

## School Notebook

by Jack L. Eckdahl, *Principal*  
*Ellenville High School*

The *Ellenville High School* continues to seek excellence in its endeavor to provide the very best education possible for the students of Ellenville. We are always improving our positive climate, student achievement, and communication with parents, security, and safety of our building and students, and our environment for learning. We want our environment to be one where each student has a chance to reach his or her potential and be able to realize strategies and skills to help achieve a happy and successful life. Education is a life long journey and we need to all work together for our children/ students to be triumphant. The following are only a few of the excellent activities are students are involved in:

### Night School

With the change in the standards, the testing program, and graduation requirements, the High School will be adding review classes to help students “brush up” for the Regents exams at the end of the year. The first review class, for the Math A exam, will be offered on Monday nights by Mrs. Barbara Hufnagel. Students and parents can contact the *High School Student Support Center* to register for the class, **647-0138**.

### Chess League


The Mid-Hudson Chess League saw Ellenville victorious on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> as the team made a CLEAN SWEEP in winning all nine games against area schools. Congratulations to Matt Blauvelt, Jesse Hall, and Ed Wendel for a great job and demonstrating great “thinking skills.” The team advisor is Mrs. Marjorie Simon.

### National Honor Society

Students from the National Honor Society have been very active in providing community service this year. They had a very successful coat drive, donating abundance of coats for our community. They also sponsored a “coffee house” in the cafeteria as area talent shared their expertise. Community members enjoyed beverages and baked goods as they enjoyed the evening.

### Performing Arts Academy

The *Performing Arts Academy* is a school-within-a-school where talented students receive extensive training in one of three performing arts: dance, theater, or music. On February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the students went to New York City to witness first hand the working of a theater. Students not only attended a play but also were able to go behind the stage to talk to the production staff.

For more information, call the *Ellenville High School* at **647-0123**, or visit the district website at: [www.ecs.k12.ny.us](http://www.ecs.k12.ny.us) 

## Musical Notes

by Dion Placencia, *Music Teacher*  
*Ellenville Middle School*

*Maynard Ferguson* and his *Big Bop Nouveau Band* are coming to Ellenville! The legendary jazz trumpet master is performing at the **Ellenville High School Auditorium on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 PM.**

For those of you who have never heard of Maynard Ferguson, he is a world-class jazz musician who made a name for himself playing with the Stan Kenton Orchestra in 1950. He then worked as a studio musician with Paramount Pictures, playing the music of a popular film, *The Ten Commandments*, and he was featured with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in 1955.



In the 60s and 70s, he spent time performing in Spain, England, and India. Returning to the U.S. led him to his recording of the theme from the motion picture *Rocky* (“Gonna Fly Now” - Columbia) in 1978 off his golden album “Conquistador,” earning him a Grammy nomination.

In the 80s, Maynard put together a fusion band that later formed into his Big Bop Nouveau Band. This band was made up of young musicians (at that time) such as Don Ellis, Chuck Mangione, Bill Chase, Wayne Shorter, Chick Corea, Bop James, and Peter Erskine, to name a few. In 1995, Maynard signed with Concord Records to record and produce albums such as “These Cats Can Swing,” “Brass Attitude,” “Big City Rhythms”(1999), and “Swingin’ For Schuur”(2001). Ferguson is currently on the road performing with his band at many jazz clubs, concert halls, festivals, and universities around the world.

You may be wondering why he is coming to Ellenville. This will be the first concert that the *High School Performing Arts Academy* will be sponsoring. If all goes well, the Academy has hopes of developing a concert series that will be used for fundraisers. The Music Department is striving to bring well-known musicians, dancers, and actors into the community, to perform as well as interact with the 