public vote on a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) in December. In this newsletter, you will find information about the CIP on pages 3 and 4. Aside from these pages, I would like to offer a little more information at this time:


- The District has timed this CIP to coincide with the fact that over the next two years we will make final payments on a previous project and can use these funds towards the cost of this CIP.
- When we combine the funds that we are currently using to make payments on a previous project and NYS Building Aid, we are excited to report that we can complete this CIP with **no impact on current taxes!**

- Please note that, while this project does not include new additions, it addresses areas that are truly in need of attention. The pictures displayed later in this newsletter will demonstrate examples.
- Some of the areas / items that need to be addressed have remained unchanged since the school was built!

If you still have questions about the CIP after reviewing pages 3 and 4, I invite you to come to our public information meeting on Wednesday, December 4th. The public vote for the CIP will be held on Tuesday, December 10th. This CIP is an important step that is needed to ensure that ECS continues to be an educational leader.

As we head towards the holidays and the holiday break, may you all find peace, joy and happiness. In closing, my holiday wish for each and every one of you and your families is to have a very safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Thank you,


Robert Miller,
Superintendent

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, staff, students, and the entire ECS Community, congratulations and best wishes to Superintendent Bob Miller and Superintendent's Secretary/District Clerk Melissa Sawicki on their pending retirements from Ellicottville

Central School. Superintendent Miller will retire effective January 2nd with 20 years of service to the district and Mrs. Sawicki will retire effective December 26th with over 30 years of service to the district.

Thank you for your dedication to Ellicottville Central School and our students.



**Bob
Miller**



**Melissa
Sawicki**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 2024

On December 10, 2024, Ellicottville Central School District residents will have an opportunity to vote on a \$4,530,000 capital project that is being proposed to implement various health, safety, asset preservation, and building integrity improvements at our buildings and facilities. The majority of the proposed project will be paid for using available State Building Aid. The remaining cost will be fully offset through the application of retiring debt payments from past capital improvements.

As a result, there will be NO ADDITIONAL TAX INCREASE to residents and business owners as a result of this project.

We encourage you to learn more details about the project at the Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

Why is this work needed?

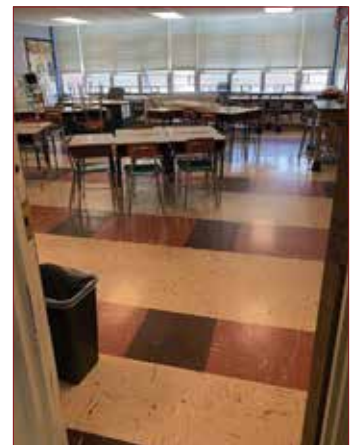
The Ellicottville Central School District is committed to providing a safe learning environment and well-maintained facilities for students and public use. All school districts are required by New York State to have a licensed Architect review the condition of their buildings and grounds every five years. In 2023, our architectural consultant performed a Building Condition Survey (BCS) that examined the District's facilities and identified problem areas requiring reconstruction or replacement. A District subcommittee studied the BCS items and developed a prioritized list of recommended improvements. The District is addressing those issues now, rather than delaying and facing future higher costs and further deterioration.

Why is the District having a capital project vote?

Routine facility maintenance and repairs are typically funded within the annual District budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. However, large renovations, reconstruction, and replacement of "end of useful life" items, such as those included in this project, would have a major impact on the tax rate if included in the annual District budget. A capital project is a fiscally responsible alternative because State Building Aid reimburses a majority of the cost, providing the opportunity to keep some of the state's tax dollars in our own community.



Original Door Replacement



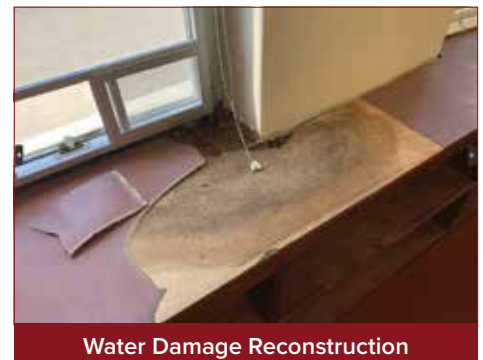
Replace Original Flooring



Masonry Wall Reconstruction



Water Damage Reconstruction



Water Damage Reconstruction

SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday
4
DECEMBER

PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:00 P.M.
High School Library

