

WINTER 2022

# outreach

"There is always light  
if only we're brave  
enough to see it.  
If only we're brave  
enough to be it."

**Amanda Gorman**

American Poet and Activist



**EA** education  
alternatives

## IMPORTANT DATES

**PRESIDENT'S DAY**

February 21

**SPRING BREAK**

March 21-25

**GOOD FRIDAY/NO SCHOOL**

April 15

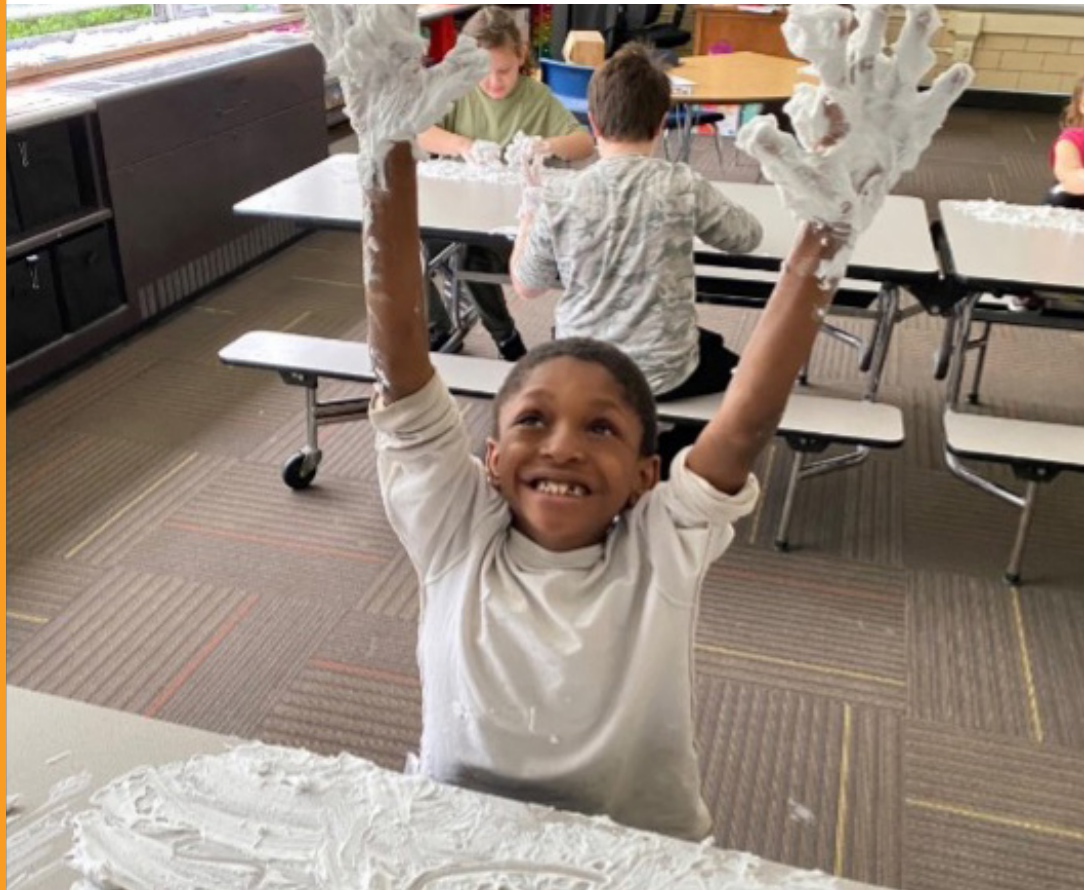
**NO SCHOOL**

April 18

## The EA community is brighter together.

This winter, Education Alternatives campuses were able to return to many much-loved holiday traditions together as a school community. Staff and students from multiple locations were able to celebrate Thanksgiving together and host their annual holiday gift exchange.. Although these traditions look different as we continue to use appropriate caution when gathering, we were heartened to see the true spirit of community and mutual support remains strong in our buildings. These traditions are an important part of our identity, and they help to establish and maintain safety, predictability, and fun.

EA schools use safety, predictability, and fun to help students make progress – predictable routines can help with emotional regulation, safety allows students to establish trust in their teachers, and fun ensures they remain engaged throughout the day. At EA, everything we do is an intentional piece of healing and growth for our students. This winter, we came together in many settings, for many reasons, to celebrate and uplift one another. In the following pages, you will see the many smiles and laughs along the way as our students progressed academically, interpersonally, and on their individual emotional wellness journeys. As always, we thank you as a part of our broader school community – parents, staff, administrators, and district partners – for making our mission of healthy children and healthy communities possible every day.

