

EVERYTHING ELLICOTT



MEET TROY CUMMINGS

Get to know the man behind The Notebook of Doom...

On Tuesday, March 17th and Wednesday, March 18th the students of Ellicott Elementary will have the incredible opportunity to meet author/illustrator Troy Cummings. We are so grateful that Mr. Cummings was able to reschedule his visit that was disrupted by our recent snow day. Troy Cummings has written/illustrated more than 30 children's books, including The Notebook of Doom and Can I Be Your Dog? Each class has been preparing for his arrival in different ways during reading and writing lessons.

Mr. Cummings' presentation is highly interactive. He will show how the stories he wrote as a kid evolved into the stories he writes now. He will also make up a brand new story with the students—illustrating it as he goes. What better inspiration can there be for all of Ellicott's budding writers and artists! Teachers will be reserving some time after the presentation to let their students practice the techniques that they are taught.. Students had the opportunity to order books to have signed by Mr. Cummings. If you missed the deadline and still would like a book autographed for your child you can purchase a book on your own and send it to school.

BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR BALLOON GOONS!

Email Mrs. Hackford video of any balloon goons you see around town for a welcome hype video at ehackford@opschools.org



SPRING CHOCOLATE SALE UPDATE

The Introduction of Online Ordering

It is that time of year again, the Ellicott PTO has raised funds through the Niagara Chocolate Sale. Just as before, each student received a catalog to show family, friends and neighbors. However, there was one difference this year. After tracking orders on the form in the center of the catalog, each seller submit their order summary online at NiagaraFundraising.com/catalog. Having each seller's family submit their own orders completely eliminated the inputting errors that we saw in past years. We were able to work with parents through this transition by manually inputting any last minute orders into the online system. We hope that everyone found this process easy enough to use and that if you had any questions they were answered promptly.

The top two sellers receiving a Target Gift Card are **Margaret McCann** and **Daniel Eriez**. New this year, the class from each grade level with the highest level of participation earned a Crazy Hair Day!! Our winning classes are: **(K) Mrs. Clader, (1st) Mrs. Silver, (2) Mrs. Hackford, (3) Mrs. J Smith, (4) Mrs. DeVincentis, (5) Mr. Englert/Mrs. Collins**. We want to give a big thank you to all of the families who supported the PTO through this fundraiser.

Orders should be picked up from the small cafeteria using the outside door on Tuesday, March 31st between 3:15-6:00pm. Orders will not be permitted on the bus with your student. If other arrangements need to be made or if you have any questions or concerns please contact Amy Mumbach at amymumbach@gmail.com.

Half Days

On Half Days, Elementary School students are dismissed at 11:30am. Parent Pickup is 20 minutes prior to dismissal. Therefore on half days the side door opens at 11:10.

The following dates are half days of school:

March 13th

June 12th

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Orders should be picked up from the small cafeteria using the outside door on Tuesday, March 31st between 3:15-6:00pm



SKATING OURSELVES ACTIVE

The PTO Sponsored Get Active Event Skate Night was well attended and so much fun! Thank you to the staff at Frank Young's Skating Center for making this such a fun event for our students and families. We will definitely be looking to adding another family skate night to the calendar next year!

Square 1 Art Success

The Square 1 Art Sale was an even bigger success than last year. We saw a profit increase of \$230.89. We hope that all of the families that ordered enjoyed the keepsakes that they received.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Coming Up...

Parent Information Series Presents: Vaping
The second viewing has been rescheduled for
3/12 at 6:30 at the Middle School.

SCIENCE NIGHT

Science Night is Thursday, March 19th from 6-8pm. This is an incredible opportunity for families to get inspired by all things STEM. Students will be able to explore, learn and discover through tons of interactive displays and presentations. Please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/sciencenight2020> or email krissycrawford@gmail.com or laurinderrick@gmail.com if you are able to volunteer for a portion of the evening. Middle School and High School Students needing volunteer hours are welcome! Note the first graders will be dismissed from classrooms to Science Night after their Animal Diorama presentations.

SPIRIT WEAR SALE STARTING SOON

Stock up on all things Ellicott. Order forms will be sent home shortly. We are excited to be able to offer some new Spring apparel options this year!



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

On May 1st from 6-8pm, Ellicott students and their families will enjoy a night of activities including a basket raffle. More informatuin to follow.

Spring Break

No School April 10th-April 17th

Have you been to a PTO meeting yet this year?

We would love to see some new faces, share what we are up to and hear your thoughts. Meetings last around an hour and kids are welcome to join you. If you can't make a meeting and still want to contribute? Email any comments, questions or concerns to elptopresident@yahoo.com. Upcoming meeting dates are **March 12th, April 2nd, and May 14th at 9:30am**

Not a PTO Member? It's not too late!! Membership is only \$5!

Stay up-to-date and "like" us on Facebook: ELPTO Ellicott Elementary
facebook.com/EllicottPTO

Spring Book Fair and Art Show

May 4th-May 5th students will go to the Spring Book fair during the school day. The evening of May 4th, families will be invited to the school for the art show and also have the opportunity to view the book fair.



