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the perry-lake.org February 2015

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Perry Local Schools is pleased to announce that Perry Middle School science teacher, Mrs. Blanche Davidson has been selected to receive the 2014-2015 Lubrizol Lake County Science Teacher Award for excellence in the classroom.

Each year, a Lake County, Ohio science teacher at the elementary or secondary school level in a public, private or parochial school is recognized for their excellence teaching in science. The selection nanel consists of the Lake County Educational Service Center. Partners in Science Excellence, and Lubrizol employees.

Davidson receives an award of \$5,000 for science-

Schools related teaching expenses of her choice, financial support up to \$2,000 to attend the National Science **Teachers** Association (NSTA) Conference Science Education, and sponsorship attend to the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council (OCTC) and Teachers, Industry and Environment (TIE) Conference. Perry Middle School also receives an award of \$5,000 for scientific equipment. In the award's 20 year history, Lubrizol has honored over 90 Lake County teachers.

"The opportunity to make a practical difference in student's lives through teaching and investigating science, technology, engineering and mathematics with my students is a blessing," said Davidson. "It is the hardest and most joyous work I have ever done."

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Perry Middle School science teacher, Blanche Davidson, is presented with the 2014-2015 Lubrizol Lake County Science Teacher Award by Dr. Chris Ciolli (left) and Dr. Robert Graf of the Lubrizol Corporation.

AUTHENTIC LEARNING THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

by Amy Harker, Director of Student Services College and Career Readiness



Now more than ever before at Perry High School, we understand the importance of having a labor force ready to successfully navigate the global economy. Perry Schools is actively connecting students to work-based learning experiences to personalize and make their learning more authentic and real-world focused. Internships, shadowing experiences, and mentorships allow our school a way to promote the relevance and increase the rigor of the Perry High School experience. These experiences give the 21st Century learner the opportunity to consolidate and apply the learning from their high school coursework into a meaningful and relevant on-the-job experience.

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STEM CLUB: BRANCHING OUT TO MEET THE FUTURE

by Pat Betteley and Blanche Davidson, PMS STEM Club Advisors

Today, our students encounter art, poetry, and literature in many different parts of their lives. From museum paintings to the wallpaper on their phones and ChromeBooks, our students are constantly interpreting information. The Arts (both fine and performing) and the Humanities teach this skill set to our students and allow them to interact with information in a way that is meaningful to them in any field of study.

Especially at the middle school level, no content can stand on its own. Tables, charts, graphs and drawings can simplify complex data in science in the same way that mathematics can structure appealing rhythmic patterns in music.

When combined with STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, the skills learned through art and the Humanities allow for true innovation.



Perry Middle School STEM Club members, Hope Klinar and Charlie Kluznik put the finishing touches on their "Future City Competition" entry held recently in Columbus.

Many schools are referring to this combination as STEAM, where we recognize that 21st Century innovation will come from creativity enhanced by art and design in life-long learning.

Middle schools, by their nature and structure, are designed to create a collaborative culture with lessons and courses that recognize individual course content, often complementing multiple areas of study. Students encounter this overlapping content, often without recognizing the connections

In mathematics, our students will learn fundamental shapes and angles, while in visual art, they will learn about perspective. In science, students study the effect of light on pupil response in the eye. And in a history class, the way Renaissance artists viewed the world is examined. All of these lessons include the main idea of changing scale and proportion.

Many of our teachers at Perry Middle School are already moving in this world of collaboration. In grades five and six, teachers have begun to blend the literature and writing of language arts into the social studies curriculum and vice versa. Connections and collaborations occur with exploratory

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PERRY AREA JOINT RECREATION

Boys & Girls Basketball Program (grades 1-6)

We had over 150 participants this winter!

Special thanks to our volunteers:

Paul Algier, Dana Brewster, John Fialko, Greg Morris, Jeff DeFischer, Steve Ritz, Shaun Moses, Paul Quere, Bear Rupert, Greg Tomasic, Deonte Powell, Philip Pearson, Terry Croyle, Phil Borovic, Sharon Landgraf, Tara Lynch, Ashley Rupert, Nichole Trefzger, Yvonne Moon, Mary Strahan, Tammy Arcaro, Greg Newsome and Jim Nowosielski.

