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The Eagle Examiner

MAY 2019

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

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG

May is always a wonderful-- yet busy-- time of year for families, and this year has been no exception. From 6th grade camp to our recent groundbreaking ceremony (check out the Facebook Live video if you missed it), there have been lots of great events happening at Big Walnut.

One of my favorite events was the annual Senior Academic and Athletic Awards evening, where many members of the Class of 2019 were recognized for their high school accomplishments. As a class, they received just shy of $7 million in scholarships, which is double what we typically receive! We are extremely grateful to our local Big Walnut Educational Foundation (BWEF) for awarding our seniors $116,500. Of special note, the family of Mitchell Young donated close to $40,000 in scholarships in his memory-- what an awesome tribute! Please see the information on page 7 if you are interested in supporting the BWEF. We truly appreciate the continued support of this great community.

Enjoy the last days of school, and have a fantastic summer!

Left to right: Former Board Member Dr. Allison Fagan, President Brad Schneider, former Board Member Nicci Scanlan Hess, Vice President Liana Lee, Board Member Mindy Meyer, Board Member Andy Wecker, Treasuer Jeremy Buskirk, Assistant Superintendent Mark Cooper, Director of Facilities Doug Swartz, Superintendent Angie Hamberg (Not pictured: Board Member Doug Crowl)

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Brad Schneider, President

The notion of "Our Community" has different meanings to all of you. For me, I have lived here nearly ten years. I've watched my children grow from toddlers and kindergartners to middle school and high schoolers. We brought our youngest home here as a member of his first community.

For some of you, you hear ten years in the community and perhaps chuckle to yourselves. Perhaps you were the toddler who became a high schooler who perhaps now has grandchildren who are living in our community.

Others have joined us in the last couple of years. The reasons are many to come to our fine community. Our citizens are friendly. We are close to a thriving city, but not too close. Our schools have a reputation for delivering a quality education at an economical cost.

Most, however, don't learn the secret about our community until they get here. And that secret, known to us, is that this is a community who is always there for one another.

Our new school projects are a tangible symbol of our community. These buildings will help address the challenges when more and more people want to join our community.

I would like to thank you, our community, who are providing the resources to make these schools a reality. I realize the sacrifice that can come with the tax impact on individual families that is making this project a reality. This Board and administration will make sure your sacrifices will result in the best community asset that is possible.

I would like to thank our community members who are volunteering with our District Facilities Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Design Committees to plan for and design these community assets.

I also ask for your good wishes for a safe and successful project for our community.

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

DISTRICT MAY SEE SLIGHT INCREASE FROM PROPOSED BUDGET

Treasurer
Jeremy Buskirk

There has been a lot of news regarding school funding over the last weeks, and we are monitoring the state budget process to determine the effects on our District. While it is still too soon to know what the education funding in the new two-year state budget will actually be, there have been two proposals presented, both of which will hopefully provide us with some additional aid.

In March, Governor DeWine introduced his first Biennial State Budget. This budget proposal does not recommend any major changes to the basic school funding formula and would likely continue to guarantee the same base aid amount we received in fiscal year 2017. The Governor has expressed a desire to support student wellness and success in schools by providing funding for initiatives such as mental health counseling, mentoring, after-school programs, and other needs of at-risk students. Initial projections show we may receive a little financial help for these initiatives.

A second proposal is a bipartisan effort by Representatives Bob Cupp and John Patterson. The "Fair School Funding Plan" proposal was worked on by school superintendents and treasurers across Ohio and attempts to completely modify the current complicated, and sometimes unpredictable, formula. Extensive efforts were undertaken by the school practitioners over the last year to try to identify actual cost categories related to running a district that provides a typical student with a quality educational experience. These cost categories provide estimated basic cost of education for each district based on student enrollment. As other formulas have, this formula evaluates a community's capacity to provide resources at the local level through property taxes and income, weighted at 60% and 40%, respectively. The difference between the cost of education and local capacity becomes the proposed funding for each district.

As the remaining days of our school year come to a close, our state legislature will be working through the process for a bill to become law. We are hopeful that either proposal will provide us with some additional financial support; however, as a growing community, we will continue to need the help of our supportive community to ensure we can provide a strong educational experience for students.

