

LOCAL SCHOOLS

621 WASHINGTON ST
BALTIMORE, OH 43105

www.libertyunion.org

Ohio Department of Education: www.ode.state.oh.us/

To view the "Lion Report" in color, refer to www.libertyunion.org.
Under recent updates, click on "District Lion Report."



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THE MISSION OF THE
LIBERTY UNION - THURSTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
IS TO PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS WITH THE TOOLS
FOR LEARNING AND THE SKILLS FOR LIVING,
THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION.

Message from the Superintendent:

Happy New Year! This year, there will be many opportunities for challenge at LU-T. The priorities we will focus on include:

- ❖ The economy in Ohio and throughout the nation will make it necessary for us to operate with a much fiscal caution. This month, we may face cuts in state funding, affecting us immediately. Beyond that, I am very concerned about the level of state funding which will be earmarked for public school education during the next two-year state budget, beginning July 1st.
- ❖ No Child Left Behind (N.C.L.B.) requirements include steeper benchmarks for student achievement each year, leading up to a 100% expectation in the year 2014. N.C.L.B. requirements include provisions to check the performance levels of "sub-groups" of students. At LU-T, students identified as "economically disadvantaged", and students requiring special education services are the sub-groups the district is focusing on in order to meet the federal requirements.
- ❖ We will work to help students in grade five meet state benchmarks for academic performance in mathematics. Statewide, this has been a very difficult indicator for school districts to meet. Again this year, we will provide additional mathematics tutoring for students in this grade level.
- ❖ Meeting the state benchmark for student performance in social studies in grade eight has also proven to be difficult. This has also been the trend statewide during the two years this test has been given, and is complicated by the fact that students are tested on objectives from grades six through eight.
- ❖ Preparing for renovation of the high school and building a new middle school will continue to be time-consuming, but exciting projects.

Paul Mathews

DISTRICT FINANCIAL UPDATE

Fiscal Year 2008 - (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008)

INCOME

- State Funds 48.21%
 - **Local** Real Estate Taxes 19.95%
 - **Local** School Income Taxes 23.63%
 - **Local** Personal Tangible Taxes 3.01%
 - * Other 5.20%
- * Includes reimbursement from outside district for foster placements, etc., investment earnings, and open enrollment revenue

FISCAL YEAR 2005 EXPENDITURES

- Salaries 57.88%
 - Employee Benefits 18.41%
 - Purchased Services 14.33%
 - Supplies & Materials 5.11%
 - Capital Outlay 1.08%
 - Note Re-payment 0.00%
 - ** Other 3.19%
- ** Includes liability insurance, County Board of Education fees, audit costs, County Auditor and treasurer fees, etc.

ADMINISTRATION

Paul E. Mathews , Superintendent	862-4171
David I. Butler , Treasurer	862-4171
Ed Miller , High School Principal	862-4107
Chet Coleman , Asst High School Principal	862-4107
Scott Williamson , Athletic Director	862-4107
Hank Gavarkavich , Middle School Principal	862-4126
Kelli Brownfield , Elementary School Principal	862-4143
Judy Cleland , Transportation Coordinator	862-4171
Jan Friedrich , Food Service Supervisor	862-4107

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



The "Teacher of the Month" for December is **Mrs. Wendy Buskirk**, who is a first-grade teacher at LU-T. She was selected by her peers to receive this award. **Mrs. Buskirk** will be recognized at the January 12, 2009, Board of Education meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in the high

school library.

Our thanks to the Mark Matthews Insurance Agency, for sponsorship of this award program during the 2008/2009 school year!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH RECOGNITION

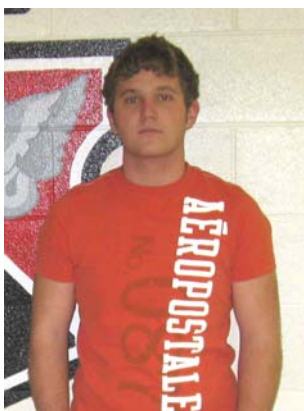
The Liberty Union High School "Students of the Month" for December are **Jayne Born** and **Ryan Jensen**.

Jayne Born is a junior at LUHS with a 4.1 weighted grade-point average. She is a three-year member of Student Council,



is President of FCCLA, has earned varsity letters in volleyball and softball. **Jayne** is also a member of the Knowledge Bowl Team, and still finds time to work a part-time job.

Ryan Jensen is a senior at LUHS, and has been an Honor Roll student throughout high school. He is an FFA Officer, a member of the Varsity Golf Team, Varsity Baseball team, and enjoys being a leader of the student spirit section at football games. **Ryan** is active in his church youth group, and also works a part-time job.



