

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner

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MARCH 2018

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



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE POLLOCK

It's hard to believe, but we are now in our final quarter of the school year. Although it is the last quarter, we still have 25% of the year left. As we tell our staff, our students only get one opportunity for kindergarten, 8th grade language arts, or geometry, so we need to make every single day count.

While we are wrapping up the year for students, we are also focused on planning for next year and our construction projects. We are excited to report the following updates:

- **Hiring of Architect for Renovation Projects-** Last month, the Board approved the hiring of TRIAD Architects to complete the design work for our secure vestibules. They do extensive work with schools and have already begun work on the design of the entryways. We plan to get the majority-- and hopefully all-- of this work done to open the 2018-2019 school year.
- **Hiring of Architect for the New High School and Elementary School-** At the March 15 meeting, the Board approved the contract with VSWC Architects for the design of our new schools. This is also a firm that has extensive experience with building schools. We will be working with them over the next few weeks to create a timeline that we hope to share with the community in a future issue of our newsletter.
- **Hiring of Director of Facilities-** Making sure that our projects stay on time and within budget, while maximizing our tax dollars, is an important and full-time job. We have hired Doug Swartz as Director of Facilities. With his background in school construction, Doug will be our point person on the construction projects. See page 2 for more information.
- **Hiring of Construction Manager at Risk (CMR)-** Under the construction model that we will be utilizing, the CMR will manage the construction portion of the project. The firm will work with the architect on the cost estimating and will oversee the various contractors on the project. The window for submissions to our Request for Qualifications closed on March 12. We are paper screening firms right now and will plan to hold interviews in April.
- **Purchase of Land-** Now that we have architects in place, we are working with them and their engineers to evaluate our top land options. We know the location for the schools is the question on everyone's mind-- at least it is the question I get asked the most! We appreciate your patience as we do our due diligence in acquiring suitable land that both meets the district's needs and is available at a reasonable price for the district.



Finally, with the national conversation and focus on school safety, I appreciate your awareness and assistance in keeping our schools safe. It is more important than ever to communicate with one another. If you have a concern, please reach out to your child's teacher or administrator so we can work together to attempt to solve the issue. Please see the article by Assistant Superintendent Mark Cooper on page 6 for more information on school safety.

Taking care of our community and schools is up to all of us. Thank you for the support that the Big Walnut community provides to our district as we strive to inspire and guide our students to their maximum potential and to maximize the resources that you trust us with each day.

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

Message from the Board

One of my favorite buildings anywhere in Big Walnut is Harrison Street Elementary, where all five of my kids have attended elementary school, going back to January 2006 when my family first moved here. In one form or another, according to the Big Walnut Area Historical Society, there's been a school at Harrison Street since 1878. Harrison Street also served as the Sunbury High School, before there even was a Big Walnut High School in 1951 (in what is now our Intermediate School on Baughman Street).

Forty years later, our current high school opened in 1991. Now we are on track to open a new high school roughly 30 years after that, around 2022.

The environment sets a stage for life. But over the next few years, this community will have a rare chance to reverse that. In considering where we've been and where we'd like to go, we'll have the opportunity and obligation to create something for ourselves and those to come. I like to think we've been given



some great examples to follow, and that Big Walnut's 2020 Vision is a natural extension of what attracted my wife and me to Big Walnut in the first place. If in the past formal education was about ranking and sorting kids, we are trying to make it more about personalizing instruction, engaging learners and growing minds. We think that is the best way to prepare students to face the challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

On the construction front, we recently hired VSWC Architects to help us design a new high school, as well as a new elementary school. VSWC has already been helping the governing teams sort

through site selection decisions. In a recent meeting with our facilities committee, two principals from VSWC briefed the group on recommended timeline and ways to involve Big Walnut staff and community, whether in Big Walnut or by visiting newer buildings in other communities.

