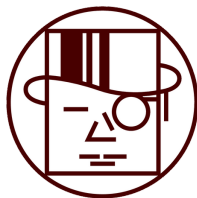


GO DUKES!



@WELLINGTON SCHOOLS

A digital newsletter from the
Wellington Exempted Village Schools

JAN/FEB 2023 | VOL 3 ISSUE 5



WHS Student Council officers recently attended another ELA (Effective Leadership Academy) meeting at LCCC.

Important dates:

Jan. 27: Report cards distributed

Feb. 1: No School Westwood ONLY

Feb. 1: Parent-Teacher conferences

Feb. 7: BOE Work Session at 6 p.m.
at Westwood

Feb. 11: OMEA high school Solo &
Ensemble contest

Feb. 13: Kindergarten registration
packets available for pick-up at
Westwood

Feb. 20: No school (Presidents' Day)

Feb. 21: BOE Business Meeting at
6 p.m. at WHS

March 14-15: Kindergarten
screening at Wellington LCCC

For a complete calendar, go to
wellingtonvillageschools.org

Welcome 2023!

Letter from Edward Weber, Superintendent
eweber@wellingtonvillageschools.org

As we are getting settled into 2023, we have some exciting events coming up.

This past week we hosted a Donor Appreciation Dinner at McCormick Middle School. We are blessed to have such a generous community who always supports students and staff in a variety of endeavors. Our donors' support of academic programs, extracurricular initiatives and athletics is the living example of how it truly takes a village to support our students, staff and families. Our choir showed off their talents to donors while everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner from Sterk's Catering, as well as some great Dukes' gear as door prizes. Thank you all for your dedication to our schools and for the opportunity to get together and celebrate our generous donors.

February 1 is our Parent-teacher Conference Day. There will be no school for Westwood Elementary students due to conferences during the day. McCormick Middle School and the high school will have school, with conferences held after school. The high school will be hosting a special Parent Appreciation Night on February 1, with a baked potato bar, presentations on the College Credit Plus (CCP) program with updated high school graduation requirements from Principal Donna Keenan and our guidance counselor Claire Frantz. Attend to win a chance at three \$25 Amazon gift cards.

On February 8, our kindergarten and first-grade classes will be taking a field trip to watch the play based on the book, "It's Okay to be Different" at Playhouse Square in downtown Cleveland. This was made possible through funding from our Wellington Schools Endowment Fund. We are thankful for the opportunity for our students to experience field trips again.

Superintendent's letter continues on page 8

Updates from the Treasurer's Office

The Wellington Exempted Village Schools Treasurer's Office is committed to fiscal transparency and demonstrating the district's fiscal responsibility. Hopefully you all received our first edition of School Funding 101 in the mail. We plan to create three additional School Funding publications that will explain different aspects of how schools are funded, where the money goes, etc. School funding is complex and can be difficult to understand, but we want to do our part to make this information accessible.

To view the School Funding 101 publication, click [here](#).

As outlined in our district's Strategic Plan, we plan to publish and promote a regular schedule of community-friendly graphics to educate our stakeholders and taxpayers more deeply on current and projected (future) expenditures; and consistently communicate the district's financial picture to provide an accurate portrayal of our financial standing.

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
440-647-7979
mdonnelly@wellingtonvillageschools.org



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**



WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS



LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING EXPLAINED



Staff, parents using H.E.A.R.T. survey

The empathy-based principals of Communicate with H.E.A.R.T. are being practiced by Wellington staff members, according to parent and staff responses to the H.E.A.R.T. survey on the district's [website](#). To date, 20% of the mostly positive responses have come from parents, 75% from fellow staff members, and the remaining 5% of responses were actually from students.

One parent respondent said this of McCormick Middle School Dean of Culture Nathaniel Morris:

“He conferred with me about my child who was being picked on. He listened to the whole situation and assured me he would watch the situation closely and take any necessary action to make my child feel safe. I was truly relieved after talking to him.”



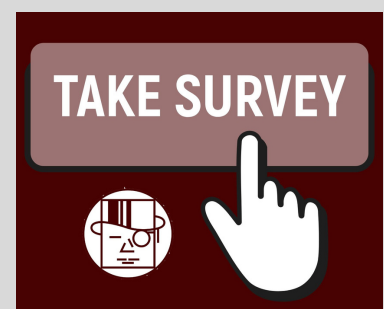
A fellow staff member said McCormick Secretary Debbie Kimmich **“always makes me feel welcome and part of the McCormick family.”**

The survey posted on the website near the end of the last school year, provides a mechanism for staff, parents, and community members to document their interactions with district personnel. The goal is to create a district-wide stellar customer experience for anyone who walks through our doors. The entire Wellington Village and school district staff are encouraged to utilize the web-based survey as a window into the tone and tenor of schools' customer and employee engagements.

