

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

the perry way

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JANUARY 2013

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REVIEWING OUR GOALS

by Jack Thompson, Ed.D., Superintendent

Welcome to 2013! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. January is the time to review our goals for the school year along with our long term strategic planning to ensure stability and continuous growth. The District goals established to help achieve our strategic plan for this year and beyond are as follows:

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 lifelong learning by employing 21st century skills to improve and increase our capacity and student engagement.

One of the key elements to realizing these goals is to communicate effectively. This includes receiving meaningful and relevant feedback from all of our stakeholders.



In an effort to gain a better understanding of actions we can take to improve, we will be asking for your input by means of an anonymous survey. A link will be sent out in January 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

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PHS HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



Perry Service Learning students Hannah Lette, Seth Elmore and Reanna Norton collect food donations from classrooms during the 2012 Holiday Food Drive.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Holiday Food Drive for the Perry Center. High school students were encouraged to bring in donations of either \$2.00, or two cans of food for the Perry Center. A total of \$1,645.00 was collected from the classrooms. Moreover, Perry High School students ringing the bell at Perry IGA collected an additional \$990.00, bringing the grand total for this year's collection to \$2634.00!

The top three classrooms received donut breakfasts. In addition to the money collected, over 2,342 lbs. of food was donated.

The Perry Center serves nearly 3,000 people annually, who live, work, or worship in Perry. In 2012, approximately 35% of those who received food assistance from the Perry Center were children.

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. The need is real and ongoing. Please consider supporting the Perry Center throughout the year.

PHS CARDBOARD BOAT RACE 2012

The challenge is to design and build a human-powered boat made of corrugated cardboard that is capable of staying afloat during the entire race.

Open to all Perry High School AP Physics students, the annual competition is designed to bring clarity to the Greek mathematician Archimedes' principle – Buoyancy (force) = Mg (weight of water displaced) = (density of water) (volume of water displaced) (acceleration due to gravity).

Or simply, build a cardboard boat, and be the first to paddle to the opposite end of the CFC swimming pool and back.

The event does indeed have a detailed list of rules and race procedures, but in a nutshell, the boats can carry up to 3 passengers and must be made of 1/8 inch wafer-type cardboard (typical cardboard box material) and duct tape. Sealants or waterproofing applications are allowed, and paddles of any kind are permitted.

Hosted by the Perry High School Physics Department, this year's competition attracted about a dozen participants displaying a variety of innovative designs.

Watch the video on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwyaemQrcuM>.



Cardboard Boat Race participants ready their vessels at the starting line in the Perry Community Fitness center swimming pool.



PHS students, Evan Nichols, Katie Lauria and Zak Kramer got off to a great start in this year's Cardboard Boat Race. The trio took an early lead and achieved the fastest time to win the competition.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY?

by Scott J. Hunt, Ed.D, Director of College and Career Readiness

The Perry Local School system is known for being ahead of the curve when it comes to preparing students for the world that they will inherit upon graduation. We are always the first to take on educational challenges that are on the horizon, whether those are challenges presented by the Ohio Department of Education or the challenges mandated through the federal government.

In 2009, President Obama put forth a challenge, in a joint session of Congress, he requested this, "I ask every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher

education or career training. This can be community college or a four-year school; vocational training or an apprenticeship. But whatever the training may be, every American will need to get more than a high school diploma." According to Achieve, Inc. College and Career Readiness can be defined in this way:

College today means much more than just pursuing a four-year degree at a university. Being "college ready" means being prepared for any postsecondary education or training experience, including study at two- and four-year institutions leading to a

postsecondary credential (i.e. a certificate, license, Associates or Bachelor's degree). Being ready for college means that a high school graduate has the English and mathematics knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses without the need for remedial coursework.

Achieve, Inc. also defines what "career ready" means. In today's economy, a "career" is not just a job. A career provides a family-sustaining wage and pathways to advancement and requires postsecondary training

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REVIEWING OUR GOALS *...continued from page 1*

can request a hard copy by contacting Central Office at 440-259-3881, 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.

