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ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | JAN. 2024

From the Superintendent's Desk

PRACTICING THE PORTRAIT, PREPARING FOR 2024

I hope this message finds you well as we embark on this new calendar year. As we step into 2024, I want to take this opportunity to extend my wish to you for a year filled with hope, joy, growth and success for you, your families and the entire school community.

Reflecting on the achievements and the challenges of the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our students, staff and families. Together, we continue to navigate unprecedented times not only here in our local community, but also across our state, nation and world.

Your sustained efforts have been instrumental in maintaining a positive learning environment for our students.

Each new year brings new opportunities for building on the experiences, challenges and successes of the prior year to continue to learn and grow.

This year, we know the District must determine a path to overcoming its financial challenges while continuing to work toward accomplishing our mission of empowering students to be future ready.

We also know that every day will bring new opportunities to celebrate the countless accomplishments of our staff and students.

There will also be plenty of surprises along the way, just to keep life interesting.

That's where our Portrait of a General comes in: When we employ a learner's mindset, critical thinking, collaboration and communication, adaptability and flexibility, and empathy skills we can navigate obstacles and make 2024 a year of growth, resilience, hope and accomplishment for our District.

Thank you for your hard work so far this school year. I look forward to working with you as we discover all that 2024 holds for AWLS.

Wishing you a fantastic start to the new calendar year. Go Generals!

Jim Fritz, Superintendent



Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

BOARD OF EDUCATION SEEKS FIVE-YEAR, 2.42 MILL OPERATIONAL LEVY

Last month, the AWLS Board of Education passed a Resolution of Necessity and a Resolution to Proceed with placing a five-year 2.42-mill operational levy on the March 2024 ballot.

As was [shared in a communication on December 13](#), the Board decided that taking these steps would give the District the most flexibility in preparing options for the Financial Recovery Plan required by the state. This document must be submitted by January 31.

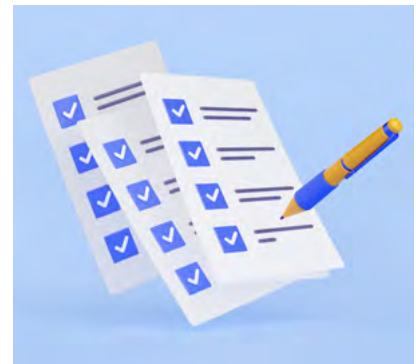
District administration will begin working with the new Board when it convenes this month to find ways to increase revenue and reduce expenses, while maintaining a high-quality education for students.

More information, as it becomes available will be shared on the District website at www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Levy

STAKEHOLDER FINANCIAL PLANNING SURVEY

The District asked stakeholders to provide their thoughts about the proposed operational levy and bond issue that were on the November ballot. Stakeholders were also given the opportunity to share their ideas for how the District can reduce costs and increase revenue.

While we are still evaluating the answers to the open-ended questions below is an early preview of the survey responses.



913 RESPONDENTS

On a scale of 1-5, respondents indicated at AWLS is performing at a rating of good or better (3, 4, 5) in the following areas:

- 97.2% AWLS provides an excellent or outstanding educational experience.
- 86.2% AWLS is a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars.
- 93.5% AWLS as a good value for the money.
- 81.7% AWLS provides stakeholders with adequate information about District finances.
- 95.7% Are proud to say that they are a part of the AWLS community.

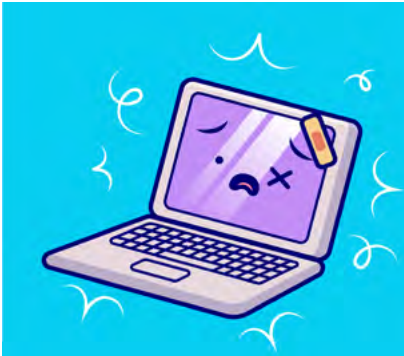
More information from the survey will be shared as it is available.

FIFTY FOR 50 PROJECT UPDATE

We are well on our way to accomplishing our goal of completing 50 community service projects in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Fallen Timbers Middle and Monclova Primary!

