



# WELLINGTON

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

## THIS ISSUE

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*Homecoming Photos*

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*Athletics Update*



## IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 4: No School (Professional Development Day)

Nov. 5: Election Day

Nov. 5: Parent Co-Op Meeting 6 p.m. WW library

Nov. 5: BOE Work Session Meeting (WW)

Nov. 6: Parent/Teacher Conferences (No school WW & MMS.) WHS has school

Nov. 11: Veteran's Day Breakfast at McCormick

Nov. 12: K-Kids Meeting 3 p.m. WW cafeteria

Nov. 13: WHS Fall Sports Banquet 6:30 p.m. @ Lindley

Nov. 18 - 22: Red Ribbon Spirit Week

Nov. 19: BOE Business Meeting (WHS)

Nov. 27 - 29 Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2: School resumes

Dec. 6: Cookies with Santa 5 p.m. WW

Dec. 9 - 13 Santa Shop WW

## A TIME TO BE THANKFUL

### LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

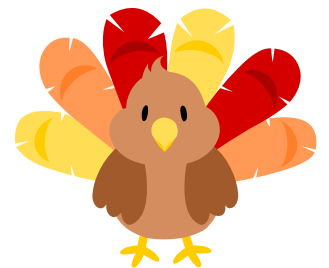
Dear Wellington Families,

In my short time as the superintendent at Wellington, I am beyond impressed by the strong sense of community and pride within and around the schools. People are proud to be Dukes and are willing to invest their time, energy, passions, talents, and money into their district. While there are countless community and youth groups that support our students, families, and staff, two impressive organizations that I have been thrilled to work with are our Kiwanis Club of Wellington and the Wellington Schools Endowment.

This year, the Kiwanis Club of Wellington celebrated their 100th year as an organization. Their catch phrase, "Kids Need Kiwanis," perfectly sums up their mission and purpose. Our local club supports kid-focused service and leadership groups at all three buildings. The K-Kids at Westwood Elementary encourages our young students to participate in service projects, learn leadership skills, and find ways to make sure that all of their classmates feel accepted and included within our school community. Each year, the K-Kids host a Peterson Nut sale to generate funds to support scholarships for our graduating seniors.

At McCormick Middle School, the Builders Club meets twice a month to organize events, develop leadership opportunities, and find ways to make a positive impact in their school. The Builders Club slogan is "Be the Difference" and reminds students that in order to make change happen, you must make it.

Continued on page 2.





# LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Our Wellington High School students can continue their relationship with Kiwanis and join Key Club. Key Club gives our young adults the chance to join forces with local community organizations and to volunteer for larger projects such as helping feed those in need. Key Club encourages our teenagers to expand their leadership skills outside of the school through community events and brings their civic-mindedness to a larger audience.

Beyond engaging our kids in leadership activities, the Kiwanis Club of Wellington ensures that all children who need a bike helmet has one and partners with the Wellington Schools Endowment to help families with kindergarteners start a college fund for our youngest Dukes.

For over forty years, the Wellington Schools Endowment has been enriching our students’ lives by providing the funds and resources for countless grants and scholarships. The Endowment supports students through three specific programs: teacher grants, scholarships and saving for college.

Each year, Wellington teachers and staff apply for grants. These grants have supported field trips, classroom resources, fine and performing arts experiences, instruments, supplemental technology and more. Additionally, the Endowment manages thirty-one different scholarships for our graduates, totaling over \$200,000 through the years. Finally, the Endowment partners with our families to provide up to a 25% match for dollars invested in their child’s college education 529 fund.

We are the only program in the state of Ohio to offer this generous match. The Endowment board meets monthly with the administration, teachers, and students to find ways to support our schools.

Wellington is a stronger district and our students are more successful because of their efforts.

As the superintendent, it is comforting to know that I have a strong team of individuals and organizations working together to make our schools, students and staff the best they can be. I look forward to our continued partnership and cannot wait to build upon the combined 140 years of work that has been started.

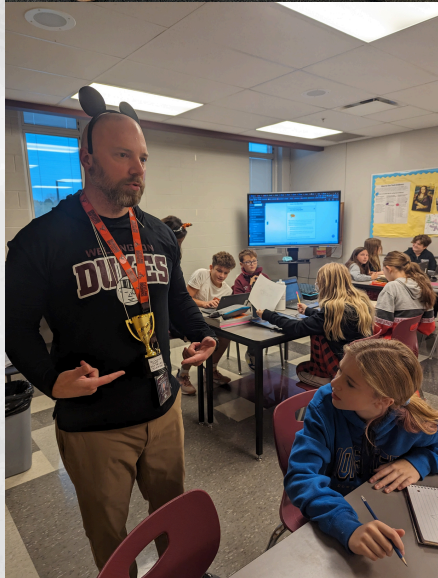
I am thankful for Kiwanis, The Endowment and all of our amazing staff and students as we turn the calendar into November. I wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and the gift of time together.

Sincerely,  
  
Dr. Peltz

Mr. Ronsky becomes the first McCormick staff  
**Duke P.R.I.D.E. CHAMPION!**  
Congratulations!

