

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

the perry way

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OCTOBER 2013

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ANOTHER GREAT START!

by Jack Thompson, Ed.D., Superintendent

I would like to thank everyone for a great start to the 2013-2014 school year. Our buildings and grounds are spotless. Our food service department is doing an excellent job. Our bus drivers are getting our students here and home safely and on time, and the entire staff has arrived ready to serve our students' needs.

On August 22nd, we got our first look at the new Ohio Department of Education report card for school districts. Instead of ratings such as "excellent with distinction" and "continuous improvement", schools now receive a series of letter grades. An overall letter grade won't be given until 2015; rather, a "dashboard" report for school districts has been published and can be found on ODE's website. Perry Local School District received all A's and B's except for our District value added score, which came out as a C. The list of how we fared follows:

- Indicators Met = A
- Performance Index = B
- Graduation Rate (4 Years) = A
- Graduation Rate (5 Years) = B
- Value Added
 - o Gifted = B
 - o Students with Disabilities = A
 - o Lowest 20% in Achievement = B
 - o Value Added Overall = C

Ohio | Department of Education

In addition, as required by House Bill 153, the Ohio Department of Education released rankings of districts around the state by Performance Index, Value-Added, and Gifted Opportunity and Performance. Here is how we ranked:

- Gifted: 28th out of 548 districts
- Performance Index: 163rd out of 862 districts
- Value Added: 538th out of 824 districts

Although these scores only represent one measure of success, we continue to be proud of our student achievement. Once again, congratulations to our students and all of our staff for demonstrating their willingness to do whatever it takes to help our students achieve personal excellence!

I hope you had a chance to look over and provide input to our 2014-2015 school calendar proposals. I would like to express my gratitude to the calendar committee for the hours they worked to develop drafts that we feel best serves the interests of our students. We realize both proposals had pluses and minuses requiring tough decisions; however, in the end we believe

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GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR JUNIOR BAND



PHS band members, Samantha Whelpley, Sarah Regnier, Grace McGarry, Greg Hillis (director), Austyn Cousins and Stephen McGuire

The Great Geauga County Junior Fair Band is comprised of students from area middle and high schools, and performs annually at the Great Geauga County Fair. Directed by Mr. Greg Hillis, also director of the Great Geauga County Fair Band, the Junior Fair Band gives young musicians an opportunity to rehearse and perform a wide variety of music in a professional type of experience.

Membership is open to all brass, woodwind, and percussion students currently in 6th through 12th grades. This year's band had 80

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SPREADING THE WORD

by Joe Pohl, PLS Multimedia Communications Specialist

As you probably know, there has been a lot of good news coming out of Perry Schools lately. The annual District Calendar included a sampling of the many reasons why we Pirates are proud of our schools. It isn't enough to accomplish all that we have, if no one hears about it. For many years, in addition to the calendar, the quarterly Perry Way newsletter has been delivered to all Perry residents, keeping them informed of noteworthy accomplishments throughout our buildings, as well as upcoming events and programs of interest to the community.

Press releases are an important part of our communications to areas outside the Perry community. Several local newspapers publish photos and stories we submit on a regular basis, to let our neighbors know what great things are happening in our schools.

Perry eNews is a relatively recent addition to our communications network, which consists of a mailing list of more than 1600 email addresses. This monthly electronic newsletter links to a current or upcoming activity in each of the schools, as well as booster clubs and other community organizations and services. A calendar of upcoming events is also included

in each issue. If you are not already a subscriber, please send your email request to pohlj@perry-lake.org.

Time Warner Cable Channel 22 is our 24 hour educational access channel which provides videotaped programming and an electronic messaging system that incorporates school news with activities and events occurring throughout Lake County. Athletic competitions and Goodwin Theatre performances are videotaped for re-broadcast and for purchase.

Our newly redesigned District website provides the latest news from each school building and the various departments, which includes regularly updated calendar events, classroom and extra-curricular activities and contact information for faculty and staff. Newsletters from the individual schools are also posted on their home pages. Also posted on our website is video of our monthly School Board meetings, which is archived and available for viewing 24/7, along with our live streaming of Channel 22.

On our high school homepage, we have recently included a link to yet another source of school-related video. U. S. Education provides us with free access to athletic events, board meetings, theatre productions,

student projects and more. Check us out at www.useducationtv.com.

Hundreds of our video productions are also available for viewing on YouTube. From prerecorded morning announcements, to music videos, to a wide variety of classroom projects, our high school students' YouTube videos have received more than 40,000 views, and include a large group of regular followers.

In the realm of social media, with more than a thousand followers, Perry High School Facebook logs more than 10,000 visits per week. Perry Middle School reports several hundred regular visitors to its Facebook page.

With nearly 150 followers, the newest addition to our communications network, Perry High School Twitter is growing rapidly. Perry Middle School also reports steady interest.

Perry High School's Goodwin Theatre provides more of a person to person style of communication. Presentations such as those provided by LEAF (Lake Educational Assistance Foundation) cover such topics as College and Career Planning, Financial Aid and Scholarships. A wide variety of parent informational meetings, new student orientation and other organizational and

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POSITIVE FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS

by Arianna Neading and Tom deHaas

Positive Family Communications; Where it all Begins!

