

October 2019

# ELLICOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 50, Issue 2

## A Great Start at ECS!



### PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

➤➤➤ **Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:00 PM** ➤➤➤

We will be hosting a Parent Information Night regarding Teen Substance Abuse. See full details on page 2.

# Off to a Great Start!

## Data Breach

In August, we learned about an incident that we were told occurred around November 2018, involving the unauthorized access of student data (Personally Identifiable Information) from the AIMSweb 1.0 system. AIMSweb is a computer software program that was used at Ellicottville Central School and provided by Pearson Clinical Assessment (Pearson).

Accessed data was limited to a student's: First Name, Last Name, and Date of Birth. Please contact your child's Principal if you would like to find out if her/his data was accessed.

While it is our understanding that there is no evidence that the information described above has been misused, Pearson is offering complimentary credit monitoring from Experian for 1 year for affected individuals as a precautionary measure.

If you are interested in learning more about this option, please call Pearson at 866-883-3309 or email: [aimsweb1request@pearson.com](mailto:aimsweb1request@pearson.com).



*By Bob Miller, Superintendent*

There is no doubt in my mind that Ellicottville Central School is off to a great start to the 2019-20 school year. When the doors opened for students on the morning of September 4th, the faculty and staff were greeted with excited and enthusiastic students. That first day ran very smoothly, and, just like that, the new year was underway.

And, while we are still in our first month off school, so much has already taken place. All elementary students have completed their first round of benchmark testing using FastBridge, and we will continue to use FastBridge to monitor student progress throughout the year. Open House took place on September 19th and the turn-out was amazing. PTO enjoyed great sales at the Book Fair. With the sales from last spring and this Book Fair the PTO was able to purchase \$684.42 worth of books for our elementary and high school libraries. Thank you to all who supported and volunteered at the Book Fair.

In addition, the Class of 2020 Chicken BBQ was a tremendous success with approximately 400 chicken dinners sold! The Eagle sports teams are experiencing success on the field of competition. Field trips are taking place, college representatives are meeting with students and school pictures are just around the corner. The School Board recently held a retreat to work on setting goals for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. The Building, Grounds and Transportation Committee is engaged in on-going planning for our next capital improvement project with an anticipated vote on the project in December 2019.

Wow! ...the school year is off to an exciting start!!! As we carry this excitement and momentum further into the year, I anticipate only great things for the students at ECS!



## PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

➤ ➤ ➤ **Wednesday, Oct. 23rd at 6:00 PM** ➤ ➤ ➤

Given the current, alarming trends in the United States related to substance abuse, it is crucial that parents are well informed to best protect and ensure the safety of their children. On **Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:00 PM** ECS will be hosting a Parent Information Night to assist parents. On this evening, we will welcome two groups to ECS to share important and timely information to help combat substance abuse. **The Cattaraugus County Council on Addiction and Recovery Services (CAREs)** will offer a presentation regarding statistics of substance use / abuse among teens within Cattaraugus County. Following this presentation, **Seneca Strong** will share a program called "Mock Bedroom." This program will cover important topics such as how to identify paraphernalia your child may be in possession of (i.e. vaping devices) and how to inspect your teenager's bedroom. It is anticipated that each presentation will last approximately 1 hour with a short break in between.

# ECS Welcomes New Employees



Ms. Boutet



Mr. Gelen



Mrs. Gesing



Mrs. Hellwig

**Ms. Kate Boutet** is joining us as a Physical Education and 6th Grade Health teacher. She is from Grand Island, New York. She attended SUNY at Buffalo for Health and Human Services and received her Master degree from Canisius College. She found her passion of working with kids at Cradle Beach, a camp for children with developmental disabilities and underprivileged youth. Last year, Ms. Boutet taught Health and PE at Grand Island High School. She also coached volleyball, basketball, and softball. Ms. Boutet is excited to get to know the community, students, and her co-workers at ECS.

**Mr. Zach Gelen** has been hired as the new MS/HS Physical Education teacher and HS Health teacher. Last school year he was a Physical Education teacher at West Valley Central School and did some coaching at ECS. Mr. Gelen is from Allegany, NY. He attended Saint Bonaventure University and graduated in 2014. Currently, he is a Modified Boys Soccer Coach and plans on coaching JV Boys Basketball in the winter. Mr. Gelen stated "I am excited to be starting my career here at ECS. Go Eagles!"

