



# WELLINGTON

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

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Images from our Dukes



## IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 1: Parent/Teacher Conferences (Westwood- no school. MMS & WHS have school, conferences 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

Nov. 1: College Now "What to Expect When the FAFSA Opens" 6 p.m. WHS cafeteria (chilli bar)

Nov. 5 Daylight savings time ends

Nov. 6: No school (staff professional development day)

Nov. 7: Election day

Nov. 7 - 10: Westwood Spirit Week

Nov. 8: Nothing Bundt Cake fundraiser ends

Nov. 10: Veteran's day

Nov. 22 - 24 Thanksgiving Vacation



## NOVEMBER ELECTION

### LETTER FROM EDWARD WEBER, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Wellington families,

On November 7, Wellington schools will be on the ballot for Issue 19 for an emergency renewal levy.

When voting on a levy, voters need to know how the funds are used. Funds from the levy help to support and maintain our current level of programming. This covers the daily operating expenses of the Wellington Schools, including educational programs, utilities, transportation, technology, textbooks, building and grounds maintenance, staff, and classroom expenses. The district aims to provide excellent educational programming for all students.

What is the history of our district in maintaining a balanced and strong budget? The district has taken steps to contain costs over the years through conservative spending and budgeting practices. This includes renegotiating contracts with vendors, reducing energy costs, and reviewing staff positions for potential reductions in collaboration with the union membership.

In terms of maintaining and improving our services and facilities, we have invested in improving safety on playgrounds, received safety grants to enhance security in buildings, and made updates to facilities such as the High School gym, roof repairs, parking lots, and classroom technology upgrades. New course offerings have also been added to provide enhanced learning opportunities.



# MR. WEBER’S LETTER



We have had a total of three renewal levies in our history. All of these levies passed with very strong support from the community. The current issue was originally approved in 2011 and has been renewed in 2014. That history of approval and renewal demonstrates the community’s support and understanding of the importance of this vital revenue source. This levy is no new money, it is a renewal.

Our treasurer Mr. Donnelly, members from our Board and I have been attending local meetings to be available for questions regarding this important levy. We believe a strong foundation of any community is a strong school district creating opportunities for our future, our children.

Wishing you all a memorable Thanksgiving holiday with your family and loved ones.

Sincerely,  
Edward Weber

## DUKE PRIDE

Every Friday, High School students help Westwood students out of their cars in the morning car drop-off line.

It is a fun day, with music and excitement in the air!



## HALLOWEEN PARADE AT WESTWOOD





# NUTRITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS. HELTON



Andrea Helton,  
MS, RDN LD  
Director of Nutrition  
Services



Please be sure to check your student(s) meal accounts and pay off any charges that have accrued during this school year.

To make payments, we encourage all parents to utilize our online payment system, PaySchools Central.

Start The Day With   
**School Breakfast**  
Did you know that Wellington EVSD offers a nutritious breakfast every day starting at 7:30 a.m.?

### Why Eat School Breakfast?



#### Improve Productivity!

Studies show that school breakfast helps to improve test scores, attention, attendance, and behavior in the classroom!



#### Support Health!

School breakfast is positively linked to a reduction in childhood obesity and can deter hunger-related stomach aches and headaches.



#### Save Time!

Mornings are BUSY! School breakfast helps to save money and time for families on the way to school and work.

School breakfast includes at least 3 of the 5 core food groups for only \$1.85!

If your family qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch, you also qualify for **free or reduced-priced breakfast**. No additional paperwork is needed!

\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Cash and check payments are also accepted at school. For cash payment, students should have money in an envelope with the student's name written on it.

Lunch money should be turned in to the teacher or given to the cashier.

Checks can be made out to Wellington Schools Nutrition Services Department.



# TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE

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## Five-year forecast indicates challenges to meet head-on!

The fall 2023 Five-Year Forecast was approved by the School Board on October 17, 2023.

