

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

the perry way

WWW.PERRY-LAKE.ORG

JUNE 2015

FUTURE CHEF



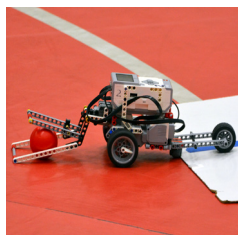
Page 2

EXCELLENCE



Page 4

ENG-INUIITY



Page 5

LEARNING



Page 7

PERRY SERVICE LEARNING CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

by Todd Porcello, PHS Principal

Over the past ten years, numerous seniors have given back to the community through their enrollment in our Perry Service Learning (PSL) course offered at Perry High School. The students actively serve many non-profits in Lake County through community service.

The 2014-2015 school year marks their ten year anniversary, and during that timeframe the seniors have contributed 81,970 hours towards making the Perry Community and the greater Lake County area a better place to live. This is in addition to raising close to \$40,000 which has been donated to deserving non-profits in the Perry Community. Together the students in the class

participate in special events such as Shantytown, the Community Walk and Roll, Community Green Day, Seniors helping Seniors and the Giving Garden.

Overall, PSL strives to help students develop democratic values by working for justice, becoming advocates, and affecting change. The course was carefully designed based on how students learn, how they think, the nature of experience, and how to educate for active participation in democratic life. While the hours are impressive, it is about the change and the connections built through quality relationships. PSL has lived by the mantra, "it's not about the hours, but

the people you meet along the way." It is impressive each year to hear the stories told by our senior students and to witness the deep connections

...continued on page 3



The Giving Garden at Perry High School provides hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables each season for distribution to needy members of the community through the Perry Center.

AUTHOR EXTRAVAGANZA FUNDRAISER

by Jodi Rzeszotarski, PHS Media Specialist



Last year, students of the Perry High School Library Council held an Author Extravaganza which drew over 600 sixth through twelfth graders from eight different schools for a full day of celebrating reading and writing. Students listened to nine young adult authors, including Chris Crutcher and Rachel Alpine, speak about their writing process and share stories. Students were able to ask the authors questions during panel discussions and personally meet with them. Authors signed hundreds of books. Afterwards, one student said, "I have never been to an event with so many people who have the same passions as me. It made me feel special!"

The Library Council students, who organized the event gave up countless hours to create an event that

...continued on page 3

PERRY WORKS

Perry Works is an after school program funded through the 21st Century Grant designed to connect high school students interested in summer jobs with local employers who are hiring. Instead of hosting a culminating job fair at the conclusion of the Perry Works program, students were provided the opportunity to interview with potential employers, thus resulting in a much more personalized experience for our students.

Perry Works students were given the opportunity to self-assess and determine



what kind of summer work would match their interests, personality, and needs. The teacher facilitating the program approached area businesses about the opportunity to have students interview for the upcoming anticipated summer openings. Students worked

by Rita Soeder, Internship Coordinator

to complete applications, prepare resumes, and practice for actual interview experiences throughout the Perry Works program. The program culminated in each active student having the chance to interview with a prospective summer employer. All students who interviewed were offered summer positions, resulting in 100% success rate. We wish nothing but the best to our Perry Works students as they start their summer jobs. Special thank you to the Perry Dairy Queen, West's Orchard, and The YMCA Daycare in Perry for their participation.

FUTURE CHEFS COMPETITION



Perry Schools Director of Food Service, Vicki Peters shares the excitement as Perry third grader, Cloe McCann wins the 5th Annual Sodexo 'Future Chefs' competition.

Once again, elementary students were able to show off their culinary skills in the 5th Annual Sodexo Future Chefs competition. Open to Perry third and fourth grade students, the event required participants to submit their favorite healthy snack recipe. A total of 29 recipes were submitted, without names, and distributed to a five-member selection committee, who selected five finalists. The winner of this year's event was third grader Cloe McCann, with her "Banana Split Grahams". Runners-up were fellow third graders, Bailey Bolton and Calli Thompson and fourth graders, Silas Darby and Emma Pietrzak.

The finalists' recipes were assigned to five Perry Food Service members, who worked with the students at the final event in Perry's high school cafeteria on March 18. At the main competition, the judges considered five criteria: Originality, Ease of Preparation, Healthy Attributes, Kid-Friendly and Plate Presentation.

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

to keep their chef coat and traditional chef's hat. And, as an added bonus, the winner of this event will be entered into a national competition for more great prizes.

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



Perry Elementary School's 'Future Chefs' competition finalists are (front row, from left), Cloe McCann, Calli Thompson, Emma Pietrzak, Bailey Bolton and Silas Darby. The back row (from left) includes event coordinator Vicki Peters and the students' coaches, Tami Metzger, Nancy Fiorenza, Melissa Bentley, Kris Chapman and Mary Misch.