Tuesday
10
DECEMBER

PUBLIC VOTE

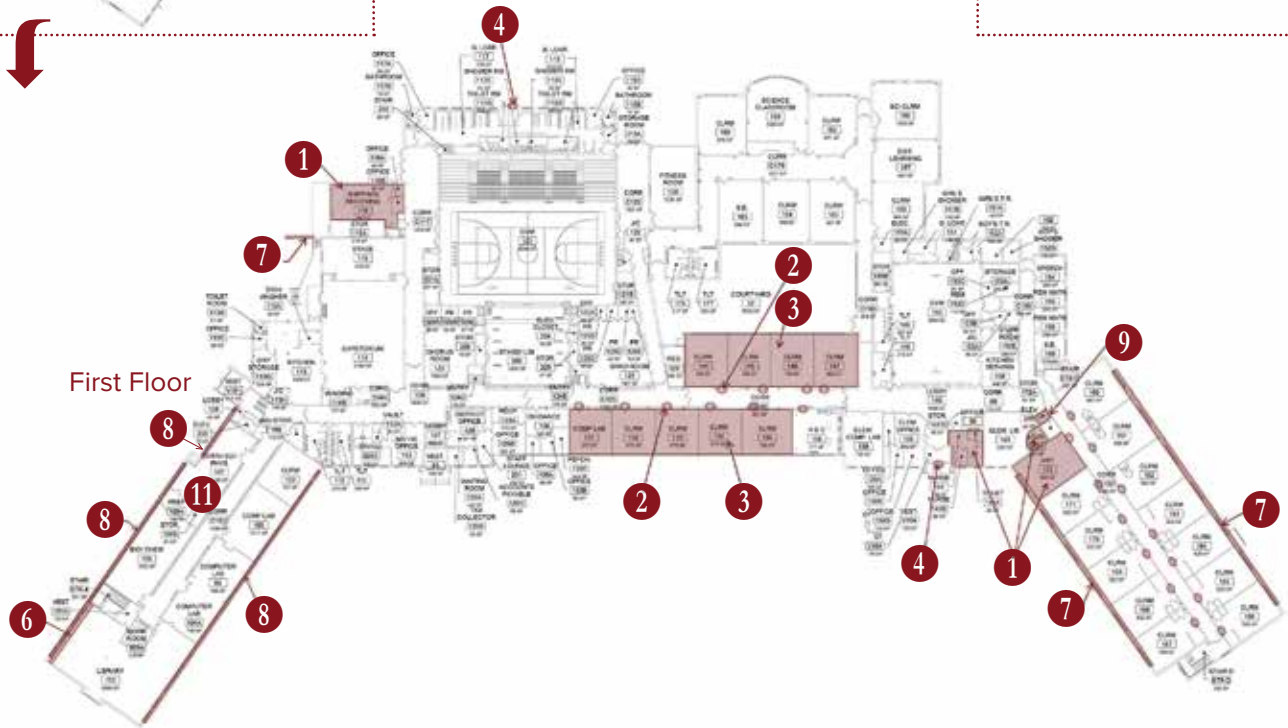
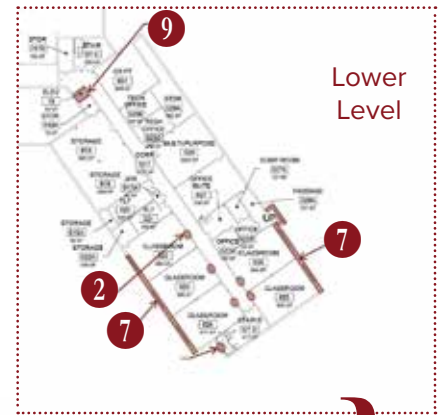
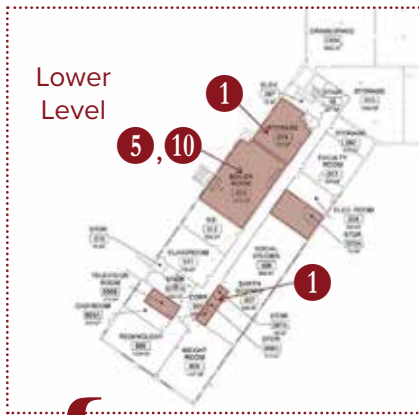
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

1:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
Elementary School Foyer

TAX
NEUTRAL

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person.

Project Highlights



K-12 Main Building

Health & Safety Improvements

- ☒ 1 Ventilation improvements
- ☒ 2 Select classroom door replacement
- ☒ 3 Select classroom floor replacement
- ☒ 4 Select exterior door replacement
- ☒ 5 Domestic water system improvements (recirculation loop/pump, water softener and storage tank)
- ☐ Fire alarm upgrades
- ☐ Replace caution lights adjacent to the road

Site Improvements

- ☐ Addition of sidewalks across bus loop median

Bus Garage

Asset Preservation & Building Integrity

- ☐ Replacement of water heater
- ☐ Fire alarm / CO system replacement

Asset Preservation & Building Integrity

- ☒ 6 Water damage reconstruction
- ☒ 7 Masonry wall reconstruction
- ☒ 8 Replacement of window caulk
- ☒ 9 Elevator replacement
- ☒ 10 Replace heating plant and sanitary pumps, including boilers
- ☒ 11 Replace air compressor for science labs
- ☐ Replace original electrical panels

Project Financing Plan

Project Cost: \$4,530,000 Additional Tax Increase: \$0

This capital project is the next phase in the District's long range capital improvement financial plan, designed to sustain infrastructure of the District's buildings and enhance benefits to the community.