A review of the document will show many sharp variances from previous forecasts including a projected revenue shortfall of almost \$400,000 this year. However, if we take a look at what is behind the numbers we will find out that we may be in a pretty good spot.

The property tax revenue shows a dramatic decline starting next year, however that is due to the state law not allowing the Treasurer to predict the passage of a levy. With the potential passage of the renewal levy, this line item would increase back to the level it is currently at for FY24. The state revenue will not increase significantly over the next few years, however at least the state is holding us at the same level we have been at for the past couple of years without a decrease.

The income tax revenue appears to flatten out for the next few years, however with a strong job market this may increase very soon. Finally, under Other Revenue, there are some possible increases that are difficult to predict as the reimbursements for services and interest rates are very volatile. These factors combined with a conservative approach to predicting revenues means that we "COULD" be better off, we just have to wait and see.

The expenses show several increases that may seem out of line when compared to previous years. However, FY24 is the first fiscal year in the past 5 years where we do not have a large grant (ESSER, SQIG, Expanding Opportunities) to offset some significant costs so the general fund will bear the burden of all operational costs.

Something else to keep in mind is that the forecasted numbers are budgeted dollars. These budget amounts include known costs and some "possible" costs so we are prepared for a few surprises. This method of forecasting allows us to adjust during the year without causing budget overruns.

Just to be clear, we all have to be fiscally responsible to the taxpayer and must be reasonable with requests for expenditures. The levy renewal is not a new source of funding; it simply keeps us stable. We could still have a large revenue shortfall, but if we work together and prioritize "needs" over "wants", we should be just fine this year.

Mark Donnelly  
Treasurer

(440) 647-7979

mdonnelly@wellingtonvillage  
schools.org



**Voting is on Tuesday,  
November 7th.**

**Utilize your right  
to have your  
voice heard!**





# IN THE NEWS



The boys soccer team played at the Columbus Crew Stadium on October 2.

They came out victorious in a night match versus the Christian Calvary, winning 2 - 1.

Way to go, Dukes!

**Our Westwood team rallies behind the Casper family!**

Logan Casper attended Westwood last year as a Kindergarten student and has two brothers currently at Westwood. He is fighting a battle with Leukemia and we will stand strong behind him as he fights! Westwood staff purchased shirts to honor Logan. Proceeds help towards the family's expenses.





# TALENT SHOW!

## IN THE NEWS

The Builders Club presents a Talent Show at the Patricia Lindley Center  
on Thursday, January 4, 2024, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Come out and enjoy a family-friendly night, full of talented kids (grade 4-8) performing  
their best talents on stage. The Talent Show cost is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for non-  
performing students, and FREE to the performers and children 4 & younger.

See you there!



**Kiwanis Builders Club**  
Building Leaders

*Kiwanis Builders Club*  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

# TALENT Show

**January 4, 2024**  
**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Grades 4 - 8  
*Categories Include:*

- . Singing
- . Dancing
- . Instrumentals
- & many more

  
**Patricia Lindley Center**  
**627 North Main Street, Wellington, Ohio 44090**

**Entrance Fee \$2.00 Adults**  
**\$1.00 Non-performing students**  
**Free - Kids 4 y.o & younger**

*Cash Only*

Made with PosterMyWall.com



# KINDLAND UPDATE



## H.E.A.R.T./Kindland/PBIS Connect

Wellington is moving towards connecting the language of “Communicate with H.E.A.R.T” and Kindland into the District’s Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) portals.

Through the school’s district-wide “Kind of a Committee” group that meets at McCormick, H.E.A.R.T and Kindland are in the process of being included into classrooms and utilized during students’ Duke time.

Superintendent Mr. Weber wants elements of H.E.A.R.T., originally geared toward staff and the principles of Kindland to be available to students. At a recent SEL meeting, members were reintroduced to a flyer split between key words and practices of H.E.A.R.T. and Kindland.

