

ELLICOTT ELEMENTARY

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

**The PTO has had a busy start to the school year...
and there's so much more coming up!**

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to all of our new PTO members and thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership! If you would like to join and haven't had the chance to do so yet, it's easy! Just create an account/login at ellicottpto.membershiptoolkit.com or simply download the Membership Toolkit app. Just a reminder that a membership with the PTO is obligation free.

Volunteer Opportunities

*If you have never completed a volunteer training document before you can find it on Membership Toolkit. This document needs to be completed before you can volunteer in the school in any capacity.

* If you have completed the volunteer training document in the previous year, you still must complete the Annual Acknowledgement Form which can also be found on Membership Toolkit.

* Room Parents have been chosen and should be contacting you soon if they have not done so yet. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be considered for the position, there were so many great candidates this year! If you did not get selected this year please do not be discouraged, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved in the classroom and at PTO events throughout the year!

Check the calendar on Membership toolkit to see view upcoming school events and future volunteer opportunities!

BET Update:

- Currently the BET is looking into concerns about putting a fence up along the woods near the playground.
- Please submit a BET support ticket if you have any building concerns that you would like brought up at the next meeting.

PAST EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

WALK FOR ELLICOTT

What a huge success this event was! The teachers and students loved the addition of the giant nylon rainbow arch and having our Ellicott shirts ready to wear. This made for some great pictures for the yearbook! We raised a total of \$16,963.50. Mr. Pietrentone will be working with the teachers to create a list of items that the surplus of funds can be used toward. The student who raised the most money from each grade level enjoyed lunch with Mr. Pietrentone and the class from each grade level that had the highest level of participation earned a popsicle party. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped make the walk a success!

Thank you to the Ellicott T-shirt committee for having our beautiful shirts ready in time for the walk! Extra shirts are being delivered to replace lost, damaged shirts. and for new students.

Ice Cream Social

Thank you to all of the parent and teacher volunteers who helped make this night a success! We had 600 people in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time!

The date of the Spring Book Fair is being decided and will be announced soon!

Fall Book Fair

The Fall Book Fair went well, a total of \$8,885.00 of sales came in over the three days that it was available to students and families. The PTO proceeds from the book fair were \$1,777.00 which is 20% of the total book fair sales. Book Outlet and More donated additional funds to children with insufficient funds to cover the cost of their books. We are so thankful to work with such a wonderful vendor.

Homecoming Parade

This year Ellicott's float was a luau theme! We had a wonderful turn out and it was so great to see so many Ellicott families come out dressed up to support our school and show their school spirit. A big thank you to Mr. Dolce and Mrs. Vivian for all of their hard work on the float.

Halloween Dance

The Halloween dance was such a wonderful event, we are so thankful to the chairs and volunteers. We had 313 people in attendance. The children had such a wonderful time dancing and taking part in all of the festivities. Please consider volunteering for next years Halloween dance, we will be looking to increase the number of volunteers we had this year.

Box Tops

Box tops that were cut out and attached to the form have been submitted. Allison Secora won the Bounce Magic prize pack. Mrs. DeVencentis' class won the class prize with 341 Box Tops. The total Box Tops collected for the school was 3,612 Box Tops. \$361.20 will come back to the school! If you purchase items that have box top points on them you can scan receipts to the Box Top app at anytime to give credit to our school. Digital receipts can also be forwarded to receipts@boxtops4education.com.

Picture Day

Picture Day was Tuesday, October 1st. Retakes took place on November 5th. Yearbooks can be preordered online through Lifetouch.

Spring Chocolate Sale

The Spring Chocolate Sale will run from January 30th-February 24th. Orders will be available for pickup between 3:30-6:30 on March 31st. More information to come home in the next month.

Square One Art Sale

All student artwork that was sent to school by the deadline has been turned into Square One. Out of 640 students only 228 pieces of art were sent in. Any outstanding artwork can be turned in directly to the Square One company. Merchandise catalogs will be coming home very soon to be ordered in time for holiday gifts. Merchandise orders must be returned by November 20th. The finished products will be handed out between December 19th and 20th.

Veteran's Day Breakfast

We had a beautiful breakfast with our Veterans. We had 150 Veterans and families of Veterans in attendance. Thank you for being understanding about the parking situation at morning drop off.

Thank you to all of the Veterans for your service!

Notable Dates

- November 18th, December 6th (Conferences), December 9th (Conferences) and February 14th: There will be Early Dismissal on these days
- November 20th: Chorus concert at Ellicott
- December 5th: Orchestra concert at Ellicott
- December 9th: Orchestra concert at the HS
- December 23rd-January 3rd: Winter Recess
- February 17th-February 21st: Mid-Winter Break

FIRE SAFETY WEEK

We would like to thank Hillcrest Fire Department for coming in to teach all of our students about fire safety in the month of October. Grades K-4 went through the smokehouse and Fifth graders had the chance to use a fire extinguisher.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Throughout the course of the school year, the bulletin board next to the office will showcase each Ellicott student through the school year and then be moved to a display on the cafeteria wall. We are so excited to see each and every student celebrated in our halls!

Get Active

Our very first Get Active event will be a family rollerskating night! We are so excited to see our Ellicott Families getting out and getting active. This night will take place on Thursday, January 23rd at Frank Young's Rollerskating rink. This is a free event! If you do not have your own roller skates or blades there is a \$2 rental fee. Snacks will be available for purchase at the snack bar.

Pajama Day

Pajama day will take place on November 26th. This special day will just be for fun. There will be NO money collected for participation.

Author Visit

This year's visiting author is Troy Cummings of the *Notebook of Doom* series, *More Bears*, *Eensie Weensy Spider Freaks Out*, *Can I Be Your Dog*, and *Giddy Up Daddy*. Mr. Cummings will present up to 3 times a day over his two day visit, February 27th-28th. Teachers at each grade level will begin pre-author visit lesson activities prior to his visit.

A Spotlight on Mental Health

The district will be continuing to provide the film series on mental health this year. As well as the parent information series "Emotional Resilience".

A Call for Ellicott Parent Participation

November 11, 2019

Dear Ellicott Parents:

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Kathleen "Katie" Reeb-Reascos, and I am a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Buffalo. I am currently recruiting parents to participate in my dissertation study and look to you for help.

As a mom and visually-impaired woman, I am interested in understanding how parents of children with IEPs, or those in the process of establishing IEPs, do it. You hold a unique position in education, yet research pays little attention to you as you navigate IEP procedures. I hope to change that. By speaking with you, I hope to hear your experiences, beliefs, philosophies, and opinions regarding the IEP process and your child's education. This study will NOT delve into personal medical records or sensitive information.

Specifically, I am looking to interview 12 parents from Ellicott who have children with IEPs or are in the process of establishing IEPs. Interviews will last about 1 hour and will occur at a mutually agreed upon place, time, and date. Any information shared with me during the interviews will be deidentified and your identity will be kept anonymous. For your time in the study, you will receive a \$10 gift card.

If you are interested in participating in this study or have any questions regarding this research, please contact me at (716) 548-1621 or kkreebre@buffalo.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,
Kathleen "Katie" Reeb-Reascos
kkreebre@buffalo.edu
Phone: (716) 548-1621

Teacher's Report

Kindergarten-The Kindergartners went to the *Theater of Youth* to see *Pete the Cat* on October 24th. They have enjoyed the visit from Mr. Morton from *Sundance Kid Farm*. They have been working through their first units of Reader's Workshop and to celebrate, the 5th graders came down for a Reading Invasion! They paired up and read some of their Old Story Favorites. Teachers want to thank parent volunteers who came in for their Halloween Centers last week. The Kindergarten teachers sent home a Turkey Disguise Project with students and are looking forward to all the creative disguises they'll come up with. They also created special crafts to celebrate our Veterans.