- ✓ New York State will provide the District with Building Aid that covers 65.1% of the cost, significantly reducing the local share.
- ✓ The project funding plan also leverages about \$180,000 in retiring debt resulting in a "TAX NEUTRAL" proposal to taxpayers.

MOVING ON TO STATES...

Girls Varsity Volleyball *by Coach Auge*



Grit. Resilience. Perseverance. Believing in themselves and believing in each other. The 2024 varsity volleyball team is one that will be talked about for years to come! A team that hit rock bottom during the season after losing several tight matches to difficult teams. A group of girls that came together and used these losses as leverage to rise back up and be a stronger "no quit" kind of team. Filling in those cracks that we developed throughout the season to become an unbreakable and unstoppable team.

I am so beyond proud of these Lady Eagles! With an overall record of 17-9, this team showed all what an Ellicottville Eagle is made of! Along the way, we also celebrated some major accomplishments! Ande Northrup recorded her 1000th assist and Natalee Leiper slammed down her 500th kill. But, the celebrations did not end there.

During the playoffs, Ellicottville faced Number 11 seed Maple Grove on our home court. In quick fashion, we won in 3 games and then headed on the road to face our next opponent, the number 3 seed Panama. After losing a tight match to them just 2 weeks previously, we knew what to expect. These tenacious Lady Eagles were meeting up daily during lunch to watch film and make a game plan to get redemption on this team. And we did! We swept them in 3 games! Next stop was a trip out to

face the number 2 seed Westfield. This is a team we had not faced all season, but who had beaten us in playoffs the year before. The Lady Eagles showed up and beat Westfield in three games! This next part of the journey was going to be another tough battle. For the Section 6 Championship game, we were going to face the number 1 seed Clymer. This is a team that we had already beaten twice in our regular season, but those wins did not guarantee anything come playoff time. We knew we would have to fight for every point. Clymer showed up and gave us a battle! We fought for every point and beat Clymer in 3! Section 6 Champions! This was the last time we would beat a team in just 3 games, but the winning was not done yet!

Next stop, was the Far West Regional Game at Lakeshore High School against Section 5 Champion Charles G. Finney. This was going to be a difficult opponent with strong hitters. We had a game plan going in to the game, but after dropping the first 2 sets things started to look grim. Before the start of game 3, I told my players to stop looking at the scoreboard, and look to each other. Believe in themselves and believe in one another. Battle one point at a time, and play big! Cover that floor and make it difficult for them to score a single point! This was the beginning of the switch in momentum during this game. We won game 3, and went on to win game 4. Game

5 was a shorter match to only 15 points. We were trailing Charles G. Finney 2-7 during that fifth set. With one last time out and reminders to trust each other and play controlled, we started yet another come back. We came clawing back one point at a time showing true resiliency and never ever giving up! We won that game 15-11! We were named the Far West Regional Champion and that now means that we are headed to STATES!

Thank you to all that have helped us and cheered us on throughout our season. The amount of support can be felt coming in waves. It is exciting, overwhelming, and humbling. I feel so lucky to be part of this journey.

As I write this article, I can't help but smile as I think of all that we have accomplished so far. For the State Tournament, there are 4 teams left in Class D. The remaining teams are: Tuxedo, Mekeel Christian, Ellicottville, and Candor. We will be able to face each of these teams in a "round-robin" type tournament and the top 2 teams will move on to the final Class D Championship game. At the minimum we could be called the 4th place team in the state of New York. At best, we could be named the Class D State Champion. As of this moment, the rest of this story is still unwritten!

Photo credit: Debbie Golley

13 Reasons Coach Auge is thankful!

1. Izzy's consistency
2. Ande's hustle
3. Karle's joyful style
4. Makenzie's quickness
5. Natalee's leadership
6. Hayden's thoughtfulness
7. Cheyenne's humor
8. Faith's loyalty
9. Keira's positivity
10. Riley's power
11. Anna's effort
12. Coach Norton's mindset
13. Coach Kruska's energy

ROALD DAHL'S *James and the Giant Peach*



Congratulations to ECS' Junior High Drama Club's production of "James and The Giant Peach, Jr.!" A job well done by the cast and crew!

ECS' Senior High Drama Club will occur March 28th and 29th.

