

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

the perry way

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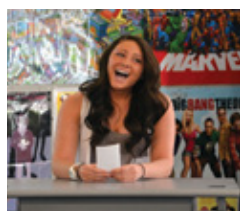
JUNE 2014

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PHS SCIENCE STUDENTS GAIN RECOGNITION

The Northeastern Ohio American Chemical Society (NEOACS) Local Section has announced the finalists in the 2014 Young Scientist Awards competition. Placing first, among the top ten, was Perry High School junior, Mark Hocevar.

Mark was presented with a check for \$600 and a copy of the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics at a dinner and awards ceremony held recently at the Pine Ridge Country Club in Wickliffe.

The annual awards are presented to the best and brightest high school students in the northeastern Ohio region, with the top three students receiving cash awards and the top

ten students receiving a personalized copy of the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics.

Sponsored by the Lubrizol Corporation, the contest is open to all high school students in Lake County. Applicants must be a full time student in grades 9-12, submit a letter of recommendation from their science teacher or Science Olympiad coach, and write an essay about their chemistry education and their science-based career path. Cash prizes are awarded for the three best applicants as decided by the NEOACS Executive Committee:

- \$600 for first place
- \$300 for second place
- \$200 for third place

Mark would potentially like to major in Neuroscience with a pre-medicine concentration, in order to become a doctor.

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Perry High School junior, Ryan Moyers (left) has earned a prestigious Cleveland Clinic Summer Internship in the Science for Nursing Internship Program. Fellow classmate Mark Hocevar, also a junior, is the recipient of this year's NEO American Chemistry Society Young Scientist Award.

IN PURSUIT OF WORLD-CLASS STANDARDS

by Jack Thompson, Superintendent

Once again, it's time to put the final touches on the recognition ceremonies and to celebrate and acknowledge the many outstanding accomplishments of the year. Congratulations to the class of 2014!

I have been fortunate to attend a number of events to celebrate and recognize this year's senior class. At each and every function, I have been so very impressed with the outstanding accomplishments of our Perry students.

For those families with a graduating senior, the next few months will be particularly special and exciting as they help guide their son or daughter toward the next phase of their lives.

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PERRY TEACHER IS A FAVORITE!



High school Journalism teacher Mrs. Jenny Hunter, has been named the local winner of the Barnes & Noble Favorite Teacher Contest. Open to all middle school and high school students in Mentor, Perry, Madison, Chardon and Willoughby-Eastlake, the competition was the highlight of April's Educator Appreciation Week at Barnes & Noble, where Mrs. Hunter was honored during a ceremony at the Mentor store.

Students were invited to nominate their favorite teacher by writing essays, poems, or thank-you letters that explain how their teacher has influenced their life and reveal why they appreciate and admire him or her. Entries were judged on the compelling nature of the teacher's qualities, the sincerity of the student's appreciation, and the quality of expression and writing.

Mrs. Hunter was nominated by Perry High School senior, Alyssa Fults, who wrote the winning essay, which will now be entered into the regional competition, where five winners will be chosen. Each regional winner will receive a \$500 Barnes & Noble Gift Card. From the pool of five regional winners, Barnes & Noble will name one teacher the Barnes & Noble National Teacher of the Year. The winning teacher will receive \$5,000, and the title of Teacher of the Year.

The winner will be recognized at a special community celebration at a local Barnes & Noble store.

The winning teacher's school will also receive \$5,000.

Learn more at barnesandnoble.com.



WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

by Amy Harker, Director of Student Services

Work-Based Learning experiences offer a myriad of career explorations for Perry High School students developed jointly by the school and businesses. Students were given an exciting opportunity this spring to meet with representatives from various careers and career pathways in a new program called Career Connections.

The presentations were scheduled in the high school media center during the students' ICE (Intentional Constructive Experience) period one time each week. The presenters provided an overview of a typical day in their present position, as well as, what educational pathway they traveled to arrive at their current role in their career. Each session ended with an opportunity for students to ask questions about the highlighted career.



WVIZ media producer, Anne Glausser shares stories about her experiences in radio and television with students attending the new Career Connections program at Perry High School

Presenters included Dr. Chris Ciolli, chemist from Lubrizol Corporation; Bob Teigeler, sales associate for Continental Office Environments; Greg Morris, owner and physical therapist at

AGM Physical Therapy; Paul R. Malchesky, Attorney at Law with Cannon, Aveni, and Malchesky Co, LPA; Anne Glausser, media producer from WVIZ; David Malinowsky, performing artist from Willoughby Fine Arts; Scott Capitosti, technology manager at Lubrizol Corporation; and Janet Morse, an engineer from Lincoln Electric.

