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Western Reserve Local School District 3765 U.S. Rt. 20, Collins, Ohio 44826 Volume 30, Issue 3, December 4, 2023
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by Will Snyder

December is here, and I am excited for the winter and reflect proudly on the accomplishments of the fall. We will be at the halfway point very soon, and I am confident in our staff and students, having witnessed their hard work and progress.

As a district, we have set our eyes on achieving our new strategic plan. Today, I want to focus on my favorite part of our strategic plan: Our Vision. Why do I love our vision? Because it sets the tone for the next three to five years. It describes what we want to be, serving as a rallying cry for our school and community. It is an opportunity to build momentum. It is an opportunity to get better. Our vision has three different statements.

Vision: Inspiring Hometown Pride, Instilling Excellence, Unlocking Pathways to Success

This month, I want to focus on the beginning statement and what “Inspiring Hometown Pride” means to me.

- It means creating, maintaining, and building authentic relationships with our students.
- It means recognizing and celebrating our group and individual accomplishments.
- It means creating a bright future for our students and staff.
- It means creating memories for our students and their families.
- It means school spirit.
- It means creating and maintaining experiences that students enjoy.
- It means improving our facilities and taking care of what we already have.
- It means proudly wearing Roughrider blue.

I take great pride in this district. I get to see the hard work, focus, and fun that is present every day! Our talented students are shaping a bright future!
Go Riders!

Elementary School Information



by Leah Solomon,
Elementary Principal

Happy December, Roughriders! My name is Leah Solomon, and I am the principal at Western Reserve Elementary. While I am not new this year to Western Reserve Elementary, I am in a new role. We have had a positive start to our school year here with so many new faces and new beginnings.

We just finished up our parent teacher conferences and are excited to report that out of 473 enrolled students, 391 parents/guardians attended conferences. Creating home-school partnerships is a strong determiner of students’ success. We hope to continue to see this number rise every year.

Our Veteran’s Day music program took place on November 9th and was a great example of how the district is inspiring hometown pride. It was the best attended program I have been to since being at Western. The program is presented during the day just for Veterans and then again in the evening for families and friends of the 2nd and 5th grade classes. The 5th graders included this year were those who missed it during the COVID-19 shut downs. Between last year and this year, Mrs. Henry has ensured that all students at WRE will be able to go to middle school having participated in a Veteran’s Day performance. Congrats to Mrs. Henry on a job well done!

We are looking forward to the holiday season with our elementary students. Our teachers work hard to create fun and engaging learning activities throughout the month of December. The sense of community deepens as everyone joins in holiday-themed events, sharing laughter and creating lasting memories. We here at WRE hope you have a safe and memorable holiday season with your families.

High School Information



by Lisa Border,
WRHS Principal

As we approach the end of the first semester, here is some important information to know:

State Testing: American Government is a semester-long class with an Ohio State Test (OST) requirement, and Mrs. Warzinik’s students will take their government test on December 12. Some students choose to retake other state tests during this December to January window, but the other state-tested subjects including Algebra, English Language Arts 2, Biology, Geometry, and American History are year-long courses, and their associated tests will take place in the spring.

Exams: High school exams are December 19 (periods 1, 3, 5, and 7) and December 20 (periods 2, 4, and 6). Students will be released at 12:50 on December 20.

Grades: The first semester ends on Wednesday, December 20, and report cards will be sent home in early January. Students’ semester grades are a combination of the first quarter (40%) plus the second quarter (40%) plus the semester exam (20%).

Winter break is December 21-January 2, and school resumes on January 3.

Graduation will be June 2 at 2:00. Graduation honors including cum laude and top ten are determined after the senior students’ 7th semester.

The Behavior Management Matrix has been updated to reflect a stronger anti-vaping stance: marijuana and nicotine are both illegal for students to possess, consume, or distribute, and those who do will now face out of school suspension. Other changes including prohibitions on sleeping in class and cutting into the lunch line have also been added; the revised matrix is being published in this month’s *Western Front* for your review.

As the holidays approach, I want to take a moment to thank our staff and students, their families, and the community at large for the overflowing school spirit and hometown pride. What a tremendous, blessed time to be a Roughrider.

Middle School Information



by Dane Bonningson,
WRMS Principal

We have some exciting things going on in the Middle School right now! During the students’ rotational enrichment period, teachers are able to work together in Teacher Based Teams (TBTs). The goal of these team meetings is to provide the support needed to enhance curriculum and rigor. We work together to align our curriculum to the state standards, analyze data to identify areas for improvement, and discuss strategies for

addressing our findings. Through this collaboration, we can better serve our diverse population of student learners, share successful classroom teaching strategies, and encourage best practices. This opportunity for focused discussion has led to more effective and efficient processes school-wide, as well as our increased ability to focus on areas of need.

We have also added a Positive Behavior Implementation System (PBIS), where students can be recognized and rewarded for their positive behaviors. Our goal is to help the students to be: Responsible, Engaged, and Future Ready. Miss Skrada is leading this initiative and has brought creativity and positive energy. Students receive a blue ticket for positive behaviors and may bring their blue tickets to lunch on Mondays, where they exchange them for candy, prizes, and a chance to be entered into various drawings for experiential opportunities that change monthly.



