



IN THIS ISSUE

FINANCIAL PLANNING SURVEY
AWJH ANNOUNCEMENT
PREPARING FOR WINTER
CALENDAR & NEWS YOU CAN USE
STAFF NEWS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GENERALS BULLETIN

ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | DEC. 2023

From the Superintendent's Desk

REFLECTING ON 2023 WITH GRATITUDE

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work that each of you has contributed to our school District. Over the last year, there have been so many accomplishments, challenges, and moments that remind us why we are so passionate about educating students in our community.

I am continually impressed by the hard work and commitment of each of you. Your commitment shines through in all that you do. As we look back on 2023, let's celebrate the positive impact we've had on the lives of our students.

Your resilience, creativity, and unwavering commitment to providing outstanding experiences have not gone unnoticed. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you. Thank you for your continually working to create a positive and engaging learning environment.

I encourage each of you to take advantage of the upcoming winter break to rest, reset, and spend time finding peace in your life. Your well-being is essential, and I hope you return in the new year feeling refreshed and ready for the new year.

As we look ahead to the new year, let's commit to carrying a spirit of collaboration to continue to provide outstanding experiences for our students.



We know each year holds its own challenges to overcome, but I'm confident that when we work together to creatively problem solve we can find solutions to these challenges, and will continue to see amazing accomplishments across the District.

Thank you for your dedication, passion and hard work. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

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DISTRICT FINANCIAL PLANNING SURVEY

The District is seeking feedback from stakeholders regarding the failure of the November proposed Bond Issue and Operational Levy. Please take a moment to complete a brief survey to share your thoughts. Your input will help to inform the District's future financial decisions. The survey will close December 20.

Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

THE PITTER PATTER OF PAWS COMING SOON TO AWJH

There is about to be a new addition to the family of school facility animals at Anthony Wayne! Lorain, a two-year-old black lab is the fifth school facility animal to be placed in the District by the Ability Center.

She will work with the students and staff at AWJH starting in January. In the meantime, she has started to train with her handlers and is getting acclimated to her new home with Jordan LeFevre, AWJH Principal.

We are thrilled to have Lorain join Astro, Laney, Luna and Teila and are grateful for the continued partnership with the Ability Center. Watch for more information about her coming soon!

SHH - DON'T LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG!

We know this is news worth BARKING about, but there will be a special announcement just for students before winter break.



DELAY & CLOSING NOTIFICATIONS

As we enter the winter season, please know that in the event of school delay or closure, the District will notify you via the InstantConnect mass messaging system and local media. This information will also be made available on the District website and app. Delays and closings will not be communicated via social media.

Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date with the CAO. If you have not already done so, please also subscribe to receive text messages from InstantConnect by texting YES to 87569.



TECH TIPS: TIDYING UP YOUR FILES

Maintaining free space on your computer is critical to keeping it working properly. The Tech Department suggests deleting files you no longer need, or copying files to Google Drive and deleting them from your computer to free up space. Here's how:

1. Create a new folder on your computer. This will hold the files that you would like to back up.
2. Rename the folder something like, Backup11-13-23 (Backup+date).
3. Drag any files and folders on your computer that you would like to back up into the new folder.
4. Control+click (or right click) on the new folder and choose, "Compress".
5. Once the compress operation has completed, you will see a new file on your computer that has the file name you gave it followed by .zip.
6. Login to your Google Drive, click "New" and choose, "File Upload." Choose the .zip folder and upload it to Google Drive. Once uploaded to Google, you can safely delete the files from your computer.
7. Restart your computer.

REMINDERS FROM THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

Is there a bulb that has burnt out? Is there a wet spot on the floor or a ceiling tile? Does it seem usually hot or cold? Is there a toilet that won't stop flushing?

Please report these seemingly small issues - they could be a sign of much bigger problems that are in the works.

Use [FMX to enter work tickets](#) if you notice something is not working as it should. The Operations team will respond as quickly as they can to investigate and resolve the issue.

