

# Ellicottville Elementary

*November 2018*



## Important Dates

November 7	Picture Retakes Grade 5 Field Trip
November 8	Noon Dismissal - K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 9	Report Cards Go Home
November 12	Veterans Day Observance - NO SCHOOL
November 20	Noon Dismissal - K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 21 - 23	Thanksgiving Break
November 26	Students & Staff Return
November 30	Gr. K & 1 Performing Arts



### **Communication and Information:**

It's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your interim elementary principal. Having been an elementary principal for 21 years, and having done interim administration duties in many districts since retiring, I can attest to the fact that Ellicottville is a very good school district with a diligent faculty and staff as well as respectful students. This is a great recipe for success!

Rich Schaefer - Interim Elementary Principal



## Message from the Guidance Office, Mr. LaCroix:

As we wrap up the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period, I am hoping to begin forming some groups for students who may struggle or lack some skills in particular areas. I've learned in the past that when students get an opportunity to interact with other students going through similar situations, it helps them understand that they are not alone. A popular group has been our "Banana Splits", which focuses on students whose parents have recently split up, or students who are still having a tough time adapting to their parents being divorced. If you have a child who you feel could benefit from this group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would also like to offer groups related to friendship, study skills, changing families, grief, coping, anxiety, and self-esteem. These groups could be as little as a few sessions, or might go until the end of the school year. So, if you have a child who could benefit from working with other students who share similar situations, or even if you would want them to just meet with me one-on-one, let me know and I will be more than willing to help. If interested, I can be reached at 699-2318, or you can email me at [dlacroix@eville.wnyric.org](mailto:dlacroix@eville.wnyric.org).

### The "We Care" Rules

**We listen to each other.**

**Hands are for helping, not for hurting.**

**We use caring language.**

**We care about each other's feelings.**

**We take responsibility for what we say and do.**

## **Message from the PTO**

### **PTO NEWS**

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 13th at 4:00pm in Mrs. Keller's classroom, room 166.

### **November News**

The PTO school year started off by holding our Fall Book Fair. Thank you to the generous volunteers who made it possible to hold this event! Due to continued support and purchases at the Book Fair, the PTO was able to buy books to help our school and community. We purchased books for our school Libraries and for Book BINGO at Family Fun Night. PTO purchased trick or treat bags for students in Pre-K through 5th grade and glow stick lanyards for Pre-K students.

## **Box Tops**

The PTO recently held a Box Tops contest for grades Pre-K through 5th grade. Mr. Przybyla's 3rd grade class won the contest by bringing in 264 Box Tops. Together we have collected \$261.10 so far this school year. Please continue to save your Box Tops as we will have more contests throughout the year. This year we are having a contest for the entire year to see which grade can bring in the most from September to May. You can always send your Box Tops in to the elementary office or drop them off at our two local drop off places, the Great Valley Post Office or TOPS in Ellicottville.

Box Tops has a phone app that will help us to earn more Box Tops on certain items that we purchase. See the information to the right.

Family Fun Night - Friday, December 7th from 5:30-7:30.

Get ready for an exciting night! Family Fun Night is back, and it is sure to be a fun way to start the holidays. What you will find:

Book BINGO, Letters to the Troops, Crafts, Stories with Mrs. Clause, Pictures with Santa, Popcorn, the Book Fair and Santa's Secret Workshop.

\*\* Letters to the Troops- If you have an address for a friend or family member that is currently serving overseas this holiday season and would like them to receive some extra cheer, please send their address in to the elementary office, put Attention: PTO. \*\*\*

## **Get involved!**

Come find out what the PTO is doing and get involved. PTO continues to help K-12 students and the surrounding community. These activities can't be done without all of the volunteers! If you would like more information please feel free to attend any of our meetings or email Diana Olson at [dolson@eville.wnyric.org](mailto:dolson@eville.wnyric.org).



Message from the Nurse, Mrs. Hager:



**BE  
ANTIBIOTICS  
AWARE**  
SMART USE, BEST CARE

**U.S. ANTIBIOTIC  
AWARENESS WEEK**  
November 12-18, 2018  
[www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use)



U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week (USAAW) is an annual observance highlighting the importance of improving antibiotic prescribing and use, also known as antibiotic stewardship. Improving the way healthcare professionals prescribe antibiotics, and the way we take antibiotics, helps keep us healthy now, helps fight antibiotic resistance, and ensures that these life-saving drugs will be available for future generations. CDC encourages healthcare professionals, patients, and families to learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use.

