

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS
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 NOVEMBER 2019

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS
The Eagle Examiner

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

**A MESSAGE FROM
SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG**

Now that the leaves are falling, you can catch a glimpse of our new buildings taking form as you drive north of Sunbury on State Route 61. Recently, I had the rewarding opportunity to tour the new campus with our Facilities Committee, the group that helped us determine facility needs back in 2015. Our group initially met that fall to analyze enrollment projections and a community survey, evaluate assessments on current facilities, determine what new facilities we would need in the coming decade and what fixes would be needed at existing buildings. This committee saved the District thousands of dollars by donating their expertise to help us make decisions that support our community’s vision for our students. They continue to assist us as we work through the construction process.

As superintendent, I am thankful for the ongoing support of this community and the service and dedication of our many community advisory groups, including the Facilities Committee. As I mentioned in a previous edition, we would not be able to do the work that we do for our students without the countless volunteer hours given by these committee members. As we set, monitor, and evaluate our district goals, we also include input from groups such as our Academic Advisory Council, our Safety Committee, and our Finance Committee, just to name a few. Keeping the pulse of our community’s wants in our planning continues to be a priority for us.

I hope you have a relaxing Thanksgiving with your loved ones, and that you are able to reflect with great gratitude. As a school community, we have much to be thankful for this year, including the wonderful staff members who work daily to inspire and guide our students. Thank you to all of the adults in this district who make this an awesome place to raise our families.



District Facilities Committee
(Back) Bob Kuederle, Lee Weber, Brice Clawson, Shawn Walker, Board Member Doug Crowl, Steve Volpe, Wes Bryan, Director of Facilities Doug Swartz
(Front) Superintendent Angie Hamberg, Board Member Mindy Meyer, HSE/PRE Principal Kim Castiglione, Board Vice President Liana Lee

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS
2019-2020

This year's State of the Schools event will be in January as an Instagram-style, pictorial edition of *The Eagle Examiner*. The same day it's delivered to homes, we will be releasing additional posts to supplement the edition on social media.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider



Andy Wecker, Mindy Meyer, President Brad Schneider, Doug Crowl, Vice President Liana Lee

Last week, *The Columbus Dispatch* published a series of videos and stories related to the challenges with hazing that have tragically impacted Ohio University.

If you haven't had a chance to explore the articles and videos, I would encourage you to do so. It's the

horribly sad tale of a family that lost a son and a brother. It is also the story of how far evil can go when it's presented under a veil of friendship and trust.

The work of *The Dispatch* reinforces for me how important the efforts in our District are to increase our support of the mental health development of our students, along with their academic growth.

This world is way different than the one I grew up in. The pace of communication and the visibility into all aspects of our lives can be daunting. The power to hurt is magnified by technology and a decreasing level of decorum in our society.

Our PBIS (Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports) program is the fundamental layer of strategy to encourage positive behaviors and reward the

demonstration of those behaviors. We are conducting forms of these programs at every level in the District.

Additionally, we have invested in additional staff support to make more resources available to our kids who are struggling with a variety of mental health issues. Even in a relatively safe community like ours, the adage is true that everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about.

My hope is that these enhanced efforts help our students find more ways to stand tall in the face of abuses like hazing. I also hope our efforts help our students make better decisions when they are presented with real or perceived authority over others.



Partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Will Provide Learning Opportunities for Students



Director of Facilities
Doug Swartz

I was invited by a student to meet with Natalie Siclair's 4th grade STEM class at Harrison Street Elementary. He and his classmates had recently learned about the devastating effect development can have on indigenous animal species both during and after construction on a job site.

Our conversation, centered around the creation of a safe area to provide food and water for the indigenous animals on our new school site, included the following questions:

- How are we going to take care of animals on the new schools site?
- Is there water and/or food on the site for animals?
- What can we do?

I was pleased to share with the students that our new school site will have multiple bio-diverse environments that will support various animal species including birds, bugs, snakes, squirrels, foxes, deer and other woodland and prairie species.