Special thanks to our Winter Program Sponsors:

Albrecht Family Dentistry, Ritley Run, AGM Physical Therapy, Desborough Construction, Lake County Door, YardMaster, VECTOR Screen Printing, Perry Village Market, Little Owls Home Child Care, NEO CrossFit, Newsome Painting & Remodeling, Legends Sports Photography, Kuhar's Pizza Oven, Painesville FOP Lodge #90, Chubb Basement WaterProofing, AGM Physical Therapy, K&K Enterprises, Rideout's IGA & Edward Jones Investments-Dave LeMond.

We will be offering our summer camp program, SUMMER REC, for ages 4+.

Visit our website to find more information on upcoming programs and events...www.perryrec.com.

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SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR ... continued from page 1

Formed in 1989, the Partners in Science Excellence team is comprised of local business representatives and members from the Lake County Educational Community. Their mission is to

unify the effort of educators and businesses to improve, expand, and promote science education in Lake County, Ohio. Their primary purpose is to provide yearly grants for hands-on, inquiry-based science materials to K-12 teachers and to provide high quality professional development opportunities for local science educators, that encourage best practices in the teaching of science.

AUTHENTIC LEARNING THROUGH INTERNSHIPS ... continued from page 1



Participating in an internship is a student's opportunity to connect with the world outside of school and to gain the skills to go on to further education and/or enter the workforce. Without this vital connection, many young people may not know why basic skills are important or know how complex a job can be. Through working with an adult mentor at the worksite, students have the opportunity to develop a foundation of general workplace skills and to acquire information in their chosen career cluster/pathway. **Internships** introduce Perry High School students to positive adult role models who can help instill, reinforce and demonstrate important behaviors such as a positive attitude, integrity, ethics, human relations, teamwork, organization, leadership timeliness, and good study habits.

Current eighth grade students will be introduced to the courses available at Perry High School through our newly developed transition to high school conference. Students and their families will have a specified appointment to meet with a Perry High School teacher or guidance counselor to discuss the academic and career pathways that are available personalized This conference opportunity will provide time for students to ask questions and be introduced to the many offerings, including traditional coursework and electives, blended learning, credit flex opportunities, career readiness programming, as well as extracurricular activities.

The Career Speaker Series continues to be available to students to hear representatives from various career pathways talk about their occupation, skills required for that occupation, and their personal educational

journey to get to their current role. November and December's focus was on engineering careers, while January focused on health-related careers. February's focus will be on Information Technology careers.

Students interested in exploring the work-based learning experience program should contact Mrs. Rita Soeder at the high school. Our district website also has information along with a flowchart of how to participate in an internship experience. Please contact Mrs. Amy Harker, Director of Student Services and College and Career Readiness, if you have questions or are a business organization that would be interested in establishing an internship program with our school. More information about careers and career exploration can be found at OhioMeansJobs.com.



EXPLORING CAREERS IN FCS

High School Family and Consumer Science (FCS) teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Bezzeg has students seriously thinking about the fundamental question, "What do I want to be when I grow up?" Career Search is a new course offered this school year to help guide PHS students along their journey in life. In Career Search students determine their personal interests, values, personalities, and aptitudes, then investigate careers they are passionate about, all while taking into consideration the larger picture of family, career and community. While investigating careers, students also get to meet individuals in the field through guest speakers and job shadowing experiences. Career professionals share first-hand experiences of their

careers, explaining a typical day, pros and cons, stress levels, education needed, and important employability skills in the workforce.

Career Search students learn real word employability skills through hands-on authentic learning. Students write resumes tailored to chosen career paths and practice job interviewing skills through a mock interview with the teacher. Once the candidate is chosen for the position, students learn what to expect after being hired. Students read pay stubs, complete performance evaluations on classmates, and apply coping skills when dealing with job loss.

They don't stop there though! Essential skills, such as, personal accountability, communication, collaboration, interpersonal skills, by Jen Bezzeg, FCS Teacher conflict resolution, decision making, teamwork and leadership are included too!

Students practice these soft skills through real life scenarios that individuals would face, as they relate to life and career planning. Upon completion of this class each student will have an individualized future and career blueprint.

The mission of Family and Consumer Sciences is to empower students to take action for the well-being of themselves and others in the workplace, their community and their home.

If you have any questions regarding our Career Search class or the FCS department, feel free to contact Jennifer Bezzeg, FCS Teacher at bezzegj@perry-lake.org.

NEW COURSES AT PHS FOR 2015-2016

The Perry High School Staff has been hard at work planning, preparing and creating new courses to provide world class opportunities for our students. We strive to provide and develop courses that prepare students to be college and career ready upon high school graduation. This starts with the right courses, so that students can not only be prepared intellectually with the right skill base, but also be exposed to different potential careers, all while implementing curriculum and projects, where we can maximize a student's learning potential.

