

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS
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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner

 **DECEMBER 2020** *Our mission is to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential.* 

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG



I am not sure about you, but I need some respite from talking and reading about COVID-19. While we are certainly still focused on our safety protocols at school, I want to use this space to share some research and ideas on a typical holiday theme: GRATITUDE.

I read several years ago that taking time to be grateful each day actually leads to increased happiness. The basic premise is that when you take time to intentionally feel gratitude, you don't have as much room for negative thoughts and feelings. The key is being intentional. Try it! It really does work.

Here are some practical tips for focusing on gratitude as an individual or-- better yet-- as a family. Learning how to practice gratitude is one of the greatest gifts you can give your children this holiday season. I already practice some of these suggestions, and some are ones I want to incorporate in the future.

- **Dinner Gratitudes:** We try to do this one most nights at our house. It is as simple as it sounds. We go around the table and each person has to share what they are grateful for that day. No cell phones at the dinner table, and this creates instant positive conversation starters.
- **Gratitude Journal:** One of my favorite daily rituals is writing out my gratitudes. I reflect on these each night before bed, and make myself come up with at least three regardless of how great the day was or was not. I can't recommend this practice enough, as it can really change your outlook, especially in these stressful times. If you prefer a digital approach, there are apps available for recording daily gratitudes.
- **Articles and Videos on Gratitude and Happiness:** I have read a variety of books and articles on this topic. One of my goals for winter break is to check out some of the Ted Talks found in this article: <https://positivepsychology.com/gratitude-happiness-research/>
- **Gratitude List and Reflection:** Brainstorm a list of ALL your gratitudes. Take time to be mindful of each item on your list, reflecting on how your life is improved because of it.
- **Thank a Mentor:** Think of someone who has helped you in life. Take time to write a handwritten note to them expressing your gratitude.
- **Gratitude Walk:** I love doing this one when I get a few rare moments of solitude. Walk somewhere beautiful and **really** see it for once. Reflect on how grateful you are for that moment.

Hopefully you and your family can implement some of these ideas this holiday season. For more reading on the gratitude/happiness connection, check out these articles below:



"Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for."

-Zig Ziglar

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Brad Schneider

With the increase in COVID-19 cases in Central Ohio, some have wondered why we are not moving to a remote model or taking the month of December off to see if the numbers improve after the holidays.

In my day job, the businesses I work with are battling many of these same questions and concerns. Additionally, most of us are concerned about the effect rising cases can have on our medical providers.

Here is what I have learned over these past few months in terms of schools and businesses remaining open. The common denominator amongst those who have been able to persevere during this time is the wearing of masks, social distancing,



Doug Crowl, Vice President Liana Lee, President Brad Schneider, Sherri Dorsch, Stephen P. Fujii (This picture was taken prior to COVID-19.)

washing hands, and staying home when not feeling well.

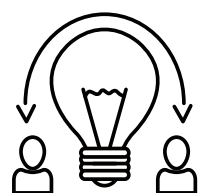
I know some of those ideas have been politicized in every way imaginable. This article is not a political statement. It is a statement of observation from my own personal experiences.

The organizations that have executed those 4 basic tasks have experienced the least amount of interruptions and the least amount of impact on the health of their employees, students, and customers.

If our schools are not causing or contributing to the spread of the virus, then I do not believe that closing our schools is the right thing to do for our community. I believe being in school with our dedicated staff is the best place for our students who are not in a high-risk category for COVID-19.

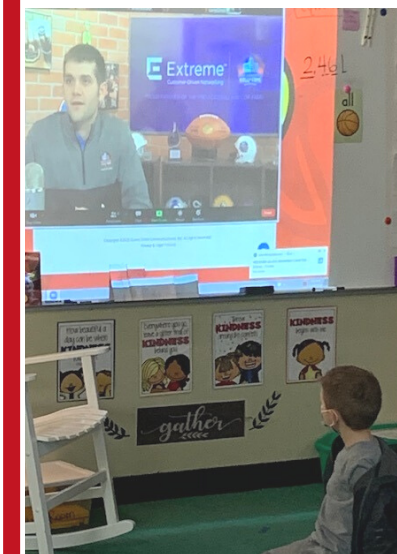
The key to making all of this work for our students and staff is to maintain as many of these 4 basic steps as often as possible, so that we can prevent the spread and potential exposure to contacts.

Our community has done a good job of keeping this focus. It is crucial that we stay focused so that our students and staff have the best opportunity to finish the school year together.



