

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner



MAY 2020

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



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG

I want to begin this month by recognizing all of our students, especially the Class of 2020, as we celebrate their time as Big Walnut students. These last two crazy months were a small part of the many years these students spent in our halls as Golden Eagles. Graduates: I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors, and may you always keep a bit of our community in your heart.

I also want to thank our staff members for their hard work in adapting to remote learning on very short notice; I appreciate the many hours put in to teach our students in new ways. We know it wasn't perfect, but I saw some great things!

A key part of our success always-- but especially these last couple of months-- is our parents. On behalf of our entire staff, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we all worked through this new way of doing school. Thank you!

As we wrap up this unique year, we continue to plan for next school year. Right now, we are planning for multiple scenarios as we await guidance from the state, including the exact requirements (primarily health-related) that we must meet next year. Normally, by May, class schedules are mostly done, hiring is well underway and we are getting ready to place orders for next year. Our administrative team is full of planners, and we are all going crazy right now! We want these things done, and-- most importantly-- **we want our students back in our buildings for a "normal" start of the year.**

Continued on back page

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider

Questions, questions and more questions. You've got them. I've got them. Answers, answers and more answers are needed. If I've learned anything in the past 8 weeks or so, we will get those answers in a metered fashion and not fast enough for anyone who wants them.

The one answer I think we all have is that the coming school year will most likely be different from any one previously; at least in the lifetime of the vast majority of us.

One uncertainty about next school year appears to have been resolved. As of this writing, it appears that the renewal of our operating levy has passed. The final confirmation should come on May 19.

Assuming that preliminary result holds up, it will be valuable to



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

finally gain a firm understanding to help solidify some of our fiscal planning. I appreciate the effort everyone made to vote in an election unlike any we have seen before.

We await guidance from state officials about how we will be allowed to launch the school year in the fall. Beyond the obvious questions like social distancing and PPE, the state also needs to provide guidance as to the mandated requirements for the coming school year. Decisions on issues like state-mandated testing and graduation requirements are needed to help the District identify and prioritize for the coming year.

Revenue will also be a major question for 2020-21, as many of us are hurting financially from this situation. We should expect to see a reduction in our income tax funding that will force some challenging decisions for the District. These issues provide challenges that the District will have to work to overcome in our fiscal planning for 2020-21 and beyond.

More will be uncovered in the coming weeks and months as we head towards an August open of the school year. At this point, the best thing we can do is to continue to rally together as a community to help those most greatly impacted. Remember that we will get through this if we all stick together.



BWHS Surprises Seniors on Graduation Day

On May 16, to commemorate the original graduation day for the Class of 2020, BWHS staff delivered gift bags to every member of the class.

Thank you community partners for contributing to the gift bags: Coffee Vault, BWHS Academic Boosters, Firehouse Tavern, Little Ladies Soft Serve, Sunbury Jersey Mike's, Big Walnut Apparel, Sunbury/Big Walnut Kiwanis and Facemeyer Company.

GRADUATION

July 25

Seniors chose to wait and see if any type of in-person celebration might be possible in July; a virtual ceremony will take place if not. Details coming soon!

PROM

July 17

We will continue to hold this date in the hopes that we can celebrate our juniors and seniors. Based on current health guidelines, we do not believe we can hold a dance; however, we are hoping this changes by July 17.



For more pictures, follow our social media @BWLS



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WHILE EXPECTING REVENUE CHANGES



**Treasurer
Jeremy Buskirk**

The last couple of months have been quite challenging for many. Throughout this crisis, I have seen our Big Walnut community extend kindness and offer assistance to one another where it is needed. It's another example of why I am proud to be part of this community.

Several weeks ago, the governor announced an immediate \$300 million reduction in state funding to K-12 schools. This reduction amounts to about 3.7% of Ohio's public school state funding. Later, we learned that Big Walnut Schools' reduction will amount to \$935,804 this fiscal year, or about 14.7% of the district's state funding. While we understand the need for cuts now, we were surprised to see a disproportionate cut to our growing district.

Our community has consistently demonstrated their support for our schools. It is even more evident now that our schools rely on the investment of our local taxpayers to continue the quality education we provide at Big Walnut Schools. We are grateful to our community for prioritizing our students' futures. The district will be sharing our concerns on behalf of our taxpayers in the hopes that any future cuts would be made proportionally and with our district's growth in mind.

