

# ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE GAZETTE

December, 2010

Issue 3

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE.....

Congratulations to Members of the class of 2011:



*Listed below are Seniors that have received acceptance letter(s) or enlisted in the Armed Services:*

*Katharine Schrader*

Montana State University

Edinboro University

Northern Arizona University

Daniel Webster College

University of Maine - Merit Scholarship

Swarthmore

Syracuse University

Thomas College

University of Maine @ Machias

University of New England - Merit Scholarship

Skidmore College

University of New England

NESCOM

Point Park University

Air Force

Marines

College of Atlantic

University of Northwest Ohio

NESCOM



*Jordan Carter*

*Judson Cease*

*Katarina Rydlizky*

*Elizabeth Webster*

*Shaya Domagala*

*Hayley White*

*Lyle Stephenson*

*Andrew Austin*

*David Light*

*Paul Hewes*

*James Freedman*

*Angelina Sharp*

*Zachary Jordan*

*Daniel McCormick*



## **AFS International Club by Mrs. Macbrth**

On December 4th the AFS International Club walked in the Ellsworth Christmas Holiday Parade. The AFS Club has done this for many years and have now been joined by Rotary Youth Exchange and P.I.E. The students in the group are attending Ellsworth High School, Sumner High School and M.D.I. The flags are from the AFS collection hanging in the Ellsworth High School Lobby and are the flags of current Exchange Students. The students from P.I.E. also brought flags from their home country. This year we have students from Portugal, Czech Republic, Jordan, Indonesia, Argentina, Armenia, Turkey, Denmark, and France, the Exchange Students were accompanied by members of the AFS International Club at EHS.

The next evening the AFS Ellsworth Chapter held it's Annual Progressive Holiday Dinner. Three families who are hosting Exchange Students host one portion of the dinner. This years hosting families were Lynn and Doug Orville, host parents of Annisa from Indonesia and Kamila from the Czech Republic. The Main Course was hosted by the Becky Leamon and Andy Stephenson and their sons Lyle and Nate Stephenson, host family of Silas from Denmark, the desert course was hosted by Diane and John Cyr, host parents of A.G. from Turkey. The Cyr's daughter Danielle is currently on an AFS/NSLI language study program in Turkey. The pictures below are of Silas, Annisa and Kamila decorating the Cyr's lovely Christmas Tree.



## **PE Department by Mrs. Hammer**

Trimester 2 physical education is off and running! Students participated in pickleball (indoor tennis game). We start off teaching the basic skills and rules and then introduce game play. Students are involved in a singles and doubles tournament to end the unit. After vacation, badminton will be the life-time activity that we will be introducing. We hope to also take our classes outside for some snow-shoeing and also downhill sledding.



## Mole Day by Mrs. Gramlich

Students in Chemistry classes at EHS have been busy. Not only have they been learning about isotopes and the periodic table but they have also had the chance to celebrate the chemistry holiday known as Mole Day. Mole day occurs every October 23rd and begins at 6:02 in the morning and ends at 6:02 that evening. Chemists around the world celebrate this day to bring attention to the most important number used in chemistry – the mole. A mole is simply a unit we use in chemistry when counting very large numbers of things, like atoms. Just like one dozen equals 12 objects, one mole equals  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$  objects.

Students did a fun lab that let them determine how many years it would take the entire class to eat a mole of Skittles, if they ate Skittles day and night for 365 days a year. Most classes would “only” have to have every student eating Skittles for about 5,000,000,000,000,000 years, or  $5 \times 10^{15}$  years, to finish a mole of Skittles! Students also dressed like moles and brought in mole related food to help with the celebration. Original mole songs were sung and mole poetry was recited. It was a nice day of learning and having fun.



