

INSIDE
What you'll find
in this edition...

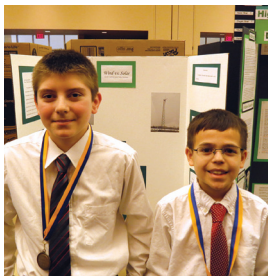
the perry way

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APRIL 2013

ROBOTICS TEAM QUALIFIES FOR WORLD CONTEST

GOOD SCIENCE



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GET HEALTHY



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NO PROBLEM



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JUST RUN



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Robotics has become the standard bearer in STEM education as high schools, colleges, and universities around the world focus their software and hardware engineering efforts on inventing better and better machines and ultimately plunge their creations into the underworld of robotics competitions. This past month, the Perry Robotics team took 1st place in Marion, Ohio and qualified for the 2013 VEX Robotics World Championship to be held on April 17th through the 21st, in Anaheim, California.

The team consists of six members: Darren Neiman, Blaine Luszcak, Zak Kramer, Evan Nichols, Josh Tamburlin, and Caleb Ziamba and is coached by Mrs. Bonnie Kovacic. The Robotics team has won two tournaments this year, and is poised to compete at the world level against teams from the United States, China, Mexico, Ireland, Columbia, and Canada.

The Perry Robotics team is in its second year of existence and has experienced a great amount of success already. Last year, the team competed at a National Tournament in Washington, DC, after qualifying at a local tournament.



Perry High School senior, Josh Tamburlin prepares his team's entry for their recent competition in Marion, Ohio.

This year, the team had its sights set on competing in the World Competition and most recently qualified out of a group of 80 teams at the Marion, Ohio, VEX robotics competition. The team members represent the Perry Community in a positive light, while all carrying a 3.8 or greater GPA.

Learn more about Perry Robotics at:

www.perry-lake.org/Robotics.aspx. More information about the VEX Robotics World Championship can be found at: www.robotevents.com/2013-vex-robotics-high-school-world-championship.html.

ARE YOU READY FOR 2015?

by Jack Thompson Ed. D., Superintendent



As we proudly celebrate the numerous achievements our students continue to accomplish this year, what has also made me particularly proud to be a Perry Pirate is the work our District staff is doing in preparation for the educational changes required by 2015. Few would raise a question if we chose to just sit back and relish in the many accolades already a historic part of 2012-2013:

- Rated Excellent by the Ohio Dept. of Education for the 9th straight year
- Earned a historic second place designation in the State Wrestling Tournament
- Qualified for the National and World Robotic competitions

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COMMUNITY VALUES YOUTH?

The teachers, staff and counselors of Perry Schools continue to promote the notion to equip our students with as many of the 40 assets as possible. Why?

Search Institute research indicates that ideally, a young person that has 31 assets or more is 97% less likely to engage in substance abuse and early sexual behavior. The rest of the breakdowns: 21 to 30 assets: 80 to 81% less likely, 11-20 assets: 60 to 70 less likely, less than 11: around 50%. The more the better, but we need to help all kids have at least 31 assets.

The 40 assets and extensive information can be found at <http://www.search-institute.org/>.

In a book I just finished, *Nurture Shock* by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, the authors stated in their conclusion:

“Over the last 10 years, a new branch of psychology has emerged. Rather than studying clinical patients with pathologies, these scientists have applied their skills to studying healthy, happy people who thrive, in order to discern what were the habits, values, and neuroscience of those with greater well-being. This new starting-point has led to insights about strengthening positive emotions such as resilience, happiness and gratitude.”

Resilience, for example, is not an emotion, rather a quality which may

or may not pertain to a person - that ability to bounce back from adversity or challenging circumstances. Positive emotions may help a person be more resilient.