Big Walnut Schools already run on a lean budget. We anticipate additional reductions in our state and local funding as the true economic impact of the Coronavirus becomes more clear. In response, we will continue to look for ways to cut costs and stretch our funds, just as we always have. Above all, we are committed to meeting the needs of our students now, while staying focused on their future and the future of our district.

The official results from the April 28 election will be available on May 19. We are grateful that many in our community chose to support our school system even during challenging times. If passed, this funding will be a critical part of our ability to continue on in our mission to inspire and guide our students.

Communicating the financial health of Big Walnut Schools with our community has always been a priority. We will continue to share what we know with you in the coming months as we learn more about the financial impact of the coronavirus and its effect on our District.

CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Artifacts and Stories from the Red Edwards' Big Walnut Museum



This month's artifact shows when the Delaware County Board of Education joined the Sunbury and Galena school districts in 1950 to create the present Big Walnut Local

School District. It was named for the creek joining the two villages. Two years later, Harlem Township School (which had previously merged with Center Village) joined the district.



Don "Red" Edwards

MENTAL WELLNESS TIPS:



**Justin Plummer
Mental Health Specialist**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and taking care of yourself is the foundation for managing your life. Eating healthy balanced meals, exercising daily, and getting enough sleep ensures energy is available to take on stressful situations. Here are some tips to staying mentally strong.



Build a Strong Foundation

Taking care of yourself includes eating healthy balanced meals, exercising daily and getting enough sleep



Establish a Routine

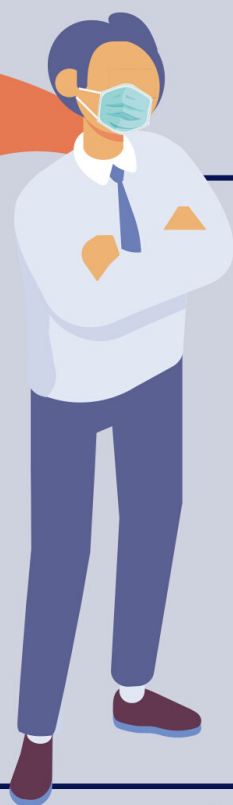
Schedules help us prioritize our needs while also planning steps toward our goals



Include Others In Your Journey

Sharing your progress and staying connected to others can help us navigate challenging times

**DON YOUR
MASKS
DON YOUR
CAPES**
DELAWARE COUNTY!



Delaware General Health District
Dedicated to Your Health

DelawareHealth.org/covid-19



PROTECTION FOR WHAT'S NOW, AND WHAT'S NEXT.

Your dream has many moving parts — and we can protect them all!
Bundle your home and auto policies to save, and add on life insurance
to opt for convenience, so you can keep dreaming towards what's next.

Let's talk about your insurance needs today.

BUNDLE AND SAVE! 🏠 + 🚗 + ❤️



James Hildreth, Agent

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Thank you for your support

The Big Walnut High School baseball program would like to sincerely thank all of the following businesses and individuals for their support in helping make the Big Walnut Baseball Program Golf Outing at Royal American Golf Club a success in October 2019! Your contributions are greatly appreciated! A great time was had by all, and we look forward to next year!

Sunbury Dental
Aflac (Ronald J Stein)
Patrick Knott
Schone Chiropractic
Gardiner Allen DeRoberts
Insurance
Big Walnut Apparel
Crater's and Freighters
Sharks Baseball
Buckeye Elite
Ag-Pro
Weaver Cement
John Kibler Drywall
Big B Concrete
RCA Hauling
Wendell's Pub
The Meade Family
Ryan Plowman
Sunbury Grille
J Beckner Construction
Senior Services Insurance Agency
Kevin Justice Trucking
Rob Stemen Excavating

K Beck's Transport
Lextant Rod Meade & Associates
DC Eagles Class of 2019 Travel Baseball
Group Eleven
Prodigy Student Travel
J Beckner Trucking
RKE Trucking
Builmore Contracting
Provident United
Yum-ee Donuts
The Gun Room
Absolute Impressions
Antonio's Pizza
PJ's Family Restaurant
Royal American Golf Course
Voss Brothers
State Security
Advanced Auto
Perfect Image Hair Design
Becky & Nate Benjamin
Amy & Kaitlyn Drake
Stephanie & Kendall Sarcheck

UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE COUNTY

Rent and Utilities Assistance Program

Qualifying households may receive up to \$500 for rent and utilities assistance related to Covid 19.

www.DelawareCountyFamilies.org/COVID19

Almost Normal at the Community Library



Rachel Coffield
Director of Youth Services

slice of "almost normal." So, we have pushed forward with plans for this year's Summer Reading Program, "Imagine Your Story." Of course, we had to make adjustments,

I know many of us are longing for normalcy, knowing that it may be a while before we see it again. The Community Library in Sunbury is working to provide our community with a small

because normal is no longer normal. As we pieced the reading program back together, we decided to keep our original dates, May 21 – July 18, because the last day of school, be it online or in person, is still the start of summer for students.