January is also the time to recognize our board members 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, Mr. Matt Farrell, Vice-President, Mrs. Ashley Hacking, Dr. Frank Sailors, Mrs. Suanne Sines, and Mr. Mark Welch for the countless hours they spend providing input and guidance. Most recently, I commend the Board for their active role in working to improve the security of our schools and their relentless commitment to the safety of 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 440-259-3881, or by email at thompsonj@perry-lake.org, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

May we all have a prosperous new year!

PREPARING FOR THE COMMON CORE

by Jodi Poremba, PES Principal

Parents may have noticed some changes in the language arts learning targets on the first report card. The K-2 teachers at Perry Elementary have been busy working on implementing our new language arts curriculum that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. They are refining and creating assessments to match the new curriculum. The focus of the new curriculum is to develop understandings in reading literature and informational text;

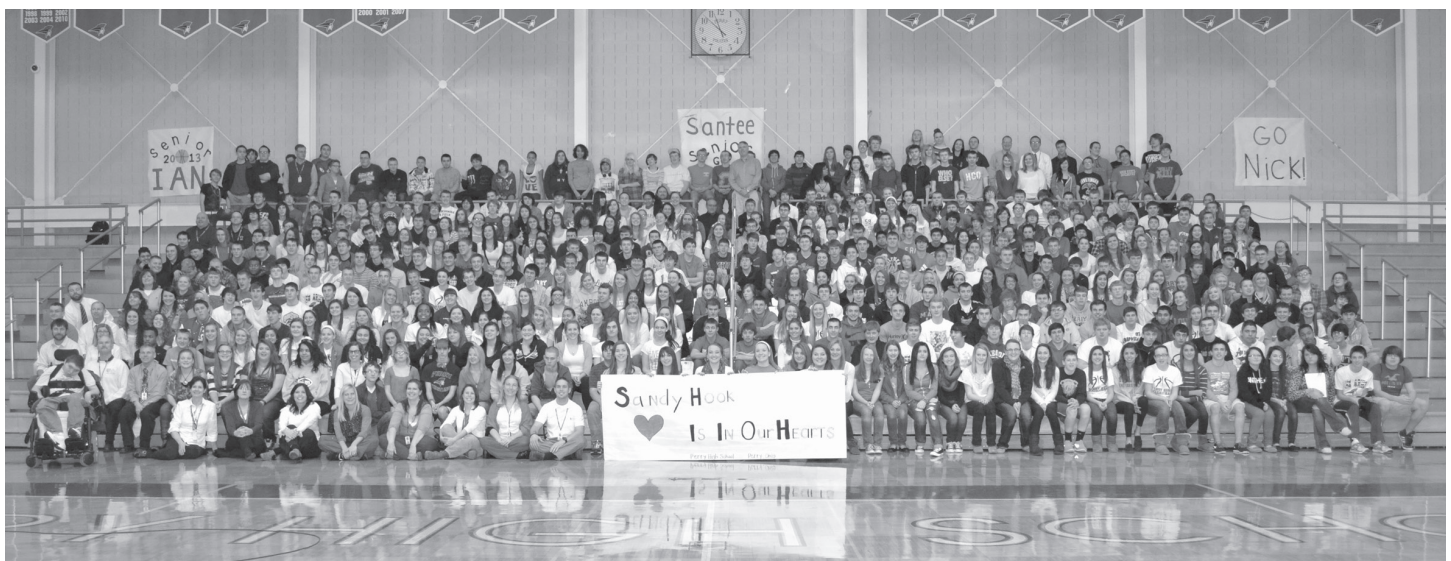
reading foundational skills; writing; speaking and listening; and language. The teachers started this work on the language arts curriculum last school year to implement this school year. In addition, the teachers are continuing their implementation of the math curriculum which is also aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Parents can find detailed information on what their students are learning in language arts and math by following this link <http://www.perry-lake.org/K-4>

[Curriculum.aspx](#), to our district website.

