



WINTER 2024 ISSUE

Buckeye Brief

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER OF THE
BUCKEYE CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Update



Mark Robinson, Superintendent

A new calendar year brings excitement and hope. What I love most about Buckeye Central, however, is that every day is filled with this excitement and hope, no matter the time of year. Beginning with our dedicated Board of Education, whom we recently celebrated during School Board Recognition Month, to our staff, who never cease to amaze me with their innovative ideas

for reaching and teaching students, to our students themselves, I get daily reminders of why I went into education.

Preparing our students for success involves the right balance of academic and social-emotional development. In recent months, our students have demonstrated how much they are growing in every aspect of their educational experience. You will read throughout this newsletter about the hands-on learning taking place in our classrooms, the progress we are making in behavioral outcomes thanks to our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programming, the impact our co- and extracurricular activities are having on student creativity and leadership, and what can happen when we partner with one another, inside and outside of our school buildings.

As we head toward the finish line of this school year, I'm confident that Buckeye Central will continue to be a place where excitement and hope blossom each day. Let's keep working together, celebrating successes, and fostering an environment where every student can reach their full potential.

Mark Robinson
Superintendent

Schools, Community Come Together to Support Those in Need

Buckeye Central would like to thank our students, families and local organizations for all of the ways they came together to support our community during the Christmas season.

St. Bernard's Giving Tree supported 18 families (47 kids). The Giving Tree has been supporting Buckeye Central families for more than 15 years.

Buckeye Central students collected five barrels of canned food for the Salvation Army.

Nazareth Lutheran Church adopted a Buckeye Central family, providing them with a holiday meal as well as gifts. Gifts for 15 families were collected through the second annual Buckeye Central Community Toy Drive. This was a joint effort between Bloom Township Volunteer Fire Department, Chatfield Volunteer Fire Department, Tiro-Auburn Volunteer Fire Department and the New

Washington Fire Department with additional assistance from CSX. Gifts from the drive were also given to the Salvation Army and The Piggyback Foundation, an agency that helps families maintain a sense of normalcy during times of serious illness by assisting in meeting the emotional, educational and physical needs of children.

Buckeye Central Elementary students did some shopping with our local heroes, including representatives from the Ohio Highway Patrol, New Washington Police and New Washington Fire/EMS. Students enjoyed rides around New Washington in patrol cars and fire trucks.



Quiz Bowl Finishes Season Strong

Buckeye Central's Quiz Bowl placed second in their end-of-the-season tournament and finished the season first in their division. They also received an invitation to the Small School State Quiz Bowl Tournament in March and earned a bid to the Small School National Quiz Bowl Tournament held in Chicago, Illinois, in April. Congratulations!



LEGO Masters Buckeye Central Edition

Second grade Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) students are working with Mrs. Caudill, Mrs. Darling and Mrs. Wilde on winter-themed LEGO builds. They are learning the importance of collaboration as they work with a partner to build a mug, sled, snowman, igloo or fireplace, and they must diagram their project from a top and side view.



Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring and Buckeye Central Partner for Third Straight Year

Buckeye Central Schools has once again partnered with Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring, a program aimed at supporting youth in our community. Our program is especially unique in that our very own high school students serve as mentors to our elementary students.

This year, five first graders and 11 third graders are being mentored. They receive support and encouragement from high schoolers who participate in the Teen Leadership Corp or who are taking college credits. The experience of mentoring helps high school students be accountable and improves their relationship and leadership skills, ultimately building their confidence.

It's a win-win for everyone!

"Working with littles is a great opportunity because the feeling you get when you see their faces light up when they see you is amazing and knowing that you mean something to them."

-Nevah Metzger

"Every Tuesday when we go to meet our littles, their faces brighten. I love the connections with our littles because they look up to us and can ask for help anytime."
-Malahnja Auck

"Mentoring is a great experience! It's great to have the opportunity to help kids learn and build meaningful relationships with high school students. It's so impactful to watch the kids grow and develop over the course of the year! It's truly been a great experience for me that I've thoroughly enjoyed."
-Cory Biglin



Students Embrace 'The Outsiders' Through Costumes, Movie Premiere

Eighth grade English Language Arts students spent the second nine weeks reading and studying "The Outsiders." To wrap up the unit, they dressed up either as a "greaser" or "soc" and watched the movie premier the day before winter break. What a fun way to reinforce what students are learning!



Students Put Bow on Staff Holidays

In December, the Buckeye Central Middle School Honors Club collected bows, wrapping paper and tags through a fundraiser. With the materials, they offered gift wrapping to teachers and staff to make their holidays a little easier. That's a wrap!