**Guidance Department  
by Mrs Homich & Mrs.  
Fuller**

**Maine Youth Leadership  
Seminar**

**Matt Fendl Selected to  
Represent EHS**

Congratulations to Matt Fendl who was selected as our school's winner in the Maine Youth Leadership Seminar Program. Matt was selected for his essay, his leadership potential and his skill during the interview. The program helps develop student's leadership skills by participation in seminars and group activities. Matt will attend a state-wide conference at the University of Southern Maine in early June. Congratulations also to Jessica Poors who was selected as the alternate using the same criteria. Thank you to the sophomores who took the time to apply for the program and to meet with the committee.

**Financial Aid Workshop  
Well Attended!**

15 plus parents and students of all grade levels learned about the financial aid process in early December at the annual Financial Aid Workshop sponsored by the guidance department. Tiffany Doescher, Assistant Director of Financial Aid from the University of Maine was key-note speaker for the evening. Attendees enjoyed the dinner of salad, pizza, fruit, and cookies – courtesy of our

MELMAC Grant.

Beverly Homich and Linda Fuller, guidance counselors, thanked the greater Ellsworth Community for their past financial support of EHS graduates and gave seniors and / or their parents who were in attendance a copy of the Scholarship Booklet. The booklet lists local and state scholarships, the amount of the scholarship and the criteria and process of applying for them. Seniors who were not able to attend, were given copies of the booklet the following week from their advisors. Parents are encouraged to ask their students for the booklet or to visit the EHS website for this information.

**And the Winner is.....**

Carter Wasson is the recipient of the MELMAC Connect Aspirations to a Plan Scholarship. Carter's name was drawn from over 30 seniors who attended the Financial Aid Workshop on December 8th, 2010. The \$100 scholarship can be used towards college application fees or as a scholarship after his successful completion of his first semester in college.

**New Guidance Intern**

Welcome to Mr. Dana Shaw, a graduate student in the Counselor Education Department at Husson University, who will be doing his field experience beginning in January

of 2011. Mr. Shaw will spend one day a week in the guidance office, and while here will be looking for students who he can work with on a regular basis. Please let your guidance counselor know if you would like to meet with Mr. Shaw.

**NEED HELP IN FILLING  
OUT YOUR FAFSA?**

January and February:  
WEDNESDAYS at EHS:

\*Small group Session with Mila Tappan from F.A.M.E. January 12 – 6:00 – 7:30 College Goal Maine! Get help with filling out your FAFSA – replaces College Goal Sunday! Bring your laptops and financial information (for a list of which documents you will need, stop by guidance). You may also sign up in guidance.

\*Individual 30-minute appointments with Tiffany Doescher, UMaine Financial Aid Counselor and MELMAC Financial Aid Coach; 4:30 – 6:30. Bring your lap tops and financial information (for a list of which documents you will need, stop by guidance).

You must sign up for these time slots in advance by calling 667-4722 x 5504, stopping by the guidance office, or emailing. Time must be confirmed 24 hours ahead of your appointment. If not confirmed, time slot will be given to the next person on the wait list.

\*January 19

\*January 26

\*February 2

Guidance Department Con't.

## **PSAT Returns**

All sophomores and juniors took the PSAT's in October, and those results are now in! Juniors received their score reports last week during guided study and tenth graders will get theirs after the holiday break. Along with the paper report is a short video explaining the additional resources available at the College Board website to expand the usefulness of the score report. Also: look for a list of suggestions for improving your scores during the next round of testing.

For students whose scoring patterns match a researched profile, AP Potential suggests possible AP courses for later consideration. Juniors will receive these letters, listing appropriate classes, in the mail and sophomores will get theirs as part of the test return packet.

## **Hancock County Technical Center Applications for Next Year**

Students interested in attending HCTC next year should pick up an application from guidance and return it as soon as possible, but no later than February 11th. Students will visit their program of choice, as a large group, on February 1st with a snow-date of 2nd February. Special presentations for current sophomores and juniors are scheduled for 10 January (21st January is the snow-date).