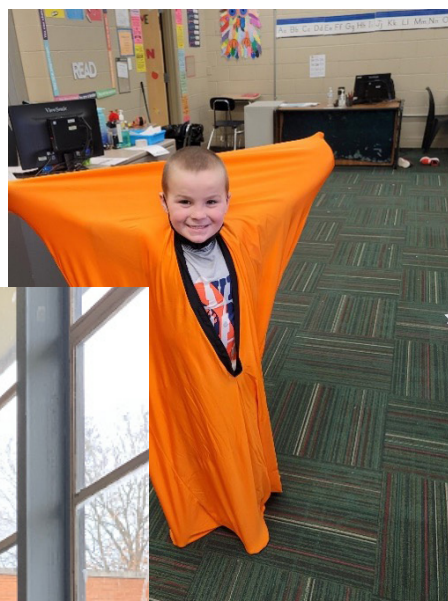


Find us on Facebook for a full list of upcoming events.

# What's going on at EA?



Above: Students observe Omphalocele Awareness Day.



Above: Elyria student dresses up in class. Center: Springfield student poses in sunglasses.



Above: Cuyahoga Falls student builds a model propeller.



Above: Springfield students open holiday gifts.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### REACH Expansion

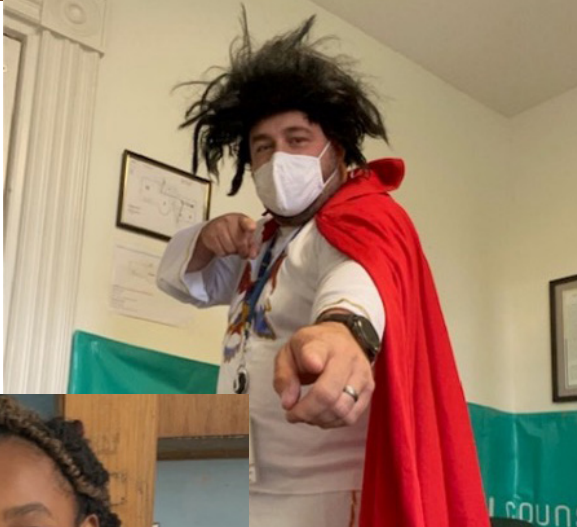
REACH Behavioral Health works within EA schools to provide individual and group therapy to our students. REACH offers this same compassionate, empathic care to members of the community. In 2022, REACH is planning to open two new outpatient counseling locations - **one in Cleveland's Westpark neighborhood** and **one in Ravenna, serving Portage County**. Opening in late spring, these new locations will help bring REACH's unique model of mental health to more of Northeast, Ohio. The new counseling center offers services ranging from individual and family counseling and psychiatry to child and adolescent and couples counseling.

Experienced, caring therapists apply the same concepts used in our schools to **help community members achieve healing and growth**. Services are open to the entire community, regardless of whether they are affiliated with EA schools.



Left: Elyria students dress as elves and reindeer for younger students.

Right: Painesville director Shaun Troup shows off an Elvis Halloween costume.

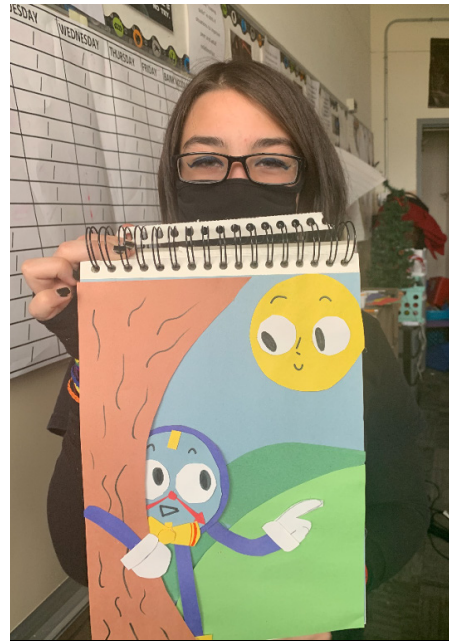


Left: A Ravenna student practices phonics in shaving cream.



# What's going on at EA?





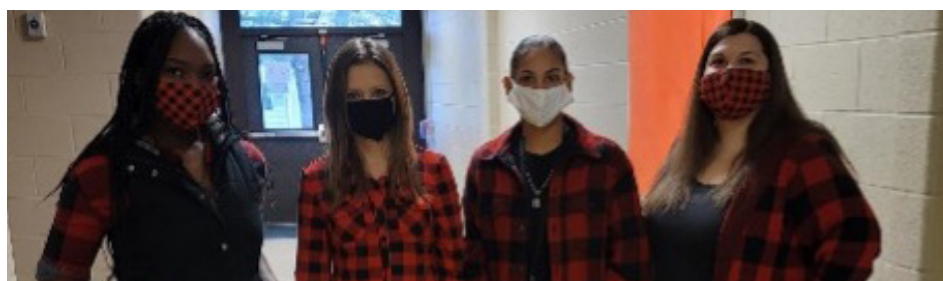
# Milestones and more.