Holiday Food Drive sponsored by the National Honor Society



*Donate to those in need
December 2nd-20th*

*There is always a need for
pasta, spaghetti sauce,
peanut butter, canned
fruit and veggies, boxed
meals (mac and cheese,
hamburger helper, etc.)*

*Drop off non-perishable
items to boxes located
near the Elementary
Office or HS Office*



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Most days, a vast majority of my students come to the reading classroom without having done their reading practice. Six years ago, when I wrote an article for the fall newsletter, that percentage was about half. About half of all students receiving a reading intervention were doing reading practice with their families at night. Since COVID, this number has plummeted. Now, it is only a few families that do the reading homework.

I ask students to practice the books I teach during reading lessons in the evenings at home. Students are asked to read a book three times and come to class the next day having “mastered” it. Practice is necessary for a reading intervention to take full effect. Without the practice, my teaching skills are greatly diminished. We may not be able to get that child to grade level. We will certainly have a much more difficult job.

My students have always been apologetic in years past, saying something like, “I didn’t do my reading practice last night because we were too busy.” I have heard it hundreds and hundreds of times in the past ten years. Nowadays, they are not apologetic. Instead, they may give a brief explanation, “I didn’t do my reading...” but they usually just shrug it off. Reading practice is not happening often for most, and that has become the norm. Keep in mind that elementary-aged students are dependent upon an adult to facilitate their reading practice. Without it, they are at a disadvantage.

I think that lack of reading practice is the case for many among our elementary-aged students, not just those receiving reading intervention.

I’m willing to bet that most of our families have similar challenges, trying to get everything done in the evenings. Often reading practice comes last on the list of priorities.

I would like to tell you, teacher to parent, what is most concerning to me. As children progress through the grades, they are tasked with reading text at grade level. When they are not able to keep up, they begin to struggle. Once the struggle begins, it puts extra stress on the child. That stress affects the child’s ability to learn, and so a cycle begins. As the work gets harder, the stress continues to increase, which may become very difficult to manage.

Please remember that your children’s work at school is preparation for their lives. Their education prepares them for the world of work, and work is very competitive. A deficit in reading ability will make it hard for them to compete for jobs. This will affect the quality of their lives.

When I feel frustrated that a child is not progressing well due to a lack of practice, I so often think that when a child does not practice, others are practicing. Others are getting stronger and more competitive and will likely have an advantage over those who do not. I want your children to have every advantage to compete later in their lives—to get the jobs they want, to realize their dreams.

I understand how hard it is to be a parent and how hard it is to get it all done. I’ve been there, and I regret that I did not do a better job. If you are not doing reading practice with your child, I would encourage

you to try some new strategies such as listening to your child read while you are driving or cooking. Please try to find family or friends who can listen to your child read as well. Older siblings are also a great idea, especially if they received help in reading. They are now more capable and can help their little brother or sister.

I am cheering for your child/children every day at school, and I want to see them succeed. I have been writing newsletters for well over a decade now, and I think they all have had to do with the lack of reading practice. I have not yet seen an uptick despite all my efforts over the years. Instead, practice continues to decline, and we are now in the single digits. I think I can count about five families who still get the job done. I fear that the rest of my students are at a disadvantage that we might still overcome. There must be a way to improve for the sake of the kids. Your kids are...well, you already know...everything.

Please, please give it some thought.

Happy holidays!

Dr. Marie Davis,
Reading Specialist



RED RIBBON WEEK



The week of October 21st – October 31st our school celebrated Red Ribbon week. The Red Ribbon campaign is the largest drug abuse prevention in the United States. Student Council members created a spirit week for all students to participate in, including days like “Live Drug Free - Wear Red” day, “Lei off Drugs – Hawaiian Day”, and “Dream of NO Drugs – Wear PJs” day. We also sponsored an anti-drug slogan pumpkin decorating contest. Congratulations

to Mrs. Nason’s, Mrs. Romance’s, and Mrs. Moore’s classes for winning the contest! Thank you Pumpkinville for the pumpkin donation. We brought in speakers Steve and Jacy from Hang Up and Drive to address high school students on the dangers of distracted driving. Student Council hosted a scavenger hunt during the week, where students had to find teachers and answer a question based on drug and alcohol awareness. What a fun week!!



