



# EAST ROCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT School District News

Winter 2023

## Recognizing our talented student artists

Students in grades 2-8 displayed artwork during the annual winter art showcase this December. The elementary winter art show is a long standing tradition that enables art students to submit their best works for judging and awards.

Those who submit pieces to the show have the opportunity to have their work selected by the school's superintendent, Jim Haugh, to be featured in the East Rochester school calendar. In addition to having their artwork displayed in the 2023-34 calendar, students whose work was selected also received recognition and a certificate.

These school calendars are provided to parents, community members and local businesses, and they will hang in almost every office within the school. The calendars are a source of great pride for the students whose work was chosen from the many pieces displayed.

*Congratulations to:*

Zoe Meseke, 2nd grade

Aaliyah LaDue, 2nd grade

Liam Hayward-Crawford, 3rd grade

Madalynn Stephens, 3rd grade

Frances (Francie) Parkhurst, 4th grade

Noah Meseke, 4th grade

Dmytro (Dima) Melnyk, 5th grade

Kira Morgan, 5th grade

Marco Vital-Herne, 5th grade

Jude Lambert, 6th grade

Aleksey Martynenko, 6th grade

Alexis Davidson, 6th grade

Alijah Eckert, 7th grade

Bria Sutton, 7th grade

Stella Wisnowski, 7th grade

Manny Marciano, 8th grade



## Our District's Mission

The Mission of the East Rochester School District is to prepare students to be college and career ready and to provide a quality education in a safe environment where all students develop the abilities, attitudes and values necessary for responsible, productive citizenship.

## Our Vision

The Vision of the East Rochester School District is that students will learn through the highest quality instruction which recognizes each student's strengths, talents, interests, learning styles and rates of learning, using developmentally appropriate methods.

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## A message from the Superintendent



Dear ER Community,

One of the important tasks each school district undertakes is asset protection. In ER, we have a long history of developing capital projects to extend the useful life of all aspects of our school building. This summer, we will begin a small capital improvement project on campus that will stretch into part of the 2023-2024 school year. Part of the Federal

COVID Relief Funding for schools was targeted to improve indoor air quality. There is no portion of this project being funded by our operating budget or local tax dollars. Using these Federal funds, we are changing out the HVAC systems in classrooms. Work is already underway to address logistics involved with running our robust summer academic program, Fun In The Sun (FITS) and staff professional development sessions in a building footprint that will be condensed due to the contractor's presence on campus.

Project development for this HVAC work began in the Spring of 2021. We are thankful for this advanced work, as our aging HVAC systems have struggled this year. After the severe temperature drop and accompanying windstorm that began on December 23, our schools began experiencing frozen pipes in certain areas within our heating system. We experienced pipe ruptures and flooding in seven spaces throughout our building. There were also five additional rooms that lost heat due to frozen pipes that, thankfully, did not rupture. This upcoming project will reduce the number of outdated HVAC systems and lower the number of potential disruptions to future building operations.

We are also beginning work this spring to review our Building Condition Survey as mandated by New York State. Identified work will be targeted for an upcoming capital improvement project we will share more information about in the future.

Sincerely,

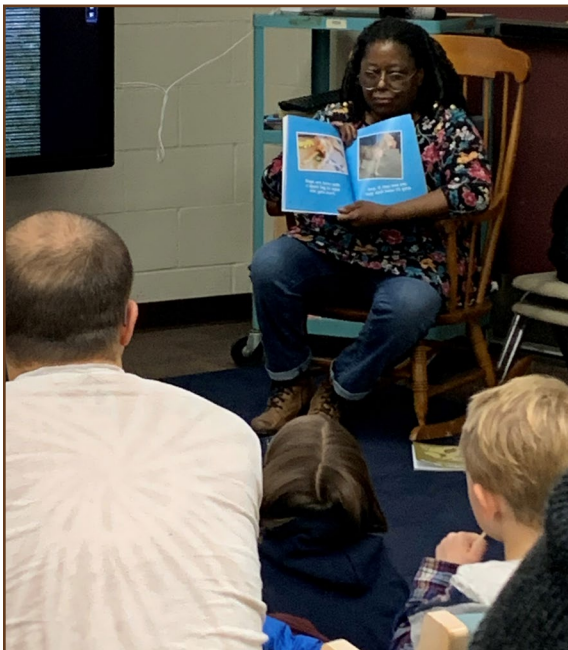
Jim Haugh  
Superintendent of Schools

## Local author visits Elementary Family Fun Night

Families in grades UPK-5 were invited to Family Fun Night this February, for a night of activities including bingo, music and motion, and books and barks.