PSL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS *...continued from page 1*

they build with those they are serving. The class continues to evolve, and Mr. Soeder and Mrs. Trentanelli, who both possess an amazing passion for service to our community, provide world-class learning opportunities for our students, while developing

empathetic students who desire to be agents of change. We are thankful to have such dedicated staff members leading the way with our senior students. We look forward to the next 10 years!

For more information visit: <http://perryservicelearning.weebly.com/>.

PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.

Please join us!
pta4perry.weebly.com

AUTHOR EXTRAVAGANZA *...continued from page 1*



students would enjoy. They selected and booked authors, handled the logistics of reserving an entire school for an event, and learned how to work within a limited budget. Last year's event cost \$7,000, which took Library Council students two years to raise by selling candy bars. Most of that money went for authors' speaking fees, travel, and refreshments. The school donated the theater, custodial help and printing, which greatly helped to reduce the costs.

This spring, the students in Library Council were anxious to plan next year's Author Extravaganza. Their 'dream' list for the next one includes more authors, lunch for the participants and ideally, a two day event with writer's workshops for students. Factoring in all of our fundraising efforts, it would still take two years to build up enough funding for a small event. Students don't want to wait another two years. We need your help now! The \$8,000 we are asking for would run an event similar to this past Author Extravaganza, accounting for an additional \$1,000 for facilities and cleaning staff expenses compared to last year. Any additional money donated will help students to invite

more authors, extend the length of the extravaganza, or be saved for the following year.

On a personal note, as the advisor to the Library Council and PHS Media Specialist, I have never worked with a more selfless or dedicated group of students. They set a goal and met it. They created a day for their fellow students devoted to reading and writing. Who does that? The fact that they want to go through the complicated, time-consuming process all over again and make it bigger and better is humbling. Graduating seniors have been replaced with eager underclassmen wanting to continue their legacy by making the Author Extravaganza a yearly event.

If you have never been in an auditorium with 600 high school and middle school students, you might imagine a pep rally with kids yelling and screaming. That was not the case for the Author Extravaganza. They were quiet. They were encouraged to live-tweet the event. During Chris Crutcher's talk, there were students



and teachers openly crying at the touching stories he told. Seventh grade boys were actually crying and not ashamed of doing so. Students asked thought provoking questions about the writing process, motivations for becoming writers, and advice on how to become a writer. (The answer to the last question is to read a LOT and write a LOT.)

Help make the PHS Library Council's dream a reality by donating and letting your friends know about us!

Please visit www.gofundme.com/authorextravaganza. Thank you!



PERRY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER HONORED

Perry High School math teacher, Mrs. Kathy Traina has been awarded the 2015 Brigham Young University Golden Apple Award. The Golden Apple Awards were created to select and recognize teachers that demonstrate excellence in teaching, mentoring and guiding youth in Northeast Ohio.

The Cleveland Chapter of the Brigham Young University (BYU) Alumni Association had chosen to give one of only three Golden Apple Awards presented this year in the Northeast Ohio region.

The effort engages youth to thoughtfully select and articulately

nominate those teachers making a significant impact on their educational pursuits. This award is based on a survey of the youth and parents associated with BYU and/or who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons.

Perry High School senior, Hannah Dew nominated Mrs. Traina for this award. In her essay, Hannah described how Mrs. Traina inspired her educational pursuits and created a learning environment that has encouraged her to “enter to learn, go forth to serve.”

Congratulations, Mrs. Traina.



Perry High School teacher, Mrs. Kathy Traina (left) with PHS senior, Hannah Dew and BYU Alumni Association representative Kary S. Lewis.

SCHOOLS RECIEVE GRANT FOR ALPHA PROJECT

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

We are excited to announce that Perry Local Schools has applied and been awarded a grant of \$46,000 to create student-driven project-based learning opportunities and a career advisement program that will assist students in discovering a career pathway that matches their interests, passions and talents. This project, coined the ALPHA (Authentic Learning Personalized for Higher Achievement) project will be a two-pronged approach that will drive the creation of more personalized learning opportunities, which will increase engagement and interest resulting in deeper learning and improved career readiness for students at Perry Schools. ALPHA will bring together four schools in a collaborative project-based learning environment. Those schools are MC2STEM, Yellow Springs and Wickliffe Schools. The implementation of this project will allow each school to better match student interests with the changing needs of an increasingly technological skills-driven job market.

All learning experiences developed for ALPHA must meet the following criteria to be considered a viable project: be personalized, include student voice and choice, provide authentic real-world learning or



audience, be engaging, and be rigorous.