Safety in our schools is a huge component of what we do. The new bond issue will allow us to construct a high school that includes modern safety features and design. We will be working with TRIAD Architects to update our older buildings as well.

Last fall, in talking with Rollie

DeLong, Don "Red" Edwards and Steve Kesler, Red and Steve told me that in the 1950s, Delaware Co. had about 12 high schools, although they often were not large enough to field football teams, so basketball was the bigger sport. Central Ohio is fortunate enough to be growing, while many parts of Ohio are not. When one counts all of the Westerville and Olentangy high schools, Delaware County now has 9 much larger high schools. As we deal with these growing pains, the Big Walnut Board of Education appreciates your support, patience and perspectives. More so than many places, I think Big Walnut has been able to blend the old and the new, and more often than not get the benefit of those differences.

Sincerely,

Andy Wecker
Big Walnut Board of Education
President



Welcome New Director of Facilities: Doug Swartz

Doug Swartz will be joining our staff as Director of Facilities. Doug's primary responsibility during the next few years will be to oversee our new construction projects, manage our capital improvement plan, and maintain our facilities. Currently, we do not have a position dedicated to facilities, but having an expert in facility construction and management will help maximize our permanent improvement dollars.

Previously, Doug worked for Columbus City Schools and the Ohio School Facilities Commission as a project manager on new school construction and renovation. He also worked with maintenance and energy management at Columbus (CCS) Recently, Doug worked for the Pizzuti Company as a project manager. Doug has a BS in Architecture from The Ohio State University and is certified as a LEED Green Associate.

Many districts use bond funds to hire a firm to act as an owner's agent for 1-2 days per week. Doug will be a full-time director for about the same cost during the 4-year project window, and he will also oversee all of our facilities as we grow.

Doug begins his new position in April; one of his first tasks will be to help us select a Construction Manager at Risk (CMR). The CMR is responsible for the construction side of the projects. Securing this position is important, as the architect and CMR work together throughout the design phase under this model to ensure that cost estimates are as accurate as possible.

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS



Jeremy Buskirk
Treasurer

Property Taxes Q&A

There are many types of taxes, and I am sure we could all name a few. I would like to give more insight into real estate property tax. According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, the real property tax is Ohio's oldest tax. It has been an ad valorem tax, meaning it is based on value, since 1825.

As it is in other Ohio districts, the General Property Tax on Real Estate is a major source of financial support for Big Walnut and provides about 44% of overall revenues. Understanding how these taxes are calculated can seem confusing. To provide more insight into property taxes, below are answers to a few common questions.

What are property taxes?

The general property tax is levied upon land and buildings located within the school district. It is essentially a real estate or real property tax that every owner of private and business property, including public utilities, pays. Two key components in calculating real estate taxes are the taxable or assessed value (market value x 35%) of the property and the millage rate.

Is there a difference between the market value and assessed value?

The market value of property represents the County Auditor's appraised value if it was recently

purchased or the value the County Auditor calculates when a county-wide appraisal is done every three years.

The Assessed Value is 35% of a home's market value and is what a homeowner actually pays taxes on. Big Walnut's total assessed valuation for tax year 2017 is \$941,412,280.

What is a mill or millage?

The unit of value representing the rate used to calculate property taxes in Ohio. In cash terms, it is one-tenth of a penny (.001).

- A mill produces \$100 in tax income for every \$100,000 of property it is levied against.
- A mill produces \$1,000 in tax income for every \$1 million of property it is levied against.

With Big Walnut's assessed valuation, each mill generates approximately \$941,000 each year that a levy is in effect for the school district.

What is the difference between unvoted (inside) and voted (outside) millage?

Unvoted millage (inside millage) is millage provided by the Constitution of the State of Ohio and is levied without a vote of the people. It is called inside millage because it is "inside" the law, which allows for 10 mills of inside millage in each political subdivision. Public schools, counties, townships, and other local governments are allocated a portion of the 10 inside mills. Big Walnut Local School District is allocated 4.6 mills of the 10 inside mills.