Several of you may ask, why now, and why are the K-2 teachers so focused on this currently. This year's first grade students will be the first group of students to take the new assessments based on the new standards in 2015. We are proud of the teachers for their hard work on the common core curriculum in language arts and math.

REMEMBERING SANDY HOOK



Students at Perry High School recently joined with Kenston High School and students throughout Northeast Ohio in support of Sandy Hook Elementary School by producing this photograph, to be included in a collage and sent to the shooting survivors and the residents of Newtown, Connecticut.

The students were asked to show their support by wearing green clothing for the photo, Sandy Hook's main color. Kenston students appealed to schools all over Northeast Ohio to join them. During the day, everyone who wore green went into the competition gym to take this picture.

FINDING A PASSION FOR LEARNING

by Betty Jo Malchesky, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

Perry Local Schools recognizes the benefit of starting early to prepare students for a pathway of learning success. As we are thoughtfully rethinking instruction that engages the 21st century learner in alignment to new national and state standards for college & career readiness, Perry is ready and welcomes today's student who often enters school as a digital native and a thirst for blended learning opportunities.

At Perry we understand that even though the Ohio Board of Regents and Ohio Department of Education are producing a College & Career Readiness Assessment for administration to high school 10th grade students in 2014-15, we begin pushing away barriers to a child's academic success from the moment kindergarten begins. At Perry we start early in primary school to identify students for intervention and enrichment needs. As a result, Perry Elementary third grade achieved the highest level of reading proficiency for Perry in fall 2012. We celebrate these increased achievement results and our determination to serve the prescriptive needs of each student as signs of readiness to meet the expectations of new national and state standards as well as the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

At Perry we recognize that we will not wait for an assessment in high school to identify students for College & Career Readiness. We want to provide opportunity for middle school students to explore their personal strengths and to begin developing a pathway to learning so that their individual passion and perseverance for learning builds momentum during the middle school years.

We recognize the value of using nationally respected assessments, those with a long-standing history of being accurate predictors of student success and to gauge student readiness. Even more important is our attention to the daily progress checks that we make with each student to gauge next instructional steps needed.

Why does Perry push for accurate assessment (both national norm assessments and daily, informal progress



checks) and students who find learning irresistibly engaging?

We understand that the pathway to reaching students includes:

- Strong relationships with students - finding their passion and interests for learning
- Effective feedback about learning so that students understand "what's next?" in my pathway of learning
- Weekly staff collaboration that results in effective teaching and learning

Last fall, students in grades K-8 experienced the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), nationally administered and improved for the past 25 years by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) – a not-for-profit, mission-driven organization. MAP measures both individual student progress and cohort progress within a grade level and is unlike anything our students have experienced before. MAP is administered electronically – gets harder or easier depending on the number of correct answers a student achieves. Therefore, MAP is an adaptive test and thereby students experience success on 50% of the items, and 50% of the assessment presents challenge and not often answered correctly by the student as it adapts to targeting the student's personal achievement. MAP is a screener that takes 30-60 minutes for the subjects of reading, math, and science and is administered three times a year (fall, winter, spring). MAP replaces a previously used measure called Terra Nova. How will MAP be utilized in Perry? The results give the teaching team

an understanding of what a student is ready to learn now and what prescriptive learning is needed in the subject whether it be intervention or enrichment.

Reading – The Key to Future Success

Have you read with your child lately? No, this is not a question for families of elementary students only.

I ask in light of the amount of information our students are responsible for understanding in a given school year. In reality, students read in every subject and pastime activities. So, without the ability to decode, closely read to comprehend at deep levels, and apply the information to critical thinking and problem solving, the student is paralyzed when attempting to provide solutions for real-life situations.

