

GO DUKES!



@WELLINGTON SCHOOLS

A digital newsletter from the
Wellington Exempted Village Schools

NOV/DEC 2022 | VOL 3 ISSUE 4

Each month we celebrate the birthday of students and staff throughout the district. Each person receives a card in the mail and a cupcake at school. Happy birthday!

Important dates:

Dec. 2-3: Holiday play "A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Show" at 7 p.m. at Patricia Lindley Center

Dec. 6: BOE Work Session at 6 p.m. at Westwood

Dec. 8: MMS/WHS Band Concert at 7 p.m. at Patricia Lindley Center

Dec. 15: MMS/WHS Choir Concert at 7 p.m. at Patricia Lindley Center

Dec. 19: Westwood K program at 5:30 p.m. Grade 1 at 7 p.m.

Dec. 20: Westwood Grade 2 program at 5:30 p.m. Grade 3 at 7 p.m.

Dec. 20: BOE Meeting at 6 p.m. at McCormick

Dec. 22- Jan. 2: Winter Break
Jan. 3: Classes resume

Jan. 16: No school (MLK Jr. Day)
For a complete calendar, go to wellingtonvillageschools.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Letter from Edward Weber, Superintendent
eweber@wellingtonvillageschools.org

The holiday season is here! We invite you to come out for our holiday performances (listed in this newsletter) to enjoy the sounds of the season.

Good luck to our McCormick Middle School students competing in the Lorain County Mock Trial on Dec. 9 sponsored by the Educational Service Center of Lorain County (ESC).

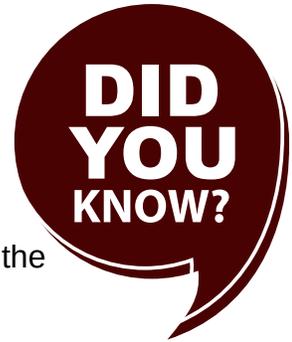
Thank you to everyone who purchased items for the Wellington Kiwanis Club's Annual Morris Furcron Peterson Nut Sale. Items have been delivered. We are happy to report total sales this year reached \$13,503.50.

Congratulations to bus driver Joyce Scolaro, recently recognized during the annual Pupil Transportation Professional Development and Awards Banquet sponsored by the ESC. Joyce retired from the district last year after over 14 years of service, but she has continued to serve as a substitute bus driver when needed. We are grateful for her continued dedication to our school district.

We are excited to share with you our district's Strategic Plan which was approved by the BOE this fall. It is available for review on the district [website](#), and is also included at the end of this newsletter. The plan will serve as a guide for our district with goals and objectives to meet over the next few years. Thank you to the Impact Group for consulting on this project; and all who provided guidance and feedback for the plan. Focus areas within the plan include: Communication (Internal & External); Academic Achievement and Programming/Technology; Facilities, Safety and Security; Finance and Accountability; Climate, Culture & Wellness; and Human Resources and Staff Support.

Good luck to our Winter Sports teams this season! GO DUKES!

Updates from the Treasurer's Office



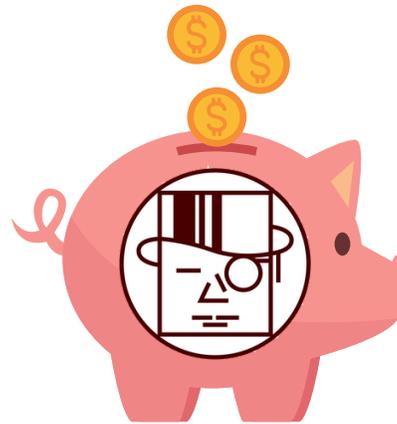
\$ The November five-year forecast has been posted to the Treasurer's page within the district website, click [here](#).

Item of note within the forecast includes our district still has a positive fund balance and we anticipate this to continue for the next five years. We are very cautious with our revenue projections.

The Wellington Exempted Village Schools Treasurer's Office is committed to fiscal transparency and demonstrating the district's fiscal responsibility. Please take some time to review our website and explore how your tax dollars are used to benefit the students and the community. Click [here](#).



Mark Donnelly
Treasurer
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mdonnelly@wellingtonvillageschools.org



District receives \$300K in grants for safety

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine recently announced that the state will support the installation of security upgrades at more than 700 K-12 schools across Ohio.

A total of 708 schools in 57 counties will receive \$57.8 million in grant funding to enhance student and staff safety. Governor DeWine is awarding the funds as part of his K-12 School Safety Grant Program, which helps schools with physical security expenses, such as new security cameras, public address systems, automatic door locks, visitor badging systems, and exterior lighting.