This is exactly the approach used by Search Institute in promoting the 40 assets. In the spring of 2012, students in grades 8-11, completed a survey, “The Profiles of Student Attitudes and Behaviors”. It is the second time the students had completed the survey in the past two years. We have put many things in place to address gaps that appeared after the first survey, and we are seeing significant gains in the areas of Family Support, Positive Peer Influence, Youth Programs, Achievement Motivation, Integrity, Positive View of Personal Future, and Restraint.

The one area that seemed to confuse us was “Community Values Youth”, which remained at 25%. What this meant, was that only 25% of the youth surveyed reported being valued by the community.

During our last teacher in-service, we asked our staff to share “Something I’ve done to promote the 40 assets”. Many of their activities directly benefitted the community. Here are a few examples:

- Community Green Day
- Community Garden
- Quarters for Cancer
- Relay for Life

by Tom deHaas, PES Guidance Counselor

- Perry Service Learning activities
- A Walk in Their Shoes
- Salvation Army
- Perry Center Food Collection
- Kids Care Club
- Big Buddies
- Adopt a Family
- Cards/Care Packages for Veterans
- PHS Band service activities
- Buccaneers - Senior Citizen Dinner

This short list illustrates that our students are involved in numerous activities benefitting others at school and in our community. It is obvious that they value helping their community, as is seen from the great list of things that they do. And, we have come to the conclusion that The Community DOES Value Youth. What seems to be lacking is a feeling that they and their efforts are being appreciated and valued by the folks in the school and community. We simply need to tell them - to compliment and thank them more often, and reward that positive behavior, so it keeps happening.

Please consider, from time to time, dropping a note of thanks to a student or school organization. We, as a staff promise to do a better job in sharing the thank you notes we receive.

TOGETHER, we can let our young people know, “Our Community Values Youth”!

PMS SCIENCE FAIR

Participants in the 11th Annual Perry Middle School Science Fair were required to design, perform and report on their own experiment, that they had been working on since the beginning of the school year. Perry science students, from the sixth and seventh grades competed in the January Science Fair under the direction of seventh grade science teacher and Science Fair coordinator, Mrs. Nancy Moseley.

Students competing in this year’s event were seventh graders, Rose Sawyers, Leigh Stavar, Brenna Freeman, Maddie Peirce, Hannah Snider and Venessa Perez, along with sixth graders, Jacob Culliton, Mike Scarano, Noah Gourley,

Olivia Kline, Elena Ciolli, Olivia Mayse and Angela Vicini. All students qualified to move onto the Regional Competition hosted by the University in Akron, in March. Those making the trip were Elena Ciolli, Olivia Kline, Vanessa Perez, Hannah Snider, Jacob Culliton and Mike Scarano.

Elena Ciolli placed third in the Biochemistry category and has been selected as an alternate for state competition. Elena’s experiment determined which cleaning method worked best for a baby’s pacifier.

All students from grades five to twelve are eligible to participate in this annual event.



Elena Ciolli with Dr. Ali Dhinojwala, Director of the Department of Polymer Science at the University of Akron

FUTURE CHEFS SPROUT FROM PERRY ELEMENTARY



Perry third grader, Kylie Walker finishes in first place at the 3rd Annual Sodexo 'Future Chefs' competition.

Perry School District is pleased to announce the winner of the 3rd Annual Sodexo Future Chefs culinary competition. Open to Perry third and fourth grade students, the event required participants to submit their favorite healthy salad recipe. A total of 57 recipes were submitted, without names, and distributed to a five-member selection committee, who selected five finalists. The winner of this year's event is third grader Kylie Walker, with her "Salad Spectacular, Paradise Supreme". Runners-up are fellow third grader, Conor Baranauskas, and fourth

graders, Josie Gill, Jack Loxterman and Desmond Malone.

The finalists' recipes were assigned to five Perry Food Service members, who worked with the students at the final event in Perry's high school cafeteria on March 12. At the main competition, the judges considered five criteria: Originality, Ease of Preparation, Healthy Attributes, Kid-Friendly and Plate Presentation.

