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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

# The Eagle Examiner

**MARCH 2022** *Our mission is to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential.*

## A MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT MARK COOPER

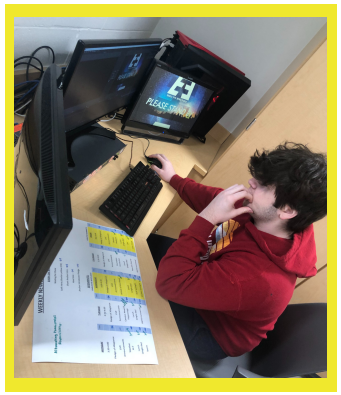
Our superintendent's message last month introduced our new District podcast, and now it's available! It has been a wonderful experience working with our high school students throughout season 1. Please take a moment to listen and learn more about our schools, District goals, and our mission to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential.

We have also used this publication as a way of sharing information around each of our District goals. This month, Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk shares some insights within Goal 4: Demonstrate Financial Responsibility. Our hope is that you will find this article helpful in learning more about the fiscal management of our schools.

Enjoy the pictures and articles in the pages ahead. I wish each of you a happy and healthy spring season!

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW BIG WALNUT PODCAST

Join us for Season 1 - State of the Schools - where we discuss all of the happenings at Big Walnut Local Schools. Scan the QR code, visit bwls.net/podcast.aspx, or any place you listen to podcasts, every Tuesday and Thursday for new episodes. Listen to our principals and directors share what makes Big Walnut so great! Thank you to our BWHS Video II class for all their work producing this podcast!



*Student hosts, Taylor and Ella*

We're excited that our students will be taking over and hosting Season 2. Have a suggestion, or want to hear more about a topic? Email podcast@bwls.net.

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Doug Crowl

Greetings,

Spring has sprung - and with it we can leave the cold and dark days of winter a distant memory. I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for bestowing upon me the honor of serving as the Board President this year. While issuing “thank yous”, I would like to thank all of the students and staff for persevering through the trials and tribulations that we have faced over the last two years. A very special thank you to our bus drivers, who were affected the longest by being the last to have the mask mandate lifted.

Though I am thankful for all of the employees of the district the transportation employees are sometimes the most unsung heroes in their ranks. After all, the drivers are responsible for the safe transportation of someone else’s most treasured children. A responsibility that a lot of people just couldn't bring themselves to do one time, let alone daily. And after all, the drivers do make “the wheels on the bus go round and round”.

**Alice Nicks, Angela Graziosi, President Doug Crowl, Sherri Dorsch, Vice President Stephen P. Fujii**

My last thank you goes out to the Big Walnut community at large, for having the faith and confidence in me by granting me a second term on the Big Walnut Board of Education. I will strive to never let you down. The mission remains the same: provide the best opportunities to the children of the Big Walnut community, so they can personally excel with their education during their time in our care. Thereby creating the next generation of well educated, mature, caring and patriotic citizens for our community to have the utmost pride in. After all, WE ARE BIG WALNUT!

## February's STUDENTS & ARTISTS OF THE MONTH

**Student of the Month:**
Abigail Abraham, from Big Walnut Elementary School, is pictured with her family

**Artist of the Month:**
Gabby Jagger, from Big Walnut Elementary School, is pictured with her family

**Student of the Month:**
Savannah Smith, from Big Walnut High School, is pictured with her family

**Artist of the Month:**
Alexa DeGenova from Big Walnut High School

Distribution of this information does not necessarily mean endorsement or support by the Big Walnut Local School District but is provided as a public service.

1:00- AGES 0-3 1:15- AGES 4-7 1:30- AGES 8-10

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH FROM 11-1:30PM

EASTER EGG HUNT

GENERAL ROSECRANS ELEMENTARY

KIDS FROM AGES 0-10 CAN JOIN US FOR FOOD TRUCKS, GAMES, INFLATABLES, AN EGG HUNT AND PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY FROM 11-1.

Big Walnut CMC Association · City North Church · Sunbury Nazarene · Sunbury Christian · Lions International · Harlem Road Church · Vineyard Church Delaware County

# MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

## Angela Graziosi

**Township/Village**
Galena

**Occupation**
Jet Aircraft Instructor

**Family**
I am proudly married to my husband and have three very active children.

**Why did you choose to serve on the BW Board of Education?**

As a mother I wanted to become more involved in the community and my children's school. I feel my broad and unique background would bring a fresh perspective to the board. Also to help our children reach their maximum potential and excellence in education.