Jayne and **Ryan** will be recognized at the January 12th Board of Education meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Any graduate of Liberty Union High School or Thurston High School may obtain more information or an application for future Athletic Hall of Fame induction by contacting Mr. Scott Williamson, Athletic Director, at 500 Washington Street, Baltimore, Ohio 43105, or by phone at (740) 862 – 4107.

MILITARY RECOGNITION

Do you have a family member or friend who is a LUHS graduate and has served or is currently serving our country through military service? Bring, mail or e-mail a picture and pertinent information to the District Office. With your help, our alumni will receive some well-deserved recognition!

MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

The featured military service person for January is Colonel **Rick McQuiston**. **Rick** graduated from Liberty Union High



School in 1977, and began his military career that same year, enlisting in the United States Air Force. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in 1982. His post-high school education includes a BA in History from OSU in 1982, a Masters' Degree in Aviation Science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Air Command and Staff College in 1995, and Air War College in 1996. **Rick** has also completed

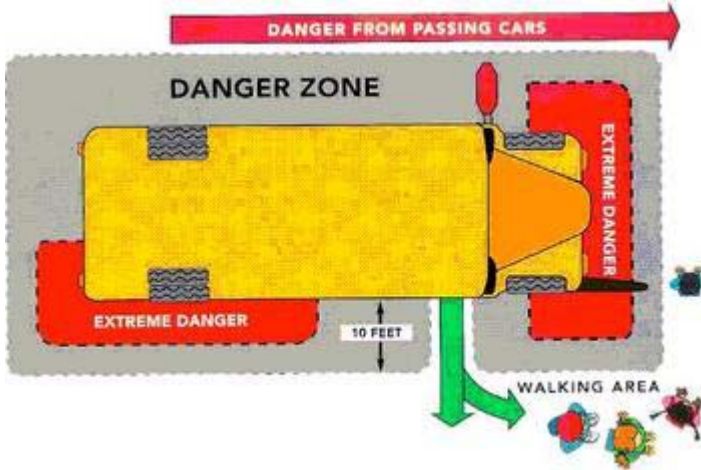
advanced military training as a Navigator, Intelligence Officer and Navigator Instructor, as well as in areas of Electronic Combat, Combat Targeting, and Survival Training. He earned "Distinguished Graduate" honors for Advanced Navigator training, Fundamentals of Intelligence, Intelligence Applications, and was selected as an "Outstanding Young Man of America". **Rick** has had many varying assignments in his distinguished military career, including:

Location	Assignment
Mather Air Force Base, California	Undergraduate Navigator Training 1982-1983
Kadena Air Base, Japan	Navigator 1983-1985
Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska	Reconnaissance Instructor, Evaluator Navigator, Wing Life Support Officer, Mission Planning & Tactics Officer 1985-1992
Rickenbacker Air Base, Ohio	Instructor Navigator, Tactics Officer, Wing Intelligence Officer 1992-2000
Ranstein Air Base, Germany	Theater Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Planner 1998
Bolling Air Base, Washington D.C.	Faculty Member of National Defense Intelligence College 2000-2005
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.	Deputy Career Field Manager for HQ Air Force Director of Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance 2002-2005
Randolph Air Base, Texas	Senior Intelligence Officer (Responsible for all Air Force Intelligence Training)

Rick and his spouse, Monica, live in Fredericksburg, Virginia. His parents, Richard and Shelby, still live in Baltimore. We thank **Rick** for his lengthy career, serving America through the United States Air Force, as a graduate of Liberty Union High School!

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

Daily across the state, parents attempt to catch up to a bus in their automobile, and then have the child run to catch their school bus from behind. This dangerous practice happens time and time again. Unfortunately, this creates an extreme risk for the student; it places them in a situation where the bus driver has no chance of seeing either the automobile or the student as they run along the side of the bus. Students should NEVER run to catch a bus, especially from behind, or from a car that has pulled up behind a bus. It is safer for the parent to transport the student to their school building or to a bus stop at which the bus has not yet arrived.



CURRENT 2008-2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Jan. 5	School Resumes
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day - No School
Feb. 16	Presidents Day - No School
April 9-13	Spring Break - No School
May 25	Memorial Day - No School
May 31	3:15 p.m. - Graduation
June 2	Student Last Day
June 3	Teacher Work Day

FOURTH-GRADE SINGING PERFORMANCES

Fourth-Grade students, under the direction of Mrs. Kelly Leach, performed several concerts in December. They sang at Griley Library, helping to usher in the arrival of Santa Claus. They also performed at Indian Mound Mall, as well as at a school assembly. Thanks to Mrs. Leach and the students for an excellent job at each performance.



