

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

the perry way

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FEBRUARY 2014

2014 DISTRICT SPELLING BEE

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Perry Local Schools is pleased to announce the District Spelling Bee Champion for 2014. Perry Middle School eighth grader, Leigh Stavar has claimed this year's title. Leigh has been a Spelling Bee contestant many times in the past 5 years. This year, she won the competition in the eighteenth round, correctly spelling words such as, cleanser, igneous, stucco, pueblo, temporal, diagnosis, trauma and finally, angelic.

Entering the bee for the first time, fourth grader and runner-up, Nikhita Goel, spelled equally challenging words – layette, hazard, stipple and vibrato. Both girls gave an outstanding

effort and created an exciting competition.

Other participants in the contest were fourth graders, Ethan Hicks and Cameron Marsey, fifth graders, Jack Schultz, Bradley Peters and Mateo Aguirre, sixth graders, Chrissy Schveder, Crystal Miller and Melinda Kirk, seventh graders, Amanda Schueren, Autumn Graham and Olivia Flauto, and eighth graders, Kirk Hodgkinson and Brandon Horton. All contestants were excellent spellers and are to be congratulated.

In February, Leigh will travel to Auburn Career Center to compete against the other Lake County winners. The winner at Auburn will move on to

the Tri-county Bee, in which the top speller will head to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.



Perry fourth grader Nikhita Goel (left) is the 2014 Perry District Spelling Bee runner-up, pictured here with Spelling Bee advisor, Mrs. Kim Jury and District Champion, eighth grader Leigh Stavar.

WHAT'S EVERYBODY PEEPING ABOUT?

by Jodi Poremba, PES Principal

We have taken great pride in creating our PEEP program, Peaceful Schools 4 Everyone @ Perry, that we have implemented district wide.

This program is a part of our peaceful schools initiative to create a safe environment for our students at Perry Local Schools.

As part of our PEEP program here at Perry Elementary School, we have three main expectations for our students.

These expectations are as follows:

- Be Respectful
- Respect Self

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PERRY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CARE!



The Perry community has always been generous. But Perry Elementary Student Council members and advisors were stunned when students in grades kindergarten through 4th, were asked to bring in a dollar or two in order to wear PJ's on the last day of school before Thanksgiving break. The money was being collected for the victims of the Typhoon which struck the Philippines in November.

"We thought maybe \$100 or so would be raised, but when we counted

the money, the total was more than \$600.00. We were stunned!" said Perry Elementary Student Council Advisor Joe Dasinger. A check was sent to the American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland where 100% of the money collected went to relief efforts. "We have great kids and a great community" said Mr. Dasinger.

On a more local level, Perry Elementary students collected food, toys and clothing items that were donated to the Perry Center for the holidays. Student Council members had designated each grade level to donate specific items, but all students, K-4, brought in food as well. Always in need of donations, the Perry Center is located in the Manchester West building, directly across from the elementary school. Please call 440-259-3332 for more information.

Located in the same building, the Perry Women's League Clothing Room

is also an ongoing community service project that provides free clothing and shoes to those who are experiencing financial hardship. To donate clean, gently worn or new clothing and shoes, as well as new packages of socks and undergarments, and for more information about the Perry Women's League Clothing Room, please email, perrywomensleague@hotmail.com.



READY, SET P-FIT!

Perry Local Schools is pleased to announce that we have been awarded one of 60 grants by the U.S. Department of Education's Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP). The grant is intended to assist our District with initiating, expanding or enhancing physical education and nutrition education programs for students in grades K-12.

Perry Schools has collaborated with Sodexo Food Service, Case Western Reserve University and Lake County General Health District to define the goals of the grant. Since students spend a majority of their time in schools, quality movement is a critical part of a student's overall fitness during the school day. Research shows that being physically active will enhance academic performance. The first goal of the **Perry Fitness**

Let's Active Move Schools

(**P-Fit**) program is to increase daily physical activity for children. Teaching students how to create fitness goals and develop individual fitness plans is vital to developing lifelong fitness.