And what is a reading club without prizes? To reward our readers, we have a variety of prizes for participants to earn for each hour that they read, up to 10 hours. After reading 10 hours, they are able to enter for a chance to win one of our grand prizes! For additional chances to win one of the grand prizes, they can keep reading, or complete a challenge. Challenges are enriching activities that are designed to motivate hesitant readers.

As always, our Summer Reading Program is not limited to school-aged children. We have something for all ages, even adults. The requirements differ by age group, but the concept is still the same – read books, earn prizes.

To participate in our Summer Reading Program, starting May 21 visit <https://www.yourcl.org> and click on the appropriate age group to register. Participants may also pick up a reading log at our drive-through. Please check our Facebook page for other upcoming program events and information. Keep safe, and happy reading!

This space was paid for by the Community Library.



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area



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!

123 State Route 3 Sunbury, OH 43074 740-965-4301 www.sunburychiropractic.com
620 W. Coshocton St. Johnstown, OH 43031 740-967-BACK www.johnstownchiropractic.com



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Director of Facilities
Doug Swartz

While the COVID-19 pandemic has limited staff and student access to the schools, the Facilities Department has used this time to expedite a planned project that is funded by the Permanent Improvement (PI) levy approved by voters in November 2017.

Our big capital improvement focus this year is the replacement of the Big Walnut High School boilers. This is a \$342,000 capital improvement endeavor that allows the

District to replace a pair of 1991 (original) gas-fired heating boilers along with associated pumps and an expansion tank. This work will update a critical building infrastructure component and ensure we have reliable heat in that building for our students for years to come.

It should be noted that the work will not affect any planned uses of the high school facilities this summer, although we are obviously limited right now by the state on use of the buildings.

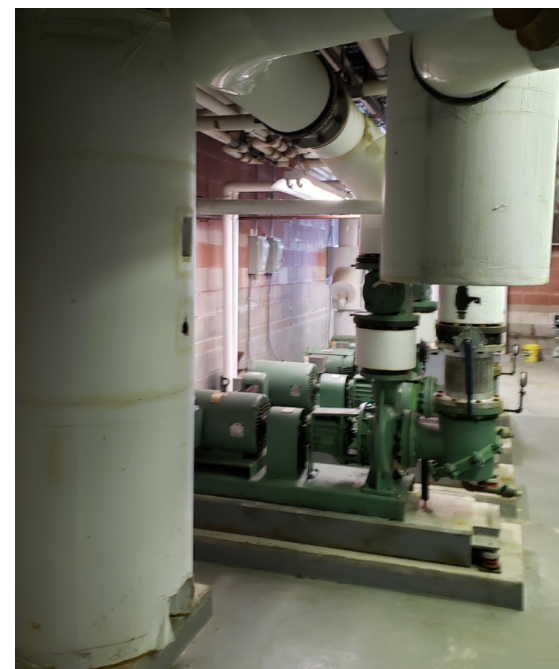
Thanks again to the Big Walnut community for supporting, through levy dollars, the long-term upkeep of this important public asset.



Aerial view of the joint construction site



View from the front parking lot of Prairie Run Elementary



Current high school boilers- originally installed in 1991

Help Me Grow: Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities

ABOUT US

Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DCBDD) is a county agency that provides support to more than 2,700 people with developmental disabilities and their families in Delaware County. DCBDD provides this support through Early Intervention for children two years old and younger, and through Support Administration for people ages three and older.

DCBDD's Mission:

To inspire, empower, and support people to achieve their full potential.

DCBDD's Vision:

All people will lead personally fulfilling lives.

To learn more about DCBDD visit:
www.dcbdd.org

Early Intervention

Children two years old and under who have been determined eligible for services are connected with a Service Coordinator, Developmental Specialist, and a core team of professionals. This team partners with the child and family to discuss their goals, what is important to and for their child, and what resources are needed for future success. The team of professionals and the family use the information gathered to develop an outcome-based Individualized Family Service Plan, which helps to guide service delivery in the child's natural environment.

For questions about intake and eligibility, call
800.755.4769 or visit
refer.ohiocentralintake.org.