Graduates Colton White, Holden Nuhn, Aidan Beck and Joselyn Charville (pictured with FFA advisor Mark Starkey) received their FFA American Degree on Nov. 4. Nuhn also placed in the top four in the country for his Entrepreneur Proficiency. (photo by Sarah Beck)

Western Reserve District Calendar --- December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>PLEASE VIEW SCHOOL WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR A MORE UP TO DATE AND COMPLETE SCHEDULE</div>	<div>5</div> <div>5pm MSGB vs St. Paul 7:15pm FBB vs Crestview</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>5pm MSBB @ St. Paul 5:30pm Jolly Trot 6pm Christmas Extravaganza! - McCoy, Fallon, Boss, Harvey 7pm Christmas Extravaganza! - McDonald, Gastier, Bauman, Bray</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10am MSBB @ South Central 10am MSWR @Clear Fork Invitational 10am VWR @ Edison Invitational 11am MSGB vs. South Central 1pm JV/VGBB vs St. Paul 5:45pm JV/VBB @ Keystone</div>
<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5:30pm FBB @ St. Paul 7pm Winter Band Concert Music Boosters Meeting to follow</div>	<div>12</div> <div>5pm MSGB @ Monroeville OST: Government</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:30am PS - Family Holiday Gathering 2pm PS - Family Holiday Gathering 5:30pm VGBB @ Wellington</div>	<div>14</div> <div>5pm MSBB vs Monroeville 7pm Winter Choral Concert OST Retests ELA 2 and Algebra 1</div>	<div>15</div> <div>6pm JV/VBB @ South Central 6pm <i>Once Upon A Mattress</i> watch party OST Retests ELA 2 and Algebra1</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9am VWR @ St. Joseph Invitational 9am MSWR @ Clyde Invitational 10am MSBB @ New London 11am MSGB vs. New London 1pm JV/VGBB vs South Central</div>
<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>2:30pm Musical Auditions</div>	<div>19</div> <div>2:30pm Musical Audition Call Backs 5pm MSGB @ Mapleton 5:30pm FBB @ Monroeville 6pm JV/VGBB @ Edison</div>	<div>20</div> <div>End of Second Quarter/First Semester 5pm MSBB vs Mapleton 6pm Board of Education Meeting 6pm JV/VBB @ St. Paul</div>	<div>21</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break 6pm JV/VGBB @ Monroeville</div>	<div>22</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break 1pm MSWR @ Monroeville Invitational 6pm JV/VBB vs Monroeville</div>	<div>23</div>
<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break</div>	<div>26</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break</div>	<div>27</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break 11am VWR @ Lutheran West (Girls)</div>	<div>28</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break 5:30pm FBB @ New London 10am VWR @ Lutheran West (Girls) 10am VWR @ Brookside Invitational</div>	<div>29</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break 6pm VGBB vs New London</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6pm JV/VBB @ New London</div>
<div>31</div>						

Western Reserve District Calendar --- January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<div>1</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break</div> <div>PLEASE VIEW SCHOOL WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR A MORE UP TO DATE AND COMPLETE SCHEDULE</div>	<div>2</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Winter Break</div>	<div>3</div> <div>5pm MSGB vs Plymouth 7:15pm FBB vs Mapleton</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5pm MSBB vs Plymouth 6pm VGBB vs Mapleton</div>	<div>5</div> <div>6pm JV/VBB vs Mapleton</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9am MSWR vs Western Reserve Middle School Invite 10am VWR @ Columbia Invitational 11am MSGB vs Crestview</div>
<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>5pm MSBB @ Crestview 5:30pm FBB vs Plymouth</div>	<div>9</div> <div>5pm MSGB @ St. Paul OST Retests Geometry, American History, and Biology</div>	<div>10</div> <div>6:30pm Elementary PTA meeting OST Retests Geometry, American History, and Biology</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5pm MSBB vs St. Paul 5:30pm MS/VWR @ Willard 6pm JV/VBB @ Plymouth</div>	<div>12</div> <div>6pm JV/VGBB @ Plymouth</div>	<div>13</div> <div>OMEA Jr High Honors Festival 9am MSWR @ S. Central 9:30am VWR @ N. High 10am MSGB @ S. Central 11am MSBB vs S. Central 3pm JVGB vs Crestview 4pm JVBB vs Crestview 6pm VGBB vs Crestview 7:30pm VBB vs Crestview</div>
<div>14</div> <div>9am VWR @ Fostoria (Girls)</div>	<div>15</div> <div>NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Day 5:30pm FBB @ Crestview</div>	<div>16</div> <div>5pm MSGB vs Monroeville</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6pm Board of Education Meeting</div>	<div>18</div> <div>5pm MSBB @ Monroeville 5:30pm FBB vs St. Paul 6pm JV/VGBB @ St. Paul</div>	<div>19</div> <div>6pm Boys JV/VBB vs St. Paul</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9:30am FBB vs S. Central 10am MSWR @ New London Invitational 10am VWR @ Mapleton Invitational 11am MSBB vs New London 6pm JV/VBB vs Crestline 6pm JV/VGBB @ South Central</div>
<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>5pm MSGB @ New London</div>	<div>23</div> <div>5pm MSGB vs Mapleton 7:15pm FBB vs Monroeville</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>5pm MSBB @ Mapleton 6pm JV/VGBB vs Monroeville 6pm JVGB vs Seneca East</div>	<div>26</div> <div>6pm JV/VBB vs South Central</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9am MSGB (8th grade) @ Monroeville FC Tourney 9am MSGB (7th grade) @ Mapleton FC Tourney 9:30am MSWR @ Mapleton Invitational 10am VWR vs Terry Munroe Invitational</div>
<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>5pm MSGB (8th grade) @ Monroeville FC Tourney 5pm MSGB (7th grade) @ Mapleton FC Tourney</div>	<div>30</div> <div>5pm MSBB at Plymouth 5:30pm JV/VBB @ Wellington</div>	<div>31</div> <div>5pm MSGB (8th grade) @ Monroeville FC Tourney 5pm MSGB (7th grade) @ Mapleton FC Tourney 5:30pm FBB vs New London</div>		<div>PLEASE VIEW SCHOOL WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR A MORE UP TO DATE AND COMPLETE SCHEDULE</div>	