In addition to movement and daily activity, the second goal of **P-Fit** is developing healthy eating habits. The U.S. Department of Agriculture released new rules in 2012 that boost the nutritional quality of the meals eaten by school children every day. Guidelines are set to ensure kids' lunches and breakfasts have more whole grains, vegetables, and fruits, and less fat and sodium and set sensible calorie limits based on the age of children

by Amy Harker, Director of Student Services

being served. The nutritional focus of this grant is to encourage students to eat more fruits and vegetables daily. Learning fitness and nutrition skills at a young age will help to develop a healthy lifestyle.

Another exciting component of this grant will allow for a fitness trainer who will work with Perry High School and Middle School students to create individual fitness programs. All students are encouraged to participate in the before and after school sessions. Saturday sessions are also available. Please contact Mr. Jeremy Goldizen, the high school fitness trainer, to register for the one of the sessions. An elementary fitness trainer will also provide fitness programming for our elementary students before and after school and on Saturdays. Contact information

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THINK BEFORE YOU SEND



Investigator Mark A. Clark speaks to Perry 7th graders about the issues surrounding the practice of "sexting."

SEXTING: A THREAT TO OUR YOUTH

In an age where technology has weaved itself into the fiber of our everyday lives so heavily, a new concern exists for parents, caregivers, schools, police and our communities in general. That

threat is called SEXTING. It is a phenomenon that is sweeping through the youth of our nation like a tidal wave and leaving many troubled, distraught, embarrassed and confused teens, as well as their families, in its wake.

SEXTING, in its current social definition, is the electronic communication of any sexually oriented material involving a minor that could include, but not be limited to, photos, videos, text messages or any other media involving a minor in any state of nudity or sexual acts. Many times, a parent or caregiver has no idea that their child is engaging in such behavior until it is too late.

Investigator Mark A. Clark of the Geauga County Prosecutor's

by Perry Schools Guidance Department
Office presented to all Perry High School students in October. He also presented to students in grades 7 and 8 in November, and spoke to an audience of Perry parents. Mark's presentation is designed to raise awareness of the issues involved with SEXTING in hopes that this education will be the preventative measure needed to stop this behavior in its tracks. Some of the topics discussed in this hour long presentation were:

- What does the law say about sexting?
- Consider the repercussions of your decision.
- How to make good decisions regarding the use of technology.

The students found this information to be relevant, timely and valuable.

PERRY AREA JOINT RECREATION

Please visit our website www.perryrec.com for information on current and upcoming programs.

Items are easy to download, visit today for...

- Perry Rec Winter Newsletter!
 - Registration for Spring Volleyball for girls in grades 3-6
 - Information regarding the upcoming spring programs of t-ball/coach-pitch/baseball and softball
- We will be offering our SUMMER REC Program this year. This is a day camp for children ages 4-12. Our office has a NEW PHONE NUMBER – we can now be reached at 259-9705, ext. 9705.

WHAT'S EVERYBODY PEEPIG ABOUT? *...continued from page 1*

- Respect Others
- Respect Property

- Be Responsible
- Be Safe

These three main expectations are the focus of student behavior in all areas of the school, such as the classroom, recess, lunch, hallway, restroom, specials, and special events. Students are reminded of these expectations on a daily basis, and we encourage you to continue to talk with your children about them as well!

We have also implemented a new monthly asset program as

part of the 40 assets. Each month, students are introduced to a new asset. Students are encouraged to exemplify this specific asset during the month, and in return, they have the opportunity to earn PEEPs rewards. We also choose a student of the month from each class that was superior in demonstrating the monthly asset.

We are so excited and thrilled to continue these new programs with you and hope that you join us in becoming a PEEP! Thank you for all of your help and support.



LOOKING FOR FEEDBACK!