Holiday Events at the Elementary

Buckeye Central Elementary held several events before winter break, creating lasting memories for both students and staff! Events included:

- A schoolwide singalong, complete with gifts and a visit from Santa
- House games where the Blue House was the big winner
- Watching a holiday movie
- A performance by kindergarten students
- A Santa Shop sponsored by the PTO where students could shop for loved ones
- An Earth Dome learning experience, sponsored by the PTO
- Spelling bee competition for third and fourth graders
- A Salvation Army canned food drive
- A homemade breakfast for staff

Don't Eat Me! Having Fun With Lessons

There is something about involving gingerbread men in lessons that makes them more fun. In December, eighth grade students developed argumentative essays from the perspective of a gingerbread man. The assignment challenged students to argue why they believed they shouldn't be eaten this holiday season!



They had to include a thesis statement with supporting evidence and use new vocabulary. They also got the chance to design and color their gingerbread men.



Mentorship Activities

Build Connection Among Students

Sixth graders participated in three mentorship activities to wrap up 2023. For the first project, they paired up with first graders to create a holiday placemat for residents of New Washington Senior Center and other area nursing homes. Students described some of their holiday favorites using pictures and words and decorated recycled Christmas cards. The placemats were laminated and distributed for use.

Students also created macrame reindeer. This time around, students worked with kindergarteners to develop macrame braiding skills, cooperative learning and following directions. Kindergarten students took their reindeer home to hang on their tree or gave them away as gifts. All materials for this project were purchased through a grant awarded by the Buckeye Central Endowment Committee.

Sixth graders wrapped up their month of mentorship by completing an entire morning's worth of activities alongside second grade students. They rotated through three stations: a holiday math game involving double-digit addition and subtraction story problems, traveling around the world with a passport to learn how different parts of the world celebrate the holidays, and building snowball catapults.



Buckeye Central Introduces Robotics Tournament

Buckeye Central hosted its first BuckBot Holiday Bash robotics tournament in December. Nearly 30 teams from across the state participated and the winning team earned a bid to the Ohio State Robotics Championship in Marion in March.

Thank you to all of our staff and community members who volunteered to make sure this was an event to remember!



Students Taking Advantage of LRC

Our Learning Resource Center is a big hit with students! Each morning, students gather to hang out and relax while enjoying breakfast or coffee from the Bucks Cup Cafe. Mrs. Auck recently hung planets and placed books on the solar system throughout the space as well. Students enjoyed learning more about the planets and even checked out a few of the books to read at home!



Science Students Connecting Lessons

Seventh grade science students have been learning about biogeochemical cycles that process matter on Earth, the Law of Conservation of Matter, and how to compare photosynthesis' output to the input of cellular respiration and vice versa.

They created presentations to demonstrate how these processes are connected and how they balance one another. Well done science stars!



PBIS Promotes Positive Behaviors

PBIS, or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, is aimed at promoting school safety and positive behavior. The program is used at our Bitty Bucks Preschool as well as elementary school and encourages students to follow the three R's - Respectful, Responsibility and Ready - no matter where they are in the school or what they are doing.

Parents and guardians can reinforce these concepts at home too! You can:

- Encourage your child to be respectful by taking turns with siblings and caregivers and by using their manners at meal times.
- Teach them to be responsible by cleaning up after themselves and packing their bookbags.
- Reinforce the importance of being ready by asking your child to try to do things on their own before asking for help.



Preschool Registration Now Open

Buckeye Central opened its Bitty Bucks Preschool in 2021. Every detail of this state-of-the-art school was designed to meet the unique needs of Buckeye Central's youngest learners.

Our program provides play-based, developmentally appropriate activities in a safe and nurturing environment for children ages 3-5. Children with special needs learn alongside typically developing peers throughout most of the day. Our teachers are highly qualified with dual licensing in Early Childhood Education and Preschool Special Needs, and we earned the coveted five-star Step Up to Quality rating in our first year of operation. This program recognizes childcare programs that exceed minimum health and safety licensing regulations.

Please see the application schedule below and visit the Parent Resources tab on the website at buckeye-central.org to register.

Jan. 22 - Feb. 5

Current preschool students and siblings

Feb. 12-26

All in-district families

March 4-18

Open enrollment for out-of-district families



A Spotlight on a District Necessity: 2023 UTILITIES

Did you know that Buckeye Central Schools encompass 200,000 square feet of building space? Here's a look at what this means for our utility costs, which have increased by approximately 4% over the past few years.



