

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner



APRIL 2019

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



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG



Thanks to Ms. Robinson and Mr. Bowden's 8th graders for inviting me to talk with them about the 4th Amendment and student rights

Warm weather is finally here, and we are celebrating with a groundbreaking ceremony!

While we have already been clearing some trees and completing some other prep work, on Tuesday, April 30, at 7:00 p.m., we will “officially” break ground on our new building projects. Due to access limitations with the location of our site and the lack of parking, we are unfortunately limiting on-site participants, but

will be streaming the event on Facebook Live (similar to what we did with our State of the Schools). We will also serve refreshments and stream the event live at the Big Walnut High School Auditorium. When the buildings are completed, along with our parking lots and access roads, we look forward to opening both of our ribbon-cutting ceremonies up to the entire community.

As we race toward the end of May, I hope you enjoy the many end-of-the-year ceremonies, concerts, and other events that celebrate our students' accomplishments. It has been a great year in Big Walnut, and we continue to appreciate the community support that is critical to our success.

Finally, as a way to honor those staff and community members who inspire and guide our students, we are pleased to once again partner with Roush Honda for the Golden Eagle Mentor Awards. Please consider nominating someone who goes above and beyond for our students. The application is available at bwls.net and must be submitted by April 19.

SAVE THE DATE

GROUND
BREAKING

4.30.19 • 7 PM

Gilbane



#BuildingBigWalnut

BWLS.NET/CONSTRUCTIONPROJECTS.ASPX



MESSAGE

FROM THE BOARD

Brad Schneider, President



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

On a Sunday in April, at around 9:30 p.m., my third grader paid a visit to my wife. He should have been in bed, but something was bothering him.

He expressed to her that he was worried about the State testing coming up. He was worked up on a Sunday night before the school week even started because some legislators decided it was a good idea to collect data. Data that is used to feed a report card whose own proponents have admitted is confusing and not measuring the right outcomes.

As a school board member, I hear a lot of complaints from our community about issues that are ultimately decisions made at the state level. These decisions leave me wondering at times whether accepting state funding is worth the hoops, hassles, and

impact to our students required to comply with the state's ever changing whims.

State testing is near the top of the list of requirements that add little value to our community but require diversion of District resources away from where our children need them.

Testing, like many other reactionary education policies enacted by the State of Ohio and driven by lobbyists, is built to drive everyone to the average instead of freeing those who can excel to do so.

I would rather the State get out of the way of districts who perform and are good stewards of all tax revenue and allow them the freedom to excel.

March's STUDENT & ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Student of the Month: Grace Huffman, from General Rosecrans Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board president Brad Schneider



Student of the Month: Kylie Cochran, from Harrison Street Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board member Mindy Meyer



Artist of the Month: Elise King, from General Rosecrans Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board member Doug Crowl



Artist of the Month: Gabby Brigham, from Harrison Street Elementary School, is pictured with her family and Board Vice President Liana Lee

EAGLES' LAST FLIGHT

Thursday, May 16

Eagles' Last Flight is our annual event where seniors head back to each elementary school so current elementary students can give them one last send off as Eagles. This is a great opportunity to connect our youngest and oldest students. Check out the parent newsletter or senior class website for more information.





REVENUE CHALLENGES CONTINUE WITH GROWTH



**Treasurer
Jeremy Buskirk**

As our District plans for growth, we are tracking enrollment along with the needed resources to maintain our current educational model. With a growing community and increases to our student population each year, we are beginning to see significant financial challenges in the coming years.

Our main sources of revenue are funding formula and property tax credit reimbursement payments from the state, as well as property and income tax payments from our local community. As I have shared previously, our current state funding (per ODE \$1,408 for each student) is not anticipated to increase dramatically which means the expectation is that local resources need to increase to accommodate any increase in costs due to both inflation and student enrollment.

Our community is a great place for families. A review of statistical information gathered from the Ohio Municipal Advisory Council, however, helps to explain further challenges with growth. Estimates for median home value and family income are \$275,000** and \$106,418**, respectively, and with a 0.75% income tax and current 26.58 mills provided for operations and facilities maintenance, we would expect approximately \$3,360 in local resources per home. When we consider that our District cost per pupil during the same five-year period was around \$10,000 or a little over (and many families have more than one student), it helps us see that it takes households without students, as well as revenue from commercial properties, to help support the educational needs of our students.