The next deadline
for On the Western
Front is
January 25, 2024.

Contact Valerie Miller
for article submissions

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Fall Sports

by Frankie Hoover

Firelands
Conference Awards:

Golf:
Nolan Ryan - Honorable
Mention (13th place at FC
Meet)

Football:
Braxton Balog (12) - 1st
Team Offensive Guard; 1st
Team Inside Linebacker; FC
Offensive Lineman of the Year
Connor Dawson (11) - 1st
Team Running Back; 1st Team
Defensive Back; FC Offensive
Back of the Year
Travis French (10) - Honorable
Mention Offensive Tackle
Hayden Keith (10) - Honorable
Mention Quarterback
Mason Kinney (12) - Honorable
Mention Offensive Guard; 2nd
Team Inside Linebacker,
Nate Lowe (12) - 2nd Team
Defensive Back
Clayton Meagrow (11) -
Honorable Mention Defensive
Lineman
Rylee Supeck (12) – 1st Team
Defensive Line; 2nd Team
Tight End

Cross Country:
Blake Caudill (12) - 2nd Team
Brice Caudill (10) - 2nd Team
Korissa Fraelich (9) - 2nd Team
Anastin Hoover (12) -
Honorable Mention
Frankie Hoover (10) - 2nd
Team
Kelsey Lasch (12) - Honorable
Mention
Rylee Weiser (11) - Honorable
Mention
Kara Woodruff (9) - 2nd Team

Volleyball:
Drew Clemons (10) - 2nd Team
Hitter
Payton Friend (11) - Honorable
Mention Defensive Specialist
Emma Hammond (10) - 2nd
Team Hitter
Jamie Muenz (10) - 2nd Team
Setter

District Awards

Football
Braxton Balog (12) - 1st Team
Northwest District Offensive
Line
Connor Dawson (11) -
Northwest District Offensive
Back of the Year
Mason Kinney (12) - Honorable
Mention Northwest District
Offensive Line
Rylee Supeck (12) - Honorable
Mention Northwest District
Defensive Line

Volleyball
Emma Hammond (10) - District
6 3rd Team
Jamie Muenz (10) - District 6
2nd Team

State Awards
Braxton Balog (12) – 2nd Team
All-Ohio Offensive Line
Connor Dawson (11) – 1st
Team All-Ohio Running Back



Safe Travels

by Chris Sheldon

As the temperatures drop and roads become less predictable, it is a perfect time to turn our attention to our fleet of buses and the work our district has done to ensure that we transport your children safely, regardless of the weather.

Have you ever driven by our beautiful campus in the middle of the day and wondered why those yellow flashing lights in the school zone were on? Don’t worry; it’s not meant to inconvenience you or make you late for your next destination. This year it is a new operational standard to enhance the safety of our students.

According to ORC 4511.21a, the twenty miles per hour school zone speed limit is in effect during school recess and when children are arriving at or leaving school. It’s a necessary measure to ensure the well-being of our students. Admittedly, it might take some getting used to. I’ve found myself unintentionally hurrying out of the parking lot on my way to a meeting a time or two.

We genuinely appreciate your understanding and support in adhering to these safety measures. Consider it a friendly reminder that sometimes slowing down allows us to appreciate the beauty of our campus as you pass by.

As of November 7th, we are excited to have added two new buses to our fleet, enhancing our ability to provide safe and reliable transportation for our students. Mrs. Betzel is now behind the wheel of bus 6 (formerly bus 5), and Mrs. Sears is steering bus 8 (formerly bus 4).

Maintaining a robust fleet involves numerous factors, from safety and operational efficiency to cleanliness and financial stability. Our district collaborates with American Diesel, led by owner Bob Clark and head mechanic Tony Bring, along with their dedicated staff. They work tirelessly to ensure our buses are on the road, implementing scheduled preventative maintenance and swift solutions for any issues, always with the district’s best interest in mind.

Our dedicated bus drivers, beyond their primary responsibility of safely transporting students, go the extra mile by keeping their buses clean and organized daily. Given that 75% of our students rely on transportation services, a top-notch bus fleet is crucial to their education.

In the face of rising costs, with the average bus price now exceeding \$115,000 (up from \$87,000 three years ago), our commitment remains strong. We prioritize caring for our current buses while strategically planning for future additions. The district is unwavering in its dedication to maintaining a quality bus fleet for the safe transit of our students.

