



# @WELLINGTON SCHOOLS

A digital newsletter from the Wellington Village Schools

JAN 2021 | VOL 1 ISSUE 4



Artwork on display at Westwood Elementary School

## *In this newsletter:*

- Bond refinancing
- Meal distribution update
- School Board recognition
- Literacy partnership
- High school pictures retakes
- STEAM initiative
- Kindergarten registration
- Contacts

Reminder: There is NO SCHOOL Monday, Feb. 15 (Presidents' Day)

## **THIRD QUARTER BEGINS!**

**by Ed Weber, Superintendent**

We are off to a great start this New Year! We have reached the end of the second quarter. Thank you to our students, staff and Wellington families for your continued support during these unprecedented times. Continue to wear your masks, practice social distancing, and limit gatherings.

We recently added Wednesdays to our Westwood Elementary Cohort, as well as every other Wednesday classes for the McCormick Middle and Wellington High School cohorts.

We hope adding Wednesdays with an in-person option will better serve our families, and we look forward to returning full-time in the spring as the vaccinations begin and the virus spread is reduced.

Lorain County Public Health has been keeping us updated on when our staff can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We will communicate those days out once we have them set from the health department.

Best of luck to our student athletes as our winter sports season continues to move forward. GO DUKES!

We look forward to great things in 2021!

# BOND REFINANCING

The Wellington Schools have been researching the opportunity to refinance some existing bonds used to pay off the debt from the construction of McCormick Middle School and the associated interest. With the Federal Reserve lowering interest rates in the spring of 2020, it is a great opportunity to save real dollars for our taxpayers.

We can refinance the debt at a lower interest rate and the taxpayer will pay a lower tax rate because of this effort. The school will not receive any benefit from this effort, it is totally for the benefit of the taxpayer. It is very similar to refinancing your home mortgage at a lower rate. We estimate savings to taxpayers in the school district to be around \$2.5 million between now and when the bonds mature. We are not extending the term, only lowering the interest rates.

# VIRTUAL STUDENT MEAL DISTRIBUTION

These meals are for students at McCormick and the high school who desire meals while either 100% virtual or attending the hybrid school model. It also includes Westwood students who are 100% virtual. Meal bags will consist of five days of breakfasts, lunches and milk. Meals will be distributed on Wednesdays at the high school from 9 to 10 a.m., and again from 4 to 6 p.m. Please sign up so we have an accurate count each week. Click [here](#) to complete the meal order form (one form for all orders).



# SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

January is School Board Recognition Month. Thank you to our school board members for their countless hours of dedication to our students, staff, and community to keep our district strong (photo below taken before pandemic). The Wellington Village Schools Board of Education members include: Brett Murner (President), Penny McClafin (Vice President), Ayers Ratliff, Jessica Reynolds, and Kevin Stump.

For more information on the BOE, click [here](#).



# WESTWOOD LITERACY PARTNERSHIP

Partnership for Literacy Team recently held its first meeting. The P4L team gives teachers, families, and administrators a place to work together to support literacy. The team assesses what the school is already doing to support literacy at home and in the community, and develops a plan for improving these supports so all children will develop the skills they need to be successful readers. If you are interested in being a part of this team, reach out to Dr. Kubasak [jkubasak@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:jkubasak@wellingtonvillageschools.org)



# PICTURE RETAKES

Wellington High School Retake dates as follows:

Monday, Feb. 8 from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 11 with a start time of 1 p.m. (remote learners can come from 3 to 5 p.m. for retakes).

JVS has rescheduled their picture days as follows:

Feb. 16 & 17 -- Seniors and Sophomores

Feb. 18 & 19 -- Juniors and Freshmen



# STEAM PROGRAM MOVING FORWARD

McCormick Middle School Principal Nathan Baxendale recently made a live Zoom presentation to the community regarding the exciting transition that McCormick will be making to a STEAM school model next school year.

