



The CO-PILOT

Linking the Community and Pilots of the Ayersville Schools

April 2009

www.ayersville.k12.oh.us

Phone – 419-395-1111

FROM THE DESK OF TOD A. HUG

It is so hard to believe that we are getting close to the end of another school year! Old Man Winter made things interesting just before Christmas and we did have six calamity days necessitating making up one of those days on March 23 during the scheduled spring break. Unless we have additional calamity days, the last day for seniors will be Friday, May 22, while the last day for underclass students will be Thursday, May 28. Graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 24, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

The last six weeks of school bring many events. Contained in this newsletter is a listing of all of these events.

Also with the end of the school year we have had a couple of retirements that have been recently announced.

Mrs. Beverly Barnett announced her plans to retire at the end of this school year. Mrs. Barnett has spent the past 35 years as a teacher in our school district.

Mr. Cameron VanArsdalen announced his plans to retire at the end of the school year. Mr. V. has spent the past five years as our high school principal.

EVENT PARKING

Reminder concerning summer traffic behind the school: The fence is posted that only "Official Vehicles" are to be parking in the rear (east side) of the school, or driving back to the concession stand. These "Official Vehicles" are generally staff members and/or athletic boosters who are transporting concessions and other equipment back to the concession stand.

I wish to impress upon all who use this facility to understand that there are hundreds of children involved with the Summer Booster Ball program

who may not treat the drive back to the concession stand or the drive behind the pool as a roadway, and they do dart across to retrieve a ball, or run from field to field. ***For this reason I am pleading with everyone: Please do not drive behind the fence to watch your child play baseball or softball.***

Additionally, in the past, transportation has been provided for the elderly or disabled via school golf carts; however, we are no longer able to provide this service. As the baseball and softball programming is not a school event, our liability coverage does not cover the event of an accident while transporting. I encourage anyone needing assistance to bring equipment to enable him or her to get to his or her chosen area (i.e. wheel chair, walker, or other apparatus).

At no time will anyone be allowed to drive a vehicle behind the fence to drop off another person. The danger to children is too great. Please do not attempt to do this.

For the safety of our children, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY

At its February meeting, the Board of Education approved a resolution to place a RENEWAL levy for the 5-year, 2.0 mill Permanent Improvement Levy (PI Levy) on the May 5 ballot. This levy generates about \$156,000 annually. By law, the money received from this PI levy can only be used for improvements and maintenance of the district's buildings and grounds, and the purchase of property with an estimated life of five years or more, such as desks, books, computer/technology purchases, etc. It cannot be used for day-to-day operations, such as salaries, benefits, or utilities.

Historically, the majority of PI funds have been used for the maintenance of the district's facilities. Since the most recent renewal of this PI levy in

November 2004, we have used the funds to completely renovate the high school chemistry lab, renovate stadium grandstands adding handicap-accessible seating, replace visitor seating on the football field, replace plumbing in various parts of the buildings, upgrade lighting in the 1952 gym, and provide handicap accessibility to the high school on both the south and west entrances. Additionally, PI funds have been used to purchase and maintain computers and technology equipment, band instruments as well as to replace classroom desks and chairs on an as-needed basis.

There continue to be building and grounds issues that necessitate expenditures to maintain our facilities in order to continue to provide an adequate environment for our children to learn in a safe and efficient manner. Without the PI levy, we would be forced to spend this money from our General Fund, which would have a huge impact on our district's ability to continue the quality of educational services currently provided.

On May 5, 2009, residents will be asked to vote on the RENEWAL of the 5-year, 2.0 mill Permanent Improvement Levy that would continue to generate \$156,000 per year. This is not an increase in taxes. It is currently being collected, and passage of this levy will allow this PI money to continue to be used to maintain our current facilities, provide a safe learning environment and enable our students to have up-to-date technology.

One final issue to consider: Out of the \$156,000 generated each year, \$57,000 comes from the state as a reimbursement for the loss of tangible personal taxes, which is tied to the funding of this PI levy. Should the PI levy fail to be renewed this year, this state reimbursement would be forever lost and any levy in the future would be collected entirely from local taxes. In essence, the state is funding \$57,000 per year for our district to maintain this levy.

SENIOR CITIZENS' BREAKFAST

The first Senior Citizens' Breakfast, sponsored by the Ayersville Telephone and Cable Company in partnership with the Ayersville Local Schools was held on Thursday, March 19, in the school cafeteria. The school cafeteria staff served pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee, and juice. Thirty-nine seniors attended this first event. Following breakfast the seniors were treated to musical

selections by the high school band and high school choir and ensemble groups.

The next senior citizens' breakfast will be Thursday, April 23. Breakfast begins at 8:30. All senior citizens who are residents of the Ayersville Local School District are welcome to partake in the breakfast and enjoy the entertainment and information presented.