Addressing safety concerns, especially Stop Arm Violations, has been a priority. With the support of Sergeant Demuth and his patrolmen at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Norwalk Post, we’ve actively identified and pursued individuals jeopardizing our students’ well-being by disregarding bus stop signals. Initially averaging three violations a week, we’ve successfully reduced that number to one per week, demonstrating early positive outcomes from this security initiative.

If you have any questions about transportation or operations, feel free to reach out to me in my office at 419.660.8508 ext. 2606. Your support is crucial as we continue to strengthen the safety and efficiency of our transportation services for the benefit of our students and drivers alike.

Fall Highlights

by Ryan Falknor

The 2023 fall sports season has come and gone. Our last banquet was held on Monday, Nov. 20.

Some highlights from the fall:

- In golf, junior Nolan Ryan qualified for districts, shooting a personal best 76 at sectionals. Western hosted, for the first time, the Firelands Conference golf championships at Thunderbird North in Huron.
- Cross country showcased both emerging talent and the farewell of 4-year letter winners, with the girls finishing fifth at districts. Kelsey Lasch and Anastin Hoover ran their last race, with Anastin achieving a personal best. As a team, we had two boys and six girls receive all-conference honors.
- Volleyball faced tough competition, beating state-ranked Monroeville in three sets. With a team of mostly underclassmen, we hope to keep improving over the course of the offseason. Four players earned all-conference honors.
- Football experienced excitement with facility improvements, large student support, and challenges towards the end of the season. This year we will graduate 12 seniors, and the team had seven all-conference performers, including special awards for Braxton Balog and Connor Dawson.
- One of the biggest highlights was the impressive 103 high school participants in fall sports, with 80 achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Please check the website for schedule updates as we move through the winter season.

Great things are happening here!

GO RIDERS!

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Western Reserve District Calendar -- February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		PLEASE VIEW SCHOOL WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR A MORE UP TO DATE AND COMPLETE SCHEDULE		1 6pm VGBB vs Lucas	2 NO SCHOOL Professional Development 6pm JV/VBB @ Monroeville	3 9am MSWR @ Mapleton 9am MSBB (8th grade) @ Crestview FC Tourney 9am MSBB (7th grade) vs FC Tourney 1pm VGBB @ New London
4	5 5pm MSBB (8th grade) @ Crestview FC Tourney 5pm MSBB (7th grade) vs FCTourney 5:30pm Endowment Board Meeting	6 5:30pm FBB at Plymouth 6pm JV/VGBB vs Mohawk	7 5pm MSBB (8th grade) @ Crestview FC Tourney 5pm MSBB (7th grade) vs FC Tourney 6-7:30pm Youth Baseball and Softball meeting	8 6pm JV/VBB vs New London	9 6pm VGBB @ Mapleton	10 9am VWR @ Margaretta Invitational 9am FBB @ Plymouth FC Tourney 6pm JV/VBB vs Plymouth (Mini Cheer Performance)

I Paid My Taxes, Now What?

by Shawnna Baker

Have you ever wondered, “I paid my taxes like a responsible taxpayer, but now what?!”

The Western Reserve Local School District and Board of Education have invested time and effort into long-term financial planning through our newly adopted 20-year permanent improvement plan and 3-year strategic plan. Both of these documents are available on our website. In addition to making sure the district focuses on student instruction and experiences, we feel that being transparent and open about finances is also vital to the success of the district. I will start with some questions you may have when hearing about school funding, then look at expenses as they relate to the general fund.

What is the General Fund?

The general fund is used to finance the district’s daily and long-term operations. It records all the revenues and expenditures that are not associated with special purpose funds. The general fund is available to the school district for any purpose provided it is disbursed or transferred in accordance with Ohio law.

What are the sources of revenue for the general fund?

For WRLSD, 43% of the general fund is supported by local taxes, including real estate property taxes, public utility taxes (Nexus pipeline), and income taxes. 53% is supported by state funding, and 4% comes from other sources.

What is a fiscal year?

Every school district in Ohio has a fiscal year that begins July 1 and ends June 30.

How does WRLSD spend the general fund money?

Now that you know what the general fund is and how it’s funded, let’s look a little deeper into expenses. School districts are considered a service-based industry. We service students, parents and the community. Service-based industries rely on their staff to provide high quality services. That being said, the largest part of expenses are salaries and benefits. In our district, 72% of expenses are personnel costs. However, much of those costs are going directly towards instructing and supporting our students.

The graph below shows actual expenses from last fiscal year. As you can see, regular instruction, special instruction and student support services are 62% of expenses that go directly towards instruction and support of students. These categories consist of all teachers, teacher aides, counselors, school psychologist, gifted services, special education services, secretaries, instructional supplies and professional development. The remainder includes:

