



Elmwood Local Schools

“From the Desk of the Superintendent”

March 15, 2017

Volume 1, Number 4

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Visit our Webpage:

<http://www.elmwood.k12.oh.us>

Any questions or concerns for our website should be addressed to our webmaster, Sonja Brand, at brans@elmwoodschoools.org.

Days/Hours Missed Status

# days missed	6
# 2 hour delays	4
# days to make up	1
Make up dates	TBD

<http://education.ohio.gov/>

The Ohio Department of Education's website has everything you would want to know about education in Ohio.

Community Update:

It is Ohio weather when we have more snow in March than in January and February. Hopefully that is it and we can move into spring. I know I am ready.

I would like to thank the Elmwood Board of Education, Elmwood Athletic Boosters, and finally parents, Michelle Dilsaver and Cindy Veryser for sponsoring the teacher's luncheon our in-service day. They produced a delicious meal for the staff. It was greatly appreciated that they gave of their time and money to honor our wonderful staff.

I have been asked a lot recently about how our Band Director, Mr. Brinkman is doing. If you remember, Mr. Brinkman was deployed overseas by the military back in September. As you can imagine, we do not get many updates from him as he is limited in his ability to contact us and due to the security of his deployment. When given the chance to message with us, he seems to be doing very well and is extremely busy in the work he has been called to do. We do not really know when he will return stateside, but I do not expect him back this school year. I want to thank Mr. Brinkman, and all active duty/veterans, for their service to our country.

I started talking about our finances in the last newsletter. I want to continue on that theme. As stated, we are overspending when we compare the money we bring in versus the money we spend. It is important to realize that school funding is like a rollercoaster, and therefore the overspending is something all districts face from time to time. Expenses and salaries increase simply due to inflation and the cost of goods. On the other hand, the state share of instruction, which makes up about 56% of our revenue, remains flat at best. Our property and income taxes have some growth, but since these two together only supply about 39% of our revenue, this growth is not enough to stay up with the growth of our expenditures. As a district, we carefully monitor our expenses to keep them in line with our revenue. The Board's goal remains to be cautious with our spending, but even with that, our expenses continue to rise while our revenue is pretty much flat.

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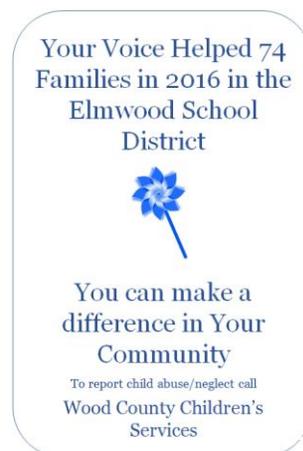
Elmwood Board of Education Members:

Brian King, President
Melanie Davis, VP
Ryan Lee
Debbie Reynolds
David Knisely

In a related topic, one area that we are seeing a drastic increase is the maintenance of our buildings. I continue to refer to our wonderful main campus as the “new building.” The problem is that the building, which opened in 2004, has been occupied for over 13 years. I think everyone understands that a building, or your home, that is over 13 years old, has mechanical issues that need addressed and fixed on a regular basis. We have a small amount of money that is collected with the debt on the building that we use for repairs, but this is not enough to cover the expenses year to year. Any additional money needed comes directly out of the general operating budget. Here is a fun fact to end this section. Do you know that in 6 years, we will completely pay off the debt for this building? When the debt goes away, so does our small amount we collect to maintain our buildings. This is something the Board needs to address in the near future.

Elmwood Tidbits:

I would like to congratulate Thomas Bodnar who received a \$100 scholarship from the Northwest Ohio Consortium of Coordinators for the Gifted. The scholarship is given for a student to pursue their passion. This is a competitive process, and 7 students from Northwest Ohio were granted scholarships. Thomas will use his money to work on his honey bee project that he does at home. This is the second time Thomas was awarded the scholarship. His first came a few years ago, and the money was used to pursue his interest in playing the drums. It is rare for a student to be given this award twice in their school career. Congratulations.



