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ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | DEC. 2022

From the Superintendent's Desk

Planning for 2023 and Beyond

As we enter the final weeks of the school year, it's hard to believe that in just a few weeks the first semester of this school year will be finished! I am very thankful to all of you for the hard work you have put into this school year to keep our students moving forward with their education. As we finish up this semester, we will have a number of District initiatives continuing into 2023.

Facilities Master Planning

Facilities assessment and planning continues to move forward at this time and will hopefully be finished in the Spring of 2023. The District will be meeting with the Collaborative next week to finalize our next steps to collect information from all stakeholders. Look for a communication in early January about our next steps in this process.

District Strategic Plan

The administration has been working hard to determine which actions steps within the Strategic Plan to tackle first in this school year. In every department there are planning and actions currently taking place to achieve our five goals to have all students future ready! The administrators will continue to collaborate within action steps to achieve our goals into 2023.

I wish you all a great holiday season.
See you in the new year!

Dr. Jim Fritz,
Superintendent



Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

LEVY RENEWAL APPROVED

Last month, 8,849 local voters cast their ballot in support of the Anthony Wayne Local School District, approving the renewal of a \$3M Operating Levy.

With this approval, the funds generated will be used to educate students through the day-to-day operations of our District, including materials for student learning, transportation, utilities, building maintenance and staff salaries and benefits.

This levy, first passed in 2003 will help support our students and staff through 2033.

Thank you to those who voted to support our students, staff and community. I am honored to serve in a community that values providing outstanding educational opportunities for its children.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jim Fritz



2023-24 DISTRICT CALENDAR RELEASED

Next year's District calendar was approved by the AWLS Board of Education at its November meeting. [View and download the calendar by clicking here](#), or visiting anthonywayneschools.org and choosing Quick Links > Schedules and Calendars.



SPECIAL THANK YOU

We wish to extend a special thank you to Amy Shiffert, Waterville Secretary for her service in the U.S. Air Force, and for her grace in forgiving us for missing her in [last month's Veterans Day staff recognition](#).

Thank you for your contributions to our country!

FUND YOUR IDEA: GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW

LIFECHANGER OF THE YEAR

The award seeks to honor K-12 educators, teachers, administrators or school staff members who make a positive difference in students' lives. LifeChanger awardees and their schools or districts receive prizes valued between \$50 and \$10,000.

[Nominate an AWLS educator today! >>](#)

THE BIG READ FUNDS READING PROGRAMS

The National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Program offers grants up to \$20,000 to fund community-wide reading programs focusing on one of 15 available books.

Submit your intention to apply by January 18.

[Learn more about The Big Read >>](#)

STRONGER CONNECTIONS GRANT

The Ohio Department of Education has \$35 million in federal funds available to schools who demonstrate a high need for school health and safety programs. Stakeholder feedback is being accepted now, with applications available in early 2023.

[Read more about the Stronger Connections Grant >>](#)



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EDUCATORS

Haley Shedden says she has wanted to be a teacher since the first grade, but the BGSU middle child education major says the news around teachers leaving the profession is concerning.

"It definitely makes me nervous and discouraged at times, but I have to keep reminding myself of why I want to be a teacher," she said. "I know that the kids are not the same, but that means that they need good teachers that much more."

From job shadowing to student teaching opportunities, Anthony Wayne Local Schools is doing its part to help inspire the next generation of teachers.

Shedden is one of 31 student teachers placed at AWLS. She is working in both Robin Buffy and Katelyn Schwerer's classrooms at Waterville Primary. She said she's thankful for getting to serve in two classrooms because it's allowing her to work with a variety of students and learn how to meet the different needs of all types of learners.

"The most eye opening part is seeing the impact of student to teacher relationships and how effective it is in managing and controlling a classroom," she said.

She said while she is grateful for her student teaching experience, she wishes she had more opportunities to spend learning from other teachers.

"I truly believe that everything you learn about teaching occurs in the classroom," she said.



BGSU is working to give education majors more chances to see what it really means to be a teacher.

AWJH hosted BGSU freshmen on November 15 and 17, as a part of the college's initiative to increase field placements and expose them to a broader range of school cultures, learning environments and teaching styles.

"Not only is it good for them, it's good for us," said Dr. Brad Contat, director of Human Resources. "The more we can mentor and encourage future educators, and the more relationships we can build with local colleges, the easier it becomes to find candidates to fill open positions."

Shedden, whose goal is to teach math or science at the middle level, said that while she did not choose her field placement location, she would have selected AWLS if given the chance.

"This school district is a great fit for me because they align with a lot of my core values as an educator and they have such an amazing community of staff that make it the most supportive environment to work in," she said.

For Shedden and other aspiring teachers, AWLS staff are making a difference in the field of education by mentoring and leading others and contributing to a positive school culture. Thank you.

GENERALS WANTED: AVAILABLE POSITIONS AT AWLS

Spread the word: Anthony Wayne Local Schools is hiring! Encourage your connections to consider working with us! We have several positions available now. [Details are available on the Human Resources page of our website >>](#)

PORTRAIT OF A GENERAL: EMPATHY

A GENERAL demonstrates awareness, sensitivity, concern, fairness and respect to connect with others' perspectives, feelings, opinions, experiences and cultures.

Empathy is the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts and experiences of another. Experts have identified three types of empathy:

- **Affective Empathy:** The ability to respond to other people's emotions
- **Somatic Empathy:** The ability to feel what another person is feeling
- **Cognitive Empathy:** the ability to understand someone's response to a situation

If empathy doesn't come naturally to you, it's okay. You can practice becoming more empathetic toward others. The articles below can help you start to think differently about how you relate to others.

[Five exercises to help you build more empathy >>](#)

[How to be more empathetic >>](#)

[PODCAST: The importance of teaching empathy >>](#)



FTMS STAFF VOLUNTEER AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE IN MEMORY OF STUDENT

More than 50 Fallen Timbers staff members volunteered to support the Ronald McDonald House as a way to honor the memory of a 6th grade student who passed away earlier this year.

Brody Kuhr's family asked that contributions be made to RMCH of NW Ohio, and more than 50 staff members helped to plan, provide and prepare a meal for families on November 14.

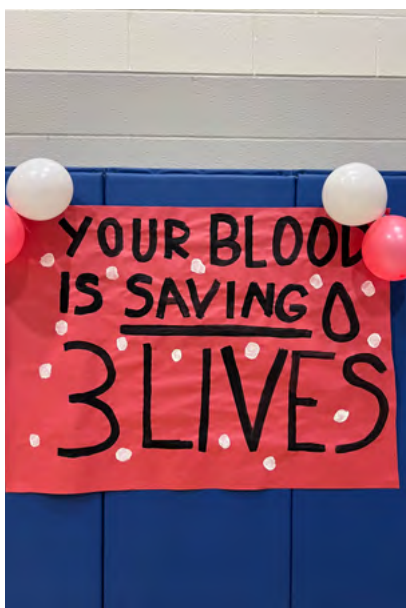
The FTMS team also collected items to prepare 30 toiletry bags, cleaned and winterized the grounds around the building and collected more than \$500 in cash donations.



AWJH SUPPORTS LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Thanks to a little friendly competition, the Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry will be able to support more families this fall. During the week of November 14, seventh and eighth grade Homebase classes competed to Altogether, students and staff collected more than 500 nonperishable food items for local families.

Animals in the care of Nature's Nursery will also benefit from the generosity of the staff and students at AWJH. More than 700 items were collected as a part of their Halloween Costume Contest.



AWHS HOSTS RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

AWHS Student Council hosted a community blood drive on November 29. Fifty-four units were collected, helping to meet the demand that the American Red Cross sees during the holiday season. Thank you to all who volunteered and donated.



WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY PROVIDES HOLIDAY MEALS

Whitehouse Primary staff held donated food items to support families in need through the After-School All Stars. The program offers Toledo Public Schools students academic, mentorship, enrichment and health and wellness support. Each year, the program provides the ingredients and supplies to make a Thanksgiving meal. Staff collected enough items to provide nine families with a Thanksgiving dinner.



