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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner



MARCH 2020

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



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG



Happy March! With spring just around the corner, we are busy working to plan next year's schedules and staffing. We are also working to get the new elementary ready, which will help reduce crowding in our other buildings. I did hear a little confusion regarding new buildings opening and current buildings transitioning, so I want to share our plans:

AUGUST 2020:

- Prairie Run Elementary (PRE) will open as a K-4 building. Please see our website for the new elementary attendance zones, effective for the 2020-21 school year.
- Harrison Street Elementary will become The Big Walnut Early Learning Center at Harrison Street (ELC) and will serve the District's special needs and typical peer preschool students.

JANUARY 2022:

- The new Big Walnut High School will open (weather permitting).
- From January to August, we will ready the building to become our middle school for the 2022-23 school year. **Middle school students will finish the 2021-2022 school year in their current building.**

AUGUST 2022:

- The current HS will open as Big Walnut Middle School for our 7-8 grade students.
- The current MS will open as Big Walnut Intermediate School for our 5-6 grade students.
- The current IS will close for minor renovations to convert it to an elementary school.

AUGUST 2023:

- The current IS will open as a K-4 building (pending construction schedules and enrollment).
- The planned redistricting for 2023 is posted on our website in draft form, as it may need adjusted depending on what happens with new housing in the next two years.

***All dates are subject to change**

As always, please reach out with questions. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we work through these transitions!

Finally, please remember that our District is on the ballot on **March 17**. This levy replaces our current one that expires at the end of 2020 and **it will not increase your taxes**. The levy represents 12% of our current operating budget and pays for day-to-day expenses including teachers, classroom supplies and utilities. We are looking to make this a continuing, or permanent, levy to help us maintain the services our community expects as we continue to grow. Remember that you can request an absentee ballot online or vote early in person (see more info on the back page and in last month's *Eagle Examiner* on our website). Please call our office with any questions, 740.965.3010.



I enjoyed celebrating Right to Read week as a guest in Kindergarten and 4th grade classes at Hylan Souders Elementary

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider

Mayor Love invited me to join her for her Coffee Chat in Galena on a recent Saturday. One of the questions that stood out to me was, "how can enrollment grow over 35% in 10 years but there wasn't a need to ask for more operating money?"

There is a macro- and micro-level answer to this question. The macro answer is that the District could accomplish this feat (and I don't use feat lightly; find another District in Ohio to absorb 30+% growth without additional funding) using needs-based budgeting. The appropriations the Board approves are the final step in a rigorous process where District leaders drive their staff to budget for only what is needed. We do not take the approach of many government entities where they rush to spend their budget out of fear of losing it next year.



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

At a micro level, your principals, teachers, secretaries, bus drivers, mechanics, food service, (I know I'm omitting many by name here and I apologize) are maximizing the resources available to provide the best service possible for children, parents and guardians. They do this daily, and they have been making small decisions and taking seemingly small actions that have added up to 10 years of strong fiscal management.

The reason I voted to ask you to approve our operating levy on a continuing basis is because I think this administration is worthy of your trust. The proof is in the record.

I also believe that there is not a scenario where these operating funds will be unnecessary in any reasonable projection of growth or funding for the foreseeable future.

If we do strike shale gas, find a trillionaire benefactor, or the state decides to drastically change a funding model it has resisted to change despite being unconstitutional for over 20 years, then any future iteration of a Board can choose not to collect any or part of any operating levy if these funds are deemed unnecessary.

I encourage you to go to the polls on March 17 to make sure your voice is heard on this important issue that will have a massive impact on the future of our District.



NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES: CREATING A GATEWAY FOR KINDNESS



Big Walnut Schools is proud to announce the launch of Big Walnut Bridges. Bridges is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The model for neighborhood bridges is to create a gateway for kindness utilizing technology and social media to advocate for children and families in need and then engage the community in filling those needs. Big Walnut is the first community in Delaware County to partner with Neighborhood Bridges. Megan Truax and Julie Adams serve as volunteer area directors.

"BRIDGES PROVIDES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO FILL THE GAP FOR STUDENTS' NEEDS THAT, IF NOT FILLED, CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING."

-Megan Truax, District Nurse

Here's how it works: a student or staff member identifies a need to an "advocate" (counselor, nurse, or administrator), and the advocate will then post a need to our social media site after it is reviewed by an area director. Those who want to help can either donate the item or provide a monetary donation. Area directors deliver the donations to the

advocate. The request is anonymous- only the advocate knows who has the need. Donations are dropped off at BW Central Office (110 Tippet Court, Sunbury) or at BST&G Firestation (350 West Cherry Street, Sunbury). We encourage you to subscribe to Big Walnut Bridges by visiting www.neighborhoodbridges.org/community/bigwalnut-oh. There is no cost to subscribe, and followers will be notified of specific needs as they become available. You can also follow on Facebook @BigWalnutBridges.



Megan Truax "delivers kindness" for a student to GRE principal Kate Thoma



Julie Adams makes a delivery to BWHS counseling secretary Cindy Strahler



MARCH 17 LEVY RENEWAL IS CRITICAL FOR BUDGET PLANNING



Treasurer
Jeremy Buskirk

Spring represents the fourth quarter of our fiscal year, which means we are shifting our focus to planning for success in the next school year.

Our district's general operating budget is tight and will continue to be a challenge with the costs of enrollment growth. We know the value our community places in our schools, and we are proud of the quality education and opportunities we are able to provide to our students. Each year, we budget to ensure all of our available resources are distributed effectively to allow our staff and students to succeed.

A majority of our operating budget supports staff who deliver on our mission to inspire and guide our students to their maximum potential. The remainder of our expenditures are allocated through a needs-based budgeting approach that takes a detailed look at options and opportunities.

A key piece of our budget for the next school year is our substitute levy on the March 17 ballot as it accounts for approximately 12% of our currently anticipated operating revenues. We often hear we should operate Big Walnut Local Schools like a business, but when our revenue projections fluctuate dramatically year to year or can change at the last minute, it can be challenging to ensure our past planning efforts and future educational goals will be sustained. This is why the district has chosen to request these funds for a continuing period of time. 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 the approval of the March 17 levy. **This is not a new tax; it will not increase your taxes.** The levy will maintain the community's current level of investment and provide stability to a portion of the district's revenue moving forward. For additional information on this levy, you can review the information posted to our website or in previous editions of *The Eagle Examiner*.

As spring arrives and the school year comes to a close, know that we are already preparing and planning for another great school year.



PURPLE STAR COMMITTEE HONORS **MILITARY HEROES** AND THEIR FAMILIES

Big Walnut Local Schools and the district Purple Star committee hosted our military-connected families at the boys' varsity basketball game January 31. The Purple Star committee aims to host several districtwide events each year that enable these families to connect with one another. Our military-connected families were invited to a pregame meal in the high school atrium. Families were given the opportunity to meet, talk and connect with one another. The families were then recognized before the boys' basketball game.

Our district has over 50 students that have one or more family members currently serving in a branch of the military. We are proud to recognize those families and their service to our country.



2020 VISION

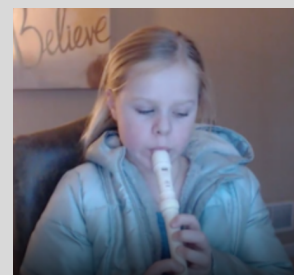
ONE MORE YEAR UNTIL OUR VISION
BECOMES OUR CULTURE

In the past, third graders have always studied recorders and completed Recorder Karate. Recorder Karate is a unit where students learn a series of songs on the recorder. Each song gets progressively more challenging with new notes and rhythms. If students master songs, they play them and can earn belts that go on the bottoms of their recorders. This year, Mrs. Wood, music teacher at General Rosecrans Elementary (GRE), was able to increase her ability to personalize instruction using Schoology. Mrs. Wood shares more below:

"I found Schoology to be a great tool to personalize instruction because students can learn their belts at their own pace and I can spend more time maximizing class time, rather than spending several classes testing students for their belts. When students record themselves on Schoology, they are 100% engaged in both listening to themselves and assessing how they are progressing. The recording process through Schoology allowed me to better grow students because I was able to record myself giving specific feedback to students. Through this, I was able to model what they needed to do in order to improve. Now that I'm not belt testing during class, I'm able to focus on other aspects of the curriculum such as singing, dancing, creating, playing music games, and more."



GRE third graders
use Schoology to
show their growth in
playing the recorder



Personalize



Engage



Grow



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Digital Magazines at the Community Library



Chauncey Montgomery
Director/ Fiscal Officer

For several years, the Community Library has offered digital magazines to compliment our ebook offerings. Digital magazines are nice because you can check out a long list of titles to a single device. I especially enjoy digital magazines when traveling. I can borrow a dozen or so titles to keep me occupied during a long flight. They are very convenient.

Due to budget constraints, the Community Library has been limited on the number of titles we could offer our patrons. While our list of offerings has slowly grown to 40 titles, it is still quite limited in breadth and scope. However, some recent changes in service models have allowed us to expand our digital magazine collection.

Starting in April, library patrons will have access to hundreds of digital magazine titles covering a wide range of topics and interests. There is no limit on the number of titles you can borrow at once, so feel free to fill up your device's memory with as many issues as you want. You can also request to automatically get the newest issues of your favorite titles when they become available.

To access our digital magazine collection, visit <https://www.yourcl.org>. At the bottom of the library's home page, click on the link to RBdigital, which will connect you to our digital magazines. You can read magazines through your web browser or using the RBdigital App for Android and iOS.

You will need a library membership to borrow digital magazines. If you do not have one, stop by the library at 44 Burrer Drive in Sunbury, or register online at <https://register.yourcl.org>.



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Our team of skilled and respected chiropractors — Dr. Aaron Erndt, Dr. Gabe Mendenhall, Dr. Jeff Willoughby, Dr. Amanda Golden, Dr. A. Renee Allen, and Dr. Kipp Hall — 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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620 W. Coshocton St. Johnstown, OH 43031 740-967-BACK www.johnstownchiropractic.com



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Director of Facilities
Doug Swartz

While the weather conditions of the past few months may have created havoc for you and your families, construction of the new Prairie Run Elementary, central energy plant and new high school facilities continues through rain, snow, sleet and the evasive Ohio wintertime sunshine.

This month's column is devoted to providing images reflecting the progress made by our facility team- despite the weather- on the construction of the new buildings.



Front view of Prairie Run Elementary (PRE)



View of cafeteria
stage at PRE



View of the new high school



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- » Emergency Food or Housing Needs



Delaware-Morrow Mental Health
& Recovery Services Board
Supporting Wellness. Building Hope. Transforming Lives.



Family, Fun, and Food!

The Harlem Wizards basketball team is returning! Come see Big Walnut teachers and coaches compete against the Wizards.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Gym doors open at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Big Walnut High School gym
(555 South Old 3C Road, Sunbury)

AGAIN THIS YEAR: DINNER BEFORE THE GAME



TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: BWHS Cafeteria

MENU/ COST: Catered by Big Walnut Grill

Children: Hot dog, macaroni & cheese,
drink—\$3.00

Adults: Pulled pork, pulled chicken, cole
slaw, baked beans, drink—\$7.00

TICKETS

Student tickets—\$10.00

Adult tickets—\$12.00

Age 4 & under—free



Tickets for the event and dinner may be purchased at the following locations: Online at www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets, and the Sunbury Subway- same pricing as online until midnight on April 6.

FACTS ABOUT THE MARCH 2020 LEVY

The March levy represents 12% of the district's day-to-day operating budget.

This 5.45-mill continuing levy is part of the daily operating budget and expenses such as teachers, utilities and supplies.

This is not a new tax.

Big Walnut residents are already paying for this levy to support the daily operations of our schools. There is not an increase on this existing tax.

740.965.3010 • bwls.net

This levy is set to expire at the end of 2020.

Planning for the following school year begins in early 2020. The district needs to know by the March 2020 election whether they have the funds to continue with the current level of programs and services for the 2020-2021 school year.

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 18

Voter Registration Deadline

FEBRUARY 19

Early Voting Begins

MARCH 17

Election Day

This levy maintains our current revenues to continue the quality of education at Big Walnut Schools. Our schools operate on a tight budget that is stretched thinner every year because our revenue is not keeping pace with the cost of new students coming into the district.

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

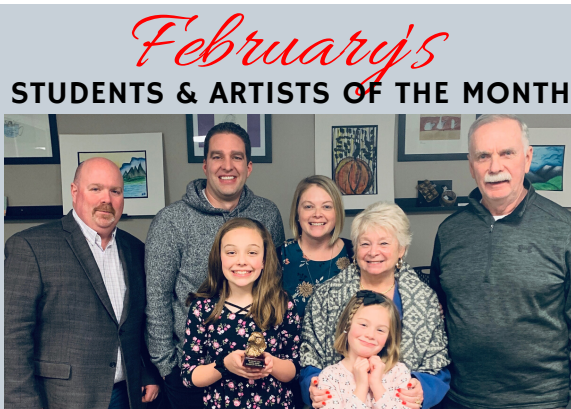
Vote Early By-Mail

- 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?"



February's
STUDENTS & ARTISTS OF THE MONTH
Student of the Month: Lauren House, from Harrison Street Elementary, is pictured with her family and Board President Brad Schneider



Student of the Month: Jack Bauer, from General Rosecrans Elementary, is pictured with his family and Board Vice President Liana Lee



Artist of the Month: Macie Ray, from Harrison Street Elementary, is pictured with her family and Board Member Sherri Dorsch and HSE art teacher Alexa Bolton



Artist of the Month: Alyssa Huffman, from General Rosecrans Elementary, is pictured with her family and Board Member Steven Fujii