## **EHS Library by Mrs. Macbeth**

The first four months of the EHS Library have been very active. EHS Library has an Open Door Policy. Students may choose to access the EHS Library any time during the school day--before school, during lunch, and after school. During class periods students may choose to come to the Library while scheduled in the two study halls held each period. Since school began on Sept. 7 this year, 4,389 students have

signed into the Library and spent time there studying, reading, or doing research for classes. Classroom teachers have brought 44 classes as a group to the Library to do specific research. The Freshman Academy sends Freshmen down to the Library during Guided Study to select a book for reading on a regular basis. The circulation statistics provided by the Destiny program recorded 1, 887 books checked out during this time period. The Library is working with the IT Department to help serve the students quickly when laptop problems occur. The EHS Library provides one stop where the problem laptop can be dropped off. A member of the IT Department picks up the computers and takes them to the IT offices to make the necessary judgements and repairs. The laptops are returned to the Library for the students to reclaim.



## World Language Department

### French by Madam Svec

#### Quebec Trip

Twenty-two students and three teachers had the time of their lives visiting the beautiful old city of Quebec on Dec.10,11,12. The shops and homes of the picturesque city were even more beautiful with wonderful holiday decorations , lights and a foot of snow. Students learned about the fortified city on a walking tour with a Quebecoise guide, they danced and ate traditional food at a local sugar shack (maple syrup was the condiment of the day), and they went on a horse-drawn sleigh ride through lantern-lit snowy paths in the woods of Quebec.... and that was just the first day! Early the next morning students enjoyed an early breakfast of croissants and cafe au lait to fortify themselves for the exciting day ahead. First there was Le Musee de la Civilisation , a hands-on museum with such dynamic exhibits as “Water”, “Africa”, and “the Gods”. Next, students were able to practice their French by going out for lunch with their friends in the old city, and shopping. Everyone was awed by the Basilique Saint-Anne with its beautiful mosaics , and enjoyed the exhilarating walk on the suspension bridge over Montmorency falls. A hilarious end to the day was an evening of improv with a young group of Quebecois (picture “whose line is it anyway” with a French accent)

Ellsworth students were part of the show and demonstrated their comedic talents. Finally, on the way home students visited a Quebecois shopping mall complete with hockey rink and amusement parc, this was a great chance to really practice their French as many people in the mall, even salespeople really preferred to communicate in French. All in all , this was a superb trip. Everyone had a great time, and I was especially proud of how these students represented our school. Students were polite, en-

thusiastic, inquisitive, willing to speak French, and simply a joy.



## World Language Department

### Spanish by Sra. Corson

During the month on December, Mrs. Corson's classes began researching how different Spanish-speaking countries celebrate various holidays in the months of October through January. Spanish 3 students gathered all the information and charted it on a timeline comparing it with ALL United States' holidays. The other classes researched and collected images to put around the timeline. We then discussed the similarities and differences AND related this activity to our school's Mission Statement!!

¡Ojalá que tengan unas fiestas felices y un año prospero!



## Congratulations to the Sophomore and Junior classes

By Mrs. Vose

In November, students in the sophomore and junior classes selected letter-writing to military men and women as a community service learning project. Over the past several weeks, students have written, revised, and completed over 120 letters and cards that will be sent to troops stationed in Afghanistan. While some cards and letters are being sent to unknown individuals, several classes selected to write specifically to Mrs. Vose's younger sister, Sarah McKay, who is stationed in Afghanistan as a Navy SeaBee (Construction Battalion.) Students worked very hard to make sure their letters were well-crafted, and our men and women stationed overseas will be thrilled to receive some news from home, and the wishes of our students. Great job 10th and 11th graders!



**Music Department  
by Mrs. Sleeper**

**Pep Band**

The Ellsworth High School Pep Band is off to a fantastic start this school year. The band was able to entertain soccer fans at five home games this fall and has already played at their first basketball game.

The pep band rehearses during period 1, but it is also open to students that aren't able to fit symphonic band into their daily school schedule... Just stop by the music room and let Mrs. Sleeper know that you are interested. In addition to all the fun the pep band has playing newer, more popular music, students also receive community service hours for each game they participate in!