AWJH STUDENTS REPLACE VETERANS' FLAGS

AW Junior High students are required to complete at least two hours of community service as a part of their social studies classes. Recently, students and staff helped the Whitehouse American Legion Post 384 replace the graveside flags of veterans.



PURPLE STAR GENERALS SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES

Military-connected students participating in AWJH's Purple Star Generals group have been hard at work this fall supporting the families of the 180th Fighter Wing. They volunteered to pass out candy and paint faces at Trunk or Treat, hosted a Veterans Day breakfast and packed bags with gifts for the 180th Fighter Wing's annual holiday party.

Waterville Primary's Purple Star Generals researched the various branches of the military and made plans to honor service members on Veterans Day, and 4th graders [presented an evening Veterans Day program](#).

AWHS held a breakfast reception and ceremony for local veterans and added 28 new members to the Military Wall of Honor. [Click to learn more about the Purple Star programs at AWLS >>](#)

COLLABORATION, ADAPTABILITY & FLEXIBILITY **AWHS CHOIR SUPPORTS 13ABC'S TOY DRIVE**

Members of the AWHs Choir, under the direction of Aaron Roos, were invited to participate in 13abc's Hope for the Holidays Toy Drive. They arrived at the station at 5:30 a.m. to perform live during the station's morning news broadcast. Even though it was early and cold, the students never missed a beat and had fun singing with Santa, meeting UT's Rocky and Rocksy Rocket and photos with news anchors. They even went above and beyond by bringing toys to benefit the Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army. Thank you for being the Portrait of a General!

[Click to listen in to highlights from the morning >>](#)



AWJH MUSICAL PRODUCTION A TEAM EFFORT

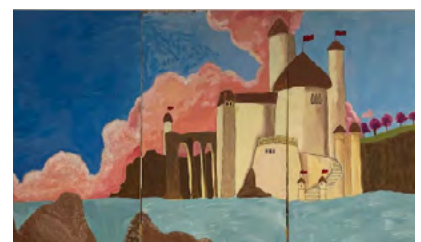
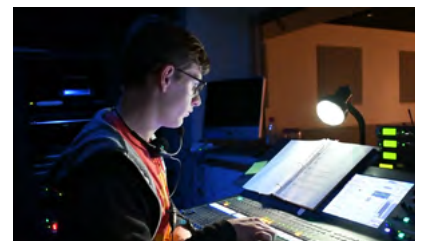
The Anthony Wayne Junior High recent production of *Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr.* featured more than 160 students onstage and hundreds more behind the scenes to bring Ariel's story to life. The musical, directed by AWJH music teacher, Kayla Dye was successful thanks to the collaboration of AWJH art teacher Megan Harnish and AWHs art teacher Carrie Flag and their fine arts students.

While the vocal arts students practiced their choreography and music, the fine arts students were hard at work painting the set pieces and designing and constructing the props that were to be used on stage. High school volunteers served as technical support for sound and lighting.

The show was a success thanks to the collaboration of the hundreds of individuals involved and their adaptability and flexibility as they faced technical and scheduling challenges, disrupted classroom spaces, cold weather and other obstacles.

Congratulations to all on a job well done!

[Click to watch the AWJH art classes in action >>](#)





FTMS STAFF PRACTICE SELF-CARE WITH YOGA

Throughout the months of October and November, Fallen Timbers Staff members took to the mat each Thursday for an after school yoga class to help improve their mental and physical wellness.

Approximately 13 staff members participated in the free 45-minute classes hosted by local business owner and AWLS parent, Sheila Watson from Bee Free Yoga.



LEARNING TO KEEP AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

During the week leading up to Thanksgiving, Waterville Primary staff were asked to practice intentional gratitude with daily opportunities to reflect upon what they were grateful for along with ways they could support others.

They were even caught off-guard by man-on-the-street reporter, Matt Beakas who asked them what they were grateful for. [Take a look at their responses >>](#)

WELLNESS COMMITTEE: RESOLVE TO IMPROVE WELLNESS IN 2023

Reaching the goals you set on January 1 can be more achievable by shifting your mindset around your resolutions.