As we begin the registration process for the 2015-2016 school year, we are pleased to announce new courses at PHS.

Principles of Biomedical Science:

This course provides an introduction to the biomedical sciences through exciting hands-on projects and problems. Students investigate concepts of biology and medicine, as they explore health conditions including heart disease, diabetes, sickle-cell disease, hypercholesterolemia, and infectious diseases.

Geometry by Design and Modeling:

This is an integrated course utilizing Geometry concepts in a Building Trades, Construction and Manufacturing environment. The course is designed to prepare students for the natural progression to higher math courses, through a course rich in connections to engineering design and manufacturing technology projects that will generate interest in math and increase students' likelihood of success.

Exploring Engineering:

The major focus of the Exploring Engineering 1 course is to expose students to design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, engineering standards, and technical documentation. Students will have an opportunity to investigate engineering and other high-tech careers and develop skills and understanding of course concepts through activity-, project-, and problem-based learning.

Manufacturing Design and Fabrication:

The focus of this course is to provide students with an intermediate

by Todd Porcello, PHS Principal level understanding of designing and fabricating metallic products that have been developed by the student, through the use of professional grade 3D modeling software. Projects will build upon skills learned in prerequisite courses and ultimately allow students to create precision models of their designs, potentially leading to a career in engineering and/ or manufacturing.

Academic Decathlon: Reading Across the Disciplines.

This class is designed to prepare intellectually curious students for the rigors of future high school and university coursework. Students will read and study Academic Decathlon materials, write speeches, give impromptu speeches, polish interview skills, and write academic essays. In addition, students will be expected to participate in all scrimmages and competitions.

Integrated Science Design:

Students will investigate natural phenomenon, and subsequently design and carry out experiments in an attempt to explain a scientific topic

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STEM CLUB: BRANCHING OUT TO MEET THE FUTURE ...continued from page 2



arts courses and the core; STEM/Design Learning, teaming with science to implement Problem Based learning in the science classrooms and the integration of graphic design into the art curriculum, are just a few of the opportunities at PMS.

The Perry Middle School Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Club began its inaugural year by entering a competition, called Future City. This is a national, project-based learning experience for sixth through eighth graders in which students imagine, design, and build cities of the future.

For this year's competition, STEM Club team members were challenged to address the problem of hunger in the city using urban farming. As part of the competition, they planned their city using SimCity software, researched and wrote solutions, built a table top scale model with recycled materials; and presented their ideas before judges at the Regional Competition in Columbus.

Many smart, community-minded experts helped the students with their research. The STEM Club hosted Kris Hopkins, from CT Consultants who explained what a city planner does. Students also met with Dwayne Bailey, who shared maps and future plans that North Perry has for the area around the Nuclear Power Plant. Next, Jen Bezzeg, from Perry High School,

shared nutrition information so students could choose the two protein products from which to feed their city. Then, Jay Kish, a long-time nurseryman and local businessman helped brainstorm practical ways to grow and sustain food sources. Finally, Future City Planner, Debbie Morgan, from Chardon, was on hand to explain the program and encourage students, while Quest Coordinator, Sarah Wren, provided invaluable artistic design assistance.

The result? A model city called Neo Synoro (Greek for "New Frontier"), which feeds its people using Spirulina, a type of algae that is a super-health food, and Cobia, a high-protein fish. From its 71-story central building, called Mellontikos ("future" in Greek) which features three towers and wind turbines, to the Spiti Tower ("home" in Greek) which houses a Spirulina growing tank covered in stained glass, to the maglev (magnetic levitation) public transport with real moving parts, the city is a model of "green living" and energy efficiency.

Eight students left Perry Middle School at 4:00 am on Saturday, Jan. 17, to deliver their Future City model to Columbus State Community College in Columbus for the competition. Hope Klinar, Charlie Kluznik, and Cole Whelpley presented the city to

several panels of judges, and answered in-depth questions about every aspect of its planning from education, to recreational opportunities, to waste disposal.

Out of a field of 18 schools from all over Ohio, Perry Middle School earned a first place award for "Most Environmentally Friendly" city, and a runner-up for "Rookie Team of the Year." At day's end, exuberant but exhausted STEM Club students had learned a whole lot of real-life lessons about the importance of teamwork, effective public speaking, and the engineering process. They had met many inspiring engineers, including one memorable speaker who had been "turned on" to engineering at Future City Competitions as a middle school student himself, and they networked with other smart, savvy students from all over Ohio. So, are STEM Club team members interested in signing up for the competition again next year? Can a Cobia swim?

