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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner



JUNE 2019

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



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG

Dear Members of the Big Walnut Class of 2019,

Congratulations on your graduation from Big Walnut High School! Your graduation is the culmination of years of classes, teachers, projects, and many experiences that helped shape you into the person you are today. On behalf of our entire staff and our Board of Education, I want to wish you well in the next phase of your life.



During your time at Big Walnut, it is my hope that you have not only learned academic skills that will help you in your future schooling or career, but that you have learned skills that will help you to become a productive citizen. Our goal is that you have grown in the areas of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication-- as these are skills you will need regardless of where life takes you. As you move through the many possible stages of life-- college, military, or early career; parenthood; and retirement-- it is my hope that you will value the education you received at Big Walnut. As an adult, I hope you will support the schools in whatever community you call home, whether that is in Big Walnut or another school district. Strong schools equal strong communities, and local services, such as education, will have the biggest impact on your community and home values.



As you continue on your journey, I hope you will fondly remember the great community where you were raised. Even as we are growing, what makes Big Walnut special is the people choosing to serve our community. When you face challenges in life-- and you will-- remember the many people here who want to help and support you.

Congratulations and Best Wishes!



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



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

Being a Board Member can be a frustrating experience. When you are knee deep in state funding, economic development, school construction, etc., it can be easy to lose focus on what the educational experience really means to our children and community.

Brad Schneider, President

Erika Carper was one of two students selected to speak at our graduation ceremony. In just a few moments, she delivered me some renewed perspective when I needed it.

In Erika's words...

"People will rank us our entire lives. They will tell us who the best is and why, and they'll base it off test scores and the amount of paper in our wallets. But here's what Big Walnut taught me: How you treat people, and what kind of person you are? That is what determines your worth."

"...Before I came here, I was closed off, making terrible decisions and not earning the best grades. All I needed to reach my full potential was for people to be kind to me, and to believe I was capable. And now, I see that my ranking is irrelevant. What matters is the kind of person I decide to be at the end of the day. So when we leave here tonight, remember that it's not always about being the center of everything, but to be a part of something bigger, a part of something that values the content of your character, and pushes everyone to be the best person they can be."

"...I feel so grateful to be graduating from a high school that puts these values over anything else."

Thank you, Erika, for reminding all of us what inspiring and guiding to maximum potential means. I can't tell you how proud I am to know our District had this impact on you.

CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Artifacts and Stories from the Red Edwards' Big Walnut Museum



Don "Red" Edwards



Last month we held our graduation ceremony under the lights of our BWHS football field. This picture was taken when the stadium was built. With the athletic booster money, the track was added to the grounds. The first BWHS varsity football game was played in 1967.

SUMMER PROJECTS AROUND THE DISTRICT



Director of Facilities: Doug Swartz

For many, summer break is a time for sand castle building on the beach, fireworks and family cookouts. In the Facilities Department, summer break means “Summer Projects.” Thanks to our supportive community, a Permanent Improvement (PI) fund was approved in November of 2017. These PI levy funds are vital for the district to fund essential capital repair projects in our existing facilities. As our buildings age and technologies change, it is critical that we keep up with maintenance projects to maintain the value of our community’s facilities. Summer break provides us with the best window of time to complete these projects.

Here are two PI-funded project updates for the community:

Big Walnut Elementary - Masonry Repairs Project:

Built in 1969, Big Walnut Elementary started life as a 36,700-sq. ft. middle school and currently services 405 students in preschool through 4th grade.

The hot, humid summers and cold, dry winters have taken a toll on this building. To ensure many more years of useful service to the community, the district is acting on the recommendation of multiple facility assessments that indicated a need for masonry facade repairs and replacement.

Based on those assessments, the District is undertaking a \$90,000 program to repair and replace masonry defects on the exterior of this building. The repairs should commence in June, with a full completion anticipated in early August.

Hylen Souders Elementary - Window Replacement Project

Built in 1974, the 42,754 sq. ft. Hylen Souders Elementary School serves 356 students in grades preschool through 4th grade.

The original classroom windows have served the building well over the past 45 years; however, broken seals and other non-repairable conditions have caused visibility challenges and air leaks that affect the energy efficiency and overall quality of daylight in the classrooms.

To address this issue, the District is undertaking a complete replacement of windows in the classrooms. Along with providing increased cost savings from energy efficiencies and improved natural lighting in the rooms, the \$39,000 window system includes one operable window with an insect screen in each classroom. This feature will provide fresh air as well as offer a secondary means of emergency egress from the classrooms in the event of an emergency.