As we headed into 2014, we all felt the sting of winter, which forced us to delay our return from the holiday break. This is the time of year many of us review our goals and refocus our efforts to ensure that we meet our intended results. Our district is no different, and the administrative team recently took some time to analyze the district goals we have established to help achieve our strategic plan for this year and beyond:

1. Strive to maintain a positive caring climate.
2. Be responsive to the community we serve, the staff we support and the students we teach.
3. Model 21st century practices to improve engagement and increase student achievement results.

One of the key elements to realizing these goals is receiving meaningful and relevant feedback from all of our stakeholders. Last year at this time, we asked for your input by means of an anonymous survey. It is now time to once again seek your input. A survey link will be sent out in the next couple of weeks to all members



of our educational community that have an email address entered into Infinite Campus. The link will also be accessible on our District web page. Anyone wishing to complete the survey manually can request a hard copy by contacting Central Office at 440-259-9200, or by picking one up at the Board of Education in the Tarbuck Center during office hours. Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide us with this very important information. Results from this survey will be posted on our website in February.

— by Jack Thompson, Superintendent

January is board member recognition month! Accordingly, we honored our current board members at the regular meeting in January to show our appreciation for the exemplary leadership and service they provide our school district. It is with sincere gratitude that I thank the members of our Board; President, Mrs. Ashley Hacking, Vice-President, Mrs. Suanne Sines, Mr. Matt Farrell, Mr. Andy Roberts, and Mr. Mark Welch for the countless hours they spend providing input and guidance. When you see one of our board members, please take a moment to thank them for all they do to help our students.

We are all so fortunate to be part of this outstanding community. The multitude of great things happening in our schools is truly exhilarating! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of Perry Local Schools. As always, please feel free to contact me at 440-259-9200, or by email at thompsonj@perry-lake.org, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

PERRY COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER NEWS

We hope that everyone had a happy holiday! We know that all the New Year's Resolutions are starting, and we want to be a part of yours this year. We realize that no matter how good we may be throughout the year, it just seems next to impossible to "stay on track" through the holiday season. Come on in for a tour of our facility and even stay for one complimentary group class to see if you may be interested in getting back on track with us.

We are going to have some exciting changes throughout this year and we are sure you will want to be a part of them. We are starting to receive new equipment for our updated weight room! We are adding new and different classes to keep you on your toes, and we have just extended our Saturday hours until 4:00 pm to make it even more convenient for you to come in. We are also forming after school sessions for our students to keep them active.

Please stop in or give us a call, because we would love to have you as the newest member of our CFC Family.

Happy New Year!



READY, SET **P**-FIT! ...continued from page 2

will be available once the program is in place. New fitness rooms will be added at each building using funding from the grant.

In January and February you may notice students wearing pedometers on their wrist. They look similar to a wristwatch. This pedometer is helping us to measure our progress toward our goals. The students will be randomly selected to wear the **P**-Fit wristband to measure their steps for one school week. They will wear the band during waking hours for five days and record their steps at the end of the week. Not all



students will wear the wristbands. A letter will be sent home with students to further explain this data

collection process that will occur three times this year. In addition to the pedometers, students in grades 5-12 will be asked to keep a food journal.

The PEP Program is aligned with and supports First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Active Schools initiative, to get kids moving before, during and after school. The Let's Move Website (<http://www.letsmove.gov/eat-healthy>) is filled with information on eating healthy and staying active.

Stay tuned for more information. READY, SET, **P**-Fit!

PMS SPRING MUSICAL, THE LITTLE MERMAID, JR.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS 'DIVE INTO' PREPARATIONS FOR THE LITTLE MERMAID, JR.

Fasten your fins for the 2014 Perry Middle School musical, The Little Mermaid, Jr., coming to Goodwin Theatre this spring. Students and community members are preparing props, scenery, and costumes, as actors sharpen their vocal skills for this year's undersea extravaganza. Featuring the beloved songs and



characters from the Disney stage production of The Little Mermaid, audiences will embark on a journey to the mysterious fathoms below and wondrous world above with Ariel, Flounder, Sebastian, Prince Eric and a host of sailors, seagulls, a nasty villainess, and an electric eel or two.