PREPARING FOR WINTER BREAK

Before you leave the building for winter break, please take a moment to unplug any approved appliances in your classroom / workspaces.

If you have a refrigerator, it's a great time to do a good clean out, and prop it open - making sure to leave a towel to catch any drips from defrosting.







This is also the perfect time to take home any personal items that have accumulated at school.

PARKING LOT SAFETY








Our school properties are very busy places, with buses, employees, families, visitors and even students coming and going throughout the day. All of this traffic, coupled with a number of possible distractions can be dangerous.

Please remain alert and consider the following safety tips when traveling in our parking areas and when you are out and about in other places:

DRIVERS:

-  Avoid texting, scrolling or talking on the phone.
-  Do everything you need to do (adjusting seat/mirrors/music) before exiting a parking space.
-  Obey parking lot speed limits and lane designations. Don't cut across the lot.
-  During snowfall, be particularly careful. It can be hard to see crosswalks and other lanes.
-  Be patient - particularly during drop off and pick up times and during events with high attendance.
-  Look twice. Always be alert to pedestrians and other vehicles.

PEDESTRIANS

-  Avoid texting, scrolling or talking on the phone.
-  Make eye contact with an approaching driver. Stop if you don't think the driver has seen you.
-  Wear boots or shoes with nonslip soles. If necessary, bring other shoes to change into once inside.
-  Avoid using earbuds/headphones and listen carefully. Electric and hybrid vehicles are especially quiet and you may not hear them approach.
-  During winter weather, be especially careful of icy conditions and watch for snowblowers and/or snowplows.
-  Don't take shortcuts - stick to crosswalks and marked areas.
-  Look twice. Always be alert to vehicles.

NEW WEB PAGE FOR FINE, MUSICAL & PERFORMING ARTS

The District's arts staff and students give you plenty of opportunities to listen to the sounds of the season, take in a show, or stroll a gallery. Now you can more easily find news, upcoming events and tickets! Visit www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Arts or choose the Fine, Musical and Performing Arts link under Departments from the District home page.



EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

A P.A.T.H.-WAY FOR MANAGING YOUR EMOTIONS

From anxiety to zeal and everything in between, the holiday season can bring out the best and worst emotions in all of us. That's normal -- but it is also important to find a P.A.T.H. back to equilibrium and find peace.

P: PAUSE

Instead of acting on emotions right away, stop and think things through. Count to 100, or say the alphabet backward before hitting send on that angry text message.

A: ACKNOWLEDGE

Consider what you're feeling and why you are feeling that way. For example, are you mad at someone, or are you sad because your feelings got hurt? Either way, it is okay to feel how you feel.

T: THINK

Now that you've taken a few minutes to think about what/why you're feeling this way, think about ways you can make yourself feel better.

H: HELP

Take an action to help yourself manage your emotions based on what you came up with in the "think" step, and if you get stuck - seek help from others who can help you get back on track.

PHYSICAL WELLNESS TIPS FOR STAYING HEALTHY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Go
walking
in a winter
wonderland

Run, run Rudolph!

Run here and there and
all around the square

Laugh in spite of yourself

Take a Christmas vacation

Go dashing through the snow

Rock around the Christmas tree

Nestle all warm in your bed and
dream of a white Christmas

Go over the river and through the
woods to grandmother's
house



EVEN SANTA ASKED FOR HELP!

ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE WHEN LIFE GETS FOGGY

If you need help navigating through the holiday season, know that there is free help on standby. You can access confidential professional counseling for yourself, your spouse or your child through ProMedica's Employee Assistance Program. For more information or to schedule a phone, video or in-person visit call 866-327-3759.



