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# GENERALS BULLETIN

ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2023

## *From the Superintendent's Desk*

### FACILITIES PLANNING CONTINUES

Thank you to all staff, parents, community members and students who completed the District Facilities Survey. Your feedback is helping the District focus its research efforts on the future facility options preferred by our community. The District and the Collaborative are reviewing your responses and analyzing data to determine potential facility options and their associated costs.

When the District has a better picture of the details surrounding the preferred updates to our buildings and grounds, it will once again ask stakeholders to weigh in on the available choices. Through this process, a Facilities Master Plan will be developed. Please watch for more opportunities to share your feedback coming soon.

Also part of the Facilities Master Plan are recommendations from The Collaborative's Facilities Assessment. Much like a home inspection, their report was a comprehensive review of the District's facilities to provide recommendations on what repairs and upgrades should be addressed immediately, improvements that should be considered soon, and those projects that are considered options. (i.e. boiler replacement due to age/functionality vs. lighting upgrades for cost savings) In case you missed it, [The Collaborative shared their findings at the February board meeting](#).

Thank you again for your part in this process as we gather more information to develop a plan that will continue to provide facilities that maximize student learning and experiences in the District for years to come.

Thank you,  
Dr. Jim Fritz, *Superintendent*



### FACILITIES PLANNING

A Facilities Master Plan is developed and used to guide the long-term maintenance and management of an organization's buildings and properties to ensure they meet its needs today and into the future.

AWLS last completed a facilities assessment and prepared a Facilities Master Plan during the 2015-16 school year.

That work guided the renovations made at five of our six schools and the construction of a new Whitehouse Primary School. The District is once again evaluating its facilities needs to ensure our buildings remain in good working order, meet the expectations of our community and provide an excellent learning environment for our students now and into the future.

**Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!**

# NATIONAL READING MONTH



In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March is designated as National Reading Month, and a time to encourage people of all ages to read every day. If you haven't picked up a book lately, consider that reading:

- increases intelligence
- boosts your vocabulary
- makes you more empathetic
- builds communication skills
- reduces stress
- slows cognitive decline
- improves memory and creativity
- teaches you to structure information

## BOOK DEALS



### BOOKS-A-MILLION

Teachers and librarians can receive a [20% discount on most book purchases](#).



### THRIFT BOOKS

Teachers and librarians can get [free used book with every four books purchased](#).

**\$1.25**

### DOLLAR BOOK SWAP

If you are up for a road trip to Dayton, [this discount book store sells all titles for \\$1.25](#).



### JULIE'S LIBRARY

Julie Andrews and her daughter [read their favorite children's books](#) complete with sound, music and activities.



### IMAGINATION LIBRARY

[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) mails free books to children from birth to age five each month.

[The National Education Association also has a list of where to find free reading materials >>](#)

## POG: LIFELONG LEARNING LITERACY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

### OHIO LITERACY ACADEMY

Michelle Elia, Ohio's Literacy Lead explores the reading process and how learning to read changes the brain. [This scientific look at the brain can debunk reading myths and help you understand why reading difficulties occur >>](#)

### FREE DYSLEXIA COURSE

The Ohio Department of Education has developed a free course for K-3 teachers to meet the new dyslexia requirements. [Click here for instructions >>](#)

### LEVEL UP WITH LITERACY

Level Up with Literacy is a bi-monthly digital publication from State Support Team 1 that provides information and resources to help you ensure all learners have access to high-quality language and literacy instruction and appropriate interventions from birth through grade 12. [You can sign up here >>](#)

### READING ROCKETS PODCASTS

Reading Rockets offers three podcasts for teachers to hear from children's book authors, learn from reading experts and get practical advice for supporting struggling readers. [Links to each are available online >>](#)

# TED

## RELATED TED TALKS

### WHY READING MATTERS

[Reading 30 pages of fiction per night can immediately start to create new pathways in the brain >>](#)