The Kindland half included words such as: empathy, care, helping, thoughtfulness, and compassion. The other side of the flyer contained H.E.A.R.T practices of smile, active listening, rapport, relationship building, using preferred names, empathize, apologize and thank.

The committee agreed that both H.E.A.R.T. and Kindland were good fits with the district effort to create a culture of kindness, value, and respect. Gradually, the essence of H.E.A.R.T. and Kindland will find their way into the McCormick’s PBIS newsletter and elsewhere.

Two examples of this blending plan are how McCormick tied Kindland into its Halloween treat bag activity, and the middle school’s H.I.K.E. (Helping Include Kids Everywhere) commitment to be the school’s Kindland lead.

# KINDNESS CHALLENGE



## Students Found “Challenge” Fun

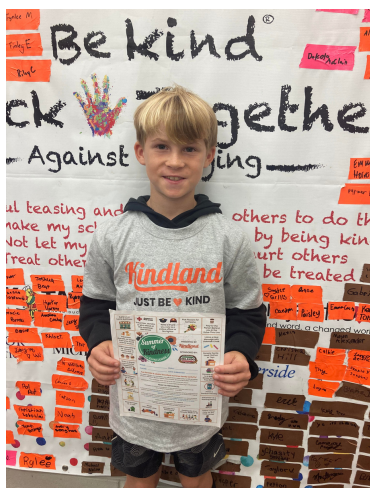
While many Wellington Dukes used the summer break to chill, play, camp, and perhaps take in a family trip or two, Blake Pilgrim and Lincoln Zadorozny completed Kindland’s Summer of Kindness Challenge.

The Challenge, a collaboration among Westwood, McCormick, the Herrick Library and the Kindland organization, was comprised of 23 “kind acts” written in squares filling a sheet resembling a Monopoly board. Students placed a colorful smiley-face dot over each completed act. Kind acts included carrying in groceries, spending an hour with a friend, or checking out and reading a book on kindness among other gestures.

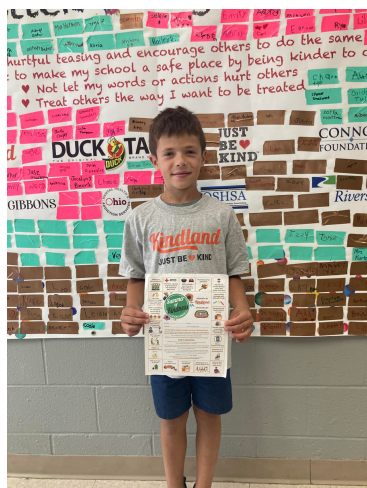
“I did the challenge because it was fun,” said Lincoln, a Westwood second grader. “The library part was the most fun. There were great books and lots of crafts.”

Similarly, Blake, in fourth grade at McCormick, said the challenge, “made me happy to do something kind.” Blake further said he thought it was good to be kind and had fun finishing the kind tasks.

For their efforts, the two stewards of kindness received a Kindland t-shirt and wristband.



Blake Pilgrim



Lincoln Zadorozny



[Visit our website to take our H.E.A.R.T. Survey.](#)



# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING UPDATE

By Emily Medves

Westwood Elementary has been busy with lunch bunches! Lunch bunch meets once a week during lunch time, for ten weeks. Our emphasis will be on strengthening skills like feeling identification, emotional regulation, problem solving, and friendship, while using evidenced-based curriculum and techniques.

Lunch bunch groups are led separately by Jordan Burns, Emily Medves and Amber Fannin.

Katie O'Connor, our district behavior specialist, created a sensory walk again for this school year at Westwood! The walk provides a free space for students to use their gross motor skills as a calm down strategy. Students can use it one on one with a staff member, or in a group setting.

McCormick Middle School's H.I.K.E (Helping Include Kids Everywhere) club was awarded the \$2,000 You Belong Grant from the MHARS Board of Lorain County! McCormick was one of fourteen schools in Lorain County to receive the grant. H.I.K.E club members attended the kick-off event at LCCC in September and are already thinking of great ideas to help students at McCormick middle school feel like they belong.