Electric
\$145,888



Water
\$16,400



Gas
\$22,170



Phone/Internet
\$29,844

TOTAL
\$214,302

Health Partners Provide Free Dental Service

Health Partners of Western Ohio is a school-based dental program benefitting Buckeye Central students. Earlier this school year, they provided 43 exams to students who opted in. Their goal is to provide annual cleanings and preventative services at no cost to our community's students as regular dental care plays an important role in our overall health. Students receive cleanings, sealants and dental exams during their visit.

Additionally, Health Partners has an office in Tiffin, so students who need dental work that is not offered in the mobile unit can visit the office or get a referral to a local office, whichever the family chooses.

The mobile unit will next offer appointments at Buckeye Central in the fall of 2024. Information will be sent home with students and emails will go out to families with dates and how to sign up.



Turkey Trot Hosted by Buckeye Central

All students in grades K-6 in Mrs. McCune's physical education class participated in the first-ever Turkey Trot last November. Each grade level had two races, one for boys and one for girls. Students could also opt to cheer for racers vs. completing the course themselves. The course ran around the baseball and softball fields, and winners of each race received a T-shirt.

Mrs. McCune hopes to make this an annual event and to include parents and community members in the future.

Alumni Offer Advice to Seniors Through Panel

Each year, our high school counselor invites alumni to speak with the senior class about their journey since graduating. On Jan. 5, students enjoyed a pizza lunch while hearing about what has surprised alumni, what has gone well, what could have gone better, and alumni offer general advice and wisdom for students about to embark on their future.



Alumni share insights into what life post-graduation is like. From left to right: Adam Heydinger, class of 2010, Nick Kalb, class of 2011, Faith Raines, class of 2023, Garrett Vaughn, class of 2023, Stella Betts, class of 2022, Allison Stahl, class of 2019, Kendra Stahl, class of 2018, Alex Rowlinson, class of 2018, and Grant Shook, class of 2019.

Staying Active, Breaking World Records

Last November, our fifth and sixth grade physical education students had the unique opportunity to be part of breaking a World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA) world record through an event called Stack Up.

The students completed a variety of sport stacking stations, such as racing one another, building things together, timing themselves, and recording their results. They joined 746,698 other people at various locations around the world for the event.



Shop Gets New Technology

Shop students are taking advantage of new equipment, including a handheld CNC router and a shaper origin, to build a bedside table.



Congratulations to the top three finishers in each grade level.

Kindergarten girls:

Ella Larson, Amelia Schirack and Alaina Gottfried

Kindergarten boys:

Owen Clady, Wilson Kaple and Kieran Fortney

First grade girls:

Becca Kraft, Hailey Nims and Oakleigh Schultz

First grade boys:

Jace Feichtner, Cole Lyons and Ezra Rohrbach

Second grade girls:

Laramie Weaver, Karlie Schultz and Brooke Schindler

Second grade boys:

Luke Kraft, Braxton Kaple and Rowan Tidabach

Third grade girls:

Amelia Wiles, Aaliyah Green and Dalylah Lutz

Third grade boys:

Jaxson Karl, Isaac Cottrill and Mason Marshall

Fourth grade girls:

Avery Weatherbie, Amelia Tidabach and Bella Metzger

Fourth grade boys:

Ethan Bogner, Brantley Green and Seth Ranker

Fifth grade girls:

Charlie Sherman, Vanessa Perry and Brylee Warnecke

Fifth grade boys:

John Curry, Charlie Humpheries and Joe Cline

Sixth grade girls:

Arianna Briggs, Tessa Stahl and Ellie Caudill

Sixth grade boys:

Evan Fishpaw, Jackson Earnest and Zane Baxter



Buckeye Central Local School District

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BuckeyeCentralSchool



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Upcoming Testing Dates

Junior ACT
March 12

**English Language
Arts State Testing**
(grades 3-8 and 11)
April 17-18

**Science State
Testing**
(grades 5, 8 and
Biology students)
April 24-25

**Math State
Testing**
(grades 3-8,
Algebra 1 and
Geometry students)
May 1-2

**Social Studies
State Testing**
(American History
students)
May 7

Attendance is important every day, but especially during state testing as our staff work hard to create an optimal testing environment.

School Board Celebrated During School Board Recognition Month



Each January, we applaud our Board of Education during School Board Recognition Month. This year's theme, Launching Our Next Generation, highlights their tremendous work. Our board plays an essential role in educating our students and making our community the best it can be. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to Buckeye Central!

Left to Right:

Adam Dallas, Jerome Heydinger - Vice President,
Lisa Aichholz - President, Mike Kalb, and Chris Martin