**What makes you most proud of our district?**

Seeing our amazing students out and about in the community. When I talk to them I see their potential and it makes me proud to say "We live in Big Walnut School District"! Every day we are surrounded by Big Walnut students who greet us at stores or happen to hold the door open for us. This only comes from having an amazing support staff, teachers and involved parents. I am also very proud of the warm and friendly environment. When I come into the schools it feels like family.

**What challenges do you see facing the District?**

Students: The rise of technology has given way to new sources of stress and worry for the children in our community. We need to reinforce positive behavior and discipline consistently and appropriately. No human attribute matters more than good character and nothing is more important than the qualities of kindness, honesty, and respect.

**What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

I enjoy skiing, riding and coaching mountain bikes with "Lost in the Woods" team for 6-12 graders.

**What is the best book you read recently? Why?**

*"Black Out" and "Nerves of Steel" both books are about strong courageous women from two completely different walks of life. In the face of adversity and sometimes against opposing social agendas they held to their strong convictions of faith, family and hard work.*

## Alice Nicks

**Township/Village**
Berkshire

**Occupation**
Retired Business Owner, LPCC, and Educator

**Family**
Married to John Nicks 54 years
3 adult children, and 2 of them are Big Walnut graduates. 2 of my grandchildren attend BW

**Why did you choose to serve on the BW Board of Education?**

The reason I ran for BW school board was because I felt I had experience in education, business and clinical counseling, all of which would be contributing factors to a board member. I have a masters degree in education and a license in clinical counseling and I am a licensed addiction counselor.

**What makes you most proud of our district?**

What makes me proud of the district are the students who represent Big Walnut in a respectful and honorable manner and are successful in their chosen pathway.

**What challenges do you see facing the District?**

The challenges are different based on the needs of the district. The need for bus drivers and custodians has been a recent challenge and the need for anticipated staff based on anticipated growth and substitutes seems to be a current challenge. You can see how the challenges change based on the current needs and this is just a few of the immediate challenges.

**What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

My free time is spent with family and at the beach.

**What is the best book you read recently? Why?**

My favorite book is *"Please Stop Laughing at Me"* by Jodee Blanco. This is the story of her life and how she was bullied in school and the lasting impact it had on her. She gives clear insight into the affects bullying has on a person and as a counselor, I found her story very helpful in helping others. She actually goes to schools and gives a message to students about bullying that is very powerful. I highly recommend this book to everyone.

Big Walnut Education Foundation

## Calling BW Seniors & Grads

You can apply for 2-year, 4-year, and trade program scholarships. Learn more at the Big Walnut Guidance Office or at bigwalnuteducationfoundation.org

*Thanks to donor support, we awarded $93,000 to 75 Big Walnut students and alumni in 2021.*

## Help us do even more in 2022.

*The Big Walnut Education Foundation is a tax-exempt, charitable organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code; therefore, contributions are tax deductible for income, estate, gift and tax savings purposes. Further, the BWEF is volunteer driven, so you know 100% of your gift benefits BW students and alumni. Any contribution, large or small, is greatly appreciated.*

