

3 ESE Teams Advance in International Robotics Competition



Jasmine Kennedy troubleshoots the robot's coding.



Lorik Krasniqi and Ejla Muhic celebrate the success of their robot coding.

ESE students were among those from 69 countries participating in the Wonder League Robotics Competition. All three ESE teams successfully worked through five creative, problem-solving robot missions and qualified to move on to the Invitational Round.

Only 500 teams in the 9-11 age group were invited to the final round of the virtual competition. ESE's three teams with 10 students compete as part of an after-school club led by coaches Molly McGarry and Michele Coolbeth.

As students complete challenges by programming the robots to perform various tasks, they are learning and practicing computer coding. The club benefited from an ESM Education Foundation grant to purchase additional robots and a mat. The Foundation funds projects that enhance student learning.

"When you are making the code, it's just like the engineering design process. You have to plan it out, you have to imagine and then you have to do it. Sometimes you have to go back and improve it until you get it right," said student Isabella Brostek.

Senior Citizens' Intergenerational Event is April 25 at a New Location

We invite all senior citizens in the community to join us on Thursday, April 25 at 5 p.m. for dinner and a fun-filled evening. The location is changing and for the first time will be held at Pine Grove Middle School. This year's theme is "Traveling Around America."

This will be the 9th annual intergenerational event organized and hosted by the student Youth Development and Leadership Club, which includes students in grades 3-12.

Senior citizens who would like to attend this free event may contact Cheryl West at cwest@esmschools.org or 315-434-3010 to reserve your seat on or before April 12. Dinner is included and the event is in Pine Grove's Community Café & Performing Arts Center (101 Spartan Way, East Syracuse).

The goal is to create vital connections between both generations and to learn and grow from each other.

ESM Conducting Community Communications Survey

The East Syracuse Minoa Central School District invites you to participate in an important communication survey. Your participation will help us assess and further build our relationship with you and other members of the school community.

Please visit www.esmschools.org/survey to take this survey online. To speed the tabulation of results, we prefer residents complete the online survey. However, a paper survey was also mailed to all homes.

We appreciate and thank those taking the time to provide us with their opinions regarding communication at ESM. This is an anonymous survey and the results will be kept confidential and reported as a whole with those of other survey participants.

From the Superintendent



Dr. Donna J. DeSiato

March is *Music in Our School Month*. ESM has been recognized nationally with a *Best Communities for Music Education Award* for 5 consecutive years. Pine Grove's family-friendly musical "James and the Giant Peach Jr." will be performed March 14 and 15 at 6 p.m. Please plan to join us for the Districtwide Instrumental Showcase on March 29 at 7 p.m. in the CHS large gym.

This will be an evening of celebrating the talent of our elementary, middle school and high school students.

Congratulations to Olivia Nissen selected to play flute and Jordan Coolbeth selected to play bass clarinet at the 2019 Junior High All County Music Festival.

On January 22 ESM received the District Recognition Award from the CNY Art Council. This year our District celebrates the artistic talent of our students whose works received 133 awards in this year's CNY Scholastic Art Competition. Their award winning pieces were on display at Onondaga Community College.

Congratulations to Pine Grove's Ben Scalfaro who, for the second year in a row, was among the top 35 students in Central New York earning a spot to compete in the oral round of the Post-Standard/syracuse.com/WCNY Spelling Bee.

The ESM Education Foundation's Annual Dinner, "An Evening in Vegas" is on March 23 at Traditions. There's still time to make your reservation and plan to join us for enjoyable evening with the proceeds benefitting our students. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$210,000 in grants to district staff for projects that benefit our students. We thank the ESM Education Foundation and all those who have contributed to its success in supporting student learning at ESM.

As we look forward to spring, we invite all senior citizens in our community to join us for our 9th annual intergenerational event organized by the student Youth Development and Leadership Club on Thursday, April 25 at 5 p.m. We are excited that—for the first time—we will host this free event at Pine Grove Middle School. Join us for dinner and a fun-filled evening of entertainment. If you are interested in attending please contact Cheryl West at cwest@esmschools.org or 315-434-3010 to reserve your seat.

We hope you will join us at our upcoming events to celebrate the talent, success and accomplishments of our students. Check the back cover of this newsletter or our website for up to date information. The support we receive from our ESM community for the success of our ESM students is recognized and valued. We sincerely thank you for your involvement, engagement and continued support!

