

Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools

Community Update

INSIDE:

- *WECP GIVES BACK*
- *Reimagine19 Updates*
- *GROUNDBREAKING*



April 2017

A Message from your Superintendent



There has been a flurry of activity in the district during the past 30 days.

During Spring Break, many of our students traveled to various destinations in and out of the country. Their trips have been reported to be educational, entertaining and they consistently represented our district in a positive light.

Sadly, the Board of Education was destroyed by a fire. Thankfully, there was no loss of life as a result of the fire and the first responders who fought the fire so valiantly were not harmed while attempting to save the building and its contents. I greatly appreciate the patience of our community during the long and arduous fire investigation. You will continue to be updated as the district is given information.

During this next month, students will finish essential state standardized tests and our seniors will complete their final days in high school. I have had the opportunity to speak with many of our students and learn their aspirations for the future. It is pleasing to see that this generation of graduates is well-prepared, motivated and hardworking. On behalf of Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools, I wish our seniors continued success.

I hope that you enjoy this month's Community Update.

As always, I am proud to be a part of a district that offers so much to students and to the community.

Steve Thompson



W-E Board of Education

President: Connie Newyear

Vice President: Sharon Scott

Margaret Warner

Rena Perchinske

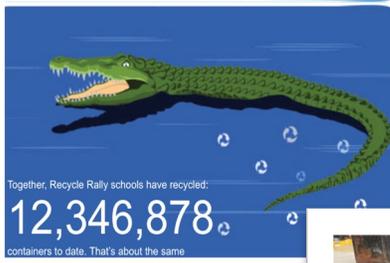
Amy Zuren

Seniors from South High who were recently honored at a Board of Education meeting



W-E Schools

Making a Difference, Making an Impact W-E Staff and Students



Eastlake Middle Students continue to make an impact with their recycling efforts!
Thank you staff & students!



Students from Medical Assisting and Billing and Coding visited the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office.

Success Academy students are working to give back to the community.



Willoughby Middle School students visited local firefighters to thank them for assisting during the fire at the Board of Education.

Student leaders at Willowick Middle shared a powerful message; be kind to others and treat them like you want to be treated.



Seniors from North High who have decided to enter the military after graduation



North thespians performed *Pippin* for the community.

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In Case You Missed It...A Message from your Treasurer

These graphs reflect information about district expenses, revenue and cash balances.



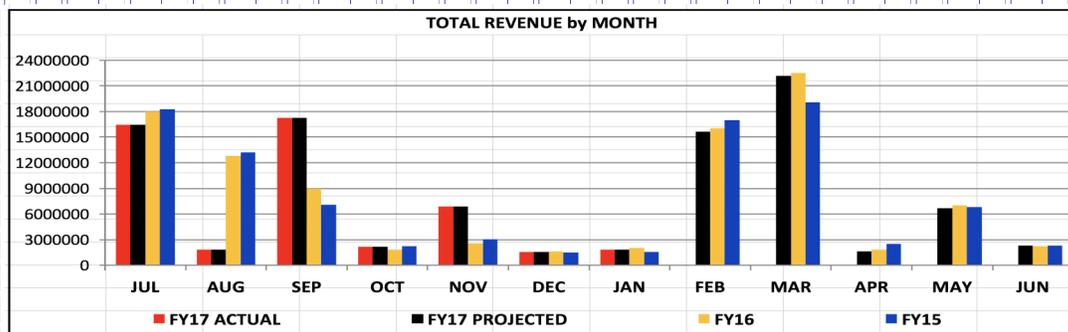
Longfellow students participated in martial arts exercise lessons.