The initiative is to provide a challenging learning environment in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) which maximizes individual learning potential and ensures students are well-equipped to meet the challenges in the world around them.

Over the past three years McCormick Middle School has made great strides implementing STEAM programming within the building. Through a variety of partnerships with Making Middle Grades Work (MMGW), Project Lead the Way (PLTW), other school districts and financial resources from the School Quality Improvement Grant (SQIG), a taskforce was created to construct the implementation plan for the a STEAM Academy in the fall of 2021-22.

The goals are to: 1.) Create a learning environment that engages all students in authentic, STEAM based learning and provide them the opportunity to excel in that environment. 2.) Foster partnerships with families, community members and other stakeholders to create a sustainable model for STEAM learning.

Mr. Baxendale will be featured on WEOL AM 93 on Friday, Jan. 29 at 7:40 a.m. to discuss the initiative.



# WELCOME CLASS OF 2034

## 2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration

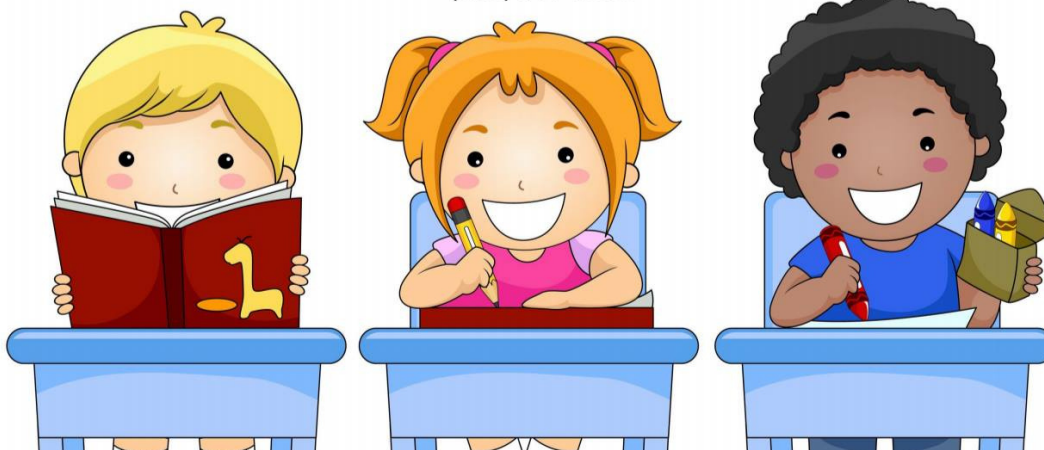
- \* Registration packets can be picked up from the Westwood Main Office beginning **Monday, February 8th**
- \* Screening will be **March 15th & 16th**—Screening appointment will be scheduled when picking up registration packet
- \* Student must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2021 to register.

Wellington Exempted Village Schools

Westwood Elementary

305 Union Street, Wellington, OH 44090

(440) 647-3636



## Contact us if you have any questions or concerns

Wellington Exempted Village School District

Phone: (440) 647-4286

Edward Weber, Superintendent

[eweber@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:eweber@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

Westwood Elementary School

Phone: (440) 647-3636

Dr. Janet Kubasak, Principal

[jkubasak@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:jkubasak@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

McCormick Middle School

Phone: (440) 647-2342

Nathan Baxendale, Principal

[nbaxendale@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:nbaxendale@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

Wellington High School

Phone: (440) 647-3734

Tina Drake, Principal

[tdrake@wellingtonvillageschools.org](mailto:tdrake@wellingtonvillageschools.org)

As one of the district's Strategic Planning initiatives, the Wellington Village Schools would like to improve and increase communication with students, parents, staff and community members. @WellingtonSchools will be a monthly digital newsletter distributed via email to our school families. For more information on our schools, check out our website, [www.wellingtonvillageschools.org](http://www.wellingtonvillageschools.org); or Facebook @WEVSD.