VIRTUAL CAREER CONNECTIONS AT HYLEN SOUDERS

Hylen Souders Elementary, like all of our schools, started a Career Connections program 2 years ago. Each year, the goal is to give students hands-on experiences in multiple career pathways by professionals in the field. With the pandemic, the first inclination was to press pause on the program for a year; instead, teachers Matt Wilson, Brady Prugh, and Principal Matt Cox put together a virtual Career Connections program.



Speakers from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Urban Worm Farm, and ACP (one of the contractors working on the new high school) spoke to students about their careers from their work sites.

If you'd like to join in for our next Career Connections conversation, contact Matt Cox at mattcox@bwls.net.

October & November's STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Due to COVID-19, pictures were taken with immediate family members only and not with Board members



October's Student of the Month: August Wilson from Big Walnut Intermediate School



October's Student of the Month: Anthony Rodriguez from General Rosecrans Elementary School



November's Student of the Month: Jonah Kildoo from Prairie Run Elementary School



November's Student of the Month: Grace Weber from Big Walnut High School



UNDERSTANDING YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY TAXES



Treasurer
Jeremy Buskirk

As the end of calendar year 2020 draws near, we would like to thank you for your continued support in a year that has been unlike any other.

Valuation letters have come out from Delaware County recently, and tax bills will be going out in the coming weeks. Below we've listed a few key terms and basic Ohio tax information to help get a general understanding of Ohio tax vocabulary.

- **Millage/Mill** - 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).
- **Inside Millage** - Mills that, under the state constitution, local governments are permitted to share without a vote of the people. Big Walnut does not change this rate; it has been 4.6 mills for over 30 years.
- **Outside Millage** - The total millage approved by voters, also referred to as voted mills.
- **Effective Millage** - The rate of taxation, expressed in mills, multiplied by the assessed value, which raises the same dollar amount that was voted. Since 1976, House Bill 920 established reduction factors that prohibited an inflationary increase in the amount of taxes levied against real property.
- **Millage "Floor"** - Rate established by the General Assembly below which voted mills would not be reduced under the property tax reduction factor, which is currently set at 20 mills.

School districts throughout Ohio have a full voted millage rate that is the rate originally approved by voters in a community. Due to state law, voted millage is reduced by the County Auditor over time to an effective or actual applied millage. Ohio law has also established a millage floor of 20 mills that operating mills cannot go below; Big Walnut is at this floor. School districts do not cause these reductions and cannot keep them from occurring, but once a district reaches the 20-mill floor, no further reductions can occur and increases in property valuation from reappraisals and updates will cause tax increases for property owners.

The table below shows the current rates for Big Walnut Local Schools that were applicable during the calendar year 2020. Due to new construction, county-wide property valuation updates, and additional millage phase-in for our 2017 bond levy, these numbers will slightly change for the 2021 calendar year.

Levy Year / Descriptions	Full Voted Millage	Tax Year 2019 Effective Millage
<u>Subject to 20 mill floor</u>		
Inside and outside (voted) operating millage	28.5000	20.0000
<u>Outside not subject to 20 mill floor</u>		
Substitute Emergency Levy	6.9000	5.4400
Total Operating Millage	35.4000	25.4400
Permanent Improvement (Voted millage)	1.2500	1.1281
Total Bond Millage	11.1600	7.8200
Total Voted and Unvoted Millage	47.8100	34.3882

Continued on page 8

Looking for a way to make a positive impact in BWLS?

We're in need of substitute

- custodians
- food service workers
- bus drivers

It's easy to apply, just go to

bwls.net/employmentopportunities.aspx

Questions?

Contact Ron McClure
ronmcclure@bwls.net
740.965.8967



BIG NUT STRUT GOES VIRTUAL

The 11th annual Big Nut Strut looked very different this year as we hosted our first *virtual* race. We were blown away by all of the support given to us by our community. With 336 registered racers and over \$10,000 in business donations, we certainly consider this year's virtual race a huge success. We are hopeful that next year will look like our first 10 years of traditional races; however, we are always extremely appreciative of everyone's continued support.

OCTOBER 11-17, 2020 VIRTUAL RUN • WALK

BIG WALNUT ELEMENTARY GENERAL ROSECRANS ELEMENTARY
HYLEN SOUDERS ELEMENTARY PRAIRIE RUN ELEMENTARY
BIG WALNUT INTERMEDIATE BIG WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL
BIG WALNUT EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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The Thomas Ricardo Team | Yum-ee Donuts | Firehouse Tavern | Anthony Dental



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Each year, our District collects 1.13 effective mills of permanent improvement funds from our community, which equates to just over a million dollars per year. This past summer, the District used approximately \$375,000 of these funds to replace the 1991 original boilers in our current high school. The pictures to the left show the difference between the old boilers, which were rusting out, and the new, replaced ones.