Photos and information about each of the known projects to date can be found online at www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Fiftyfor50. If you have are planning project, reach out to [Rebecca Schwan](#), Communication Specialist to be included in the Fifty for 50 list.





FIFTY FOR 50 COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT FREE COMPUTER ASSISTANCE DAY

The AW Technology Department is hosting a free computing device diagnosis and troubleshooting workshop from 9:00 a.m. - Noon on Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Central Administrative Office.

The event is open to AW District residents. Space is limited, and registration is required. Please call Amy Anderson at 419-877-5377 to make an appointment.

POG: CRITICAL THINKING & LEARNER'S MINDSET TIMELY TECH: AI AND EDUCATION

In the dynamic landscape of K-12 education, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is gradually finding its way into classrooms, bringing with it conversation around its potential opportunities and challenges.

AI's role in K-12 education can support personalized learning experiences, adaptive tutoring systems, and streamlined administrative tasks. For example, [DreamBox](#) and [Knewton](#) leverage AI algorithms to tailor lessons based on individual student progress, ensuring a more customized and effective learning journey.

As with any emerging technology, it's important to discuss AI's potential risks and limitations. Ethical considerations, data privacy concerns and the risk of reinforcing existing biases are areas that require careful attention. [A report by EdSurge](#) dives into the nuanced discussion of the risks associated with AI in education, shedding light on the need for thoughtful implementation and ongoing evaluation.

The EdTech Magazine article, "[AI in K-12: Good, Bad, and a Whole Lot of Questions](#)," provides insights into the potential benefits, risks and unanswered questions surrounding AI in the classroom. It seems that AI functions will continue to grow in popularity and use in the future. As we navigate this new technology, educators will need to engage in informed conversations, ensuring that AI in education is a tool that safely enhances, rather than hinders, the learning experience for students.

FUN FACT: *This article was written by ChatGPT [and reviewed/edited by a human]*



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

How can AI best enhance student learning in the classroom, and what changes in teaching practices might be necessary?

How can AI be ethically and responsibly employed in the classroom, and what policies should be established to ensure student privacy and equity?

PD OPPORTUNITY: Get Cozy with AI

ESC of Lake Erie West - FREE!

10 Zoom sessions available from Jan. 8 - March 11

[View session topics and register online.](#)

CHECK YOUR CLASSROOMS FOR THESE HAZARDS

The Operations Department in collaboration with our local fire inspectors and health department have the following requests for you as we return from winter break:

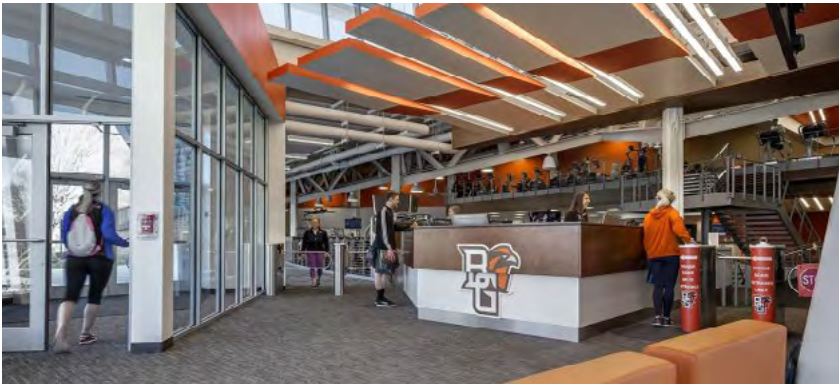
"UNDECK" THE HALLS:

Remove all holiday decor: trees, wreaths, lights, items hanging from your ceilings, etc. to be stored properly or taken home.

PROPERLY STORE CLEANING SUPPLIES:

Any chemicals (cleaners, disinfectants, sprays, anything considered dangerous must be removed from lower cabinets or from under sinks, and only be stored in upper cabinets out of reach of students.





STAFF WELLNESS DAY AT BGSU

Back by popular demand, all AWLS employees will have free access to the BGSU Student Recreation Center on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

You can enjoy the pool, climbing wall, volleyball, racquetball, pickle ball and basketball courts, as well as the fitness equipment from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15. More information will be sent via email soon!



