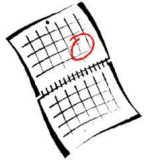

EMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 21, 2016

Ellington Middle School - 46 Middle Butcher Road - Ellington, CT 06029 - (860) 896-2339 [EMS Website](#)



Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2016

**26 Fundraiser Ends
PAC/PTO Meeting
7:00pm- Media Center**

School Counselor Corner: Cheney Tech Visits EMS

A representative from Howell Cheney Technical High School will be visiting us at Ellington Middle School on Wednesday, October 12, during X-Block.

Any 7th or 8th grader who is interested in attending this informational session **must sign up in Guidance**. Please see Mrs. Shaw or Mr. Raiola if you have any questions. For your information, applications and information can also be found at www.cttech.org/cheney.

School Counselor Corner: Rockville Vo-Ag visits Ellington Middle School

A representative from Rockville Vo-Ag will be visiting Ellington Middle School on October 12th during X-Block. Any 7th or 8th grader, who is interested in attending this informational session about Rockville Agricultural Science and Technology Program, **should sign up in Guidance**.

Please see Mrs. Shaw or Mr. Raiola if you have any questions.

Meet the New Staff

Hi, my name is Madison Lipman, and I am the new 7th grade Social Studies teacher on Team Panthers.

I am delighted to be a part of such an incredible team of students and staff here at Ellington Middle School. I am excited for the wonderful year ahead of me!

I have a Bachelor's in Secondary Social Studies Education and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction through the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. I also have an additional Bachelor's in History through UCONN. I love to travel and learn about the different cultures and people of this world, and I can't wait to pass on my passion in my classroom as we explore Africa, Latin America and the Middle East this year.

After school I spend a lot of my time at the barn, teaching horseback riding lessons, and caring for and riding my own two horses, Willy and Trooper. I compete locally and regionally when possible, and volunteer

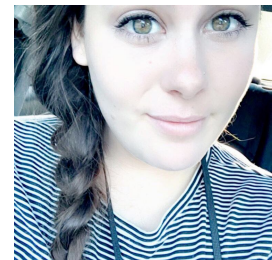
much of my time to local youth equine organizations. I also enjoy hiking with my dog, traveling back to England to see my extended family whenever possible, and getting creative with cooking in the kitchen!

I am looking forward to the new adventures that await me this year!



Hi, my name is Devan O'Brien and I am a full time paraprofessional at Ellington Middle School this year. Before I came to EMS I worked at the high school part time. I am very excited for this school year.

I am a mother of a 15 month old boy named Xavier. He is always keeping me busy. I also am a part time student at Charter Oak State college. I am working towards my bachelor's degree in Child Study. I am always busy but when I do have free time I enjoy watching new tv series.



Meet the New Staff continued...

Hi, my name is Jaime Shea and I am teaching seventh grade language arts at Ellington Middle School this year. I am new to the Ellington community and consider myself fortunate to be a part of such a great school and community!

I graduated from the University of Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies, and went straight back to school for my graduate degree. I received my certification and master's degree in Education from Saint Joseph University. While this is my first year at Ellington Middle School, it is not my first year teaching; I have spent the last eight years teaching sixth and seventh grade in Hartford.

My husband, Chris, and I have a one year old son named Ryan who keeps us very busy; I can't believe how much he has changed in the last year! We also have a dog named Bailey. Between my family and school, I have more than enough to keep me busy. However, when I get the chance, I love to travel and read for pleasure.

I am very much looking forward to be working with an enthusiastic staff and wonderful community in Ellington.



Athletics Reminder from Mrs. Balnis, A.D.

Attention Wildcat fans! The Soccer and Cross Country seasons have begun! Just a few things to remember for athletes and fans alike!

Here at Ellington we P.R.I.D.E. ourselves on our sportsmanship. Please remember that these are games, while competitive, should never be mean-spirited. Any comments should be positive and the referees should be respected. All the athletes are giving their best, the referee's job is not easy, and they are human!



If a student would like to stay after school to watch a game, please send in a signed note the morning of the game. The note needs to be received in the office at the end of homeroom. Phone calls and emails are not permitted, as we want students to plan ahead and be responsible. In addition, we cannot accept notes after homeroom as coverage for the after school study hall must be arranged. Students are not allowed to leave school grounds between the end of the school day and the game. If a student leaves the grounds during the game, they are not permitted to return to school grounds without a parent or guardian.

Game schedules can be found on the [CIAC website](#) and you can receive email or text notification of schedule changes by [subscribing here](#).

Hope to see you at a game or meet this Fall season! GO WILDCATS!

Student Council News

Students who are running for office have officially begun campaigning around the building! Here are some reminders about the Student Council Elections:



1. Students who are running for office are allowed to create a maximum of 5 posters. The posters need to be approved prior to being hung around the building.
2. Students may not pass out candy or any other food items to promote themselves. Pencils, stickers, and other costly promotional items are also not allowed.
3. Students are not allowed to use school technology (gmail, social media, Chromebooks) to campaign.
4. Campaign speeches are due to Mrs. Reynolds by Wednesday, September 28th.
5. The EMS Student Council elections will be held Friday, September 30th. If your child is running please encourage them to practice their speech so that they are able to maintain eye contact and speak in a clear, loud voice. You may want to encourage them to dress nicely too.