All contestants in this local competition received a certificate and a basket containing cooking utensils and other kitchen items. The winner received a cookbook, a large basket of

kitchen items, and everyone got to keep their chef coat and traditional chef's hat.

As an added bonus, the winner of this event will be entered into a national competition for more great prizes.

Sodexo Future Chefs is a national program that encourages students to learn about good nutrition by creating their own fun with creative and healthy recipes. In addition to crowning a national champion, Sodexo takes the best 12 recipes from the challenge each year and features them on school meal menus in the nearly 500 school districts the company serves nationally.



Perry Elementary School's 'Future Chefs' competition finalists are (from left), Kylie Walker, Conor Baranauskas, Desmond Malone, Josie Gill and Jack Loxterman.

HEALTHIER LIVING

Over the past few months, students in grades 3–5 have been given the opportunity to participate in activities that help them understand the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. A child's healthy outlook begins at home with parents who support good fitness by making sure their children get plenty of sleep, eat breakfast and make great health choices. To help our students start the day off right, all students in the Perry Local Schools are able to eat breakfast at school. This program was new at the elementary school last year and is now being offered at the middle school building this year. Many children are taking advantage of our breakfast program each day; it has been a positive addition to the students' day.

This past month, Mrs. Vicki Peters, our food service director, coordinated a Future Chef program for students in grades 3 and 4 which helped them gain a better understanding of healthy eating habits. Students created their own healthy salad recipes with ingredients of their own choice, and wrote out the recipe to be entered into the competition.

The students did an outstanding job of presenting their salads and describing their ingredients. All five finalists were winners, which made for a large celebration. The entire event was a great way to help our students understand the importance of eating healthy.

Another activity that many of our students participated in was the

family fitness group held by Mr. Dave Ohler, our very own "Gym Guy". Families were welcomed to take part in this exhilarating activity every Wednesday morning from 8:00–8:30, in the elementary gym, from January 16 through March 20. Several families participated and enjoyed in these weekly workouts.

Mr. Ohler didn't stop there, as he continued right on to our Perry staff by hosting a staff fitness workout after school once a week.

Our students and staff are fortunate to have Mr. Ohler provide these fun and healthy opportunities.

It is our hope that our students contribute to the choices our families make and continue their quest to a healthier lifestyle.

—by Shelley Pulling, PES Principal

ENHANCING OUR TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Pathways to Success for All Students

It is an exciting time at Perry as district infrastructure for technology becomes enhanced and curriculum is developed, so that students can demonstrate learning objectives in real-world ways. The elementary, middle, and high schools have set their sights on engaging all students at high levels of achievement through:

- positive relationships with students
- responding to student needs in a timely manner
- critical thinking (intellectual reading, writing, and effective communication)
- authentic partnerships with the community that lead students to college and career pathways

Teams of staff have visited classrooms across each school to better understand our collective instructional practice and the impact

by Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

we are making on students at every level. Thereby, we ask ourselves “if I were a student in this classroom, what would I understand and be able to translate to real-world problems as a result of this lesson?” At each school, we are moving toward deeper pathways to support each student’s interests and individual learning needs that will ultimately prepare students well for careers, college and citizenship.

New offerings are under consideration in the district to launch by 2014-15, to include: pathways at the elementary school to include a second language immersion pathway, traditional pathway, or problem-based learning (PBL) pathway; pathways at the middle and high schools to include a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) pathway with the potential for internships

in high school leading to college and careers. To learn more about academic pathways in mathematics and English/Language Arts available now to students, download the brochure called *A Parent’s Guide to Common Core Standards in Mathematics and English/Language Arts* located on the Academics tab of the district website.

Ohio’s Next Generation Assessments Replaces Current State Tests (OAA and OGT)

With each passing month, Perry becomes more and more prepared for Ohio’s Next Generation Assessments. Effective 2014-15, the changes in Ohio assessments for students in grades 3-12 will be largely computer-based. District and State achievement results are used to identify each student for optimal learning.