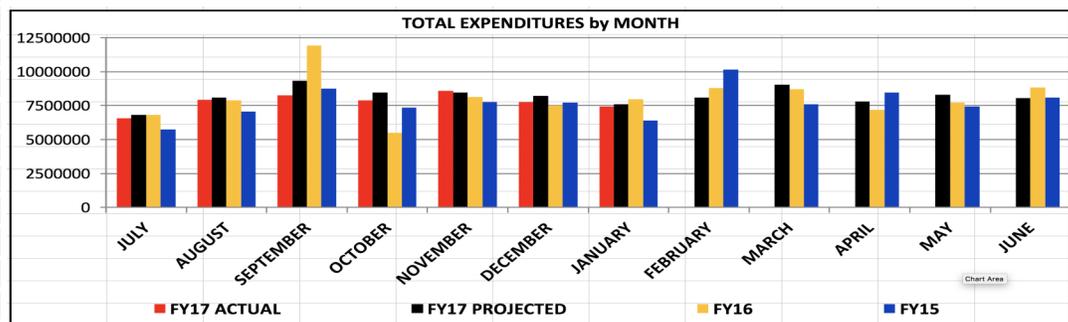
Jefferson students began their One School, One Book Reading Initiative.



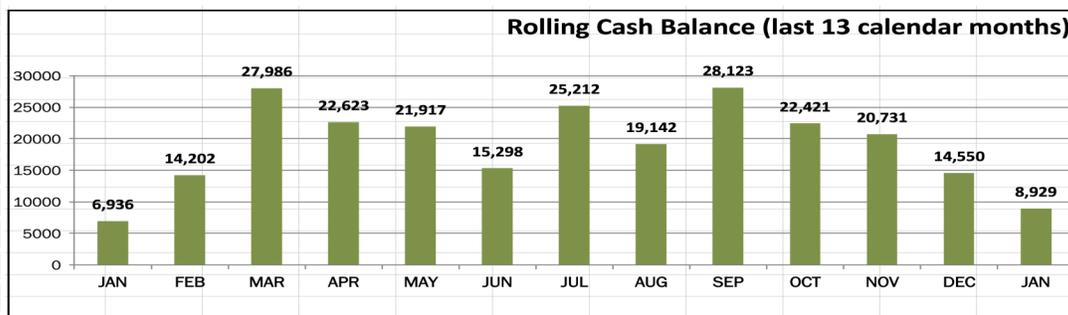
W-E Schools



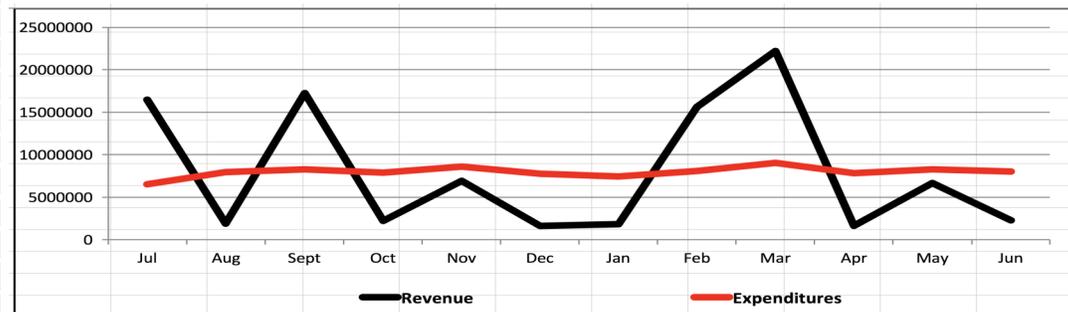
Revenues collected matched projected budgetary expectations.



The district was able to save \$700,000 since the beginning of the fiscal year.



The spikes seen in this graph reflect the months in which the district receives property tax revenue.



Through prudent financial management, the district is able to maintain consistent spending practices and consistent cash reserves.

Bill Parkinson, Treasurer

Groundbreaking Ceremonies

MAY 17, 2017



please join us

TO CELEBRATE THE GROUNDBREAKING OF
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
UNION SQUARE

34041 Stevens Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095

Wednesday, May 17 | 9:00 am



In keeping with the history of the district, we will be calling the North High Campus Union Square
in honor of the original Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools High School, Union High.

Construction equipment has begun to move onto district properties. Work will begin on outside properties in the next few weeks. Immediately after the last day of school, renovations to windows and exterior doors will begin at Edison, Grant, Willowick Middle School, Royalview, Eastlake Middle School and Jefferson.