Pre-k Registration for Children Ages 1-4

The ESM pre-kindergarten program will host an informational meeting Wednesday, April 3 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Park Hill School. An overview of the 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old programs will be followed by an opportunity for parents/guardians to ask questions. Parents are asked not to bring children to this session.

4-Year Old Program: Parents must contact ESM to register their child in the 4-year-old pre-k program for fall 2019. Children must be 4 on or before Dec. 1, 2019. Register by contacting Maureen Burlingame, Registration/Census Clerk, at registration@esmschools.org or 315-434-3011 on school days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Age 1-3 Programs: All parents with an eligible child on the census list will be mailed an application for the 1- 2- or 3-year old program. Parents who are not sure if their child is on the census list may contact Maureen Burlingame using the information above. Enrollment is limited, so parents are encouraged to complete and return the application as soon as possible.

Visit the Program: Parents will have an opportunity to see the pre-k program in session during a pre-k "open school day" for parents (no children, please) on Thursday, April 4.

For further information on the information session or the open school day, contact Park Hill Pre-k at 315-434-3800.

Breakfast Fundraiser Planned March 9

Three Steps Forward will host a benefit breakfast Saturday, March 9 from 8-11 a.m. in the ESM Central High School cafeteria. The menu includes unlimited eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, donuts, bagels, juice, milk and coffee.

Coordinated through the ESM CHS Student Council, Three Steps Forward has collected and distributed more than \$30,000 to help people in need as well as worthy projects that "make a difference."

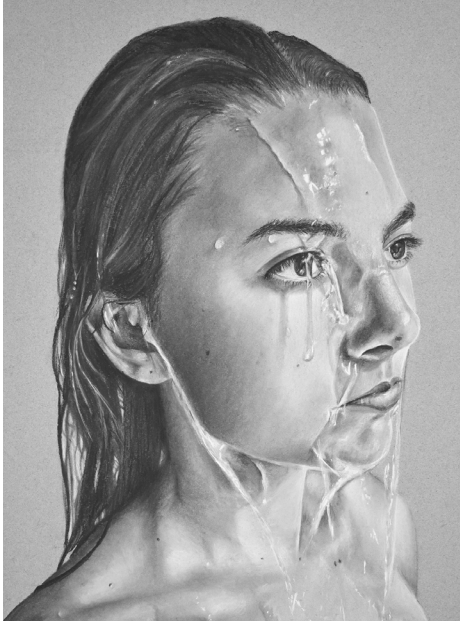
Tickets are \$7/advance \$9/at the door. Children 5 and under are free. The entry ticket will also serve as a raffle ticket for a \$50 gift card. There will also be other raffle items and music.



ESM Students Earn 133 CNY Scholastic Art Awards

ESM Central High School and Pine Grove art students were honored with 133 awards in the 2019 CNY Scholastic Art Awards competition including 31 gold keys, 53 silver keys and 44 honorable mentions and five special recognitions.

The highest-rated pieces continue on to the national Scholastic Art competition. Visit www.esmschools.org/art for a full list of winners and photos of Gold Key pieces. Students from 13 CNY counties submitted more than 5,000 works of art for judging. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the largest annual art competition in America.



Left: Allmedina Mujic won the Independent Potters' Association of CNY Award for "Best work in Ceramics & Glass, Functional Design." The piece is titled "Greece."

Above: Alexis Stone's piece "Me with Water" earned her both the Director's Award for Best Drawing and the American Visions Awards in Drawing and Illustration (Best of Show from all Gold Key winners).



Michael Sanders won the Onondaga Community College Award for Best Fine Arts Portfolio. This piece titled "Awakening" also won a Gold Key.

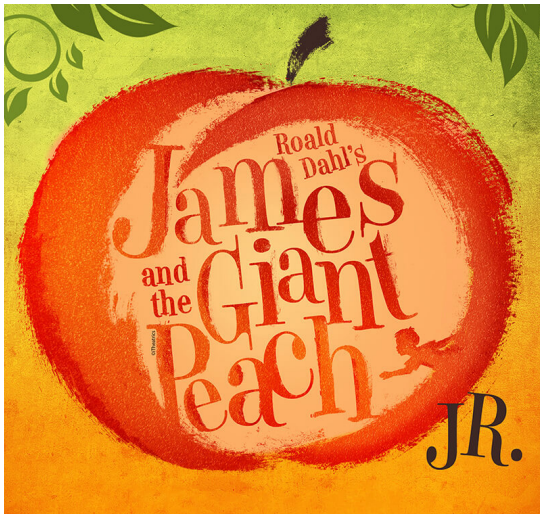


Elizabeth Henson earned the American Visions Awards in Photography for her piece "Home Sweet Home." It was the "Best of Show" from all Gold Key winners in that category.