The first H.E.A.R.T. recognitions will take place in February which is “Heart Month” and has also been declared a “Month of Kindness.” Training is focusing on new employees and those who have missed previous sessions.

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

Starting in the fall of 2023, per Ohio House Bill 123 SAVE Students Act (Safety and Violence Education) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), all public school districts are required to provide students in grades 6-12 with one hour each of Suicide Prevention, Violence Prevention, and Social Inclusion training. The ODE has approved the following Evidenced Based Practices (EBP's) for use to meet the Suicide Prevention requirement: Signs of Suicide (SOS), Erika's Lighthouse: A Beacon of Hope for Adolescent Depression, Lifelines, and Sandy Hook Promises Say Something. The following EBP's have been approved to meet the Violence Prevention requirement: SAVE Promise Clubs, Ohio Adult Allies, and Ohio Youth Led-Prevention. Finally, the following EBP's are approved for Social Inclusion training: Start with Hello, Botvin's Life Skills, and The 7 Mindsets. The SEL (Social and Emotional Learning)/Student Wellness teams at McCormick and WHS are currently in the process of reviewing and identifying which of the programs would best fit each grade and will have a decision made by the end of the school year.

Another requirement of the SAVE Students Act is that as of March 2023, all Ohio school districts must have Threat Assessment teams in place that are trained in an ODE approved Threat Assessment. Wellington Exempted Village Schools already have teams in place in all three buildings, which include the building principals, school counselors, district social worker, SRO (school resource officer), district wellness coordinator, the superintendent, and one to two classroom teachers depending on the building. Wellington's teams are all trained in the CSTAG (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment) developed by University of Virginia Professor Dewey Cornell. The CSTAG is considered the gold standard of Threat Assessments.

For more information on the Ohio SAVE Students ACT and the approved prevention curriculums, click [here](#).

TIPS for use of SEL strategies in the home

SEL can help all young people and adults thrive personally and academically, develop and maintain positive relationships, become lifelong learners, and contribute to a more caring world. All three schools are providing students with universal SEL education. For tips to assist parents with carrying over what students have learned into the home, click [here](#).

General SEL information

For more comprehensive SEL information provided by CASEL (Collaborative for Academic Social Emotional Learning), click [here](#).



Elizabeth Wolanski
Wellness Coordinator
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Emily Medves
Social Worker
emedves@wellingtonvillageschools.org



McCormick students complete STEM challenge activity

Prior to Winter Break, McCormick Middle School fourth-grade students completed another exciting STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Math) challenge activity. The students designed candy houses and decorated them. Several categories were featured in the challenge including Best 2-story, Most unique, Most detailed, Best decorated, and Best 3-story. The students also chose a season (spring, summer, winter or fall) for their home.

In Language Arts class, the students took on the role of realtors and wrote a descriptive paragraph of their house to help sell their home.

Great job to the students and teachers, Megan Birchfield, Malynda Perchinske and Lindsey Hamisfar!



WHS students shine at Regional Scholastic Art Show

Congratulations to our talented Wellington High School art students honored at the Regional Scholastic Art Show. This is a highly competitive show and an honor to be showcased. WHS senior BriLee DeLima was awarded a Gold Key ("Flying Fish"), a Silver Key, and an honorable mention.

Sophomore Ayla DeLima was awarded a Silver Key ("Smog") and three honorable mentions.

The show is at the [Beth K. Stocker Gallery](#) at the Stocker Arts Center at Lorain County Community College, 1005 N. Abbe Road, Elyria, now thru Feb. 16.

Hours/days open to the public include:

Monday - Friday 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

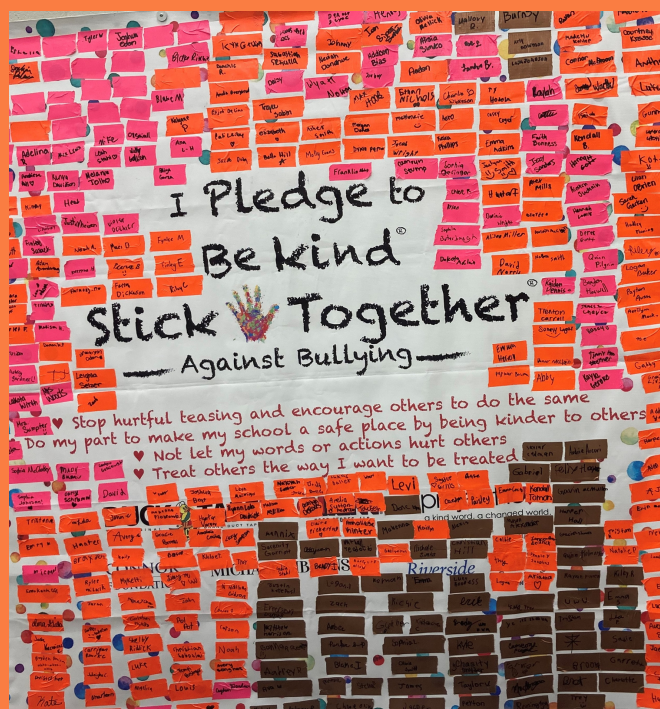
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evenings 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Sundays 1 to 3 p.m.