# GO DUKES!

WHS Student Council  
attends their first  
Effective Leadership  
Academy Meeting





# NUTRITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS. HELTON



Andrea Helton,  
MS, RDN LD  
Director of Nutrition  
Services

### McCormick FFA Lettuce Harvest

We are thrilled to collaborate with CTE (career technical education) teacher Miss Schmitz's sixth grade class!

They are growing lettuce, basil, and soon cucumbers in their Flex Farms hydroponic vertical towers. We plan to utilize this student-grown produce in our kitchens as part of our farm to school initiative. This project was made possible through a generous grant from The Wellington Schools Endowment Fund. Thank you!

The Flex Farm is the most efficient, scalable, and transformative indoor, vertical hydroponic technology on the planet. By carefully controlling everything plants need to thrive, each Flex Farm can grow more than 394 pounds of produce annually. They're portable and only require a standard electrical outlet and less than 10 square feet of space.

#### The Flex Farm Includes:

- 288 plant spaces
- Fully self-contained water system
- Energy-efficient LED light tower
- Submersible Pump
- Grower Toolkit

Students  
serve the  
lettuce as a  
taste test  
during lunch.  
Responses:  
"It tastes like  
Olive Garden!"  
"It's great!"



Flex Farm Reps give sixth graders a presentation







## What is Acadience and how does it help students?

**Acadience** is a suite of assessments used to measure early literacy and math skills, often administered in kindergarten through sixth grade. Known initially as DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), Acadience assessments help teachers gauge students' development in foundational skills critical for academic success.



### Here's why Acadience is essential:

#### 1. Early Identification of Learning Needs

Acadience assessments provide quick, frequent snapshots of a student's abilities in phonemic awareness, reading fluency and comprehension. This helps educators identify students needing additional support or intervention early on.

#### 2. Progress Monitoring

Acadience tools are designed for ongoing assessment, which allows teachers to track each student's progress over time. This helps teachers evaluate whether interventions are effective and adjust their approach if needed.

#### 3. Data-Driven Instruction

The assessments give teachers concrete data, allowing them to tailor instruction to each student's needs. By focusing on specific skills, teachers can better address areas of weakness and promote more substantial, individualized learning outcomes.



#### 4. Accountability and Goal-Setting

Acadience's data can help schools meet accountability standards, set measurable goals, and show student growth over time. It also allows parents to understand their child's progress in a standardized format.

#### 5. Preventing Future Learning Gaps

Acadience helps prevent future gaps in students' learning by addressing literacy and math skills early on. Early skill-building in these core areas lays the foundation for academic success throughout schooling.



# HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## Jonah Stump named Commended Student in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

*Congratulations!*



Wellington High School Senior Jonah Stump has been named a Commended Student in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program, recognizing his exceptional academic promise among approximately 34,000 students nationwide.

He will receive a Letter of Commendation during the school's annual Academic Awards ceremony in the spring. Commended students scored in the top 50,000 out of over 1.5 million participants in the PSAT/NMSQT.

WHS Principal Urban shares that “This is an exceptional honor for any student and we are proud of Jonah and applaud his academic excellence. We are excited to see what his next chapter after high school brings.

Congratulations, Jonah!”



# HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## WHS NEWS

**Picture Retakes:** November 8th at 12:00 PM

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences PLUS:**

- November 6th from 3:00-7:00 P.M. at WHS
- We will have normal P-T conferences, along with a Future Planning Presentation AND PowerSchool Parent Portal Help Session.
- The Future Planning Presentation is designed for families of students in grades 9-12. We will discuss a variety of post-secondary options, career paths, financial aid, and much more. This will begin at 5:30 P.M.
- The PowerSchool Parent Portal Help Session is designed for any parent who has not created a parent account through the parent portal, and/or has not completed their student forms through the parent portal. The help session is ongoing from 4:00-7:00 P.M., so you can arrive at any time.



**[Click here to read the full WHS newsletter from Principal Urban](#)**



# WESTWOOD NEWS

## WESTWOOD IMPORTANT DATES

### NOVEMBER

4: NO SCHOOL - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY  
 5: PARENT CO-OP MEETING [AT] 6PM (WWE LIBRARY)  
 5-7: NNAT3 GIFTED TESTING (2ND GRADE)  
 6: NO SCHOOL - PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES (8AM-7:30PM)  
 12: K-KIDS MEETING [AT] 3PM (WWE CAFE)  
 18-22: RED RIBBON WEEK - SPIRIT WEEK (DETAILS TBD)  
 27: TEACHER COMP DAY - NO SCHOOL  
 28-29: NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING VACATION

### DECEMBER

2: SCHOOL RESUMES  
 3: K-KIDS MEETING [AT] 3PM (WWE CAFE)  
 3: PARENT CO-OP MEETING [AT] 6PM (WWE LIBRARY)  
 6: CO-OP SPONSORED "COOKIES WITH SANTA" [AT] 5PM (WWE CAFE)  
 9-13: CO-OP SPONSORED "SANTA SHOP" \*DURING LIBRARY CLASSES\*  
 12: K-KIDS CAROLING (TIMES TBD)  
 23-31: NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK  
 JAN 6: SCHOOL RESUMES