We would love to see more people sharing their musical talents and showing off their Eagle Pride! If you know of a student or community member that loves EHS and playing an instrument please encourage them to stop by the music room and join the pep band!

**Pep Band Dates 2010/2011**

Date	Arrival Time
December 14	6:15 pm
January 12	6:15 pm
January 13	6:15 pm
January 18	6:15 pm
January 21	6:15 pm
January 24	6:15 pm

February 2 6:15 pm  
February 11 6:15 pm  
February Vacation TBA

When our basketball teams find out their placements in regular season play I will send home a list of potential tournament game dates!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE FROM THE 1ST SCHEDULE THAT WAS SENT HOME!

**Social Studies  
Department  
by Mr. McPhee**

The Social Studies Department has spent weeks developing, piloting, double-scoring, and revising writing rubrics to use in social studies classes. The goal of all this is to provide a common set of writing expectations to students as well as teachers. In this way, both groups will have a common mindset as to what is expected when it comes to analytical and expository writing.

Once a common writing rubric is established, work will begin on the creation of specific grade level rubrics, with separate expectation levels for freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Through the use of rubrics which are all based off each other, yet demand differing levels of performance, student skill achievement can be tracked as students progress from year to year. This will enable the department to

accumulate data on the writing ability of individual students as they move from grade to grade. This allows us the potential to determine where changes in curriculum, instruction, and assessment might be beneficial, and also provide us with data regarding the impact of those changes.

Currently the rubric has been tested and double-scored using examples from Mr. McPhee's U.S. History classes. The written work that was scored was the result of students engaging in the study of information provided in textbooks regarding a variety of topics from Columbus to World War One. That information was then compared to primary source documents, with students analyzing how well the textbooks matched up with the historical record. Throughout the course of their investigations, numerous students commented that they were surprised by the amount of information that they thought was omitted from history books, and several hypothesized in their writing as to why the texts chose to include some bits of information over others.

We hope to continue this work in the near future in our Professional Learning Community and hope to share what we have developed for use by other departments.

## English Department By Mrs. Dewey

If your child is like many we see from day to day, he or she owns an iPod or enjoys listening to music on a laptop. Headphones and earbuds have become as ubiquitous for these students as pens and pencils. There are two reasons why our students' auditory interest is music to the English Department's ears. (Pun intended, unfortunately.)

First: This means that your student is probably tech-savvy enough to download and listen to podcasts. Podcasts are by no means new; perhaps you already listen to them. These independently-recorded lectures, instructions, and stories are one of the best resources available to our students through the 1-to-1 laptop program, and it will be worth your time to sit down with your student and explore them.

Family-friendly favorites from famous storytellers include the Vinyl Cafe podcast from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, hosted by Stuart McLean; The Writer's Almanac, hosted by Garrison Keillor; and This American Life, hosted by Ira Glass. All can be downloaded for free using the iTunes store on your student's laptop – click “subscribe,” and whenever iTunes is connected to the internet, your podcasts will automatically update for each new episode (some are weekly, some daily). Listening to a great writer or storyteller is enjoyable for everyone, but especially helpful for reluctant readers, as they can still practice skills like predicting, which helps them identify how writers use clues to hint at what will happen next, and connecting, which helps students experience the story in more depth by noting what it has in common with their own experiences. Both of these skills will make all students better readers and scholars.

Second: Our students' interest in music suggests that poetry may pique their curiosity

and inspire them to seek out this literary mode. Already, we have seen a growing interest from students looking to write and perform their own poems, soon to be aided by a flourishing Poetry Club, advised by Mr. Wormuth and Mrs. Ericksen-Buss.