Career Connection opportunities will continue in the 2014-15 school year. Interested students can sign up in the guidance office. To participate in an internship or shadowing experience, students should notify Mrs. Rita Soeder of their interest. The first step in the process includes an employability skills assessment to determine the students' readiness to be on the job-site.

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PHS SCIENCE STUDENTS GAIN RECOGNITION *...continued from page 1*

Perry High School is also pleased to announce that Ryan Moyers has earned a prestigious Cleveland Clinic Summer Internship in Nursing at South Pointe Hospital in Warrensville Heights. Ryan, also a junior, is the first Perry student in

many years to be offered this rare opportunity. Since the start of the internship programs, participating students have attained coveted admissions to top colleges, universities and educational advancement opportunities around

the world. With their research experience and qualifications, they have been offered full and partial scholarships to pursue their interest in scientific or health and/or sciences professions.

PERRY AREA JOINT RECREATION SUMMER REC PROGRAM

Our ½ day summer program is intended for participants ages 4+ and will run for 6 weeks: June 9 - July 18. If your son or daughter has never taken part in our summer program, we strongly encourage you to sign up.

We couldn't be more excited about this year's weekly activity schedules.

Sign up for all 6 weeks or week to week.

More information on this program can be found on our website.

Baseball (ages 9-14):

We have 3 teams in each of the 3 divisions
(Minors-10u) (Majors-12u) (Juniors-14u)

These teams are members of Little League International and are a member of the local District One with neighboring communities. Game schedules can be found on the website. Our home games are played at Perry Park.

We would like to thank the Perry Township Road Department for all of their help this spring in aiding our efforts to improve the ball diamonds.

Softball (ages 9-14):

We are proud to announce that we have joined a new league. NorthCoast Fast Pitch. We have one team in each the 10u and 12u division.

Fall Programs:

Soccer for ages 4+ & Volleyball (girls in grades 3-6)
Registrations to be available in July

Upcoming Events:

June 25 - Lake County Junior Olympics
Movie Nights - Dates TBA (check the website)

Check out our website for information on current and upcoming programs at www.perryrec.com.

IN PURSUIT OF WORLD-CLASS STANDARDS *...continued from page 1*

I would like to personally thank the class of 2014 for making us so proud of them for all their hard work!

Students throughout the grade levels have recently taken state tests designed to measure their achievement and level of academic growth, as compared to their grade level peers throughout Ohio. I am very proud of the hard work our staff and students have put in to stretch their learning and maximize academic growth. Although state testing is but one of the many ways we measure success, I am confident our students were well prepared

and performed at their best on Ohio Achievement Assessments and Ohio Graduation Tests. As you know, the Ohio Department of Education has a new look to the school and district report cards released annually in August. Gone are the ratings of excellent, effective, continuous improvement, etc. In its place, is a much more familiar rating system of A, B, C, D, and F. Preliminary simulations based on most recent data have the Perry Local School District earning a B as an overall grade.

As we brace ourselves for the "next generation of assessments" we are

so excited about the preparations that have been put in place. If you haven't already heard, you will soon be learning about our new 1:1 Initiative to put a Chromebook computer in the hands of every one of our students in grades 5 thru 12. After two years of preparation, we find ourselves in a time where this is no longer an option but a necessity to continue allowing our students to pursue "world-class standards". Congratulations on all the growth and successes experienced this school year, and I wish all of you a wonderful summer break!

REDUCING STRESS AT PHS

—by Kendal Novak and Jillian Meyer

HPAC stands for Health Professions Affinity Community, a program through Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), introduced to Perry students to involve and engage them to improve our community's health. The Perry HPAC was formed when some of our students went to the 2013 HPAC Kickoff event at NEOMED. At the Kickoff, they learned about some of the projects other HPAC teams had created in order to better the health in their communities and saw demonstrations of various health topics.

Team members are Haley Hagan, Feryaal Imran, Kendal Novak, Jillian Meyer, Mark Hocevar, Marley Stipich, McKenna Knisely, Jenni Keener, and Savannah Medlen.