If there are any questions about the EMS Student Council elections please contact Mrs. Reynolds at extension 137.

School Counseling Corner

The search is on for Ellington Middle School students who complete volunteer work!

Does your child want \$1,000? DO THEY VOLUNTEER? If so, then we want to hear from you!!!! We invite all 7th and 8th grade students who do volunteer work to apply for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Students who complete the application may not only qualify for recognition on a school and State-wide level, but may also qualify for an unrestricted award of up to \$1,000 (*which may be spent anyway that you choose*), an engraved medallion and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent to Washington, D. C. National Honorees receive an additional \$5,000, engraved gold medallions and crystal trophies for their schools.

Information about the award and the application is posted outside the Guidance Office. Please encourage them to stop in to see Mrs. Shaw for information or go directly to <http://spirit.prudential.com> to fill out the ON LINE application.

The deadline for submitting your completed application for certification is November 8, 2016.

We are proud of the volunteer work that our students do and we want to recognize them for a job well done!

Please have your student apply for a 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Award!

EMS Student Council Elections

WHEN: Thursday, September 15th thru Friday, September 30th

WHERE: On the bulletin board outside the Nurse's Office

WHO: President (8th grader only)
Vice-President (one 8th grader)
7th grade Vice-President (7th grader only)
Secretary (8th grader only)
Treasurer (8th grader only)
Social Chairman (8th grader only)

Students can also campaign to be a homeroom representative (no form required)



OTHER:

- Students need to fill out a "Running for Office" sheet and return it to Mrs. Reynolds by Friday, September 23rd – late forms will not be accepted!
- No student can begin campaigning without this form!
- Speeches due by end of X block on Wednesday, September 28th
- The elections will be held on Friday, September 30th

REMINDER:

- All Student Council meetings will be held on Wednesdays after school-approximately once a month. Students will be asked to stay after until 3:15 pm.
- Any student considering running for an elected position needs to be aware of the Wednesday meeting date; there are currently no late busses provided by EMS for after-school transportation.
- Contact person: Mrs. Reynolds-ext. 137

Summer Reading Raffle



Our summer reading raffle has officially begun! Students have begun to receive one

ticket for every book they read over the summer. They can then place those tickets into a raffle for a variety of prizes from gift certificates, to dance vouchers, to books, and lots more! Students will have from Wednesday, September 14th until Friday, September 23rd to put their tickets into the raffle bins in the library/media center. Then the drawing of tickets will begin on Monday, September 26th! The two golden ticket prizes for this year are a Chromebook and a pair of BEATS headphones. Good luck to all students and stay tuned to the newsletter to learn how many books EMS students read over the summer!

Shoebboxes for Science

If you have shoeboxes you're not using please send them in to school with your child. Seventh grade science students soon will be investigating thermal energy and we need at least 105 shoeboxes! Thank you for your support and in a few weeks ask your 7th grader how they might be able to help keep your heating bills down this winter.



EMSPTO News

EMSPTO is looking for volunteers to chair the concession stand, the raffle, and the publicity for the Craft and Vendor Fair. The fair will be held on November 12 and is our one big fundraiser for the school. In the past, proceeds from the fair and from membership have helped purchase smart boards, Chromebooks, and a new sound system for the auditorium. This year we hope to help fund a "maker space" in the library. If you can help, please contact Brenda at EMSFair@gmail.com.

Google Help for Parents

Hey parents, need help navigating Google? Check out our parent page for videos on how to login to your student's google account and navigate the different apps.

http://ellingtonschools.org/blog/?page_id=127

Feel free to sign into your child's google account anytime to keep up to date on what is going on in class.

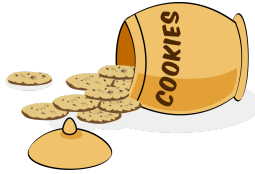


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Otis Spunkmeyer® and Lyman Orchards® Fundraiser

Our Cookie Dough and Crisps fundraiser has been extended to Monday, September 26th! *This fundraiser is a great opportunity for your student to earn credit that will reduce the cost of his/her Washington, D.C. field trip. Credits for seventh grade students will be added to credits they earn in eighth grade. Remember - sell 20 or more items to get an extra \$25 credit, and every 5 items sold after 20 gets your student an extra \$10 credit.* Please stop in the main office if you need another order form. Thank you for your support!



STEM Programs After School



Register now for EV3 Mindstorms Robotics program and the Young Inventors' Club. Please see the flyer for more information about both

programs: [After School Flyer](#)

Registration is available on the district website

www.ellingtonpublicschools.org

Box Tops for Education

A reminder that Ellington Middle School participates in the Box Tops for Education program. Send your box tops in with your child so that EMS can collect the money. This money funds programs that are important to our school including the purchase of technology for students and teachers. The program runs all year long and accepts box tops from the partial list of products below. If you have any questions, please contact the school.



Old El Paso Dinner Kits
Cheerios
Pillsbury Refrigerated Products
Green Giant Frozen Vegetables
Total Cereals
Viva Paper Towels
AND MANY OTHER PRODUCTS