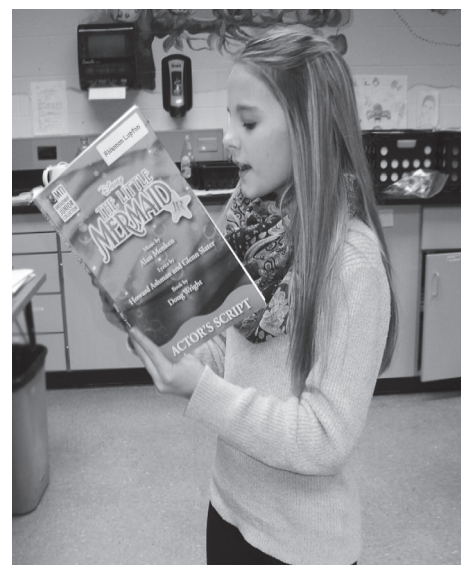
In the true spirit of school/community cooperation, many Perry-folk are helping with the production. Students from Perry Middle School's Quest Academy are diligently working to create an underwater world complete with seaweed, kelp beds, and coral reefs. Dads from shows past and present are designing and constructing set pieces on snowy winter weekends, while stage-parents and grandparents are hauling out their sewing needles to put together costumes

for all manner of Merfolk and sea creatures. Soon, a fleet of talented painters will brush on the finishing splashes of color, and Goodwin Theatre will be ready to welcome audiences into King Triton's watery depths.

So, mark your calendar (with water-proof ink, of course) for The Little Mermaid, Jr., coming to Goodwin Theatre on March 21st and 22nd at 7:00 pm, and March 23rd at 2:00 pm!



Sarah Estvanko, grade seven Quest student, paints seaweed for the set of "The Little Mermaid, Jr."



Seventh grader, Rhiannon Lupton, AKA, Scuttle, practices a song for the Perry Middle School spring musical, "The Little Mermaid, Jr."

PMS AMBASSADORS HELP DIRECT PEEP PROGRAM

Over 30 Perry Middle School students recently spent a valuable day together. The 5th to 8th grade students participated in an ambassador's training program for a new district-wide initiative being introduced this year at Perry. This effort entitled, a Peaceful Environment for Everyone @ Perry, or PEEP, is designed to promote a more peaceful climate throughout the schools.

The day long training was held at Perry High School and facilitated by Middle School Counselor, Mrs. Peggy Saxon, and staff from the Crossroads agency in Lake County. The training addressed topics such as bully prevention, tolerance, and



Perry Middle School students put their heads together to identify bullying behavior and the feelings that they elicit. They are from left to right, Eric Carlon, Briana Kist, Cheyanne Bryant, Ryan Smith, Brenna Mako and Morgan Miadzielec.

respect for others. Students spent time discussing the qualities of a leader and what a leader looks like, talks like and acts like. The role of the student ambassadors will be to serve the middle school community in a leadership capacity. The group will set an example of inclusion, kindness, and will help to support a peaceful climate at Perry Middle School.

The day ended with students brainstorming some positive activities that the group can promote. More information about Perry's new PEEP initiative can be found through a link on the District website homepage, at www.perry-lake.org.

PERRY SERVICE LEARNING STUDENTS PROVIDE HOPE

The 9th Annual Perry High School "Hope for the Holidays" food drive was once again, a great success. Students enrolled in the high school's community service program, Perry Service Learning, provided each classroom teacher with a food drive box and an envelope for cash donations. Students were encouraged to bring in either \$2 or 2 cans for the Perry Center collection.