As these projects exemplify, it is the goal of the District to utilize the PI funds to extend the life of our facilities while improving safety and learning environments for our students and staff members. We are grateful for these funds to maintain our community’s assets. We work hard to prioritize the limited dollars we have to complete projects that benefit our school community.



DISTRICT CONTINUES TO STRETCH PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT AND OPERATING DOLLARS



Treasurer: Jeremy Buskirk

June may be the start of summer, but in the finance office it is the ending of our school’s fiscal year. We are working on final procedures to close out one school year and preparing to start a new one. It is also a time I find myself reflecting on what has transpired during the year.

Throughout the year, we have been able to set aside funds for small maintenance items and repairs to facilities that are needed. These funds have also provided opportunities to work on a few larger projects, such as improving our security camera system and increasing the number of cameras throughout our facilities. This summer we will be able to repair brick work at Big Walnut Elementary and replace old windows at Souders Elementary. We were also able to replace older technology and maintenance equipment, as well as replace three of our oldest diesel buses with new, cleaner-running propane buses. These are just a handful of examples of facilities, infrastructure, and transportation needs we are able to tackle with our permanent improvement dollars.

I am happy to report that our general operating fund revenues were a little higher than originally planned, and we are on track to be under budget as we close the fiscal year. Our revenues were helped this year by a couple of one-time payments, such as returned prior year tax settlement fees from Delaware County and multiple years of Medicaid settlement payments received in the current year. We also received additional unplanned tax revenues due to community growth. While we do anticipate an increase in revenues due to growth, the revenues exceeded our estimates. On the expenditure side, all staff (instructional, support, and administrative) have a focus to meet the needs of the students but challenge themselves every day to try to meet these needs in the most cost-effective and efficient ways. It is this strong team effort at every level of our district that has allowed us to have successful academics while meeting the challenges of tight budgets. I am thankful for our supportive community and proud of how everyone pulls together to stretch our dollars and make this a positive fiscal year. These efforts will continue to be critical as our revenue growth is not keeping pace with the expenses that we are facing as our student population continues to grow.



YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

In 1943, under the leadership of the YWCA, literary clubs in Sunbury and Galena planned to establish a public library to serve eastern Delaware County. The community pulled together, donating books, furniture, money, and time. The following year, the Community Library opened to the public. Through the years, the library has been housed in various buildings in Sunbury, including the town hall on the square, until the mid-1990s when the library moved to its current location at 44 Burrer Drive.

From its genesis, the Community Library has been locally governed. The library board of trustees reside in the Big Walnut area. And while a portion of the library's funding comes from the state, the library depends on a local, one mill levy for over half of its funding. Additionally, we depend on the countless volunteer hours that help us maintain quality library services. It is truly a community effort that keeps our library strong.

Sometimes we are asked why we don't become part of one of the larger library systems in the region. What we have experienced is that by being members of our resource sharing consortium, the Consortium of Ohio Libraries, we see many of the benefits of being part of a larger library system; there is a substantial cost savings by collaborating with other independent libraries, while also getting the benefit of access to 750,000 items.

What is more, by being locally governed, we are able to align ourselves better with the community. Local governance and administration also provides for better agility when it comes to responding to the needs and interests of our patrons, allowing for fewer steps between ideas and decision-makers.

Another perk is that it's very easy for the community to access library leadership, so if you have any comments or suggestions feel free to contact me at chauncey@yourcl.org or 740-965-3901. We take pride that we are truly a local library, and we hope you do too.



**This space was
paid for by the
Community Library.**

Chauncey Montgomery
Director/ Fiscal Officer

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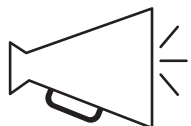
CLASS OF 2019



Graduation speakers, Erika Carper (left) and Lauren Spangler (right), spoke about their journeys as Big Walnut students



Friends of Mitchell Young gave a touching tribute to honor their classmate who would have graduated with them



BWHS Alumni Families &

If you are a recent graduate and would like to donate your red or gold gown to help a future graduate, please drop it off at the high school office this summer.

During the last few days of school, students at Harrison Street Elementary enjoyed a field day filled with lots of water activities and Discovery Day, where they learned about different careers.



Big Walnut Intermediate students enjoyed a fun-filled morning engaged in collaborative activities, then ended the day with a dance and Kona Ice station—thanks, BWI PTO!



