



WELLINGTON

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

APRIL/MAY 2024 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8



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IMPORTANT DATES

April 28: WHS Academic Awards & Scholarships WHS Gym 2 - 4 p.m.

May 2: Second grade Zoo Field Trip

May 2: Mock Car Crash WHS 2 p.m.

May 3: WHS Community Service Day

May 4: WHS Prom @ 7 p.m. in Avon

May 6 - 9: MAPS testing WW

May 7: BOE Work session WW

May 13 - 16: Acadience Testing WW

May 13: Calculus/Physics WHS students Cedar Point Field Trip

May 17: Last day for Seniors
(Grad practice, clap-out, slideshow & picnic)

May 19: WHS Graduation 2:30 p.m.

May 21: Kindergarten graduation Lindley @ 6 p.m.

May 21: BOE Business meeting MMS

May 27: No School: Memorial Day

May 30: Last day of school

Complete calendar is online:
wellingtonvillageschools.org

SUPERINTENDENT TRANSITION

LETTER FROM EDWARD WEBER, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Wellington School Families,

April is a busy time of year for our students and staff. The spring sports season is in full swing and students in all buildings are undergoing state testing. Our staff has worked hard to prepare students for success and we wish them the best as they test their knowledge.

Thank you to our Board of Education and community members for coming to Westwood on April 9 to meet our four Superintendent candidates. We value your input and appreciate the board's thorough and comprehensive search. I am proud to announce that Dr. Andrew Peltz has accepted the position of Superintendent!

Dr. Peltz has outstanding experience, a great vision for education, is a strong team player and is experienced at building a positive school culture. Throughout the search process, we had twenty-eight applicants, narrowed it down to nine, and then to four. He exhibits an infectious enthusiasm to help students achieve their educational goals.

MR. WEBER'S LETTER



This past school year, Dr. Peltz served as Principal at Revere High School and was previously the Intermediate Principal at Troy Intermediate School in Avon Lake and Assistant Principal at Revere Middle School. Throughout his time at Revere High School, he created new high school courses.

Holding a Doctorate from Cleveland State University, he serves as an Adjunct Professor at CSU. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and a Master's Degree in School Administration, both obtained from The University of Akron. Dr. Peltz's dedication to academic excellence has earned him accolades, including the OMLA Schedule of the Year Award from 2019-2020. I am thrilled to work with him to transition our district to the next Superintendent.

Mark your calendars for our McCormick drama club performance of Mary Poppins, Jr. The first performance will be on Friday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30) and the second performance is on Saturday, April 27 at 3:00 p.m. (doors open at 2:30 p.m.). Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$6 for students. I encourage you to enjoy our beautiful Lindley Center and the hard work of our actors and technical stage crew.

Please join us on Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the High School gym for our Academic Awards and Scholarships Banquet honoring high school students. The future is bright.

Go Dukes!

Sincerely,
Edward Weber



DUKE PRIDE



SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Concert Details:

**May 14: Spring Choir
Concert & Awards**
(Grades 6 - 12) at
Lindley Center.

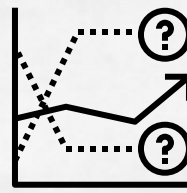
6:30 doors open,
concert @ 7:00 p.m.

**May 9: Festival of
Bands Concert**
(Grades 6 - 12) at WHS
Gym. 6:30 doors open,
concert @ 7:00 p.m.



**District-Wide
Art Show
April 26 - May 6
WHS Gym**

Five-Year Forecast Time



It seems as if we just did the Five-Year Forecast, but that was back in October and a lot has changed since that time. That is exactly why we go through this process every six months. Things change and we have to always be watching out for those bumps in the road that may create serious financial issues for our corner of the state.

The state legislator has been looking into changing the method of assessing property taxes due to the sharp increase in property values across the state. If the law changes, we have to determine the impact that may have on our revenue streams and/or additional costs we may have to take on. Right now there has been very little movement on this topic and it is possible the talk in Columbus is just “talk.” The Board has approved a few new positions and new educational opportunities. Our costs will increase next year faster than our revenues.

This will possibly result in some deficit spending over the next year or two until the right balance has been reached. This means our budget will be much tighter and discretionary spending will be monitored very closely to ensure we are being fiscally responsible to the community.