BIG WALNUT EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND BW STUDENTS PARTNER TO SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS

In February of this year, the Big Walnut Education Foundation had the privilege of working with Big Walnut students and teachers to write, draw, and create letters for the students to send to our U.S. Troops. Almost every school participated, and we were able to send hundreds of letters to our soldiers.

Teachers whose classes participated were put into a drawing to win grants to be used for supplies or needs for their classrooms. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, it was necessary for classes to become virtual, and we could not deliver the grants. Once in-person classes started again, we were able to get the checks to these amazing teachers so they could put the grants to good use.

Grant Winners

- Angie Stooksbury (\$500)
Big Walnut High School
- Kim White (\$250)
Big Walnut Middle School
- Dorothy Branham (\$100)
General Rosecrans Elementary

In 2020, the Big Walnut Education foundation awarded over **\$90,000** in scholarships to our students.

Check out Big Walnut Education Foundation's Facebook page to see pictures of the winning teachers and their students during the letter writing campaign.

The Big Walnut Education Foundation is dedicated to providing grants and scholarships that benefit our students. Each year the foundation accepts applications and awards scholarships to Big Walnut graduating seniors, as well as continuing education scholarships to past Big Walnut graduates.

For more information on donating to the foundation or applying for scholarships, please visit our website at www.bigwalnuteducationfoundation.org.

**KEEP DOING
YOUR PART,**
Delaware County!



WASH. WEAR. WATCH.

BIG WALNUT ATHLETICS



**Athletic Director
Brian Shelton**

The fall athletic season was a success. Our student-athletes had the opportunity to compete with their peers and do what they love to do. All teams played a full schedule, which was in jeopardy for most of the fall season. When looking at the playing surface, it looked so normal, but everything else looked so much different.

A big part of the high school experience is not only getting the opportunity to play with your peers, but also getting to attend games, be a part of the student section, and cheer on the team at homecoming. It is sad that not all of our students had the option to experience high school athletics as fans this season.

I am grateful for our supportive community, band members and directors, athletes, parents, and coaches. It took us as a team to get through the fall season.

Now it's on to the winter sports season, and back to more uncertainty. On Friday, November 20, 2020, the Ohio Capital Conference (OCC) voted to delay ALL OCC contests through December 17, 2020, due to COVID-19 related concerns. The OCC will be meeting at a later time to discuss any further delays or whether to begin play on December 18. A majority of the 32 OCC schools are located within Franklin County, which is currently purple under the State Department of Health COVID-19 county level system. The Franklin County Health Department has issued a 28-day stay-at-home advisory to align with the purple status. We certainly understand the urgency of the OCC to make this decision to meet the needs of our partner schools.

In Delaware County, more specifically Big Walnut Local Schools, we are fortunate to have had only a limited number of COVID-19 cases. Additionally, the Delaware General Health District (DGHD) is not seeing significant school spread in our district. As of now, Governor DeWine, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and the DGHD have approved winter sports to move forward as planned.



BIG WALNUT BRIDGES: BRIDGING COMMUNITY NEEDS WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES

A FEW QUICK STATS

6,687 people reached since February 2020



Most needs filled within **12 hours** of posting with the majority of those filled within **30 minutes** of posting to social media

Average of

1

need requested each week since September



Big Walnut Bridges is in the top **5** communities in *Neighborhood Bridges* programs



819 page likes on Facebook
406 subscribers on the *Bridges* website



To see the list of needs, visit the website at neighborhoodbridges.org/community/BigWalnut-oh
OR Like the @BigWalnutBridges Facebook page



Have a question? Email
bigwalnut@neighborhoodbridges.org

KINDNESS IS FREE AT BWE

During a time when change has been a constant, one thing that has remained the same is Big Walnut Elementary's desire to light up the world with kindness.

The Kids Inspiring Kindness Campaign (KIKC) launched its second annual shirt design contest. Students submitted designs of what kindness meant to them, then voted on their favorite. The winning design was printed on shirts, masks, and gaiters and sold to raise money for the KIKC grant program. BWE classrooms will then use that money to perform acts of kindness in and around our community.

