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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner

 **FEBRUARY 2020** *Our mission is to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential.* 



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG

Election Day is March 17-- just about a month away-- and our goal for the next month is to make sure that voters have the information they need on the District's 5.45-mill renewal levy. This levy will not raise our taxes as homeowners, and represents 12% of our operational funds. See Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk's article on page 3 for more information on how much this levy will continue to cost a homeowner, what it pays for, and why the Board voted to place it on the ballot as a continuing levy (the term on the ballot, but often referred to as a "permanent levy"). If you have any questions on the levy, please reach out to me (angiehamberg@bwls.net) or to Jeremy (jeremybuskirk@bwls.net). We can also both be reached at 740.965.3010. If you would like to host or attend an informational coffee, please let us know as well.

With the fast pace of today's life (I know I am not the only one who feels like my children's personal Uber driver), I strongly recommend voting absentee to make sure nothing distracts you on March 17 from casting your vote. Please see below for information on voting absentee.

VOTING IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

1

Vote Early In-Person

- Starting February 19
- Find all the early voting hours at delawareboe.org
- Visit the Delaware County Early Voting Center at 2079 US Highway 23 N, Delaware, OH 43015

2

Vote Early By Mail

- Request an absentee ballot by visiting delawareboe.org and selecting "Absentee Ballot Application" on the home screen
- Return your absentee ballot, must be postmarked by March 16

3

Vote on Election Day on March 17

- Voting is open from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Find your polling location at delawareboe.org by selecting "Where do I go to vote?"

CHECK OUT THE BACK PAGE FOR VOTING CENTER DATES AND HOURS

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider

Our school district benefits from an active and engaged community that often shows support for our teachers in a variety of ways. Today, I want to give some recognition and appreciation for our Transportation Department and all they do for us.

As I write this, we are about halfway through a snow day. It is on these snowy, icy days that we typically think of school transportation. But, I think it is important to keep in mind what that team means for us every day in our district.

Our drivers do an amazing job of staying focused on safety with an eye to keeping on schedule as



Doug Crowl, Vice President Liana Lee, President Brad Schneider, Sherri Dorsch, Stephen P. Fujii

much as possible. They help keep our kids safe and build an environment on their buses to make kids feel welcome while navigating the streets of our district. As a dad of 4 children, who has driven them all at the same time, I only have a small hint of the challenge that this brings with every trip our drivers make.

They also work extra hours to help ensure our kids are able to participate in co-curricular activities and get them where they need to be. We couldn't provide the additional learning opportunities without

the drivers' dedication to our kids.

Our drivers rarely get the same recognition as our in-school staff, but our group of mechanics are even more unsung. If you know any of our mechanics, you know of their ingenuity, organization, and dedication that save the District hundreds of thousands of dollars annually by preparing and maintaining our vehicles so we can get the maximum use out of your investment.

Our drivers and mechanics don't get a lot of visibility in the community. I hope you can find an opportunity to thank them for all that they do.

MARCH 17 RENEWAL LEVY



Treasurer
Jeremy Buskirk

As the new year begins, we are diligently trying to ensure our community is informed about the primary election that the State of Ohio set for March 17, 2020 and the substitute levy issue the Board of Education has placed on this ballot.

This is not a new levy for the Big Walnut community and has been part of the revenue our school district has relied on for operations for the past decade. These resources go toward daily operations such as staffing, extracurriculars, supplies and utilities, and are different from the bond resources approved in 2017, which were for building our new facilities. These resources are vital to our operations since they account for approximately 12% of our current general fund revenues.

There are many state requirements for certain academic and support services, but we understand the importance of efficiency and are always evaluating our operations to identify areas of improvement. Currently, with this levy, the annual investment residents are making in our schools is \$167 per \$100,000 of a home's market value, and this will remain the same with approval of the levy. To allow for constant and reliable resources as we plan for the future, this levy is being requested for a "continuing period of time" (ballot language that means collections are permanent or ongoing) instead of a term of five or ten years. We continue to see growth in our enrollment and appreciate the support of our community as we prioritize providing quality education and opportunities for our students.