### THE POWER OF READING

[A nine-year-old shares why reading is important to solving many social problems >>](#)

### LITERATURE AND EMPATHY

[Reading fiction can educate us emotionally, intellectually and spiritually >>](#)

## WELLNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

### QUARTERLY FOCUS: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS

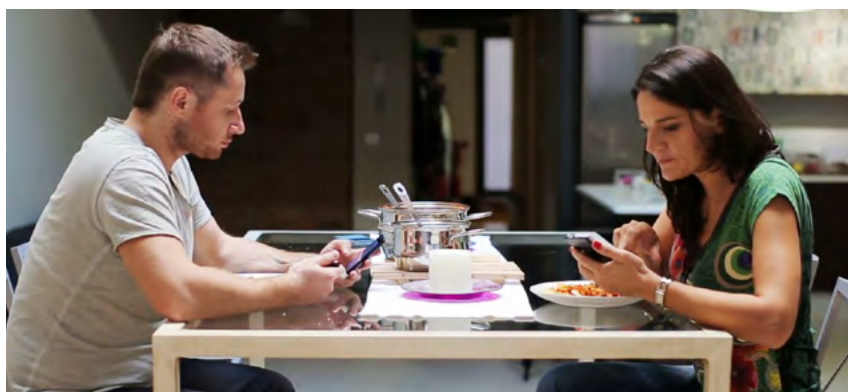
March is National Reading Month and in case you needed another reason to celebrate, here are five ways reading books can promote happiness and boost overall wellness from [GoodNet.com](https://www.goodnet.com/):

1. Reading has stress-relieving benefits.
2. Reading boosts emotional learning.
3. Reading sparks creative expression.
4. Reading enhances career development.
5. Reading improves cognitive health.

#### NEED A BOOK?

Get your hands on a new book by visiting our community libraries. You can kick it old school by picking up a paper copy, or access digital resources for free!

[Toledo Lucas County Public Library - Waterville Branch >>](#)  
[Whitehouse Community Library >>](#)



#### DIGITAL LITERACY & WELLNESS

Social media can trigger a fear of missing out, the temptation to keep up with others and give us the false perception that everyone else is doing better or more than we are, adversely affecting our mental health.

[This study suggests](#) that a one-week break from social media would give most people roughly nine hours to engage in other, more meaningful activities that are better for our wellness.

If you struggle with disengaging with social media and putting down your phone, [this article can help you get break the habit](#).

[This video highlights just how distracted we have become by our cell phones and how it damages our relationships >>](#)



#### CHALLENGE YOUR MIND + ADVANCE YOUR DEGREE

Coursera partners with colleges and companies to offer flexible, affordable (even free), job-relevant certificate and degree programs online.

[Take a class, work toward a professional certificate or earn a degree from a leading university \(even with your busy schedule\) >>](#)



#### FREE EDUCATOR WELLNESS & SEL WEBINARS

Breathe for Change's offers mind-body and social-emotional wellness trainings with the mission to change the world, one teacher at a time. B4C offers free yoga classes, webinar recordings, SEL strategies and more [via their YouTube channel](#) and even more lighthearted and approachable ideas and tools [in their blog posts](#).

### 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.



## MARCH MADNESS

### PREPARING FOR SPRING FEVER

The sun is shining, the birds are singing and the students are -- *squirrley*. The countdown to spring break is on, but teaching and learning still need to happen. The resources below offer tips for keeping you and your classes on track as the weather warms.

#### PODCAST FOR PRIMARY

[Dr. Lori Friesen offers 25 fun and easy ways to calm and refocus your students >>](#)

#### MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IN THE MIDDLE

[Edutopia says prioritizing movement and modifying objectives can help avoid burnout in middle school >>](#)

#### HELPING HIGH SCHOOLERS ENGAGE

[Increase the attention, curiosity and interest of older learners with this advice from Rethink Together >>](#)

#### DON'T FIGHT THAT ENERGY - INVITE IT!

[The Teachers Academy suggests reframing spring fever as enthusiasm and channeling it into revitalized learning >>](#)

## SIMPLE STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING COMMON PROBLEMS

On Monday, March 13 the ESC of Lake Erie West is offering a free virtual training for teachers and families to provide easy and practical strategies for managing challenging behaviors in children.