CFC NEWS

Having trouble keeping those New Year's resolutions?

You're not alone!
Come on into the Perry CFC &
get your motivation back!
If it is a group class format that
pleases you, we have several
to choose from. Yoga, Zumba,
Spinning, Total Body Fitness,
Kenpo Karate, Baton Lessons &
Boot Camp.

If you are more of a self directed person, you will love our brand new free weight and cardio circuit rooms.

Also, if you need to work out those tight muscles, you can schedule an appointment with Jessica Crawford our Massage Therapist.

We have plenty to do to keep you on track for 2015.

Stop in and take a tour! www.perrvcfc.com

WHAT'S NEW AT PERRY ELEMENTARY

We have had a great year so far at Perry Elementary School, with lots of new and exciting opportunities for our students. The New Year affords us the opportunity to reflect on 2014 and look forward to the work of our new year. The teachers and students of Perry Elementary were very busy this past year and I would like to share some highlights from 2014.

We continue to take great pride in our PEEPs program to help promote a safe and positive environment for our students and staff, and are very excited about the new addition of our fourth grade PEEPs Patrol, supervised by Mr. Sneed. Our PEEPs Patrol help take on the responsibility of acting as a role model to reinforce our monthly assets and four main behavior expectations, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready to Learn, and Be Safe. You will see them every morning and afternoon



patrolling during drop-off and dismissal to ensure all students are being good PEEPs!

The Intense Foreign Language class offered in grades 3 and 4 is off to a rocking start this year. Students have been answering simple questions about themselves, including likes and interests. Recently, third and fourth grades wrote a short skit asking and answering questions to model

_ by Arianna Neading, PES Principal in front of their class. Fourth grade students learned about the legend of

the poinsettia flower and then made poinsettia crafts and holiday cards that were delivered to the local Spanish speaking church.

In our new Design Learning classes, students have been taking ownership of their learning and learning by design. The design process provides a road map for problem solving, thinking and learning. Students in all grade levels are building their ability to work together and communicate while exploring and creating with the learning objectives in their classrooms. Their efforts are being further supported in technology and library to help explore, create, collaborate, self-reflect, and communicate.

2014 was a wonderful year, and we look forward to many exciting opportunities in 2015!

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Once again, winter weather in our "Great State of Ohio" extended our winter vacation and caused a delay in the start of second semester. After the second snow day in a row, it was heartwarming to receive messages from students asking me to please not call off school for a third straight day. During all of the media hype over those hazardous weather warnings, you may have heard about the state's shift in attendance requirements. Beginning 2014-2015, the state changed the long-standing minimum number of school days mandated in a calendar year to a minimum number of hours requirement. This is a response to last winter's pressure on our legislators to increase the number of calamity days permitted by law. Now, districts operating on hours must ensure students attend a minimum number of hours rather than worrying about attending a minimum number of days. Having said all that, none of this currently impacts Perry Local Schools. Because our bargaining unit agreements were in place prior to July 1, 2014, Perry

Local Schools still remain subject to the number of days our students attend in a school year including the number of permitted calamity days. This means any calamity days beyond the five plus the three blizzard bag days allowed will be made up by adding them to the end of the school year. Until this shift gets sorted out, we feel fortunate that we still are operating under the school day requirements. At first glance, the change to hours may sound favorable to schools; however, a closer look raises a number of questions. The state set the minimum hours at 910 for full day kindergarten through 6th grade and 1001 for grades 7-12. Our students currently attend school for many hours above these minimum requirements. If we were operating under the current state guidelines, our students could miss 24 days before being required to make-up any time. We don't feel this is in the best educational interest of our students. So for now we will continue to operate under the minimum day guidelines. I hope this clears up any confusion.

by Jack Thompson, Superintendent

On another note, when we approved the 2014-2015 school calendar the state testing windows had not been published. Now that the testing windows have been announced, there is a conflict with the professional development day that was originally scheduled for March 9th. This day is part of the testing window and needs to be a normal school day with students attending classes. To accommodate the testing window, we have moved the professional development day from March 9th to April 2nd, which is the Thursday before spring break. Please mark this change on your calendars.

Thank you for your continued support. 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.

Looking forward to a prosperous 2015 for Perry Local Schools!