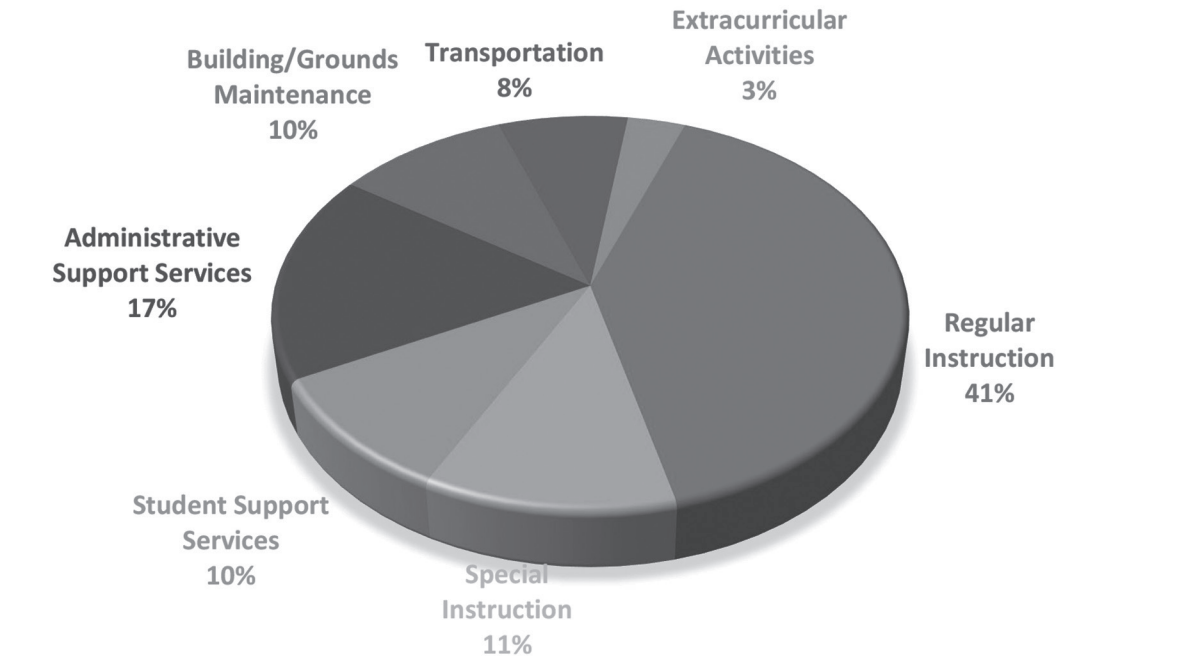
Administrative support: Principals, Assistant Principals, Athletic Director, Superintendent’s Office and Treasurer’s Office.

Building and grounds: Custodians, cleaning supplies, utilities, liability insurance and building repairs.

Transportation: Bus drivers, fuel and maintenance on vehicles.

Extracurricular activities: Athletic coaches that work after school hours.

The Board of Education takes pride in being responsible and knowledgeable when it comes to the financial activities of the district. Every May and November, schools in Ohio are required to have a 5-year forecast approved by the Board. The November forecast was just approved and can be found on the website. After the May forecast, I will write another article that will go more into depth on where the district ended the fiscal year financially. I would encourage you to attend the May Board meeting to hear more about the financial happenings at Western Reserve! Go Riders!



Fall Choir Concert

by Miley Smith

Middle and high school students performed at the Western Reserve fall choir concert on Oct. 26. Deb Henry directed the middle school and high school choirs, and Mary Ana Hicks directed the school’s a cappella group After Hours. The pianist was Dennis Stoneham.

Students who performed solos in the concert were Reagan Roland, Javar Powers, and Clara Hunt.

Henry is proud of her choir for their hard work, dedication, and talent. As a first-time member, I agree that they are hardworking and talented! The choir has welcomed me with open arms, and everyone has been helpful.

Henry offered this advice to her students: “Keep working to your full potential, never quit, and enjoy every moment of your high school experience.”

The choir performed at the Tree Lighting, and the Winter Choral Concert will be on Dec. 14.

Upcoming Important Dates Western Reserve Youth T-Ball/Baseball/Softball	
January 17, 2024	Forms with all information, including cost and ways to volunteer, passed out to students at school, age 4 through grade eight. Families can send registration and payment into school or bring them to Registration Night.
February 7, 2024 (6:00-7:30 pm)	Registration Night. Bring completed registration forms and payment. T-Ball/Baseball: High School Concession Stand Room Softball: High School Room #46 Use the main doors by the high school office to enter.
February 29, 2024	Registration CLOSES. All forms must have been turned in to school or brought to Registration Night. <i>Late Fee of \$25 added for late registration.</i>
April 1, 2024	No more late registrations accepted and NO REFUNDS after this date as all equipment and uniforms will have been ordered at this point.
Questions	Coach Stephanie Wetzel: swetzel@western-reserve.org Coach Josh Good: jgood@western-reserve.org

LADY'S PAWS

GROOMING & BOARDING

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Save the Date!

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Senior Citizen Valentine's Day Breakfast



Please watch for details on our Facebook page and website



Mary Ana Hicks poses in front of the Macy's Star before marching in the Thanksgiving Day Parade. Hicks was honored to work with Saluting America's Band Directors, The Michael Sewell Foundation, and Dr. Jon Waters. She was chosen from over 900 applicants.

Find out why we say,
"Jesus is the Reason for the Season"



at the Collins Church

4290 Hartland Center Road Collins

Christmas Eve **Morning** Worship
December 24 at 10:30 am

Christmas Eve **Evening** Worship
December 24 at 7 pm

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Familiar Face, New Role

by Abbigail Fertig

Ann Todd is back. She spent 35 years as a business educator and school counselor, and she retired at the end of last year. This year, Todd serves as the district's Career Readiness Coordinator.

"The position was a chance to work in an area I am passionate about. It is the part of school counseling I loved, but struggled to find time to implement," Todd said.