DECEMBER EVENTS

- DECEMBER 11** Board of Education Meeting
DEC. 21 - JAN. 2 District Closed: Winter Break

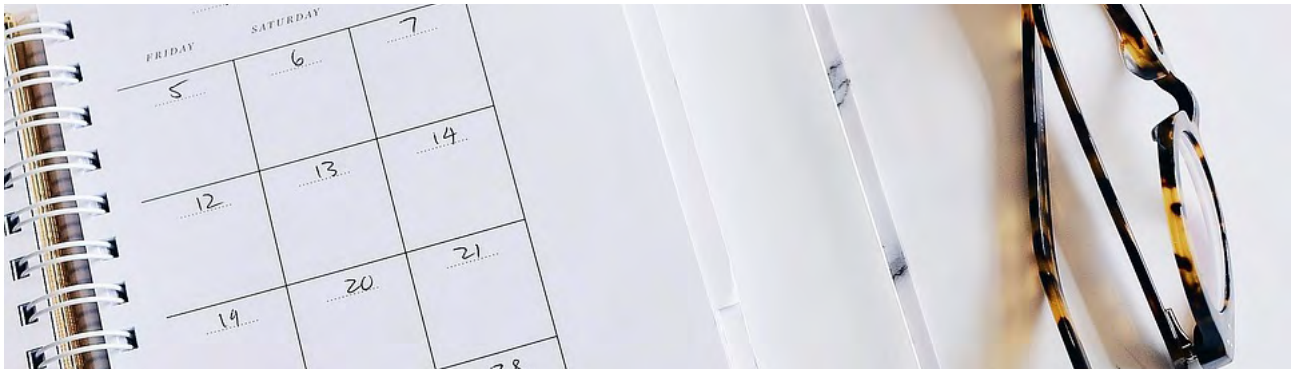
AWLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Central Administrative Office, unless otherwise noted. [A live stream is available for those who cannot attend in person >>](#)

December 11 8:00 a.m.

2024 meeting dates will be determined at the Dec. 11 meeting.

[Meeting agendas and policies are available online.](#)



NOTICE: CALENDAR ADJUSTMENTS MADE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY MOVED DUE TO PRIMARY ELECTION

Due to the spring primary happening in March and three of our buildings being used as polling locations, there will be no school for students on Tuesday, March 19. It will be a staff professional development day. Students will instead be in session on Tuesday, May 7.

NO SCHOOL MONDAY, APRIL 8 DUE TO SOLAR ECLIPSE

There will be no school on Monday, April 8 due to the Total Solar Eclipse. This date will be used as one of the District's calamity days under advisement from local emergency management agencies who cited safety concerns related to increased traffic, reduced visibility and the eclipse occurring during dismissal times.

[Please download a new copy of the District calendar for your reference.](#)

APRIL 2024 LPDC MEETING RESCHEDULED

At the November LPDC meeting, the committee voted to change the date of the April 8 meeting to April 15 due to the canceling of school for the Solar Eclipse. Materials are due April 10.

Please [download a new printable list of the LPDC meeting dates](#), or refer to the [Staff Forms and Information web page](#).

UPCOMING LPDC MEETINGS

No December Meeting
 January 8
 February 5



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LICENSURE RENEWALS

The State Board of Education of Ohio's online application system opened Nov. 1 for renewal of educator licenses that expire June 30, 2024. Educators who have met renewal requirements can avoid the summer rush by submitting their online applications now. [More information is available on the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce's website.](#)



STUDENT PODCAST CHALLENGE

Calling all content creators! NPR is inviting students to create a podcast and compete for a chance to have their work featured on NPR. Students in grades 5 and up are eligible to participate. The submission window is open from January - March 2024.

[Now is a great time to review the requirements and prepare your students to submit their work!](#)

DIRECTIONS CREDIT UNION GRANT AWARDED

Lisa Dick, *Fourth Grade Teacher* at Monclova Primary will receive a \$500 Cares for Classroom grant from Directions Credit Union. She will use the funds to purchase Stories of Hope, Growth and Heroes book sets that tell the story of the "everyday heroes" who stepped up to help others on 9/11 to teach students not only the historical events of that day, but also the importance of neuroplasticity, hope and resilience.