Each school in our district will receive \$100,000. The money will be used for cameras, remote door access controls, and security radios.

For more information regarding the grants, click [here](#).



Impact of incivility studied

Communicate with H.E.A.R.T., the district-wide compassionate communications training, is a counterpoint to the wide-spread incivility presently being studied by Georgetown University Behavioral Scientist Christine Porath. Since the height of the COVID pandemic, Porath believes gestures of incivility have increased simply because people are feeling worn down.

“Research is showing that the number one reason for incivility is that people feel stressed or overwhelmed,” Porath said in a recent interview on the Hidden Brain Podcast. “Unfortunately, that kind of negativity seen around the pandemic, politics, and around uncertainty is a reason given for rudeness and general negativity.”

H.E.A.R.T. training is a counterpoint to incivility with protocols for positive, consistent encounters among colleagues, scholars, and visitors. The proven, evidenced-based program, derived from the Cleveland Clinic, which went from one of the nation’s worst hospitals in patient experience to one of the best, is based on empathy—putting yourself in someone else’s shoes.

The training not only provides practice in initiating welcome engagements, but through its Respond with H.E.A.R.T (Hear, Empathize, Apologize, Respond, Thank) principles demonstrate how to manage difficult conversations and fix service failures.

The goal is to model memorable customer experience practices within each Wellington school. Please take a moment and complete the H.E.A.R.T. survey on the district website, click [here](#).



For more information on S.T.A.R.T. with Heart, contact H.E.A.R.T. Trainer, Ronald Kisner at 440-647-7409 or rkisner@wellingtonvillageschools.org



Wellness news from around our district

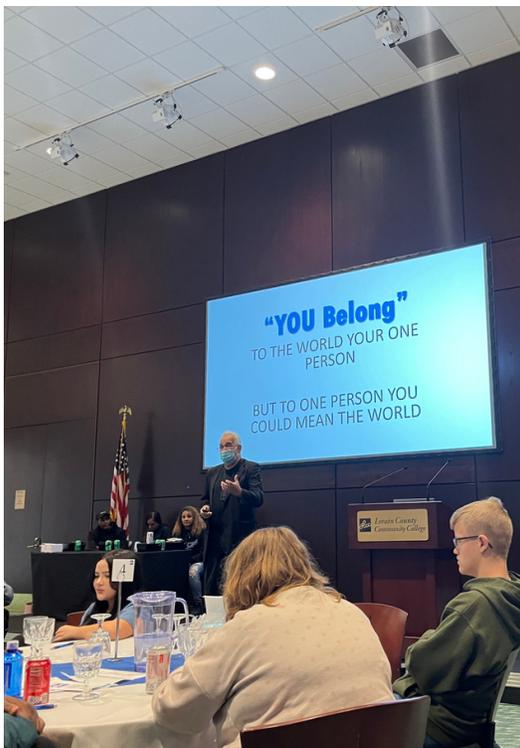
John's Safe Place: Our district Wellness team recently met with Rick and Beth Haney from the John C. Haney Foundation to explore the possibility of bringing a John's Safe Place to one or all of the Wellington schools. Donna Keenan, WHS principal, expressed an interest in having a space at the high school. Firelands and Clearview high schools opened spaces this year.

Rick and Beth created 'John's Safe Place' to honor their son, John, who died by suicide in 2017. The safe places are special rooms at local schools where students can be open, decompress and find comfort. The rooms were created after Beth took a class on mental health. The first room was set up at Fairview Middle School (John attended Fairview Park schools), with the help of school administrators and teachers. It was designed with feedback from the Cleveland Clinic to create a calm, open atmosphere for students who are having a panic attack or just having a bad day to come to decompress and/or find comfort. The room has low lighting, comfortable couches, games, puzzles, art materials and an aquarium, and is monitored by the school's guidance department. By giving students time to color or play with a Rubik's Cube or just sit and stare at the fish tank, you can see them start to calm down. Each room costs between \$2,000 to \$3,000 to create, with all donations and funds raised by the JCH Foundation that help go towards creating the room including: furniture, aquarium, sensory-sensitive devices, headphones, paint and more. For more information, click [here](#).



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You Belong Grant: Ten students (grades 6-8) from McCormick Middle School participated in the You Belong Grant Kick-off Event at Lorain County Community College's Spitzer Conference Center on Nov. 18. Nathan Morris, MMS dean of climate and culture, Emily Medves, district social worker, and Liz Wolanski, district wellness coordinator, accompanied the students on the trip and each will provide additional assistance and support throughout the grant initiative. You Belong is a \$2,000 grant funded through the Mental Health Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County. Thirteen other middle schools from across the county received the grant and participated in the kick-off event.