Helping your child achieve success can be as simple as opening a book (or turning on a tablet, smart phone or e-reader). In our fast paced society of abundant information, the ability to read remains the key to unlocking information. We must create an environment that fosters reading and communicating about ideas among our young people, because the more one reads the better the reading skills. It may sound simple, but it takes practice with books of interest and desire.

As adults let's take every opportunity to model deep reading and talking, analyzing, and drawing conclusions with children (of all ages) about what we read. Let's be interactive (reading and discussing together the latest headlines

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FINDING A PASSION FOR LEARNING ...continued from page 4

on an iPad or reading Newsweek together or analyzing a media clip instead of watching a television show).

It means providing our young people with opportunities to read items of interest – maybe the latest book from an author they enjoy, or taking a look at an article with a topic that sparks the imagination. (Teachers and librarians are wonderful resources for appropriate, interesting reading materials.) By joining together as role models of close reading, we partner in preparing our children to be more successful for life.

I had the distinct pleasure in the fall as a guest to a second grade classroom grappling with finding solutions to the

problem: How do we show history long ago compared to today?

Talking with seven year-old students is a treat. Listening to their questions, and hearing about the world through the lenses of these emerging thinkers reminds me that this is exactly how learning is intended.

These young people – still mastering the ability to share complex thoughts and express excitement verbally with adults – are full of enthusiasm and a love of learning.

Under the direction of educators who are lifelong learners and continually improving instructional practices to engage learners, students are explorers,

communicators, writers, researchers, and directors within their own learning path.

Reflecting on this visit leaves me with two thoughts. First of all, we need to continue discovery learning, problem-based learning, and student-centered classrooms beyond second grade. Through the eyes of a self-directed, lifelong learner, the future is bright, limitless, and exciting. Secondly, the world in which second grade students will live and work is changing at an exponential rate. Teachers and leaders who facilitate learning and learn alongside students are keys to providing students the opportunity to lead intellectual, problem-solving lives as adults.

NEXT GENERATION CAREERS

by Todd Porcello, PHS Principal

January is a typical time when the majority of Americans reflect on the past and set resolutions for the future. Schools should reflect on where we have been and where we need to be. Throughout my first 4 months as Principal at Perry High School, it has become clear that the best route to ensure students are able to pursue the next generation of careers is to provide world-class opportunities, which can be accomplished by focusing on the 3 P's – Pathways, Partnerships, and Pedagogy.

The future graduates of Perry High School will compete in a global economy and the competition will be fierce. While a solid work ethic is essential, it will take more than hard work for our students to experience success upon graduation. The 3 P's will provide clarity, opportunities, and the essential skills for success.

Pathways – We will strive to provide multiple pathways for students. Potential exciting offerings include:

- 1) STEM programming
- 2) Career Readiness experiences through internships
- 3) Cutting edge offerings in the Business/Technology world such as Interactive Game Design, Media Production, Web Design,

CISCO Networking, Robotics, and Computer Science all of which will provide students with a solid entrepreneurial background while providing high level technical training

4) Traditional AP courses and PSEO

5) Combination of the paths in a typical liberal arts approach.

Partnerships – It truly does take a community to raise a child and we will strive to make the connections to partner with businesses to provide opportunities for our students to experience internships in a real world setting. These partnerships are vital in making sure we are on the right path and providing what employers are looking for in future employees. It is a

win-win situation for schools, students, and business owners.

Pedagogy – Technology can be a major game changer and transform the how, where, and when of teaching and learning. Through authentic literacy, blended learning and problem based learning, students will have opportunities to use the technology to not only increase the level of learning, but to also prepare them for a career where technology usage will be the expectation. These approaches allow students to develop as critical thinkers, entrepreneurs, analyzers, and communicators while training them to be adaptable to the situation.