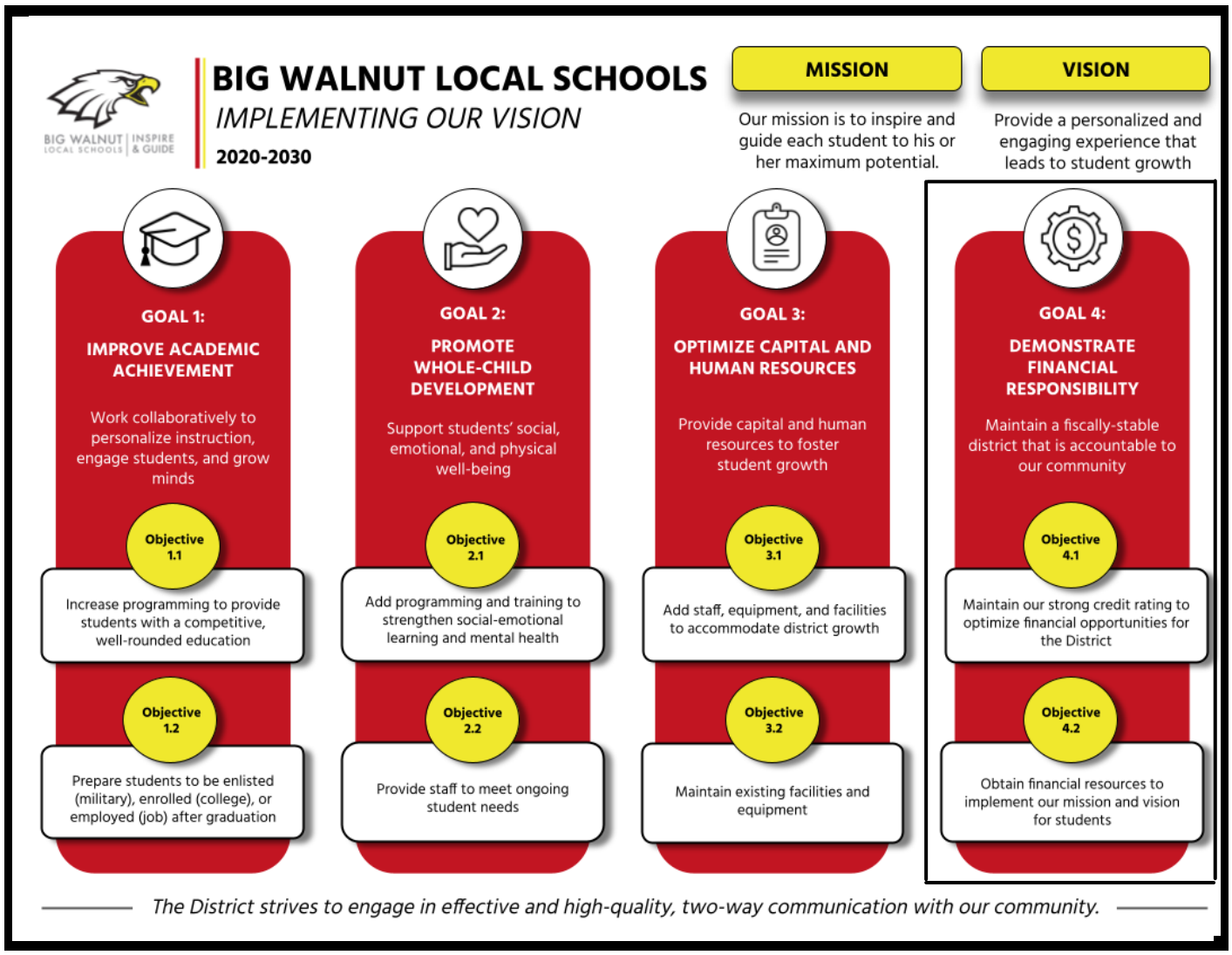
## Applications Due April 6th

# DISTRICT CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON GOALS

In an effort to continue to educate our community on our District goals, we have created videos for each area. You can read more about Goal 4 on the next page, or check out the July edition of *The Eagle Examiner* at bwls.net for more information.

Please scan below for our overview video on Goal 4. Thank you to parent and community member Joey Thomas for creating all of the goals videos.

**GOAL 4: DEMONSTRATE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**



# DISTRICT CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON GOALS: GOAL 4

Jeremy Buskirk
Treasurer

It can be hard to encapsulate what we are continually trying to accomplish from a fiscal perspective. The financial function of our school district is one of monitoring compliance, anticipating community growth, projecting student enrollment, and strategically planning to ensure all student, staff, and building needs are met; however, this list could easily continue with other projects we work on as a department. As with any organization, the inputs that go into the financial equation are many, and the control we can exert can vary, depending on what is involved.

As we updated our District's strategic plan during the 2020-21 school year and thought about the complexities the community faces, our Moody's Investment Service credit rating and the matrix they used to arrive at our rating came to mind. This third-party agency gave us a strong Aa2 rating, which provides financial investors across the country an opinion about our District and the investment they are making. As the table at the top of the next column shows, this opinion considers our community's economy, enrollment, trends, business practices, and emergency cash reserves- just to name a few.

| | Moody's | Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| Investment grade | Aaa | Prime |
| | Aa1 | High Grade |
| | Aa2 ★ | |
| | Aa3 | |
| | A1 | Upper Medium Grade |
| | A2 | |
| | A3 | |
| | Baa1 | Lower Medium |
| | Baa2 | |
| | Baa3 | |