CONGRATULATIONS PERRY WRESTLERS

Five members of the Perry wrestling team qualified for a trip to the OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament in Columbus this season. All five wrestlers placed, setting a school record, including heavyweight Billy Miller, who won Perry’s first individual state championship in the sport.

Pictured sitting atop Perry High School’s new “Pride Rock” are (from left) Collin Dees, Evan Nichols, Aaran Gessic, Billy Miller and Alec Schenk.

The Pirates earned a second place finish in the Division II race.



PES RIGHT TO READ NIGHT

Students will “Pop” Open a Good Book this spring, as they prepare for Right to Read Night at Perry Elementary School on Thursday, May 9, from 5:30-8:00 pm. The children are encouraged to read every day, and special prizes will be awarded to our readers.

Brod Bagert, author of seventeen poetry books, will be our guest speaker. He will present to the children during the day and to the families at the evening celebration, when students’ books will be on display for everyone to enjoy. Other fun activities include

a craft, games, guest readers, and the Book Fair, featuring hundreds of books from new and favorite authors, posters and school supplies. Students will also have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair during their library classes from May 3rd to May 10th.

ARE YOU READY FOR 2015? ...continued from page 1

- Created awarded winning science projects by our PMS students
- Received superior ratings for our band and choir
- Produced outstanding artwork displayed at our Annual Art Show
- Entertained audiences with play performances by our very talented theater students...and the list goes on.

No matter how gratifying our many accomplishments might be, we cannot afford to slow in our endless pursuit to improve. Again, I am pleased to see how we have responded to the many state and federal mandates we are expected to quickly implement by the 2014-15 school year. While continuing to do whatever it takes to maintain our excellence today, our staff has been busily preparing for what is in store for us in the future:

- The Third Grade Guarantee that states no student will be promoted to 4th grade if they are not "on track" in reading

- The Next Generation of Assessments our students will be taking in 2015

- The development of a new Ohio Teacher Evaluation System

- And, most significantly, the implementation of an entirely new curriculum in English and Math known as the Common Core

To ensure we will be well prepared for these mandates, our staff has been working tirelessly:

- Writing new curriculum and designing units
- Implementing a new assessment system to diagnose student needs (MAP)
- Designing common assessments to measure student progress
- Creating new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math pathways (STEM)
- Improving how we serve our growing population of English Language Learners

- Developing a continuum of services for our gifted population

- Participating in instructional rounds to identify and observe growth areas

- Working to collaboratively develop a new teacher evaluation system

- Drafting a 2014-15 school calendar proposal

Please be assured that Perry Local Schools is ahead of the curve. Other districts are already reaching out to us for assistance, as they also attempt to meet the many demands and requirements being placed on our public school system. As always, thank you for your continued support, and thanks to our outstanding staff for stepping up to ensure we continue to lead the way in responding to the needs of all our students. We will be prepared for 2015, and ready to meet the changing demands of these educational shifts for the benefit of our students and community.

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

—by Jodi Poremba, PES Principal

The second graders at Perry Elementary have participated in several Problem-based Learning (PBL) opportunities this year. PBL is a student-centered learning approach in which students learn about a subject through the experience of solving a problem. The goal of PBL is to develop in the students, flexible knowledge, effective problem solving skills, self-directed learning, effective collaboration skills and intrinsic motivation. PBL is authentic learning.

Ensuring our students are college and career ready is a focus for us all, and using Problem-based learning allows students to focus on real problems that are current and meaningful to move their learning forward. According to Phil Schlechty, author of *Schools for the 21st Century*, "Too many children leave school without having developed the skills, attitudes and habits of mind, that will equip them for life in the 21st

century..." Furthermore, he writes that the civic, intellectual and workplace demands of this century will require that ALL students can "read, write and cipher...think and solve problems...draw upon a rich vocabulary based on a deep understanding of language and the human condition."