The four schools will build their students' understanding of Project-based Learning (PBL) during a training program for an initial cohort of students from all of the schools. This initial summit will take place in September, with a planned collaborative PBL project beginning in October. Students from Yellow Springs, who have been actively involved in the PBL approach will train a cohort of students from Perry, MC2STEM and Wickliffe Schools in the process. The meetings for the students will be blended with virtual and face-to-face collaborations. The grant will also provide the interactive video equipment necessary for the virtual meetings. Teachers working with the trained ALPHA initiative students will also be trained in the

process of PBL to help students facilitate their projects.

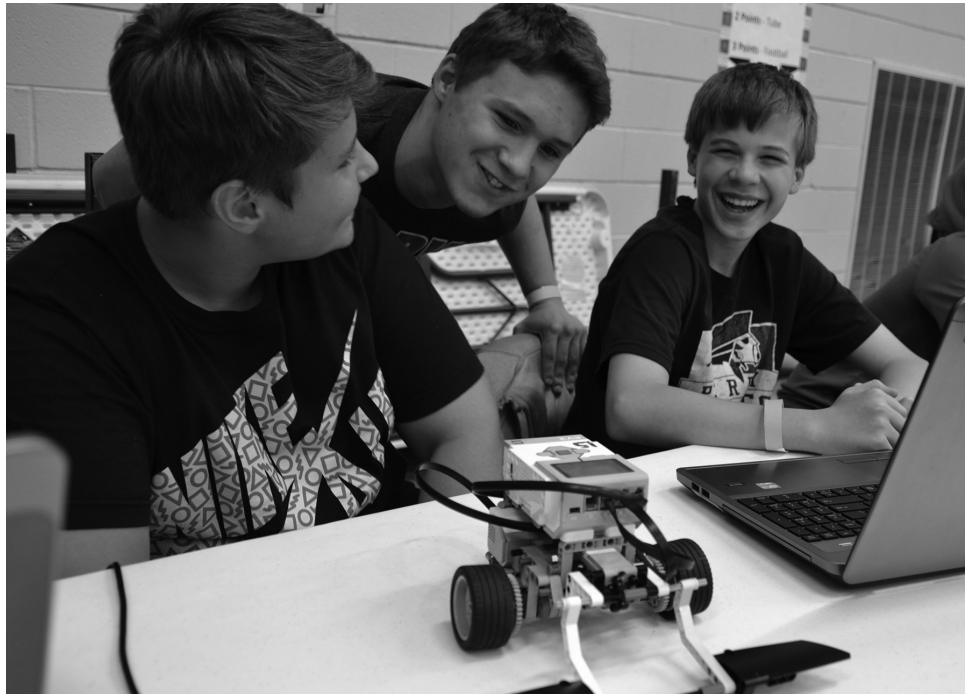
The second prong of the ALPHA project will allow all schools to enhance their career advisement programs helping students to identify their strengths, interests, talents, and the development of an individual career plan. Perry has established four career pathways that include STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), BELL (Business, Education, Leadership, and Law) Encore (Graphic, Visual and Performing Arts), and H2 (Health and Human Services). Students have varying on-ramps and off-ramps as well as pairing of the pathways to ensure individual career planning and flexibility in course work.

The partnering districts are committed to improving instruction that better engages students by empowering them to take responsibility for their own learning and direct them to a career pathway aligned to their interests. Training students and staff in the project-based learning approach, as well as implementing a career advisement program will serve to inspire our students to better develop the skills necessary to be prepared for their future careers.

PMS INVENTION & ENG-INUITY CONVENTION

Perry Middle School's first ever Invention & Eng-inuity Convention was a showcase of the students' year-long learning process. The objective of the event was to inspire curiosity, confidence, invention and creative problem-solving in our STEM classes.

Perry STEM teacher and event coordinator, Blanche Davidson explained. "The Invention & Eng-inuity Convention provided an authentic experience for our STEM students to solve problems, collaborate and communicate. We are developing the agile learners, critical thinkers, inventors, and entrepreneurs, who will generate the fuel that will drive our economic engine forward."



Students and families had an enjoyable time watching the competitions and participating in Maker-booths throughout the evening. The hands-on opportunities included: building Lego balloon cars, creating electric circuits, 3D doodling, and even riding an energy bike created by a trio of eighth grade students.

