

ELLICOTTVILLE



D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 54, Issue 2

New Lights on the Athletic Field thanks to the Frank Pitillo Memorial Light Fund

The District, Students and ECS Community would like to thank the Pitillo Family and the Frank Pitillo Memorial Light Fund for the new lights on the Athletic Field. Over 47 years ago, the Pitillo Family and the community came together to raise funds to purchase and install lights on the Athletic Field. The lights were installed in memory of Frank Pitillo, the captain and outstanding member of the 1976 Eagles football team who was tragically killed in a motorcycle

accident. After lighting up the field for decades, the Pitillo Family approached the school about replacing the lights. The Pitillo Family and countless community members, organizations and businesses all worked together, and in just a little over one year raised over \$180,000! On Friday, September 22, 2023 the lights were officially dedicated in memory of Frank Pitillo and his family was present to turn them on!

Thank you to the Pitillo Family and the Frank Pitillo Memorial Light Fund!!!!

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, November 10, 2023
SCHOOL CLOSED -
VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVED

Thursday, November 16, 2023
PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES
(1/2 DAY FOR STUDENTS)
NOON DISMISSAL

Tuesday, November 21, 2023
PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES
(1/2 DAY FOR STUDENTS)
NOON DISMISSAL

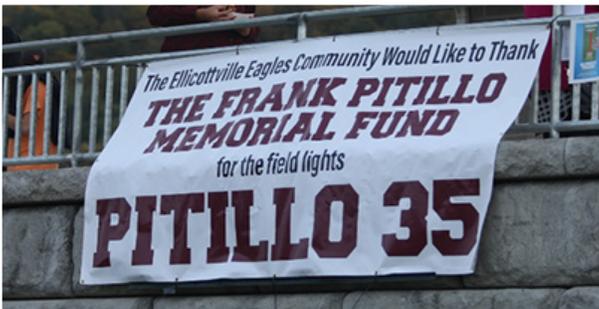
Wednesday, November 22 -
Sunday, November 26, 2023
THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

Saturday, December 23, 2023 -
Monday, January 1, 2024
WINTER RECESS - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 2, 2024
SCHOOL RESUMES

Monday, January 15, 2024
SCHOOL CLOSED -
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Friday, January 26, 2024
RATING DAY -
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS



A Message from our Superintendent

As I write this article, there is a blanket of leaves on the ground outside. In addition to signifying the change in the seasons, these leaves also hit at a very busy time for the school. The first marking period is more than half way over. Fall sports are heading towards the playoff seasons. Homework club is in full swing. Performers in the Middle School Musical are preparing for their November shows. If you throw in Halloween and Thanksgiving (just around the corner), it is indeed a busy time everywhere you look. To me, busy is good. It demonstrates that the school is operating on all cylinders and providing opportunities for students.

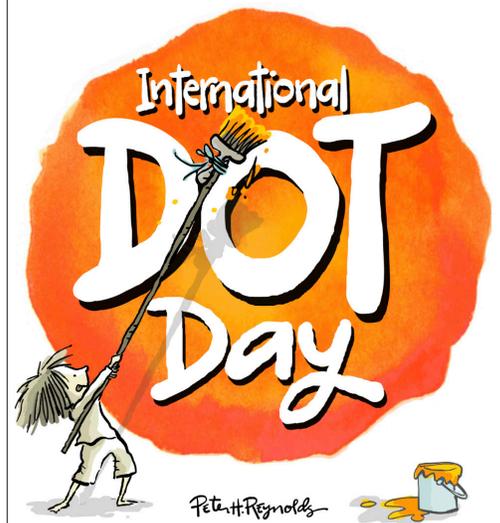
Most important of these opportunities, are those provided in the classroom. This year, like every year, teachers have been looking for ways to improve instruction. This requires hard work, dedication and planning that starts well before September and then continues throughout the year. This past summer, the District used a good amount of its remaining ARP/

ESSER funding to allow for extra staff development and curriculum planning. Of special note was staff development that focused on STEM, reading and writing. The trend of being lifelong learners continued for teachers recently on October 6th as they were able to choose from a wide variety of workshops on these topics, as well as grade level / department curriculum meetings. The information, skills, tips, etc. that teachers learn via these opportunities translates into student achievement in their studies.

Now, I may be biased, but I feel ECS does a great job in this area. As evidenced, this past year, our passing rate on the required Regents Exams (which is used for the APPR student performance score) was 91% which is deemed as "Highly Effective" by New York State! Looking closer, we had 2 Regents exams where the pass rate was 100%, 1 exam where the pass rate was 98%, and 1 where the pass rate was 97%. These are impressive results! These results also represent a true team approach to learning here at ECS. To obtain these results, a student needs to receive quality instruction over several years; it starts with the building blocks in the elementary grades and continues throughout the child's education. It also includes the use and practice of required skills/knowledge in classes not directly related to a Regents class with an exam. Congratulations to ALL the teachers at ECS on these results!

As we head towards Thanksgiving, I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely,
Robert Miller, Superintendent



Students in Mrs. Farnum's 2nd Grade Class celebrated International Dot Day on September, 15. International Dot Day is a global celebration of creativity, courage, and collaboration. After reading Peter H. Reynolds' book *The Dot*, students discussed how a small dot on a piece of paper can open a world of imagination, confidence, and self-discovery. Students explored their own creativity by creating art pieces using chromatography. The results of this science experiment were unique and beautiful, just like the members of this class!



Senior Citizen Luncheon

Any Ellicottville Central School District resident may participate.