As a team, the Perry HPAC created the I.C.E. (Intentional Constructive Experience) project, whose goal is to reduce the stress in the lives of Perry High School students.



HPAC members say hello to State Representative Dave Joyce during his recent visit to Perry High School. The group prepared a presentation with ideas for a new health & fitness program for high school students

Their mission is to introduce stress-reducing activities for students to get involved in during the I.C.E. Study Hall. They will use community assets, as well as grants from NEOMED to set our plan into place.

Some stress relieving activities scheduled are: dance, yoga, chef demonstrations, massages, and

ACT/SAT preparation. Haley and McKenna are the group leaders. Mark and Kendal are the marketing specialists who advertise the project. Jillian and Marley are the dance, yoga, and massotherapy project leaders. Jenni and Feryaal are the culinary/chef demonstration project leaders. Savannah is the administrative coordinator, and she works with Feryaal as the ACT/SAT preparation project leaders.

Our team hopes these activities will help get students involved and eliminate stress through fun entertainment. The Perry HPAC just began this year, but will continue into following years as well. The members will recruit every year in order to become a large team. By having a large team, many health projects can take place, and all can play a part in bettering our community's health.

PERRY COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER NEWS

Come visit us at the Perry Community Fitness Center! We have added more class offerings as well as new equipment in our weight room.

The group fitness classes we now offer are Yoga, Boot Camp, Spinning, TBF, Kardio Kickboxing & Kenpo Karate.

A big welcome to our new trainers, Jessica and Scott Roberts, and to Jessica Crawford, who will be offering massage therapy.

Just introduced: purchase an unlimited group class monthly pass for as low as \$50/month! See Fitness Center for details.

For more information, please visit our new website at www.perrycfc.com, and follow us on Facebook!

Mark Your Calendars to Attend PEAT Meetings in 2014-15!

Please plan to attend district PEAT (Parent-Educator-Academic Team) meetings next school year.

The goals of PEAT are the following:

1. Understand District/school initiatives for student growth – ALL students
 - Update community on District goals and results
 - Update community on school initiatives and after school/summer enrichment
2. Clarify Understanding/ Advisory/ Increase positive communication throughout our community

Scheduled PEAT meetings for 2014-15 are listed below. Please RSVP to attend at: kuhnd@perry-lake.org

- Tuesday, November 11, 2014 (5:45 – 6:45 p.m.)
- Tuesday, March 10, 2015 (5:45 – 6:45 p.m.)

WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES...continued from page 2

Next, a prescribed training program is implemented, which can be of varying lengths depending upon the student's needs. After the employability skills training the student is ready and prepared for participation in the internship experience. Career knowledge and skills have been strategically imbedded into the training program to prepare students for a successful career experience. A shadowing experience is a short term observation of a career of interest, while an internship is a longer term (3, 6, 9, or 12 week) learning experience

for preparation for a professional career. An apprenticeship is also a longer term learning experience to prepare for a trade or vocational job.

A brochure about work-based learning experiences options is available on the Perry Schools website (www.perry-lake.org); however, students can also arrange or get assistance to arrange other options as well. Students can obtain high school credit for their participation by completing a credit flex application available in the guidance office.

The goal of Perry Local Schools' work-based learning program is to advance college and career-bound students' academic, intellectual, technical, and personal skills. Interested students can participate in a work-based learning experience by contacting Mrs. Rita Soeder at Perry High School (soederr@perry-lake.org). Interested providers of an experience or those interested in presenting a Career Connection can contact Amy Harker, Director of Student Services and College & Career Readiness (harkera@perry-lake.org).

SUMMER STRETCH 2014!

by Betty Jo Malchesky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Research shows that engaging the brain throughout summer leads to less regression in learning for the coming fall. Perry instructors will return this summer to provide irresistibly engaging courses for students during Summer STRETCH 2014. Thanks to 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) federal grant awarded at PMS and PHS, we are able to host summer enrichment and academic intervention on campus during summer 2014, at greatly reduced fees to our families.

Perry High School Summer STRETCH offerings include: Game Design, Perry TLC – Teens Leading Change, OGT (Ohio Graduation Test) Prep, and Credit Recovery.

Perry Middle School Summer STRETCH offerings include: iArt, 100 Book Reading Challenge, Mathematics, Place-based Science, Social Studies Problem-Based Learning, Let's Move (Personal fitness, water safety), and Pinterest from Recyclables.