An Exciting Afternoon at the NANNEN ARBORETUM



Third grade students from Mrs. Donoghue's and Mr. Przybyla's classrooms spent an exciting afternoon at the Nannen Arboretum. Sue Blesy, Nan Miller, Steve Ward, and Ray Johnson served as our guides. While there, the students learned about various kinds of trees such as the White Contorted Pine, Snake Branch Spruce, Bristlecone Pine, and many other native and non-native species. Our guides actively engaged the students throughout the walk as they gathered information on each tree's height, its age range, where it would be found naturally, and the various leaf structures. The students recorded the gathered information and helped to create artwork for pages in a large book. Our field trip ended with a review game where gathered samples were placed on a mat and students chose an item and explained its significance. This collaborative adventure was all possible through the generous volunteers at the Nannen Arboretum. *Thank you!*





Girls Varsity Soccer *by Coach Eddy*

2024 Section VI Champions

The Girls' Varsity soccer team had a very successful regular season with an overall record of 12-5-1 and a league record of 8-3-1. Our league is made up of two Class B schools, three Class C schools, and two Class D schools. We scored 46 goals this year and allowed 20, which is pretty impressive considering the tough schedule that we play. Our regular season's success ultimately helped us prepare for a return to the Sectional Final Game. We were ranked #1 going into the finals, which meant a two week break after the regular season. This team's determination to succeed was evident in practice and in games throughout the season but most importantly, during this long haul without a game. Their hard work and determination paid off, avenging our loss to North Collins by defeating them 2-0 to become Section VI Class D Champions! We had great leadership from our seniors: Addison John, Katie Bless, Courtney Marsh, & Jayden Doult. These four girls have been positive role models for our underclassmen, they will be missed next season, but we wish them the best as they

pursue their goals off of the soccer field. The rest of our team includes Juniors, Drew Ficek, Teaghan Finn, Bianca Bush, Harper Klein, Makayla Potter, Delaney Myers, and Olivia Tighe. Sophomores, Eliza Murray, Juliana O'Connell, Ava Fuller, Malie Curtis, Ava Weber, Ady Andrews, Ainsley Edwards, and Freshman Juleana Lyon. These girls played with a lot of heart in every game and the bond that they have with each other will last forever. Many girls received post-season honors for their accomplishments this year but one accomplishment that I am most proud of is the honor of being selected for the "TEAM" Sportsmanship Award. This is selected by the other coaches in our league and it is a testament to the character of these girls! Congratulations Ladies!

1st Team All-Star

Addison John
Teaghan Finn
Drew Ficek

2nd Team All-Star

Courtney Marsh
Jayden Doult
Ava Fuller

Honorable Mention

Bianca Bush
Katie Bless

Sportsmanship Award

Harper Klein

Girls Modified Soccer *by Coach LaCroix*

Our girls modified soccer team had a successful season, finishing the year with a record of 8-1-1. Starting the year with only one 9th grader, we were one of the youngest modified teams in our league. After going undefeated the first 9 games, the girls came up short in the last game of the year. It was a great overall season!

This team consisted of one 9th grader, who got moved up to Varsity half way through the season (Juleana Lyon), eleven 8th graders (Kaegan Bauer, Marjorie Brown, Gracie Griffith, Cayda Kruszynski, RaeAnn Meyer, Lillian Pearl, Taylor Perks, Whitney Powers, Camerie Riley, Allison Terhune, and Ella Weber) and seven 7th graders (Harley Andera, Allyana Andrews, Maggie Faulkner, Hope Niesyty, Teagan Siperek, Emma Wallace, and Jayda Wyatt).

Great season ladies!!!



Varsity Football

by Coach Benjamin

The 2024 Varsity FE Titan season came to an end at the Section VI Finals at Highmark Stadium. We have had our share of successes but also, we've had some adversity to work through. All the players worked on improving as a team and individually and stepped up when they were asked. One great thing about football is that there is always room for improvement, we can all work on doing something a little better. The coaches would like to thank the players for their dedication and hard work.

We look forward to coming back next year!

Modified Football

by Coach Palmatier

The FE Titans Modified Football season was a great success this year. The Titans finished with a record of 3-2-1, with wins over Fredonia, Portville/Cuba-Rushford/Hinsdale, and Salamanca. Ellicottville had 12 student-athletes participate in the season, those players being AJ Meyers, Mario Polino, Brody Erlandson, Jack Pearl, Calvin Pearl, Ricky Howard, Landon Jenson, Jason Winship, Jayden Adcock, Bentley Ward, Aidan Zeher, and Elijah Calkins. The modified Titans showed a lot of potential and will be exciting to watch throughout the rest of their high school football careers. They showed great leadership, communication, competitiveness, and teamwork which will set a solid foundation for this group of student-athletes going forward in football, as well as in life. Great season Titans!