Poetry seeks to engage an audience on and off the page: it can be read silently, but comes alive when spoken. Our students are already discovering that, just as with their favorite songs, the power of words is enhanced when accompanied by rhythm, rhyme, and intentional emphasis on specific sounds. As the year continues, in addition to hosting the annual school competition of Poetry Out Loud (a recitation competition organized by the National Endowment for the Arts that awards great performances with scholarship money), Mr. Wormuth, Mrs. Ericksen-Buss, hope to bring back a literary magazine, featuring creative writing and artwork from the students of EHS, and will continue to host “open mic” poetry events with musical performances and poetry readings.

Encourage your student to keep plugging in those headphones, and show them how what they already know and love is a valuable connection to their success as readers and writers!

## Special Educational Department By

There are a lot of great things happening in Special Education this month! In Mrs. Anthony's ELA classes, students are reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. They are also conducting research on Native American tribes of California, which they will use as part of a cross-curricular project later this trimester. Students also continue to learn new vocabulary and read in their independent choice novels.

Up in Mrs. Goodman's room Science students have just finished a unit on density. The student-scientists were busy comparing the density of a variety of objects and substances including carbon dioxide, saltwater, paperclips, pumpkins, and even glasses! They are just starting a new unit on air pressure.

Mrs. Goodman's English class is reading the second book in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series, called *Sea of Monsters*. It is a book about an average high school boy who just happens to be the son of Poseidon. Students are enjoying reading about all of his adventures that involve the fate of our planet!

Mrs. Finley has been busy with her students working on algebraic expressions. Students are doing a great job learning to write and solve them, and using *Compass Learning* to reinforce skills learned. In Geometry, students are working on perpendicular and parallel lines and the angles that they make. From there they will move on to triangles. Geometry students have also been using *Compass Learning* to reinforce skills.

Ms. Palmer's Math students have been busy with similar work on algebraic expressions as well as *Compass Learning*. In addition, Ms. Palmer is working with some students on preparing for post-secondary goals which require the *Accuplacer* assessment, and also with some students on Life Skills math including money and consumer skills.

Mrs. Lessard's Life Skills students have been busy with all sorts of things! They started some whole group community inclusion through Adaptive Physical Education. Every Tuesday and Thursday students are swimming at the YMCA! This promotes physical fitness, as well as community access skills. In the classroom students have been working hard on grammar and sentence structure. Students have also been designing Math problems to work on money skills for purchasing goods or services.

The Eagle Café is still open for business each week! The Life Skills students moved the day to Friday this month, in hopes of increasing sales. Students create a weekly menu, make grocery lists, and go to the grocery store each Tuesday morning to purchase the supplies needed. Of course the best part is cooking each meal, which students do every Thursday and Friday! Some of this month's recipes included Teriyaki Chicken Wraps, and Italian Sausage Medley.

## **Gifted and Talented Program**

### **By Mrs. Billings**

Ruth Billings  
Coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Program  
Ellsworth High School  
Sumner Memorial High School  
rbillings@rsu24.org

**C**hapter 104, the rule that establishes gifted and talented standards for the Maine Department of Education, governs each school unit in the state. Up to 5% of the student population may be identified as gifted and talented in specific academic areas. It is the decision of RSU24 that students be screened for identification in ninth grade. Referrals are accepted from parents, students, teachers and other interested adults. The process for accomplishing this has been designed in accordance with state requirements.

**C**lassroom teachers are responsible for directing the learning of all students. For students identified as gifted and talented, the coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Program is available to help meet the needs of students who need a more challenging curriculum in one or more subject areas.

**G**ifted and talented students may display some of the following characteristics:

- Superior abstract/critical thinking**
- Superior communications skills**
- Intense curiosity and questioning**
- Exceptional creativity**
- Sophisticated knowledge and interests**

**I**f you would like to refer your student, please ask in the school office for a referral form and return it to school by January 31, 2011.

**T**he referral committee is made up of classroom teachers, the coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Program, and an administrator. This committee is responsible for identifying as gifted and talented those few students who are expected to have a need for greater and/or different challenges. Parents are notified by mail of the committee's recommendations.

**I**f you have any questions, please contact me.