A special thank you goes to the Ayersville Telephone and Cable Company for sponsoring the breakfast. As long as there is interest, we hope to continue offering this service on a monthly basis during the school year.

SCHOOL FACILITY UPDATE

I was always told, "good things come to those who wait." In our case, and as far as funding from the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC), our patience may pay off!!

Last year at this time, our district was eligible for 25% funding from the Ohio School Facilities Commission. Today, after a change in state law, our district is eligible for 42% state funding. This time next year, if new legislation is approved by our state legislature, we could be eligible for an even higher percentage of state funding.

Additionally, it is hoped that our local, state, national and world economies are back on track, making a potential facilities project a possibility.

It is the intention of the Board to enable the District to take full advantage of available OSFC funding. There is a possibility of changes in the law that could place our District in a more favorable position to receive a higher percentage of funding from the state. We are awaiting the outcome of the Biennial Budget to see if changes are made that will help our cause.

SIGN-UP FOR SUMMER SWIM LESSONS...

will be on Tuesday, May 19, for Ayersville residents and Thursday, May 21, for the public. Please come to the pool between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. to register your child. The cost is \$26.00 for Ayersville residents and \$31.00 for nonresidents. Please call 419-395-1111, ext. 133 after 7:30 p.m. on your scheduled day if you cannot come to the pool.

Public swim hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. and Sundays, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sports physicals...will once again be conducted by the Defiance Clinic Sports Medicine Department, Family Physicians, and Certified Nurse Practitioners on Tuesday, May 26. The physicals are available to any student in grades 6-11 who plans to participate in a school sport for the 2009-2010 school year. They will begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. and will continue until finished. The cost will be \$20.00 **to be paid in advance**. Forms will be sent home with the students. If you have any questions, please call the Athletic Office at 419-395-1111, ext. 5.

2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 27	Teacher In-service
August 28	Teacher work day
August 31	First day for students
September 7	Labor Day - No School
November 5, 6	Parent-Teacher Conferences - No school for students on the 6th
November 25-27	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 23-Jan 3	Christmas Vacation - No School
January 4	Classes resume
January 18	Martin Luther King Day - No School - In-service for teachers
March 31-Apr. 5	Spring Break - No School
May 30	Graduation
May 31	Memorial Day - No School
June 2	Last student day
June 3	Teacher work day

Make-up days: March 31, April 5, June 3, 4, 7, 8, 9

CONGRATULATIONS ...

...to *Matthew Thieroff*, 3rd grader, for being selected as an exhibitor at the Young People's Art Exhibition sponsored by The Ohio Art Education Association. Mrs. Deb Lockie is his art teacher.

...to *Emily Stark*, 7th grader, for being chosen as an exhibitor for the annual Youth Art Month exhibition, sponsored by the Ohio Art Education Association. Mrs. Lockie is also her art teacher.

...to both the *high school choir* and *band* for receiving "Excellent" (II) ratings at contest in March. Mrs. Jane Strata and Mr. Adam Landry are the respective directors.

...to the *high school wrestling team*, *coaches* and *assistants* as they finished the year as GMC champions.

...to *Kim Comden*, *Logan Wolfrum* and *Anthony King* for being selected to play in the District 7 All-Star game. Kim and Logan also played in the Bryan Times All-Star game.

ADDRESSES NEEDED...If you know of someone in the Ayersville Local School District who does not receive this newsletter, please call Phyllis at 419-395-1111 ext. 400. Your help is greatly appreciated.

AYERSVILLE LOCAL SCHOOL
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Middle School

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Martin Miller, Principal

High School

419-395-1111 x 100
Cameron VanArsdalen, Principal

Board of Education

Craig McKibben, President
Denny Martin, Vice President
Lisa Brown, member
Mark Diller, member
Bob Luderman, member

CALENDAR

April 23	Senior Citizens' Breakfast, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
April 26	Grades 7-12 Band Concert, 3:00 p.m., R.B.L. Auditorium
May 2	Junior/Senior Prom
May 5	Grades 1 & 2 Music Program, 7:00 p.m., R.B.L. Auditorium
May 7	High School Academic & Attendance Awards Night Program at 8:00 p.m., R.B.L. Auditorium
May 11	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m. , H.S. library
May 14	High School Breakfast Club
May 14	Grades 5 & 6 Band Concert, 6:30 p.m., H.S. gymnasium
May 18	Grades 7-12 Vocal Concert, 8:00 p.m. , R.B.L. Auditorium
May 21	Senior Awards Program, 9:00 a.m.
May 24	Graduation, 2:00 p.m. in high school gymnasium
May 25	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL Memorial Day parade, 8:00 a.m.
May 26	Sports physicals
May 28	Last day of school for students ONE HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL