

ELLICOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 56, Issue 5

CAPITAL PROJECT WORK UPDATE

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Spring 2026

- Nurse's Suite Renovations
- Exterior Façade Work- Window Caulking, Brick Restoration, Tar Clean-up
- Boiler Replacement, Heating Plant and Sanitary Pumps
- Plumbing Piping in Crawl Space

Summer 2026

- Elementary and High School Entrance- Lobby and Vestibule to Include Extra Safety
- East Wing Classrooms- Doors, Casework, and Sink replacements
- Provide ADA Accessible Bathrooms in the Elementary Wing
- Provide ADA Accessible Door Operator to Main Entrance and Side Parking Lot Door
- Library Renovations-To Include a Conference Room and Work Spaces
- Elevator Replacement
- Electrical Panel Replacement
- Addition of Sidewalks Across from Bus Loop
- Improvements to the Domestic Water System
- Last of the Original Flooring in Classrooms to be Replaced- Removal of Asbestos
- Water Damage Reconstruction
- Air Compressor Replacement for Science Labs
- Fire Alarm Upgrades



Petitions Available for One (1) Seat on the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education

Nominating petitions for the Ellicottville Central School District Board of Education are now available. The annual election will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Nominating petitions must be filed with the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2026.

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be assigned an expired term seat beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2031.

Petitions must contain the signatures and legal addresses of at least 25 qualified voters living in the Ellicottville Central School District. A qualified voter must be a United States citizen, be at least 18 years of age, a district resident for 30 days prior to the election, with their current address on the nominating petition. To qualify as a candidate, one must be a qualified voter and a district resident for one year immediately prior to the election.

Nominating petitions and further information are available from Kristen Pearl, District Clerk, during regular business hours (when school is in session), 7:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by calling (716) 699-2368 ext. 1300.

ECS FITNESS CENTER

Open to the Public
4-7 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
(when school is in session)

*You **MUST** sign in each time you use the Fitness Center.*



IMPORTANT DATES

May 12, 2026
Budget Hearing- 6PM in the "Ward"

May 19, 2026
ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD MEMBER ELECTION
1:00PM-8:00PM IN THE ELEMENTARY FOYER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 8PM- HS LIBRARY

May 25, 2026
MEMORIAL DAY- NO SCHOOL

May 15, 2026
PRE-K PERFORMANCE 2PM

May 20, 2026
GRADES 7-12 SPRING CONCERT 6:30PM

May 21, 2026
GRADES 3-6 SPRING CONCERT 6:30PM



Two Months In – Listening, Learning, and Leading

As I reflect on my first two months as Superintendent of Ellicottville Central School, one of the most rewarding parts of this experience has been getting to know our students. Whether in the hallways, classrooms, or at events, I have truly enjoyed the many conversations, smiles, and daily interactions. Our students consistently demonstrate kindness, respect, and pride in their school. It is clear that the high expectations set by our staff are not only present, but embraced by our students, creating a positive and supportive learning environment throughout our building.

These past several weeks have been both energizing and inspiring. I have had the opportunity to immerse myself in the daily life of ECS by visiting classrooms, attending events, and engaging with students, staff, and families. Each experience has reinforced that ECS has a strong sense of community, a culture of excellence, and genuine care for one another.

Our winter season has been filled with memorable moments that showcase the talents and spirit of our students. The chorus and band concert highlighted the dedication and musical talents of our performers, while *Snoopy the Musical* brought creativity, humor, and outstanding performances to the stage. Our athletes represented ECS with pride during the basketball, bowling, cheerleading, unified bowling and alpine ski season. They consistently demonstrated teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Beyond the stage and court, our school community has come together in meaningful ways. The PTO Talent Show, Family Game Night, and the Winter Weekend pep rally and dance provided opportunities for connection, laughter, and school spirit. The Powder Puff Volleyball Game, sponsored by the Fire Keepers Club, was another

highlight, bringing energy, friendly competition, and school pride to our gymnasium. I also enjoyed visiting the Trap Club and seeing firsthand the unique opportunities our students have to pursue their interests. Events like the PTO Craft Fair and the Dime Carnival further highlight the strong partnership between our school and community, creating traditions that bring people together.

One of the most valuable experiences for me personally has been conducting one-on-one meet-and-greet meetings with staff members, with over 90 conversations completed so far. These meetings have given me the opportunity to learn about everyone's role, their classrooms, departments, and the incredible work happening across our district. I am continually impressed by the passion and professionalism of our staff, and I am grateful for the openness and insight each person has shared.

We also took time during our Staff Development Day to engage in meaningful curriculum planning while celebrating the many accomplishments and successes of the first semester. Just as meaningful was the camaraderie among our staff; coming together to collaborate, reflect, and support one another in a shared commitment to our students. It was inspiring to see our educators learning alongside one another and continuing to grow in support of student achievement.

As we celebrate these moments, we are also focused on the future. We are continuing to move forward with our two capital projects, as work begins this month

on renovating the nurse's office. The renovation of both front entrances will begin at the end of June and will include secure vestibules. At the same time, we are thoughtfully preparing the budget for the 2026–2027 school year, ensuring that we remain fiscally responsible while maintaining the high-quality programs and experiences our students deserve.

In just two months, I have seen firsthand the pride, tradition, and excellence that define Ellicottville Central School. I am truly honored to serve this community and look forward to continuing our work together as we build on our successes and plan for a bright future.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and school community.

Warm regards,
Tiffany Giannicchi
Superintendent



A SWEET STEM EXPERIENCE: MAPLE SYRUP WEEK



Our 4th grade STEM students recently had the opportunity to take part in a hands-on learning experience during Maple Syrup Week. This engaging project allowed students to explore both the science and tradition behind making one of our region's most beloved natural products, maple syrup.

Students began the week by learning about sugar maple trees and the conditions that make them ideal for syrup production. The learning took place outdoors as students tapped sugar maple trees located behind the school. With some eager assistance from our Pre-K class, the 4th graders helped collect sap from the trees over the course of three days. This collaboration between the older and younger students made the experience even more special, giving everyone a chance to participate in the process.

After several days of collecting sap, the entire school gathered for an exciting boiling demonstration. Students watched as the clear sap was heated and slowly reduced, learning how the water evaporates and leaves behind the rich, sweet syrup we all enjoy. The demonstration offered a memorable opportunity to see science in action and of course, students were able to taste a sample of real maple syrup.

The sweetest culmination of the project was a pancake breakfast for the 4th grade students. After learning about the entire process from tree to table, they were able to enjoy pancakes topped with the very maple syrup they helped produce.

This meaningful STEM project connected science, nature, and community while giving students a memorable hands-on learning experience. A very special thank you to Mary and Reggie Klahn, as well as Valley View Farms, for their generosity, expertise, and support in helping make this project possible.



**Coming
soon to a
school
cafeteria
near you!!**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Homemade Cheese Ravioli

Villaggio's team has instructed our ECS Cafeteria Team on the authentic preparation of delicious homemade Cheese Ravioli. They learned the art of Italian cooking from the experts!

Featured on the School Menu at the End of April

Don't miss this special treat!



ECS Cafeteria - Bringing Quality Meals to Our Students

**If you own a restaurant and want to get in on the fun, reach out to
Mrs. Williams at 716-699-2316x1403 or vwilliams@ecsny.org.**

EAGLE'S NEST:

More Than Just a School Store

Every Wednesday, our school community looks forward to something special — the Eagle's Nest is open for business! Run by our SPED classroom, the Eagle's Nest is more than just a school store. It's a place where students gain valuable real-world experience while serving up smiles, drinks, and sweet treats.

Each week, students work alongside their classroom staff to prepare and serve a variety of refreshing drinks and a delicious sweet treat. From setup to clean-up, students take an active role in the entire process. They practice important life and job skills such as following recipes, handling money, taking orders, and providing friendly customer service.

The Eagle's Nest gives our students the opportunity to build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and develop independence in a supportive and encouraging environment. It also allows the rest of our school community to support and celebrate their hard work — all while enjoying a midweek pick-me-up!

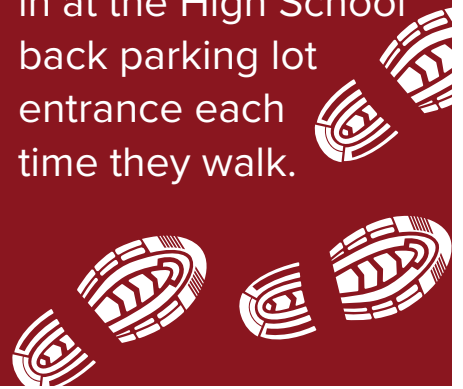
We are so proud of the dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm our students show each Wednesday. If you haven't stopped by the Eagle's Nest yet, be sure to visit and see these amazing students in action. You'll leave with a tasty treat and a reminder of what makes our school community so special!

Thank you for supporting the Eagle's Nest — where great things are always taking flight!



ECS WALK PROGRAM

Ellicottville Central School will host a Walk Program for community members beginning Tuesday, January 6, 2026, thru Thursday, April 30, 2026. The building will be open Monday– Thursday from 6-9 pm (when school is in session). Community members are asked to check-in at the High School back parking lot entrance each time they walk.



Ellicottville Central School Agriculture Day 2026

Agriculture Presentations Noon – 3:00pm
Hot Dogs/Ice Cream 11:00 – 7:00pm

ECS recognizes the importance of agriculture in our future. This event is a day for our agriculture students to shine and a day for all students PreK-12 to learn about various agriculture topics.



ECS Ag Students Showcasing Animals They Raise



Drive Your Tractor to School Day (forms in HS office)



Various Agriculture Presentations

Hot Dog Meals by Student Council and Ice Cream by Springville Dairy will be for sale. (We will increase our inventory so we don't run out this year.)



Tuesday, May 19th Noon–3:00pm

See Mrs. Nason For More Information

HATS, HATS, & MORE HATS!



Our Pre-K program recently hosted our beloved Hat Decorating Night, a long-standing tradition that brings children and their families together for an evening of creativity, collaboration, and fun. This special event has been part of our school community for many years and continues to be a highlight of the Pre-K calendar.

For the event, each child brought a hat from home, ready to be transformed into a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. The Pre-K program provided a wide assortment of decorating supplies, giving families everything they needed to let their imaginations run wild.

Working side by side, children and their family members carefully designed and decorated their hats. Some families even brought along special theme-related items from home to add a personal touch to their creations.

After the decorating was complete, families enjoyed a special snack together.

The fun continued just before spring break when the Pre-K students proudly showcased their creations during the annual Hat Parade. Students paraded through the school, modeling their decorated hats for teachers, staff, families, and students.

Sorry, folks. Sadly, the hats are not for sale.



ESPRA FIELD TRIP

ESPRA (Ellicottville Students for the Preservation of Reading in America) spent the last Friday in March touring Central Library in downtown Buffalo and visiting two bookstores.

Family Game Night Brings Learning & Laughter to ECS



Ellicottville Central School recently hosted a fun and engaging Family Game Night that brought students and their families together for an evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of games. The event welcomed families from across the school community to spend time playing board games, enjoying snacks, and celebrating the value of learning through play.

Throughout the evening, families had the opportunity to choose from a variety of board and card games to play together. From classic favorites to newer strategy games, tables were filled with students, parents, and siblings working together, solving problems, and sharing plenty of smiles. Participants also had the chance to win new games to take home, helping extend the fun and learning beyond the event.

While the evening focused on fun, it also highlighted the important educational benefits of board game play. Many games encourage students to practice essential math skills such as counting, number recognition, probability, strategy, and problem-solving. Playing games also helps develop critical thinking, patience, communication, and teamwork, skills that support success both in and out of the classroom. Family Game Night served as a wonderful reminder that learning can happen anywhere, especially when families play together.

Of course, no game night would be complete without snacks. Guests enjoyed popcorn and drinks while they played, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for everyone who attended.

Events like this would not be possible without the generous support of our school community. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the community members who donated games for the evening and helped make the prize drawings possible. Special thanks also go to the PTO for providing drinks and to the Sports Boosters for supplying popcorn for everyone to enjoy.

Fourth Graders Study Native American Culture



In fourth grade, students comprehensively study the State of New York. One of the units of study includes the study of the first New Yorkers. As a culminating project students created their own Native American project connected to the Iroquois which were on display in the foyer through January and February. Students' projects included long houses, model villages, dream catchers, and more. In March, fourth graders visited the Seneca Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca. On this field trip students were able to extend a greater understanding of what they were learning about the Hodínöhsö:ni:h in the classroom. Students enjoyed viewing artifacts, hearing stories of Iroquois history, and becoming immersed in the culture for a brief period. The trip had been delayed this year in a hope to tour the long house and play some traditional games. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate, but the trip was still enjoyable and educational.



It is with great pride that we congratulate our ECS Eagles on their induction into the Ellicottville National Honor Society on January 21, 2026, at the Great Valley Fireman's Club house. It was a memorable evening filled with pride and accomplishment, as each student delivered an induction speech that highlighted the values of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Their words truly reflected the dedication and hard work that earned them this

honor. The evening was made even more special with a delicious meal prepared by Mrs. Williams and her cooking staff. The students that were inducted are: Kristen Bless, Isabelle Coburn, Trinity DeChane, Christopher Edwards, Ava Fuller, Ella Grundy, Tosh Klein, Eliza Murray, Juliana O'Connell, Ava Weber, Benjamin Wedvik, and Isabella Wilder.

These students were joined by last year's members for a wonderful evening that

began with dinner and was followed by the induction ceremony. We are also proud to recognize our returning National Honor Society members, who continue to represent these values with excellence. Prior members include Faith Burlingame, Bianca Bush, Kalyn Crowley, Drew Ficek, Teaghan Finn, Jordan Folts, Harper Klein, Jackson Kruszynski, Delaney Myers, Ande Northrup, Jordan O'Connell, Olivia Tighe, Oliver Wedvik, Kaylee Wilkins, and Skye Wood.

FROM EGG TO CHICK!



This past month, our STEM Lab was full of excitement as students participated in a hands-on chicken egg incubation project. Through this immersive experience, students explored the fascinating life cycle of a chicken while observing real time development from egg to hatchling.

Students began by learning the stages of the chicken life cycle: egg, embryo, chick, and adult. They discovered that fertilized eggs require consistent warmth about 99.5°F and humidity to develop properly. Over the 21-day incubation period, students tracked growth milestones, including the formation of the chick's heart, beak, and feathers. By day 18, the chicks began positioning themselves for

hatching, and soon after, students witnessed the incredible moment when the chicks used their egg tooth to break through their shells.

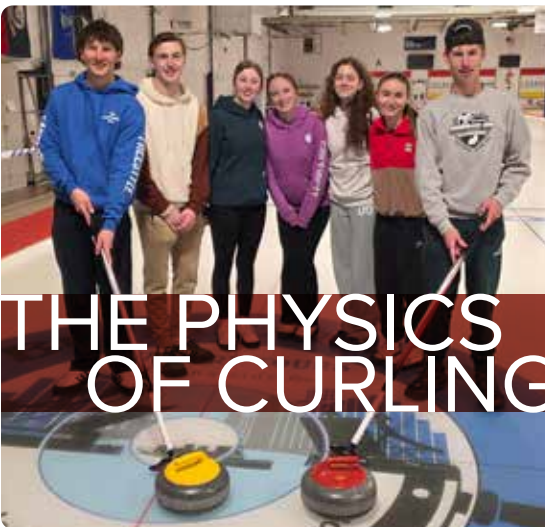
Even when they weren't physically in the lab, students stayed connected by watching the hatching process through a live cam on the school website. This allowed the entire school community to share in the anticipation and excitement as each chick emerged.

After the chicks hatched, students had the opportunity to meet them up close in the STEM Lab. Observing their behavior, movements, and interactions helped deepen students' understanding of animal needs and early development.

Our 4th grade students took the

project even further by applying their engineering skills to design and build cardboard playgrounds for the chicks. Using tools such as chop saws and other cardboard construction materials, students created enrichment structures to keep the chicks active and engaged during their time in the lab. These creative playgrounds included tunnels, ramps, and cozy resting areas, thoughtfully designed with both safety and stimulation in mind.

This project brought science, engineering, and curiosity together in a truly memorable way. Thank you to Valley View Farms for lending us your eggs and chicks for an egg-cellent example of learning coming to life!



The high school physics class spent time during this year's Winter Olympics studying the physics of the different sports. They capped off the unit with a trip to the Buffalo Curling Club to learn how to curl and experience the physics of curling first-hand. It was a great experience!

Pictured: Christopher Edwards, Timothy DeChane, Delaney Myers, Izzy Coburn, Ava Fuller, Kenzie Noga, and Jaxson LaCroix.



HONOR ROLL

2ND QUARTER

SENIORS

High Honor

Andera, Patrick
Burlingame, Faith
Bush, Bianca
Byroads, Grady
Coburn, Isabelle
Crowley, Kalyn
Ficek, Drew
Finn, Teaghan
Folts, Jordan
Klein, Harper
Kruszynski, Jackson
Kwagalakwe, Grace
Liskow, Alexa
Myers, Delaney
Noga, Mackenzie
Northrup, Ande
O'Connell, Jordan
Pennell, Ethan
Potter, Makayla
Tighe, Olivia
Wedvik, Oliver
Wilkins, Kaylee
Wilson, Lanie
Wood, Skye

Honors

Baldwin, Keira
Curtis, Kristopher
Harber, Shyann
John, Parker
Mendell, Cameron
Nazareth, Anna
Vassar, Zachary
Wyatt, Talyn

JUNIORS

High Honor

Andrews, Adalynn
Atwater, Eli
Bless, Kristen
Byroads, Breanna
DeChane, Timothy
DeChane, Trinity
Edwards, Christopher
Fuller, Ava
Green, McKenzie
Grundy, Ella
Klein, Tosh
LaCroix, Jaxson
Mann, Jonah
Murray, Eliza
Nevins, Jady
O'Connell, Juliana
Pasinski, Ava
Quinn, Ellen
Tirado, Dominic
Weber, Ava
Wedvik, Benjamin
Whitmer, Riley
Wilder, Isabella

Honors

Benjamin, Rylan
Carls, Coleman
Edwards, Ainsley
Krause, Abigail
Nazareth, Reed

SOPHOMORES

High Honor

Antholzner, Alison
Brennan, Zachary
Czamara, Isabella
Finch, Audrianna
Howard, Camden
Kaleta, Keegan
Lafferty, Katie

Miller, Sawyer
Rust, Abigail
Sciara, Cooper
Weber, Collin

Honors

Button, Rylie
Johnson, Rian
Kaleta, Carter
Lyon, Juleana
Milks, Coleman
Northrup, Karle
Pierce, Trenton
Schumacher, Colton
Tomsick, Jackson

FRESHMEN

High Honor

Bauer, Kaegan
Coolidge, Cooper
DeChane, Marshall
Kosinski, Carsten
Kruszynski, Cayda
Maynard, Marlee
Mendell, McKenna
Meyer, Rae Ann
Myers, Andrew
Pearl, Lillian
Riley, Camerie
Tarr, Briyona
Tupchik, Stella
Watson, Lindsay
Weber, Ella
Wedvik, Nicholas

Honors

DeChane, Gabriel
Krause, Audrey
McCarthy, Benjamin
Perks, Taylor
Powers, Whitney
Ross, Patricia

8TH GRADERS

High Honor

Andera, Harley
Andrews, Allyana
Brennan, Myla
Dahlman, Liam
Decker, Rowan
Faulkner, Maggie
Gearhart, Layla
LaCroix, Mason
Parmenter, Everett
Pawlowski, Reagan
Seeley, Aston
Siperek, Teagan

Honors

Easterling, MahKayla
Howard, Ty
Myers, Caelan
Niesyty, Hope
Norton, Charlie
Samborski, Skyler
Sciara, Griffen
Wallace, Emma

7TH GRADERS

High Honor

Bishop, Liberty
Bly, Violet
Bunk, Noah
Burlingame, Jameson
Earley, Evelyn
Frank, Jacob
Helie, James
Joesel, Sophia
Kell, Quinn
Kerns, Jack
Klein, Joanna
Miller, Shiloh
Sun, Caroline
Travis, Vander

Honors

Eganski, Jaelyn
Erlandson, Carly
Johnson, Oliver
Rust, Theron
Studley, Leah
Teeft, Amanda
Tirado, Gunnar
Van Buren, Braylon

6TH GRADERS

High Honor

Adcock, Emmery
Bishop, Caden
Butcher, Londyn
Daniels, Kaiden
Emborsky, Lauren
Grover, Logan
McCarthy, Lillian
Mendell, Kenzie
Mix, Anderson
Myers, Matthew
Norton, Elias
Phillips, Simone
Pierce, Emmit
Rocco, Nicholas
Ruble, Paisley
Siperek, Nathan
Swan, Riley
Wallace, Grant
Zeher, Anna

Honors

Bickell, Maya
Gearhart, Delilah
Greene, Chayton
Griffith, Judson
LaCroix, Quinnley
Mendell, Aliya
Smith, John

HANGING BASKET SALE

Buy a hanging plant or two, and **honor your mother, decorate your porch, and help the Class of 2028** raise money for their class.

Please mail (or drop off) the following order form with money to:

Deb McGowan or Arden Schadt, Ellicottville Central School, 5873 Rt. 219, Ellicottville, NY 14731

Please place all orders by Wednesday, April 22rd. No late orders will be taken.

Make checks payable to ECS Class of 2028

Customer Name _____ Check here if Staff: ☐ Room: _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Hanging Plants (Indicate Quantity): _____ Million Bells (Sun/Semi-shade) _____ Petunias (Sun)
 _____ Supercal (Sun/Semi-shade) _____ Ivy Geraniums (Partial Sun)
 _____ New Guinea Impatiens (Partial Shade) _____ \$30 Fuchsia (Partial to Full Sun)



**The Cost of Hanging Plants is \$25 each (\$30 for Fuchsia).
 EXACT DELIVERY DATE TO BE DETERMINED. Anticipated Delivery May 4-8.**

Amount Paid - \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash ☐ Sellers Name: _____

JULIE JAMS: *Brewing Skills & Smiles*

Every Thursday and Friday, something special is brewing in our school! Our SPED class proudly operates Julie Jams, a student-run coffee cart led by Teacher Aide Laura Zeher. Through this wonderful program, students prepare and deliver free drinks to staff members throughout the building.

Julie Jams is more than just coffee — it's hands-on learning in action. Students take orders, prepare drinks, practice safe food handling, and deliver beverages with professionalism and pride. From hot coffee and tea to other staff favorites, each drink is carefully prepared and served with a smile.

This program helps students build important life and job-readiness skills, including:

- Communication and customer service
- Order tracking and organization
- Teamwork and responsibility
- Time management
- Confidence and independence

Staff members look forward to their Thursday and Friday deliveries, not only for the delicious drinks but also for the meaningful connections made with our hardworking students.

Julie Jams is completely donation-based. While drinks are provided free of charge, staff members are welcome to contribute donations, which helps keep the cart stocked and the program running strong.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication our students show each week and grateful to Laura Zeher for her leadership and commitment to creating real-world learning experiences. Julie Jams is truly brewing confidence, connection, and community — one cup at a time!

Thank you to everyone who supports Julie Jams!



Transition Fair & College Access Night

Parent Night

For students with Disabilities Grades 10, 11 & 12

May 12, 2026

JCC Olean Campus

5-7 PM Presentations
begin at 5:30 in the CUTCO Theater



Information sessions include:
College Admissions
Financial Literacy
Student Support Services
Employment
Support Agencies

Students are encouraged to attend with parents

THE MASKED READERS



Ellicottville Central School celebrated Read Across America Week with a creative and exciting twist—**Masked Readers!** Throughout the week, teachers and staff members from around the building disguised themselves in costumes, masks, and other fun outfits before visiting classrooms to read to students.

The mystery added an extra layer of excitement as students listened closely to the stories while trying to guess who might be behind the mask. Was it a teacher from another grade? A familiar voice from the hallway? Or someone from the office? The guessing became almost as fun as the reading itself.

The big reveal came at the March Friday Afternoon Meeting (FAM) when the masked readers gathered in front of the students and finally showed their identities. Mr. Mendell and Mr. Smith brought cheers and laughter to the room as students discovered who had been visiting their classrooms throughout the week.

The activity was a wonderful way to celebrate reading while bringing the entire ECS community together. In the end, it was hard to tell who enjoyed the experience more—the students or the masked readers!



Ellicottville's junior quiz bowl team tied with Belfast in this year's Junior Scholastic Challenge. They earned their way to the championship match with a total point score in the top two from the preliminary matches that included sixteen other teams. The future looks bright for ECS Quiz Bowl!

Pictured from left to right: Aston Seeley, Everett Parmenter, Cayda Kruszynski, Reagan Pawlowski, and Caelan Myers.



2026-2027
SCHOOL YEAR

Kindergarten Enrollment

is open for the
2026-2027
school year

Do you have a child that will be Kindergarten age this fall, but is not currently enrolled in our Pre-K program? Please notify the Elementary Office at 699-2318, ext. 1600 so we may include your family in any upcoming activities this spring such as Kindergarten Screening. Our Kindergarten program is a full school day. The state considers a child Kindergarten age if they turn 5 years old before December 1, 2026.



716-699-2318
ext 1600



ckosinski@ecsny.org



PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

If you are the parent/guardian of a child turning 4 years old by December 1, 2026, and have an interest in enrolling your child in our Full-Day Pre-K Program, please get in touch with Mrs. Clara Kosinski in the Elementary Office at 716-699-2318 ext. 1600 or via email at ckosinski@ecsny.org.

The enrollment process starts with an application for each child.

The state considers a child pre-school age if their birth date is between December 1, 2021, and November 30, 2022.





Hello Families!

A Springtime Message from Your SCHOOL NURSE

As the weather warms up and we welcome spring,
it's a great time to refresh healthy habits!
Here are some simple tips to help keep our students
feeling their best this season:



Wash Hands Often

Spring means more outdoor play—and more germs! Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water, especially before eating and after playing.



Cover Those Coughs & Sneezes

Use a tissue or your elbow to stop the spread of germs. Don't forget to wash hands afterward!



Stay Hydrated

Warmer days = more time outside. Send your child with a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated.



Watch for Allergies

Spring pollen can cause sneezing, itchy eyes, and congestion. If your child has allergies, follow your healthcare provider's recommendations and notify the school if needed.



Dress for the Weather

Spring temperatures can change quickly. Layered clothing helps kids stay comfortable throughout the day.



Healthy Eating Matters

Fresh fruits and vegetables help boost the immune system—great choices for snacks and lunches!



Get Plenty of Rest

A good night's sleep helps children stay focused, energized, and healthy.



Stay Home When Sick

If your child has a fever, vomiting, or is not feeling well, please keep them home to rest and recover.

Let's work together to keep our school community
happy, healthy, and ready to enjoy the beautiful spring season!

♥ Your School Nurse

MEET THE FIRE KEEPERS

If you've been hearing a little more laughter in the halls, spotting some extra school spirit, or recently watched a group of students (and staff) battle it out on the volleyball court... you've already seen the Fire Keepers (a new student-led group at ECS) in action, and we're just getting started.

Our mission is simple, yet powerful:
Unite, inspire, keep the fire!

We believe in the power of joy and fun as a way to build a school culture that stands out. Through creative events and shared experiences, we aim to bring students together and promote positivity, inclusivity, and hope throughout ECS.

What We've Been Up To

Fire Keepers meet every Tuesday during high school lunch (11:15–11:45am) in Mrs. Wright's room (room #138) to plan one FUN event per month. Events throughout this 2025–2026 school year have included:

- Halloween Costume Contest
- Friendsgiving
- Christmas Read Aloud & Cookies in Elementary Classrooms
- A week-long Candy Cart with positive messages
- And most recently... a Junior/Senior Powder Puff Volleyball Game

What's Next?

We still have a few events left this year, but we're also looking ahead in a big way.

This summer, Fire Keepers will head to Allegany State Park for a 2-night retreat filled with outdoor activities, team bonding, and planning for an even bigger and better year ahead.



(Stay tuned for a full recap in our September 2026 newsletter!)

THANK YOU to Our Community

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our community:

- Connecting Communities in Action, especially Bre Abbott and Laura Widger, for connecting us with comedian Aidan Park, who led an unforgettable workshop on the healing power of joy and laughter
- Ellicottville Rotary Club for their generous \$500 donation to support our events
- The ECS PTO for providing Christmas cookies for our December event
- Sports Boosters for providing concessions at the volleyball game
- And our ECS administration for their ongoing support and help behind the scenes

Want to Join?

Fire Keepers is open to all students in grades 9-12, and we'd love to have you!

Come check us out on Tuesdays during lunch in Mrs. Wright's room. Bring your ideas, your energy, and your school spirit.

Let's keep the fire going.

Shout Out to Current Fire Keepers:

Bre Byroads (president)
Juliana O'Connell (vice president)
Teddy Edwards (secretary)
Isabella Wilder (treasurer)
Tosh Klein (honorary officer fill-in)
Makayla Potter
Jaxson LaCroix
Timmy DeChane
Ella Grundy
Ava Fuller
Ethan Pennell
Coleman Carls
Carsten Kosinski
Marshall DeChane
Sara Epps
Mrs. Scherer (advisor)
Mrs. Wright (advisor)



SPIKES, SMACK TALK, & SCHOOL SPIRIT

AT THE FIRST ANNUAL POWDER PUFF VOLLEYBALL GAME

In our first annual Junior/Senior Powder Puff Volleyball Game hosted by The Fire Keepers, it was neither the juniors nor the seniors who came out on top... but the STAFF!

The juniors brought the competition from the very start and appeared, at least during warm-ups, to be the favored victors. However, the seniors stuck with it, got gritty, and ultimately came out on top in the student vs. student portion of the night.

The seniors were then tasked with taking on the teachers using whatever gas was left in their tanks. The seniors claimed victory in the first of three sets, but the coaches came roaring back with a rallying win to tie the match at 1-1. At that point, the championship was truly anyone's game.

After lots of spiking, trash talking, and serves that would make anyone's shoulder hurt for days, The Underachievers (aka the staff) took home the trophy and the bragging rights.

Next year, we hope to put on an even bigger and better event, and by the sounds of it, we may even have TWO staff teams entering the bracket!

We'll see you next year, and students, you've officially been put on notice.



Harmony & Hard Work: **ECS MUSICIANS SHINE AT ALL-COUNTY FESTIVALS**

The past two weekends marked a triumphant return to the stage for the Ellicottville Central School (ECS) music department. Dedicated student-musicians traveled across the county to participate in the prestigious Cattaraugus County Music Teachers Association (CCMTA) All-County Festivals, showcasing months of preparation and a high level of artistry.

Participation in these festivals is a significant honor. Students are selected based on their outstanding scores from previous solo adjudication festivals or through high teacher recommendations. This year's representatives joined the finest young performers from across Cattaraugus County to form elite, high-caliber ensembles.

The festivals were hosted at two local hubs:

All-County Festival #1 (March 6–7): Hosted by Franklinville Central School, featuring the Elementary Chorus, Junior High Band, and Senior High Chorus.

All-County Festival #2 (March 20–21): Hosted by Olean City Schools, featuring the Elementary Band, Junior High Chorus, and Senior High Band.

Over each two-day weekend, ECS musicians committed approximately 12 hours to intensive rehearsals. Under the batons of guest conductors—renowned for their work in collegiate and professional programs—students tackled challenging repertoires that pushed them to blend and balance with peers from neighboring districts.

More than just a performance, these festivals are a cornerstone of our school's artistic community. As noted by local educators, such events remind us that music education demands discipline and persistence while bringing people together in a way few other things can.

The final concerts were a resounding success, filling auditoriums with the sound of hard work and passion. Congratulations to all our ECS musicians for representing our school with such professionalism and talent!



ELEMENTARY CHORUS

Londyn Butcher, part 1, Logan Grover, part 2, Jaxon Helie, part 2, Simone Phillips, part 2, Emmitt Pierce, part 1, Juliet Ross, part 2, Riley Swan, part 1, Anna Zeher, part 1



JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS

Liam Daniels, tenor, Oliver Daniels, tenor, MahKayla Easterling, soprano, Jack Kerns, tenor, Audrey Krause, alto, Mason LaCroix, tenor, Carter Potter, tenor, Whitney Powers, soprano, Theron Rust, tenor, Caroline Sun, soprano, Macie Unruh, soprano, Harlan Vassar, tenor, Whalyn Wyatt, tenor



SENIOR HIGH CHORUS

Alison Antholzner, alto 1, Keira Baldwin, soprano 2, Jadyne Nevins, soprano 2, Isabella Wilder, soprano 1



ELEMENTARY BAND

Lilliana Farnham, clarinet, Paisley Rublee, bass clarinet, Matthew Myers, alto saxophone, Anna Zeher, alto saxophone, Elias Norton, tenor saxophone, Caden Bishop, tenor saxophone, Delilah Gearhart, trumpet, Logan Grover, trombone, Jaxon Helie, trombone, Maya Bickell, baritone horn, Simone Phillips, percussion



JUNIOR HIGH BAND

Rose Benjamin, flute, Caroline Sun, clarinet, Aston Seeley, alto saxophone, Liberty Bishop, alto saxophone, Jameson Burlingame, tenor saxophone, Violet Bly, trumpet, Mason LaCroix, french horn, Marjorie Brown, trombone, Noah Bunk, tuba



SENIOR HIGH BAND

Isabella Wilder, flute, Keira Baldwin, bassoon, Adalynn Andrews, clarinet, Cayda Kruszynski, alto saxophone, Nicholas Wedvik, trumpet, Collin Weber, french horn, Alison Antholzner, trombone, Marjorie Brown, baritone horn, Jaxon LaCroix, tuba

IMMIGRATION SIMULATION

In March students in the Second Grade were treated to an in-house experience. The ECS Immigration Simulation offers a unique experience for our second-grade students. After learning about push and pull factors that led to the immigration boom of the 1900s, students participated in this hands-on play-based simulation. Made possible by the support of our High-School Language classes, students moved through stations meant to replicate different areas of the Ellis Island Immigration Center. Students boarded a “boat” with their required documents and headed for America. Upon arrival, they were met by strangers that did not speak their language and shuffled along through Medical Exams, the Great Hall, and The Registry Room. This project strengthens students’ understanding of the learning concept while also promoting cooperation and problem-solving skills. A huge “thank you” to Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Emborsky and all of our bilingual high school students who gave up their time to mentor and play with our adventurous second grade students!



Seniors in the JCC 1530 class were surprised by an April Fool's Day pop quiz. (The questions were simple and fun!)

MARCH MADNESS COMES TO LIFE AT ELLICOTTVILLE!



WINNING POEM!

I didn't know

By Leah Studley

I didn't know
How many birds are in the sky
Or how many fish are in the sea
I didn't know
how high they can fly
Or if they can catch fleas
I didn't know
Why you cried
Or why you would leave me
I didn't know
Why you lied
Or why you didn't want me

This March, Ellicottville Central School District brought the excitement of **March Madness** beyond the court and into our classrooms, hallways, and staff development day, creating a fun, engaging, and collaborative experience for both staff and students.

The March Madness theme extended into classrooms and learning spaces across the district in creative and meaningful ways.

- In **Grade 7 ELA**, students participated in **March Madness: Poetry Edition**. Students voluntarily submitted original poems and voted on entries based on craftsmanship, creativity, and poetic voice. It became a true *Battle of the Classes*, with each poem serving as a fun guessing game to identify the author.
- In **Grade 4**, students explored science concepts through a “**Mammals Madness**” bracket. March Mammal Madness is an “interactive learning event inspired by the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament”, but instead of basketball teams, animals compete in a bracket-style tournament. Each “matchup” is based on real scientific research (there is a huge team at this point guiding the work on the Arizona State Website), with experts looking at things like size, habitat, and behavior to decide which animal would most likely win. In our STEM lab, our 4th grade students are participating by filling out their own brackets and following along with the tournament. However, brackets were left out for anyone who wanted to play as well. They’re watching the battles through video recaps similar to SportsCenter where each matchup is explained in a fun, play-by-play style that brings the science to life.
- In the **Elementary Library**, our youngest learners joined in through **Battle of the Books**. Throughout the month of March, all PreK–5 students participated during library time to celebrate reading and spread library joy. Each week, students voted on two pre-selected picture books—some read together in class and others familiar favorites. Brackets displayed in the hallway outside the library were updated weekly, and **voting jars** allowed students to visually track which books were advancing, building excitement and engagement across grade levels.
- Staff also joined the fun with “**Munch Madness**,” a lighthearted faculty room contest to determine the ultimate snack—*sweet vs. salty*.

Our Staff Development Day embraced the theme in full spirit. Staff proudly wore their favorite NCAA gear, adding energy and school spirit to the day. The schedule balanced meaningful work with fun, including dedicated time for curriculum planning with grade-level and department teams, allowing staff to collaborate and strengthen instruction.

To keep the momentum going, the day featured a March Madness-themed breakfast and lunch, along with a well-deserved break for a friendly game of Knockout, where laughter and camaraderie filled the gym. Staff also joined in the excitement by randomly selecting NCAA teams to follow, with a prize awarded to those whose teams made it to the Final Four—sparking friendly competition and ongoing conversations throughout the month.

Overall, the March Madness theme made the entire month of March engaging, interactive, and memorable. More importantly, it strengthened a sense of camaraderie, collaboration, and school pride among both staff and students.

At Ellicottville, we continue to find creative ways to connect learning with joy and this year’s March Madness was truly a slam dunk!

Girls Varsity Basketball

Coach Rozler

The Lady Eagles varsity basketball team continued to improve and grow throughout the season, finishing with a 7–3 league record and 10–12 overall. The team was led by five seniors: Ande Northrup, Teaghan Finn, Drew Ficek, Kalyn Crowley, and Makayla Potter. Their leadership helped guide a young and developing team all season long.

The team also featured three juniors—Riley Whitmer, Julianna O'Connell, and Ady Andrews—and one sophomore, Karle Northrup. For playoffs, Kelsey Feldbauer, Ella Weber, Teagan Siperek, and Shiloh Miller were brought up to help round out the roster.

Ande Northrup led our team in points (307), steals (84), assists (51), and 3 point shots made (57). Riley Whitmer led our team in rebounds (244) and blocks (29).

Individually, Ande Northrup earned 1st Team All-Stars and was selected to play in the Big 30 Basketball Game in Portville, while Riley Whitmer was named to the 2nd Team All-Stars. Congratulations to all of our players on a season of hard work, growth, and dedication.

Girls Modified Basketball

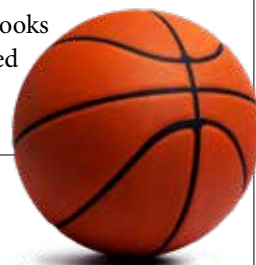
The girls modified basketball team put together an outstanding season, finishing with an impressive 8–1 record. The team showed tremendous growth, teamwork, and determination to succeed from the beginning of the season.

Offensively, this team had a great season, scoring a total of 335 points while averaging 37 points per game. Their ability to move the ball and create scoring opportunities made them a tough matchup for every opponent.

Team members included 8th graders Allyana Andrews, Audri Scott, Hope Niesyty, and Cora Norton, along with 7th graders Quinn Kell, Rose Benjamin, Violet Bly, and Liberty Bishop. Each player contributed to the team's success and continued to develop their skills throughout the season.

A special thank you goes out to team manager Sailor Miller for her support throughout the season.

With a strong record and a season full of progress, the future looks bright for this talented group of young athletes.



Boys Modified Basketball

Coach Chudy

The boys modified basketball team had a strong season this Winter. We had great participation numbers again this season with a total of 19 total players between our 7th and 8th grade teams. The season was filled with growth, both mental and physical as well as skill development from beginning to end. Both the 7th and 8th grade teams faced adversity playing good teams and losing close, hard-fought games. Despite this, they never quit once and played every game with great effort and attitude.

I was very proud of both groups for their willingness to listen and learn at practice daily. The 7th grade team is primed for a great season next Winter. They were represented by Noah Bunk, Liam Daniels, Jacob Frank, Jase Moss, Caelan Myers, Gunnar Tirado, Vander Travis and Braylon Van Buren.

The 8th grade team is ready for the jump to JV next year. They were represented by Jayden Adcock, Caleb Czamara, Oliver Daniels, Ty Howard, Mason LaCroix, Dominic Mack, Axel Moore, Everett Parmenter, Skyler Samborski, Jason Winship and Aidan Zeher.

Great season Eagles, you should all be very proud of yourselves!

JV Girls Basketball

When you hear the words improvement, resilience, and teamwork, the Ellicottville JV Girls Basketball Team should come to mind. After starting the season 0 – 6, the Lady Eagles rattled off eight consecutive wins and were only 2 points away from making it nine in a row. This group truly learned the value of being part of a team through supporting each other, selflessness on the court, and just being a great bunch of student-athletes. They were an energized group that needed no encouragement to laugh, practice or play hard. They became a great team. Their positive attitude was demonstrated every time that they stepped on the court. ECS is very proud of you.

The JV Girls Basketball team: Kelsey Feldbauer, Marlee Maynard, McKenna Mendell, Lillian Pearl, Cami Riley, Briyonna Tarr, Ella Weber, Teagan Siperek, Shiloh Miller.

Basketball Cheerleaders

Coach Metzger

The Basketball Sideline Cheer team had an incredible season this year, made up of twelve dedicated and talented athletes. The squad included seniors Jordan O'Connell, Delaney Myers, Lanie Wilson, Teaghan Finn, and Alexa Liskow; juniors Breanna Byroads and Ellen Quinn; sophomore Peyton Pierce; and freshmen Lily Horton, Amaya Scott, Rylynn Oakes, and Graceland Calkins, who made a strong debut in their first year on the team.

Throughout the season, the team brought enthusiasm and school spirit to every game while working hard to learn new cheers and routines. Along the way, they shared plenty of laughter and created friendships that will last well beyond the season.

Their commitment, teamwork, and positive energy made this a truly memorable year! Good luck to our seniors and I look forward to seeing what this amazing group accomplishes next season!

JV Boys Basketball

The Ellicottville JV Boys' Basketball team played a total of 19 games this season, finishing with a record of 14-5, and 9-1 in league games. Two of the teams 5 losses came by only 1 point (once to Cuba-Rushford and once to Franklinville in triple OT). All the hard work the team put in from November to February was very evident as the team just continued to get better and better as the season went on. It was a great season for this team and we should be excited to see what they will do in the coming years! The boys that were on the JV Boys' Basketball team this year are listed below:

Brody Erlandson, Rian Johnson, Sawyer Miller, Colton Schumacher, Jayce Baker, Crew Koleta, Mario Polino, Kullan McGonnell, Nicky Wedvik, Bentley Ward

Varsity Boys Basketball



The Boys Varsity Basketball team recently completed a successful 15-8 season. The Eagles finished in 2nd place in the CCAA Division 4 league with a 7-3 record. In the post-season, the Eagles made it to the Section 6, Class C Semifinals at JCC following playoff victories over Maple Grove and Gowanda. It was the teams first trip to JCC since the 2023 season. Unfortunately, the Eagles fell to Global Concepts by a score of 56-50, ending their season. The Eagles fought hard in every game this season and improved tremendously as a team.

This years team was led by 5 seniors: Parker John, Cameron Mendell, Camden Palmatier, Aidan Gascon, and Caleb Hurley. Their leaderships and efforts will be missed! Juniors on this years team included Blake Smith, Rylan Benjamin, Dominic Polino, Dominic Tirado, and Raiddan Wilson. Sophomore Rian Johnson and Freshmen AJ Myers and Brody Erlandson rounded out the roster. The Eagles will look towards their returners to continue to improve next season.

Several Eagles were honored with League All-Star recognition this season. Junior Blake Smith and Freshman AJ Myers were selected as 1st Team League All-Stars. Juniors Rylan Benjamin and Dominic Polino were selected as Honorable Mention. We are incredibly proud of the efforts of this team this season and look forward to a bright future!

Bowling Team

The Girls Bowling consisted of senior, Keira Baldwin; juniors McKenzie Green, Ava Pasinski, and Ava Weber; sophomores Alison Antholzner and Eva LoGuidice and 7th grader Caroline Sun. Keira Baldwin had the highest average for the season with a 144, her highest game this season was a 193. Keira was selected to attend sectionals as an individual where she placed 83rd out of 130 bowlers. Keira received the Turkey Award for having the most 3 strikes in a row, she had 7. Most Improved bowler was Alison Antholzner, she improved her average from last year by 22 points and had a career high game of 173. Alison received the chicken award for having the most 3 spares in a row, she had 9 of them. Keira and Alison both

made 2nd Team All-Stars. Ava Weber gets the Hambone award for having the most 4 strikes in a row, she had 4 this season. This group of girls was a lot of fun, we will miss Keira next year, but I'm excited to see the team improve next year.

The Boys Bowling team was made up of seniors Cameron Mendell and Ethan Pennell; sophomores Zach Brennan, Coleman Milks, Carson Mendell, Grayson Neal, and Payton Quinn; and 8th grader Brody Riley. These boys are very young; they picked up right where they left off last season. They worked hard throughout the season and set personal high scores. Carson Mendell had the highest average with a 165 average, this is 20 pins higher

than last year's average and he finished 7th place over all for division 3, his highest score of the season was a 223. Carson was also a 2nd Team All - Star. Carson receives the Ham, Turkey, and Chicken Awards for having the most 3 strikes in a row, 4 strikes in a row, and 3 spares in a row this season. Most Improved bowler was Brody Riley, he worked hard to improve throughout the season. He improved 37 pins from last season and finished this season with a 128 average. He had a career high game of 166 during the season. The boys team qualified for sectionals again this year. They placed 19th in Division 2 and 7th in Class D. I'm excited to see this group continue to accomplish great things over the next few years!

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E **EMBRACING**
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S **SURPASSING**
EXPECTATIONS



Unified Bowling Team

The Ellicottville Unified Bowling Team continued its profound success from last season when they took home the Sectional Championship. Through friendship, sportsmanship and smiles, the team was able to pull off a perfect season with a 6-0 record in the regular season and then scoring 1st place at the Sectional match. These bowlers soared past Falconer, Southwestern, Catt/Little Valley, Jamestown, Frewsburg, Salamanca, Dunkirk and Fredonia!

Both the team's athletes and partners excelled at a high level. Averages and high games are as follows; Senior Ethan Pennell: 85 average 108 High Game, 8th grader Aiden Schultz: 74 average 98 High Game, 8th grader Brody Riley 141 average 202 High Game, Sophomore Cooper Sciara: 69 average 95 High Game, Sophomore

Trent Pierce: 81 average 90 High Game, 8th grader Aiden Zeher: 112 average 127 High Game, Freshman Ella Weber 70 average 78 High Game, Junior Ava Weber: 92 average 100 High Game, Freshman Cami Riley: 103 average 110 High Game, Junior Jaxson LaCroix: 100 average 127 High Game, Sophomore Zach Brennan: 122 average 140 High Game, Sophomore Coleman Milks 123 average 147 High Game, Sophomore Carson Mendell 170 average 204 High Game, Senior Keira Baldwin: 150 average 222 High Game.



The team sadly is losing two seniors; Ethan Pennell and Keira Baldwin and they will both be greatly missed. Coach Mendell and Coach K cannot thank them enough for their sportsmanship and integrity towards unified sports. That said, the team will return many next season and we cannot wait to continue working towards having fun and building friendships! Congratulations to the ECS Unified Bowling team on an excellent 2026 season!

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