This April, Elmwood is joining Wood County Department of Job and Family Services to recognize “Ohio Child Abuse Prevention Month”. Child abuse and neglect is an unfortunate truth that must be remedied in our society. In 2016, there were 74 cases of child abuse reported and investigated in the Elmwood School District. To highlight the cause, 74 pinwheels will be placed around our school sign in April to represent these cases. The Job and Family Services staff annually raises awareness of child abuse and neglect by displaying pinwheels representing the reports of abuse and neglect. In addition it serves as a visual reminder and a call to action to prevent child abuse and neglect. Staff and Families in the Elmwood School District and all over Wood County are encouraged to “Wear Blue to School or Work” on Wednesday, April 12th, 2017 to show support for this cause.



Jonah Houtz, Elmwood HS Freshman, has auditioned for, and was accepted into the American Choral Director Association's National Choir along with other young singers across the nation. The National Honor Choir was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from March 8-11th. We believe Jonah was the first Elmwood student ever to reach the National level. Jonah and Ms. Rohrs, EHS Choir Director, had a fantastic time at the Conference in Minnesota. What a great learning experience for this young man.

Under a new law in Ohio, every junior now takes the ACT one time in the spring at no cost. Elmwood will administer the ACT to all juniors on Tuesday, March 21st. If a student wishes to take the ACT additional times, the student will need to register with ACT and that will be at the parent's expense like it has always been. On the ODE website is practice tests for both the ACT and SAT. The information is located at: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/ACT-and-SAT-Practice-Tests>.

The Wood County ESC was awarded a Drug Free Coalition Grant and one of the things they are sponsoring is a drug take back program. The program uses a company called Deterra, which manufactures drug deactivation pouches. To use the pouches you put your used medicines (pills, patches, and liquids) in the bag. Then you fill the bag to the desired line with water and seal the bag. Next, you shake the bag and then throw the package in the trash. The medicine is now deactivated and the bag and contents are safe for the environment. With today's heroin epidemic, we need to get unused painkillers and other drugs out of the house before they fall in the wrong hands. The grant has purchased two sizes of the pouches, and both are now available in my office here at Elmwood. The larger pouch is good for up to 90 pills, while the smaller package is better for up to 45 pills. These pouches that are used for destroying medicines are free if you would like one. Please stop by Central Office to pick up. I have a limited supply, and they are available on a first come basis. I am hoping to get more from the grant if these run out. On a side note, the Wood County Sheriff's Department in Bowling Green also has a container to drop off unwanted pills.



Congratulations to Jace Grossman on his 3rd place finish at the OHSAA State Wrestling Competition in the 182 lb. weight class for division 3.

I enjoyed being the mystery reader for Mrs. Hoffman's 3rd Grade Classroom.



Upcoming Events:

Friday, March 17th, End of the Third Quarter

Elmwood will present the musical “Curtains” the weekend of March 17 – 19th. The starting times are Friday and Saturday at 7 PM, and on Sunday at 3 PM.

Tuesday, March 21st, All Juniors take the ACT test

Friday, March 24th, MS Dance

Sunday, April 2nd, HS and MS Cheerleading Tryouts

Monday, April 10th, April Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, April 11th, Red Cross Blood Drive located in the HS gym from 7 AM until 3:30 PM

Wednesday, April 12th, Staff and Families in the Elmwood School District are encouraged to “Wear Blue to School or Work” in recognition of Ohio’s Child Abuse Prevention Month.

April 13 – 18th, Elmwood’s Spring Break

April 19th-21st, 5th Grade Camp at Heartland Camp

Monday, April 24th, Parent Presentation at 6 PM on the cyber-world and social media in relationship to our kids. More information to come.

Sunday, April 30th, Elmwood Band presents its annual Jazz Supper.

Tuesday, May 2nd, Election Day

Saturday, May 6th, Junior/Senior Prom

Monday, May 8th, Elmwood Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, May 18th, Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony at 6:30 PM

Sunday, May 21st, Spring Arts Festival from 1 PM until 5:00 PM

Monday, May 29th, No School for Memorial Day

Sunday, June 4th, Elmwood’s Graduation Ceremony at 2 PM