We believe that a strong community has quality schools. While growth does cause challenges, we appreciate and are grateful to the parents of our students and the whole community for all the help and support we receive to make us a great district.

** Ohio Municipal Advisory Council Housing and Income Statistics compiled from U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey Data



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2019 Graduation Ceremony

MAY 18, 2019

7:30 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, THE CEREMONY
WILL BE HELD IN THE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM



2020 VISION

SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Students at Harrison Street Elementary and Big Walnut High School came together last month for HSE's Eagle YOUNiversity. Throughout the year, students at HSE sign up and learn about different career options. For this particular session, students from our Big Walnut High School Wood Tech class spoke with students about careers (and high school classes) in wood technology. They then spent time building birdhouses together. It was great to see BWLS students collaborating and learning together.



**HSE students loved spending their time learning from the
BWHS wood tech students**



What is our 2020 Vision?

Check out the Academic Achievement portion of our website to see how we're personalizing instruction, engaging students, and growing minds.

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Library Seeks Community Input



Chauncey Montgomery
Director/Fiscal Director

As a publicly funded entity, it is critical that the Community Library in Sunbury is providing services and programs that meet the needs of our local residents. We can gauge the success of our existing collections and services based on circulation statistics and program participation. However, those numbers do not give us a complete picture of what we could be doing better.

Therefore, about every five years the library develops a strategic plan which helps us determine goals to ensure the library remains a quality resource within the community. This plan is wholly dependent upon user feedback. If we are going to improve, we need to know how to serve you better.

To that end, we have posted a survey at <https://feedback.yourcl.org>. The survey is open to everyone. There are 32 questions and it should not take more than 10 minutes to complete. As a thank you, participants can enter to win one of four \$25 Kroger gift cards. Paper surveys are also available at the Community Library located at 44 Burrer Drive in Sunbury.

We will collect surveys through May 18. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at chauncey@yourcl.org or 740-965-3901. Thanks in advance for participating in our survey. We are extremely grateful for your input.



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

This space was paid for by the Community Library.

Help us Improve

Give us your feedback



<https://feedback.yourcl.org>



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BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RAGE PAGE

EAGLES TO THE RESCUE



BW baseball players escorting the elderly man to safety



The team photo the boys were posing for when they noticed a man in trouble

The Big Walnut varsity baseball team, while on spring break in Myrtle Beach, helped a man in distress on the beach. According to multiple witnesses, a group of Big Walnut baseball players ran to the beach to rescue an elderly man who was an above-the-knee amputee who had lost his crutches in the surf and was floundering around in the water struggling to stay up, much less get up out of the water. The group of boys included 7th grader Kasen Knapp, sophomores Mahlon Spangler, Jake Bales, Brady Hershberger, and Jake DeVol, and senior CJ Rockwell. They immediately acted without hesitation to rescue the man in distress. Jake Bales describes the incident, "We were taking a team picture and then we looked over and saw an amputee who was taken by a wave and had fallen into the water. We asked our coach if we should go help him and then we decided to go and see what we could do to help. He was really appreciative that we were there to help." After they assisted lifting and getting the man out of the surf, the Big Walnut baseball coaches assembled all the boys to form a line and comb the surf looking for the one crutch that had been swept away. Unfortunately, the crutch was not found, but it wasn't from a lack of effort. Later, the elderly couple, who were grateful and deeply touched by the baseball team's actions, thanked the baseball parents for their kids' generosity.

Thanks to our coaches and baseball parents for sharing this story. I am grateful to work in such an outstanding community with great kids and families to support each other or anyone else in need.

By: Brian Shelton
Big Walnut Local Schools Athletic Director

UPCOMING DATES

5.6.19 Senior Academic and Athletic Awards: 7:00 p.m. at BWHS Auditorium

5.7.19 College Signings: 2:45 p.m. at BWHS Auditorium

To find more details on spring schedules, team information, and upcoming youth clinics and camps, visit our athletic website at bigwalnutathletics.net

BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RAGE PAGE

Mamma Mia!