NEW COURSES AT PHS FOR 2015-2016...continued from page 4

of interest at great depth. Students will be responsible for researching, eliciting feedback from experts in the field, and presenting their research and experimentation with peers and other relevant members of the local and global community as applicable

Learning Through Internships:

Real world, hands-on, outside of the classroom experience is exactly what you'll get, as you learn through your high school internship. This is the newest course at Perry High School, offering juniors and seniors a chance to apply classroom learning into a meaningful and relevant on-the-job experience. Students participating in Learning Through Internships, will work with an adult mentor at the worksite, have the opportunity to develop a foundation of general workplace skills and will acquire career-related information in their chosen career cluster/pathway.

Presentations 101 - Making Powerful Presentations:

The purpose of this course is to help students develop their presentation skills via the use of technology. Students will learn how to make audio-visual presentations using Microsoft PhotoDraw, a desktop publishing program available for creating visually stimulating paper-based and multi-media graphic design, and Microsoft PowerPoint, a program used in the creation of multimedia computer-based slide show presentations.

HEROIN/OPIATE TOWN HALL MEETING

by Tom deHaas, Perry School Counselor

Stephanie Stark, a 2008 graduate of Perry High School and writer for the national publication "The Atlantic", discussed the Heroin Epidemic in her October 23, 2014 article, in which she wrote:

"The U.S. is facing a massive heroin epidemic, and nowhere is it more evident than in Ohio, where fatal drug overdoses surpassed car crashes as the leading cause of accidental death in 2007, and increased by 60 percent from 2011 to 2012. Addicts in rehabilitation say heroin is the easiest drug to find. State legislators have called for Republican Governor John Kasich to declare the prevalence of heroin a public-health emergency, and in May he agreed to an Obamacare Medicaid expansion largely because the state badly needed the federal help in funding treatment for heroin addiction."

On Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, a town hall meeting discussing the Heroin/Opiate Epidemic was held at Perry High School's Goodwin Theatre. A panel of local experts including medical professionals, Judge Trebets of Mentor Drug Court, Sheriff Dan Dunlap, behavioral health professionals, a recovering addict, and family members of addicts shared perspectives and information about the problem, along with resources and programs to help. The meeting was co-sponsored by the ADHAMS Board, The Heroin and Opiate Task Force, and Perry Local Schools. The meeting was attended by over 75 individuals.

Many restrictions have been instituted by the Federal Drug Administration.

Overdoses lead to 15,000 deaths annually — the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has long pushed for the stringent rules, which would reclassify opioid pain relievers as Schedule II drugs, the most restricted category short of being prohibited.

There is much work to be done since Heroin and Opiates affect countless lives, including many in

Lake County. The addiction not only affects the user, but family, friends, and co-workers. Many resources are available through the ADHAMS board by calling 440-350-3117.

Hey, mom...

want me to grow up with healthy perspectives on drugs and alcohol? Here are some ideas...

Listen to me. Encourage me to express my feelings. Make sure I know that no subject is off-limits.

Help me gain perspective. TV and music can give me the idea that that most adults use alcohol, drugs and tobacco. Help me understand that's not the case.

Help me learn ways to say no. Role play with me, and help me learn creative, effective ways to say no. Try something like this: "Let's play a game. Pretend you're at Sara's house with friends. Someone finds some beer, and they offer you one. What could you say?"

Give me limits. Be clear about family rules – for instance, that kids aren't allowed to drink alcohol and that the only time it's ok to take a drug is when mom or dad gives me medicine. Know where I am, who I'm with, and what I'm doing.

Look for teachable moments.
When we're watching TV together and marijuana is mentioned, ask me if I know what that is, and if any of my friends have ever talked about it. If Tm eating an apple, use that as a conversation

starter about ways we keep our bodies and minds healthy.

Don't overwhelm me. Keep your answers to my questions short, and age-appropriate. Make other resources available to me so I can learn more on my own.

> Keep me busy. Help me discover things I'm good at. Make sure I stay involved in those activities.

Be a good example for me. Understand that I watch – and learn from – your behavior.

Build my self-esteem.

The more confidence I have in myself, the better I'll be able to steer clear of dangerous behaviors.

So "carch me" doing good things and praise me. Tell me you are proud of me.

If you suspect a problem, get me help. Know the warning signs of alcohol or drug use, and depression. Know where to find me help if I need it. A great place to start is with a call to the Lake County ADAMHS Board's Compass Line at 918-2000 or 350-2000 (both 440). Or, visit www.HelpThatWorks.us.

Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board

YOU.ME.US. We're in this together. There is no them

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