We live in an exciting time to be involved in shaping and molding the future of our country. While we do have a major task in front of us, students are always worth the time and investment. Our economy will rely heavily on these students to be our future engineers, doctors, lawyers, scientists, highly skilled manufacturer workers, teachers, and small business owners. We want to provide the opportunities to allow a student to reach his or her full potential and truly be ready for the next step in the lifelong journey to learning and having a positive impact on society.



COLLEGE AND CAREER READY? ...continued from page 2

or education. A job may be obtained with only a high school diploma, but offers no guarantee of advancement or mobility. Being ready for a career means that a high school graduate has the English, and mathematics knowledge and skills needed to qualify for and succeed in the postsecondary job training and/or education necessary for their chosen career (i.e. technical/vocational program, community college, apprenticeship or significant on-the-job training).

Economic reality reflects these converging expectations. Education is more valued and more necessary than ever before. The bottom line is that today ALL high school graduates need to be prepared for some postsecondary education and/or training if they are to have options and opportunities in the job market.

Thirty five years ago, only 12% of U.S. jobs required some postsecondary

training or an associate's degree and only 16% required a bachelor's degree or higher. Nearly eight in ten future job openings in the next decade in the U.S. will require postsecondary education or training. Forty-five percent will be in "middle skill" occupations, which require at least some postsecondary education and training, while 33% will be in high skilled occupations for which a Bachelors degree or more is required. By contrast, only 22% of future job openings will be "low skill" and accessible to those with a high school diploma or less.

While the U.S. still ranks 3rd in the adult population (25-64 year olds) with an associates degree or higher among 30 countries, we now rank 10th among 25-34 year olds with a two-year degree and above. Competing countries are catching up to – and even outpacing – the U.S. in the educational attainment of their new generation of adults.

Higher levels of education lead to elevated wages, a more equitable distribution of income and substantial gains in productivity. For every additional average year of schooling U.S. citizens complete, the GDP would increase by about 0.37 percentage points – or by 10% – over time.

The stakes are high for our students. It will be necessary for us as an educational community to uphold the high academic standards we proudly say we stand for. This means asking our students to remain focused, helping them to develop the "soft" skills necessary for survival in the world of work, and to maintain a rigorous (yet balanced) course schedule that will prepare them for college and career.

DISTRICT SPELLING BEE

The Perry School District Annual Spelling Bee took place on Tuesday, November 13, in the Goodwin Theatre. In the final round of competition, Perry eighth grader, Sarah Paquin and fifth grader, Bailey Charlton battled seven rounds of spelling, tackling words such as sustenance, tendency, advantageous, resurgent, bevy, vocable, and the last word spelled, the one that decided the 2013 District Spelling Bee Champ... nonchalant. It was spelled correctly by Sarah Paquin, with Bailey Charlton, deservingly earning the title of District Runner-up.

In February, Sarah will go up against other Lake County winners at Auburn Career Center. We wish Sarah the best at Auburn, and if successful there, she will compete at the Tri-County Bee in March, against the top spellers from Ashtabula and Lake Counties. Success there, will ensure a trip to Washington, D.C., the goal of top spellers.

Grade level top spellers were Nick Adams (Grade 4), Bailey Charlton

(Grade 5), Juilia DiBease (Grade 6), Madeleine Pierce (Grade 7), and Sarah Paquin (Grade 8).

Congratulations to all contestants for earning a spot in the District Level Bee. We wish Sarah great success, as she prepares for the next level of competition.



District Spelling Bee winner Sarah Paquin with Spelling Bee coordinator, Mrs. Kim Jury



Purchase a DVD copy of your favorite Perry Schools TV production!

Interested in purchasing a DVD of a program you saw on the Perry Channel or in the Goodwin Theatre? Many of our in-house productions are available on DVD, for only \$10.00 each!

