

The Anchor

<http://www.walnuttsd.org>

November 2011

From the desk of the Superintendent

October 24, 2011

Autumn... what a wonderful time of year! The air is crisp and full of the rich aroma from harvested fields and newly fallen leaves. The Sweet Corn Festival is over. Pumpkins and gourds are in good supply and children are preparing to portray their favorite characters as they embark upon their annual candy gathering journey. This time of year also means the children of the Walnut Township Schools have made the transition from summer break to a rigorous routine of learning with their teachers in the classrooms. As we approach the end of the first grading period I am reminded of what my Grandmother told me when she said: "As you get older, time just seems to go faster and faster." One fourth of our school year is over and it just does not seem possible that Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner.

As your newly appointed Superintendent of Schools I have been so impressed with the dedication of the teachers, custodians, building principals, cooks, supervisors, secretaries, bus drivers, board members and community to providing a quality education for the children of our district. In these tough economic times we are certainly challenged to meet an ever increasing number of state and federal mandates with less and less resources. The Walnut Township Schools have stepped up to this challenge by carefully managing the limited resources while protecting a high quality educational experience for our children. The teachers have taken a pay freeze, staff members have taken on multiple job duties, the board and administration have implemented early retirement incentives and shared the cost for Superintendent and Treasurer with another district. The district is truly committed to making the best use of the resources provided to us.

Election Day is November 8th. I encourage all eligible citizens to exercise their right and duty to vote. We live in a great democracy that affords us the freedom to basically do anything we want so long as what we do does not cause harm. We can worship as we choose, speak freely, own the land we work on if we choose and roam this beautiful country as we wish. These freedoms do not come without a price. Many men and women have fought and died to protect these freedoms for us. And we as citizens pay a price through our taxes to protect these freedoms. It is very important that we take the time to let our voices be heard by voting at each and every election.

On behalf of the Walnut Township Schools I would like to thank you for your dedication and support for providing the very best educational opportunities for our children. When you go to the election booth on November 8th you will see that it is time to renew a five year levy for your schools. Issue 11 asks if you will continue to provide \$250,000 annually to the Walnut Township Schools. The original millage of this levy was voted in at 2.4 mills. This renewal allows you to provide the same amount of funding with the millage reduced to 1.9 mills. This means that most people in the district will pay less individually to provide the same amount of funding collectively to your schools. The school district is now operating in the black and passage of this levy will help protect the district from experiencing a projected negative balance.

I look forward to serving the students, staff and communities of the Walnut Township Local Schools. This is a very special place. I look forward to working with you to provide a safe school environment, the very best staff, and improved educational opportunities for our children.

Sincerely,

Dale I. Dickson

Dale L. Dickson,



RACE TO THE TOP

It is a very exciting time for the teachers and administration of Walnut Township Local Schools. We are currently involved in year two of a four year grant known as Race to the Top. Race to the Top is a federally funded grant whose vision and mission is to "implement a world-class education system in which all students will graduate with a sense of purpose and be well prepared for college, work, and life" (*ODE website*). It is the goal of Race to the Top to reduce achievement gaps, increase high school graduation rates, and increase college enrollment through a variety of strategies.

Race to the Top consists of the following five assurance areas, each focusing on a different area of school improvement and including its own set of goals, activities and performance measures. Those five areas are communication, standards and assessment, using data to improve instruction, creating great teachers and leaders, and turning around the lowest-achieving schools (although we were not required to complete this area due to our graduation rate for the 2009-2010 school year)

As a part of this grant, the teachers of Walnut Township Local Schools will be participating in professional development on topics such as learning and implementing the new Core standards and using student data for planning purposes and assessment. In addition, our district is piloting the new Ohio Teacher Evaluation System.

We are proud to be a part of Race to the Top and are encouraged by the positive changes taking place in our school.

-Kim Yenni, Race to the Top Grant Coordinator

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MSL GOLF HONORS -

Adam Reinhorn & Kevin Schneider

Congratulations to Sophomore, Adam Reinhorn who was awarded 1st Team All Mid-State League in Golf. Adam will receive this award at the Fall Mid-State League Banquet.

Congratulations to Kevin Schneider who was awarded All Mid-State League Honorable Mention.



Adam Reinhorn-1st Team MSL

HOMECOMING 2011



Pirate Day during Spirit Week.

Nicole Osborn was crowned Homecoming Queen at the Homecoming Game on September 23, 2011.

Members of the Homecoming Court are Freshman-Brooklyn Thorne, Sophomore-Megan Tatman, Junior-Holly Hite, and Seniors Jane Dickman, Nicole Osborn and Kayla Wolfgang. Flower carrier was Mea Hannigan and Crown Bearer was Ethan Davis.