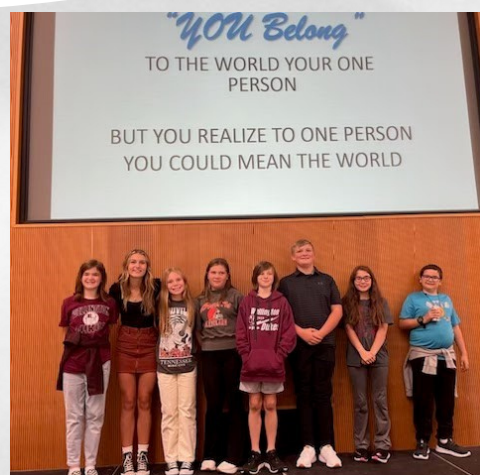


## McCormick P.B.I.S. winners!

Congratulations to (L-R) Levi Bozeman (4th), Daniel Glenn (5th), Blake Irwin (6th), Maddie Hoch (7th), Emma Buck (8th).



Sensory Walk



H.I.K.E. Club on a field trip!

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING @ HIGH SCHOOL

**By Emily Medves**

In November, Life Act will be coming to the high school to provide suicide and violence prevention to all high school students.

Life Act uses the Signs of Suicide program to educate students on how to recognize depression and the warning signs of suicide, and how to access help for themselves and their peers. Voices For Change has also been started at the high school by LCADA prevention specialist, Emily Winfield. Students in the group are eager to start discussions about mental health and helping students feel included in school. If your child is interested in being a part of voices for change in the high school, please reach out to our social worker, Emily Medves.

If your child or family is in need of any resources, or support, please contact district social worker, Emily Medves [emedves@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:emedves@wellingtonvillageschools.org), 440-647-7901, or follow the link to the family outreach form in the image below.



Family Outreach Form



**Let's be friends!**

**Like us on Facebook!**

Wellington Exempted Village Schools  
Westwood Elementary School  
McCormick Middle School  
Wellington High School





# WESTWOOD UPDATES

## Congratulations Westwood!



**Westwood was Awarded the SILVER level of distinction  
for the 2022-2023 school year.**

Ohio's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Recognition System provides an opportunity to celebrate schools and districts.

Each year, the Ohio Department of Education and the PBIS Network recognize schools and districts for their quality and fidelity of PBIS implementation. Schools are eligible to receive awards at the bronze, silver or gold levels of distinction.

In 2022, a total of 375 schools and districts received recognition across Ohio. Award recipients include 41 gold awards, 80 silver awards, 238 bronze awards and 16 district awards.



What is PBIS? PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports.

House Bill 318 strengthens existing requirements for school districts to implement PBIS. PBIS is a research-based framework for teaching and supporting positive behaviors for ALL students.

This school-wide approach to discipline focuses on building a safe, positive environment where all students can learn. Therefore, students are taught the behaviors we expect to see, reminded to use them, and acknowledged when they do use the appropriate behavior.

**Attendance WINNING Classroom:**

Attending school daily is an easy way to promote future success. This award is received when the classroom spells the word PRIDE on the board. Each day the class has perfect attendance OR only 1 absent student OR only 1 late student, they receive a letter (P.R.I.D.E.). As a class, they work together to spell the word PRIDE.