Fifth and sixth graders presented their invention ideas. Seventh

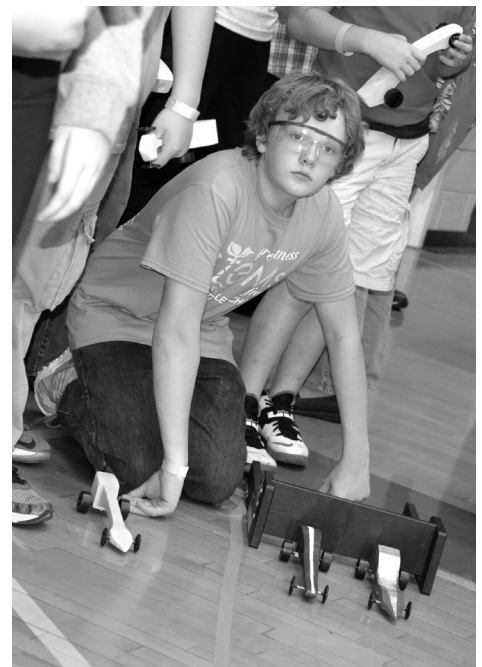
graders raced CO2 dragster cars that they designed and built in the STEM Lab.

Eighth graders competed in robotics challenges requiring both programming and building skills using their Lego Mindstorm EV3 robots.

STEM Cub members were the event ambassadors, managing the Maker booths and running the dragster and robotics competitions.

At the end of the evening, students commented on how proud they were to have been able to demonstrate what they had accomplished in the classroom.

The Perry Middle School STEM program engages students in the problem solving process, teaching them to identify a problem, use critical-thinking to solve the problem, then test and re-test until the desired outcome is reached.



COLLECTING BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!

Box Tops is a very popular, profitable, ongoing fundraiser for Perry PTA. Clipping all of those small squares results in getting a big check, slightly over \$1,000 twice a year!

Box Tops for Education® is one of the nation's largest school earnings loyalty programs and has been helping schools succeed since 1996. With over 250 participating products, it's an easy way for schools to earn cash for the things they need.

- Over 90,000 K-8 schools participate nationwide.



- Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10¢ and they add up fast!

- Schools can use their Box Tops cash to buy whatever they need most, from

books to field trips to playgrounds.

- So far, America's schools have earned over \$600 million from Box Tops...and counting!

Perry PTA is able to fund field trips, grant teacher financial aid requests, and help finance playground upkeep at Perry Elementary with this money. Simply put the Box Tops in a bag and send them to school with your child. There will be a Box Tops contest next year! Watch Perry Schools PTA on Facebook for details! Advanced notice will also be sent home.

GRANT PROMISES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Family and Consumer Science (FCS) teacher, Jennifer Bezzeg has been awarded the Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant. This \$5,000 prize was presented by Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation to Mrs. Bezzeg who applied for the award in early Fall in hopes of obtaining funds to update the food lab appliances, creating a more energy efficient lab, and cost savings for the district.

Mrs. Bezzeg plans to update the current food lab, which has remained static since the opening of the high school approximately twenty years ago. "It was tough at first," she explained, "because to give our students the best opportunity, it was going to involve some extra costs. This grant will provide our kids with learning experiences they deserve as they move forward outside of the classroom and into the world."

In August, Mrs. Bezzeg traveled to Columbus to attend the annual Ohio Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences conference, where she took a grant writing workshop. She



promptly began the application process for the Lowe's grant.

"I was excited to land the job here at Perry," she continued. "I wanted to contribute immediately to the community. With these upgrades, we'll be able to offer some really unique learning opportunities. My classes have grown, and I want to offer some

advanced culinary classes. With all the focus on STEM learning [science, technology, engineering, mathematics], many people don't realize that FCS is an original STEM classroom. After all, Ellen Richards, founder of FCS programming in the United States, was the first woman admitted to MIT and a chemist."

CFC NEWS

We are here for you to do some last minute "Beach Body Blasting!"

Stop in and take a tour of our facility with all new state-of-the-art equipment.

Attend a FREE fitness class such as, Boot Camp, Zumba, Yoga or Spinning, or come for a swim in the pool!

Our summer hours are: Monday-Friday, 5:00 am-9:00 pm, Saturday, 7:00 am-1:00 pm, and

Sunday, 8:00 am-12:00 pm and 4:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Visit our website at www.perrycfc.com for more info.

PREPARING FOR A LIFE OF LEARNING

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

Perry teachers shine at understanding learning standards and seek to prepare every student for a LIFE of learning!

As our district steps away from numerous weeks of State testing in grades 3-11, we step away with confidence that Perry Schools is equipped to roll out large-scale computer-based testing. However, we believe students deserve something better – much better.