These are also things that we track, monitor, and plan for in order to make informed decisions, which makes our District financially stable and successful. The additional benefit of maintaining a strong credit rating is that we have been able to borrow funds for our new buildings at a less expensive rate and save the community money.

| Category and Sub-categories | Consideration Percentage |
|---|---|
| *Economy (Districtwide)* | |
| Resident Income | 20% |
| Enrollment Trends | 10% |
| *Financial Performance* | |
| Available Fund Balance Ratio | 20% |
| Net Cash Ratio | 10% |
| *Leverage* | |
| Long-term Liabilities Ratio | 20% |
| Fixed-Costs Ratio | 10% |
| *Institutional Framework* | |
| How operating revenues are determined and the ability to match revenues and expenditures | 10% |
| | |
| Total Percentage | 100% |

Previous *Eagle Examiner* articles have focused on Big Walnut's goals 1-3, and Goal 4 tries to tie together the various financial aspects that allow the other goals to be implemented and sustained. Goal 4 is about providing a plan that is continually reviewed, updated, and evolves as new information is available.

Goal 4 is not only about maintaining solid finances, it is about collaborating with community members, district staff, and our leadership team to plan for resources needed to meet the strategic goals and continue moving our District forward. Each member of the Big Walnut community is making an investment in our District, which provides opportunities for the next generation. We want to be providing services, facilities, and an organization that our community is proud of, and Goal 4 attempts to take all the numerous inputs and lay out a plan that does just that.

Additional, financial information can be found on the Treasurer's page of the District website at bwls.net/Treasurer.aspx.

## AUDITOR'S AWARD

Big Walnut continues to receive the Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction recognizing us for clean financial audits.

## CELEBRATING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

Our Purple Star Committee celebrated our military-connected families by providing a meal and free admission to the girls basketball game last month at our new BWHS.
(Check out the back page for more pictures from this event.)

# Monthly Children's Workshops

**Starting Saturday April 23rd at 12:30 p.m.**
**Scavenger hunt, Junior Docent Program, crafts and more!**

**LEARN MORE. VISIT THE MUSEUM. BECOME A MEMBER!**

**BIG WALNUT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
**WWWBIGWALNUTHISTORY.ORG. 740.965.1154**

**YOUR FAMILY'S LINK TO LOCAL HISTORY**

# ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

ANTHONY
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www.anthonydental.com

Our team of skilled and respected chiropractors — Dr. Aaron Erndt, Dr. Gabe Mendenhall, Dr. Jeff Willoughby, Dr. Amanda Golden, Dr. A. Renee Allen, Dr. Kipp Hall, and Dr. David Young — look forward to helping you on your path to wellness using natural healing techniques. Please contact us Monday through Saturday to set up an appointment at our Sunbury or Johnstown location and learn how chiropractic care can help you!

In order to continue to provide you with the best customer service, we updated our billing software system on February 28, 2022. There will be several new features that we will be able to offer, including an online account portal. This will allow you to receive electronic statements, pay your bill online, and communicate with us regarding your appointments or any of your healthcare needs. Please check your email for directions on how to establish your account. If you do not receive an email, then please notify us at your next appointment. We are excited about this change, but please be patient with us as we make this transition. Thank you.

**Sunbury Chiropractic**
123 State Route 3
Sunbury, OH 43074
740.965.4301
www.sunburychiropractic.com

40th ANNIVERSARY

**Johnstown Chiropractic**
620 West Coshocton Street
Johnstown, OH 43031
740.967.2225
www.johnstownchiropractic.com

# A NEW WEBSITE

**Chauncey Montgomery**
Director/ Fiscal Officer

The Community Library in Sunbury is excited to announce the unveiling of our new website coming this April. It has been over five years since we have overhauled our website. Since then, we have all become more dependent on smartphones, which requires our site to be more mobile-friendly than it is currently. Likewise, we offer more online services than we used to, and it can be difficult for users to connect with those resources. It was time to make your life easier.

***This space was paid for by the Community Library.***

Over the past year, we have been building a new site to address those issues.

***Our goal was to make services easier to find, increase accessibility to our collections, and ensure the site displayed well on a smartphone and tablet, as well as a computer.***

Along with our website, we have also updated our digital calendar, considering the same goals we had for the website. To that end, our new calendar of events is easier to navigate and displays better on mobile devices. With this updated calendar, we hope to save you time with features that make it quicker and easier to register for programs, book study rooms, and more.