END OF THE YEAR FUN



8th graders from Big Walnut Middle School took their annual trip to Washington, D.C.



Students at Hylen Souders Elementary celebrated their accomplishments by creating egg drop contraptions and having lunch with the principal.



Big Walnut Elementary continued its annual Spring Fling tradition to end the year on a high note.



BWLS celebrated its 1st Best Buddies Graduation Ceremony. Best of luck to Penny, Hannah and Benji! A new chapter of Best Buddies will be added to the middle school next year.



Students at General Rosecrans Elementary enjoyed their field day festivities to celebrate all the hard work they did this year.

Guest EDITORIAL

Student-Led Theater Workshop at GRE

Written by Danielle Maynard

Involvement in the performing arts can boost a child's personal and academic development. With this knowledge, Gina Zappia and I (two 8th grade students at Big Walnut Middle School) decided to design a theater workshop for the students at General Rosecrans Elementary School (GRE). Our work on this earned us the Girl Scouts' Silver Award.

The purpose of the Silver Award is to create a positive impact by addressing a need in our community. We both recognized that our involvement in various performing arts programs has helped improve our interpersonal, creative, and memorization skills. Why not introduce elementary school students to theater to help them develop these skills at an earlier age?

We worked with students in the GRE Y-Club after-school program. Thirteen students, ranging from kindergarten to 4th grade, participated in 10 sessions, where they performed monologues, learned theater terms such as "cold-reads" and "blocking", played improvisational games, and performed "The Mousetrap" for their families and friends.

We were very impressed by the students' enthusiasm. Many of the students memorized their lines for the performance, and a few even took on multiple roles. After the final performance, both the parents and the kids agreed that the workshop was a big success!

To make sure our project has a lasting effect, we are working to make our workshop more widely available. This includes making binders with instructions for the games, a sample lesson plan, various monologues and skits, and a list of additional resources. The binders will be given to the Y-Club at each elementary school within the Big Walnut district. Also, an electronic version will be forwarded to the Delaware County Y-Club, as well as the Big Walnut art and drama teachers, for future use. The hope is that other schools can build on the success of this workshop at GRE and introduce even more students to the exciting and fulfilling world of the performing arts!



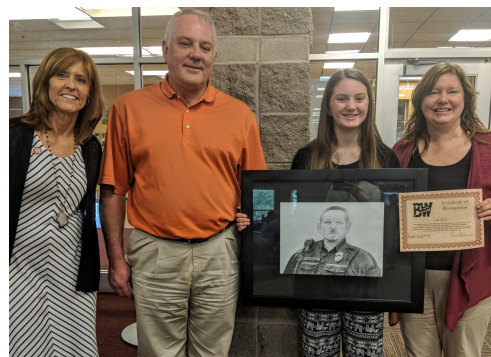
May's STUDENTS & ARTISTS OF THE MONTH



Student of the Month: Marissa McComas, from Big Walnut Elementary, is pictured with her family and Board member Andy Wecker



Student of the Month: Abbey Coleman, from Big Walnut Middle School, is pictured with her family and Board member Mindy Meyer



Artist of the Month: Danielle Maynard, from Big Walnut Middle School, is pictured with her family and Board member Mindy Meyer



Artist of the Month: Aiden Yetzer, from Big Walnut Elementary, is pictured with his family and Board member Andy Wecker

2019 Roush Honda Golden Eagle Mentor Award Recipients



(Back row, left to right) Karen Snyder, Koby Donohue, Dawn Halbakken, Red Edwards, Ginna Crawford, Andrea Kavalieros, Megan Everitt, Carol Burchett, Meghan Vituccio, Shannon Buckler, Corry Schull, Molly Fortune, Mackenzie Krous, Bruce Krous

(Front row, left to right) Chelsea Heban, Megan Duran, Ashley Hefner, Larry Leach, Jon Couser, Robert McFarling, Jacob Krous, Hayden Krous

Not pictured: Awny Kingsley, Nicole Leinweber, Mary Kay Pohlschneider

Members of the Kraus Family accepted this award on behalf of the late Julie Krous, beloved tutor at Harrison Street Elementary

Congratulations to the 2019 Golden Eagle Mentor Award recipients. The Golden Eagle Mentor Award is an annual award sponsored by Roush Honda and Big Walnut Local Schools that recognizes staff and community members who selflessly serve our students and district at an extraordinary level.

We are thankful to Roush Honda for their 23-year commitment to recognizing great leaders in our district.