The luncheon will be on

**Tuesday, December 5th
at 12:45pm.**

Please enter through the *back door* of the *High School* near the bus garage. Call (716) 699-2316 ext. 1103 or email cnason@ecsny.org by Wednesday, November 29th, to secure a spot. Please leave your name, phone number, and number of people attending.



WELCOME NEW TEACHERS & STAFF!!



Karl Gesing comes to ECS after 9 years of teaching, most recently at Allegany-Limestone Elementary. He attended The University of Pittsburgh for his undergraduate and subsequently The University of Rochester for a degree in educational leadership. As a Pennsylvania transplant, Ellicottville has been home for over a decade. He feels it's an honor to join the ECS staff and work in his community. Recently he and his wife Jenn welcomed their second child. Karl enjoys skiing, running, and cooking for his family. He is excited to be an Eagle and looks forward to all the 23-24 school year will bring!

Savannah Gonsiorek is joining ECS as a Physical Education and Health teacher. Savannah has had previous experience in the Eden Central School District and Frontier Central School District. Miss Gonsiorek studied at St. Bonaventure University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Sports Administration at Canisius College. When not teaching, she coaches lacrosse, loves to exercise, and going to different sporting events/games.



Alissa Steger is joining ECS as a math and physics teacher. Alissa has taught math for 13 years, most recently at Southwestern High School. She attended SUNY Geneseo and went

on to receive her Master of Education degree from Buffalo State College. Alissa lives in Little Valley with her husband, Joe, and their three children. She loves skiing, hiking, and crafting. Alissa is looking forward to great year at ECS!



Andrew Kruszka is joining the ECS staff as the Global 9 and 10 teacher. Andrew spent last year teaching World History at Silver Creek Central School, and, before that, spent time at Ellicottville as a student teacher, long term sub, and coach. He graduated from Gowanda CSD. Following that, he received a Bachelor of Science from St. Bonaventure University in 2022. Andrew resides in Gowanda, NY with his loving family. His interests are the Buffalo Bills, Sabres, playing slow pitch softball, umpiring and cows. This Fall, Andrew is coaching the modified volleyball team. He is excited to be a part of the Ellicottville community and can't wait to make countless memories with staff, administration and the talented students at ECS!

Kira Seaman is from eastern NY, about an hour north of Albany and is now residing in Olean. She received her bachelors at Utica University in geoscience with a focus in adolescent education and received a masters in Leadership and Instruction at Utica University. Kira was a swimmer her whole life and swam and played water polo in college. She enjoys being outdoors, swimming, hiking, and skiing. Kira is looking forward to a great year at ECS.



Melissa Swartz has joined Alice Alessi in the Speech and Language Department. Melissa has been working as a Speech Language Pathologist for over 15 years,

most recently at The Children's League. She attended Buffalo State College where she received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology. When Melissa is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family and pets. She has a husband, two girls (ages 15 and 12) and a boy (age 10). She loves animals, camping, gardening and coffee. Melissa is thrilled to be part of the ECS family and is looking forward to an exciting year!



ELLCOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL
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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

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POSTAL PATRON LOCAL
 Or CURRENT RESIDENT

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Robert Miller
Superintendent
 Mr. Karl Gesing
Assistant Principal K-12
 Mrs. Kathryn Mendell
Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum
 Mr. Erich Ploetz
6-12 Principal



ELLCOTTVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS:
pure imagination

The Ellicottville Central School Middle School Drama Club is pleased to announce their upcoming production, Pure Imagination. Pure Imagination is a brand-new revue featuring songs from across MTT's Broadway Junior® collection. From Broadway Junior musicals based on adored titles like *Seussical* and *Shrek the Musical*, to Disney favorites like *Beauty and the Beast* and *Frozen*. Come join us for 2 fantastic performances. This year's cast members are:

8th Graders: Alison Antholzner, Isabella Czamara, Kelsey Feldbauer, Grayson McGonnell, Abigail Rust, Cooper Sciara and Collin Weber.

7th Graders: Marshall DeChane, Grace Griffith, Cayda Kruszynski, Marlee Maynard, Kullen McGonnell, Briyona Tarr, Harlan Vassar, Nicholas Wedvik, and Whalyn Wyatt.

6th Graders: Harley Andera, Rowan Decker, Maggie Faulkner, Leona Hill, Mason LaCroix, Carter Milks, Reagan Pawlowski, and Emma Wallace.

The production runs Wednesday and Thursday, Nov 8th & 9th at 6:30 pm in The Ward at the High School. The show is Directed by Crystal Wilder, Vocal Director Wendy Burch, Choreographer Meghan Emborsky and Producer Shawne Hunt.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. Popcorn, water, and Wishes & Kisses available for sale both nights.

MTT's Broadway Junior Revue: Pure Imagination is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY · (212) 541-4684 mtishows.com



WELCOME NEW SUPPORT STAFF!!

- DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES I**
Lewis (Gene) Snyder
- CLEANERS**
Dana Chase, Josie Canones, Jacob Rust
- ACCOUNT CLERK TYPIST (BUSINESS OFFICE)**
Lindy Terhune
- TEACHER AIDES**
Griffin Chudy, Colleen Crooks, Chelsey Nelson, Michelle O'Donnell, Michaela Pierce, Angela Sherman, Laura Zeher
- CAFETERIA WORKERS**
Lorraine Mitchum, Peggy Peffer
- BUS DRIVER**
Joyce Wilson-Wilcox
- SCHOOL NURSE (LPN)**
Sara O'Neil