2020 VISION

SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Confidence. Pressure. Social Media. Body Image. Today's girls are facing tremendous challenges. They experience a 26% drop in confidence between 5th and 9th grade. ROX (Ruling Our eXperiences) is committed to equipping all girls with the skills they need to navigate these challenges. This is why it was extremely important to bring this program, which is in its third year, to BWLS. ROX facilitators (trained school counselors, school psychologists and instructional coaches) lead the 20-week, evidenced-based empowerment program. This year, we have a cohort of 60 girls at each of our 4 elementary buildings, the intermediate school and the middle school.

Within the ROX curriculum, the following areas are addressed: empathy, conflict, assertiveness, healthy communication, relational aggression, verbal and physical self defense, positive coping skills, redefining beauty, body image, role models, career aspirations, pressure to be "smart vs. pretty," and leadership.

We are seeing growth in girls reporting themselves as leaders, feeling capable in their abilities to defend themselves if necessary, and being confident in their abilities to manage stress/pressure and to get along with and support other girls.

Thank you to GPD Employees Foundation for supporting this program and ensuring that it continues next year at BWLS. Our goal is to be able to grow the program; if you would like to assist us in sponsoring the cost of one girl's participation in the program, please contact Molly Fortune at mollyfortune@bwls.net or Corry Schull at corryschull@bwls.net.

being a girl • ruling our experiences

To continue to empower women, GRE ROX girls and their moms spent an evening learning self defense with their facilitators

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Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

A Universe of Stories

By Rachel Coffield

As the school year comes to a close, the Community Library in Sunbury is gearing up for another fun-filled Summer Reading Program. As long as I can remember, the library has offered educational activities, reading challenges, and prizes every summer. As a kid, getting those prizes was always so exciting, no matter how big or small! There was nothing quite like cashing in your coupon for a free apple at the IGA that you earned for reading.

Over the years, the format and prizes of the Summer Reading Program have changed, but the main goal behind it has not: motivating people to read. I say “people” because the Summer Reading Program is not limited to just students in school. We have something for everyone. From our very youngest reader who is listening on a lap, to our senior readers, there is no age restriction as to who can participate. This year’s theme, “A Universe of Stories,” may mean more to our adult readers. It was selected because of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

To celebrate the start of our eight-week, space-themed reading program, we will have a kick-off party on May 23 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Community Library. We invite you to stop by our open house to participate in hands-on activities, games, and more. Thanks to a generous donation from Kings Island, we have a door prize drawing of four Kings Island tickets to give away. Come experience a little bit of space during our Summer Reading Program Kick-off. See you at the library!

The library is located at 44 Burrer Drive in Sunbury. You can also find us online at https://www.yourcl.org.

This space was paid for by the Community Library.

Inspire & Guide: Facilities Style

As Director of Facilities for BWLS, there are hundreds of decision points, both planned and unplanned, that need addressed on what can seem like a minute-by-minute basis. Schedules, budgets, building codes, zoning, construction contracts, security and technology are just some of the topics that require in-depth review and input from project stakeholders prior to making decisions. In regards to the decision matrix, I am blessed to be part of a planning team that includes administrators, Board members, parents, teachers, support staff, students, and consultants all working together to design and build a new elementary and high school.

With all of the design/build decisions and issues on our plates each day, it is sometimes nice to take an opportunity to get out into the schools and spend time in classrooms.

One such opportunity occured when I agreed to take part in the Teach, Inspire, Discover, Explore (TIDE) initiative at Big Walnut Intermediate. I was asked to read a career-related book to two 5th grade classes at BWI, and then spend a few minutes connecting that story to my Facilities Director career. After reading the book and sharing how they were connected, students had the opportunity for a brief Q&A session.

I read the book *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires. The book tells the story of how a little girl and her project assistant (her pug dog) plan, work, struggle and eventually utilize early struggles and concepts to design and fabricate her vision for this “magnificent thing.”

The story truly mirrors the design/build process in that it often takes several team members/resources and the vetting of multiple ideas before a decision point is reached and perfected to create the magnificent “solution” to the pending issue.

The 5th grade students of Mrs. Graven and Mrs. Sarap’s classes were bright, inquisitive and active listeners during both the story reading and the career portion of the 20-minute sessions. As the Class of 2026, they are in the unique position to become part of the first freshman class to attend the new high school and thus the first 4-year attendees of the new school. The ability to link actual future high school students to the spaces and tools that are envisioned at the new facilities served to further materialize and quantify the energy, excitement, challenges, learning and memories that will be created in the new high school.