On May 17, 2017, **groundbreaking ceremonies** will take place at North High School, Longfellow Elementary School and South High School. The ceremonies will begin at North at 9:00 a.m., move to Longfellow for a 10:30 a.m. celebration and culminate at South High at 12:30 p.m.

At each location, speakers will include mayors from each community, representatives from the district and the YMCA. Selected students have been invited to share their thoughts on the new facilities and the impact they believe the new buildings will have on education.

Willoughby-Eastlake is looking forward to sharing this momentous occasion with the community.

PLEASE JOIN US ON MAY 17, 2017

W-E, TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Edison students participated in a Market Day Extravaganza.



The Preschool students were visited by the Akron Zoo.



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REIMAGINE19



Providing Superior Learning Experiences

As a district, we strive to **Improve Student Achievement**. The process of educating students is fluid and must change with the demands of curriculum and employment needs of the community.

During the month of April, Willoughby-Eastlake completed a critical phase of the new five-year-strategic plan (**Reimagine19**) by meeting with community members to seek their input on the direction of the district.

Participants shared their opinions and how **Teaching and Learning, Real World Learning, Modern Facilities, Technology, Partnerships, The Whole Child, Adult Education, Educational Pathways** and **Rethinking the School Day** should impact the future of education. They discussed the importance of providing educational opportunities for students while addressing the increasing personal needs of children. Other areas of necessity identified by community members were the need for adult training, creating partnerships in schools, building state-of-the-art facilities, utilizing real world learning and presenting pathways to the future for each student.

“The input given to us by community members is invaluable. It allows the district to clearly identify the pathways necessary for our graduates, in and out of the classroom. It is our responsibility to teach students all components of the curriculum while remaining cognizant of the needs of their prospective employers. I am looking forward to continued engagement opportunities with members of the community as we move through the **Reimagine19** initiative” stated Superintendent Steve Thompson.

WE have the capacity to change



Students at the School of Innovation planting mystery seeds

SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - DESIGNATED STEM SCHOOL



“This is a day for celebration,” stated David Burns, Director of Battelle STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Innovation Networks, when referring to the fact that the School of Innovation was designated as a member of the Ohio STEM Learning Network.

The Ohio STEM Learning Network began in 2008 with five schools and currently consists of 47 schools across the state. In its origins, Battelle and the Ohio Business Roundtable were the two entities supporting STEM learning in Ohio until they were joined by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Affiliation with the Ohio STEM Learning Network increases opportunities through a broad sharing of curriculum and teacher development statewide.

“We are proud to be a part of the Ohio STEM Learning Network. Affiliation with this powerful and influential organization will allow us to have a positive impact on other districts in Ohio and continue to influence delivery models of instruction in our own district,” Principal Brian Patrick. “It is a privilege to serve as a platform school for Willoughby-Eastlake and across the state of Ohio.”



W-E Schools

BOE Fire Update

On March 14, the Willoughby-Eastlake Board of Education was severely damaged by fire. The fire was fought by more than fifteen local fire departments.

Once the fire was extinguished, the building was turned over to the insurance company for further investigation. During the investigation process, the district was unable to begin work of any kind in or around the structure.

At this time, the fire investigation has been completed and the origin of the fire continues to be identified as accidental. Due to the extensive damage to the building, a specific cause was not able to be identified. Once the district was informed that they were permitted to enter the premises, the unstable parts of the building were removed, attempts were made to safely recover important documents and examine the building with structural engineers. Unfortunately, the documents recovered from the upper floors of the building were not salvageable.

Structural engineers and architects, in conjunction with the insurance company, will evaluate the remaining parts of the building to determine whether or not the building can be rebuilt.

Willoughby-Eastlake would again like to express their appreciation for the dedication of all local first responders.



W.E.C.P. Gives Back

The Willoughby-Eastlake Classified Professionals (WECP) have made it their mission to provide support to students and families in the W-E School District with nutritional assistance in their time of need. In addition to donations from members of the organization, several local businesses have also generously supported district families.

Throughout the school year, WECP staff members, in conjunction with student organizations, have held food drives and fundraisers in the district, collecting items to be placed in their pantry. While the initiative helps volunteer students to be respectful and responsible, it also helps those most in need by meeting their nutritional demands and making them ready to learn.