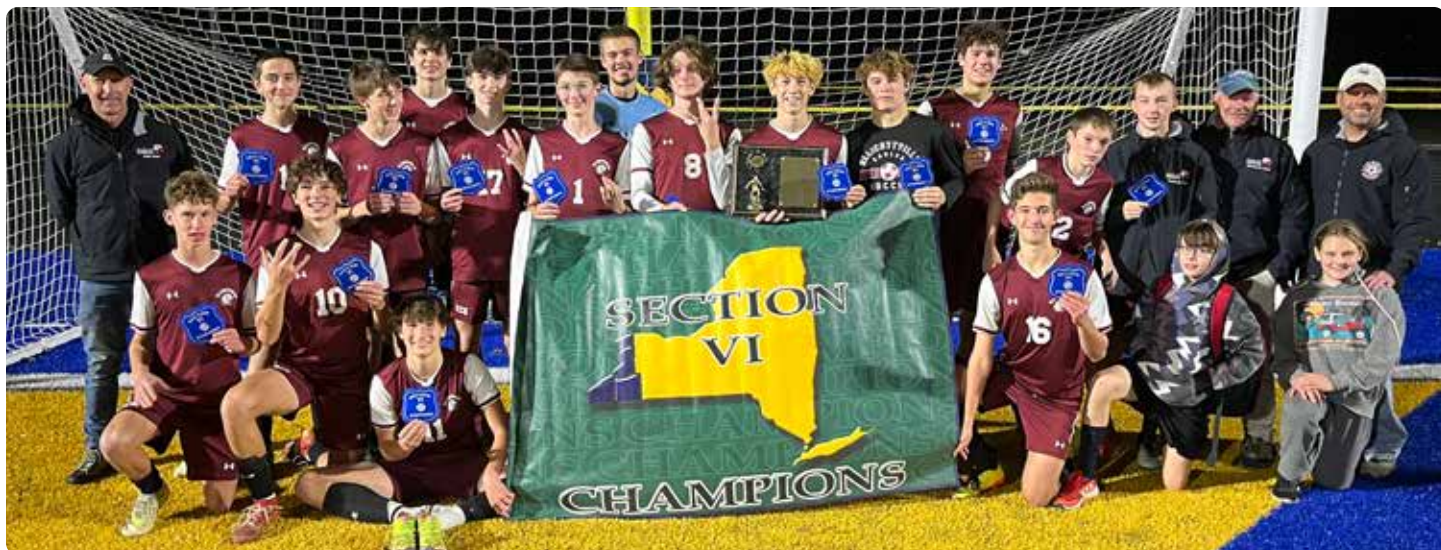
JV Football

Our JV Football Team finished the season with a 4-3 record for the 2024 season. The team was led by sophomore leadership from both schools. The JV Titans played very strong competition throughout the season, which allowed our boys the opportunity to improve greatly over our time together. Our JV team had wins against JFK, Silver Creek/Forestville, Olean and Portville. The team had excellent plays throughout the season that highlighted our wins. Our own Ellicottville sophomores Blake Smith, Rylan Benjamin, Dominic Polino, Raiddan Wilson and Parker Gebauer led efforts for the Titans in all facets of the game. Franklinville sophomores Brady Tatlow, Brenden MacWilliams, Gunner Joechen, Braeden Vosburg, Brodie Latimer, Maxx Goss, Reiley Freer and Tucker Bishop did the same. Freshman from both schools such as Coleman Milks, Carson Mendell, Payton Quinn, Sawyer Miller, Grayson Neal, Zach Brennan, Paul Hurlburt, and Ausdynn Purdy all stepped up big in games this season as well. We also had an 8th grader, Deegan Newark step up and fill a huge role on both sides of the ball. The JV Titans 4-3 record to finish the season was one of the best in recent years, with it being the most wins in a season this group has achieved in their young Titan football careers. This group has a very bright future ahead of them with a ton of success if they keep on working! The JV Titans were coached by Coach Helmer from Franklinville and Coach Chudy from Ellicottville who were very proud of the progress made all season, as well as the strides this group made together as one team. We wish our sophomores the best of luck on Varsity and are looking forward to another great JV season next Fall!

FE TITAN FOOTBALL



Boys Varsity Soccer *by Coach Finn*



As fall passes and winter approaches, it comes time to reflect on another Boys Varsity Soccer season. These Eagles were proud and strong, relentless, and played at a level higher than their grade. All season long, these boys wore the Eagle Uniform with pride.

With an overall record of 9 – 7 – 2 and a league record of 6 – 3 – 1, these young men consistently found themselves playing against bigger and older opponents, but never giving anything less than their best. When it came time to play against a team their own size for the Section 6 Class D Title, these Eagles walked away with a convincing 3 – 1 victory over North Collins for their fourth straight sectional title.

In that game, Tosh Klein started the scoring off with an assist from Owen Doherty 11 minutes into the game. After conceding a goal 30 seconds later, the

game was tied 1 – 1 going into halftime. In the second half, fighting against a strong wind and a strong North Collins goalkeeper, Kyle Robinson and Owen Doherty each added a goal to secure the win. These Eagles played this game with the same heart, pride and determination that they had demonstrated all season.