Fremont Elementary Hosts Rockin' Reader Bowl



Fremont students took part in a schoolwide reading competition where they tracked their reading minutes at home each week. The school was divided into three teams (each with a grade K-5 classroom). Each week, the minutes were added up and posted for everyone to see who is in the lead! At the end of the month, the team with the highest reading average/student was named the Rockin' Reading Bowl Champions! To help celebrate and encourage students to read as much as possible, Fremont invited many guest speakers to read to the classes! Pictured here is Matt Hauswirth, who is an ESM alum and currently a sports reporter at CNY Central. Students read 164,067 minutes in three weeks.



Pine Grove Drama Club to Present *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*

Pine Grove Drama Club will perform *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* on March 14 and 15 at 6 p.m. in Pine Grove's Community Café & Performing Arts Center.

The plot of this musical comedy follows the plight of orphan James Henry Trotter, who is adopted by his two atrocious aunts. Subsequent events involve a mysterious visitor, magic spells, quite humane insects, and a GIANT PEACH!

Tickets are \$5 each for this family-friendly show. Ticket orders can be dropped off at the school or mailed to: Pine Grove Middle School, c/o Daniel Kringer, 101 Spartan Way, East Syracuse, NY 13057. Checks should be made payable to Pine Grove Drama Club.

Email dkringer@esmschools.org with questions. Cast list and more information: www.esmschools.org/PGmusical

Fremont 1st Graders Become Story Tellers



Fremont first graders invited their families to a special restaurant recently. The topic was story-telling and students read stories and told a story about themselves. They were presented in a "restaurant format" where parts of the story represented the appetizer, main course and dessert. The background music was from a student performance. Students

made placemats in art class. The activity was the culmination of an enhanced arts project combining classroom learning with music and art.

Buddies Make Reading More Fun at Minoa



Minoa fifth grade students have an ongoing "Reading Buddy" program. They visited their second grade reading buddies on Reading Day to play a fun "Roll and Read" game with dice.

Board Candidate Petitions Available

Anyone interested in running for the ESM Board of Education may pick up a petition at the ESM Business Office, 407 Fremont Rd., East Syracuse from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Petitions must be returned by 5 p.m., April 22 at the ESM Business Office. For more information, contact the business office at 315-434-3004.

CTE Students Earn Awards and Head to State Competition



*Isabella Allen, 1st place,
Early Childhood Education*



*Tim Crouse, 1st place,
Automotive Service Technology*



*Francesca Riccio,
1st place Cosmetology Jr.*



*Jonathan Walentowski,
1st place, Food Prep Assistant*

Nine ESM career and technical education (CTE) students will compete at the state level after earning awards at the SkillsUSA New York State Area 2 Competition at SUNY Morrisville. Five additional students who scored highest in their competition category for ESM will also head to states.

Winners included: Isabella Allen, 1st place, Early Childhood Education; Tim Crouse, 1st place Automotive Service Technology; Francesca Riccio, 1st, Cosmetology Jr. and Jonathan Walentowski, 1st in Food Prep Assistant. Also winning awards were Rachel Deyett, 3rd, Commercial Baking; Sean Timmons, 3rd, Internetworking; Stephanie Calabrese, 3rd, Food Prep Assistant and the team of Jennah Ferrari and Katie Schmidt, 3rd in Television Video Production.

Students competing at the state level who scored highest in their competition category for ESM include: Brandon Hedrick (Customer Service), Rachel Lowery (Aesthetics), Akili Dzwil (Job Demo A), Sara Bourdon (Job Demo Open) and Lauren Riihinen (Job Interview).

SkillsUSA is a national association serving students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations, and for further education.

ESM Marching Band 100+ Family Garage Sale

The ESM Spartan Marching Band will hold its annual 100+ Family Garage Sale on Saturday, April 13 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the ESM Central High School gyms. The gyms will be packed with gently used treasures. There is “early bird” access for \$5 at 7 a.m. Proceeds will help students travel to a fall destination show. If you have donations, they can be dropped off at the High School 5-7 p.m. on Friday, April 12. If you have questions or would like items picked up on or before April 12, please contact Dan Bourdon at 315-374-9141 or bourdons4@msn.com. The Band cannot accept air conditioners, tires, televisions, car seats, large appliances or liquids.

Families with Children under 5 Should Notify the District

If you are a parent/guardian of a child age 5 or under, please contact ESM to have your child put on the school census, even if your child will attend another school. This is not registration—being put on the census will ensure that you receive future information regarding pre-k and kindergarten registration. It also will help the District with long-term enrollment planning.

Please contact Maureen Burlingame, Registrar, at 315-434-3011 or registration@esmschools.org to add your child or children to the school census. If you have registered previously, but your contact information (address, phone, email) has changed, please contact the office.

Kindergarten Registration Underway for Fall 2019

Parents/guardians of children entering kindergarten at ESM in September 2019 can register their child at any time. Children entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2019.

For further information or to register your child, contact Maureen Burlingame, Registration/Census Clerk, by email to registration@esmschools.org or call 315-434-3011, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To assist the District with planning, early enrollment is encouraged.

Parents with a child currently in the 4-year-old program at Park Hill Pre-k should only contact the enrollment office if they do not plan to send their child to kindergarten at ESM. These students will automatically be enrolled into their elementary school zone.

Military & Home Front Museum Visits Pine Grove



Pine Grove students in 7th and 8th grade got a visual lesson in U.S. History. Retired U.S. Army Command Sargent Major Robert Good, left, has accumulated a large number of artifacts from the military and home front that range from the Civil War to Iraq.



Mr. Good brought a portion of his collection to the school to help bring history to life. The collection includes period uniforms, head gear, patches, military artifacts, newspapers, posters and more. In addition to classroom learning, many students were both familiar and interested in the collection because they play World War I and II themed games online.

Indoor Snowman Building



With some paper, a little glue, cotton balls and a few other materials, Park Hill students, including Kathryn Nagy had some fun making snowmen.

Woodland Students Earn Honors at Bridge Competition



Woodland students earned two awards at the CNY Bridges: Build 'Em & Bust 'Em showcase at the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST). In the Grade 4-6 category, team "Destruction Bridge Boys" (Noah Jackson, Kevin Hughes and Jacob Snow) earned 4th Place in Efficiency while team London Bridge Isn't Fallin' Down (Reese Rode, Ambree Caughill and Emily Payne) won Best Design. The challenge gives students an opportunity to test their ability in engineering, teamwork and design. Each team builds a balsa wood bridge and during the competition, judges test the strength and durability of their design.



ESM Inducts 7 Into Athletic Hall of Fame

Seven individuals were inducted into the ESM Athletic Hall of Fame. Honorees included, from left, Tyler Dattmore (Class of 2009) Golf, Craig Gilkey ('01) Football, Dan O'Shea ('01) Boys Soccer, Mark Powell (Other) Athletic Trainer, Scott Shaw ('99) Cross Country/Track and Brittany Siechen ('09) Golf. Nancy Mudge Cato (Minoa HS) Softball was inducted posthumously.

ESM Dinner and Bowl Sale March 6 Benefits Food Pantries

The East Syracuse Minoa Central High School Art Department will host its eighth biennial Empty Bowls event Wednesday, March 6 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the ESM Central High School cafeteria to benefit food pantries in the ESM community.

Handmade ceramic bowls of many sizes and designs will be available for purchase starting at \$5 each as a reminder that there are always empty bowls and hungry people in the world. A simple meal of homemade soup with bread and a beverage will also be available for a \$2 minimum donation.

Proceeds will benefit local community food pantries—St. Matthew's in East Syracuse and Heaven's Pantry in Minoa through the Food Bank of CNY. Held biennially, Empty Bowls has raised \$31,899 at its previous seven events. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to show that their art can effect positive social change. Students will also earn community service credit towards their high school graduation.

Students in Clay Club as well as staff members have spent the fall and winter creating the ceramic bowls. Media Arts students have designed tickets, posters and other marketing materials. There will also be a silent auction of special pieces. For information, call the high school at 315-434-3300 ext. 6314.

Game Night Returns March 23 for ESM Ed Foundation Dinner

The East Syracuse Minoa Education Foundation (ESMEF) will host "An Evening in Vegas" featuring a fun, casino-themed evening its annual dinner Saturday, March 23.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. at Traditions at the Links in East Syracuse. In addition to a dinner featuring food stations and an open bar, there will be casino-themed games and raffle baskets. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$700 for a table of 10.

Proceeds benefit the ESM Education Foundation. The not-for-profit, volunteer-run Foundation enhances and supports the educational experience for ESM students. To date, the Foundation has funded more than \$210,000 in grants for innovative programs at ESM that would not otherwise be funded by tax dollars or state funds.

Please RSVP no later than March 8 at mkt.com/esmef to reserve and pay online or mail checks payable to: ESM Education Foundation, c/o Susan Cain, 7352 Spring Mountain Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057.

ESMEF Board Member Susan Cain is chairing this year's event. If you have any questions or are interested in being a sponsor or donating a raffle basket, email her at scain1@twcnj.rr.com.

Let ESM Carpentry Build Your House, Addition or Other Project



ESM Carpentry students are working on a master bedroom addition. Applications are being accepted for 2019-20.

ESM Carpentry program is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Now is the time to start planning! Appropriate projects must be within the ESM school district and be sizeable enough to engage up to 20 students.

Homeowners are responsible for the cost of materials and any necessary outside contracting. Students provide free labor and require a safe learning environment. Applications and information can be obtained online at www.esmschools.org/HOUSE or by contacting Deputy Superintendent Dr. Thomas Neveldine at 315-434-3006. Please apply as soon as possible, but no later than June 1.

This year students are working on a 600 square-foot master bedroom en suite addition on Poolsbrook Road in Manlius. Students have built the exterior walls and floor framing and are currently laboring over the roof sheathing. Next up will be the tasks of shingling the roof, installing doors and windows, and siding, as well as interior walls, insulation, and drywall.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 6 Woodland PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 6 Parents' Night: College Planning Seminar, CHS, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Minoa Learning Fair Set-Up, 4 p.m.
- 6 Empty Bowls Dinner/Sale, CHS, 5:30 p.m.
- 7 Band Booster Meeting, CHS, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Fremont PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Minoa Learning Fair, 5:30-7 p.m.
- 8 Woodland Learning Fair, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 8 ESE Science Fair Exhibit (Alt Date 3/11), 6-7 p.m.
- 9 3 Steps Forward Pancake Breakfast, CHS, 8-11 a.m.
- 11 Board of Education Meeting, Minoa, 6 p.m.
- 13 Park Hill PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 13 CHS Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m.
- 14 ESE PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 14-15 Pine Grove Musical, PG, 6 p.m.
- 15 K-12 Progress Reports Posted on Student/Parent Portal
- 16 Preview of Champions Indoor Percussion Contest, CHS, 1 p.m.
- 18 Superintendent's Conference Day – No School for Students**
- 18 National College Fair, OCC, 5-7:30 p.m.
- 19 V/JV Spring Sports Parent Meeting, CHS Auditorium, 6 p.m.

- 19 National College Fair, OCC, 9-11:30 a.m.
- 19 Spring Sports Physicals, CHS, 8:30 a.m.
- 20 International Fest, PG, 6-8 p.m.
- 21-22 Minoa Musical, CHS, 6 p.m.
- 22 Park Hill PTO Family Fun Night, 5:30-7 p.m.
- 23 ESM Ed Foundation Gala/Dinner, Traditions, 6 p.m.
- 25 CHS Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
- 25 Modified Sports Begin, PG
- 28 Senior Variety Show, CHS, 7 p.m.
- 29 Districtwide Gr. 4-12 Instrumental Showcase, CHS Lg Gym, 7 p.m.
- 30 Senior Variety Show, CHS, 7 p.m.

APRIL

- 1 Board of Education Meeting, Fremont, 6 p.m.
- 2 Woodland Scholastic Book Fair (4/2-5)
- 2 Minoa PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Business Honor Society Induction, CHS, 7 p.m.
- 3 Pre-k Information Night, Park Hill, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Fremont PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Pre-k Open School Day, Park Hill
- 5 K-12 Marking Period Ends
- 8 Park Hill STEAM Night, 6 p.m.
- 9 All PTO and Parent/Administrator Leadership Mtg., CHS, 7 p.m.
- 10-11 Woodland Musical, PG, 6 p.m.

Visit www.esmschools.org for updated calendar information



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