

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS
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 **SEPTEMBER 2020**

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS
The Eagle Examiner

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

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG



It is hard to believe that we have already been back in school for a month. I am so grateful for everyone's flexibility and understanding during the start of this school year. Our students, staff and families have been amazing, and it is great to see kids back in the buildings. I am thankful for our principals and staff who have worked so hard to prepare for this unusual school year.

Our Virtual Learning Program (VLP) is also in full swing. I appreciate our students and parents who are navigating this new terrain with us. Thanks to our VLP staff for their hard work in getting the program up and running. I would also like to thank Ginna Crawford, the VLP Coordinator, for the countless hours she's put into this program to make it a success.

As we move through these first weeks of in-person school, we have already made minor adjustments to lunches, class exchanges and hall traffic in different buildings. We will continue to tweak our processes as we settle into routines. Likewise, we will continue to make adjustments in our VLP based on feedback from our families. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to make the best of this situation.

Our students have done an amazing job of following safety protocols. As I talk with students across the District, it is obvious that they are happy to be back and willing to follow many safety precautions, including wearing masks, to have the opportunity to be back at school. In a time that is beyond frustrating for us all, their resilience and positive attitudes are contagious.

We are starting to get questions about moving between in-person learning and the VLP at the end of the semester. We will communicate with families in November regarding making changes in their selected learning options. With limited staff available, it is difficult to move students back and forth between options right now as we based our staff assignments on VLP and in-person numbers. We are only making these moves when there are extenuating circumstances. Thank you for your understanding.

As we continue into fall, I look forward to watching our students learn and grow. Thank you for continuing to support us in our efforts to “inspire and guide our students to their maximum potential.”



**CHECK OUT PAGE 5 FOR AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE
NEW PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider

I'm writing this on September 13 as the school year appears to be off to a strong start, considering the challenges facing all of us.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each and every employee of the District. The circumstances of these times, and the protracted decision-making processes at the state level, tested the resourcefulness, flexibility, patience and resilience of our team. Not surprisingly, they have come through and made our return to school about as smooth as possible under the circumstances.

During our staff convocation, I asked everyone to try to be patient as they will find themselves making adjustments and tweaks, as we all learn the best way to



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

proceed in this environment. I'd also like to echo that same request to our community as a whole. Your patience and acceptance of the challenges and course corrections at the start of the year are greatly appreciated.

In every aspect of my life, I am observing people who are tired, frustrated, overwhelmed with changes and concerned about the future. I'm finding that patience and focus are two traits that are helping us all push forward.

I think most of us can agree that the uncertainty, change and frustrations around us are probably not subsiding anytime soon. This week, I had the opportunity to remind myself that no matter the source of my frustration, if I assume positive intentions of others, it helps me achieve better outcomes.

So even though we are off to a strong start for the year, I think we have to be realistic that the changing nature of these circumstances will continue to test our patience as a community. In presuming the best intentions of those around us, I believe we will find we can address the unpredictable challenges to come in a way that strengthens our service to our children, as well as our relationships as a community.

CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Artifacts and Stories from the Red Edwards' Big Walnut Museum

This month's artifact is from 1951 and showcases the first students entering their new high school, which is currently Big Walnut Intermediate School.



Don "Red" Edwards



DESPITE REVENUE SHORTFALLS, DISTRICT CONTINUES TO OPERATE WITH HELP FROM SAVINGS



Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk

There is always a degree of excitement with the start of a new school year, and this year is no exception. With the unexpected way last school year ended, we have been eager for school to finally be back in session. Without a doubt, this year will be filled with challenges, but there is much to be excited about as well, such as the opening of our new school, Prairie Run Elementary, and the continued progress on our new high school and athletic facilities. After the approval of the bond issue in November of 2017, and several years of planning and hard work on these construction projects, it is great to finally have students enjoying one of the new buildings.

While there are many things for which to be thankful, there is still the ever-present challenge of how to ensure we have adequate funds to provide the educational opportunities and support we want for our students. By running a lean operation over the past few years, we have been able to build a cash balance, even while experiencing growth in student enrollment. Maintaining a cash balance, or “rainy day” fund, is a prudent practice and recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) because it provides a cushion for unforeseen circumstances, like a pandemic and an economic downturn. It also provides for funds to bridge funding gaps in deficit years.

Our financial outlook has been showing for years that rising costs, due to above-trend insurance, enrollment growth and standard inflation, would exceed our revenues in years prior to the fiscal year 2020-21. As an administrative team, we have been able to stave off deficit spending through implementing new insurance plans, monitoring staffing, reducing services, not adding programming that would make our students more competitive with students from other area districts and closely watching all other expenditure areas. As of the May forecast, we were anticipating approximately \$3.2 million dollars of deficit spending for the current year. While I believe this will be adjusted with our updated November forecast, we are entering a period where we will likely not be able to continue to provide the same support and services without new funds in the coming years. I will provide additional updates in future articles as new and updated information is available.



VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS A REMOTE LEARNING OPTION DURING PANDEMIC



**VLP Coordinator
Ginna Crawford**

Big Walnut's Virtual Learning Program (VLP) is off and running. We have approximately 20% of students enrolled in our VLP, with about about 100 at each grade level across the district. Our VLP courses are provided as either a BW-taught or BW-supported course and utilize synchronous online sessions (live virtual classes), as well as digital and offline assignments. In both cases, the students are assigned to a Big Walnut teacher to guide their instruction. The main difference is that our BW-supported courses do not have required synchronous online class sessions.