Guided by McCormick Middle School Dean of Culture Nathaniel Morris, Kindland lessons and grade level activities are rolling out in increments. Following the initial lesson derived from the interactive Kindland “Stick Together” anti-bullying rally at the Patricia Lindley Center, Morris began rolling out initial next steps that included: Giving students an opportunity to create gratitude posters, involving students in a December Kindness Challenge, and creating a Holiday “cheer” Tree near the cafeteria replete with encouraging words on sticky notes that were used either by the originator or passed on to fellow classmates.



Kindland, the Cleveland-based organization that grew out of founder Stuart Muszynski’s Values-in-Action Foundation, is focused on creating a “kinder” Northeast Ohio “one kind act at a time.” Kindland drew national media attention when, in 2021, more than 37 million acts of kindness were recorded on Kindland’s App.

At Wellington, Kindland initially rolled out in the high school last spring and moved into McCormick in the fall. Plans are to bring Westwood Elementary aboard the Kindland train this quarter.

While plenty of Kindland swag abounds throughout the district such as caps, wristbands, yard signs and stickers—and several Village merchants have posted Kindland signs in their window-- the heart of Kindland in schools are the lessons of kindness that were socially/emotionally tested and designed to be uniquely adapted to each school or classroom.

Wellington gained more insight into how best to adapt the lessons when Kindland Administrator Amanda Guarnieri and recently hired Education Liaison Brynn Miller visited with each district principal.

Some of the lesson titles are Kindness or Meanness, Planting Seeds of Kindness, and Wouldn’t it be Nice - among other titles variously applicable to grades K-12.

Plans are underway to create a Summer of Kindness in Wellington in collaboration with Westwood, McCormick, and the Herrick Memorial Library.

Kindland contacts

Ronald Kisner

rkisner@wellingtonvillageschools.org

Kathleen Dickason

kdickason@wellingtonvillageschools.org

WHS student earns college national recognition honor

Congratulations to WHS senior Maya Feron, who is one of 62,000 students from across the country to earn academic honors from the College Board's National Recognition Programs! Feron earned this recognition by excelling on her PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or AP Exams and in the classroom. Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams.

She is involved in Student Council, Drama Club, Class of 2023 President, and plays in the band (tuba). She is applying to several schools including Boston University, University of California - Berkeley, Miami and Georgetown. Possible majors include International Law or Political Risk Analysis.

Feron has attended the Wellington Village Schools since kindergarten.



SAVING FOR COLLEGE

- Wellington Endowment Fund's "Saving For College" program provides a match for your Wellington student's college and/or technical future degree through a 529 savings plan
- All students (grades K-12) are eligible for the Endowment match
- To receive the Endowment match, email your child's 529 statement by Feb. 15 to dukesendowment@gmail.com



Superintendent's letter cont.

January is School Board Recognition Month. It's a time to celebrate the important role that a school board plays in communities and schools. Thank you Jessica Reynolds (President), Kevin Stump (Vice President), Jennifer Kazmierczak, Phillip Mohrman, and Ayers Ratliff, for your service and dedication to our district and community.

Congratulations to our Student Service Secretary, Doris Cook, on her retirement after 23 years of service at the Wellington Exempted Village Schools. Her impact on students and families is exemplary. Thank you for everything over the years and we hope you enjoy a wonderful retirement!

I am grateful to announce that our Christmas Campaign to raise money to pay off any and all student lunch debt has exceeded our goal! This means that any students that had lunch debt on their account, the balance has been paid in full.

This was possible from a very generous gift from Valley Chevrolet. We had numerous additional gifts which will be used to help families in the months ahead. Thank you to the Drew Guyer Memorial Foundation, Wellington Eagles, First United Methodist Church, Wellington Women's League, Dustin and Jessica Reynolds, Larry and Joanne Jones, Russell and Denise Breyley, and Kim and Kim Hinkle.