We did successfully pass our 10-year renewal levy last November so we can be confident in our revenue from that source. One of the biggest changes any school district can have is a change in leadership. As you know, Mr. Weber will be retiring in August and Dr. Andrew Peltz has been approved as our new Superintendent.

The month of May brings the planning for summer facility projects and making sure the custodial staff and maintenance staff have the needed items to address all summer projects before we close our books for the fiscal year. We have about a 10-week window to clean, fix, and repair all items throughout the District as we prepare for the next school year.

Once the document has been prepared and presented to the Board of Education, it will be approved. However, it will be referenced during the year when hiring new staff, taking on new projects, and making strategic decisions that will affect our district. In this way, our district can always be looking forward as we search for openings to improve the curriculum, facilities, and opportunities for our students.

Mark Donnelly
Treasurer
(440) 647-7979
mdonnelly@wellingtonvillage
schools.org



Westwood Elementary IMPORTANT DATES

April

1-5: No School - Spring Break
8: No School - Ohio Total Solar Eclipse
9: School Resumes
16: 3rd Grade ELA State Test
17: Parent Partnership Mtg:
Back-2-School Bash Planning (5:15 Online)
18: 3rd Grade ELA State Test
23: K Kids Meeting (3pm WWE)
30: 3rd Grade Math State Test

May

2: 3rd Grade Math State Test
2: 2nd Grade Zoo Field Trip
6-9: Spring MAPS Testing
7: Parent Co-op Mtg (6pm WWE Library)
13-16: Acadience Testing
14: K Kids Meeting (3pm WWE)
15: Kindergarten Graduation Practice (8:45am)
15: Parent Partnership Mtg (5:15 Online)
21: 3rd Grade Transition Tour (1:00 MMS)
21: Kindergarten Graduation
(6pm or 7pm Lindley Center)
23: Field Day
27: No School - Memorial Day
30: Last Day of School for Students!
3rd Grade Clap-out (1:45pm WWE)

Check out our Videos!

Click links here.

[Duke Pride Carnival Highlights](#)

[FFA For A Day 7th & 8th Grade](#)

[Astronomer Dave Lengyel Visits MMS for Solar Eclipse](#)

[Munch The Fox Visits Westwood](#)

Like our

YouTube Channel:

[@WEVSDYouTube](#)



Andrea Helton
MS, RDN LD
Director of
Nutrition Services

As we approach the end of the school year, please remember to pay off any negative balances on student meal accounts. Balances should be paid by the last day of school, May 30. We accept cash, check made out to Wellington Schools Nutrition Services, or online via Payschools Central.

Graduating seniors, if greater than \$5.00 remains on the account of a graduating senior, or student leaving the district, that balance will be transferred to a sibling. If there are no siblings, the funds can be donated to unpaid meal debt, or refunded upon request. Please note, we are only able to issue a refund if all outstanding student fees are paid in full. **If a request is not received by the end of the school year, senior account balances will be transferred to the donation account to help families with unpaid meal debt.**

To request a refund, please complete this form, [Meal Account Transfer/Refund](#) or contact Andrea Helton at 440-647-7415 or email ahelton@wellingtonvillageschools.org

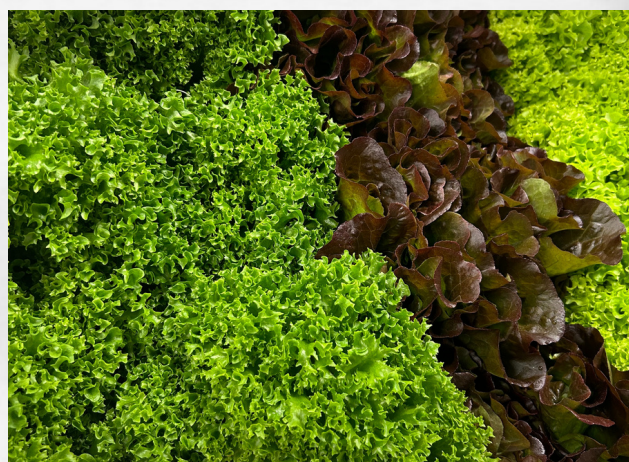


LOCAL LETTUCE FROM TYLER'S FARM



Westwood recently sampled locally grown hydroponic lettuce from Tyler's Farm with rave reviews! Students and staff loved the salads.