2020 Vision Teacher Testimonials



Keri Kotchounian
Science
Big Walnut Middle School

When instruction is personalized and engaging, students are able to make personal, real-world connections. These connections are what are invaluable to their growth. When students recognize relevance of material in their own lives, they are so much more likely to "dig deeper" and learn the content at a much deeper level. An example of this from our classroom this year, was when we were studying eutrophication. We took a closer look at the algae blooms in Lake Erie and Grand Lake St. Mary's before creating our own arguments to present at a "Town Hall Meeting," where students had the opportunity to present their facts and question the position of others in our fictional town of Habport.



Charlie Rowley
Social Studies
Big Walnut High School

The Big Walnut Local Schools' 2020 Vision is preparing students to be successful in our ever-changing world. As a high school teacher, I value the importance of engaging students by providing them opportunities to collaborate, communicate, think creatively and critically. Developing connections between the curriculum and the real world leads to meaningful student learning and engagement. It is my daily goal to connect classroom content to situations that are relevant to everyday lives.

February's STUDENTS & ARTISTS OF THE MONTH



Student of the Month: Macy Maxeiner from General Rosecrans Elementary is pictured with her family and Board Vice President Brad Schneider



Student of the Month: Nathan Severs from Big Walnut Intermediate School is pictured with his family and Board Member Mindy Meyer



Artist of the Month: Langley Bishop from General Rosecrans Elementary is pictured with her family and Board Member Allison Fagan



Artist of the Month: Carter Dancer from Big Walnut Intermediate School is pictured with his family

SUNBURY/ BIG WALNUT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Buying or selling this spring?



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Kicking-Off Spring at Your Community Library

With spring quickly approaching, we will soon be coming out of hibernation and going outside more often. As the weather improves, the list of outdoor projects will also start to grow. Lawns will need mowed and gardens will need planted. We will also begin all the outdoor home maintenance we have been putting off through the winter.

The Community Library in Sunbury is here to help as you begin your spring projects. We have several online resources available at databases.yourcl.org that will help you as you tackle your list.

For all those outdoor home maintenance chores, the Home Improvement Reference Center is a useful resource. Through a collection of comprehensive full-text sources, this database provides you with detailed how-to information covering a variety of home improvement and repair projects. It also includes information on landscaping.

As you pull your lawn equipment from the garage or shed, it's best to make sure it's tuned up before you start using it. The Small Engine Repair Database is a great resource to help ensure everything is in working order. This database provides detailed, yet user-friendly, maintenance and repair guides for all manners of small engines. The content is organized in a powerful, easy-to-use manner so that you can quickly find the information you need.

If you have never gardened before and are interested in getting started, check out the course "Start Your Own Edible Garden," available through Gale Courses. This course teaches new gardeners how to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables in your own backyard. It will give you a solid foundation to start your garden and keep it growing all season.

While online resources provide convenience and easy access, perhaps you prefer books. If so, following is a list of where to find these subjects in our print collection.

- Home Maintenance and Repair: 643.7
- Landscaping: 635.9 and 712
- Small Engine Repair: 621.43 and 629.2875
- Gardening: 635

We hope these resources will be of some use as you get working in the spring. If there is a topic or resource you need that you can't find in the Community Library's print or online collection, let one of our friendly staff know. You can contact us at 740-965-3901 or info@yourcl.org.