SCHOOLCENTRAL



Liberty Union-Thurston Local School is deploying a new communication platform to better meet your needs. It is called SchoolCentral. This will allow us to distribute information to parents and students via the web, mobile web, e-mail and text message. The platform

is fast and efficient. We will be implementing the SchoolCentral platform throughout the district; and it will be the primary method of communication in the event of an emergency. As a result, we highly recommend parents follow the directions below and register for a free account.

Directions for signing up for Notification

Go to the website: <http://libertyunion.yourschoolcentral.com>

- Under **Sign Up**, click on **Sign up for an account**
- Fill in the necessary fields; click **Next**
- Fill in y **A skip**; click **Next**
- Choose the school or schools that your children attend; click **Next**
- Put a check in the box before **LU Parents** click **Next**
- Type a password of your choosing. (The school will NOT have access to your password so make sure you write it down and remember it.)
- Put a check in the box before **I accept the terms of use**; click **Signup**. (You will receive a confirmation email. This will not occur immediately. When you receive the email, follow the directions to activate your account.)
- Open the e-mail and click on the link as directed.
- Click on "Profile" (It's the 2nd heading from the left in the red stripe at the top)
- Under **My Groups** click on **joining groups**
- To the right of **LU Parents**, click on **join group**
- Click on **Profile**
- In the "My Information" box click **Alert Settings**
- **Put a check in the SMS box if you WANT to receive text message alerts.**
- **Put a check in the email box if you want to receive e-mail alerts. (or both)**
- Click **Sign Out** (upper right). You are now registered to receive e-mail and/or text message notification for Liberty Union Schools.

BRUTUS BUCKEYE VISITS

Students at the elementary school were treated to a surprise visit from Brutus Buckeye, during a school assembly. Taking

time out from preparations for the Fiesta Bowl, Brutus and The Ohio State University Cheerleading Coach stressed the importance of physical

fitness, making your best effort in school, and of course, great school spirit! Thanks, **Brutus**, for taking time to visit with us!



January, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5 School Resumes 5:00 Jr Hi Girls BB @ Grandview 5:00 Jr Hi Boys BB vs Grandview	6 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Girls BB vs Millersport 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Boys BB @ Bexley 7:30 Music Boosters	7 5:00 Jr Hi Wrest @ Columbus Academy 7:30 Athletic Boosters	8 5:00 Jr Hi Girls BB @ Millersport 5:00 Jr Hi Boys BB vs Millersport 7:00 Elementary Boosters	9 10:00 Var Wrest @ Licking Heights 6:00 & 7:00 JV & Var Boys BB @ Berne Un	10 10:00 Var Wrest @ Licking Heights 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Girls BB vs W Jeff
11	12 5:00 Jr Hi Girls BB vs West Jeff 5:00 Jr Hi Boys BB @ West Jeff 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Boys BB @ Grandview 7:00 Board of Education	13 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Girls BB @ Lakewood, Hebron	14	15 5:00 Jr Hi Girls BB @ Harvest Prep (8 th Grade ONLY) 5:00 Jr Hi Boys BB vs Harvest Prep 7:00 Swim @ Lanc Y vs Pick Central	16 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Girls BB @ Harvest Prep	17 8:30 Board of Education Plan Session 10:00 Var Wrest @ Amanda 5:00 BINGO 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Boys BB @ Millersport
18	19 No School MLK Day	20 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Girls BB vs Licking Heights	21	22 5:00 Jr Hi Girls BB vs Licking Heights 5:00 Jr Hi Boys BB @ Licking Heights 6:00 Var Wrest vs River Valley 7:00 Market Day Pick-Up	23 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Boys BB @ W Jeff	24 9:00 Jr Hi Wrest @ Philo 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Girls BB @ Fisher
25	26 5:00 Jr Hi Girls BB @ St Mary 5:00 Jr Hi Boys BB vs St Mary	27 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Boys BB vs Harvest Prep (Jr Hi Recognition)	28	29 5:00 Jr Hi Girls BB @ Berne Union 5:00 Jr Hi Boys BB vs Berne Union	30 6:00 & 7:30 JV & Var Girls BB @ Berne Un	31 6:00 & 7:30 Boys BB @ Licking Heights

7:00 p.m. in the High School Library Strategic Planning Committee Meetings
Thursday, February 26 th
Tuesday, May 21 st

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
Saturday, February 14, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

ATHLETIC EVENT PRICES			
Sport	Adult	Student	Golden Buckeye
Varsity	\$5	\$3	Free
All Others	\$4	\$2	Free
All Season Pass	\$75	\$50	