We have such a wonderful community to be grateful for, that truly appreciates and loves to support others, especially our children.


The community is invited to attend our annual State of Wellington presentation March 23 at the Fraternal Order of Eagles hall. The event is sponsored by the Wellington Kiwanis and features important updates from Mayor Hans Schneider, our school district Treasurer Mark Donnelly, and myself.

Good luck to our winter sports athletes as they head into tournament play in the coming weeks. The wrestling team has a tournament on Saturday, February 11 at Firelands High School. The girls and boys basketball teams have tournaments the week of February 13. Our bowling team has a tournament on February 5. Please come out to cheer them on. Check the [Athletics homepage](#) on the district website for locations and times.

GO DUKES!



Save the dates!!

 **Annual Kiwanis
Pancake Day**
Friday, February 17
7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
& 4-7 p.m.



Plus a 50/50 Raffle!

Hosted at the Fraternal Order of Eagles
631 S. Main St. Wellington
\$7 at door or \$4 (8 and under) \$6 pre-sale
Tickets also available at Bremke Insurance,
3rd Floor Town Hall, and 5/3 Bank.



Serving Pancakes, Sausages,
Juice, Coffee, and Smiles!
#kidsneedkiwanis

McCormick Drama Club
proudly presents

*I Hate
Shakespeare*

March 3 & 4 at 7:00 pm
Patricia Lindley Center for the Performing Arts
Doors open at 6:30pm.
Tickets \$11 adults, \$6 seniors, students, children
627 North Main Street Wellington, OH 44090

March 30-April 1 @ 7 p.m.
(doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
Patricia Lindley Center

**LITTLE SHOP
OF
HORRORS**



Save the Date!

DUKE PRIDE CARNIVAL

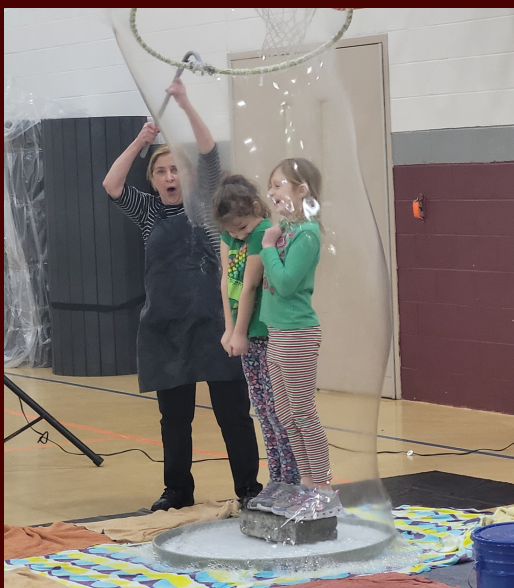
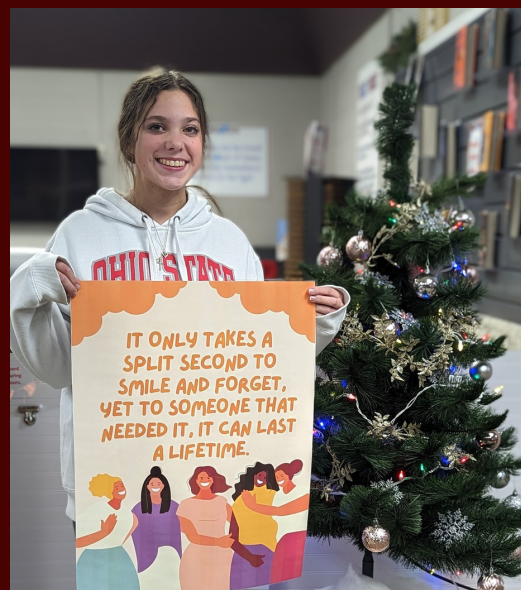
Dozens of carnival games for children!

April 15

Free Breakfast: 8 - 11 a.m.
Carnival: 9 a.m. - Noon
Wellington High School
629 N. Main St.



Images from around our school district



Go on a Sensory Walk!

at Westwood



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.



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



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.



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.



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



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



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



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.



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.



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.

GOAL
#

3

Facilities, Safety and Security

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



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.



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



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

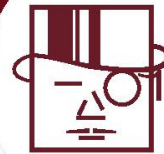


Review all aspects of physical security throughout the district to include reaction and response to any imposed/perceived threats; recommend changes to policy and application of best practice strategies; ensure consistent application of security protocol/procedures for district buildings and athletic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

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

Wellington Exempted Village Schools

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McCormick Middle School

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Wellington High School

Phone: (440) 647-3734

Donna Keenan, Principal

dkeenan@wellingtonvillageschools.org



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.