In order to do this we need the combination of the following: Adequate amounts of essential subject-area content, concepts and topics; Intellectual/thinking skills (e.g., argument, problem solving, reconciling opposing views, drawing one's own conclusions); and Authentic Literacy.

Second grade teacher, Mrs. Mary Kohl had the opportunity to study with other teachers this summer at the University of Akron through the Ohio STEM Learning Network to learn about Problem-based Learning. After the second grade teachers work on

the design of the PBL, Mrs. Poremba presents a problem to the student for them to solve. The teachers then guide the students through the PBL process leading to a solution.

The students have solved several problems for Mrs. Poremba this year. Some of the problems include:

- How can Mrs. Poremba get to know all of the second grade students in a short period of time? A problem that incorporated data collection and graphing.

- How can we, as young historians, learn about past and present and share it with our school? A problem related to Second Grade Social Studies and Research objectives.

- How can we add sound to our Halloween parade? This problem included discovering what makes sound and then creating sound for the parade.

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PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING...continued from page 5

• How can we learn how to read fluently and showcase our reading skills?

This problem was student-developed and culminated in a show they produced called "Reading Idol".

• How can we decorate our classroom for the holidays without wasting any paper? Measurement skills were critical to the solution for this dilemma.

• The students' current PBL asked them to consider if one person can change the world and if so, can they change their world at Perry Elementary? Research, biographies and opinion writing were used to begin the work of this PBL.

After the students work to find the solution to the problems, they present the solution to Mrs. Poremba and their classmates. Here are just a few things that the second grade students had to say about Problem-based learning:

• "It's fun because you get to do stuff, and you have to figure it out. And it is fun to help people do well, and not repeat the bad (comment about the past and present PBL)." – Mikey E.

• "One of our problems is how to change our school and make it better. It is fun to do, and the learning is fascinating. It might be hard at first, but it gets easier." – Jenna

• "It is very fun solving problems, because we get to observe things and put them into a project." – Ella

• "We need harder problems, with everybody helping to solve the problems, it is easy." – Colton

"We are solving a problem where we have to make a plan on how to change the world. I like having the opportunity to solve problems." – Tracey

If you would like to see the students in action, visit www.useducationtv.com/default.aspx?sid=28570#3deb062df5264a7990c2437a155ef3ab_0.

Or, www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_hQASiaky0&feature=youtu.be, to watch videos about PBL in 2nd grade.



WHY STEM EDUCATION...?

"STEM" and STEM education refers to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This framework and focus for schools is considered to be vital to our future—the future of our country, the future of our region, the future of Lake County, and the future of Perry students. STEM shapes our everyday experiences.

The foundation of STEM and the foundation for future employment for our students is found in the following skills: problem solving, critical thinking, authentic reading/writing, and personal communication.



Students with this skill set are finding good paying jobs in nearly every field. Lake County firms are struggling to find employees with these skills to fill many of their vacant jobs.

In 2009, the Department of Labor listed the ten most wanted employees. Eight of those employees were ones with degrees in the STEM fields: accounting, computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, information sciences and systems, computer engineering, civil engineering, and economics and finance.

According to the Department of Commerce, STEM occupations are growing at 17%, while others are growing at 9.8%. Health care workers with associate degrees to doctors of medicine will average 20% more in life time earnings than peers with similar degrees in non-health care.

A glance at 2010 starting salaries for engineers was \$47,145, for civil engineers, to \$60,054, for chemical engineers.

Likewise, according to the Labor

—by Robert Knisely, PMS Principal
Department, some of the fastest growing degreed occupations and their median wages are:

- Biomedical engineers, \$77,400
- Network systems and data communications analysts, \$71,100
- Financial examiners, \$70,930
- Medical scientists, except epidemiologists, \$72,590
- Physician assistants, \$81,230
- Biochemists and biophysicists, \$82,840

For our region, investing in the future of science, technology, engineering and mathematics makes sense for local Lake County firms like Steris, AMD, Lubrizol, and Avery Dennison, the center of what is being considered by many to be the hub of high-tech manufacturing in Northeast Ohio.