[Click here to register >>](#)

Contact

[wsmennder@esclakeeriewest.org](mailto:wsmennder@esclakeeriewest.org) or call 419-214-3066 for more details.



## COME ON, GET HAPPY

Tuesday, March 21 is the International Day of Happiness celebrate with these mood boosters:

[24 science-backed ways you can feel happier: SPOILER ALERT... coffee is on the list >>](#)

[Turn up. sing along and dance to these happy tunes >>](#)

[Share a joke with your class \(no promises they won't groan!\) >>](#)



## NOMINATE YOUR COLLEAGUES FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Don't miss your chance to honor an exceptional teacher by nominating them for consideration as Ohio's 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Nominees must:

- Hold an Ohio Professional Teaching License or CTE License
- Be employed full time and completing their 10th or more year of teaching

[The nomination window closes March 31 >>](#)





## WE ARE ROUNDING UP SOME NEW GENERALS!

### WELCOME CLASS OF 2036!

Kindergarten Registration for fall 2023-24 is now open. Children who are five years old by September 30, 2023 and live in the Anthony Wayne Local Schools District are eligible to enroll.

Information about required documentation, screening and parent nights, along with answers to frequently asked questions are available on the kindergarten page of the website at: [www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Kindergarten](http://www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Kindergarten).



### TRANSPORTATION TEAM SEEKING DRIVERS

The AWLS Transportation Team is made up of people who are passionate about ensuring our students have a safe and reliable ride to and from school each day. They are the first and last point of contact in the school-family relationship each day, and are an important part of maintaining a positive school culture. It's a fantastic team that has a lot of fun -- and they're hiring! Please share the news with someone who may be interested in this rewarding role in our district!

[www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/HumanResources](http://www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/HumanResources)



### PLANNING FOR 2023-24

If you have an AWesome student teacher or know of someone looking for a new career, encourage them to apply with AWLS! New classified, certified and substitute employment opportunities are posted to the District website as they become available. Help us ensure that we are fully staffed and ready to go for the 2023-24 school year by sharing the link below with your contacts.

[www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/HumanResources](http://www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/HumanResources)



### NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK IS MARCH 6-10

The AW Food Services Department will celebrate National School Breakfast Week by encouraging primary students to Dig in to Breakfast. Look for fun new breakfast items [to appear on the menu](#) and the class that purchases the most breakfasts at each school will win an ice cream treat party from Toft's Ice Cream.



Get your day off to a great start! Adult breakfasts in any Anthony Wayne building are just \$2.00.



### TALK WITH TECH

The next chance to chat with the Technology team is Tuesday, March 14. It's a great opportunity to ask your questions and find solutions to your challenges.

[Join the 2:30 p.m. or 3:30 session via Google Meet >>.](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Kindergarten Registration Opens

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

6th & 7th Grade Band Concert

### MONDAY, MARCH 6

AWHS 8th Grade Open House

### TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Monclova: Dine to Donate at Pizza Hut

### SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Symphonic Winds Concert

### MONDAY, MARCH 13

Board of Education Meeting

### THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Monclova & Whitehouse 2nd Grade Music Programs

### MARCH 27 - MARCH 31

NO SCHOOL: Spring Break

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



## YOU MAKE A COLLECTIVE IMPACT

The United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) is kicking off its 2024 campaign. Watch your email for a secure, personalized link to make your desired pledge or donation. If you have questions about UWGT or the pledge campaign, please contact [Jim Conner](#) at the CAO. [Learn more about the UWGT >>](#)

## AWLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Administrative Offices unless otherwise indicated.

[Meetings are streamed live online for those who cannot attend in person >>](#)

March 13

April 10

May 15

June 28

July 10 (8:00 a.m.)