Tyler's Farm is a family operated hydroponic greenhouse located in Oberlin, Ohio. We plan to establish an ongoing relationship with Tyler's Farm for this fall.



WESTWOOD IN NATIONAL NEWS!

**Mc
Graw
Hill**

Westwood Elementary Reaches for the Stars with *SRA Open Court Reading*

Westwood Elementary School is part of the Wellington Exempted Village School District in Wellington, Ohio. On a quest to boost their students' average scores on the State Report Card, curriculum leaders at the K–3 school turned to *SRA Open Court Reading*—a research-backed program based on the Science of Reading and proven to deliver undeniable results for learners at every level.

In a recent interview, Westwood Principal Dr. Janet Kubasak and Kindergarten Teacher Jill Stone described their experience implementing *Open Court Reading*. “When we first started using the program, my main goal was to cover the standards in the classroom,” Stone said. “*Open Court Reading* covers the standards and beyond. Halfway through the first year we were already seeing significant improvement in reading skills and phonemic awareness.”

The Challenge

When Kubasak became principal four years ago, Westwood had straight Cs across the board on the Ohio State Report Card, including a C in Reading and a C in Achievement. Armed with a Doctorate in Reading and Literacy and previous experience as Educational Consultant for the State Support Team Region 2, Kubasak said she was eager to put her passion for the Science of Reading to work in her new role.

“For our reading curriculum, it was basically a hodge-podge of educational practices, with teachers designing their own programs using a variety of outsource sites,” Kubasak explained. “There were so many pieces lacking—with no strong scope and sequence and no alignment to the standards—and we knew it was important to find a solution that had the most comprehensive, high-quality educational rigor.”

WESTWOOD IN THE NATIONAL NEWS

The Solution

Westwood implemented McGraw Hill's K-5 SRA *Open Court Reading* program during the 2020-2021 academic year, choosing it over other programs because it was research-validated and based on the Science of Reading in five essential areas: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Kubasak emphasized that the curriculum spoke for itself and it was the "star pick" over all the other programs the school explored.

"Students learn in so many different modalities, and we needed something that had every single component mixed into the batter," Kubasak said. "*Open Court Reading* delivered on every level. It has the decodables. It has the strong routines. It has the engaging online program and the fun educational games that go with it. It has the picture cards and the sound cards. There wasn't anything that I would push to the side. And when I say we used our entire box of materials, I mean we used our entire box."

As Kubasak described, *Open Court Reading's* comprehensive approach makes this program particularly unique. The critical building blocks for lifelong literacy are established through a systematic format and instructional continuity—leveraging a scope and sequence that follows a purposeful progression of skills in three focus areas: Foundational Skills, Reading and Responding, and Language Arts.

"This program covers all the areas students need to have a strong foundation and uses a variety of activities to meet all styles of learning,"

"When we first started using the program, my main goal was to cover the standards in the classroom. *Open Court Reading* covers the standards and beyond. Halfway through the first year we were already seeing significant improvement in reading skills and phonemic awareness."

— Jill Stone

Stone pointed out. "I especially like the Green Band (Foundational Skills) and the Red Band (Reading and Responding), as well as the story selections, vocabulary and decodables."

Yet another valued benefit of *Open Court Reading* is the dedicated curriculum consultant who provides support every step of the way. "The small group meetings with our program representative were great," Stone said. "She not only gave us feedback, she also modeled lessons for us in the classroom. That was so helpful."

WESTWOOD IN THE NATIONAL NEWS

The Results

The results Westwood has achieved from implementing *Open Court Reading* have been inspiring. In fact, as of last year **the school is now at an overall 4.5 star rating out of 5 on the State Report Card—and their Reading score is up to a 4.** “We’ve seen growth of a grade and a half in a short amount of time, and I think this year will be even higher,” Kubasak said.

Kubasak and Stone believe that a big part of Westwood’s success has been because of how easily their students have embraced the structured routines. They especially appreciate the fact that students know exactly what’s coming next and what they’re expected to do, and are given plenty of encouragement to think for themselves.

Perhaps the most surprising discovery was how quickly Westwood’s teachers embraced the new curriculum, Kubasak noted. “When I was on the State Support Team and we would pick a new curriculum, the teacher buy-in would usually take quite a bit of time, so I had prepared myself for the push-back,” she said.