Perry is taking a comprehensive approach to the STEM initiative. We have made college and career readiness a district goal and are working to create college and career academies at the HS level, while giving our students a firm foundation in STEM beginning next school year at the middle school.

THE BENEFITS OF AP PROGRAMMING

by Todd Porcello, PHS Principal

Why should a student take an AP course? This is a question often posed by both students and parents. The College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) was created to enable students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. There are numerous course options with each course culminating with a rigorous exam. This exam is used to determine how qualified a student is in a subject area. As the state of Ohio and Perry Local Schools strive to produce students who are college and career ready, AP courses provide a great measuring stick. Here are the top three reasons to take an AP Course:

1) RIGOR and CHALLENGE

The curriculum taught in an AP course is a worldwide curriculum that provides a college level course during high school. This allows a student to not only take courses with a college level curriculum, but it also provides a free opportunity to test one's college readiness level. This can help identify areas needed for improvement prior to college, where course credits can be expensive.

It also provides a challenge to students that will help develop discipline, time management and study skills, which will be essential skills upon graduation from high school. In addition, the confidence a student can gain from an AP experience will be carried onto a college campus.

2) SAVE MONEY

Each AP course has an end of course exam to measure one's ability level within that course. The AP courses are accepted by more than 3,600 colleges and universities worldwide for college credit, advanced placement or both, on the basis of successful AP exams. This could save a family thousands of dollars in future tuition at a college or university.

3) IMPRESS and PREPARE

A transcript loaded with several AP courses will carry weight in the admissions process, as success in difficult high school courses is the best predictor of success in college. In "Relationship between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes" there is relevant information, "A recent College Board study showed, that

students who scored 3 or higher on four popular AP Exams earned higher first-year GPAs, were more likely to continue on to a second year of college, and were more likely to attend selective institutions, on average, than students with comparable SAT® scores and high school GPAs, who did not take AP. Even students who scored a 1 or 2 on an AP Exam showed higher retention rates into their second year of college than non-AP students, and they were more likely to attend selective institutions."

At Perry High School, we are fortunate to offer a wide range of AP courses. If we are not able to offer an AP course that a student is interested in, there are other alternatives. Each high school student in the state of Ohio can take an AP course for free, online, through ILearnOhio.org, and the Digital AP Tuition Waiver.

For more information, see Mr. Porcello, your guidance counselor, or visit: www.ilearnohio.org/.



The 2013 Spring Session of **Just Run** is now taking registrations. Just Run is a free youth running program, that trains kids 6-18 to run a 5K race. The goal race this spring is the Lake Health 5K to be run on June 16 at Lake Farmpark. This is a new location for the race. Training sessions will be held at the Perry High School track starting April 28, from 6-7:30 pm.

Parent volunteers are also able to train by filling out the volunteer form in the packet. Volunteers will have their race entry fee paid for by our sponsor, the Lake County General Health Dept.

For more information, email
Coleen Moskowitz at:
csmosk@yahoo.com

Perry Area Joint Recreation Department

The "SUMMER REC" Program through the Perry Area Joint Recreation Department will be a six-week program beginning on Monday, June 10, running through Thursday, July 18.

The program will run Monday-Thursday. Thursdays are field trips - an additional cost may apply.

**PLEASE VISIT WWW.PERRYREC.COM
FOR DETAILS!**

We are making efforts to use our website as a common place for participants, parents/family members to find up-to-date information regarding current, as well as upcoming programs. Items such as the availability of upcoming programs, program registrations, important dates and schedules can be found at our site.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions/comments/concerns.

Office Phone: 440-259-9469
Email: recreation@perry-lake.org



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