Chauncey Montgomery
Director/Fiscal Officer
Community Library



BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

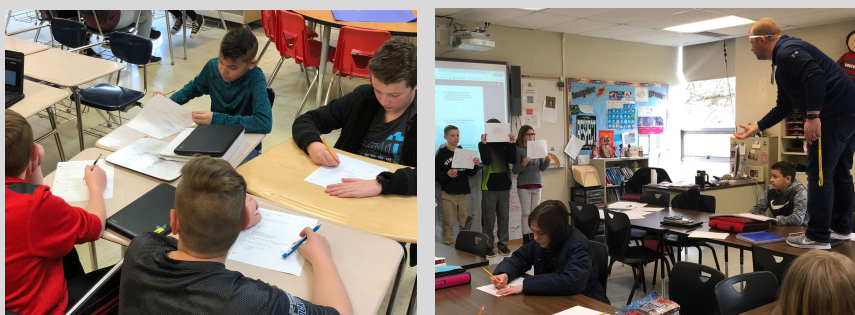


2020 VISION SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

At the beginning of this school year, the sixth grade math teachers at Big Walnut Intermediate took the previous year's Ohio State Test data to see where they could provide extra support to this year's students. This led to the idea of using Math Swap Fridays as a way to zero in on specific needs and developmentally appropriate ways to meet each student at his/her ability level. The goal is to take a hard-to-understand concept and assess students on their understanding of the topic. Based on that assessment, teachers divide all sixth grade students into seven different groups. This allows them to flexibly move students based on their learning style, readiness, and interest.

For example, in January, all sixth grade students took a short assessment over ratios and proportions. Students were then broken up into small groups based on the results. Each sixth grade math teacher- Wendy Austin, Savannah Brown, Larry Leach, Megan Massingill, Jessica Shelton, Scott VonAlmen, and Sarah Wadsworth- designed different lessons based on the ability of the students they had in their group. Some students needed more time to understand the basics of ratios and proportions; therefore, that teacher spent more one-on-one time walking students through their understanding. Other groups spent time digging deeper with real-world examples of when and where ratios and proportions are used in everyday life (e.g. boys to girls in their class; pens to pencils on a table, etc.). Finally, the group of students who already mastered the concept did an activity where tasks were posted around the room, and they worked in pairs to solve the leveled problems.

Sixth grade teachers have seen tremendous growth by doing the Math Swap every other Friday. They are seeing that concepts covered during this time are being retained better and students' understanding is much deeper. With this approach, students are able to get material presented in a way that matches their learning style and pace. The team works extremely hard to create engaging and personalized activities that maximize the growth of all students.



Sixth grade students in two different groups during the story problems Math Swap day



On the Safe Side

We aim to keep students safe and secure during the school day

Article by Assistant Superintendent Mark Cooper

The safety of our students at Big Walnut is our highest priority. We have taken several steps over the last few years to enhance our security for students and staff. Our procedures and practices are constantly adjusted, as we learn new strategies or improvements to minimize threats to student safety. We will remain committed to never believing that our current plans are "good enough" and guaranteed to prevent all threats.

Big Walnut maintains an Emergency Operations Plan filed with the State of Ohio that meets or exceeds all requirements. This plan is purposefully confidential to the public, as this is for the protection of all of our students and staff. While there is no single solution to keep our students fully protected, there are many steps that we as a community can take to minimize any potential threat. First, we strongly believe in the phrase, "If you see or hear something, say something." Our district uses the Safer Schools Ohio anonymous tip line for anyone in the community to share information at any hour of the day with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety. Concerns can be reported by call or text to 1-844-SAFEROH (1-844-723-3764). The system will send the anonymous report to the appropriate people to address the concern. We take all threats to student safety seriously and will work with our local authorities to investigate any report that is provided.

Second, it is imperative that family members take time to engage in conversation with the students in their lives. Know what is going on, not just from a learning standpoint, but from a lens of their safety and well-being. Encourage them to reach out to you, a friend, or a trusted adult if they or someone that they know needs help. Finally, take time to monitor your students' digital presence. While you may feel that you are invading their privacy, it is your right and responsibility as a parent or guardian to know the issues that impact your student's life on a daily basis. This responsibility also includes getting your child the help that may be needed, whether through school support or other professionals that can help. To support you with this responsibility and as an additional layer of safety for your student, the district utilizes GoGuardian software to monitor students' Google accounts for potentially dangerous situations. If any concern arises through this system, notification is provided to the parent as soon as possible.