At the CCAA League All-Star dinner, Owen Doherty was named League Offensive MVP and Ben Edwards was named League Defensive MVP which placed both of them as League First Team All-Stars. Second Team League All-Star honors went to Maddox Johnson, Kyle Robinson, Jackson Kruszynski, Tosh Klein, and Coleman Carls. Christopher Edwards was named to the League Honorable Mention Team.

Owen Doherty was also named to the Buffalo News All-WNY Small School Team.

The team consisted of

Seniors: Ben Edwards, Owen Doherty, Kyle Robinson, and Maddox Johnson

Junior: Jackson Kruszynski

Sophomores: Christopher Edwards, Tosh Klein, Coleman Carls, Kaiser Joesel, Timothy Dechane, and Jaxson LaCroix

Freshmen: Rian Johnson, Holden Basher, Daniel Kruszynski, Jackson Tomsick, and Cooper Sciara

We, the coaches, appreciate the time and energy that these players and parents put in to the programs. Without the dedication of the ECS community, our teams would not be made up of the fine people and players that they are. Thank you!

Modified Boys Soccer *by Coach Gelen*

The Modified Boy's soccer team had a successful 2024 season. Our Modified Boys' finished with a record of 6-2-3. The boys made great improvements from the beginning of the season up until the end. Great season Eagles! A big thank you to all of the players, parents, and everyone who supported us throughout the season. The Modified Boys' Soccer team was a mix of Ellicottville and Franklinville student-athletes this season. The players are listed below:

Dakota Tidd, Cooper Sciara, Jacob Henning, Landon Jankowiak, Liem Haynoski, George Dick, Jonathan Peterson, Evan Breton, Kameron Farrington, Grayson McGonnell, Marshall DeChane, Carsten Kosinski, Nicholas Wedvik, Gabe DeChane, Kullen McGonnell, Crew Koleta, Griffen Sciara, Caelen Myers, Liam Dahlman, Axel Moore, Caleb Czamara, Mason LaCroix, Skyler Samborski, Everett Parmenter



Girls JV Volleyball

by Coach Norton

This season was a journey of growth for our young team, made up mostly of ninth graders stepping onto the court as a brand new group. We focused on learning the fundamentals of volleyball, understanding each position, and building teamwork from the ground up. It was incredible to watch each player's progress and the way they came together to support each other on and off the court. I'm proud of the effort and dedication everyone put into this season, and I can't wait to see what next year holds for us as we continue to grow as a team! Players: Audri Finch, Abby Rust, Riley Northrup, Karle Northrup, Bre Byroads, Ellen Quinn, Katie Lafferty, Riley Button, Trinity DeChane, Meegan Olson, Jocelyn Stokes, Bri Tarr and Lindsay Watson.

Modified Volleyball

by Coach Kruszka

The Ellicottville Lady Eagle Modified Volleyball team played in thirteen tough matches this fall and fought hard all throughout the season. Some of these athletes picked up a volleyball for the first time in a competitive way in August and in just a few months, improved immensely. The team transformed itself going from just putting a ball in the air to using all three hits to get the ball over the net. Through many aces, and hard work, the fall was a success for team building and having as much fun as possible. It is my hope to see all thirteen of these student athletes come back to make an impact in the already successful volleyball program here at Ellicottville. Go Eagles!

Cross-Country

This fall, three Ellicottville Central School students participated in the combined Franklinville-Ellicottville Varsity Cross-Country team. Skye Wood (Junior), Benjamin Wedvik (Sophomore), and Collin Weber (Freshman) all worked extremely hard this fall. The boys ran approximately 20 miles per week beginning in August. Their season came to an end on November 1st at the Section 6 meet at Knox Farm in East Aurora. In Class D, Skye placed 23rd, Ben 30th, and Collin 34th. Every race these athletes exceeded their goals and expectations and pushed themselves to be better. All three proved to be top 5 competitors on the team. Thank you to Franklinville Central School and Coach Scott Shenk for letting the boys participate in this demanding sport that they enjoy!

Swimming

The ALCS and Ellicottville Swim Team competed in Sectionals this year at City Honors. They placed third in their division at the CCAA Meet. Adelaide Weber was the lone swimmer from Ellicottville. She was a captain and had many Personal Records this season. She had a few first-place finishes throughout the season. Adelaide participated in the 200 free and the 50 freestyle at the Class Meet and the 100 freestyle and the 50 freestyle at CCAAs. Overall, this season was a successful one. We'd like to thank Coach Ruether and Allegany-Limestone for providing our athletes the opportunity to swim over the years!

ECS WALK PROGRAM

Ellicottville Central School will host a Walk Program for community members beginning Tuesday, January 7, 2025, thru Thursday, April 10, 2025. The building will be open Monday – Thursday from 6-9 pm (when school is in session). Community members are asked to check-in at the High School back parking lot entrance each time they walk.

ECS FITNESS CENTER

Open to the Public Tuesday, January 7, 2025, thru Thursday, April 10, 2025 from 4-7 PM.