A few of the landscape features that support this diversity include the following:

- **Wooded Preserve:** The site design preserves an 11-acre stand that is over 100 years old and is primarily hardwood/deciduous trees and undergrowth. This preserve is located on the southwest corner of the school site behind the new Prairie Run Elementary.
- **Prairie "Fields":** There are 4 detention pond areas encompassing approximately 7 acres on the completed site design. The ponds serve to detain and treat the storm water run-off that occurs during rain events. These areas can hold water up to 48 hours after a significant event. In order to further enhance and create both visual and biodiversity opportunities on the site, the District has partnered with the Newark, Ohio office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service (USFWS) to create a Learning Land Lab that will be planted with the help of students. The Land Lab will afford learning both from science-based curriculum, as well as opportunities for art, math, health sciences and others.

Watch for more information regarding the USFW Learning Lab on our website and in future *Eagle Examiner* articles.



From Granville's Facebook page, here is one section of their land lab. We are partnering with the USFWS to create a similar environment.



BOND MILLAGE RATES CONTINUE TO FALL BELOW BALLOT AMOUNT

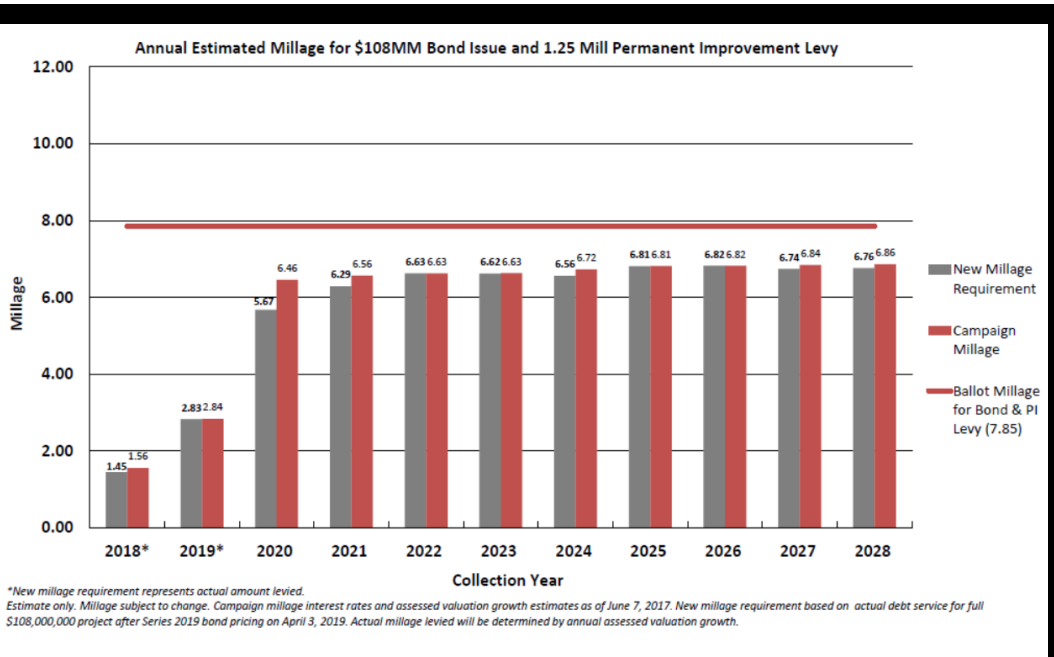


Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk

Two years ago, our community approved a ballot issue of 7.85 mills, which included 6.60 mills for a bond issue and 1.25 mills for a permanent improvement levy. Construction on Prairie Run Elementary School is well underway and construction on the new high school has also begun. We are excited that we will have these facilities in the coming years and appreciate our community's commitment to providing for the needs of our students.

To pay for the costs of construction, the District prepared a funding strategy to take into account estimated growth in property values with new families moving into our District and a plan of finance that phased in bond-issued debt in several offerings instead of all at once. In the spring of 2019, we had our third debt offering to complete our financing plan and were pleased to be able to obtain lower rates than we had originally anticipated in our funding plan.