There are already several projects in the works this year, and many more opportunities just waiting to be discovered. These projects not only help individuals and organizations in need, but also teach our youngest Eagles some valuable life lessons along the way.

Head over to the Kids Inspiring Kindness website for more information on this amazing initiative, as well as details on the organizations they were able to help last school year. The Kids Inspiring Kindness Campaign, as well as our students, would like to thank our amazing community for their support. Let's create a ripple effect, Big Walnut! Visit our website at tinyurl.com/BWEkindness



This year's t-shirt design contest winner is 4th grader Ally Schroeder



Dr. Katelyn Miller



120 N Miller Drive, Suite A
Sunbury, OH 43074

(740) 200-8962

shinedentalsunbury.com

hello@shinedentalsunbury.com

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:

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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 **BIG WALNUT FRIENDS WHO SHARE.**

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Explore DACC Virtually

Open House

Join us on Dec 10th, 5:30 - 7pm, to get a sneak peek at the unique electives available to you during high school so you can:

- Earn **college credits** and **industry credentials**
- Graduate with **confidence** and **clarity**
- **Differentiate** yourself on college applications and resumes

Tour our Campus

Take a 360-degree view & self-guided visual tour of every lab on our campus, our satellite programs, & our academic classes.

Click your way through the building and as you go, you will have the opportunity to watch videos, hear interviews, see curriculum highlights, students success stories, career pathways, and much more.

Explore all of the virtual ways to learn more about DACC



- A 360-degree view & self-guided visual tour.
- Video demonstrations & interviews with instructors & students
- Admissions office hours



- A look at college credits & industry credentials that can be earned in each program
- Employer meet-ups
- Information about career possibilities after high school

DACC

www.DelawareAreaCC.org/Explore

The Delaware Area Career Center (DACC) affirms that equal opportunities are offered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, military status, national origin, disability, age, and ancestry of person. For additional information visit our website at www.DelawareAreaCC.org

The Community Library Wants **Your Feedback**



Chauncey Montgomery
Director/ Fiscal Officer

The past year has definitely brought challenges we have never experienced before. At the beginning of the year, no one could have predicted what awaited us. And while there is still a lot of uncertainty about the future as cases of coronavirus continue to peak, there is also a lot of optimism as treatments improve and vaccines are on the horizon.

At the Community Library in Sunbury, we have been impressed with how busy we remained throughout the year. Limiting in-

person interactions resulted in a 41% decrease in patrons coming into the library facility; however, the circulation of library materials is virtually unchanged from last year. Aside from the dramatic drop in the spring when we were only offering drive-through service, we have experienced seven record-breaking months of circulation this year.

As the new year approaches, there is a lot of concern that 2021 will be a repeat of this year. Just as we did not know coronavirus was going to hit in 2020, we cannot predict what the new year will bring. Regardless, we want to ensure the library is constantly improving our programs and services and that they align with the community's needs.

One way that helps us improve is by collecting feedback. To help us gather information, we have compiled a very short list of questions for community members to answer. The survey can be found at <http://feedback.yourcl.org>. We would greatly appreciate it if you took a few minutes to go online and complete the survey.

As this tempestuous year closes, we hope everyone stays healthy and has an enjoyable holiday season. While we do not know what lies ahead, we anticipate the coming year will be better. With your helpful feedback, we can continue to make your library experience better in 2021. Thank you.



This space was paid for by the Community Library.



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area



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Sunbury Chiropractic
www.sunburychiropractic.com
740.965.4301

Johnstown Chiropractic
www.johnstownchiropractic.com
740.967.2225



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.

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- **Personal Injury**
- **Massage Therapy**
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- **PulStar Impulse Therapy**
- **Posture/Biomechanics Training**
- **Family/Pediatric Practice**
- **Workers' Compensation**
- **Functional Movement Screenings**
- **Sports Physicals**
- **Advanced Core Training for Athlete's**
- **Orthotics**

Please contact us Monday through Saturday to set up an appointment at our Sunbury or Johnstown location and learn how chiropractic care can help you!

123 State Route 3 Sunbury, OH 43074 740-965-4301
620 W. Coshocton St. Johnstown, OH 43031 740-967-BACK

www.sunburychiropractic.com
www.johnstownchiropractic.com

SAGES AND SEEKERS PROGRAM BUILDS INTER-GENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

This fall semester, Big Walnut High School (BWHS) conducted the *Sages and Seekers* program for the first time, which is sponsored by the Delaware County Helpline. Sages (seniors in the community) were placed with Seekers (high school students) for a seven-week program that focused on building empathy and relationships through the power of conversation.

