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ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2023

From the Superintendent's Desk

RESEARCH AND PLANNING CONTINUE

Even as we look ahead to the final weeks of the school year, there is much happening as we plan for years to come. Updates regarding the District Facilities Master Plan and the next steps of the District Strategic Plan are below.

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN: UPDATE

The District continues to work with The Collaborative, to [create a facilities master plan](#) that will guide the decision-making for the physical spaces of the District for the next several years.

The Collaborative is using feedback from the recent facilities survey and their evaluation of our buildings to propose potential facility upgrade options. Later this month, the District and The Collaborative will present these options.

All stakeholders will then have the opportunity to provide additional feedback for feedback on the proposed options. This will help to identify where the school community would like the District to focus its improvement efforts.

STRATEGIC PLAN: NEXT STEPS

Since early 2022, the District has been [engaged in the strategic planning process](#) to reflect upon its progress, gather feedback, review its core values, mission and vision, and plan for the future.

Thanks to input gathered during number of meetings, focus groups and stakeholder discussions, the District has identified its vi-



sion, mission and core beliefs, and developed strategies for meeting its goals.

The next step of the process is to identify the action steps each department, building and team will take to support these strategies to help ensure that Anthony Wayne Local Schools accomplishes its overall mission of empowering students to be future ready. Further discussions will take place at the April 10 Professional Development Day.

The Facilities Master Plan and Strategic Plan will guide our work for the next several years, and we thank you for your active participation in this process. Please continue to watch for future communications regarding how you can share your thoughts.

Thank you for the work you do every day to make a difference in our school community.

Dr. Jim Fritz, *Superintendent*

Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

APRIL: MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

CELEBRATING OUR MILITARY CONNECTED STUDENTS

April is the Month of the Military Child and communities across the nation gather together to show support for these children and families as well as recognize the unique challenges each military child faces. Anthony Wayne Local Schools is proud to have each of our six buildings be designated as [Purple Star Schools](#). We have earned this designation by demonstrating our dedication to supporting our military-connected youth and their families.



PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE

We are encouraging the entire community to *Paint the Town Purple* during the month of April to show support for our Purple Star Generals, the honorable name given to each of our military-connected students. Display purple porch lights, hang purple bows, ribbons and wreaths, or paint purple messages on windows. Snap a photo, [tweet and tag @awgenerals](#) to show off your decor!

FOLDS OF HONOR FUNDRAISER

The Waterville Primary and AW Junior High Purple Star Generals are collaborating to raise funds to install a flag pole at the Folds of Honor home under construction in Waterville. Upon completion, the donated home will be sold with the funds going to support Folds of Honor, a nonprofit that provides resources and support the education of children of fallen or disabled veterans. [Learn more about the project in this article from The Mirror.](#)



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contribute to the project by sending in monetary donation (checks made payable to Waterville Primary School) from April 3 - 28 or supporting one of the other fundraisers happening in the schools during the week of April 17.

HEROES IN ACTION COLLECTION DRIVE

Students in the AWHS Community Engagement class are hosting a donation drive to collect items to support active duty troops who are serving overseas. Items will be included in care packages sent to a member of our armed services. Items can be dropped off at the AWJH parking lot on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. [A full list of donatable items is available online.](#)

SUPPORTING STUDENTS FROM MILITARY FAMILIES

Anthony Wayne has nearly 140 students who are reported to have a family member connected to a branch of the U.S. military. These Purple Star Generals face unique challenges as they take on the responsibilities and unknowns associated with being a military family. Our [Purple Star Liaisons](#) can provide information and resources to help you support these students in your classroom. [More information and links to resources for staff were also shared in the November Generals Bulletin.](#)

[Further, there is a page on our website dedicated to providing information for our military-connected families.](#)



PHYSICAL WELLNESS

WELLNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

As we enter the final quarter of the school year, the Wellness Committee is focusing on Physical Wellness and the need for activity, healthy foods, sleep, managing chronic conditions and preventing illness and injury.