Big Walnut Community Continues to Support

With little notice, and at a time when separation was required, our community found a way to join together to support and encourage each other. Parents and teachers have formed crucial partnerships to teach our students, and our *Neighborhood Bridges* program has helped numerous families during this time of need.

Less than 90 days ago, *Neighborhood Bridges* launched *Big Walnut Bridges*, the first and only Bridge in Delaware County. The purpose of *Big Walnut Bridges* is to bridge community needs with community resources. With the help of community advocates, area directors Megan Truax and Julie Adams were able to meet needs for 22 BW community members prior to March 12. On March 13, with the news of statewide shutdown looming, they launched a Covid-19 Response Community Food Drive.

Our community stepped up in a major way with volunteers, and financial and food donations. *Big Walnut Bridges* has been able to give out 75-100 bags each week, filled with shelf stable food for a family of five. That means they have directly impacted at least 3,375 people since March 13. *Big Walnut Bridges* is working with *Bountiful Backpacks* to continue to provide food bags for our food insecure families over summer. *Big Walnut Bridges* wants to thank our generous community for helping take care of each other during this historic time. Special thank you to Big Walnut Local Schools, Sunbury Christian Church, Harlem Road Church and Journey Fellowship. For more information and to follow and subscribe to *Big Walnut Bridges*, please go to neighborhoodbridges.org/community/BigWalnut-oh and/or follow us on Facebook @BigWalnutBridges.



Middle school guidance counselor brings some joy to middle school students to let them know they are missed



Students at Big Walnut Elementary took on the school-wide kindness challenge



Tennis coaches delivered awards to the players to recognize their season

The kindergarten teachers at Hylen Souders Elementary dropped off spring learning packages to each of their students



Harrison Street Elementary families dressed like pirates while participating in school spirit days



Big Walnut Intermediate teacher, Larry Leach, continues to keep the school spirit alive by engaging students in costume

Neighborhood Bridges

Our mission - "To Provide a Gateway for Kindness"

WHO WE ARE

Neighborhood bridges is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in January of 2017

WHAT WE DO

We engage the community to advocate for children & families in need and then drive direct care and kindness directly to those in need.

HOW WE DO IT

We integrate our website with email and social media channels to engage the community in providing kindness. We are largely a volunteer force that focuses on speed, efficiency, kindness!

How can you help?

Subscribe to neighborhood bridges at:
www.neighborhoodbridges.org

1 Select any community that you want to follow/support

2 Enter your e-mail

3 Follow us on social media at

@BigWalnutBridges

@bridgesWalnut

BwBridges

PURPLE UP

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. On Friday, April 17, our staff and students *Purpled Up* to show to support and say thank you to our military families!



THANK YOU, VOTERS



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG (CONTINUED)

However, based on what we are seeing from the Ohio Department of Education in the “Reset and Restart” draft for reopening schools, that may not be an option.

The anticipated permissible options from the state for next school year basically include what we are doing currently with remote learning or only having up to 50% of students in buildings at a time (there are many ways to do this, including bringing some students back full-time while some voluntarily continue with remote learning, using an A/B schedule, etc.). Based on the recent openings announced this past week, however, I am hopeful that may shift over the next couple of months. Any scenario with kids in buildings will most likely require us to observe social distancing and continue using increased sanitation measures.

While we wait on final statewide requirements and options, our team has been collaborating with other districts to share ideas and develop potential education models for next year. We will utilize a Pandemic Response Committee, including parents and staff members from existing district committees and some from local health and business fields, to give feedback on potential plans for next year. We will

provide an opportunity for all parents to provide input on allowable options through a district survey, which we expect to give in early June. For example, we need to prepare for the possibility of extending remote learning for a longer period of time, and we know that we will need to make adjustments in our delivery and expectations. While I would love to put an exact date on having a finished plan to recommend to the Board of Education, I really can’t do that without additional information. I will keep you updated as we work through this process.

In addition to all of these academic issues, the services we will be able to provide will be impacted by the current financial challenges resulting from COVID-19’s impact on the economy and our budget (see Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk’s article on page 3 for more information).

Finally, speaking of finances, I want to share an update on our levy. As of publication, our ballot issue has not been certified by the Delaware County Board of Elections, but things look promising. THANK YOU for renewing your support of our

students, at a zero tax increase, especially in this difficult time. With the current and imminent state cuts and local income tax cuts we will see, we are so fortunate to have these funds to provide services to our students. Even with the passage of the levy, like many of our businesses and families, we are facing very challenging economic circumstances ahead.

As always, please reach out to our team if you have any questions.