Perry Elementary Summer STRETCH offerings include: TGRG – Third Grade Reading Guarantee,

Pre K-Pre 4th math/literacy camps, Let's Move (Personal fitness, water safety), and Pinterest from Recyclables.

Ohio's Next Generation Assessments

Beginning 2014-15 in grades 3-8, Ohio assessments will be largely computer-based. Perry continues to use teacher, district and state achievement results as part of our measures for identifying each student for optimal learning.

Computer-based assessment items include:
Evidence Based Responses (ESBR) - multiple choice with more than one possible correct answer paired with "evidence" in a constructed written response

Technology Enhanced Constructed Response (TECR) - students select words or phrases in reading passages that is evidence to develop a text based argument or extended response. Students drag and drop words or data, make a model, run simulations to develop a larger answer.

Prose Constructed Response (PCR) - response is based on multiple text passages (synthesize thoughts across several passages); requires students to go back in the text to analyze, synthesize, argue and enter responses using keyboarding as well as demonstrate other interactivity with technology.

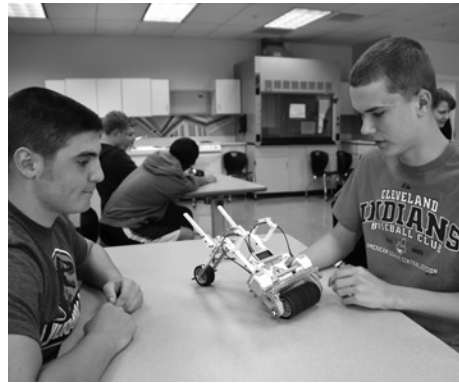
Perry Students...One of a Kind!

In closing out the school year, I take this time to thank you for the Pre K-12 students that you share with us each day – students who are eager, inquisitive, desire to understand WHY/HOW the content is relative to their world. Our goals at Perry are to prepare students for the world they will inherit and understand each student's interests and passion in order to connect the curriculum content to relevant problems that a student finds worth solving. Our district goals are to model how to cultivate positive, caring, and responsive relationships with community we serve, support, and teach. Perry students rise to this challenge!

WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING AT PMS?

Spring is also a busy time of year in our schools. We have worked hard to create course opportunities and a schedule that will put our students in position to be successful, when they get to Perry High School. Additionally, we created an advisory group of wonderful parents to help guide us in making the best decisions for our students. I would like to use this space to provide more information on some new and exciting changes that are coming to Perry Middle School.

Summer Stretch – PMS is offering enrichment and remediation opportunities for students this summer from June 9 – July 3. Check them out on the middle school webpage at <http://www.perry-lake.org/SummerSTRETCH2014.aspx>.



Call the middle school office if you have questions.

1:1 Computing – In April, the BOE gave the Perry MS Technology Committee the green light to move forward with a proposal for 1:1 computing at PMS. This group has

worked very hard to collect parent insight, student opinions, and research to make this decision for our students. Our proposal – branded #1:WorldLearning (because our students will have access to world-wide learning opportunities) is the capstone to the district's technology plan for the future. Each student will be provided with training access to a Google Chrome Book for their duration at Perry Middle School. Teaching staff will also be provided guided professional development in the integration of these devices into their classroom instructional strategies.

We believe, that as time progresses, our students, through these devices, will improve their literacy skills

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FINDING BALANCE

Technology is an integral part of a student's life and learning. The goal of a course that I recently completed at Lake Erie College, The Emotional Impact of Technology on Students and their Significant Others, was to explore the effect of technology on face to face communication. In an attempt to find balance in methods of communication including text, e-mail, cell phone, land line telephone, Skype, and face to face, we research current trends related to technology. It cannot be an all or nothing proposition. As stated in the book Raising Generation Tech by Jim Taylor (2012), "To bury our heads in the sand would be irresponsible at best and catastrophic

at worst. We must recognize there are heightened dangers and heightened opportunities this crazy new world has to offer" (pg. 19, Taylor J. 2012). Technology is neither bad nor good. Taylor states, "We cannot easily label this influence as 'good' or 'bad', 'healthy' or 'unhealthy'.