It just so happens that April is filled with opportunities to learn about and improve our physical health and well being:

NATIONAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

This observance aims to bring an understanding of how alcohol affects health, alcoholism and available treatments.

[Practice limiting your consumption by tracking your drinks. This app can help.](#)

[Become informed about how alcohol impacts the body in the short and long term.](#)

[Help the children, teens and young adults in your life learn about the risks associated with alcohol. Start Talking offers tips.](#)

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

Distracted driving caused 10,266 crashes in Ohio last year, with the most accidents happening between 3:00-6:00 p.m. [Commit to keeping your phone out of reach while behind the wheel.](#)

CANINE FITNESS MONTH

Just like humans, our four-legged friends can also suffer from obesity and 'sedentarism'. Keep you and your pup healthy by staying active. [Try playing at one of these local dog parks.](#)

NATIONAL LAWN & GARDEN MONTH

As the weather begins to warm, many of us start to plant gardens and work on winter clean up. [These activities not only make our homes prettier, but they can improve our health and wellness.](#)

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

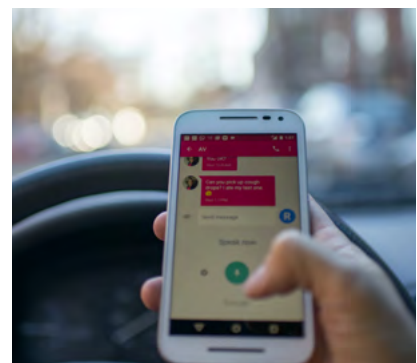
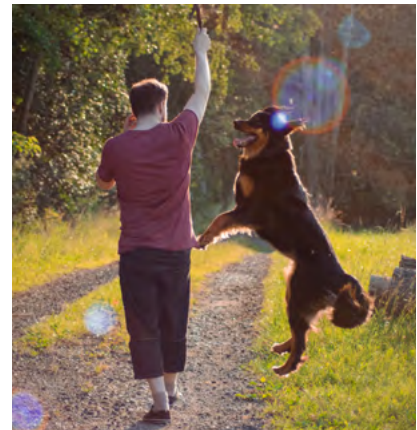
Before you start that new garden or landscaping project, make sure you know what's underground. [Prevent injuries by calling 8-1-1 to have underground utilities and cables marked.](#)

STRAW HAT MONTH

More than a fashion statement, wide-brimmed hats reduce the effects of the stronger spring rays of sun. [Pair with sunblock and sunglasses to help reduce the chance of skin cancer.](#)

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL MONTH

Taking care of our planet helps reduce pollution and its effects on our health. Take a trash bag with you on your next walk and pick up litter as you go or [volunteer with a local clean up program.](#)



CONFIDENTIAL HELP IS AVAILABLE 24/7

Thanks to a partnership with ProMedica, a free counseling service available to you and your family members.

The Employee Assistance Program is completely confidential. No personal information is shared with AWLS, only the number of people who have accessed the service.

Call **866-327-3759** to learn ways to navigate life's challenges.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTH OF APRIL

Month of the Military Child: Paint the Town Purple

APRIL 3 - 6

Districtwide Military Family Spirit Week

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

No School: Good Friday

MONDAY, APRIL 10

2-Hour Delay: Professional Development
Board of Education Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Whitehouse First Grade Music Program

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

PowerHouse 5K

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Monclova First Grade Music Program

**SPRING SPORTS ARE IN FULL SWING! CHECK
DISTRICT EVENTS CALENDAR FOR SCHEDULES >>**

TALK WITH TECH

Have questions about your new laptop? Other challenges? Check in with Tech during the next Talk with Tech on Tuesday, April 11. 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 >>](#).

OHIO ACE PROGRAM OFFERS STIPENDS

Families can apply through the Ohio Department of Education for a \$500 educational savings account to be used to pay for academic enrichment opportunities such as summer camps.