Market Value	\$100,000
Assessed Value (35% of Market)	\$35,000
Certified Mills (1 mille is 1/10th of a cent)	5.45
Funds provided per \$100,000	\$191
State Tax reimbursements still provided	(\$24)
Current & Anticipated Cost to a Resident	\$167



WHY DID MY TAXES INCREASE?

Over 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. With construction on our new facilities well underway, we have always projected this year to have the biggest increase in collected bond millage as part of our plan of financing. There was an increase of approximately 2.84 mills for calendar year 2020. More information can be found regarding this in the November 2019 Eagle Examiner Treasurer's article available on our website at bwls.net/TheEagleExaminer.



MEET THE **NEW** BOARD MEMBERS



Township/Village
Kingston Township

Occupation

Tax Manager, Maloney + Novotny LLC, Delaware

Family Stats

Husband Aaron

Children-- Alex, Avery, and Claire
Two Australian Labradoodles

Sherri Dorsch



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

I believe in giving back to the community. Education plays a major role in the growth and progress of our society, and I want to play a role in how we educate the children in our community.



What makes you most proud of our district?

We are so fortunate to have great staff and administrators who are passionate about preparing kids for life, not just for test-taking. We should all be proud of how our District has worked to change the typical school day from one where students listen to lectures and regurgitate facts to one where students are taught how to collaborate, make decisions and engage with others.



What challenges do you see facing the District?

Maintaining a high level of quality with limited funds as the community continues to experience growth. Additionally, how we prepare students for their path after they leave the District - exposing students to options outside of a 4-year degree, as well as helping provide some of the tools for students to be more thoughtful about college and degree choices.



What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Reading, walking my dogs, watching my kids do what they love.



What is the best book you read recently? Why?

"Managing Oneself" by Peter Drucker. It's actually an article that appeared in the *Harvard Business Review* in 1999. I re-read it periodically as it's always a great tool to get and keep yourself on track.



Township/Village
Galena

Occupation

Educator, School Leader, Consultant

Family Stats

Wife Jennifer

Children-- Jillian and Samuel

Stephen P. Fujii



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

Big Walnut is a special place. I believe that my educational experience and unique perspective can help advance and position our district as a leader in commitment to local education.



What makes you most proud of our district?

Big Walnut has a strong tradition of academic and athletic excellence. I am proud of how the District operates, while focusing on the well-established mission of "inspiring and guiding each child to his or her maximum potential." This should be a source of pride as the District continues to innovate in preparing children for success in an ever-changing world.



What challenges do you see facing the District?

The biggest issue facing BWLS is striking a balance between providing excellent educational opportunities while maintaining economic stability amid unprecedented growth. It is vital that our community's growth does not distract from our core mission. Providing a quality education in a safe, respectful and healthy environment for students and staff is critical today. I have a track record of supporting educators' efforts to personalize, engage and grow young people to thrive in a complex world.



What is the best book you read recently? Why?

My goal in recent years is to read 100 books per year. I succeeded in 2018, but fell short of this goal in 2019 with 71. Consequently, I have several favorites, including Ted Dintersmith's *What Schools Could Be*, Todd Rose's *Dark Horse*, Simon Sinek's *Infinite Game*, David Epstein's *Range* and Malcolm Gladwell's *How to Talk to Strangers*. I have also explored themes in *Little Women* with my daughter, Jillian, and in *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho with my son, Samuel, for their school assignments. If anyone wants to follow my #100Books2020 challenge, follow me on Twitter @StephenFujii.

Remember to COVER COUGHS & SNEEZES



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Let's talk about your insurance needs today.