Administering the YouScience career assessment was her priority for the month of September. Student's aptitudes, as well as interests, are matched with viable careers for students to explore. The data collected from the assessment will be used to schedule various opportunities -- Lunch and Learns, Student Bootcamps, Business Tours, and Job Shadows to name a few. The ultimate goal is for students to make more informed decisions about their future, including their education plan during high school.

Another responsibility Todd has in her new position is overseeing the Work-Based Learning and Internship programs. "Superintendent Snyder has a vision where internships are concerned," stated Todd. "We are working to get students more opportunities in career paths naturally suited for them with possibilities of future employment."

She knows the importance family plays in students' lives. "Because family has a large impact on career choices young people make, I hope to provide data and resources to encourage more meaningful discussions at the dinner table," she said.

Todd splits her time between Western Reserve, South Central, and New London schools. She can be reached via email: atodd@western-reserve.org and welcomes questions.

Questions?

Call Principal

Lisa Border

419-668-8470

ext. 2001 or

email lborder@western-reserve.org

CJ Bailey, Dawson Parrott and Dorrian Baldwin with their placemat. Mrs. Wilson's annual Poetry Coffee House is the culminating activity for eighth grade students to share their original poetry.

Dominick Edwards, Connor Allsopp, Jaxson Davidson (with Mr. Rowlinson) made this Coffee House placemat in honor of Mr. Rowlinson and his basketball career.

In It to Win It. The eighth grade academic team members Garrett Baker, Mary Stang, Connor Allsopp and Jaxson Dalton (pictured with advisor Lee Rowlinson) won the Huron County Academic Challenge competition. They will move on to the Championship of Champions Match on Dec. 5 to compete against top teams from Erie, Ottawa and Sandusky counties.

Mr. Babcock's fourth grade science class conducting an experiment with volcanoes.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT MATRIX

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense			
Level One Bullying 1st Offense Disruption Dress Code Insubordination/Disrespect Line Jumping/Saving Spaces Non-academic Use of Technology Profanity/Inappropriate Language Sleeping Tardy to Class Unprepared for Class	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Detention	Wednesday Detention			
Level Two Cell Phone False Reports Falsifying Information/Forgery Improper Use of Equipment and/or Supplies Loitering Physical Contact Public Display of Affection							
Level Three Disruption of Education Plagiarism/Cheating (Zero on Assessment and) Roughhousing Skipping Class Using Profane Gestures/Swearing at Staff Member 5+ Level 1 Offenses							
Level Four Fighting Insubordination Towards Administration Making Threats Toward Staff or Students Theft Transmission or Possession of Illegal Data Vandalism 5+ Level 2 Offenses							
Level Five Alcohol Possession/Consumption/Distribution Arson Assault Bullying 2nd Offense Criminal Acts Dangerous Threats/Inciting Panic Drug/THC/DAB Possession/Consumption/Distribution Possession of Nicotine/e-cigarette/Tobacco Weapons Use/Possession							

Allegations of Bullying and Hazing will be investigated and consequences assigned per WR Board policy.

Administration has the right to increase consequences based on severity up to and including emergency removal and recommendation for expulsion. See the student handbook "Code of Conduct" for more information.

School starts at 7:30a.m. Students who are tardy to 1st period are tardy to school and must report to the office to sign in and get a pass.

Teacher Spotlight:
Mrs. Conklin

by Brianna Edwards

Becky Conklin is a first-grade teacher at Western Reserve, and she has been working here for 27 years. She loves teaching and being around kids, and she loves helping them with things that they aren't able to figure out. She also loves getting good mornings from her students.

Her year has been going well. "I have a smaller class this year, and we're able to do a lot more," she said.

Her goals for the district are to make sure that everyone is safe and to make sure that learning is fun. She wants to make learning fun for her students because she wants the information to stick with them, so they'll be able to remember what they learn. To do this, she sings, dances, jokes around, and smiles.

Some of the ways that she motivates her students are having a positive attitude, being able to put smiles on her kids' faces, and teaching them that it's okay to make mistakes. "As long as they learn from their mistakes, it will all be okay," she said.

She chose to be a teacher because she loves to be around kids and wants to help other people when they struggle and let them know that they are not alone. Her message to future teachers is, "If you have the patience and a loving heart, go for it."

One of her biggest goals for life is to still love teaching by the time she is ready to retire. Something that her students might be very surprised to know about her is her age: she is 52 years old.



Girls Basketball alumnae and current Western employees. Front: Carli Ashley, Stephanie Wetzel, Becky Conklin. Back: Jess Ritz, Autumn Thomas, Ann Todd, Casey Dragon, Molly Canfield, Sarah Beck.

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FFA members and third graders pose during the annual Third Grade Ag Day on Oct. 26. To celebrate, FFA members drove their tractors to school, brought in their animals, had activities for the kids, or presented on topics ranging from meat to beans. By Jamie Muenz. Photo by Sarah Beck.