AWEF AWARDS GRANTS FOR CLASSROOM PROJECTS

The Anthony Wayne Education Foundation announced the recipients of more than \$5,000 in grant funds supporting learning opportunities for our students. Congratulations to the following recipients:

Fallen Timbers Middle School

Glow Day	Lisa Yoder	\$500.00
Life Skills	Melody McDonald & Crystal Barnswell	\$300.00
Remedies for Reading Motivation	Taylor Pawliski	\$300.00

Monclova Primary School

Books for Growth, Hope & Heroes	Lisa Dick	\$497.82
Chapter Book Study	Karen Seeger	\$449.00
Sauder Book Presentation	Brianne Black	\$243.23
Wellness Wednesday	Fay Birkemeier	\$ 81.84

Waterville Primary School

Our Learning Takes Flight	Jamie Hollinger	\$500.00
The Chicken Community	Dayna Ryan & Mariah Persinger	\$495.67
Toledo Grows Classroom Visit	Amy Rosebrook, Tiffany Prayter, Abbey Foltz & Nicole Stansfield	\$295.00

Whitehouse Primary

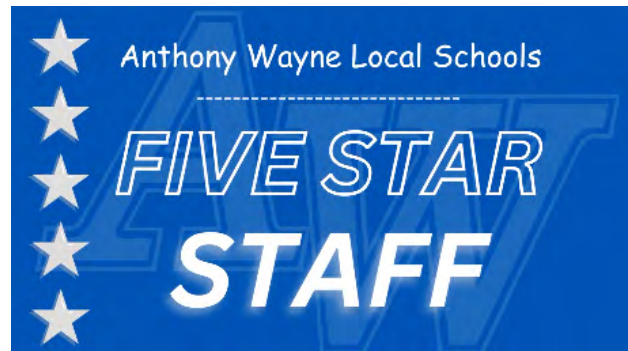
Hands-on Herpetology	Shane Pranksy	\$500.00
Ninja Life Hacks	Sidney Smiegelski, Kristi Kalo & Aspen Rettig	\$442.55
STEM	Jessa Halpin	\$500.00

TOTAL \$5,105.11

INTRODUCING: AWLS FIVE STAR STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

Watch for a new series of videos highlighting the accomplishments of our staff. They are a great way to learn more about the individuals across our District and the outstanding work you do every day to empower students to be future ready.

As an added bonus -- the videos are offering a learning opportunity to the AWHs student interns assisting with communications for the District!



First to be interviewed were [Chandler Adams](#), *Intervention Specialist* and [Craig Rutherford](#), *Math Teacher* at AWHs. Watch for future interviews on the [District YouTube channel](#).

INAUGURAL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS NAMED



Competition was fierce, but there can be only one victorious team: Congrats to the Monclova Primary team of Mike Black, *Physical Education Teacher* and Scott Livingston, *Food Service Cook* for claiming the first-ever AWLS pickle ball tournament title! They battled their way to the top, ultimately knocking out the Fallen Timbers team of Rachelle Ragan, *5th Grade Teacher* and Jim Huddleston, *6th Grade Teacher* in the final match on Nov. 8. Thanks to everyone who participated in this staff wellness event. We hope you improved your intellectual, social and physical wellness -- and had a great time doing it!

ACTS OF KINDNESS NOMINATIONS

The *Mirror Newspaper* is honoring those who uplift others in their actions and words - those individuals who perform acts of kindness in their everyday roles as an employee, volunteer, team member and student. There are so many Generals who do this. Let's fill the paper with nominations! Send a sentence or two to Karen Gerhardinger at Karen@themirrornewspaper.com or text/call her at 567-249-6085.

Kind
PEOPLE
ARE
my KINDA
people

AW NEWS



YouTube

VIEW BACK ISSUES: Previous editions of the *Generals Bulletin* can be found on the [Staff Forms and Information page of the District website](#) >>