**Congratulations to classrooms who have received Attendance Rewards:**

1st Prize - PJ party (Burcl, Gallatin, Klobusnik, Stone, Wiegand, Pilgrim, Krugman, Barlow, Foster, Kurtz, Zitek, Hess, Kresila)

2nd Prize - Extra 15 minutes of recess (Burcl, Gallatin, Klobusnik, Weigand, Pilgrim, Krugman, Barlow, Zitek, Foster, Kurtz, Hess, Kresila)

3rd Prize - Board Games: (Burcl, Gallatin, Klobusnik, Wiegand Pilgrim, Krugman Hess)

**Yay- you're here today!**





## WESTWOOD IMPORTANT DATES

### November

- 1: No School: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 6: No School: Staff Professional Development Day
- 7-10: Spirit Week
- 7: Parent Co-op Mtg (6pm WWE Library)
- 8: Nothing Bundt Cake Fundraiser End
- 13-17: 2nd Grade Gifted Testing
- 15: NNPS Meeting (online)
- 17: Nothing Bundt Cake Delivery (3:15-4:30 WWE)
- 22-24: No School: Thanksgiving Vacation
- 27: School Resumes
- 28: K Kids Meeting (3pm WWE)



### January

- 2: School Resumes
- 2: Parent Co-op Mtg (6pm WWE Library)
- 15: No School - MLK Day
- 17: NNPS Meeting (online)
- 17-24: MAPS testing
- 19: End of 2nd Quarter
- 23: K Kids Meeting (3pm WWE)
- 31: Parent Teacher Conferences

### SPIRIT WEEK

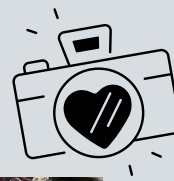
- Tuesday: Favorite color Head to Toe
- Wednesday: Wacky Wednesday
- Thursday: Duke Day
- Friday: Pajama Day

### December

- 5: Parent Co-op Mtg (6pm WWE Library)
- 8: Cookies with Santa (WWE Time TBD)
- 11-14: Santa Shop
- 12: K Kids Meeting (3pm WWE)
- 18: K & 1st Holiday Concert (5:30pm Lindley Center)
- 19: 2nd & 3rd Holiday Concert (5:30pm Lindley Center)
- 21-January 1: Winter Break - No School







November 4

**JOE FOX**

Competes at the state  
OHSA cross country meet



**2023 Lorain County LC8 Cross Country  
Conference Champions!**



Photo Credit: Russ Gifford

**Wellington Sports @WEVSD\_sp...** · 2h  
 Congratulations to Taylor Standen for amassing 1000 career assists tonight! Very proud of this young lady! Thank you to Clearview's AD Mike Collier, Dan Forthofer and Coach Katlynn Baker for always being a class act and allowing Wellington to celebrate this moment.  
[@chscippers](#)



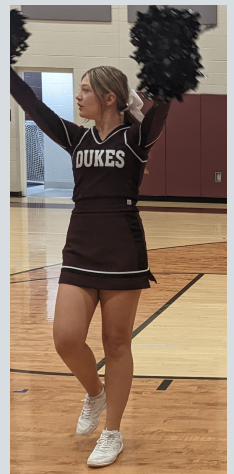
**Lady Dukes shine on Senior Night**



ABOVE: The 2023 Wellington Volleyball Seniors on Senior Night. From left, Jayde Davis, Bella Beck, Gabby Miller, McKenna Solkiewicz, Joyce Stallard and Taylor Standen.



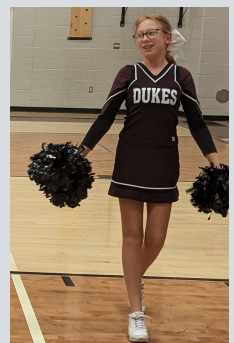
RIGHT: Wellington's Bella Beck gets a hit against Black River. The Lady Dukes won 3-0.



**Wellington girls highlight class of 2024**

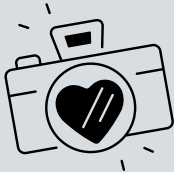


LEFT: Wellington's Nadia Greer battles for the ball with Oberlin's Kylie Walter. Oberlin won 7-4 against Wellington.  
 ABOVE: Wellington celebrates their six seniors: Savannah Gundert, Tess McDonel, Jaclyn Krakomperger, Nadia Greer, Hope Dudziak holding keeper Whitney Kirshner.





# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS





# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