The group of students received training and the grant money will also be used to help with future student-led initiatives at MMS. It was a successful event and the students have already come up with a name for their group... (H.I.K.E. Club - HIKE stands for Helping Include Kids Everywhere). They also created a slogan... "A HIKE worth taking."

Up up and away: STEM balloon project

McCormick Middle School fourth-graders recently completed a "Balloons Over Broadway" cross-curricular unit. The unit explored the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The students designed their own balloons while working on a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) challenge to design a structure to hold their balloons up. The school held a "parade" to show off the creativity. The backdrop of the buildings was also a math lesson in division.





TOGETHER, WE ARE *Kindland*



Wellington's Kindland initiative is spreading kindness in the Village and at school functions such as the recent Builder's Club Movie Night at the Lindley Center. In this season of gratefulness and giving, Kindland rolled a school van onto Main Street's First Friday event to promote "Stuff the Van" to solicit donations such as soap, shampoo, school supplies, and other non-perishables for the Care Closets in our schools. Kindland high school parent Heidi Charlton has offered her popular Duke Shop as an extended drop-off location. The Care Closets are dedicated spaces in each school building that offer items such as clothing, toiletries and school supplies for those in need. Contact one of our schools for more information or to visit a Care Closet.

Between Halloween and Thanksgiving, Kindland Ambassador and high school librarian Kathleen Dickason provided children's activities including a colorful, cutout hand-tracing that ended up on branches of a paper on a "Kindness Tree." She also created a kindness poster for patrons to sign with kindness suggestions to bring awareness to the [JUSTBEKINDAPP](#), and to underscore the message of spreading kindness one small act at a time. Download the app and start spreading kindness today.

The photos below capture some of the Kindland's recent stops.



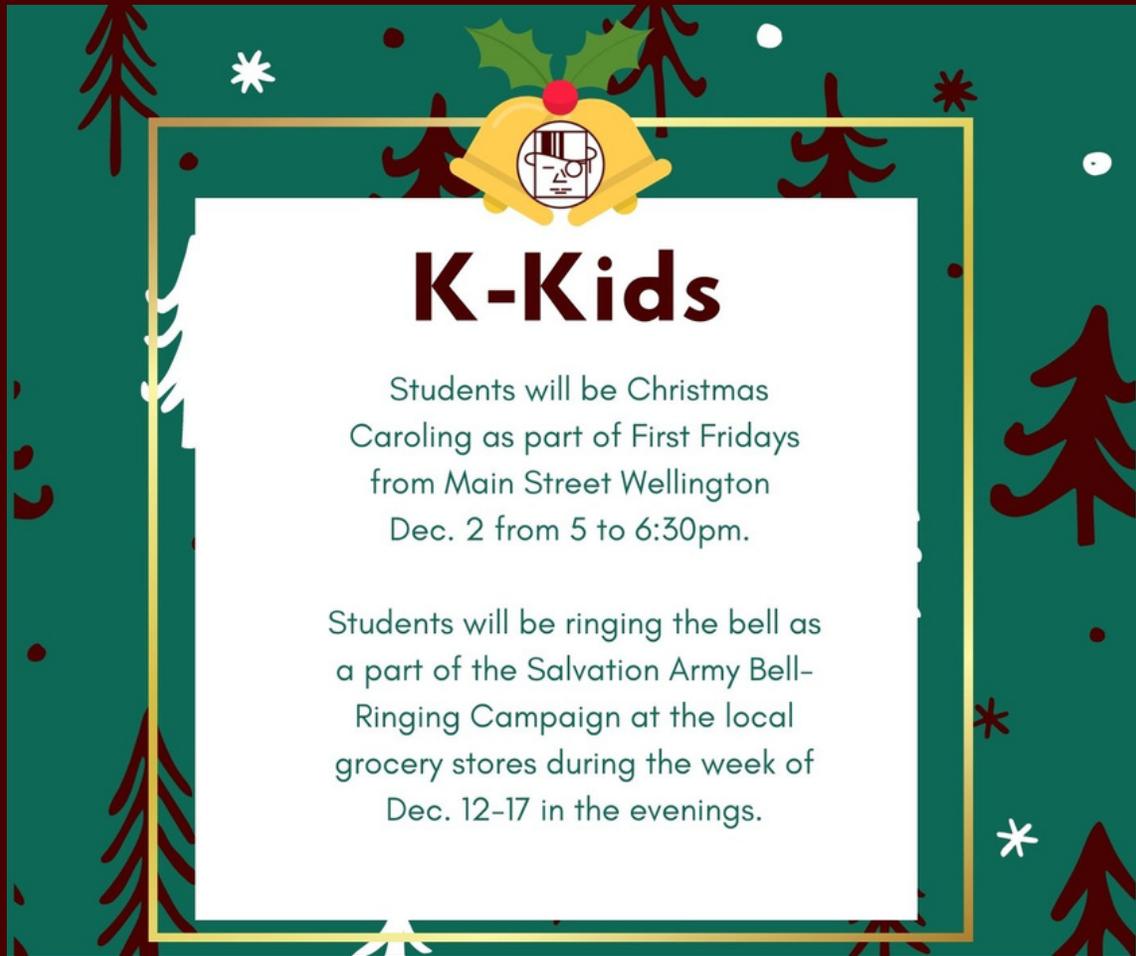
Kindland contacts:

Ronald Kisner

rkisner@wellingtonvillageschools.org

Kathleen Dickason

kdickason@wellingtonvillageschools.org



K-Kids

Students will be Christmas Caroling as part of First Fridays from Main Street Wellington Dec. 2 from 5 to 6:30pm.

Students will be ringing the bell as a part of the Salvation Army Bell-Ringing Campaign at the local grocery stores during the week of Dec. 12-17 in the evenings.

What are you doing Friday night?

Bring yourself, your spouse, your family to Wellington's Westwood Elementary School and play pickleball.

Friday nights, 6pm - 8pm (and the occasional Thursday)

Come in the side door nearest to the cafeteria.



Every Friday, starting November 11th, that school is in session. Thursday sessions will be announced monthly.

WHS students earn Lorain County art honors

Congratulations WHS students Brooklyn Regal and Trinity Sutton --- People's Choice Honorable Mention honors from the Lorain County High School Art Show sponsored by the Educational Service Center of Lorain County (ESC).

People's Choice Awards



1st Place: Holley Rangel
Amherst Steele High
"Wrapped Opossum"



3rd Place: Lana West
Vermilion High School
"Under the Surface"



2nd Place: Aiden Bokulich • Firelands High School
"Conkles Hollow"

Honorable Mentions



Grace Miller
Keystone High



Lydia Horrocks
Vermilion High



Jack Fedan
Amherst Steele High



Makenna Ruoff
Midview High



Carrie Prichard
Amherst Steele High School



Sophia Unterbrink
Open Door Christian School



Brooklyn Regal
Wellington High



Alannah Zebrow
Elyria High



Mckenna Wilson
Vermilion High



Trinity Sutton
Wellington High School



Holiday Concerts



Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. 
MMS/WHS Bands Holiday Concerts

Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.
MMS/WHS Choirs Holiday Concerts



Monday, Dec. 19
Westwood Kindergarten Program at 5:30 p.m. 
First-grade Program at 7 p.m.

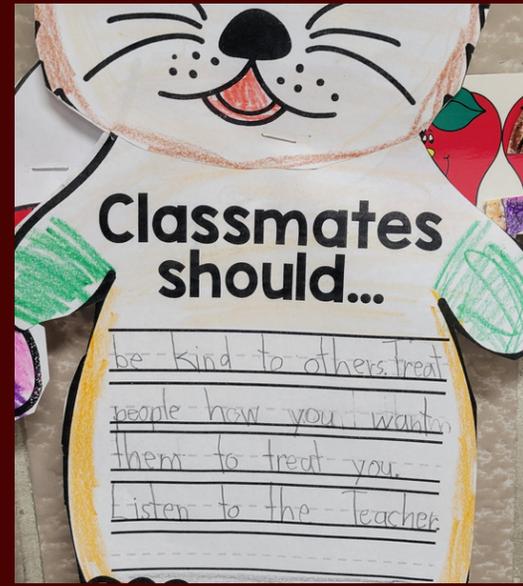
Tuesday, Dec. 20
Westwood Second-grade Program at 5:30 p.m.
Third-grade Program at 7 p.m.



Patricia Lindley Center for the Performing Arts



Images from around our district



WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Goals and Objectives Strategic Plan



GOAL #

1

Communication (Internal & External)



Develop clear expectations for all forms of internal staff communications so that each building level/department receives consistent and timely updates; ensure all staff members are knowledgeable and informed regarding important district information so that they can confidently act as stewards of the district's vision and decisions and avoid selective pockets and siloed information.



Establish a comprehensive external communications program to ensure community stakeholder engagement; create consistent communications that target community members, businesses, non-profit organizations and key stakeholders to create a supportive community environment; develop appropriate/multiple communications channels and tactics; create consistent district communication expectations with families.



Create two-way communication processes that allow the certified and classified staff to interact with the district administration.