As we begin a new school year, we begin a new school initiative called "Peaceful Schools". We have started talking to all the elementary students about being PEEPS (Peaceful Environment 4 Everyone at Perry)

Students K-4 will have a monthly lesson on the Asset of the Month which flows from the 40 Assets as presented by the Search Institute. The assets are listed at: www.search-institute.org, and have been a guidance and school initiative over the past 3 years.

This month's asset is "Positive Family Communication". In the

course of our discussions with the students, we reinforced the notion that a student's education involves 3 people, the student, the teacher and the parent/guardian. We also spoke about the ongoing communication that takes place between school and home that is facilitated by the student and positive communication between child and parent/guardian.

Peeps Monthly Asset:

September #2 - Positive Family Communication. Student and his/her parents communicate positively, and student is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.

October #30 - Responsibility.



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ANOTHER GREAT START! ...continued from page 1

the adjustments being made will improve our capacity to ensure students graduate college and career ready. The input received from parents, community members, staff, and students was very much appreciated. The survey results including the comments can be viewed on the District website.

Our new CFC management team Kim Bissett, Jeremy Goldizen, and Mark Edwards are off and running. They have completed their research and have selected a new scheduling program called EZ Facility. This program will centralize our scheduling and allow people to sign up and pay for programming online. Mark is currently setting up the winter travel schedule and expanding our concession offerings. Jeremy is working to update our weight

room and training areas and is available for personal training. Finally, Kim is on call to help you with memberships, scheduling rentals, signing up for programs, or to answer any of your CFC questions. We will continue working to refine the operations of our Community Fitness Center in an effort to improve our services to the students and community.

Lastly, I would like to thank all who participated in a wonderful Alumni weekend, September 13-15. We had record number of runners at the 10th Annual Ritley Run on Saturday morning, and the Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday evening was once again inspirational.

We were privileged to hear from three inductees for 2013:

- Distinguished Alumni inductee Don Densmore, Class of '50, presented by Dr. Tarbuck

- Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee Dan Allen, Class of '88, presented by Daryle and David Allen

- Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee Jeff Stetler, Class of '88, presented by Mike Ryan

Todd Kapostasy was also inducted but couldn't make it, and will be celebrated with the class of 2014. Phil Cassella, once again, did a fine job serving as MC of the event.

I count my blessings every day, for the opportunity to serve as your Superintendent. Please feel free to contact me at (440) 259-9200. Or, follow me on twitter at Jack@Supt_Thompson #PerryInspired. Go Pirates!

UTILIZING SOCIAL MEDIA

How Facebook and Twitter can Improve Parent Engagement

While schools cannot use social media as the sole method of communication and relationship building with parents, it can be a simple way for teachers and administrators to further cultivate and preserve existing relationships. Perry Middle School is trying to utilize social media to the fullest, with a school Facebook page and a Twitter Handle.

Using social media allows for a whole new level of home-school collaboration. Many of our parents are

utilizing these mediums to keep up with friends and family therefore it makes perfect sense to connect electronically with parents on their own terms. We have received positive feedback from parents about posting news, events, sports and activity accomplishments, and even the daily announcements.

According to a survey by Speak Up published in 2012, there should be a persistent digital connection between parents and students. The channel, whether parents use it or not, will ensure that we are holding ourselves

accountable in reaching out to parents, but also keep in mind the reality of the scarce time and resources in schools; using social media to supplement communication is an obvious and efficient strategy.

We welcome you to visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/PerryMiddleSchoolLakeCountyOhio> or on Twitter at @PerryMS_Lake or simply search for us using #PerryInspired.

SPREADING THE WORD ...continued from page 2

educational programs are regularly scheduled in the theatre, many of which are videotaped and rebroadcast on Channel 22.

Breaking news is available as it occurs, through Infinite Campus Messaging. Information regarding school closings and other emergencies is immediately sent to homes via recorded telephone messages.

With regularly scheduled open houses and parent conferences, even more opportunities are presented to learn everything you need to know

about what is happening at Perry Local Schools.

And, right now, with your smart phone, you can scan this convenient QR Code, and immediately access the Perry School District website.

As always, we want to hear from you. If you have an idea that will help improve our ability to spread the good news, please email our Superintendent, Dr. Jack Thompson at thompsonj@perry-lake.org.



PHS RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT

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

Fantastic news for Perry Local Schools! The Ohio Department of Education has awarded our district the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) federal grant to Perry High School for the development of career and college pathways in partnership with AWT (Alliance for Working Together community partner-an alliance of over 77 community business/manufacturing companies).

This opportunity is intended to work in unison with the same grant awarded August 2011, to Perry Middle School, so that Perry students experience pathways leading to a high-interest career as early as middle school (whether entering the technical/trades school, college bound, straight to job after high school, or a combination of these). By students having access to pursue their passion and entrepreneurial ideas as early as middle school, students will have easy connection between their passion to learn and the people and resources to learn it. Through this grant opportunity we are strengthened in our commitment to developing the whole student (both the academic AND character assets of all youth) in partnership with community resources (mental health, fitness, social services) and community businesses.