This year, the annual Elementary School Family Fun Night also featured visiting local author Tess Padmore!

Families rotated through stations, spending time getting to know other families within the elementary school. Fun was had by all!



## Students inducted into National Honor Society

New members were inducted into the East Rochester National Honor Society on Monday, December 19, 2022.

Selection into the National Honor Society is based on four qualities: scholarship, leadership, service and character. Students selected must demonstrate outstanding performance in all four areas. The Honor society members have already exhibited academic achievement, leadership, honorable and admirable character, as well as service demonstrating that the member is willing to use talents and skills for the improvement of society.

Faculty Advisor Lisa Cook was joined by High School Principal Alicia Shippy and current members of the ER NHS to induct new members during the ceremony.

### Students inducted include:

Sierra Bleier  
Cassidy Jaye Broker  
Aurora Calabria  
Felyna Charles  
Courtney Clayton  
Carli Daniels  
Anas Kadiri  
Meghan Lewis  
Bella Lexer  
Nicole Luther  
Joseph Markajani  
Amber Morrison  
Gwen Prothero  
Gianna Romach  
Timothy Salmon  
Samuel Tanner  
Sophia Walter  
Landon Wollschlege





## Fifth grade students launch morning show

Fifth grade students are now in the spotlight as leaders of the ER Elementary Morning Show.

Thank you to Steven Cali, Tadge O'Brien, Cassie Kerg and Roxanne Willard for their collaboration in getting a morning show underway for the Elementary School.

The morning show will feature morning announcements highlighting student birthdays, PBIS character education, second step social emotional curriculum, diversity and upcoming special events.

The show began mid-November and the students have been doing an amazing job!



## Bringing history to life during mock trials

While studying causes of the American Revolution in social studies, seventh grade students participated in a Boston Massacre Mock Trial this December. Students chose a role for the trial- either lawyer, witness or jury- and worked together to study the scripts that were read during the mock trial, primarily composed of primary source material from the actual Boston Massacre Trial that occurred in October of 1770 in Boston. Lawyers for both sides questioned witnesses, made their closing arguments to the jury and waited for the jury to deliberate and deliver their decision. Three of the four classes said the soldiers were guilty, with two of the juries split and one unanimous. The class that said the soldiers were innocent was unanimous.

## Culinary class explores the history of pepper jelly

A few years ago ER Instructional Technology Specialist Mr. O'Brien started to grow an heirloom pepper called the Fish Pepper and found that he had too many to use at home. Mr. O'Brien decided to team up with Culinary Teacher Mr. Fee to use the extra peppers in his class.

The only stipulation was that Mr. O'Brien was able to share a short history of the pepper with students, as the peppers have an interesting history that dates back to World War I when a soldier named Horace Pippin, of the 369th Infantry Regiment known as the Harlem HellFighters, gave seeds to a beekeeper in exchange for a pain remedy. The seed was released to the public by the beekeeper's son William Woys Weaver in 1995.

After agreeing to the stipulation, Mr. Fee found a jelly recipe that the students created using the peppers. After making the jelly, students brought it home and shared it with their families.

Culinary students have taken a lot away from the lesson, including the fact that peppers can be used to make jelly, seed banks are important for the survival of plants and the impact that trade can have in the culinary arts.







## ER Elementary celebrates veterans

ER Elementary held their annual Veterans' Day Assembly on November 10, inviting veterans, active duty military and reservists to the school.

The event was the best attended yet. Veterans, Active Duty Military, and Reservists enjoyed several songs sang by Mrs. Rubert's chorus including the National Anthem. An ER Elementary parent, Specialist Michael Kurrasch, was the keynote speaker at the event. Two children of Veterans handed out roses to attendees during the assembly, and the local Cub Scouts performed the Color Guard.

The assembly was followed by a breakfast of donuts, bagels, fruit and more. We hope our Veterans, Active Duty Military, and Reservists felt appreciated.



## MLA seizes the day in Newsies Jr.

The MLA Drama Club performed Newsies Jr. this January. The show, based on the 1992 Disney movie, is inspired by the true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City.

Ahead of opening night, students were surprised with a special message from one of the original Broadway cast members! The actor who originally played the character Katherine in the Broadway production of Newsies happens to be the cousin of ER Teacher Angela Nelson. Before the show, Kara Lindsay offered a "break a leg" to our ER performers.

Congratulations to all involved in the production!



## ER HS Drama Presents: The Addams Family

The ER High School Drama Club will perform The Addams Family musical comedy this March.

The musical features an original Addams Family story, as a grown Wednesday Addams falls in love with a man from a respectable family and begs her father Gomez not to tell her mother, Morticia. As Gomez struggles with the secret, the family hosts Wednesday's boyfriend and his parents to an unforgettable dinner.

The show will premiere on Thursday, March 23, 2023 with the PTO-sponsored Dinner and a Show. Dinner will begin at 5 p.m. followed by a 6:30 p.m. performance. Additional shows include 7 p.m. shows on Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25. Show tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. Dinner tickets will be sold through the PTO website.

"A-ha. Showtime!"

## ER Percussion Showcase is a success!

Elementary, middle school and high school percussion ensembles from East Rochester were joined by Gamelan Lila Muni from the Eastman School and marching indoor percussion ensembles from Hilton, Webster, Eastridge and Victor to entertain the crowd with amazing performances on Sunday, January 29.

Thank you to everyone in the East Rochester community who attended our ER Percussion Showcase this winter. Your support means so much to our programs at ER Schools.







## Congratulations to ER fall athletes selected for All Greater Rochester teams!

*ER field hockey AGR athletes include:*

First Team: Leah Griffith

Honorable Mention: Samara Skully and Riley Wing

*Football AGR athletes include:*

First Team: Mike Daniels and Manny Sepulveda

Second Team: Cadearell Sneed

Honorable Mentions: Jeremy Blanchard and Britton Delmadoros



## Soccer athletes receive All League recognition

Congratulations to the ER Boys Varsity team on your All League recognition for an outstanding season. In addition to the team recognition, teammate Jalen McCoy was a first team All League soccer recipient! Congratulations also to Cassidy Broker and Madalynn Fiorvanti on your All League recognition in Wayne County.



## Congratulations Scholar Athletes!

Congratulations to the athletic teams who achieved scholar athlete recognition from NYSPHSAA this past fall. In order to achieve this status, 75% of the student-athletes on the team had to earn a grade of 90% or higher. Great job to Girls Varsity Field Hockey, Girls Varsity Soccer and Boys Varsity Soccer for achieving scholar athlete recognition!

ER Senior Jayme Taylor competed in the first NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championship on Friday, January 27.

Jayme has wrestled with the ER team since seventh grade.

She finished the tournament with a 2-2 record. Way to go Jayme!





## Teachers and students train with PiRI

Middle Level and High School students participated in Community Building training with Partners in Restorative Initiatives (PiRI) this December. The Community Building training has proved to be a powerful tool with the ability to foster incredible change and growth in our school. During the training, students were encouraged to share their thoughts on the strengths and areas for growth within our school and engaged in discussions regarding how they see this work best benefiting our entire school community. Students had the opportunity to foster connections with each other by sharing personal experiences throughout their discussions. Students will also have the opportunity to use their training to engage in thoughtful dialog with peers and members of our staff.

Some of the teachers in East Rochester Schools also went through the Community Building training this fall with the intention of sharing their experience with other staff members throughout the district. In order to build upon our community building and restorative work, the district will continue to partner with PiRI throughout this school year and next.



## Board of Education nominating petitions

Nominating petitions to run for the Board of Education are available Wednesday, March 1 in the District Office, 222 Woodbine Avenue, during regular hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or on the district website, [erschools.org](https://erschools.org). Petitions will be accepted for board candidates through Monday, April 17, 2023 by 4 p.m. by Mrs. Adler. Candidates must be a qualified voter of the district, 18 years of age or older, a legal resident of the district for at least one year prior to the election on May 16, 2023, and eligible to serve in accordance with the law. For more information, please call or email Mrs. Adler at 248-6302 x1 or [Kristen.Adler@erschools.org](mailto:Kristen.Adler@erschools.org).

