



# Community Connection

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## Education foundations help meet district needs

By Ty Ankrom

As anyone who has worked in education knows, there's never enough money to do all of the things one wants for students and schools.

Thankfully, in Pickaway County, each school district has an education foundation.

Shirley Bowser, who with Doris Yamarick got the ball rolling for the Pickaway County Community Foundation, knew that education foundations were needed.

"A lot of people look for ways to support schools but may not want to serve on a school board," Shirley said.

Westfall's Education Foundation, created in 2006, helps fund scholarships, student opportunities — such as sending students to leadership conferences and cultural experiences — educational grants, school programs and facilities.

Recently the foundation awarded a \$2,000 grant to help buy choral risers for use by middle and high school students.

Westfall's annual fundraiser is Party with a Purpose, scheduled for Nov. 11.

Each district — Circleville City Schools, Logan Elm and Teays Valley — has since started its own education foundation. The school foundations exist under the Community Foundation umbrella.

While each foundation has similar goals of supporting students and teach-

### GET INVOLVED

Learn more about each district's education foundation at:

**Circleville:** <http://circleville-cityschoolfoundation.org>

**Logan Elm:** [www.loganelmeducationfoundation.org](http://www.loganelmeducationfoundation.org)

**Teays Valley:** Send an e-mail to [TVSD@tvsd.us](mailto:TVSD@tvsd.us).

**Westfall:** <http://westfalleducationfoundation.org/party-with-a-purpose>

ers through scholarships and grants and connecting with alumni, each group raises money through its own fundraiser.

The Circleville City School Foundation hosts Raise Your Paw on the last Saturday in February and money raised has gone toward two \$1,500 scholarships to graduating seniors, three \$2,000 post-graduate scholarships, 20 Kids on Campus scholarships to elementary school students and, "as many as possible Washington, D.C., scholarships," said Patty Truex, a foundation board member.

Patty said the foundation strives to provide mini-grants of less than \$500 that generally are awarded to teachers to promote student learning. In 2016, the foundation awarded grants of more than \$500 that went toward technology



Educational foundation representatives spoke to the Sunrise Rotary group recently. From left, Jay Wippel, Westfall; Jeff Sheets, Teays Valley; Patty Truex, Circleville; and Perry Orndorff, Logan Elm.

projects, an outdoor boardwalk on campus, a robotics project, and a media arts program at the high school.

Teays Valley has an annual auction in March that has grown, raising \$4,000 in its first year and \$73,000 this year.

Jeff Sheets, a member of Teays Valley's foundation board, said besides creating financial support, the foundation also has community support, evidenced by more than 500 attendees at this year's auction.

"This year we are budgeted to spend \$101,000 in classroom grants and other district incentives," Jeff said.

Logan Elm has had a Chocolate Extravaganza since its inception in 2009. This year its fall fundraiser was the Braves, Blues & BBQ, said Cathy Knoop, who's

been involved with the group since 2008.

"The response to this new fundraiser was very positive," Cathy said.

Money raised has gone to scholarships plus the foundation budgets \$13,000 in teacher grants that can be used for classroom projects and field trips, Cathy said.

Last year, about 60 students were able to see Tecumseh, get a backstage tour and have dinner; go to Barnes & Noble where they chose a book; and take part in a campus Camp Day that provided activities related to art, technology and science, said Amy Colburn, Logan Elm's Curriculum director.

Students in third through 12th grades will be invited to take part in similar activities this year, she said.

## Mustache Day

Pickaway Elementary had Mustache Day for kindergarteners last month as part of Read Across America, tied to Dr. Seuss' birthday. The children had read Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax."



## Five seniors awarded college scholarships

Five students representing each of the Pickaway County schools were selected recently as recipients of the Leo Moats Scholarship.

Selected as 2017 scholarship winners were sisters Avery and Bryce DeLong of Circleville High School; Baylee Hartman of Logan Elm High School; Brooke Carothers of Teays Valley High School; and Paige Kirby of Westfall High School.

The Leo Moats Scholarship Dinner and Reverse Raffle, which was held March 25 at the AmVets, is an annual fundraiser started by the Sunrise Rotary club in 1994 to honor Leo, a founding club member who died in 1993 of cancer.

Since 1994, the club has awarded about \$150,000 in scholarships through the Leo Moats Scholarship Foundation.

To learn more about the Foundation, go to [www.circlevillesunriserotary.com/leo-moats-scholarship.html](http://www.circlevillesunriserotary.com/leo-moats-scholarship.html).

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER: Students need to learn to sift facts from fiction

The phrase "fake news" has become commonplace and as students use the media as a resource, it's also important to teach them how to know what to use.

In the past, current events assignments required students to read newspapers, clip articles and then discuss in class the news aspect of the article.

Generally, a household subscribed to a single newspaper that contained local, national and world news.

But, according to the Pew Research Center, in 2015 "weekday



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2010."

Today, anyone can go online and find dozens of "news" outlets — from the venerated to the questionable.

circulation fell 7 percent and Sunday circulation fell 4 percent, both showing their greatest declines since

Just as most of us would dissuade learners from relying on Wikipedia as a trustworthy resource for research, we also need to provide students with media literacy skills.

A recent *USA Today* article highlighted four qualities of good journalism that readers should recognize ([www.eschool-news.com/2017/03/10/ew-usa-today-media-literacy/](http://www.eschool-news.com/2017/03/10/ew-usa-today-media-literacy/)):

- Journalism should be complete, including all sides and spectrums of a story.
- It should be honest, letting people know of any biases.

- Every last detail should be accurate and fact-checked.
- Journalism should be fair, regardless of any biases involved

Explaining those four tenants can help students determine if an article is newsworthy.

Common Sense Media, a nonprofit organization that promotes helping young people understand the media and technology, suggests that adults encourage young people to:

- Be skeptical of what they're reading;
- Recognize different types

of news — investigative journalism and editorials, for example, are different;

- Examine the source — a "study" promoting the benefits of a product that was paid for by that product may lack objectivity.

Resources for educators can be found at [www.common-sense-media.org/educators](http://www.common-sense-media.org/educators).

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