When antibiotics aren't needed, they won't help you, and the side effects could still hurt you. Here are seven facts you should know to **Be Antibiotics Aware**:

- 1 Antibiotics save lives.** When a patient needs antibiotics, the benefits usually outweigh the risks of side effects or antibiotic resistance.
- 2 Antibiotics aren't always the answer.** Everyone can help improve antibiotic prescribing and use.
- 3 Antibiotics do not work on viruses,** such as those that cause colds, flu, bronchitis, or runny noses, even if the mucus is thick, yellow, or green.
- 4 Antibiotics are only needed for treating infections caused by bacteria,** but even some bacterial infections get better without antibiotics, including many sinus infections and some ear infections.
- 5 Antibiotics will not make you feel better if you have a virus.** Respiratory viruses usually go away in a week or two without treatment. Ask your healthcare professional about the best way to feel better while your body fights off the virus.
- 6 If you need antibiotics, take them exactly as prescribed.** Talk with your doctor if you have any questions about your antibiotics, or if you develop any side effects, especially diarrhea, since that could be a *Clostridium difficile* infection (also called *C. difficile* or *C. diff*), which needs to be treated.
- 7 Antibiotics are critical tools for treating a number of common infections,** such as pneumonia, and for life-threatening conditions including sepsis.



### Message from Mrs. Davis, Reading Specialist:



Dear Parents and Guardians,

On most days, about half of my students come to the reading classroom without having done their reading practice. By this I mean reading the book I taught the previous day and sent home for practice. Students are asked to read that book with their parent three times and come to class the next day having "mastered" it. These young ones are always apologetic as they hang their heads; invariably they tell me, "I didn't do my reading practice last night because we were too busy." I have heard this hundreds of times from my students in the past five years. Then they begin to list the many things the family did the previous night, and the list goes on and on.

While I only have a handful of students in my reading classroom each week, I'm willing to bet that most of our families have similar concerns: trying to get everything done in the evenings. Often reading practice comes last on the list of priorities.

I understand. I was a parent of an elementary-aged child once. I was overwhelmed with raising a child, keeping house, holding a job, and going to college. When I read to our daughter at bedtime, I often fell asleep on her bed! There were always dishes in the sink and laundry to be done. I never did figure it out, but looking back, I wish I had prioritized reading with her. The strangest thing happens with your elementary-aged children. They get bigger and aren't as willing to snuggle with you while reading. Time passes, and suddenly you realize that you can't enjoy reading together in quite the same way. They stop asking you to read to them and find other things to do. My little girl is 34 years old now, and some days I wish more than anything I could hold her on my lap and read to her again!

Learning to read takes practice, just like dribbling a basketball or skiing down a hill. I never learned either because I never practiced them.

Reading is no different than anything else people learn to do. We don't learn to read without practice. We don't learn to read well without A LOT of practice. Reading well helps our children be prepared for the many challenges of learning in school and eventually earning a living in today's world. Whatever their interests, whatever fields they choose, they will need to be strong readers.

If you have an elementary-aged child, that child needs daily reading practice. I know that life interferes every single day, and that making time for reading is very difficult, but your child

cannot become a strong reader without your help. There is no question. And until your child is reading independently for 30 minutes per day, it is your responsibility to make sure that reading practice happens. As tough as it is, there is no way around it.

So please, dear parents, make it a priority to read to your children, read with your children, and listen to them read to you. If the reading is hard for your child, read it to them first time through, and ask them to follow along. Or, better yet, read it together with him/her until he/she becomes familiar with the text! There is no reason for your children to have to go it alone. You are there to help them learn and make it a great experience.

Most of all, there is an emotional connection formed when you bond with children over books. I am a reading teacher today because my mother loved books; because she took me to the library every week; because she enrolled me in Book-of-the-Month club, because she read to me at bedtime. My mother, who raised me by herself with a modest income, always made sure I had interesting books to read. I saw her reading and learned to love books too. For the rest of my life, loving books will be the same thing as loving my mother. Books will always be that for me. You can't separate books and reading from love, if we learn from people who are patient and kind and who take time to read with us.

I wish you many happy hours of reading with your little ones. Contact me at school if you need to speak to me for any reason: 699-2318, ext. 1155. If you are having difficulty of any kind, I am always here to help.

Thank you for all you do at home.

Marie K. Davis, Reading Specialist

Visit <http://bookwhisperer.com> for book ideas.



#### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- CALL THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT – 699-2318.
- REMEMBER WHEN BRINGING YOUR CHILD or at DISMISSAL TIME, PLEASE PARK IN THE ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT
- Please remember it is necessary to sign- out students whenever a student is picked up from school! (Including Dismissal Time)