Thank you, Class of 2026, for reminding me to continue to work hard everyday with the Planning Team and other stakeholders to create a magnificent new facility that supports a shared mission to Inspire and Guide you and future generations. Best of luck, and have fun next year in 6th grade!

Pictures from Our Ground Breaking Event

Members of the Facilities and Economic Development Committees played an integral role in planning for the new buildings

Boys Scout Troop #701 presented the colors for our Ground Breaking Ceremony

B W E F Big Walnut Education Foundation

Congratulations Class of 2019!

Through generous gifts from businesses, families, and individuals, the Big Walnut Education Foundation was able to award $116,500 to 97 students in 2019. With your help, we can do even more.

To learn more or make a gift, visit bigwalnuteducationfoundation.org.

Volunteer Board Members

Dave Brehm, Diana Butts, Warren Cox, Nicci Scanlan Hess, Bob Hetterscheidt, Linda Rano Jonard, Mark Predieri, Jerry Rensi, and Kelly Forman Roberto

— News Photo by Kay Harris

Blast from the Past

Thank you to Chauncey at Community Library for locating the article that ran in the *Sunbury News* highlighting the ground breaking ceremony of the current Big Walnut High School.

Big Walnut Officially Breaks Ground for School

Everyone took turns digging at last Wednesday's groundbreaking ceremony for the new Big Walnut High School, held at the new school site located behind the present high school football field.

Pictured above, from left to right, are Superintendent Carl Martin, school board president James Heine, sophomore class president Kelly Forman, and high school principal Chuck Workman. Forman represents members of the sophomore class, the first class which will graduate from the new high school.

Other members of the sophomore class, as well as the architect and contractors, also got their turn with the shovels.

"I'm usually not speechless," said Martin earlier in the ceremony, "but I am today."

And Heine noted the new school will benefit everyone. "This new facility will not only meet the needs of our young people," he said, "but will also meet the needs of our community."

Representatives from area businesses, industries, churches, clubs and organizations were among Wednesday's crowd. Construction should begin any day, said Martin.

Thank you to our administrative team members for their continued leadership

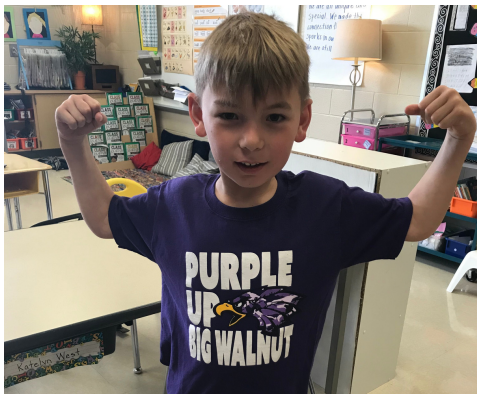
Excited students pose with Harrison Street Elementary principal Kim Castiglione

Guest EDITORIAL

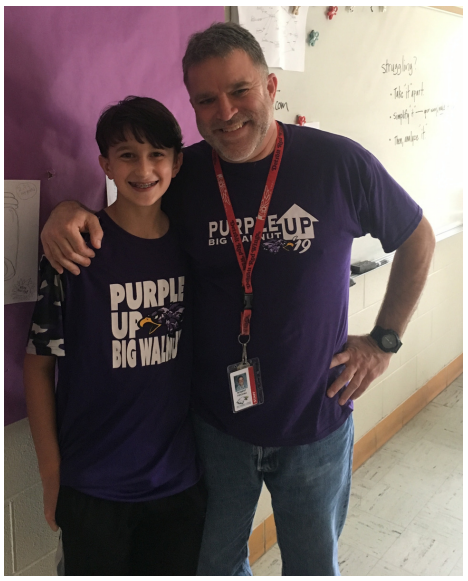
Souders for Accessible Playground Build is Ready for Fun!

In the March 2019 edition of *The Eagle Examiner*, Souders Elementary PTO was looking for volunteers to help build the Accessible Playground; after much hard work, kids are finally able to enjoy the new play area. Thank you to everyone who made this project come to life.

PURPLE UP AT BIG WALNUT



Big Walnut recognized "Purple Up Day" on Friday, April 12. April is designated as the Month of the Military Child-- a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas. Students and staff wore purple on Friday, rather than our school colors, to show support for our military-connected families. Families were invited to participate in different events around the district. In addition to Purple Up Day, the district hosted events throughout the school year to recognize both veterans and active-duty service members.