As the graph below shows, there will be an increase in our rates in 2020 as was originally shared in 2017, but with lower interest rates and increasing property valuation, we anticipate being able to have a slightly more gradual phase-in period and anticipate being at or under our target millage rates. While we have now completed the financing phase of our construction projects, we will continue to work hard to be good stewards of the funds we are given and only collect the amounts that are necessary to pay for our investment in facilities.



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



2020 VISION

ONE MORE YEAR UNTIL OUR VISION BECOMES OUR CULTURE

This past month, professors and students from Otterbein University worked with Hylen Souders Elementary 4th grade students on coding and circuits.

Jordan Blosser, Hylen Souders STEM teacher, worked at Otterbein's summer STEM camp this summer, which helped make this partnership possible.

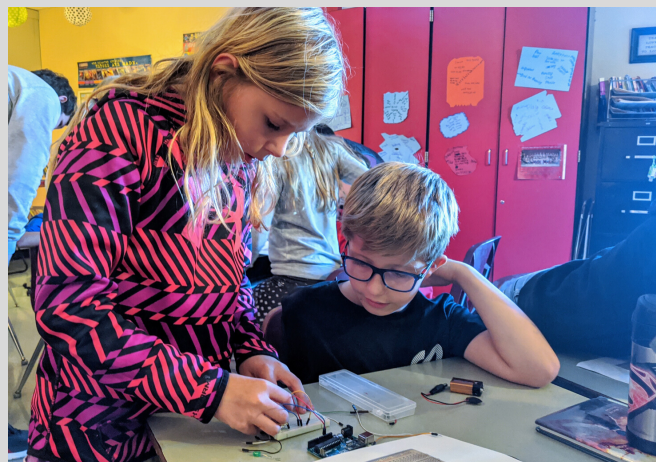
Two hands-on experiences allowed students to fully engage and experience 21st-century learning.

For one activity, 4th graders worked in pairs to complete circuits of varying difficulty levels with guidance from the Otterbein students.

For the other activity, students used their coding skills to "program" their partner to reach a designated location within the classroom. It took a lot of trial and error, but in the end, students learned that instructions needed to be very specific for the computer program to function correctly.

The students' experiences align with our 2020 Vision as they received personalized learning in an engaging environment, while also creating, collaborating, communicating and thinking critically. Immersing students in a relevant learning environment equips them with skills that will help them to be successful in the 21st century.

4th graders working collaboratively with the Otterbein students



Students working in pairs to complete a circuit



Personalize



Engage



Grow

Thank You, Big Walnut!



Chauncey Montgomery
Director / Fiscal Office



The Community Library in Sunbury would like to sincerely thank voters in the Big Walnut area for supporting the renewal of the library's one-mill operating levy. With your support, we are able to continue our efforts in enhancing and growing our programs and services to meet the needs of the community.

Over the past several months, what impressed us most while we were out informing voters about this critical levy renewal, were the countless stories folks shared in regard to how the library has made a difference in their lives. While some may look at the approval of the levy as the bigger success, what is more important is how the library impacts the lives of individuals and families.

The approval of the levy is a direct result of our relationship with the community. Through partnerships and friendships, we are able to listen and respond more effectively to needs in the Big Walnut area. And while we greatly appreciate your financial support, we are even more grateful for the relationship we have with the community, and we look forward to continuing to serve you as we go forward.

Before I close, I want to offer a thanks to all the campaign volunteers, especially R. Allan Balian, the treasurer, and Crystal Mazza, the chair, who worked ceaselessly to get the word out.

Visit us today!

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



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

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...and much more!



SKIP PROBATE

PROCEED STRAIGHT TO YOUR INTENDED BENEFICIARY

PREPARE NOW TO AVOID THE PROBATE COURT PROCESS LATER

Date: Monday, November 25th
Time: 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM
Location: Big Walnut High School,
 555 S. Old 3C Rd., Sunbury
RSVP: By Nov. 21st

Seating is limited so reserve your spot today!