NEW WELLNESS CHALLENGE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YMCA

The Wellness Committee has partnered with the Waterville branch YMCA to offer two-week trial for all AW employees and their families. Now through January 17, you can use the facility and access classes for free when you show your school ID.

If you like what you see, you can become a member with a 10% discount! See your email for more information about this opportunity, including a schedule of classes to try.

When you check it out, you can participate in our latest wellness challenge. You'll get points for attending and trying a class.

NEW YEAR: NEW OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON WELLNESS

Set yourself up for success this year by taking the time to care for yourself. As a District employee, you and your family members are eligible to receive confidential professional counseling through ProMedica's Employee Assistance Program.

For more information or to schedule a phone, video or in-person visit call 866-327-3759.



PICK-UP PICKLEBALL

Whether you're a pickleball pro, or just wondering what the craze is about, drop in to play on Tuesdays at Fallen Timbers.

Open to all AW employees, mark your calendar and make plans to have some fun and exercise with your colleagues.

TUESDAYS, 2:45 - 4:00 p.m.

January 9, 16, 30
February 13, 20, 27
March 5, 12, 19
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
May 7, 14

THURSDAYS, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

January 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14, 21, 28
April 4, 11, 18, 25

Just getting started?

Learn more about the sport using the links below.

USA Pickleball:
[How to Play Pickleball](#)

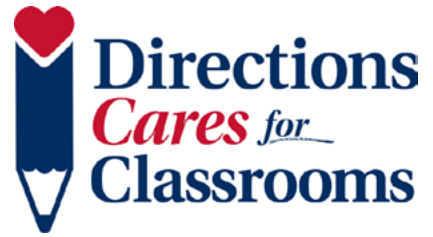
Pickleheads:
[9 Simple Rules for Beginners](#)

PrimeTime Pickleball
[The Ultimate Beginner's Guide to Pickleball Rules](#)

EARN A \$500 GRANT FOR YOUR PROJECT

Directions Credit Union wants to thank educators for making a difference and doing whatever it takes to enrich the lives of their students.

Directions will award individual grants of up to \$500 to help fund special projects and provide classroom resources. Educators are encouraged to apply online before January 31, 2024. Winners will be announced on or before March 1.



[Click here for more information and to complete an application.](#)



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR UPCOMING SOLAR ECLIPSE

Get ready to spark some cosmic curiosity in your classrooms with the total solar eclipse happening April 8. While school is canceled on this day, you can help build excitement for this out-of-this world experience.

There are many stellar resources available to help teachers launch engaging learning opportunities related to astronomy, physics and the solar system.

How will you take advantage of this golden opportunity to make science come alive and leave your students starry-eyed with knowledge?

WEBINAR: PREPARING FOR THE 2024 ECLIPSE

Tuesday Feb. 27 at 4:15 p.m.

Join Dennis Schatz, Former President of the National Science Teaching Association, co-developer of the [NSTA Solar Eclipse web page](#) and co-author of [Solar Science](#) and [When the Sun Goes Dark](#), for lesson plans to get students engaged and excited to learn about the eclipse. [Register here.](#)



VIDEOS

[WBGU Broadcast Educational Media Commission: Everything Eclipses](#)

WEBSITES:

[☀️Eclipse2024.org](#)

[🌐Ohio Department of Education Total Solar Eclipse Resources](#)

[☀️Ohio Emergency Management Agency: Total Solar Eclipse](#)

[🌐American Astronomical Society: Eclipse America 2024](#)

[☀️EECO: Preparing for the Eclipse](#)

LOCAL EVENTS AND RESOURCES

The links below will take you to the Great American Eclipse resources and opportunities provided by these local organizations.

[Bowling Green State University](#)

[Destination Toledo](#)

[Imagination Station](#)

[Metroparks Toledo](#)

[The University of Toledo](#)

"Then you flew your Learjet up to Nova Scotia to see the total eclipse of the sun..."
NASA interns have created a [playlist of songs related to the eclipse](#) - which songs would you add?