First Grade-The first graders had so much fun impacting our community by singing to residents at 3 different nursing homes on Halloween in their costumes. They worked hard in Reader's Workshop to earn their hard hats from earning great reading habits and are now working on earning their word detective badges. They have also been working hard in math by doing addition and subtraction investigations and have begun work on 2-D shapes. They have also started to learn about Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Traditions.

Second Grade-The second graders will have finished up their first Readers Workshop Unit "Growing Like Beanstalks" with a celebration and have started a unit on non-fiction. In Math Workshop the students learned to listen to each other and think and respond to their peers about the math process and their observations. They have now started a unit on geometry and fractions.

Third Grade- The third graders have finished their first ELA unit where they have learned how to find the right book, the right spot to read, and how to understand what they are reading. Next, they will be finishing their Mystery reading unit where they pretending that we are detectives by looking for clues and suspects in their books. In math, they have finished their first multiplication unit and started a new unit dealing with graphing and data. The third graders are also reading maps and finding countries throughout the world.

Fourth Grade- In ELA, the fourth graders finished a unit on interpreting characters and learning life lessons. They are now engaged with nonfiction texts and working in research groups about different extreme weather. In math they have begun to use arrays and multiplicative comparison problems to understand multiplication and gained familiarity with factors and multiples. They have now begun work on multiplying and dividing larger numbers by breaking the equation into two smaller equations. The fourth graders will be adding Fiddler Crabs to their classroom to study animal senses. They are also studying continents, oceans and New York State in social studies.

Fifth Grade- Our fifth graders truly enjoyed a field trip to the County Courthouse. They learned so much from Judge Curran. They are looking forward to their Friendship Salad Day and going to see Brooks Gibbs at the High School. The students focused on realistic fiction in Reader's Workshop. and will also be doing a reading invasion with their kindergarten book buddies to celebrate the end of their reading unit. The fifth grade will also be hosting a speaker from Journey's End Refugee Center to help make a connection to the main characters of *Home of the Brave* and *A Long Walk to Water*. They have also started a Safety Patrol and are excited to be contributors to the school's well being.

Teacher's Report Continued

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: The physical education department is still accepting pictures of students being active at home. If you have not done so yet, please send in a photo of your child doing any type of physical activity outside of school.

ART: -Follow Ellicott's art studio on Instagram @ellicott_artists-We are enrolled in the Crayola Colorcycle Program this year. Parents are welcome to send in dried out Markers of any brand to be recycled by Crayola. These can be dropped off to the box in the main lobby.- We are also taking part in the Crayon Initiative. The Crayon Initiative recycles used, broken and unwanted crayons into new ones and provides them to children's hospitals throughout the country. These unique crayon packs are used by child life specialists to spark creativity and imagination for hospitalized children. Ellicott artists have been learning how to interpret an artwork by describing what they see, determining the subject matter, and analyzing the title of the work. Students have been practicing taking a closer look at landscape artworks, by discussing the setting and details within the composition and applying their findings to their own work.

MUSIC (Mr. Reed): Orchestra students are using a new lesson book entitled "Strings Fun and Easy" and the students are learning to read music faster and better than ever!

MUSIC (Mrs. Holden):

Music classes have included songs for the fall holidays: Halloween, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. All grade except Kindergarten are also working on reading rhythm notation and will be earning certificates for each level of reading they accomplish.

Kindergarten- Kindergartners are learning differences between singing and chanting voices as well as developing pitch matching skills.

First Grade- Our first graders have started reading rhythm notation in duple meter and will be writing their own rhythm patterns to perform in class.

Second Grade- The second grade is discovering their own solo singing voices as well as labeling tonality and meter in the music we hear and reading triple meter rhythm patterns.