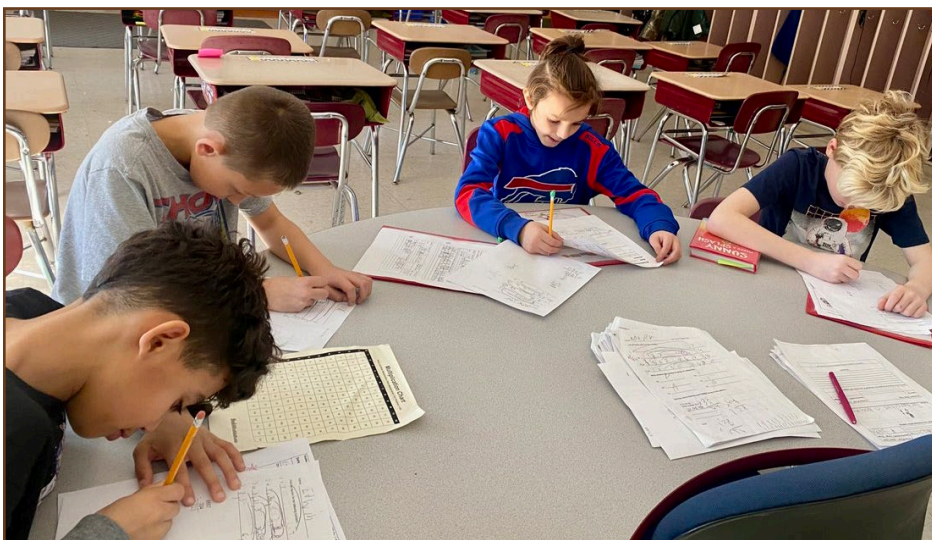
## 2023-24 budget development update

East Rochester administrators and the Board of Education held their first Budget Workshop for the 2023-24 school year budget on Tuesday, February 7. Topics included a review of the Governor's Executive Budget on a review of the tax cap calculation and a review of the preliminary gap.

Additional workshops are scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, April 11, 2023.

A Public Hearing on the Budget will be held Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7 p.m. The Budget Vote will take place from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, 2023 in the Multipurpose Room.

More information on the 2023-24 budget will be provided in the April Community Newsletter. Updated information can also be found on the district website, under the Budget section ([https://erschools.org/district/budget/2023-2024\\_budget](https://erschools.org/district/budget/2023-2024_budget)). If you have any questions relating to the school budget, please reach out to ER School Business Administrator Staci SanSoucie at [staci.sansoucie@erschools.org](mailto:staci.sansoucie@erschools.org) or (585) 248-6308.



## Fun ways to help students with homework

Students are loving the new Homework Helper Club at ER Elementary! Fourth and fifth grade students involved in this new club stay after school, where they are provided with a supportive learning environment to gain assistance with their studies. This could include reteaching of concepts and assistance with homework. This program not only provides academic support, but also allows for social emotional interaction with peers and adults.

The Homework Helper Club is another wonderful ER initiative funded by the Federal Stimulus COVID Relief to help students with instructional recovery that stemmed from the global pandemic.

## We want your old sneakers!

The East Rochester PTO is continuing its partnership with *Got Sneakers* as a great way to recycle old sneakers and raise funds for our PTO.

Did You Know? Most people throw away their used sneakers every 125-200 days without ever thinking about recycling. Since sneakers are manufactured with materials that are not biodegradable, they remain in our landfills or are incinerated, which leads to toxic chemicals in our air and soil.

**We want your old sneakers!** Please consider donating your old sneakers to help reduce negative environmental impact and raise funds for the ERPTO so we can keep doing what we do best - support our students.

### Drop off at:

East Rochester Elementary School Main Office  
By emailing the PTO to coordinate a pick-up

*Join the ERPTO during our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the high school cafeteria.*

## PTO Treasurer Wanted

The ERPTO is looking for a treasurer. The organization has big plans to raise money and fund important projects for our school and needs someone who likes to count every penny to help them do it. If you love to categorize expenses and create color-coded pie charts, you have what it takes to be parent group treasurer! Reach out to the ERPTO for more information and/or if you are interested in the position.

## Elementary Yearbook Sale

The PTO-sponsored Elementary Yearbook is now available to purchase! You can place an order for your yearbook by visiting [www.buytheyearbook.com](http://www.buytheyearbook.com) and using the school code 707956. Yearbooks can be purchased for \$16 each. Orders must be submitted online by April 15. Yearbooks will be distributed in June. Contact [erpto2021@gmail.com](mailto:erpto2021@gmail.com) with any questions.