“Our teachers are working smarter instead of harder, and they’re getting more hours of sleep at night thanks to *Open Court Reading*.”

— Dr. Janet Kubasak

But the buy-in with *Open Court Reading* was immediate, Kubasak emphasized, because teachers saw how quickly the routines fell into place and how much time they saved planning lessons. “Our teachers are working smarter instead of harder, and they’re getting more hours of sleep at night thanks to *Open Court Reading*.”

Moving Forward

“I love that we now have such a strong *Open Court* family, with all of us doing each and every component, and I’m looking forward to seeing our students’ state test scores increase even more in the future,” Kubasak said. Other district leaders have even come in to observe Westwood teachers in the classroom, and Kubasak and Stone said they welcome the opportunity to share the school’s strategies for success with them.

“I really like that *Open Court Reading* is science-based and very easy to use—with all students getting the same high-quality curriculum.” Stone said. Kubasak added that “it’s especially beneficial for students who come in with a deficit in language or vocabulary because it gives them consistent repetitive practice and the opportunity to receive personalized attention. We truly couldn’t be more happy with *Open Court Reading*”

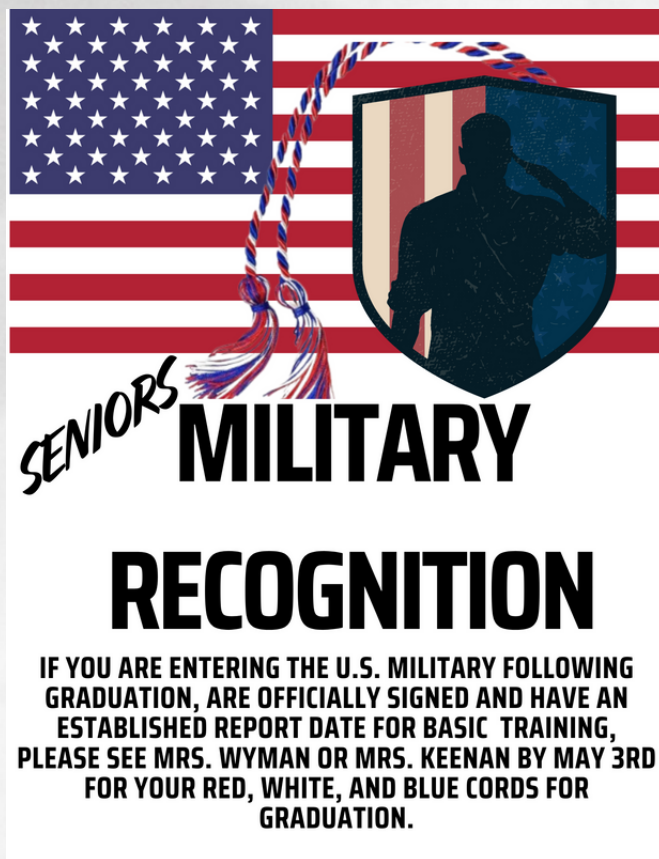
**MCCORMICK DRAMA CLUB
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

Mary Poppins, Jr.

**APRIL 26 AT 7:00PM AND
APRIL 27 AT 3:00PM**

DOORS OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE SHOW TO
PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS (\$11/\$6, CASH/CHECK ONLY)

PATRICIA LINDLEY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
627 NORTH MAIN STREET WELLINGTON, OH 44090



Submit Senior **Quotes** for Yearbook

Submit Senior **Photos** for Yearbook

KINDLAND UPDATE



Meet Kindland's Student Ambassador

Paced by an easy demeanor, an engaging smile, and a willing, cooperative spirit, Nadia Greer, Wellington's first Kindland Student Ambassador, has been spreading kindness throughout the district with the flair of a Disneyland princess collecting any number of impromptu gleeful familiar hugs along the way.

The senior, eyeing a career as an FBI agent, was selected as an ambassador after winning the \$1,000 top prize in a statewide Kindland writing contest along with fellow WHS freshman Madelyn Kohler.