While volunteering their time and efforts at events such as *Miracle on Erie Street* and the *Second Annual Empty Bowls* events, members of WECP work to collect non-perishable goods and monetary donations to keep the pantry running strong. This year the organization took great pride in being able to raise approximately \$3,400.00 and change the lives of 27 families.

If you are aware of a family in need of assistance, the members of WECP ask that you please contact the family liaisons in your buildings, principal's secretary or guidance office administrative assistants and they will attempt to assist with those needs.

Willoughby-Eastlake is proud of the efforts demonstrated by WECP, their commitment to the community and their philosophy to #BACHampion!



Across the District



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
NCI Willoughby



Royalview students in their "Wonderful World of Disney" Concert



Students at Grant were challenged to create a structure using jelly beans and toothpicks!



and toothpicks!



South High Spanish IV students traveled to Spain during Spring Break while the Marching Band traveled to Disney.



W-E Schools

Thank You Bar CrossFit & Kang Do Won

During the 2016 - 2017 school year, students at the Success Academy received donated time and expertise from Kang Do Won and The Bar CrossFit. According to classroom instructor Bill Kennelly, "These two organizations taught our students communication, teamwork, self-discipline and helped them to fine tune their overall physical wellness. In addition to these important factors, the students learned to focus on the here and now. The data collect this year has shown that our students are academically more productive in the hour after CrossFit than any other hour during the week."

Ryan Carter, a student from Success Academy shared, "CrossFit has made me enjoy working out again. I feel so much better about myself when I leave their gym. All of the coaches care about us and Coach Heath is the very best!"

When speaking about Kang Do Won, Anthony Giangiacomo stated, "When I am on the mats, the rest of the world disappears and I only worry about martial arts and improving my skill. It is the best hour of my day sometimes."



Empty Bowls

On April 21, 2017, Eastlake North High School along with other schools in the Western Reserve Conference hosted the Second Annual Empty Bowls Charity dinner. North's Art Club students, supervised by Nicole Staunton and Heidi Kirschnick, chose this service project after learning about the issues of food insecurity in the United States. Empty Bowls is a worldwide charity where people make ceramic bowls that are used for a dinner of soup and bread. Guests pay a small donation to have the dinner, and they keep the ceramic bowl as a thank you for helping to combat hunger.

The soups were donated by 13 area restaurants including Two Bucks, Local Tavern, Flavors on the Vine, Trader Jack's, Winking Lizard, Dino's III, TJ's on the Avenue, Peties, Kulinars, Paragon, Jimmy's, Willoughby Brewing Co. and The Cabin. Other donations were given by W-E District Chef Michael Chapin, Chartwells K-12 Food Service Management, Orlando Bread Company, Coca-Cola, and Tia McGrady, the Family and Consumer Science Teacher at North High School.

All proceeds from the event benefit the area in which it is held. Art club students at North, along with students from Chardon, Brush, Riverside, South, Kenston and West Geauga, made over 300 bowls to be used at the soup dinner. More than 250 guests donated \$10 per meal, raising a total of \$2,610.00. The evening consisted of wonderful live entertainment by North High School student, Molly Moran.

The Empty Bowls project involved many people and made a great impact on the community. The students were so pleased with its success that they are already making plans for the Third Annual Empty Bowls Event.

Important Updates



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In case you have missed our previous **Community Updates**, you can read archived editions on our website....

[Read more here >>>](#)

OUR MISSION

IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| May 3, 2017, 7:00 p.m. | Willoughby Middle Band Concert |
| May 5, 2017 | Senior Prom - North & South |
| May 17, 2017, 6:30 p.m. | North High Graduation |
| May 18, 2017, 6:30 p.m. | South High Graduation |
| May 25, 2017 | Last Day for Students |

This is not an inclusive list of all events during the upcoming month. For a more complete list, please check our district calendar or follow us on Facebook. Facebook is now being updated to include weekly events.

CONNECT WITH US



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Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools - 37047 Ridge Road - Willoughby, OH 44094