The National Honor Society is the largest and most widely recognized academic organization in the U.S. To be selected, students must demonstrate success in four areas of personal growth: scholarship, leadership, service and character. For the ceremony, Emma Weber (2020) sang the national anthem, and the current members passed the light of knowledge to the inductees. Front Row (members): Alexis Wheeler, Corbin Studd, Thatcher Stevens, Elizabeth Sorenson, Mayleen Sell, Reagan Roland, Kaitlin Risner, Kelsey Lasch, Kaylee Kolb, Clara Hunt and Allyson Benesh. Middle Row (inductees): Mason Kinney, Hayden Keith, Nolan Ryan, Brooklyn Prince, Gracyn Neuburger, Payton Friend, Parker Friend, Brexton Fraelich, Morrison Dauch-Munroe and Thomas Dendinger. Back Row (inductees): Ben Woodrum, Gracie Thomas, Caleb Pausch, Lilliana Jarrett, Ella Grose, McKinley Fannin, Lexi Mullins, Jillian Linder and Katelyn Libertowski. New inductees not pictured: Joslin Cain, Aidan Miller and Lincon Munroe. By Molly Jenkins. Photo by Sarah Beck.



Mrs. Hicks during the elementary school's send off for her marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



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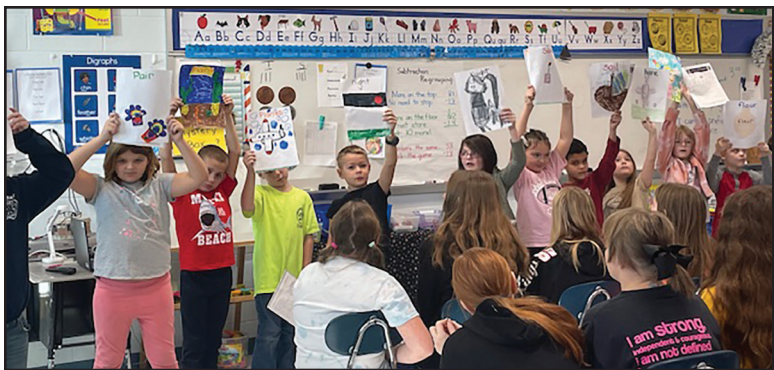
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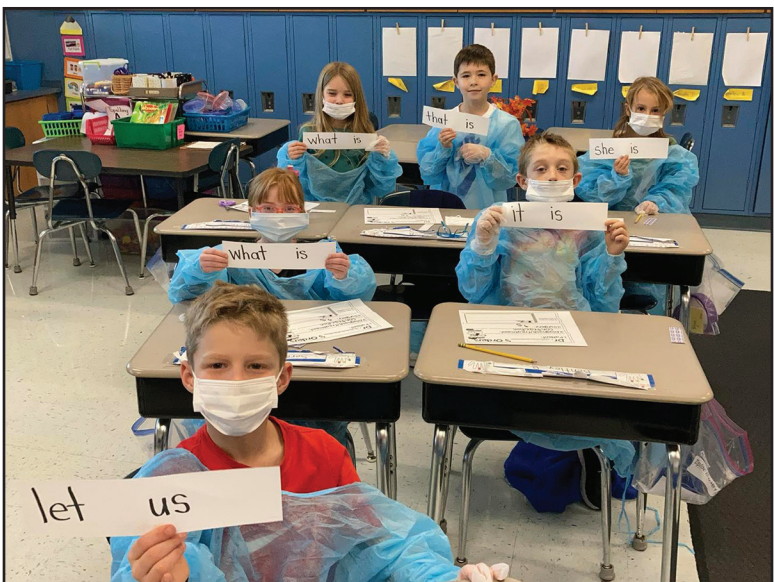
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First graders made flag windsocks for Veterans Day.



Mrs. Kovach's second grade class showing their parts from their Reader's Theater.



First graders in Mrs. Stang's class are Word Surgeons, learning how to make contractions.



WRE Chess Club members Ali Cotner, Carter Fannin, Wyatt Oliver, Kelly Hipp, Addy Reed, Kamren Brown. Mr. Bray taught them various strategies this year. The fourth grade chess champion was Carter Fannin, and Julian Ojeda-Jones won the fifth grade tournament. Chess participants were awarded with t-shirts compliments of Mrs. Solomon, and their tuition paid for their participation medals. Chess Club is a great foundation for learning a variety of strategy games and the hope is that students explore chess or other games on their own as they get older.

The logo for Prestige Pools features the company name in a large, bold, blue serif font. Below the name is a stylized illustration of a swimmer in blue, depicted in a dynamic, forward-leaning position as if swimming. The swimmer is surrounded by blue wavy lines representing water, and several small blue circles are scattered around the swimmer's head and body, suggesting bubbles or movement.

The image shows a business card for Zeiter Trucking. The logo features the word "Zeiter" in a large, white, cursive script, with "Trucking" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Underneath "Trucking" is the tagline "The Dump Truck Specialists" in a small, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo is a list of services: "Big Rock", "Stone", "Dirt", "Sand", "Salt", and "Scrap", each preceded by a vertical ellipsis. At the bottom left is a Facebook icon followed by "@zeitercompanies" and "www.zeitertrucking.com". At the bottom right is the phone number "419.668.6945" and the address "2590 SR 18, Norwalk". The entire card has a dark blue background with a white border.

Alumni Spotlight: Kevin Boose, Class of 2013

by Miley Smith

In high school, Kevin Boose was on the basketball team and was a National Honor Society member. The best advice Boose got from Western was, "It's okay to make mistakes, only if we try to better ourselves after the mistakes are made."