A look into Big Walnut's latest production

By: Lindsey Stevens and Lauren Erickson

Big Walnut High School's 2019 musical, *Mamma Mia*, was shown February 28- March 2.

The cast, including crew, was 57 members strong, and starred Maddy Watters as "Sophie," Erika Carper as "Donna," Adam Bash as "Sam," and Grady Hemingway as "Skye." From the amazing set, the largest one in BW drama history, to the music performed, the BWHS Drama Department showed the audience their amazing talent.

Director Ms. Bair said of her first musical at BWHS, "The show went great, and the cast did so well." She also commented on the show's sold-out performances, saying, "Many members of the cast were able to experience a sold-out show, which is a unique experience that many are unable to live."



Cindy Serna, Erika Carper, Marybeth Brown, and Jake Burkey take the stage as they sing along to ABBA

The BWHS Drama Department will be hosting a cabaret on May 5 at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, though donations are appreciated. Guests can expect to see a favorite *Mamma Mia* number performed and will be the first to see a preview of the two musicals slated for next year. Additional performances will include musical and dance numbers, comedic and dramatic monologues, and student-written productions.



Erika Carper and Maddy Watters share a heartfelt moment



Cast members enjoyed the numerous dance numbers throughout the show

BWHS CAREER DAY

On March 12, students participated in the high school's second annual career fair. There were over 30 different speakers, including a video game designer, lawyer, plastic surgeon, sports journalist, chef, civil engineer, and nurse, among many others. Students also heard from Tim Harman of the Columbus 2020 organization, who spoke about the future job market.

Senior Lauren Speelman said of her experience, "I wasn't sure I wanted to come back to the Career Fair because I have early release, but I am definitely glad I did! I had the opportunity to speak with a marketing manager for L Brands, whom I've since been communicating with. This may also result in an internship for me in the field that I plan to go into."

Fellow senior Mikayla Colvin said of her experience, "I really enjoyed the Career Fair because I was able to meet and talk with people in the field I want to pursue."

I met an HR Representative from Nationwide Children's Hospital that told me about different opportunities to get immersed in the field of medicine. She also gave me advice and informed me of classes to take and activities to get involved throughout my years in college."



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Director of Facilities
Doug Swartz

April brings with it all of the classic signs of spring... showers, flowers, warmer days and additional daylight.

For the Big Walnut Facilities Team, April is a time of increased activity and progress on the work required to bring the new elementary and high school into full "bloom."

Construction Project Milestone activities occurring this month include the following:

- Surveying of site- this includes both the shared property lines with adjacent parcels, as well as the various site features and elevations on the project site
- Removal of site scrub trees- as necessary to accommodate all design elements for the new school campus
- Removal and stockpiling of existing topsoil- to be re-spread once building(s) are complete over the next 4 years
- Re-grading of site terrain- while the site is not extremely uneven, nor does it possess any unusual high points, the school site will be completely regraded to ensure proper storm water management out of respect for our neighbors and to prepare for the two new schools, parking areas, site athletics and other planned/future amenities
- Installation of Construction Entrance at end of Kintner Parkway- this stone drive will also be further developed to serve as the paved extension/bus and service entrance for the new school site

As with any new "garden," foot traffic should be kept to a minimum. Thus, we wish to remind everyone that the new school site is a Construction Zone. Only approved/trained personnel are permitted on the site at any time - 24 hours per day/7 days a week.

Should you have any questions regarding this requirement or any aspect of the construction project, please call me at Central Office at 740.965.7838.

CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Artifacts and Stories from the Red Edwards Big Walnut Museum

This month we are featuring a keepsake many of us still have to help us remember our high school experience. This picture showcases all of the Big Walnut High School yearbooks. We are grateful to Red for his continued conservation of our history.



Don "Red"
Edwards



Friendship Connection Exchange Students

Each year, students in the German program participate in a month-long exchange program called the Friendship Connection. This year, Big Walnut students Caitlyn VanHoose and Gretchen Houser and their families will be hosting Kim Wendel from Beilstein and Julia Braun from Kaufungen. The German students will attend classes at Big Walnut during their month-long stay. Big Walnut students then have the option to return the visit in the summer to live and attend classes with their partners.