JANUARY EVENTS

- JANUARY 4** Board of Education Meeting
- JANUARY 11** End of Second Quarter
- JANUARY 12** No School: Teacher Work Day
- JANUARY 15** Closed: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

DISTRICT CALENDARS APPROVED

The Board of Education has approved the District calendars for the next two school years. You can find the calendars on the District website on the [Schedules and Calendars page](#) and at the top of the [Master Calendar page](#).

Many thanks to the individuals who assisted with this process as a part of the calendar committee!

RELATED: 2023-24 DISTRICT CALENDAR IN APP!

Following a stakeholder suggestion, the 2023-24 District calendar has been added to the app. It appears in a list view format for easier reading on a mobile device.

DON'T HAVE THE APP?

Download it for free from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#)!

SCHOOL DELAY AND CLOSING NOTIFICATIONS

In the event of school delay or closure, the District will notify you via the InstantConnect mass messaging system and local 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 by texting YES to 87569.



AWLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The new Board of Education will convene at an Organizational Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 4 at 6:00 p.m.

[A live stream is available for those who cannot attend in person.](#)

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

The 2024 meeting calendar will be established at the Jan. 4 organizational meeting.



WELCOME NEW AWLS BOARD MEMBERS

- Jeff Baden
- Lindsay Hoipkemier
- Rochelle McKnight
- Kyle Miller
- Mike Stamm

UPCOMING LPDC MEETINGS

- January 8
- February 5
- March 11
- April 15

PORTRAIT OF A GENERAL: LEARNER'S MINDSET WINTER BOOK STUDIES STARTING SOON

The Q3 wellness challenge is focused on intellectual wellness, and you are encouraged to learn something new by joining (or starting) a book study. The options listed below are just a few of the books being read by your colleagues. Join in, or just strike up a conversation with someone to discover what they are learning this quarter!

TITLE: [10 Mindframes for Visible Learning](#) (Hattie, Zierer)
HOST: Jordan LeFevre - Anthony Wayne Junior High
MEETS: Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m., January 12 - March 22
[Email Jordan](#)

TITLE: [Dumbing Down America](#) (Delisle)
HOSTS: Whitehouse Primary & independent reading
with Brian Billings as facilitator [Email Brian](#)

TITLE: [Fostering Resilient Learners](#) (Sauers, Hall)
HOST: ESC Lake Erie West - Self-Paced
MEETS: Virtually and Zoom 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. on Mar. 3 and May 1
[Register here](#)

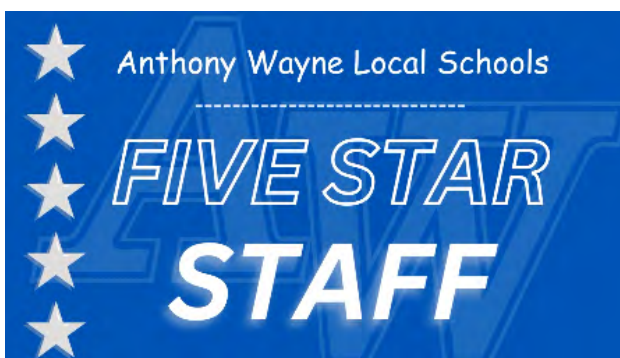
TITLE: [The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog](#) (Perry, Szalavitz)
HOST: ESC Lake Erie West - Asynchronous via Google Classroom
MEETS: Virtually on Zoom, February 1 and March 6
[Register here](#)



WELCOME STETSON NASH NEW BUNDLE OF JOY

The Generals family grew by ten tiny toes over break! Congratulations to Kimberly Brandle, *Intervention Specialist* at Monclova Primary on the birth of a son, Stetson Nash on Saturday, Dec. 23.

Kimberly, Hunter and Stetson are all settling in well.



The Five Star Staff video series is a great way to learn more about the individuals across our District and the outstanding work they do every day to empower students to be future ready. [Mark Richards](#), AWJH STEAM Teacher was featured during the month of December.

This series is produced by AWHs Communications Intern, Ashlyn Shafer. Watch for more videos as we get back up to speed after break.

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](#) >>