**Mrs. Jennifer Gesing** will be teaching fourth grade at ECS. This will be her sixth year teaching fourth grade. Mrs. Gesing taught fourth grade for four years in the Salamanca City School District and also taught fourth grade for one year at Delevan Elementary. She graduated from SUNY Fredonia with a Bachelor's Degree in Childhood Education and a Masters degree in Literacy from SUNY Buffalo. Mrs. Gesing lives in Ellicottville with her husband, Karl. She stated "I am so excited to be joining the ECS family!"

**Mrs. Ashley Hellwig** is joining ECS as a special education teacher in the elementary. She has taught special education for 3 years for Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES. Ashley graduated from SUNY Brockport with certification in Childhood and Special Education. She is currently finishing up her Masters Degree in Literacy Birth-6th. Ashley graduated from ECS and is happy to be returning to the district in a new role.

## Safety Drills

### LOCKDOWN/LOCKOUT/ AND SHELTER IN PLACE DRILLS

By regulation and in addition to fire drills, we must conduct four (4) lockdown drills each year. Please be advised that in the near future we will conduct two (2) such drills. For the first lockdown drill we will send out an automated call to let you know about it a day or two in advance. Please feel free to discuss the drill with your child / children, and reinforce that they need to take the drill seriously, remain calm during the drill and follow staff instructions. For the remaining lockdown drills, we will not be making announcements to parents in advance, as we truly need to ensure that students and staff are ready and able to go into a lockdown drill quickly and with as little instruction as possible to best ensure everyone's safety.

In an effort to communicate to everyone involved that we are running a drill, we will clearly use the word "drill" when making the announcement to begin. For example, the announcement may say "At this time we would like everyone to enter into a lockdown drill." Or, we may decide to start out with a shelter in place or lockout drill and then move into a lockdown drill; in which case the announcement may say "At this time we would like everyone to enter into a shelter in place drill," which would then be followed in a few minutes by "we would now like everyone to enter into a lockdown drill."

We will be talking to students about the importance of not using their cell phones to call or text anyone when we conduct such drills, as that could lead to unnecessary confusion. We would also like to point out that in the event of a true lockdown situation, students are not to call or text anyone, as that could compromise their safety, as well as their classmates' safety.

Should you have any additional questions about these drills, please feel free to contact the school.

## HELP WANTED—SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

The Ellicottville Central School District is currently accepting applications for the following substitute positions: **Teachers (both certified and non-certified), Teacher Aides, School Nurse, Cleaners, Bus Drivers and Cafeteria Workers.** Interested applicants may call the district office for an application (716-699-2368 (ext. 1300) between the hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm when school is in session). Applications are also available on-line at: [www.eville.wnyric.org](http://www.eville.wnyric.org)

## Idling Buses on School Grounds

State law requires school districts to take steps to minimize the idling of the engines of school buses and other school vehicles on school grounds. While students are boarding and departing school buses, the engine should be turned off. Students should be instructed about the importance of getting on and off buses in an orderly and efficient fashion to minimize loading and offloading time. Bus engines should also be off while parked at sporting events and other school activities. Exceptions to this "no idling" policy can be made in cases of emergency, mechanical issues or for necessary heating.

# NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Junior High Area All-State 1	Junior High Area All-State 2
3	4	6:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) 5	6	7	K-12 Picture Re-Takes End of First Marking Period 8	9
10	<b>Veteran's Day - School Closed</b> 11	12	13	<b>1/2 Day of School for Students. Noon Dismissal. Parent/Teacher Conferences</b> 14	15	Senior High Area All-State 16
17	18	6:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) 19	<b>6:30 pm Middle School Musical</b> 20	<b>6:30 pm Middle School Musical</b> 21	Senior High Area All-State 22	FLL Robotics Competition Senior High Area All-State 23
24	25	<b>1/2 Day of School for Students. Noon Dismissal. Parent/Teacher Conferences</b> 26	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b> 27	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b> 28	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b> 29	30

# DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	Winter Sports Pictures 4	Book Fair 12:45 pm Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon 5	Book Fair 5:30 pm PTO Family Fun Night 6	7
8	9	6:00 pm Board of Education Meeting (HS Library) 10	11	<b>6:30 pm District Wide Chorus Concert</b> 12	13	14
15	16	<b>6:30 pm District Wide Band Concert</b> 17	18	19	Project Christmas deliveries. 20	21
22	<b>Winter Recess - School Closed</b> 23	<b>Winter Recess - School Closed</b> 24	<b>Winter Recess - School Closed</b> 25	<b>Winter Recess - School Closed</b> 26	<b>Winter Recess - School Closed</b> 27	28
29	<b>Winter Recess - School Closed</b> 30	<b>Winter Recess - School Closed</b> 31				

# Happy Retirement!



During the 2018-2019 school year, the ECS Board of Education accepted retirement letters from two members of the teaching staff, Mrs. Sandra Tomblin and Ms. Mary Neilon. Mrs. Sandra Tomblin, worked for the District as an elementary teacher, and Ms. Mary Neilon, a physical education teacher and girls' soccer coach, both began their careers at ECS in 1985.

The Board of Education also accepted retirement letters from Mr. Dave Pelton, Transportation Supervisor, who began his career at ECS in 1982; Mr. Jeff Frazier who worked as a cleaner at ECS beginning in 1983 and Mr. Edward Crowley who drove bus for the District beginning in 2008.

Congratulations to our retirees and thank you for your many years of dedicated service to the students of ECS and our community. You will all be greatly missed. Enjoy your retirement!



## State Qualifications, APPR, Homeless Student Policy, DASA Notice

### Staff Qualifications

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, parents may request information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers including whether the teacher has State certification for the classes being taught; the teacher's bachelor's degree major and any other certifications or degrees by field or discipline; and whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. Requests for the above information may be directed in writing to: Ellicottville Central School, ATTN: Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent, 5873 Route 219, Ellicottville, New York 14731.

### Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)

All parents/guardians will have the right to obtain the Annual Professional

Performance Review (APPR) quality ratings and composite effectiveness scores for their child's teacher(s) and principal(s) once the scores are officially available in accordance with state law. For additional details, please contact Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent, 716-699-2368.

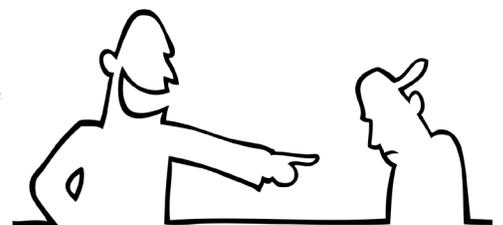
### Homeless Student Policy

All programs and services of the district are available to homeless students and unaccompanied youth. Whenever a homeless child or unaccompanied youth seeks to enroll in the district, and at least twice annually, while the child is enrolled, the parent and child will be informed of their rights. Some of these rights include the right to attend the school they previously attended or to attend school in the district of current location, the right to be enrolled even though the admission requirements

have not been completed and prior student records are not available, and the right to transportation to and from school.

### DASA Annual Notice

If you have knowledge or you are a student in our schools who has or is being bullied or harassed on school grounds, on the school bus, or at a school sponsored event, we urge you to contact the following District's Dignity Act Coordinators: Mrs. Tammy Eddy 699-2316 (ext. 1512) and Mr. Dan LaCroix 699-2318 (ext. 1603).





Ensuring students' safety is the most important responsibility we have at ECS. Teachers attend to students' needs within the classroom and counselors stand ready to talk to kids when they are troubled by something or need help. The school nurse is prepared to attend to medical situations and the District has implemented safety plans in the event of emergencies. However, we are not always available when students or parents may need our help. Fortunately, there are several organizations in that are easily accessible for assistance. Below is a list of some of these organizations. This list is by no means all inclusive, and you may be aware of another agency that can help. The key is knowing that you can reach out for help when it is needed.

- **CATTARAUGUS COMMUNITY ACTION, INC: (888) 945-3970.**  
Provides both residential and non-residential domestic violence services. OCFS Licensed and Approved.
- **SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).**
- **COUNSELING CENTERS:**  
Olean – (716)-373-8040  
Salamanca – (716) 945-5211  
Springville – (716) 592-9292 or (716)592-4286
- **COUNCIL ON ADDICTION AND RECOVERY SERVICES:**  
Olean – (716) 373-4303  
Salamanca – (716) 945-1928  
Machias – (716) 353-8018
- **OLEAN GENERAL HOSPITAL 24-HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-339-5209**
- **2-1-1 HOTLINE (COVERS HOMELESS, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE): 1-888-696-9211 or 211 from a cell phone.**

# ELLICOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL SKI CLUB

Let's Hit the Slopes!

