

Westfall



MUSTANG MONTHLY eNEWSLETTER #RISEABOVE

DECEMBER 2023

DISTRICT EVENTS

DECEMBER 4

Board of Education Meeting | 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 5

WES 12 Days of Christmas Begins

DECEMBER 7

WHS Band Concert | 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 11-15

WES Santa Shop

DECEMBER 12

WMS Band & Choir Concert | 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 14

WMS Fundraiser Pickup | 2:30 -5:00 PM
WHS Choir Concert | 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 15 - 19

WHS Midterm Exams

DECEMBER 16

FFA Wreaths Across America

DECEMBER 17

WES Goodies with Grands | 1:00-4:00 PM

DECEMBER 18-20

WMS Holiday Spirit Week

DECEMBER 20

End of 2nd Nine Weeks
District-Wide 2-Hour Early Release

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 3

Winter Break

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 25

Christmas

Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Mustangs,

It is December already, can you believe it? December marks the end of the calendar year, and for many, it is a time to reflect on the past year, be grateful for what we have, and look forward to new opportunities and experiences in the coming year. What joys have you shared? What challenges have you faced? I'm sure through it all, you have persevered and learned from these experiences.

I hope our Mustang community will always remember the changes made in the Westfall School District. The positive modifications made to our facilities and the student and staff accomplishments that have made this year incredibly special. 2023 certainly has been a remarkable year!

Many traditions are associated with the December holidays, from decorating trees and homes with lights and ornaments to singing carols and exchanging cards with loved ones. It is a joyous time as families and friends gather to celebrate together.

Yet, it's important to remember that not everyone has a support system or loved ones to share this special time with. My heart is always pulled toward those who are alone during this time. I hope we can all reach out to a neighbor, a friend, or others impacted by the transition to colder weather. A simple gesture, like bringing over a warm meal or inviting someone to your holiday gathering, could make a difference in their lives.

I'm grateful that our district continues to help the community in many ways, donating to local charities, nursing homes, and organizations that assist those in need during the winter season.

So, as the days grow shorter and the nights grow colder, take comfort in the warmth of your loved ones and the spirit of the season. Cherish the memories you create together, and look forward to the promise of a new year filled with hope, happiness, and possibility.

Happy Holidays,

happy birthday
TO OUR STAFF

DECEMBER

7	Nichole Younkin	WMS
10	Derek Lambert	WES
10	Hayden Biedenharn	WMS/WHS
12	Lisa Lightle	WES
12	Melissa Golden	WES
16	Jessica Sullivan	WMS
18	Lauren Rhoads	WES
20	Heather Short	WES
22	Lindsay Wolfe	WES
26	Cameron Pavey	WMS
29	Amanda Patterson	WES
29	Angela Ware	WES
31	Emily Smith	WHS

Congratulations!



WESTFALL ELEMENTARY 2ND-GRADE TEACHER
BROOKLYN STAGE MARRIED JOSEPH BRANDSTETTER
ON NOVEMBER 4, 2023

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY,
Mustangs!



BAYLOR BRADFORD LIGHTLE

Son of Westfall Elementary School
Kindergarten Teacher Lisa Lightle

BIRTHDATE
November 15
12:33 AM

WEIGHT/HEIGHT
6 lbs., 1 oz.
20 1/2"



EMELYN RAY BUSH

Granddaughter of Westfall High School
Educational Aide Karla Bartholomew

BIRTHDATE
October 23

WEIGHT
9 lbs., 6 oz.

Electrical Drive

Collecting Donations between October 23 - December 11

Bring all items to the Westfall Highschool Ag Shop

Examples of what to bring. mouses, computers, batteries ,cameras,

Westfall FFA is hosting an Electrical Drive until December 11 for all of your leftover electronics that you no longer need or use. These items can be brought to the High School Ag shop. Visit www.gwcric.com for a full list of items to recycle.

We're thrilled to have our School Resource Officer, Pickaway County Sheriff Deputy Corey Hamlin, on-site as our designated Westfall DARE Officer! With this new designation, Deputy Hamlin introduced the DARE curriculum to our kindergarten classes, making Westfall the first Pickaway County school to do so. He presents 15-minute lessons covering unsafe situations, knowing when to call 911, distinguishing food and non-foods, and demonstrating how to recognize and be careful with medicines.