[Click here to read the McCormick specials buzz on our website!](#)



# SPECIALS' BUZZ

A QUARTERLY 4-8 GRADE SPECIALS' UPDATE

OCTOBER 2024, FIRST QUARTER RECAP

## Information from:

**Art (4-8)** Mrs. Farr/Mr. Feliciano

**Library (4-6)** Mrs. Campofredano

**Music/Band (5, 6-8)** Mrs. Sleggs/Mr. Lehman

**Music/Choir (4, 6-8)** Mrs. Arcuri

**P.E. (4/5)** Mrs. Voss

**P.E./Health (6-8)** Mr. Keenan

**Pre-Engineering/Robotics (7 & 8)** Mr. Walters

**Technology, Nature/conservation/Ag (5-8)**

Ms. Schmitz



## Upcoming Events

**October 25:** end of the first quarter

**October 31:** Halloween! McCormick FFA Officer training

**November 4:** No School for Students (teacher work day)

**November 6:** No School for Students (parent-teacher conferences)

**November 27-28:** Thanksgiving Break

**December 5:** FFA Exploration Contest

**December 5-7:** "It's a Wonderful Life: A live radio play"

**December 10:** Band Concert, 7pm

**December 14:** Choir Concert, 7pm

**December 20-January 5:** Winter Break!

### FUNDRAISERS:

**October 18-November 12:** Ag Citrus/Cheese

**October 30-November 12:** Choir fundraiser TBA

**November 4-8:** Scholastic Book Fair



## Autumn Fun for the Whole Family!

There are many orchards that have apple-picking, cider-tasting, and corn mazes. Check out Boo-at-the-zoo in Cleveland or Akron. Have a family pumpkin-carving contest. Try new recipes using in-season ingredients.



# WELLINGTON

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS



**TITLE 1 MATH TEACHER**



# Larry Pearson

**What is your position title at Wellington?**

Title 1 Math Teacher at McCormick Middle School.

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

Being able to share my love of mathematics with students as they are developing their own preferences and skills.

**What was your favorite subject as a student?**

Algebra.

**What are you most looking forward to this school year?**

Developing new relationships with the students and staff at McCormick Middle School, and watching my students grow in their ability to do mathematics.

**What made you want to work in Wellington Schools?**

I felt like I could utilize my skills to make a difference in the Wellington School District at McCormick Middle School.

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

Fishing, riding my motorcycle, and swimming in our pool.

**What would students be surprised to learn about you?**

That I have a pilot license.

**What wisdom would you share with your future students?**

That it is okay for things to be hard. Sometimes in life things are hard. We tend to learn and grow the most from the things that have been hard and challenge us.

**What animal do you believe most closely represents your personality?**

A dog.



WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL  
DRAMA CLUB'S

# BROADWAY FASHION SHOW

Watch our members walk the catwalk to the costumes and music of famous Broadway shows to raise funds for our NYC Broadway field trip!



ADMISSION \$5 PER PERSON,  
RAFFLE BASKETS AS WELL!

**OCT. 29, 2024**

7:00PM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

Patricial Lindley Center for the Performing Arts  
627 North Main Street Wellington, OH 44090



# PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

The WHS Drama Club and Community theater's production of "It's a Wonderful Life: A live radio play" will be on December 5-7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lindley Center.



Tickets are \$11 and \$6 each. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

WHS Drama Club Visited Playhouse Square to enjoy the show "Into The Woods."









# LEARNING AROUND OUR DISTRICT





# LEARNING AROUND OUR DISTRICT





# SENIOR NIGHT



## FFA NEWS

Sophomore Katie Stannard was one of 49 individuals in the National Creed Speaking competition! She earned a bronze rating at the national level! Congratulations!



WAM TO GO!

FFA traveled to Indianapolis for National FFA Convention





# Homecoming "When in Rome"





# Homecoming "When in Rome"





# Homecoming "When in Rome"







The cross country team sent Senior Joe Fox and Junior Lauren Vannatter to the regional meet in October. Joe Fox moves onto compete at state for his fifth state appearance: 2 in track and 3 in XC. Congrats!



The Lady Dukes Volleyball team earned 15 total wins on the season. That is the most wins for the volleyball program in one season since 2003. Way to go! Their record was 15 - 8.



WHS golfer Noah Clark won the LC8 post season tournament shooting an 82. The team finished second overall.



*Outstanding work!*





Congratulations to Junior Trey Moore for being nominated for the MaxPreps Ohio High School Athlete of the Week Award! Trey finished second in the state!



Boys Soccer won the most games since 2009 with 13 total wins! Their record was 13-3-2. Sophomore Reece Leiby set a school record with 31 assists in a season.



Wellington's girls golf was just one of three teams fielded by the LC8 this year. They showed constant improvement and will look forward to bringing all of their letterwinners back to the team next season.