It is by working together, despite our agreements and disagreements on societal issues, that we will continue to build a community that is aware of any potential concerns and supportive in addressing them fully for the protection of our kids.

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CONGRATULATIONS to these **BIG WALNUT YOUTH BASKETBALL WINNERS!**



3rd Grade Boys Travel



4th Grade Boys Travel



4th Grade Girls Travel

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Meet the newest member of our family, Kelly Carr. She's an orthodontist. We really like her, and know you will too. In school, she received honors in both academics and patient care, so you know she's good at what she does. Her favorite part of her work is getting to know her patients and their families, so you should stop in and say hello. Dr. Carr and her husband, Justin, live in Delaware with their two children, Gemma and Everett.

Welcome to the team, Kelly!

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www.sunburychiropractic.com

SUNBURY/ BIG WALNUT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



SAVE THE DATE!

Community Expo & Job Fair

Hosted by Sunbury/Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce and Big Walnut Local Schools

"Living, Learning & Working in the Big Walnut Area"

Thursday, April 26, 2018

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Big Walnut High School Gymnasium

555 S. Old 3C Highway, Sunbury, Ohio

Free Admission!

**** MC - DJ Meeko!***

**** Complimentary pizza from Sunbury Jet's!***

**** 5:30 pm: Performance by Big Walnut 3rd graders playing the Recorder in the auditorium/theatre across the hall!***

**** 6:30 pm in the gym: Dance, voice & piano performances from Lex Center of the Performing Arts students!***

**** 92.9 WDLR -FM radio will be on hand with ticket giveaways, games and will broadcast live throughout the evening!***

Exhibitor tables are still available!

To register as an exhibitor, go to www.sunburybigwalnutchamber.com

We hope you'll join us!



Big Walnut Local Schools

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

Strong Bond Rating Saves Taxpayers Money

Article written by Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk

In February, we participated in the process of obtaining a rating with Moody's Investment Services for a bond sale to fund the starting phase of our construction projects, and we were very pleased that Moody's maintained our very strong Aa2 rating. A great deal of effort goes into this process, but the key aspects of the process are as follows:

- Agency representatives (analytical team) review and research our District
- District representatives present information on the District and conduct discussions with the analytical team regarding program offerings, local economy, finances, strengths and challenges
- Analytical team presents the District to the agency rating committee
- A rating is provided to the District

After going through this process, Moody's noted that a challenge in future years was the

need to issue additional debt due to our construction projects. Ultimately, Moody's noted our district outlook was in stable condition "due to the district's growing tax base and our healthy financial position that is expected to remain satisfactory due to managements' demonstrated ability to control expenditures and manage overall budget growth."

Why does this matter?

A bond rating is a grade given to an issuer that provides potential investors with credit quality or risk of the investment. The higher the rating, the safer and more stable the investment is considered. The reason that we are very pleased with this is that the rating influences interest rates, bond prices, and investor interest. In short, this process and the rating helps us save money on the issuance of our bonds.

	Moody's	Meaning
Investment grade	Aaa	Prime
	Aa1	High Grade
	Aa2	
	Aa3	
	A1	Upper Medium Grade
	A2	
	A3	
	Baa1	Lower Medium Grade
	Baa2	
	Baa3	



Big Walnut High School

ATTENTION ALL UPCOMING 7th & 12th GRADERS!
teen immunization clinic

Required School Vaccines 2018

- Grade 7** 1 dose Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
1 dose of meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W and Y)
- Grade 12** 2 doses total of meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W and Y)

A school vaccine clinic will be held on
April 11
7:30-9:00am

Additional Immunizations Offered:

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Hepatitis A

Consent forms available at DelawareHealth.org under School Clinics. Consent forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Most private insurance and all Medicaid plans accepted.