This was the first time the program was run 100% virtually because of the pandemic. Amazing bonds were created between the two groups. Since the program was incredibly successful this fall, BWHS will be the only area high school to conduct this activity again in the second semester. The goal is to replicate this program on a larger scale next year.



Seekers shared tributes to their Sages via video conference.

Thank you to Suzanne Pingry, program director from Delaware Helpline, and all the seniors involved in this memorable program.

Even though both age groups enjoyed the experience, the letter below, written by one BWHS student, explains to her Sage why their interaction meant so much to her, and how it will have a lasting effect on her life.

Dear Pam,

I would like to start off by saying thank you for making this experience so enjoyable each and every week. I am forever grateful that I was able to hear about your triumphs in life, as well as your struggles. You have helped me realize that the best lives are never cookie cutter. Normally when you ask someone about their proudest moment, they skip to the ending where everything worked out. When I asked you, you were proud of the whole journey, even the hard parts and that was something I always admired each week.

It seemed like your life was one long movie, and nothing about it went to a mundane script. It has helped me to worry less and accept things as they are. You told me one of the hardest things to do is love yourself. I remember listening to you tell me not to let others control my happiness, which stuck with me as it is something I have done my whole life. Now, I can think of you every time I do something for me without a care in the world for someone's input. Although I am sad our Zoom calls each week are over, I am full of blissful memories that I cannot thank you enough for. Thank you for explaining to me the whimsical magical feeling that your life was, and I will always look for "where the fairies danced in the sunrise" just as you did as a child.

Love, Grace

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY TAXES, CONTINUED

All properties in a county are reviewed every three years by the county auditor to determine if the market value of property in the county is being taxed at a fair amount. These county auditor reviews are called the sexennial reappraisal, or the triennial update, which sets what the county shows as a property's fair market value. Delaware County just went through the triennial update during 2020, which affects tax bills for 2021. Property taxes are not paid on market value, but on the "assessed value," which in Ohio is 35% of a property's fair market value.

Understand that the school district is not the only public entity to which your property taxes go. Property owners who live in the District also pay property taxes to county health departments, a park district, fire departments, and townships, to name a few. Big Walnut residents in our villages and townships pay similar taxes to these entities. The table to the right provides a few examples of the millage distribution in taxing districts.

Effective Millage Tax Rate for Calendar Year 2020 based on 2019 Valuations

Type	Berkshire Township Eff. Rate	Harlem Township Eff. Rate	Porter Township Eff. Rate	Village of Galena Eff. Rate	Village of Sunbury Eff. Rate
BIG WALNUT LSD	34.3882	34.3882	34.3882	34.3882	34.3882
DELAWARE AREA CAREER CENTER	2.2574	2.2574	2.2574	2.2574	2.2574
BST AND G FIRE DEPT.	4.0931	-	-	4.0931	4.0931
KINGSTON-PORTER FIRE DISTRICT	-	-	3.1336	-	-
DELAWARE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.	0.5428	0.5428	0.5428	0.5428	0.5428
PRESERVATION PARK DISTRICT	0.8187	0.8187	0.8187	0.8187	0.8187
COMMUNITY LIBRARY	0.8385	0.8385	0.8385	0.8385	0.8385
BERKSHIRE TWP	0.8000	-	-	0.8000	-
BERKSHIRE TWP (ROAD DISTRICT)	1.3000	-	-	-	-
HARLEM TWP	-	9.6156	-	-	-
PORTER TWP	-	-	2.5000	-	-
GALENA CORP	-	-	-	3.6719	-
SUNBURY CORP	-	-	-	-	1.2500
SUNBURY CORP	-	-	-	-	1.2500
DELAWARE COUNTY AGENCIES	5.8573	5.8573	5.8573	5.8573	5.8573
DELAWARE-MORROW MENTAL HEALTH	0.8710	0.8710	0.8710	0.8710	0.8710
DELAWARE COUNTY 9-1-1 DISTRICT	0.5524	0.5524	0.5524	0.5524	0.5524
Total Millage	52.3193	55.7418	51.7598	54.6912	52.7193

We hope this has provided you with a better understanding of your taxes. If you have further questions regarding your tax bill, you can reach out to the Delaware County Auditor at auditor@co.delaware.oh.us or (740) 833-2900. I am also happy to answer any questions. Please contact me at jeremybuskirk@bwls.net or (740) 965-3010.