While our site will be down during the transition, patrons can still access our catalog online at https://sunbury.cool-cat.org or through the COOL Libraries mobile app. After the upgrade, you will continue to access our site by going to https://www.yourcl.org.

We are eager to be making the transition to the new website. We are hopeful that it will be a better experience for our users. If you have any questions or comments about the website or anything related to the library, contact me at 740-965-3901 or director@yourcl.org.

Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

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# BWI ROBOTICS TEAM BUILDS A BRIGHT FUTURE

Four years ago, the Big Walnut Intermediate Robotics Club started as an after-school program. Our first year, the club consisted of 10 students with one team. Since then, our club has grown to include 18 students who are divided into two teams. Both teams compete in the First Lego League (FLL) against others from around the State. FLL is an international competition that focuses on four key areas:

1. **Core Values**, which includes teamwork, gracious professionalism, inclusion, and problem solving.
2. **An Innovation Project**, which requires students to solve a real-world problem that affects them and their community.
3. **Robot Design**, which requires students to design, build, and code a robot that can complete challenges during the last part of the competition- a Robot Game.
4. **Robot Game**, which consists of a two-and-a-half-minute match that has teams compete against others for points.

The BWI Robotics Club celebrated both teams this year. Our all-girls team, *The Engineering Eagles*, won the Core Values Award at their regional competition and received a bid to compete at the district competition. Our second team, *The Rising Robots*, also made it to the district competition and won the district-level Core Values Award. With that distinction, they received a bid to compete at the state competition. Although they did not win the state competition, they were excited to compete. Even though our competitions have ended this year, the teams still continue to meet once a week after school to work on expanding their knowledge and coding skills. The students' dedication and desire to learn is amazing to watch.

Josh with BWHS music teachers Craig Porter and Lisa Huston at the OMEA conference

## BWHS SENIOR SELECTED FOR ALL-STATE CHOIR

Congratulations to Big Walnut senior, Josh Gutierrez, who was selected to be part of the 2022 Ohio All-State Choir. He was chosen to join this choir as one of the top 100 "*Best of the best from across Ohio*."

He had several rehearsals across the State in the months leading up to the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Professional Development Conference last month in Cleveland. With 13 hours of singing over a day and a half, Josh and the All-State Choir performed that Saturday.

## Big Walnut K-4 Schools Present:

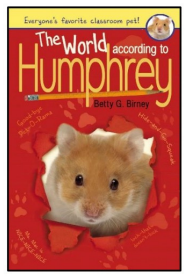
## •A Big Family Read Aloud•

February 28-April 8, 2022

Dear Families,

We are so excited to announce that our elementary schools have come together to inspire and guide our families by hosting "A Big Family Read Aloud" for the month of March, with culminating activities the week of April 8th.

Research has shown that reading together is a great way to connect with your child and help cultivate a love for reading. There is also strong evidence that it strengthens their language and literacy skills, as well as social and emotional development.




The book we are sharing with everyone is The World According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney. Our fabulous PTOs purchased a copy for each family to keep.

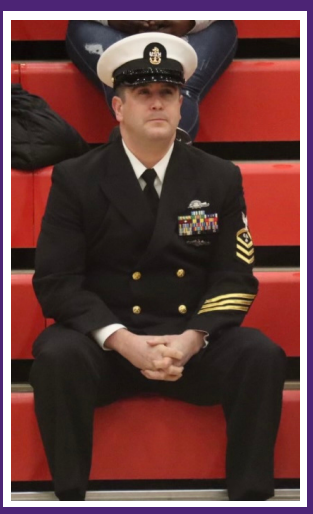
Please review the included bookmark. It can serve as a "pacing guide" as you read. The choice board has some fun, optional things to do as a family as you journey through the story.

Stay tuned for more information from your school about how we will celebrate the end of this fun event.

Enjoy your time together, and happy reading!

CHECK YOUR SCHOOL'S SCHOOLOGY PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION

# CELEBRATING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

At the game, girls' basketball players supported our military families with new jerseys, and Navy Chief Petty Officer Jon-David Blair presented the game ball.

One of the Purple Star Committee's goals is to create fun events for military-connected families to meet and get to know each other to build community within the District.