VFC (Vaccines for Children) offered – No VFC eligible child will be refused shots due to inability to pay. VFC eligible children include those under 19 years of age who are uninsured, are American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Students may also receive immunizations at other Health District clinics where appointments are recommended.

Big Walnut Intermediate School

ATTENTION ALL UPCOMING 7th & 12th GRADERS!
teen immunization clinic

Required School Vaccines 2018

- Grade 7** 1 dose Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
1 dose of meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W and Y)
- Grade 12** 2 doses total of meningococcal (serogroup A, C, W and Y)

A school vaccine clinic will be held on
April 16
7:30-9:00am

Additional Immunizations Offered:

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Hepatitis A

Consent forms available at DelawareHealth.org under School Clinics. Consent forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Most private insurance and all Medicaid plans accepted.

VFC (Vaccines for Children) offered – No VFC eligible child will be refused shots due to inability to pay. VFC eligible children include those under 19 years of age who are uninsured, are American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Students may also receive immunizations at other Health District clinics where appointments are recommended.

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS: STUDENT RAGE PAGE

ON THE SAME CREATIVE PAGE

Honors English sophomores participate in a creative program partnership with Ohio State that fosters a love of the arts.



Photos courtesy of Stacey O'Reilly
Story by Mya Staysniak

Sophomores at Big Walnut High School are exploring English/Language Arts in an exciting way outside of the classroom. Through a program run by the Wexner Center at the Ohio State University, students in Stacey O'Reilly's Honors English 10 class are experiencing art and writing in a new way.

"The Pages program is a 100% grant-funded program through the Wexner Center," O'Reilly said. "It provides students with the opportunity to work with three resident artists each year and to see or experience three different performing arts."

The students take buses to OSU and participate in gallery walks, view theater and film, and listen to orchestras. All of the experiences aim to capture different perspectives from which students can learn.

"Personally, I liked going through the galleries and seeing all of the art. It was probably my favorite thing," junior Anthony Cunningham said. He participated in Pages last year.

"I was interested beforehand, and after it made me appreciate it more."

Besides watching performances and visiting galleries, students

were assigned journaling and writing assignments through the program, like finishing another person's poem or making a collage.

"It sparked creativity in me," Cunningham said. "It made me think about more perspectives and different viewpoints."

The program includes other schools who participate, which allows everyone to form new friendships. The Wexner Center pays for everything: buses, lunch, admittance and even the journals the students decorate and use.

The Wexner Center also prints participating students' work in a publication.

"It offers them experiences they wouldn't have normally," O'Reilly said. "From brainstorming to writing to revision, they've been given many different tools."

The Pages program has been beneficial for students by improving their reading and writing skills, along with providing the students with opportunities to view art and performances that ignite discussion.

"Pages helped me realize and show a part of me that I didn't really acknowledge," Cunningham said, "but after that I think it helped me bring that out."

**UPCOMING
ATHLETICS
DATES:**

MONDAY, MARCH 26
OHSAA parent
meeting @ 6:30 PM
BWHS Auditorium

FRIDAY, APRIL 6
Spring Sports teams
pay-to-play fee
deadline

FRIDAY, APRIL 20
Big Walnut Athletics
Hall of Fame
nominations due. See
bigwalnutathletics.net
for more information

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

VSWC Architects and TRIAD Architects Get Right to Work



VSWC Architects will be working with us to design our new schools. Although their office is located in Mason, the firm has designed many projects in Central Ohio; most recently, they designed Groveport Madison, which is currently under construction.

They are already assisting us with assessing potential school sites and have begun meeting with us to create a timeline for our projects.



VSWC
Architects



TRIAD Architects were selected as the design professionals for the security updates of our buildings. TRIAD is a Columbus-based firm with whom the district has done master planning. They have already held initial meetings with district staff from each of the five buildings that are getting new vestibules and are working on the designs based on that input. We plan to complete as much of the actual construction work as possible during the summer for the 2018-2019 school year.