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

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BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RAGE PAGE

Love of the Game

The Lady Eagles are in the midst of a record season

The Big Walnut girls varsity softball team currently stands with an extremely impressive winning record of 17-3. This is a huge improvement from last season, when the team's season ended with a record of 12-13. The varsity lineup includes: Jojo Lucas (CF), Taylor Schulz (1B/C), Kayla Simms (OF), Karley Becker (LF), Maggie Blackburn (RF), Autumn Imhoff (P/1B), Hailey Krinn (3B), Sierra Perry (P/1B), Molly Sharpe (C), Alyssa Tarney (2B), Arielle Brown (SS), and Cassady Joseph (IF/OF).

When asked what factors he thought played into the team's success this year, Coach Jeff Hatfield explained, "We averaged about 4.8 walks per game last year with our pitching. This year, we have cut that basically in half, allowing about 2 walks per game. Offensively, we are averaging over 8 runs per game." He also thought that great work ethic and chemistry among players were key factors in their success. Five Lady Eagles have hit home-runs so far this year, with Hailey Krinn hitting 5, Molly Sharpe 4, Arielle Brown 2, Taylor Schulz 1, and Autumn Imhoff 1.

The team has three seniors leading their 2019 season; Jojo Lucas, Taylor Schulz, and Kayla Simms. Reflecting on her senior year, Lucas remarked, “Softball is a team sport. Your team can’t win without everyone being there, both physically and mentally, and wanting to win.” When asked what makes winning so sweet, Lucas responded, “You win for that moment of glory after the game; you win to make everyone proud. We couldn’t do it without the help of our coaches. They play a big part and I feel like they don’t get enough credit.”

Coach Hatfield says of the team, "They work hard and are extremely athletic. They are fun to coach, and I am extremely blessed to be able to work with them and be a part of our program!"

After opting to take a bye the first week of playoffs, the #3 seed Lady Eagles, are headed towards their first sectional game at home on Thursday, May 9 against either Columbus International or Licking Valley. Please come out and support our girls as they continue their outstanding season!

Front row: JoJo Lucas, Cassady Joseph, Arielle Brown, Janel Hayes, Abigail Clawson
Middle row: Autumn Imhoff, Maggie Blackburn, Alyssa Tarney, Taylor Schulz, Kayla Simms, Hailey Krinn
Top row: Assistant Coach Jerry Hatcher, Kayla Mosher, Sierra Perry, Molly Sharpe, Karley Becker, Head Coach Jeff Hatfield
Missing: Assistant Coach Brooke Hatfield

IMPORTANT LINKS AND DATES

Nominations for the Big Walnut Wall of Fame are due by Friday, May 31. Make a submission here: https://bigwalnutathletics.net/big-walnut-athletic-wall-of-fame/

Summer camp information can be found at https://bigwalnutathletics.net/camps-summer-information/

2019 Fall athletic events information at bigwalnutathletics.net

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

EAGLES LEAVING THE NEST

Eighty-five graduating seniors at Big Walnut High School were recognized on Friday, April 26 for receiving academic scholarships to colleges and universities across the country. These students earned a combined amount of scholarship money valued at almost $7 million.

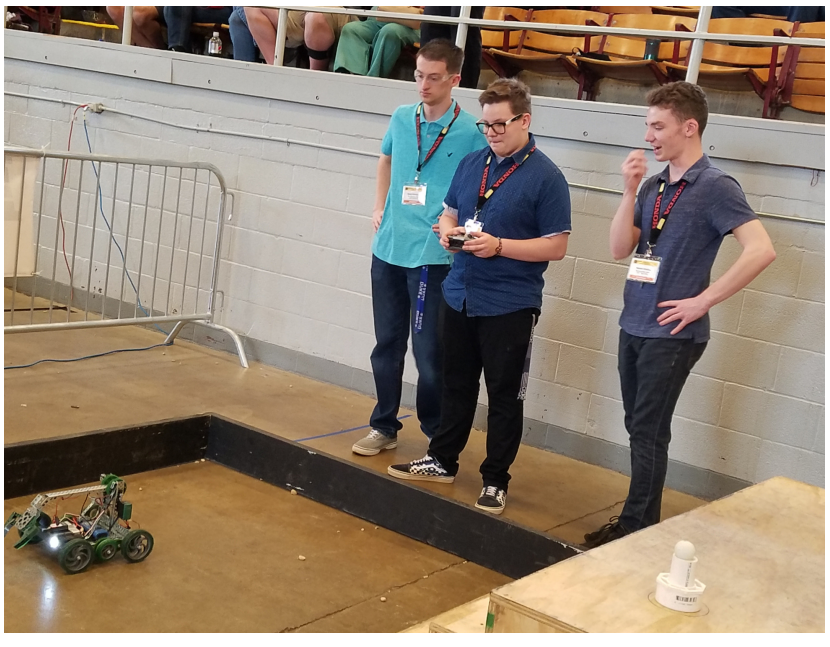
The five universities where Big Walnut will be sending the most students this fall are; The Ohio State University, Columbus State Community College, Miami University, Bowling Green State University, and the University of Cincinnati. Four students were also recognized on Friday for their commitments to the armed forces after graduation: Drew Armstrong (Army), Shawn Metzger (Army), Josh Akins (Marines), and Chris Mozek (Marines).