Since then, the student-athlete who played varsity women's soccer for four years, and two years on the women's basketball team, has been earning service points. Greer has been busy assisting teaching Kindland lessons, attending PBIS awards ceremonies, helping to serve hot chocolate to McCormick's lunch bunch, participating in McCormick's "Make A Heart" Valentine's Day Project and reading the anti-bullying book "Weird!" to several Westwood classes. One Westwood class she read "Weird!" to was taught by her former kindergarten teacher Mrs. Stone.

Greer helped Westwood students complete a "Kindness Chain." She also assisted Nutrition Director Andrea Helton feed Westwood students black bean salsa dipped with locally made tortilla chips. Community Food for the Future was there as well.

"I've always known kindness," said Nadia who enjoys reading, has six dogs, loves hamburgers, chicken alfredo and an occasional frothy caramel frappe from McDonald's. "It's everywhere and I've been spreading it as much as possible."

A model of how to get the best out of her fleeting high school years, Nadia wrote for the high school newspaper, was a member of ROX, Maroon Madness, and Big Brother and Sisters. She shares this parting message worthy of her kindness ambassadorship: "no matter what kind of day you are having, remember you don't always know what people are going through so always be kind!"



Thank you for going above and beyond, Nadia!

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM!

WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS



MEET LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE



Jenn Bedard

What excites you the most about the job you will be doing?

I love learning new things and helping others get excited about learning! I've never taught social studies before and will learn a lot in this role!

What was your favorite subject as a student?

English (When I could write about things I cared about and when we read books that I could connect with.)

What are you most looking forward to this school year?

I look forward to building relationships with my students and helping them grow their confidence and skills.

What made you want to work in Wellington Schools?

It has been over ten years since I was in a K-12 classroom, and I was excited about the opportunity to teach middle school again after such a long time away!

What sort of activities or hobbies do you have outside of your career?

Gardening, golfing, skiing, hanging out with my three dogs, knitting, and reading.

What would students be surprised to learn about you?

I lived in France for three years after I graduated college, and I have lived in four different U.S. states since I moved back (Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia and Ohio).

What wisdom would you share with your future students?

My favorite quote (which is up in my classroom) is, "Bloom where you are planted." I have found this helpful when I've struggled with moving to a new place every few years because the Coast Guard reassigned my husband to a new duty station. This quotation reminds me that I can choose to make the most of where I am, no matter what. I can always challenge myself, learn new things, and make a positive impact on other people regardless of the circumstances that got me to where I am. I believe that this is the most powerful realization that students can make. You can't always control your situation, and you definitely can't control what other people say or do -- but you can make good choices for yourself and decide to become the best possible version of yourself in spite of your environment or hardships. With a strong enough will and a good work ethic, you can make beautiful things happen for yourself and write the narrative that you want for your life.

What is one thing you learned recently or something you are learning now?

I am learning a lot about the ancient world to prepare lessons for social studies!

What would be your superpower, and why?

I'd love to be able to read other people's minds. Communication is so difficult and we get things wrong so frequently because we misunderstand other people's words and intentions.

What are three things on your bucket list that you want to achieve?

Go back to France, see Mount Rushmore and own a donkey!

C-O-N-G-R-A-T-S! Spelling Bee Students!



Fifth and Sixth Grade Lorain County Spelling Bee Wellington participants!

Congratulations to Harper Hall (fifth grade), Levi Bozman (fifth grade) and Coletton Phillips (sixth grade.) Excellent work!



Third and Fourth Grade Lorain County Spelling Bee Wellington participants!

Congratulations to Korie Goble (fourth grade), Lilly Mann (third grade) and Kennedy Saunders (fourth grade.) Lilly placed 5th out of 35 spellers, way to go!



Military Spirit Week Highlights!



14TH ANNUAL DUKE PRIDE CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

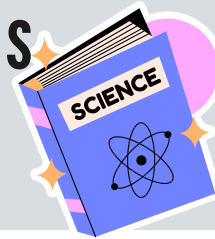


14TH ANNUAL DUKE PRIDE CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Thank
you to
KKids for
cleaning
tables!



McCormick's Science Olympiad was a success!



Science Olympiad Video



Fifth Grade Science Olympiad Award

Congratulations!



Fourth Grade Science Olympiad Award

Congratulations!



STUDENTS ENTERING
GRADES 4 - 8

KIDS IN GEAR

Free 2-day summer Bike Camp @ McCormick
Sign up by 5/13. First come, first served sign up system.