BUNDLE AND SAVE!  +  + 



James Hildreth, Agent

37 E Granville St

Sunbury, OH 43074

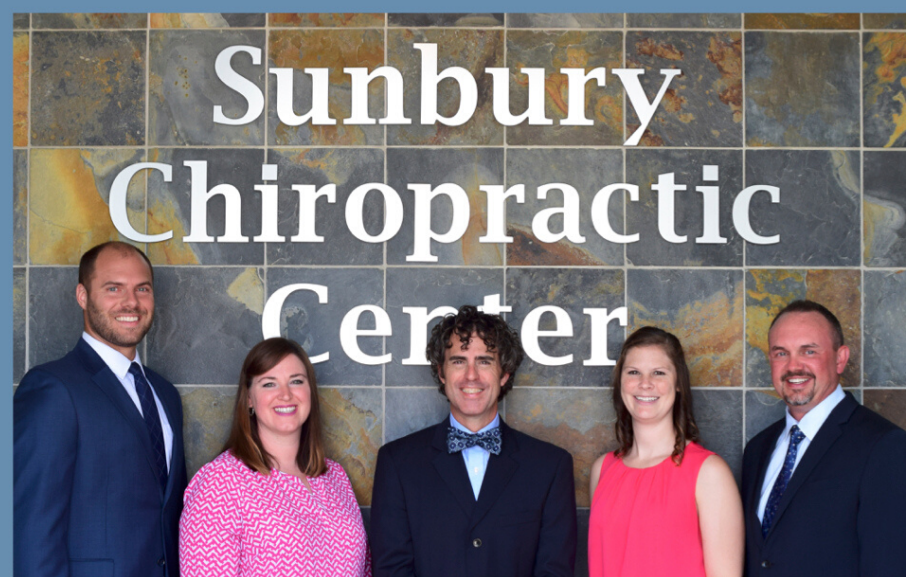
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Our team of skilled and respected chiropractors — Dr. Aaron Erndt, Dr. Gabe Mendenhall, Dr. Jeff Willoughby, Dr. Amanda Golden, and Dr. A. Renee Allen — look forward to helping you on your path to wellness using natural healing techniques. Our office, 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!

123 State Route 3 Sunbury, OH 43074 740-965-4301

www.sunburychiropractic.com

Camp Out with a Good Book

Article by Cindy Reliford

February – it's the shortest month of the year for a reason! Winter always seems to reach down deep to give us its last big punch, gracing us with more snow and ice. We are all weary of looking at gray flannel skies and long to see the sun on a regular basis.

And if we are this discontent, imagine how our kids must feel! Playing indoors has definitely lost any luster it may have had back at winter's start. Boredom and squabbling between the siblings is rearing its ugly head. If we could just all make it to spring.

There is hope. We at the library have something up our sleeves to tide you over. Camping. That's right, camping. What's better than a tent, sleeping bags and the sounds of nature to break the monotony? Bring your winter weary young ones to the Community Library to Camp Out With a Good Book. During the month of February, we are inviting all preschoolers through teens to join us for our 2020 Winter Reading Club. You can register online or in person at the library. Then you'll have until the last day of February, to read and earn prizes. So, put on your mosquito repellent, grab your camping gear and we'll see you at the Community Library to Camp Out With a Good Book!



Visit the library at 44 Burrer Drive in Sunbury or online at www.yourcl.org.



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

This space was paid for by the Community Library.

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AND
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FOCUS ON STUDENT WELLNESS



**Mental Health
Specialist
Justin Plummer**

Communicating effectively can be a challenge. Maximizing the impact of our conversations helps improve our investment in our children's mental health. Three tools we can use for improving our communication are active listening, 2-to-1 listening and open-ended questions.

Hearing someone happens automatically, but listening to them is a skill. Author J.D. Rothwell writes that active listening integrates words, emotions and nonverbal communication. By

actively tuning in to your conversation, you can better hear and understand your child.

A good rule of thumb to use when using active listening is to listen twice as often as speaking. Too often, we talk but are not heard. Listening twice as much as talking is a good rule of thumb in any interaction. This 2-to-1 ratio allows for increased opportunities to hear your child's needs.

Parents and caregivers are often problem solvers. Our conversations with our children reflect this fact. Using open-ended questions helps increase the depth of our conversations. Asking your child a "closed" question, "How was your day?" could change to an "open" question, "What was the favorite part of your day at school?" This requires the listener to choose and explain their choice. Open-ended questions allow our children to develop confidence in their communication skills at home and at school.