**BW's four students entering the military:
Drew Armstrong, Shawn Metzger, Josh Akins, and Chris Mozek**

Amanda Kelly, Roxy Lefevre, and Taylor Schulz are headed to Capital University

Nathan Lawyer, Sam Elliott, and John Elliott are all becoming Buckeyes at The Ohio State University

Charis Ellett and Adam Bash are headed to Baldwin Wallace, and Stephanie Smith is headed to Franciscan University



Ryan Erickson, Gary Davis, and Mason Holycross guide their robot through the course

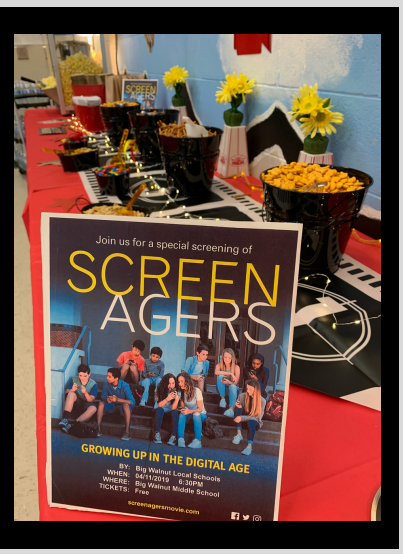
BIG WALNUT ROBOTICS STUDENTS FLEX THEIR GEARS

Students from the Programming and Robotics class recently participated in the National Robotics Challenge held in Marion, Ohio

Two teams--one of Ryan Erickson and Gary Davis, and the other of Austin Stewart, Mason Holycross, and Carson Erick--recently competed in the *Rescue Robot Challenge* on April 12 in Marion, where they were tasked with designing, building, and operating a robot to navigate different terrain and retrieve objects. Both teams did exceptionally well for their first year, winning several rounds of competition against other high school students, and advanced into the final rounds, which were held the next day. At finals, Ryan Erickson and Gary Davis' team placed 5th and Carson Erick, Mason Holycross, and Austin Stewart's team placed 8th.

One student, Andrew Humphreys, participated in the Interactivity Challenge at the finals, where he was given the task of using node.js to build and code Arduino circuits that included at least two digital sensors and two analog sensors. Andrew rose to the challenge; his inclusion of virtual reality elements in his design earned him an award as a Honda Innovation Award nominee. The Honda Innovative Design nomination was given to only 11 out of 422 competitors and teams. He also earned a Gold Award for his project-- the highest honor given in this competition.

PARENTS AND STAFF TACKLE SCREEN TIME



On Thursday, April 11, our community came together to discuss a very current, yet challenging subject that many parents face: screen time and social media. Despite the 80° temperature and beautiful weather, over 80 people gathered at Big Walnut Middle School to view the documentary *Screenagers*.

This documentary covers everything from the effects of screen time on our youth and mental health, to tips for parents on how to set boundaries when it comes to devices. After the show, we had some powerful discussions, including what stood out the most in the documentary, what types of guidelines we set up in our own households and shared creative ideas on how to manage screen time. For more information, please visit: screenagersmovie.com.

April's STUDENTS & ARTISTS OF THE MONTH

Student of the Month: Jesse Robinson, from Big Walnut Intermediate, is pictured with his family

Student of the Month: Mikayla Colvin, from Big Walnut High School, is pictured with her family

Artist of the Month: Emma Brinkerhoff, from Big Walnut High School, is pictured with her family and Board member Brad Schneider

Artist of the Month: Natalie Everitt, from Big Walnut Intermediate School

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.