Perform a comprehensive website audit to determine functionality and ease of information retrieval; ensure all components of the district website are up-to-date and consistently monitored.

GOAL #

2

Academic Achievement and Programming/Technology



Create and promote multiple pathways for college, career and life readiness via a relevant, rigorous and aligned K-12 curriculum; communicate a culture of high academic expectations regardless of a student's chosen pathway.



Effectively utilize technology as a transformative creation tool in the hands of students. Offer professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance their technology skills that could enhance classroom learning opportunities for all students.



Create classroom expectations that engage students in 21st century, problem/project-based and service-learning opportunities.



Enhance targeted academic resources for student subgroups including gifted and special needs learners. Consider the addition of support staff members to assist those students who need scaffolded supports.



Define a consistent process and data review system to determine appropriate gap closing measures and practices K-12.



Perform a comprehensive department/program audit review K-12; ensure that current courses are aligned with 21st century job market demand; consider the creation and infusion of new courses that are more deeply aligned to STEAM and other in-demand disciplines. Consider the creation or return of life-skills programming throughout the grade levels.



Perform an audit of curriculum vertical alignment as it pertains to grade level and building transitions.

GOAL #

3

Facilities, Safety and Security



Develop a master facilities plan to address both possible construction and long-term maintenance of current buildings.



Communicate the need for possible new construction and/or renovated facilities that meet the educational needs of the students to the community.



Engage the community to gather input from families and other stakeholders regarding the types of facilities for possible construction/renovation and the best use of those facilities in future years.



Review all aspects of physical security throughout the district to include reaction and response to any imposed/perceived threats; recommend changes to policy and application of best practice strategies; ensure consistent application of security protocol/procedures for district buildings and athletic events.



Provide facilities that prioritize student and staff safety, promote interaction, create engagement and provide an excellent environment for 21st century learning.

WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Goals and Objectives Strategic Plan



GOAL #

4

Finance and Accountability



Create a regular, transparent communication's plan for all district expenditures. Communicate in multiple mediums, the 5-year forecast, as well as the building budgets and expenditures. Publish and promote a regular schedule of community friendly graphics to educate Wellington Exempted Village School's stakeholders and taxpayers more deeply on current and projected (future) expenditures; consistently communicate district financial picture to provide an accurate portrayal of financial standing.



Conduct annual comprehensive audits of district's revenue sources and non-payroll expenditures along with the state of the schools address. Communicate the financial status of the district during that address. Include information regarding like-district compensation and fringe benefit package audit; ensure competitive compensation to recruit and retain all district staff, both certified and classified.



Plan for district levy cycles (Including Operational and Bond Levies) to determine strategy for levy implementation in relation to potential facilities and operational needs.

GOAL #

5

Climate, Culture & Wellness



Create a district task force to examine positive behavior models and social-emotional curriculum K-12.



Review district anti-bullying policies and practices to ensure consistent implementation at each building and grade level.



Implement a diversity and equity advisory council using stakeholder feedback to assist in the development of a district diversity plan; consider continued work or partnership with the NEO Diversity Center of Cleveland; ensure district policies continue to promote inclusion and equity of underrepresented groups.



Advance school spirit through proactively planned activities and experiences; create consistent opportunities to display district pride and to celebrate student and staff accomplishments; establish districtwide standards for external display of school spirit in all buildings. Intentionally and purposefully communicate these accomplishments both internally and to all external stakeholders in the school community.



Create of an initiative that focuses upon staff morale and a Culture of Appreciation for the certified, classified and administrative personnel.

GOAL #

6

Human Resources and Staff Support



Provide customer service training for Wellington Exempted Village Schools employees to create a positive customer experience.



Conduct a comprehensive audit to ensure the proper staffing levels in each classroom; provide specific guidelines and expectations for paraprofessional/aide utilization.



Provide professional development opportunities and extended training for staff members related to student social-emotional and mental health needs; create mechanisms for dialogue to understand the complexities of home life and school life more deeply.



Implement a system of teacher, support staff and substitute recruitment to obtain the highest quality, diverse professional staff.

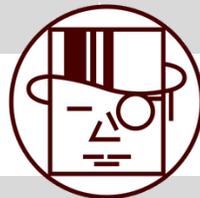
Contact us if you have any questions or concerns

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McCormick Middle School
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Wellington High School
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Donna Keenan, Principal
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As one of the district's Strategic Plan initiatives, the Wellington Village Schools would like to improve and increase communication with students, parents, staff and community members. @WellingtonSchools is a monthly digital newsletter distributed via email to our school families. For more information on our schools, check out our website, www.wellingtonvillageschools.org; or Facebook @WEVSD.