[Explore how you sustain your efforts toward reaching your goals in this article](#), then consider how you can improve your overall wellness this year.

Social Wellness

Resolve to re-connect with your community. Humans are social beings and introverts and extroverts alike have the desire to connect with others. Make time for a cup of coffee with a friend, snuggle time with a loved one, a dinner party with friends or serve others as a volunteer.

Emotional / Mental Wellness

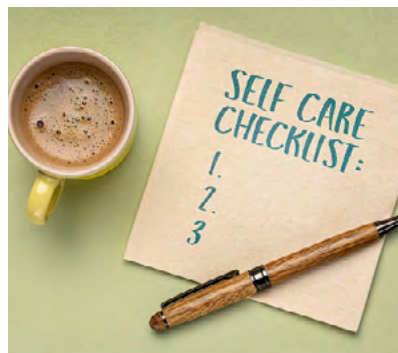
Resolve to find an attitude of gratitude. Look for ways to find joy the little things, live in the present and count your blessings. Slow down to notice your breath, enjoy your meals, and reflect on all you are grateful for.

Intellectual Wellness

Resolve to learn something new and/or take time to let your mind wander. Pick up a book or tune into a podcast to explore new ideas. Is your brain burnt out? Take time for creative play like doodling, listening to music, learning a game or exploring a new park.

Physical Wellness

Resolve to reframe your thinking around diet and exercise. Instead of focusing on weight loss, try shift your mindset to exercising regularly and eating a well-rounded diet to support overall wellness, increase your energy, and live a longer, healthier life.



CONFIDENTIAL HELP IS AVAILABLE 24/7

Anthony Wayne Local Schools partners with ProMedica for the Employee Assistance Program, a free counseling service available to all staff and their families. Simply call 866-327-3759 to learn ways to navigate life's challenges.

AW TECH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT

The AWLS Tech Department was awarded a \$123,000 grant from the federal Emergency Connectivity Fund to assist the District with the implementation of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative.

The purpose of the grant was to help schools and libraries provide the tools and services that their communities needed to support remote learning.

[More information about the grant is available online >>](#)

AWLS TO RECEIVE \$450,000 IN OHIO SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS

Anthony Wayne Local Schools will receive \$450,000 from the state of Ohio to support the installation of security upgrades across each of its buildings as part of Governor Mike DeWine's K-12 School Safety Grant Program. Anthony Wayne High School, Anthony Wayne Junior High and Fallen Timbers will each receive \$50,000 and each of the district's three primary schools will receive \$100,000. The funds will be used to improve emergency communications, expand surveillance systems and enhance other physical security systems across the district.

WATERVILLE PRIMARY EARNS 2ND PLACE IN START WITH HELLO AWARDS

Waterville Primary student council representatives won second place and \$750 in the Sandy Hook Promise Start with Hello Awards recognition program. They planned events and activities designed to promote a positive school climate and help students learn empathy and collaboration. [You can learn more about their work by watching their video submission >>](#)

DIRECTIONS CARES FOR CLASSROOMS GRANT TO FUND PROJECTS AT WATERVILLE AND MONCLOVA PRIMARIES

Waterville Primary School counselor, Jillian Cowell will receive a \$500 grant to fund a project designed to give each student the opportunity to earn a "Teila keychain" as they develop and demonstrate positive behaviors, character traits and areas of personal growth. The keychain is representative of the unifying presence of the Teila, the building's school facility dog.

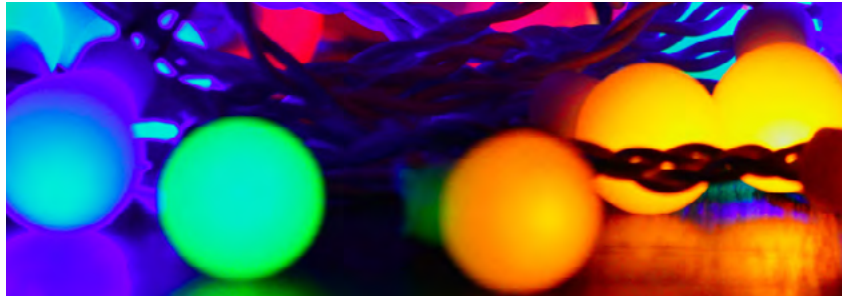
Rachel Birt, intervention coach at Monclova Primary was awarded \$235 to help students gain reading skills by using board games. By modifying the way the games are played, students can use tactile and kinesthetic movement and phonetic principles to improve literacy. These engaging lessons have shown to improve students' attitudes toward learning decoding and comprehension skills.