In January 2024, Deputy Hamlin will visit our 5th-grade classes to teach the foundational skills that students need to lead safe, healthy, and responsible drug-free lives.





WESTFALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY

Our students lined the halls and were treated to a special Thanksgiving Day Parade held by our first-graders, who marched their creations through the school.



Mrs. Whitt and Mrs. Persinger's third-grade students celebrated the upcoming holiday with a Balloons Over Broadway reverse parade, showcasing their creative balloon designs to our first-graders!



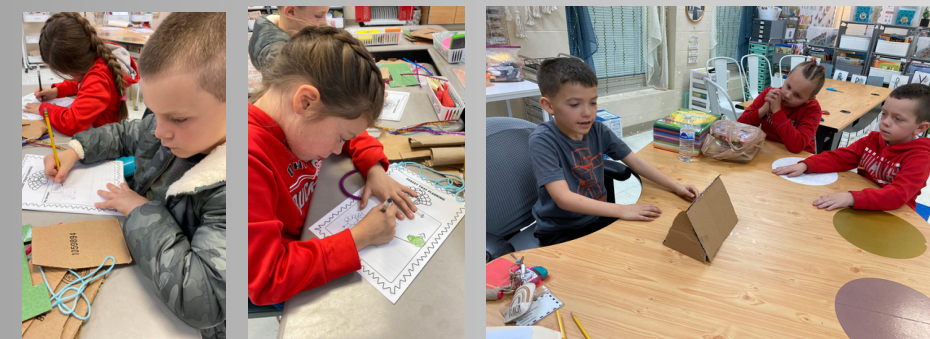
BOUNTIFUL HARVEST



Mark Ruff from Ruff Farms spoke to our kindergarten students about the bountiful harvest of the first Thanksgiving and how agricultural production of goods has changed to meet today's growing and changing

needs. The students were fascinated to learn that the crops grown in our local fields help others around the globe through a variety of uses, such as food, fuel, and fabric.

TURKEY TRAPS



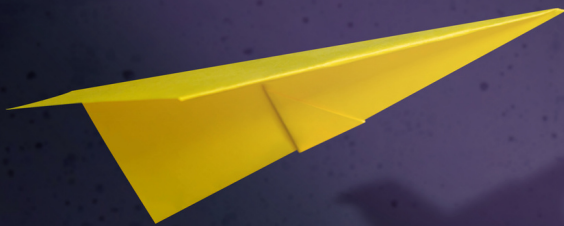
In anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday, Mrs. Brandstetter's second-grade class read the book, "How to Catch a Turkey." Then, they made Turkey Traps as a STEM challenge. Each group could only use cardboard, five pipe cleaners, 12 inches of tape, and a yardstick of string. The challenge was frustrating, but they persevered and constructed very clever creations.



Staff Members of the Month!



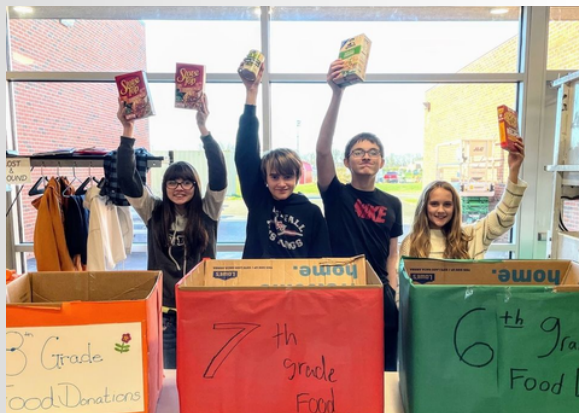
Marcia Ruff, Reading Intervention
Christine Mocerl, Intervention Specialist
Allison Zombek, Kindergarten Teacher
Chris Shockley, Educational Aide



WESTFALL MIDDLE SCHOOL



Last month, the Westfall Middle School Student Council hosted a non-perishable Food Drive to help stock local pantries around Pickaway County. The drive became a friendly competition between classes to see who could collect the most items. In total, over 180 items were collected and delivered to the Savings Bank in Williamsport to help feed others during the holiday season. The 8th-grade class generously donated the most items, with the 6th and 7th graders following closely behind. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this great cause!



MARSHMALLOW TOWER CHALLENGE

Mrs. Wippel's Life Skills students worked together to create a tower with marshmallows and toothpicks as building materials. When the tower was complete, they reflected on the activity, how they utilized problem-solving strategies, and what they learned about cooperation.