There are, however, four questions to help determine the degree of influence that the popular culture and technology have on children and whether that influence is constructive or detrimental:

1. How often are your children exposed to popular culture and immersed in technology?

2. What is the quality of content to which they are exposed?

3. To what degree do you provide limits and guidance in your children's interaction in popular culture and technology?

4. How much counterbalancing exposure do your children get from positive influences and experiences?" (pg. 10, Taylor, J. 2012)

Balance really is the key. As a parent, you have a great deal of

influence on children by the example you set and the expectations you put forth regarding technology. In most cases, but not all, parents pay for the cell phone, high speed internet, and cable television. Therefore, you "do" have the final say when it comes to technology.

In my research I found the vast majority of those under the age of 35 prefer to communicate via text. By all means use that as one method of communication, but it is unreasonable and unhealthy to constantly text your children. When they need to work out a non-life threatening problem, allow them to work it out, and yes...fail from time to time. We learn from small failures. The one really pleasant finding was that almost all people, regardless of age, will respond to a call either by text or voice. Almost all will not avoid a call altogether. Another fairly obvious finding was, the younger you are, the more time you spend in front of a screen.

We, as parents, have a great influence on our children. Our main role is to help them find "Balance".



CONGRATULATIONS PERRY TWIRLERS

Congratulations to Perry High School majorettes Alexis Holland, Diana Drain and Nicole Simmons for their performances at the United States Twirling Association's (U.S.T.A.) Ohio State Baton Twirling Championships in Dayton, Ohio.

Alexis and Diana, Perry high School seniors competed at the Wright State Nutter Center on April 26th and April 27th, in the Senior Women's Pairs events, winning a second and third place. Perry junior Nicole Simmons and Jordan Wilhelm, a Madison High School majorette, competed in the Senior Women's Pairs event winning the

State championship. In addition to these events, Nicole Simmons competed in the Senior Women's Intermediate Two Baton event winning two First Place wins.

The Perry High School majorettes also competed in The Senior Trio categories winning the Ohio State title for both events.

Nicole has qualified for the Regional competition on June 14th, in Trenton Ohio, where she will compete for solo, pairs and team championships.

All three girls have been twirling since they were four years old and are coached by Advisor, Ms. Debra Stapel.



Nicole Simmons (left), Diana Drain and Alexis Holland at the Ohio State Baton Twirling Championships in Dayton, OH

PERRY ROBOTICS TEAM COMPETES AT WORLDS



Perry Robotics Team members include, (front row: left to right) Shannon Platt, Mark Hocevar, Kylee Kramer (back row: left to right) Jake Vicini, Nick Lauria, Mike Sorine (not pictured: Kyle Kremiller, Akin Patel)

The Perry High School Robotics teams have been very successful this year.

The VEX Team qualified for a trip to the 2014 VEX Robotics World Championship in Anaheim, CA. this past April. The VEX World Championship brought together 760 teams from every state and over 26 countries. The Perry Robotics Team was in the Arts Division and placed 60th in their division.

Teams score points in a game called VEX Toss UP, by moving balls around a 12'x12' field during an autonomous period followed by driver-controlled play.

In Dayton, last month, the Lego Teams took first, second, best in show and best presentation, in the Regional Mini-Urban Challenge, earning a paid trip to the Nationals in June.

The Mini-Urban Challenge is a national competition that challenges high school students to design and operate an autonomous "car" using a LEGO® Mindstorms® kit, to successfully navigate through a model city.

The teams are now focused on building their robots for next year, in hopes of making it back to the World Championship!

WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING AT PMS? ...continued from page 6

(reading and writing), increase their achievement, and become more independent in their learning. Specific communication regarding this initiative will be sent out in our summer "News & Notes".

Fifth Grade Orientation to PMS: later in May, 4th grade students from Perry Elementary School will be visiting us as part 1 of their orientation to the middle school. Students will be visited by PMS students in their homerooms for a short presentation on middle school

life, as well as a question and answer session. Students will also get to meet with the principal, take tours of the middle school, and eat lunch at PMS. This will be followed by a special "Jump Start" opportunity for 5th grade students on August 13, to come in to pick up/drop off school supplies, turn in forms and paperwork and get school pictures taken. Students and parents will also have the opportunity to meet with the principal, pick up student schedules, follow their schedules,

and meet their teachers.

Jump Start 6-8: Students (and parents) in grades 6-8, will be able to visit the school on August 14. Again, forms/paperwork will be collected, school pictures will be taken, school supplies picked up, and students will have access to their lockers. Teachers in grades 6-8 will be present in their classrooms for parents and students to meet.

We look forward to seeing you all back at school in August.

Have a great summer break!



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