There are two big reasons to avoid Probate Court:

1. It can be very expensive.
2. It can tie up property for many months.

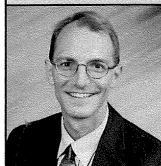
The Good Deeds presentation will prepare you to:

- ▶ Transfer a vehicle or boat title into Survivorship
- ▶ Designate beneficiaries on vehicles and boats
- ▶ Locate and identify the type of Real Estate deed you have
- ▶ Connect with local attorneys who will prepare a Real Estate Survivorship Deed for a flat fee

Skip Probate >>> Proceed straight to your intended beneficiary.
 PREPARE NOW TO AVOID THE PROBATE COURT PROCESS LATER.

Good Deeds Presentation Sponsored by:

JUDGE DAVID A. HEJMANOWSKI



Court of Common Pleas
 Probate/Juvenile Division

MELISSA JORDAN



Delaware County
 Recorder

NATALIE FRAVEL



Delaware County
 Clerk of Courts

IMPORTANT RSVP INFORMATION:

Please RSVP to Delaware County Recorder Melissa Jordan at mjordan@co.delaware.oh.us with the following information.

1. Names of Attendees
2. Date, Location and Time You Will Attend in Subject Line of Email
3. Name/s and Address on any deed filed in Delaware County that you would like printed prior to the session. Please include approximate year deed was filed.

The recorder's office will attempt to pre-print as many deeds as possible and have them ready in alpha order the night of the event.

Homecoming 2019

Check out more pictures on the back page



Students enjoyed dressing up for spirit week at the middle school



Students on the high school homecoming court participated in friendly competition games with each of the grade levels



Students at Big Walnut Elementary had fun at the pep rally assembly



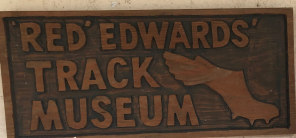
High school football players high five and greet Harrison Street students for the pep rally

CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Artifacts and Stories from the Red Edwards' Big Walnut Museum

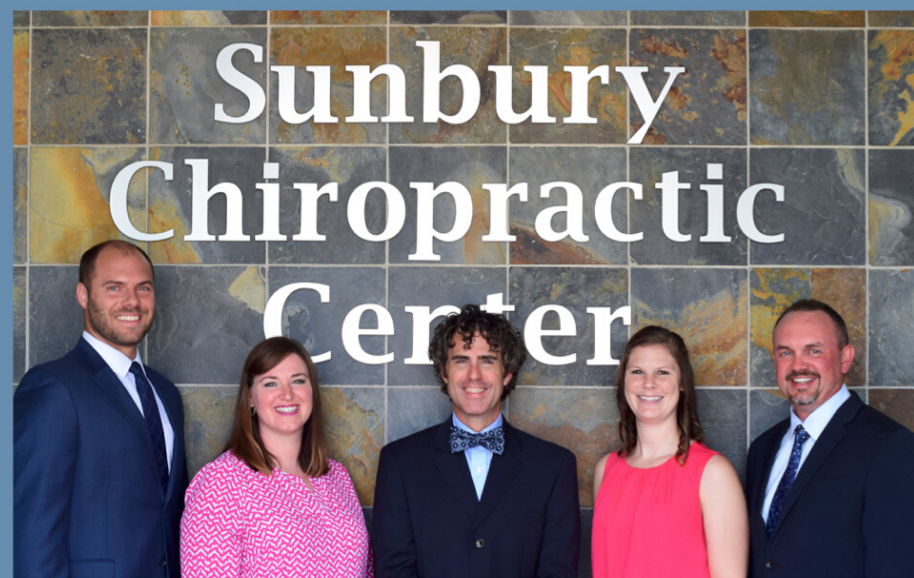
With the BWHS band's competition success this year, let's take a look back at a highlight from a previous band booster fundraiser. This month's artifact is the 1972 Band Boosters birthday calendars. This fundraiser allowed community

members to put their birthday on the calendar for \$1.



Don "Red" Edwards





Our team of skilled and respected chiropractors — Dr. Aaron Erndt, Dr. Gabe Mendenhall, Dr. Jeff Willoughby, Dr. Amanda Golden, and Dr. A. Renee Allen — look forward to helping you on your path to wellness using natural healing techniques. Our office, founded by Dr. Tom Erndt, has been active in the Sunbury, Ohio community for over 38 years. We effectively utilize state-of-the-art chiropractic techniques and rehabilitative treatments to restore proper spinal function and maximize the body's natural healing ability. We offer: Wellness Chiropractic Care, Family Practice, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, Massage Therapy, Sports Physicals, Nutrition Consultation, Orthotics, and more. Please contact us Monday through Saturday at 740-965-4301 to set up an appointment and learn how chiropractic care can help you!