Third Grade- Third grade classes have started a beginning drumming unit. They are reading notation in duple meter and playing patterns on the tubano drums and will soon have a video performance recorded on their SeeSaw digital music portfolios.

Fourth Grade- The fourth graders have been learning an African song Funga Alafia and singing while playing the tubanos with the song.

Fifth Grade- The fifth grade classes are learning how to use Tonic and Dominant chords to accompany songs and then playing the accompaniment on boom whackers in class. Our fifth grade musical will be the Aristocats, Kids! Auditions are taking place in November with the cast list coming out on November 27th. We are so excited to begin production.

Chorus- The chorus concert is November 20th at 7:00.

Teacher's Report Continued

COMPUTER:

Kindergarten-*Kindergarten Computer Lab volunteers are always needed, please sign up on Membership Toolkit if you are able to help out.* Kindergartners are learning how to login using their individual 900 numbers and passwords. They had fun using starfall.com to explore letters, numbers and colors. They are also using A to Zap to practice alphabet skills. They have also started using a site called teachyourmonstertoread.com. A letter explaining how to use this site was sent home and the kindergartens are excited to practice at home.

First Grade-The first graders have begun using Clifford Learning Activities to practice computer/mouse skills as well as patterns, sorting, simple addition, and rhyming. Soon they will start working on a Thanksgiving project using Pixie4. The students will use new tools and will be typing a short list.

Second Grade-The second graders used Pixie 4 to create a fall picture using many different tools: 3-D, smudge, paint bucket, stickers, shape tools, etc. They also began using Google docs and PebbleGo.com to do animal research then write a fact in a complete sentence, telling what they learned about that animal. The students will continue using Prodigygame.com to increase their math skills. Usernames and passwords were sent home so they can continue to use this site at home!

Third Grade-The third graders used netsmartzkids.org to create strong and safe passwords and protect computers from viruses. They finished a Pixie4 project on the map of the world identifying the continents and oceans. They also learned how to put a shadow behind text. All third grade teachers have access to share a Chromebook cart. They learned how to access their Google account and use a Chromebook. They will continue using Prodigygame.com to increase their math skills as well as typing.com was also used to give them practice using the home row keys and to implement proper finger placement as well as proper posture.

Fourth Grade-The fourth graders used netsmartzkids.org to create strong and safe passwords and protect computers from viruses. Typing.com was also used to give them practice using the home row keys and to implement proper finger placement as well as proper posture. They finished a NY state research project using Google Classroom, Google Docs, and NYS Fun & Facts Kids Room online. The fourth grade is now starting a class slide show using Google Slides. They are creating a slide on a pet they have or a dream pet by working collaboratively in Slides as well as changing the font color/style/size and inserting pictures.

Fifth Grade-The fifth graders completed an activity in Google Classroom that focused on formatting documents in Google Docs. They are getting very good at changing the style, color, font, aligning/centering the font, and using spell check. The students used Tagxedo.com to create a creative word shape decoration for our school's Veteran's Day celebration. They also started using Everfi.com, an NHL sponsored site that provides fun Math and Science activities with a hockey theme. The fifth graders used netsmartzkids.org to create strong and safe passwords and protect computers from viruses. Typing.com was also used to give them practice using the home row keys and to implement proper finger placement as well as proper posture.

Next PTO Meeting

Our next PTO Meeting is Thursday, January 9th at 6:30pm in the small cafeteria. We encourage everyone who can come to try to make this one. Miss. Finger and Mr. Cantfield, the math trainers will be putting on a presentation to discuss the new curriculum. We are hoping for a good turn out.

Show Your School Spirit

● **Wear your Ellicott Class T-Shirt on the following days:**

- November 22, 2019
- December 13, 2019
- January 10, 2020
- February 28, 2020
- March 13, 2020
- April 24, 2020

If you have any submissions that you would like to be included in the Winter newsletter, please send them to elptopresident@yahoo.com by December 5th.