## The East Rochester Alumni Foundation is pleased to announce details for the 2023 Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic

- Purpose:
  - o To bring Alumni together in an event based on the exceptionally strong ER golf tradition
  - o To raise funds in support of ER Schools and ultimately the greater ER community
- Date: Monday, August 7
- Location: Ravenwood Golf Club (RGC), an award winning facility with some of the best golf in the Finger Lakes region (<https://www.ravenwoodgolf.com>)
- Options: In order to accommodate more golfers and to provide an option for a less intensive experience, there will be two events: 18-hole morning tournament and 9-hole afternoon tournament.  
Both share:
  - o Lunch buffet in between the two events
  - o Open golf range prior to start
  - o "Visage GPS" installed in modern electric carts
  - o 4 - person team scramble
  - o Closest to the pin skill contests
- Option 1: 18-hole Tournament, Cost: \$125/golfer, includes
  - o 8 AM shotgun start
  - o Awards for first 3 places
  - o Breakfast sandwich at registration
- Option 2: 9-hole Tournament, Cost: \$100/golfer, includes
  - o 2 PM shotgun start
  - o Awards for first 3 places
  - o Hand passed appetizers after golf
- Other opportunities to participate
  - o Tickets will be available to purchase for Sam's "targeted" raffle of major prizes
  - o Putting contest
  - o Mulligan hole
- Adult beverages will be available for purchase directly from RGC

Working with Ravenwood's expert staff, we will work to ensure safe and truly enjoyable events. Registration will open on March 1. Space will be limited to the first 34 foursomes to sign up for each of the morning (18-hole) and afternoon (9-hole) options, so please register as soon as possible to secure your spot in this year's tournament.

Thank you,  
Tom Quinzi '80  
ERAF, President  
[tquinzi@gmail.com](mailto:tquinzi@gmail.com)



## 2022-23 Alumni Foundation Grants

Urban Suburban Welcome Picnic  
ER. Chess Club  
Elementary author visit  
K-12 Good News Recognition Program  
Veteran's Day Recognition Program

2nd Grade Smoke Detectors  
Teens and Tots  
Student of the Month Celebration  
Science Olympiad  
Music Days at Seabreeze

***Thank you to all of our loyal Amazon shoppers. Sadly, Amazon is discontinuing the Amazon Smile program in February. Although the amounts may have been small, your impact was huge!***

## Alumni Foundation brings author to visit ER Elementary

Thank you to the East Rochester Alumni Foundation who helped support a visit from author James Preller, who has written over 50 children's books in his career. Mr. Preller spoke with students during the morning assembly on Friday, November 4 before visiting individual classrooms throughout the day. During his visit, Mr. Preller talked to students about his books and the writing process. Thank you to the ER Alumni Foundation for making this visit possible.





**East Rochester Union Free  
School District**

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## UPK and Kindergarten registration

The East Rochester Union Free School District is enrolling children for its Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs for the 2023-2024 school year.

Children born between December 2, 2017 and December 1, 2018 are eligible for our Kindergarten program. Our registration process begins on **March 1, 2023 and ends March 31, 2023.**

The district also offers a full-day Young Kindergarten program for students who are young at the grade level. It is intended to give children a bridge year between our half-day UPK program and our full-day Kindergarten program.

Registration packets will be sent home with families at the end of February for Kindergarten. Information regarding the registration process will be included in the mailing. Families can return the packets by mail, at the school's single point of entry or in the black mailbox outside the district office.

Families will need to provide proof of residency, immunization and health records, as well as proof of each child's age. If you have any questions or need additional support with the registration process, please contact the District Registrar, Michele Griffith, at (585) 248-6306 or via email at [er.registrar@erschools.org](mailto:er.registrar@erschools.org).

**Please Note: All students currently enrolled in Universal Pre-K at East Rochester DO need to register for Kindergarten.** If you have not received a registration packet or if your child will NOT be attending ER schools, please email the District Registrar at [er.registrar@erschools.org](mailto:er.registrar@erschools.org). **In addition, parents of all young District residents are asked to email the District Registrar to make sure your child is on our census, even if you don't plan to enroll them in UPK or Kindergarten for the 2023-24 school year.**

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APP

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