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text helpline to 898211 for support.



**Delaware-Morrow Mental Health
& Recovery Services Board**

Supporting Wellness. Building Hope. Transforming Lives.



FOCUS ON STUDENT WELLNESS



Mark Cooper
Assistant Superintendent

Last month, we shared that we were able to add some additional mental health and nurse supports at Big Walnut this year. These additions were made possible by new state funds that must be used specifically for health and wellness. Adding these supports was an easy decision for two reasons. First, mental health and nursing support were discussed by our District Safety Committee and were determined to be a priority for the District.

Second, our district is well below the recommended staffing for these two areas.

When considering nurse supports, the US Department of Health and Human Services, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of School Nurses have all recommended a student-to-nurse ratio of 750:1. The unfortunate realization in Big Walnut is that we have had one district nurse for the past nine years. By adding a second nurse to our district this year, we are now at a student-to-nurse ratio of approximately 2000:1. There is still support that needs to be added to meet the above recommendations, but current levels of district funding do not provide for a sustained commitment to recommended levels of staffing.

We are very thankful for our district nurse, Megan Truax, who has filled the role for the past nine years. She has made a huge impact on our kids, staff, and families with her commitment to supporting their health and well-being. Our newly added school nurse, Dawn Boehm, has already had a great effect in our schools, and we appreciate all she does to coordinate support with Megan. We look forward to the work that these two will continue to do at Big Walnut in the years to come.



BWLS nursing staff: Dawn Boehm and Megan Truax



From the Nurse's Perspective

A day for a school nurse at Big Walnut is a busy one. We are the primary medical resource for students and staff during the school day. Day-to-day responsibilities within the clinic include treating illnesses and injuries and administering medications. We complete state-mandated screenings for vision and hearing and immunization record reviews and reporting. In our role, we collaborate, create, and distribute medical care plans. We attend to our medically-fragile students, such as those that have diabetes, epilepsy, life-threatening allergies and asthma. The school nurse is responsible for training staff on emergency procedures-- such as how to perform CPR, how to properly use the AED, and how to administer emergency medications and first aid. School nurses are responsible for development of policies, programs, and procedures for the provision of school health services at an individual or district level. We collaborate with local health departments and medical services to provide immunization clinics and dental services. It is our goal to keep our students safe, healthy and ready to learn.

October's STUDENTS & ARTISTS OF THE MONTH



Student of the Month: Ella Okoneski, from General Rosecrans Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board Member Mindy Meyer



Student of the Month: Sophia Melvin, from Big Walnut Intermediate School, is pictured with her family



Artist of the Month: Claire Wilson, from General Rosecrans Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board President Brad Schneider



Artist of the Month: Leah Hohenbrink from Big Walnut Intermediate School



Erin Curtis
Transition and Student
Services Coordinator

The Big Walnut High School Best Buddies Chapter has started the year strong. The students have made new friendship matches and are having a blast with their buddies. In October, a few of the chapter members participated in the Best Buddies Friendship Walk. The Friendship Walk in Ohio had over 30 teams participate and raised over \$53,000.



Students participating in the Friend Walk last month
(Back row) Erica Curtis, Ethan Segrue, Aubrey Koon, Kaitlyn Maze, Abby Clawson
(Front Row) Cody Fox, Julia Tice



Students having fun creating edible haunted houses
Jon Lehman, Sydnee O'Donnell, Rylee O'Donnell,
Kaitlyn Maze, Sam Westfall and Aubrey Koon

The funds from the walk go to Best Buddies International, which is a program that empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, develop self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society. Our participants were able to meet Derek Dietrich from the Cincinnati Reds and his Best Buddy Teddy Kremer through the organization's Citizens program. Our Chapter also enjoyed a "Spooktacular" get together where we played Spooky Charades and made edible haunted houses.