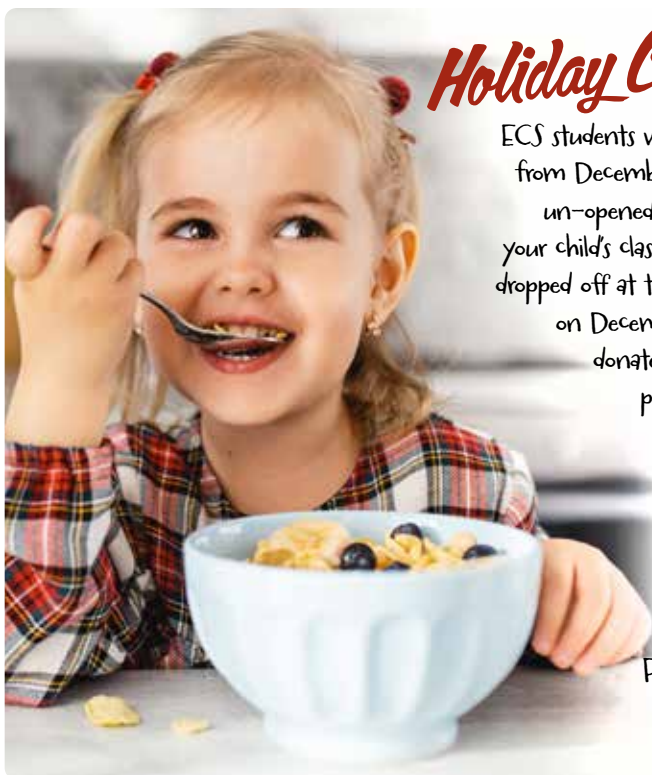
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (when school is in session)

You MUST sign in each time you use the Fitness Center.

SKI CLUB!

There is still time to sign up for ski club! The bus will take students immediately after school to Holiday Valley for eight Thursdays (Jan 2 through Feb 25 -skipping Feb 18 during break). Lessons run from 4-5pm. Email ecsski@ecsny.org for more information.





Holiday Cereal Drive

ECS students will be hosting a cereal drive from December 2nd- 13th. Donations of un-opened cereal boxes can be sent to your child's classroom during these dates or dropped off at the PTO Family Fun Night on December 13th. All boxes will be donated to local food pantries and project Christmas to alleviate holiday food insecurity. To celebrate, all students will assist in a cereal box "domino" STEM project upon the completion of the cereal drive.

Please contact Mrs. Farnum with any questions.



MRS. FARNUM MASTER TEACHER

ECS is proud to congratulate Mrs. Leah Farnum on her being named

to the Winter 2024 Cohort of the Western New York Master Teacher Program! Mrs. Farnum successfully navigated a rigorous application process and is one of 30 educators across the western region to join this prestigious group of teacher leaders. Mrs. Farnum will be working to develop and share expertise in the areas of content and pedagogy, and students' families and communities, with highly skilled educators across Western New York. Congratulations, Mrs. Farnum!

Junior High Drama Club enjoys Fillmore's Annie, Jr.

Ellicottville Central Junior High Drama Club had the opportunity to visit Fillmore Central to watch "Annie, Jr". What a great production and a special "Thank You" for the invite!



PTO EVENTS

Santa's Secret Workshop

Thursday, December 12th and Friday, December 13th During School Hours

Winter Book Fair

Thursday, December 12th and Friday, December 13th During School Hours and During Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night

Friday, December 13th 5:30 -7:30

Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Please save your tabs to put them toward our Tabs Contest that will be held in the spring.

Box Tops For Education

Please download the Box Tops App on your phone to earn money for our school.

More information will be sent home with students for these events.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer for PTO events please contact Diana Olson (dolson@ecsny.org or 716-378-6698).



Yearbook News

- Old yearbooks are available for purchase, as long as supplies last. The 2023 yearbook is \$50. Books from previous years are \$10. Contact Mrs. Bauer for more details.
- There is an elementary yearbook. It is a PreK-5 pull-out of the regular yearbook. They are \$20. Contact Mrs. Bauer to reserve one. Previous years will not be available for the elementary yearbook.
- You need to put at least \$20 down to reserve a book. We are accepting deposits now.



Do you have pictures you think would be great for the yearbook? Email them to cbauer@ecsny.org.

Child's Name: _____

Classroom teacher _____

Elementary yearbook (\$20) _____ Full yearbook (\$60) _____

****Make check payable to ECS Yearbook****

If you want more than one of either book, please indicate number on the line
TEACHERS, PLEASE RETURN TO MRS. BAUER IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

ELLCOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL
5873 Route 219
Ellicottville, NY 14731
www.ellicottvillecentral.com

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