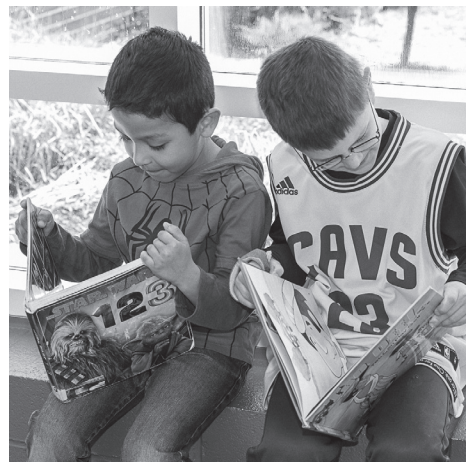
Students deserve to understand HOW to learn and WHY the content matters. At Perry, we believe students deserve opportunities to DO the content in real-world situations, as applicable, not merely study the subject through a textbook. In an era that technology gives us greater opportunity than ever to connect to resources, our community and the world, we want to design instruction that leaves our students inspired to think critically, apply, and create. When applicable to the content in a class, we want our students doing the content and seeing the work as real work, that could potentially provide something better to their community or

to the world.

“Assessment needs a new job – that of helpful servant. We want to use measurement to give us the kind and quality of feedback that supports and welcomes people (adults and students) to step forward with the desire to contribute, to learn, and to achieve.”

– Margaret Wheatley

In 2015-16, we look to step forward with greater opportunities for students. As a learning community at Perry, we understand that these efforts take time,



research, coordination of community people and resources, and practice with feedback in the classroom. We support each other to try, grow, and develop endless, maybe unthinkable, opportunities for students to perform, demonstrate, and become “doers” of the subject. Furthermore, performance assessments would be embedded in this rich work. We know we have succeeded when our students can answer these questions:

- What am I to learn, and WHY does it matter?
- How am I doing, and what kind of person am I becoming?
- Where to next?

Should you have any questions or good ideas to support community efforts that can shape the student experience, I would enjoy the conversation and opportunity.

Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky
Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment
Email: malcheskyb@perry-lake.org
or (440) 259-9200 (Ext. 9206)

WHY ALL THE TEARS?

It's a great time of year: Why all the tears?

December may mark the end of a calendar year, but May is the end of the year for school systems. This time of year, schools are busy with banquets recognizing and rewarding the many outstanding achievements of staff and students, performances demonstrating the growth experienced from hours of hard work and dedication, and ceremonies to pay tribute to those, where 2015 marks the end of this phase of their lives and the beginning of their next. All of these special events make this an emotional time, indeed. If celebrations bring joy and happiness, then where are all the tears coming from?

As our traditions provide a special time in December to reflect and make the extra effort to show the love we have for our families, come May those

of us lucky enough to be a part of the greatest educational system in the world get to feel the love generated from our work, up close and personal. Who wouldn't get emotional at a senior awards event watching one person after another affectionately embrace a student they just met when awarding them a scholarship in memory of a loved one they have lost? I certainly do not want to downplay the importance of celebrating all of those end-of-the-year tangibles we use to measure success: attendance, grade point averages, capstone projects, test scores, promotion, graduation rates, college/career/military acceptances, recognition awards, certificates of achievement and so on; as all of these also are rightful causes for celebration. However, at the end of May, it is seeing all those tears, goodbye hugs, and waves, signifying the loving relationships formed by

by Jack Thompson, Superintendent
working together to learn and achieve, that inspires me to do what I do and be proud to be a Perry Pirate. Have a great summer!

PERRY WOMEN'S LEAGUE CLOTHING ROOM

4261 Manchester Road
Just behind the Perry Center

Open on the second Friday
of each month, from
1:00 to 4:00 pm

The Clothing Room is an ongoing community service project that discreetly provides free clothing and shoes to those who are experiencing financial hardship.

Contact us at:
perrywomensleague@hotmail.com

Experiencing growing pains? **Addition, new home...?**



Life has a way of sprouting. Before you know it, the next chapter unfolds and you've outgrown your living space.

Turn to Paramount for helping you take the next step; from new home construction, master suites, great rooms, in-law suites, second floor & kitchen additions, whole house remodeling, and sunrooms. We can help you extend the livability and value of your home and we do it with craftsmanship and integrity.

[VISIT PARAMOUNTCC.COM](http://VISITPARAMOUNTCC.COM) TODAY

Residential &
Commercial Builders

(440) 259-1963

PARAMOUNT
CONSTRUCTION AND CONTRACTING

PERRY
LOCAL SCHOOLS



4325 Manchester Road, Perry, OH 44081



CURRENT RESIDENT
PERRY, OH 44081

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL: POSTMASTER PLEASE DELIVER BY JUNE 12

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Perry, OH
Permit #7