LUNCHROOM NEWS

Walnut Township Local School District offers breakfast daily to all students in both the elementary and the junior/senior high school. A variety of breakfast items are offered daily which may include whole wheat PBJ, whole grain breakfast pastries, assorted whole grain cereals, apple muffin, breakfast sandwiches, yogurt and string cheese, omelets, 100% juice and milk. Breakfast prices are as follows: elementary building - \$.75 and high school building - \$1.00. Those students who are approved under the National School Lunch Program for free and reduced meals get breakfast at **NO CHARGE**.

Studies show that eating a breakfast at school does the following:

- Improves classroom performance and yields better test scores and grades
- Increases children's ability to focus and concentrate on school work
- Decreases disciplinary problems, tardiness and visits to the nurse

According to the *School Breakfast Scorecard 2003*, students who eat breakfast are healthier, happier, better behaved and more productive throughout the school day. Students who eat breakfast meet the USDA requirements and this supplies 1/4 of the daily allowance children need.

Thirteen annual status report on school breakfast program food research and action center, November 2003.



National School Lunch Winners

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- Nov 4 7:00pm-Marching Band Concert
- Nov 5 TBA-CC-State Track Meet
- Nov 7 7:00pm-Bd of Ed. Mtg-Elem Media Center
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day Assembly
- Nov 12 10:00am-B VBK @ Alexander HS (Scrim)
10:00am-G JV/VBK-Fairfield Christian-Home
- Nov 15 5:30pm-B VBK @ Crooksville HS (Scrim)
6:00pm-G JV/VBK-Miller HS (Scrim)-Home
- Nov 16 8:00am-All County Rehearsals
- Nov 18 6:00pm-G VBK @ Trimble HS
7:30pm-B VBK @ Trimble HS
- Nov 21 8:00am-All County Rehearsal
TBA-All County Concert
5:00pm-B V BK-West Muskingum HS-Home
5:00p m-G VBK-Amanda Cl. (Scrim)-Home
- Nov 22-25 **No School-Thanksgiving Break**
- Dec 1 6:00/7:30pm-G JV/VBK @ Northridge HS
- Dec 2 **6:00/7:30pm-B JV/VBK-Gilead Christian-Home**
- Dec 3 **6:00/7:30pm-G JV/VBK-Liberty Union-Home**
- Dec 5 **4:30pm-B JVBK-Licking Co. Chrst-Home**
5:00pm-B 7th BK @ Liberty Union MS
6:00pm-G V BK-Licking Co. Chrst-Home
6:20pm-B 8th BK @ Liberty Union MS
7:30pm-B VBK-Licking Co. Chrst-Home
- Dec 6 6:00/7:30pm-G JV/VBK @ West Jefferson HS
- Dec 8 **5:00pm-B 7th BK-West Jefferson MS-Home**
6:00/7:30pm-B JV/VBK @ Northside Christian
6:20pm-B 8 BK-West Jefferson MS-Home
6:00/7:30pm-G JV/VBK-Harvest Prep-Home
6:00/7:30pm-B JV/VBK-Liberty Union-Home
- Dec 9 12:00pm-Panorama of the Arts

**** SUBJECT TO CHANGE ****

BUS EVACUATION DRILL

Kindergarten students learn the proper way to cross in front of the buses and proper procedures for evacuating a bus during an emergency.



HS Yearbook News

The 2010-2011 yearbooks are in and 2011 graduates can pick up last year's yearbook and baby pictures from Mrs. Nelson during regular school hours in the office. Former students will have to sign for their books. If someone is picking a book up on the graduates behalf, they need a signed note from the graduate stating that they have permission to pick the book up. There are a few extra 2010-11 yearbooks. They are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost is \$60.00; checks payable to Millersport High School..

Class of 2012

Seniors are reminded to check their senior packets that were mailed home for yearbook deadlines and forms. Please make sure to get your information filled out and back to us by the due dates or it will not be included in the yearbook. Forms to make note of would be senior sports information (each season) and senior graduation information, as well as, senior pictures and baby pictures.

FIRE SAFETY WEEK

Members of the Millersport Fire Department visited the Kindergarten classes and explained the importance of fire safety and demonstrated the use of their equipment as part of Fire Safety Week.



Missing - 40 folding metal chairs

If anyone borrowed 40 folding metal chairs and forgot to return them, please notify the school. They have been missing since the summer of 2010 and are needed for the All-County Choir Rehearsals.