Spirit Shirt Days

Send your student to school in their Ellicott T-Shirts on the following days:

Friday, March 13th

Friday, April 24th

Dear Ellicott families, Up until March 4th, you can join with Ellicott's Student Council as they promote #WarmUpWNY by collecting new blankets for patients at Oishei Children's Hospital. Pediatric patients of all ages are in need of warm, fuzzy blankets to improve their stay. New blankets of all sizes are accepted. Please place your blanket donation in the box located in our front hall. Donate a brand new blanket today!

TEACHER NEWS

Kindergarten

Our youngest Ellicott students are now 100 days smarter! They had a wonderful time celebrating 100 days of school and Valentine's Day. They also celebrated their super reader powers with a special read aloud in the library with Mr. Pietretone (AKA-Reader Man). They have now moved on to building bigger reader muscles. Thank you parents for coming to the Winter Song Fest, they looked so nice and did a great job. Mr. Morton also visited with a hedgehog and talked about hibernating animals. In math they are working on counting concepts and measurement.

First Graders

Our first graders have started a new unit in Reader's Workshop on Nonfiction and are becoming smarter with every book they read! They are using their nonfiction reading skills to do an animal research project! This project will be a culmination of facts and projects created in our classrooms, library, computer, and art classes! On Science Night the first graders will show off their Animal Museum for their families.

Second Graders

In Reader's Workshop, the second graders have been learning a lot about the characters in stories and how what they say and do can tell us a lot about them. They started a new unit called Bigger Books Mean Amping Up our Reading Powers.

In math, they have been growing their number sense as they work with numbers to 100 in addition and subtraction. They have been working on seeing the patterns and relationships between the basic facts and applying that information to new math stories.

They were so excited to see Miss Nelson is Missing, thanks to the PTO! It was great!

Third Graders

In math, all classrooms work with Mrs. Rombola, Ellicott's math coach, to strengthen number sense with Number Talks and Number Routines. They also enjoyed going to see Miss Nelson is Missing at the Theater of Youth and are thankful to the PTO for providing most of the cost for the trip. They are also looking forward to their field trip to the Buffalo Philharmonic sponsored by the OP Music Department.

Fourth Graders

Our Fourth Graders have been so busy learning and growing. In Math, they have been working to identify angles as acute, obtuse, and right and using protractors to read and measure angles. They are learning about motion energy in Science. They are currently studying Native Americans and early European explorers in connection to the events leading to the American Revolution.

They are working on a nonfiction unit that will tie into the American Revolution in Reading focusing on; text structure and note-taking, determining the main idea, and text perspective.

Fifth Graders

Our fifth graders worked so hard on the musical performance of the Aristocats. They are also preparing for the author visit by thinking about heroes and villains. The kids are currently researching topics such as "Is recycling worth it?" & "Should we ban plastic water bottles?" & "Should kids wear school uniforms?" in Reader's Workshop. In math, our students are learning about decimals and place value. They are also working to gain an understanding of ancient civilization in the Western Hemisphere.

FROM MRS. STOTT'S COMPUTER LAB

To find links to the websites and directions on how to use them go to the website: www.mrsstott.com.

Kindergarten:

We began a new program this month called Math Seeds. It is similar to ReadingEggs but has a focus on Math that is set at their personal level. We also worked with the iPads. We used 3 apps: Bugs and Bubbles, Phonics Fun on Farm and Phonics Island. Bugs and Bubbles is a math based program that has 18 different motivating activities. Both Phonics apps offer word work with letter sounds, sight words, matching, etc.. They really enjoyed the programs!

First Grade:

We reviewed Math Seeds this month. This focuses on Common Core Math Skills. Students took a "quiz" so they could be placed in the game at their level. We learned how to use the "Mental Minute" activity within Math Seeds to strengthen our math facts. We also created Valentines for Veterans using Pixie4. This was good practice for our two hand typing. They did a great job!

Second Grade:

We used Google Classroom and Google Docs to write New Year's Resolutions. We learned how to safely search for and add an image using the Google Docs app. We also began using Typing.com as an introduction to "home row" typing. A letter will be sent home this week with more information.

Third Grade:

We used Google Classroom to open a Google Doc. Then we used Google Docs to write New Year's Resolutions. We learned how to change font style, size, and color as well as safely search for and add an image using the Google Docs app. We also used a site called Tagxedo to create a "Word Cloud". These became our "Valentines for Veterans". What a nice job they did!

Fourth grade:

We used Google Classroom to open a Google Doc. Then we used Google Docs to write New Year's Resolutions. We learned how to change font style, size, and color as well as safely search for and add an image using the Google Docs app. We also used a site called Tagxedo to create a "Word Cloud". These became our "Valentines for Veterans". They did a super job!

Fifth Grade:

We used Google Classroom and Slides to complete a shared slide show called "What's your Dream?" We shared our dreams for the world and our future. I am impressed with how good they are at using the Google platform! We also used a site called Tagxedo to create a "Word Cloud". These became our "Valentines for Veterans". They really made them look nice!



IN ART:

Ellicott artists have begun their animal unit in art class. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students are focusing on arctic animals, while 3rd through 5th grade is focusing on the Australian outback. Students are learning about how artists get their inspiration, and why artists choose certain subject matter for their artwork.