The Perry Center is always appreciative of the generosity of the community and adds that there is great need this year. The Perry Center serves nearly 3,000 people annually who live, work, or worship in Perry. Last month alone, the Perry



Center provided 7,140 meals to 340 individuals. The Perry Center is run entirely by volunteers. As a result, 96.5 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to people who are struggling to provide basic needs to their families.

While the annual holiday food drive is important, the need exists year round, and the most needed donation is cash. However, if you would like to donate food instead of cash, here are some suggestions:

Food items: beef stew, canned soup, canned vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, tuna fish. Household items: deodorant, laundry detergent, shampoo, soap, toilet

paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

All donated items should be nonperishable and sealed in its original packaging.

The Perry Center is located on the Perry Schools campus, at 4261 Manchester Road and provides year-round support for our community's neediest families. Their hours are Tuesdays, from 9:00 am to noon, and Fridays, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and can be reached at 440-259-3332.

This year, Perry students surpassed their goal to collect over \$1,500 and more than 3,000 pounds of food. Thanks to everyone for helping to make this year's food drive a success!



PHS SPRING MUSICAL, OKLAHOMA

Perry High School Theatre is proud to present Rodgers & Hammerstein's classic, "Oklahoma!" Set in a Western Indian territory just after the turn of the century, the high-spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the colorful background against which Curly, a handsome cowboy, and Laurey, a winsome farm girl, play out their love story. Although the road to true love never runs smooth, with these two headstrong romantics holding the reins, love's journey is

as bumpy as a surrey ride down a country road. That they will succeed in making a new life together we have no doubt, and that this new life will begin in a brand-new state provides the ultimate climax to the triumphant OKLAHOMA!

Performances will be held in Perry High School's Goodwin Theatre on Friday, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st at 7:00 PM and on Sunday, March 2nd at 2:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the door, \$6 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for adults.



PERRY PTA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Perry PTA needs volunteers and cannot continue to help the schools without you, specifically in the following areas:

- PES Art Room Helpers – weekly volunteers helping the art teacher.
- CCC Room – weekly volunteers helping kindergartners.
- Market Day – monthly volunteers for an hour, unloading and setting up orders.

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You don't have to do it alone. If there is a group of you that wants to tackle one of these projects, the easier it will be on each of you.

If you think you can help, please contact Candy Tannish at 440-259-8198.

PTA does many things behind the scenes at school that you may not be aware of. Market Day generates revenue that helps fund various student activities, programs and technology.

Without Market Day, we may not be able to continue to support all of the things we have done in the past.

To learn more, please contact Candy, PTA President, at PerryPTAPresident@gmail.com.

PHS MUSICIANS JOIN CYWS CELEBRATION

The Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, in celebration of its 25th Anniversary, performed in concert at Severance Hall in downtown Cleveland recently, under the direction of Dr. Gary M. Ciepluch.

The Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony (CYWS) was founded in 1989, by Dr. Ciepluch and Mr. Robert McAllister and is now in its 25th season.

"We were very excited that this year, we had 14 of our most talented musicians participating in the CYWS anniversary performance," said Perry High School Instrumental Music Director, Mr. Brad Hruska. "This is, by far, the most we have ever had."



PHS band members performing recently at Severance Hall for the 25th anniversary of the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony are:

(front row, left to right) Austyn Cousins, Emma Mills, Jennifer Hoppert, Abby Hollowell, Alysia Klinger, Bianca Fatica, Christian Fatica, Robert Klim, (back row, left to right) Dylan Nelson, Gabby Spahr, Nash Bonnema, Matt Siegel, Kyle Shepard, Tomasz Niedzwiecki.

Mr. Hruska currently teaches in the Perry Local School District and remains an active staff member and manager for the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony. He has traveled with the group on five international concert tours, most recently to Poland and Hungary in 2012.

Sponsored by the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University, the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony was established to provide a musical venue for the most outstanding high school woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians throughout Northeast Ohio. Learn more about Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony at www.cyws.org.

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