## Holiday Donations.

EA would like to thank all of our donors for supporting our holiday mission of ensuring every student received a gift from their wish list.

While some donors asked to remain anonymous, EA would like to acknowledge:

Pancho's Southwestern Grille  
Frank and Diana Mulac  
Midwest Utility Sales and Marketing  
McMaster-Carr Supply Company  
Southeast Church of the Nazarene  
North Coast Elite Painting Service  
Summit Racing Equipment  
Hardwick Standard Distribution  
Dennis and Sue Thrasher



# Director Spotlight

## Michael Horning

When EA Ravenna Building Director began his teaching career, he wanted to teach social studies. It wasn't until he was assigned an "inclusion class" with special education students that he began to explore learning more about special education. "I really liked the class. When I moved .. the district was changing their model and wanted teachers to take kids who were on the ED unit... I volunteered because I'd liked it so much during student teaching, and I never looked back." Horning pursued his Master's degree with a specialty in Emotional Disturbance and kept going. Starting at EA as a teacher, he was intrigued by administrative opportunities yet was concerned he wasn't ready. An sudden opening gave him an opportunity to lead a building on a temporary basis. Horning quickly found he had a passion and talent for leadership ,mentoring teachers and creating a school culture.

He continued in the role, and 5 years later he leads EA's largest school building. Horning says, "I don't miss the classroom. I love teaching, but my role has shifted. When I taught, I only affected the kids in my four walls ... Now my impact is within my whole building, with my teachers," he explains. "I'll watch a lesson and see pieces and parts of what I've taught them. I feel like my presence and what we set the culture here emanates now throughout the school community. I can see it in the families and students ... Now the building is my classroom."

Horning takes that responsibility very seriously. He feels deeply for his students and teachers because he is connected to the community. "The house where I grew up is a 12 minute drive from my building," he shares. "There is nothing better than going back and making a difference because you remember how things were when you grew up." Horning remembers a lack of robust services for students who were struggling when he went to school. He believes the future can be brighter. "I was from Portage County. I know that there was a lack of services for our kids. I want this county and the people around us to understand we're invested.."

While Horning's boundless energy extends to expanding services and launching more community mental health services (in partnership with REACH Behavioral Health), he never loses sight of the day-to-day. "I think the most rewarding part for me is when you have a student who really struggled and you sit down with them and they have a smile and they're just happy to come to school, they're accepted, they feel safe, they have a good time." When asked how he manages to do all this, Horning is quick to give all the credit to his staff. "My staff is just great, they come in every day, they work really hard, and it really is a big family down here," he explains. "No matter how hard the day was, we can always smile at the end of it."

To learn more about EA services in Ravenna, visit us online at

[easchools.org/locations/Ravenna](https://easchools.org/locations/Ravenna).

[easchools.org](https://easchools.org)



Michael Horning, Ravenna.



**EA** education  
alternatives

5445 Smith Rd.  
Brook Park, OH 44124

## LOCATIONS

### **BEDFORD**

270 Union Street  
Bedford, OH 44146  
440.232.0214

### **BROOK PARK**

5555 Smith Road  
Brook Park, OH 44142  
216.453.1111

### **CUYAHOGA FALLS**

1225 Orlen Avenue  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221  
330.945.4944

### **ELYRIA**

333 Naples Drive  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440.324.1168

### **PAINESVILLE**

273 E. Jackson Street  
Painesville, OH 44077  
440.709.0053

### **RAVENNA**

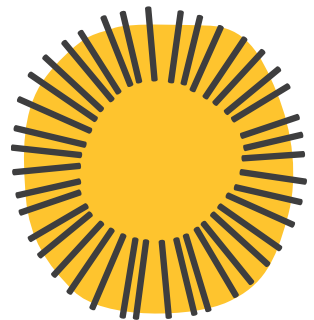
310 Bennett Avenue  
Ravenna, Ohio 44266  
330.839.9966

### **SPRINGFIELD**

2141 Pickle Rd.  
Akron, OH 44312  
234.867.8260

### **WILLOUGHBY HILLS**

2882 Cricket Lane  
Willoughby Hills, OH 44092  
440.347.0716



Education Alternatives is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that serves children of all ages with emotional and behavioral disabilities through specialized educational and mental health services.

[easchools.org](http://easchools.org)