Staff Members of the Month!



Cameron Pavey, Guidance Counselor
Kathy Fuller, Art Teacher

HONORING VETERANS



Westfall Middle and High Schools welcomed service members across our community for a special assembly to honor Veterans Day. Guest speaker Chief Warrant Officer Glen Easterday addressed the gathering and spoke of the importance of family and the great calling to support our nation. Army veteran Ken Kirk recited poetry, and Master Sergeant Jerry Jackson discussed Honor Flight Columbus. Our talented choir and band performed Armed Forces Pride of America, and high school students Jacob Yeager and Mitchell Ruff played Taps on trumpet.



WESTFALL HIGH SCHOOL

RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE



Westfall FFA and Pickaway Soil & Water Conservation District recently partnered with our first-grade teachers to teach a mini-lesson about where our Thanksgiving food is grown. Twenty of our high school FFA members read the book "Right This Very Minute" by Lisl Detlesen and taught a fun, interactive lesson on geography so students can see what states their food is grown. At the end of the visit, each student was gifted a book to take home with them!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

Westfall High School hosted its 2023 National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony in November where forty new members were inducted. Although academics are a large factor for membership, service to community, leadership, and strong character set these students apart in this achievement.



BLUE RIBBON COALITION

In 2021, the Pickaway Addiction Action Coalition (PAAC) was awarded the Drug-Free Community grant with the mission of educating the public about substance abuse and reducing youth substance use in Pickaway County. Since the grant award, PAAC has been involved in three intense training conferences, the National Coalition Institute, Graduate Coalition Institute, and the Ohio Coalition Institute, which have provided information and techniques for PAAC to target our two substance reduction initiatives, tobacco/vaping and alcohol. The Coalition has been hard at work, collaborating with school districts, like Westfall, to create the Youth Prevention Ambassadors and providing resources to Pickaway County communities.

In September, PAAC was recognized as a Blue Ribbon Coalition by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) for their work in youth substance use prevention. Because of PAAC's achieved status, they had been asked to be a part of the Drug-Free Communities 25th Anniversary Celebration hosted by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy in October 2023.

Westfall Junior and Youth Prevention Ambassador was selected to accompany PAAC for this event. Marianna had the opportunity to meet and discuss with Congressional leaders the importance of continued programming and funding for youth prevention. We are appreciative of our partnership with PAAC for working with our students to promote prevention.

Staff Members of the Month!



Stacy Caudill, Admin Assistant (not pictured)
Brad Smith, Social Studies
Bethany Treece, English
Logan Stepp, Math



WESTFALL COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER



PICKAWAY ROSS SOPHOMORE TOURS

Our sophomore class had the opportunity to visit Pickaway Ross Career and Technology Center, earlier this month, touring three career training labs of their choosing to find the perfect program for their future. They learned about the wide variety of career programs that the school offers, from early childhood education, culinary arts, and cosmetology to automotive, carpentry, law enforcement, and health sciences, among many others. They toured the labs, met staff and current students, and found answers about being a Pickaway Ross student.

If sophomores are interested in applying for the fall of 2024, they are encouraged to complete an application at <https://www.pickawayross.com/>. The priority application deadline is January 26, so there's still time to build your future career at Pickaway-Ross.



FALL COLLEGE VISITS



Our students have been busy this fall touring local colleges Ohio Dominican University, Shawnee State University, Ohio University - Chillicothe, Capital University, Columbus State Community College, The Ohio State University, and Mount Carmel College of Nursing, where they explored their options for next fall. Each school had Q&A sessions with counselors and current students to discuss the admissions process, tuition, and life on campus, including tours of residence and dining halls.

Ohio University-Chillicothe



The Ohio State University



Ohio Dominican University



Shawnee State University



Capital University



Columbus State Community College



**SENIOR,
JOSEPH WEST**

Career Interest: BUSINESS/ FINANCE

Job Shadow

WESTFALL HIGH SCHOOL



@westfallcollegecareer

CAREER JOB SHADOW

Senior Joe West recently explored the world of business and finance by job shadowing employees at Atomic Credit Union in Circleville. He shadowed their Loan Officer, Tellers, and Bank Manager.

Job shadowing allows students to learn more about careers of interest and exploring new options.