While we provide most of our course offerings in our VLP, there are some courses that were not feasible to provide in a virtual environment due to enrollment numbers, scheduling conflicts or course content. In these cases, students are able to come in-person to take the course. We have 17 VLP students taking advantage of this option.

We are continuously trying to connect our VLP students to their home school through communication, social meetings and extra-curricular offerings. For more information about our VLP program, please visit our website at bwls.net/VirtualLearningProgramVLP

Congratulations TO THE GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS TEAM: 2020 OCC CAPITAL DIVISION CHAMPIONS



Big Walnut Athletics



**Athletic Director
Brian Shelton**

It is exciting to see all of our teams doing what they love to do this fall. In many ways, things seem normal, but in other ways, things are very different. In the end, our student-athletes are competing and enjoying the season.

Thank you to all of our student-athletes, coaches and spectators who are doing all that they can to keep everyone safe.

As we are approaching the midpoint of the fall season, I want to remind everyone to stay the course, and make every attempt possible to follow safety protocols to keep our athletes and families COVID-free.

I am very confident we are making safe choices while at school and sporting events. I do worry about what happens outside of practices, contests and school. Please make safe choices so our athletes can continue to play.

Thanks for all that you do to support our student-athletes and coaches.

BIG WALNUT ATHLETICS

2020-2021

2019-2020 RALPH YOUNG AWARD
OCC CAPITAL DIVISION
CHAMPIONS

"BEST SCHOOL IN THE CAPITAL DIVISION"

SEEKING DONATIONS

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

FUNDING WILL BE USED TO
SUPPORT ALL 35 ATHLETIC
TEAMS IN GRADES 7-12 AND
BALANCE THE BUDGET FROM
PROJECTED COVID-19 SHORTFALL

SEPTEMBER | 2020

EAGLE NATION

Big Walnut High School is a member of the Ohio Capital Conference (OCC), which has 32 Central Ohio teams. The OCC is one of the best conferences in the state of Ohio, with multiple teams earning state championships last year. The Ralph Young Award goes to the school in each of the OCC's five divisions that performs the best in the conference's common sports over the course of the school year. Although we have finished second many times, this is the first time in our school's history that we won this award!

One of the many challenges we are facing this year is our athletic budget. I take great pride in keeping an accurate budget that annually ends with a positive balance. With our current spectator attendance being limited to 15%, we are on pace to have a budget shortfall. With no spring sports last year, we lost \$30,000 in revenue. I am projecting this shortfall for the 2020-21 school year to be around \$50,000 or greater.

I am asking for our community to consider supporting our Big Walnut athletic teams during these difficult times by making a donation. Anything given will greatly impact our student-athletes and is greatly appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible, and a receipt will be provided.

**To make a donation, go to
tinyurl.com/BWLSdonations**

If you have any questions, please contact me at brianshelton@bwls.net or 740-965-7778.

Thank you so much for your support.

WELCOME TO PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY



By slightly reducing the area of each classroom, we were able to create inviting extended-learning areas for all classes to enjoy



Extended learning area in the kindergarten space



A quiet space for students to read

- Premiere Senior Living
- Memory Care
- Individualized Service Plans
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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, Workers' 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!

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A COMMUNITY OF READERS



Chauncey Montgomery
Director/ Fiscal Officer

Coronavirus has definitely taken its toll on our daily lives. Even though we are at liberty to leave our homes, shop, and eat at restaurants, we are still contending with safety measures, such as social distancing, working from home, and limited capacities in facilities. We are still far from normal. I don't know about you, but I can't wait for the day I can leave home without worrying if I remembered a mask.

Despite all the changes we're experiencing, coronavirus has had little impact on our community's love of reading. The number of books borrowed from the Community Library in Sunbury over the last nine months only

dropped 3% when compared to the same duration last year. That's rather impressive considering most folks weren't going out much between March and May. What's more, our community borrowed more books from the library in August than any previous August in our history.

These numbers demonstrate that Big Walnut is definitely a community of readers. The circulation of library books wouldn't remain so strong during the pandemic if reading wasn't such a critical part of our lives. Although much of our world seems abnormal, reading remains mostly unaffected. The Community Library is proud to help contribute to normalcy during these abnormal times. We are pleased that our patrons continue to turn to us for books and other items for enrichment and enjoyment.

We are hopeful for the day that we can see each other's faces again. We look forward to

shaking hands as we once did. It may be some time, but we'll get there. In the meantime, it's nice to know that a good book remains the same, regardless. We invite you to visit the library, browse our shelves, chat with staff, and find a good read. If you prefer, you can take advantage of our drive-through or pick-up lockers when getting library books. Also, thanks to a CARES Act grant, we are able to expand our digital collection. Starting in October, patrons will be able to borrow 15 items a month through Hoopla, which has ebooks, digital audiobooks, music, and movies.

Visit our website, www.yourcl.org, to connect with our catalog and digital collections. If you need help finding something to read, contact us at 740-965-3901 or ask@yourcl.org. We are open and ready to serve you.



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

This space was paid for by the Community Library.



Dr. Katelyn Miller



Shine Dental's ORAL CARE TIPS

Did you know that your oral health can affect your overall health? Boost your immune system by following these tips:



Brush, floss, and rinse!

Prevent tooth decay, gum disease, infection, and inflammation by exercising proper oral hygiene.



Make dental visits a bi-annual routine.

For your oral health and your overall health, it's important to visit the dentist twice a year.



Due for your next checkup? Book a visit with us!

Our office is available for preventative, emergency, and elective dental procedures!

We Support Our Community!

A portion of the proceeds from every new patient visit is donated to
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