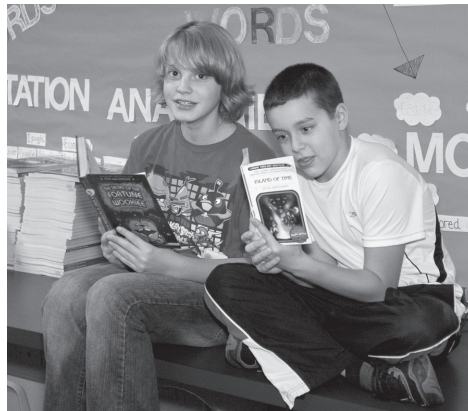
Just visit our District website home page, www.perry-lake.org. You'll find a link to the DVD order form, our current programming schedule, and you can watch the Perry Channel's "live" video stream from Time Warner Cable Channel 22.

PERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair, Feb.1-8. An amazing selection of books is headed our way!

At the Book Fair you will find the latest and finest titles for kids, as well as books of interest to parents.

Mark your calendar for our Family Event where the whole family can join in the fun. And, you can contribute books to your child's classroom library.



The Book Fair is a great way to get everyone excited about reading!

Here's a link to a brief video that highlights the big dreams that can be realized through family reading:

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/family>.

See you at the Book Fair!

PERRY SCHOOLS BUDGET UPDATE

by Lew Galante, Chief Financial Officer

Over the past several years, the Perry School District has reduced its General Fund Budget by nearly five million dollars, in an effort to maintain a balanced budget to reductions to local and state revenue. As the District awaits the budget from the State of Ohio for the next biennium, the School District is contemplating areas for continued fiscal responsibility. In light of the many reductions that we have already made, efforts now are being made to look to sharing services with other districts to help reduce costs. One area of success, so far, has been the District sharing a transportation supervisor with both the Riverside and the Painesville districts. This share has resulted in a \$35,000 annual savings. Additionally, the District is sharing a Special Education Supervisor with Painesville City, and is looking into the sharing of other services, such as technology, and group purchasing of goods and services with other districts.

Reductions from the previous five years have included a reduction in administrative personnel from fourteen administrators to nine, and reductions via attrition to transportation, custodial services, food services, teachers, and support personnel. The reductions are simply

a reflection that, as our revenue sources decline, our expenses must decline as well.

Comparing the last budget to previous years, the General Fund Budget from the year ending June 30, 2012, was actually less than the District's budget from the year ending June 30, 2001, with each of the spending areas (total salary, benefits, purchased services, supply costs, and equipment) all lower than they were eleven years previous.

In fact, the Districts' reduction plan was even more daunting, if you note that utility rates, special education costs, and healthcare costs have all been on the rise over the same eleven year period.

Moving forward, the goals of the finance department have been and are to maintain a balanced budget despite rising costs and decreased revenues. Currently, District projections call for balanced budgets in the General Fund through 2016. As the state continues to reduce our revenue, we will remain proactive to counter the reductions without sacrificing the educational process and the needs of the children. Our fiscal reductions will come, as they have over the past several years, via efficiencies, attrition, and shared services, to produce the same results for less costs to the taxpayers.

PERRY AREA JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT

The Perry Area joint Recreation District has instituted a recognition program to honor volunteers who have assisted in enhancing the objectives of the Recreation District.

This year's recipients are: Michael King, Phyllis Matson, and Robert Rideout (Rideout's IGA).

A special thank you to our 2012-2013 winter sports sponsors: Basketball: Sports N Sports, Yardmaster, Glenda's Pizza Depot, Legends Sports Photography, Perry PTA, Edward Jones Investments/Dave Lemond, Truckmen, Inc., and The Rupert Agency.

Perry Fall Festival: McGroarty Enterprises - www.freeplants.com, Desborough Construction, Concord Transportation, Blackmore Roofing Inc., and Kist Chiropractic.

Perry Recreation is offering a New Program:

Spring Volleyball for grades 3-6.

Registration will take place in February – program will run March-April.

More information will be posted on our website: www.perryrec.com. Please email us (recreation@perry-lake.org) or call us at 259-9469, for more information.



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