August 7 (8:00 a.m.)

September 11

October 9

November 9

December 11 (8:00 a.m.)

[Meeting agendas and policies are available on the district website >>](#)

## LPDC MEETINGS

March 13

April 10

May 1

May 22

[Check the website for your building rep >>](#)



## NEED BREAK PLANS?

You can plan your next getaway within the state with the [free online Ohio Travel Guide](#), or by downloading the official app through the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).



## OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS



*Pictured from left to right: Laura Meyerholtz, Frank Wielinski, Matt Brown, Brian Sroczynski, Matt Dick, Dustin Wyse, Mike Tolles, Jane Morgan, Danielle Ottensman*

### AWHS OPERATIONS DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

After serving 25 years as Operations Director for the District, Matt Dick made the decision to retire, effective March 31. He says the choice to leave AWLS was not an easy one.

"I felt this career as a calling and part of who I am; so how do you transition away from that? I also dread losing daily interactions with coworkers, who are also my friends," Matt said.

[Read more about Matt's experience, memories and hopes for the District >>](#)

As difficult as it is to walk away from his team, Matt said it was time to make more time to help with family needs, travel and explore new career options in the field of home renovation.

Thank you, Matt for your vision and leadership and lasting contributions to Anthony Wayne Local Schools! We wish you well!



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### THANK YOU, OPERATIONS TEAM!

While our winter season was fairly mild, it did not come without its challenges. From the holiday cold snap that caused water problems, heavy snowfall that required a lot of snow removal, and heating challenges that left buildings chilly, our operations team rushed into action to help. Thank you for your willingness to be adaptable and flexible, and to go above and beyond to care for our buildings and grounds!



### NEW OPERATIONS TEAM MEMBER

Neil may be a new employee, but he's a familiar face to the Operations Department. In his most recent position as a senior project manager for Midwest Contracting, Inc., he worked closely with Matt Dick on construction projects for the district. He is also the parent of two graduates of AWHS: Alex who is a senior engineer for an aerospace company, and Sidney (Mrs. Smigelski) who teaches at Whitehouse Primary.

He and his wife Susan live in Whitehouse and are active members of Christ Lutheran Church. Neil is also a volunteer with the Whitehouse Fire Department. He says he looks forward to being a part of the Generals team to help build the District's future and challenging himself to learn something new every day.

# YOU ARE AWESOME!

## Thank you!

### NATIONAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

Public school employees have a BIG job -- and you take on the day-to-day challenges with grace, grit and compassion. Thank you to each and every one of you for the dedication you show to our students. Whether you serve our school community in the classroom, the lunch room, the Board room or anywhere in between, you are a valued member of our team.

Time and time again, you demonstrate our *Portrait of a General* skills to ensure all who enter our buildings are offered an outstanding learning experience. You take on new learning opportunities, analyze data and work with others to develop new ways of improving lessons and processes, partner with families and the broader community, are resilient when things don't go quite as planned and always lead with compassion and respect.

You are an excellent example of what it means to be a General, and we thank you for your hard work and for creating a collaborative atmosphere of learning and personal development for all.

### WELCOME JAMIE GLADWELL

Mrs. Jamie Gladwell is the new Attendance Secretary at AWJH. Her most recent position was inside the home as a full-time caregiver for her four children, but Jamie also served as the lead medical assistant for the CEO of an orthopaedic hospital for 12 years. She holds an Associates Degree in Business Administration from Wright State University.

Jamie and her husband Corey enjoy camping and traveling with their family. She is excited to get to know the staff and students of AWLS. Please give her a warm Generals welcome!



### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Jennifer Liber on the birth of her daughter, Grace Kelly. Both mom and baby are happy and healthy, and Caroline is thrilled to be a big sister!



### DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Our school community is interested in all of the amazing things you and your students are accomplishing! Send your story ideas to [Rebecca Schwan](#).



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