Boose says Western helped him figure out what he wanted to do for his career. Now, Boose works at Western Reserve High School as a science teacher and varsity boys basketball assistant coach.

“Western has many strengths,” said Boose, “including how the community in and around the school is very close.”

Boose's advice for Western students is, "Remember to enjoy high school and be a student for as long as you can. Don't wish it away."



Kevin Boose holds his nephew, Elliot.

Breast Cancer Awareness Game

by Frankie Hoover

Lady Riders Volleyball hosted their annual Breast Cancer Awareness game on Oct. 11 against Mapleton. Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle and the silent auction were donated to the Mammography Department at Fisher Titus and to Sonia Contreras, a player's mom who has been battling breast cancer.

“It’s always my goal to teach the game of volleyball at the highest level,” said Coach Lisa Muenz. “However, this night teaches us that giving back and coming together as a community to support each other is what is most important.”



Rider Strong. Sonia Contreras (center) is surrounded by the support of the JV and Varsity Volleyball teams, ball girls and coaches.

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(left) Freshman Audree Jackson drives into the key during the JV home opener on Nov. 22 against Keystone. Photo by Sarah Beck.



(right) Sophomore Brexton Fraelich goes up during the JV game against Mansfield St. Peter's on Dec. 2. Photo by Sarah Beck.

Coaches' Corner

Hello, Roughriders! Here's an inside look at what the Head Varsity Coaches of our winter sports programs have to say.



Carli Ashley - Girls Basketball - 4 years at Western

What approach do you take when your team is struggling? "Our coaching staff makes a great effort to provide positive-specific-feedback. Even if the game isn't going as we hoped, we can always find something to be positive about and tell the girls what they are doing well, as well as where we can make improvements."



Lisa Balog - Cheerleading - 5 years at Western

What are your plans for the future of your program? "My plans are to continue coaching for as long as the program will have me. I want nothing more than the program to continue to grow, and for more people (community, school, and students) to support the cheerleaders!"



Jason Maxwell - Wrestling - 10 years at Western

How do you think student-athletes should balance academics and athletics? "My primary goal as a head coach is to ensure our student-athletes excel in the classroom as well as on the wrestling mat."



Chris Sheldon - Boys Basketball - 22 years at Western

What is your primary goal as a coach? "To increase a student's passion in the game of basketball while helping players learn that they play an integral part to making our team be the best version of themselves. I want every single player to understand they all have great value to us regardless of their role. Life is not meant to be lived in solitaire, and being a player on a team is no different."



Sophomore Layken Barnhart takes a shot during the Varsity home opener against Keystone on Nov. 22. Photo by Sarah Beck.



Senior guard Joslin Cain drives the ball to the basket. Cain is the lone returning 2-year letter winner playing for the Lady Riders this season. Photo by Sarah Beck.

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Mini cheerleaders from pre-K to sixth grade pose with middle and high school cheerleaders at the Oct. 12 football game. The “minis” attended cheer clinics to learn new materials like chants that they performed during the first quarter. “It’s always exciting to watch the minis show off what they learn for their loved ones and the fans,” said Cheer Coach Lisa Balog. By Jenavieve Charville. Photo by Sarah Beck.



Varsity cheerleaders Emma Stark, Ally Benesh, Kennedy Drennen, Avery Kinney and Autumn Jamison. Photo by Sarah Beck.

Little Lady Riders Basketball Camp

by Jamie Muenz

The Western Reserve Girls Basketball team will be hosting a Little Lady Riders Basketball Camp in January 2024. Any girl in third through fifth grade who is interested in basketball is invited to come to this free camp!

“It is a great opportunity for young girls to start developing their basketball skills,” said Coach Molly Canfield. “The kids will also devote time to play live five-on-five games, so our young athletes start developing an understanding of the game.”

Head Coach Carli Ashley said, “Little Lady Riders is something we look forward to every year. It is not only a lot of fun, but also necessary for the growth of the Lady Riders’ basketball program. When you can get kids in the gym at that young age, they just develop the basic skills much faster and have a solid foundation moving into fifth and sixth grade travel league and beyond.”

The Lady Riders’ JV and Varsity basketball players assist at the camp, and Coach Ashley loves that interaction. “We have great kids in our program, and they are strong, positive female role models for these elementary kiddos. Watching those relationships develop means the world to us coaches.”

The camp is scheduled to run on Saturday mornings in January, and information will be sent home with all girls in grades three through five with exact details closer to the start date.

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Blood Drive

Student Council members Kara Woodruff and Ava-Grace Thornburg help at the blood drive. Photo by Sarah Beck.

by Parker Friend

Western Reserve High School Student Council hosted a blood drive on Nov. 10, 2023. Students ages 16 and older as well as community members donated blood to the American Red Cross.

“We want to show kids that it’s not scary,” said Student Council advisor Sarah Beck. “It’s at the school, so they’re comfortable because it’s familiar.”

According to the American Red Cross, blood donations help “accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer.” By donating blood, you’re helping someone.

By hosting a blood drive, Student Council receives scholarship money from the American Red Cross based on the number of pints they collect. These scholarships are awarded to graduating Student Council members.

Western Reserve Student Council will host another blood drive at the high school on May 7.

Will Snyder and Meg Stevens dressed up to celebrate the Inaugural Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Seniors Corbin Studd and Elizabeth Sorenson volunteered to ring the bell in front of Dollar General.



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