Stipends are available for all students in Ohio ages 6-18, whose family makes at or lower than 300% of the poverty level. [More information about the program and eligibility is available on the District website.](#)

AWLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

All meetings are held in at the Central Administrative Office, unless otherwise noted.

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

April 10 6:00 p.m.
AWHS Auditorium

May 15 6:00 p.m.

June 1 8:00 a.m.

June 28 8:00 a.m.

July 10 6:00 p.m.

Aug. 7 6:00 p.m.

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

LPDC MEETINGS

April 10

May 1 & May 22

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



CHECK OUT FLYER CENTRAL FOR SUMMER FUN

The Flyer Central page of the District website is filled with plenty of summer camps, music and art lessons, library programs, athletics teams and lessons for children and adults. [Check it often, because new events are added as soon as they are made available.](#)

NEW RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Feedback from the District's fall Communication Survey said that AW families want more information about how to support their child's academic learning and personal growth.

In response, the District is piloting a newsletter and companion video series as a way to share information and resources they may find helpful.

The March theme was celebrating National Reading Month. Thanks to our Reading and English Language Arts teachers and representatives from our community libraries, we were able to share resources for parents to support their child's reading and literacy skills.

[Click to view the General Knowledge newsletter and video.](#)



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 online.](#)



WE ARE HIRING!

Do you know a stay-at-home-parent looking for a flexible position, or a recent retiree that wasn't quite ready to retire after all? Encourage them to become a General! We are looking for great people to apply for open positions in our Transportation, Food Service and Operations Departments. Applicants for aides and substitutes are also always welcome! [Visit the website to view open positions.](#)



AWARD NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED NOW

R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award

Recognize the accomplishments of an exemplary special education student by nominating them for this annual award.

Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award

Honor a colleague for their extraordinary contributions to the education of students with disabilities.

[Forms for both of these awards are available for download here >>](#)



COMING NEXT MONTH

INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT

You will have the opportunity to make changes to your insurance plans during our Open Enrollment period in May. Watch your email for more information coming soon.



MOVING? GETTING MARRIED? CHANGING YOUR WITHHOLDING?

If you are planning a life event, want to make changes to your tax withholding or need to update your banking information, please be sure to notify the business office at the CAO. [Most documents can be found on the Staff Forms page of the website.](#)

JUDY CARTER RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS WITH AWLS

If you've been to a Generals athletic event any time since the mid-80's you have probably seen Judy Carter. She has become a familiar face in her role as the District's ticket manager.

She took over the responsibilities with the Athletic Department after first serving AWLS as a secretary. When the position came available, she thought it sounded like fun.

"My kids were involved in sports at that time, and I thought it would be a great opportunity," she said.

Judy said there have been so many memorable games and seasons, but watching the girls basketball and soccer teams make their runs to the state tournament have been among her favorite.

After decades of tracking down workers, managing ticket sales and spending up to six days a week at sporting events, Judy's last day with



Photo credit: Kevin Finnegan and The Mirror

the District will be July 1. She says she's far from done cheering for the Generals.

"I have a granddaughter who plays basketball and softball, so I will follow her games," she said. "I will go to other sports too, but it's going to be when the weather is better. No more standing in the rain and cold if I don't have to," she joked.

Best wishes to you in retirement, Judy! When you aren't tending your garden or enjoying a book outside, we are sure will see you at the game!



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Joshua Jeffrey Rettig arrived March 1, 2023. He is the son of Whitehouse Primary second grade teacher, Aspen Rettig and her husband Nick. Congratulations to the whole family!

VOTE FOR OUR SCHOOLS IN THESE PEOPLES' CHOICE AWARDS

Anthony Wayne High School is in the running to be named Best High School in the Blade Readers' Choice Awards.

[You can vote every day through April 23 >>](#)

Fallen Timbers Middle School and AW Junior High are nominated in the Best Middle School category of the Toledo Area Parent Family Favorites contest.

[Voting is open through April 30 >>](#)



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