Forms are now available in the ECS School Offices and may be filled out and returned to the ECS School Offices with the full payment. Online registration will be available again this year, please check with ECS Elementary and HS Offices for promo code. All checks should be made out to Win-Sum Ski Corporation. Applications not turned in to ECS will not be available for ECS Club rates. Students applying for combo passes who are not in the lesson portion of the ski program must still go through the school in order to receive the ECS combo pass rate. All combo pass pictures must be paid for in advance with the receipt initialed by Mr. Erich Ploetz. Registration for any of the plans must take place at ECS first. Please fill out the paperwork in advance. Processing of applications will be handled in the ECS School Offices. **Program prices should be set by October 1, 2019.**

- Plan I** Thursday night lift and lesson with a bonus day in March! **(Student owned equipment)**
- Plan II (Ski)** 8 weekly lessons and ski equipment rental package for Thursday Nights, with a bonus day in March!
- Plan III (Board)** 8 weekly lessons and snowboard equipment rental package for Thursday Nights, with a bonus day in March!
- Plan IV** Night Combo Pass (Unlimited night skiing only.) Includes 8 Thursday Night Lessons. **(Student owned equipment)**
- Plan V** Combo Pass (unlimited day and night skiing, includes 8 Thursday Night Lessons) **(Student owned equipment)**

**(Unlimited Rentals are available for skis and Snowboards)** Helmet rentals are \$14.00 for 8 week programs and \$23.00 for seasonal.

*If any students are interested in a spring ski trip to Killington, VT contact Mr. Steger by 11/1/19 (Preliminary cost estimate starts at \$375 per student which includes transportation, lodging, lift tickets, and 2 meals/day.)*





## Important Yearbook Information

**RESERVE YOUR  
YEARBOOK NOW!**

- 📱 If you want to reserve a yearbook you must put at least \$10 down. See Mrs. Bauer for details.
- 📱 Old yearbooks are available for purchase, as long as supplies last. The 2019 yearbook is \$50. Books from previous years are \$10. Contact Mrs. Bauer ([cbauer@eville.wnyric.org](mailto:cbauer@eville.wnyric.org)) for more details.
- 📱 We are selling elementary yearbooks. These are a softcover and contain grades PreK – 5. They are a pull-out of the full yearbook so they are identical to the PreK-5 section of the full yearbook. They are \$15 and you must reserve one.
- 📱 We will be selling Easter candy again this year. If you sell at least one item you have a yearbook reserved for you that you may retrieve once you have paid the balance. If you sell 30 items you get a free yearbook.
- 📱 If you are a business that would like to advertise in the yearbook contact Mrs. Bauer at [cbauer@eville.wnyric.org](mailto:cbauer@eville.wnyric.org)

## Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security

The Ellicottville Central School District is committed to ensuring student privacy in accordance with local, state and federal regulations and district policies. To this end and pursuant to U.S. Department of Education (DOE) regulations (Education Law §2-d), the district is providing the following Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security:

- A student's personally identifiable information cannot be sold or released for any commercial or marketing purposes.
- Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's education record, including any student data maintained by the Ellicottville Central School District. This right of inspection of records is consistent with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Under the more recently adopted regulations (Education Law §2-d), the rights of inspection are extended to include data, meaning parents have the right to inspect or receive copies of any data in their child's educational record. The New York State Education Department (SED) will develop further policies and procedures related to these rights in the future.
- State and federal laws protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information and safeguards associated with industry standards and best practices, including but not limited to, encryption, firewalls and password protection, must be in place when data is stored or transferred.
- A complete list of all student data elements collected by the state is available for public review in an Excel file at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/documentation/>

NYSEDstudentData.xlsx. Parents may also obtain a copy of this list by writing to the Office of Information & Reporting Services, New York State Education Department, Room 863 EBA, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12234.

Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to: Ellicottville Central School, ATTN: Mr. Robert Miller, Superintendent, 5873 Route 219, Ellicottville, New York 14731.

- Complaints to SED should be directed to: Chief Privacy Officer, New York State Education Department, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234; the e-mail address is [cpo@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:cpo@mail.nysed.gov). SED's complaint process is under development and will be established through regulations from the department's chief privacy officer, who has yet to be appointed.