Finally, part of increasing communication is checking in with the adults that have interactions with your child. The cornerstone of meeting our district mission of inspiring and guiding is communication. Let us know how we can help.

24-Hour Support and Information Hotline

1.800.684.2324

text helpline to 898211 or www.dmmhrs.org

**Because kids don't come with
manuals and parents need support.**

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- » Thoughts of Suicide or Self-harm
- » Bullying or Shaming
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- » Depression, Grief or Loss
- » Parenting Issues
- » Emergency Food or Housing Needs



**Delaware-Morrow Mental Health
& Recovery Services Board**
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December & January's STUDENTS & ARTISTS OF THE MONTH



**December's Student of the
Month: Camden Edwards
from Big Walnut High School**



**December's Artist of the
Month: Samantha Cox, from Big
Walnut High School, is pictured
with Board Member Doug Crowl**



**January's Student of the Month: Emily Gavaghan, from Hylen
Souders Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board
President Brad Schneider**



**January's Student and Artist of
the Month: Grace Hall, from Big
Walnut Elementary School, is
pictured with her family**



**January's Artist of the
Month: Amelia Spencer-Stump,
from Hylen Souders Elementary
School, is pictured with her family
and Board Member Doug Crowl**



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS | INSPIRE & GUIDE



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



**Director of Facilities
Doug Swartz**

With spring just around the corner, we wanted to highlight a partnership that will provide beauty to the new schools site, as well as biodiversity and educational opportunities for the Big Walnut school community.

Our district entered into an agreement with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFW) to participate in their Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program. The program promotes the creation and maintenance of native plant-based habitats that typically support a range of cultivators such as bees, various song birds and butterflies, as well as water fowl, deer, and squirrels.

Under the terms of the agreement, we will turn approximately 7 acres of stormwater management detention ponds into prairie grass and wildflower areas. In addition, 150 native trees will be introduced into low-lying and other challenging areas of the site to encourage foraging animal species.

Equally important to the beauty and biodiversity that the planted areas will offer, the ultimate benefit and purpose of the USFW program in teaming with K-12 schools is to promote learning opportunities for all students of all grade levels. To that end, Big Walnut Local Schools intends to develop programs that integrate a multitude of subjects including science, art, math, creative writing and many other areas of learning to this natural classroom that will be located just outside the doors of the new schools.

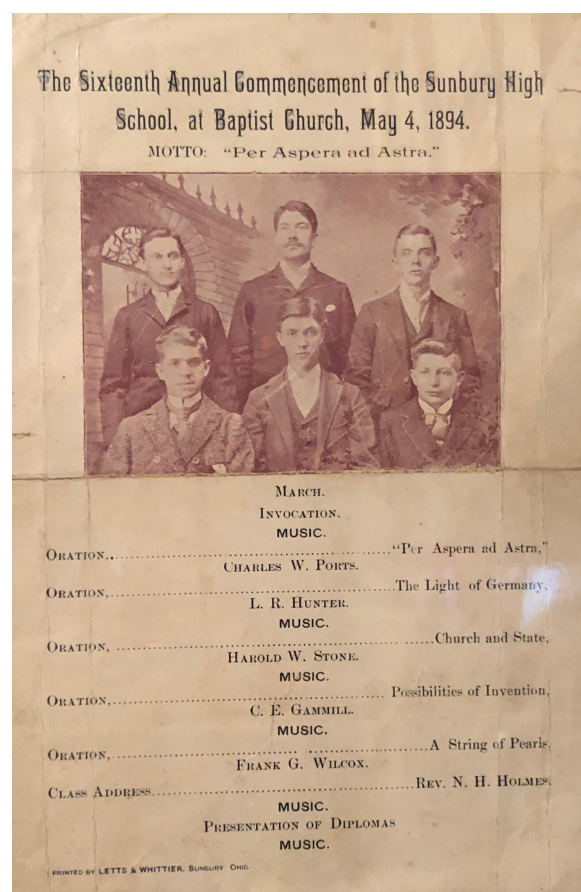
So “think spring” as you view the USFW provided images below that depict what our detention ponds will look like after the initial 1-3 year period required to fully establish the planting areas.



CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Artifacts and Stories from the Red Edwards' Big Walnut Museum

This month's artifacts are from the commencement programs of 1898 and 1894.



**Don "Red"
Edwards**



2020-2021

2021-2022 *draft*

**SCHOOL CALENDARS
ARE AVAILABLE AT
BWLS.NET**



**Calendars subject to change
based on construction of the
new buildings*

MARCH 17 BALLOT INFORMATION

Big Walnut Local School residents will have the opportunity to vote on candidates and local issues in the upcoming March 17 Primary Election. We spoke with Delaware County Board of Elections Deputy Director Anthony Saadey to gather information about where, when and how residents can vote.

Q Why is there an election in March this year?

In Presidential years, the Primary is always in March. All other years, it is May. The legislature changed it from March 10 to March 17 last year.

Q What will residents be voting on?

The best way for someone to see what issues will be on their ballot is on our website at www.delawareboe.org by selecting either "What's on the ballot?" or "Where do I go to vote?"

Q Who can vote early and how?

Anyone registered to vote can vote an absentee ballot. They can vote in-person absentee at the Board of Elections office, which mimics the voting process at the polls on Election Day. Registered voters can also request an absentee ballot by mail by

completing and sending an absentee application to our office.

Q When does early voting begin?

February 19. Voters can come to our office to vote in-person absentee, or request a ballot by sending an absentee application to our office. The Delaware County Board of Elections is located at 2079 US Hwy 23N, Delaware, OH 43015. Our hours are on our website and include evening and weekend hours: www.Delawareboe.org

Q Is there anything else voters should know?

We are always looking for new poll workers! Poll workers earn around \$150 for their service and it's a great way to give back to the community and see how the process works. Contact our office at 740-833-2080 for more information.



Voting Center dates and times

FEBRUARY 2020						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Feb. 19, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • **Feb. 20**, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Feb. 21, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • **Feb. 24**, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Feb. 25, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • **Feb. 26**, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Feb. 27, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • **Feb. 28**, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

MARCH 2020						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

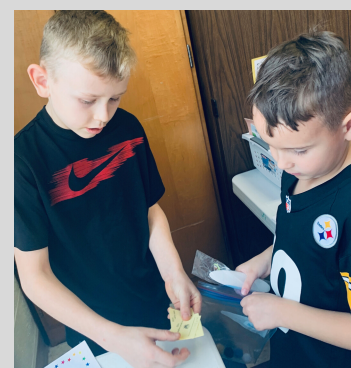
Mar. 2, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • **Mar. 3**, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Mar. 4, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • **Mar. 5**, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Mar. 6, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • **Mar. 7**, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Mar. 9, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. • **Mar. 10**, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Mar. 11, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. • **Mar. 12**, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Mar. 13, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. • **Mar. 14**, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Mar. 15, 1 – 5 p.m. • **Mar. 16**, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.



2020 VISION

ONE MORE YEAR UNTIL OUR VISION BECOMES OUR CULTURE

As part of our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS), any staff member at Harrison Street Elementary can give out Golden Eaglets for students who exemplify what it means to be respectful, responsible and safe. Once a month, we open Harrison Hut, our school store, where students can "spend" their Golden Eaglets to buy a variety of items that include candy, small stuffed animals, school supplies, posters, books and much more. We recently added prize coupons, which allow students to wear socks for a day, eat lunch with a teacher, chew gum in class, etc. There are many parts of our Harrison Hut days that are fantastic, but one of the best is to see the crew of 4th grade students help set up the store for our younger learners to "shop." They pair up with a kindergarten or 1st grade student needing assistance, help them count their Eaglets, aid them in picking out prizes and show them how to check out with an adult. It is a happy moment to see the "big kids" show our younger kids how to do these tasks on their own. We are proud of the way this inspires our kids to be the best version of themselves, engages them in real-life tasks and allows them to spread kindness and support for one another by collaborating and communicating!



Fourth grade students at Harrison Street Elementary helping the younger students at the Harrison Hut



Personalize



Engage



Grow