OSLN STEM GRANTS AWARDED TO THREE AWLS SCHOOLS

Lisa Yoder, STEM teacher at Fallen Timbers Middle School will be awarded a \$5,000 grant to fund her project entitled, *Out of This World with Spheros*. The funds will be used to purchase new Sphero Bolts (mini robots) and space mats. Students will code the Spheros to move in the orbital patterns of the planets, the tilt of the Earth causing the seasons, and to demonstrate Earth's rotation being the cause of day and night.

Waterville Primary will receive \$5,000 grant for its project, *Our Students are STEAMing Toward Their Futures!* This grant funding will be used to support the implementation of Engineering Design Process challenges for all classrooms, increased opportunities for students to learn coding, robotics, manufacturing and fabrication, and the development and implementation of interdisciplinary Project Based Learning with fine arts and STEAM community partnerships.

Whitehouse Primary will also receive \$5,000 to fund a project entitled, *Supercharged STEM*. This will support the school's STEM Club by providing robotics and engineering based construction materials, with the intent to help students develop perseverance, creativity and communication skills while engaging in hands-on learning activities that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving.



DECEMBER EVENTS: HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AT AWLS

DECEMBER 7

AWHS Band Holiday Concert

DECEMBER 8

Band Concert for Grades 6, 7 & 8

DECEMBER 13

6th, 7th & 8th Grades Choir Concert

DECEMBER 14

Whitehouse Third Grade Concert

DECEMBER 15

AWHS Choir Concert
Monclova 3rd Grade Nutcracker Performance

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 3

Winter Break

JANUARY 4

Classes Resume

[VIEW THE FULL DECEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR >>](#)



TALK WITH TECH

On the second Tuesday of each month, the AW Technology Department is hosting a Google Meet to meet with staff and share hear your successes, ideas and any items that might require solutions in order to improve the District's technology resources.

Talk With Tech

Tuesday, December 13 · 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

[Join via Google Meet >>](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, December 12
8:00 a.m.

Meetings are also
[streamed live online >>](#)

LOCAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

December: No Meeting

January 9

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 1

May 22

[More information is
available on the District
website >>](#)

LUNCH & LEARN

Staying Calm & Cool
to Assist Children with
Anxiety

Wednesday, December 14
12:00 p.m.

You can help kids stay calm, cool and collected as they manage challenges and face the unknown. Learn the tools and techniques for helping children manage anxiety.

[Click here to register for this
webinar >>](#)



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HOLIDAY CONTEST WINNERS!

Cindy Brahier (CAO), Jane Morgan (Operations) and Carol Rea (AWHS) were the first three people to correctly identify all of the holiday movies referenced in the November issue of *Generals Bulletin*. They received a stocking full of holiday treats to enjoy. Watch for more fun ways to win in future issues!

CORRECT ANSWERS: *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Christmas Carol*, *Elf*



WELCOME NICKIE SATTLER

You may see a new face in our buildings! Please welcome new technology specialist, Nickie Sattler. She has an extensive background in technology and is a J.R.R. Tolkien fan. Please say hello to our new General!



HOLIDAY BUS IS PARADE HIT

A team from our transportation department brought the holiday spirit to the Whitehouse Christmas Village Parade. They decorated a bus with lights and music to represent the district. Thank you for spreading cheer!



HELLO BABY DOTSON!

Eli Joseph Dotson arrived Thursday, November 17. Proud parents are Kelsey Dotson, AWJH math teacher and her husband Josh. Congratulations to you all as you start this new journey together as a family of three!

HAVE A RESTFUL AND JOYFUL BREAK! SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

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