This opportunity is a community endeavor in which your forward thinking and ideas are welcome in the months ahead to develop irresistibly engaging pathways for student learning

at Perry High School and Perry Middle School. So, please contact us and contribute your valuable ideas to our vision for students. Envisioning our future, a “futuristic” and not yet realistic press release has been drafted as goal for which we have begun to strive.

The (future) press release for the year 2018 reads:

PERRY LOCAL STUDENTS READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

Press Release: August 2018

Over the past 5 years, Perry Local Schools through the innovation, design, entrepreneurial, and arts has provided cutting edge opportunities for many students leading to world-class opportunities for college and career readiness. The results have led to an increase in graduation rate and, more importantly, have created an environment that allows students to pursue their passion and interests leading to high paying careers upon graduation. More than 100 students have been hired by local business straight out of high school and many of these same students have continued their education to pursue further degrees. Perry Local Schools students have also gone on to college and universities to study engineering, medical, and/or technology fields.

Many of these students were first exposed to STEM opportunities during their middle school and high school years at Perry where the foundation and excitement for design and entrepreneurialism was launched. The Lake County community has contributed human and technology resources into the school district and provided ongoing ideas for sustaining this life-changing opportunity for students. Innovation continues to thrive as Perry provides an example of how Problem Based Learning (PBL) and community partnerships can lead to world-class results for students who flourish in an environment that is completely different than other schools. Through blended learning and virtual labs that have real world engineers providing guidance to a students’ design prototypes, students have opportunity to understand how course content is used and truly matters in the real-world. Perry Local Schools is a hub of innovation helping students find their passion for learning and sustain their interest in a collaborative learning and working environment. Perry students also connect globally with other students through virtual work spaces and blended learning environments establishing an outstanding career and college readiness model.

WELCOME NEW CFC STAFF



Kim Bissett
CFC Office Manager



Mark Edwards
Director of Travel
Sports & Tournaments



Jeremy Goldizen
CFC Weight Room &
Fitness Manager

The Perry Community Fitness Center is pleased to announce new extended hours:

- Monday-Friday from 5:00-9:00 am, 11:00 am-2:00 pm (pre-programmed sessions), and 5:00-9:00 pm.
- Saturday from 8:00 am-1:00 pm
- Our new Sunday hours are 8:00 am-12:00 pm, and 4:00-8:00 pm.

**Please note that we will close for our home football games:
October 11, 18 & 25.**

CONGRATULATIONS, 2013 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES!



2013 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, Jeffrey Stetler, (left) and Dan Allen (center), Class of 1988, and Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, Don Densmore, Class of 1950. Not pictured is Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, Todd Kapostasy, Class of 2002.

Twenty-two years ago, the Perry Pirate Booster Club authorized the formation of a Hall of Fame Committee to honor Perry Athletes, by developing a process to create an Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame.

In the spring of 2001, the Perry Board of Education established The Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, to honor former students of Perry High School, whose lives are exemplary for

both their career accomplishments and their contributions to the well being of others.

These individuals will serve as an inspiration to the students of Perry Local Schools, encouraging them to live their dreams, and to pursue personal excellence in all future endeavors.

Congratulations, everyone!

PERRY AREA JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT 2013

- Boys & Girls Basketball Program for Grades 1-6, registration deadline is set for October 18.
- Perry Rec will be collecting "gently used" sports equipment. Has your son or daughter outgrown or is no longer using their sports equipment? Items can be dropped off at the Manchester West Building.
- Registration & information regarding our current and upcoming programming is always available at:

www.perryrec.com

Get involved in Community Programming!

WHAT IS YOUR FUTURE?

Planning for the future is something that can be quite overwhelming, but with the right focus, discussion and grit, all of our students are capable of accomplishing their goals and being productive citizens in today's society. It is never too early for parents to begin having discussions with their children about what interests and passions exist, that might lead to a fulfilling career. In today's ever changing economy, where many of the future jobs do not exist yet, an uncertainty might be present. However, there are certain steps families can take to help prepare our students for success after high school. Here are some suggestions on how to ensure a student can pursue lifelong dreams upon high school graduation.

- Plan the high school schedule with the end in mind. Where do you see yourself in 5 years and 10 years? Start to build the schedule back from this point, making sure the student is taking

a rigorous schedule and selecting electives that allows the student to pursue a career or passion.

- Maintain a high GPA – Scholarships and admittance into a 4-year college are connected back to your high school GPA. It is vital to get off to a good start and continue to work hard, seek intervention and enrichment, and reach out to those that can be of assistance.

- ACT and SAT – Plan on taking the ACT and SAT multiple times. These tests are college admissions tests given throughout the year. A high score will typically result in a greater choice of colleges, in addition to more money being received through scholarships directly given by the college.

- Get Involved – Perry High School offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities that play a major role in the development of the whole child. Whether it is athletics, the arts, or service-oriented activities, we

by Todd Porcello, PHS Principal

encourage students to participate and build relationships with fellow students and staff members.

- Develop Grit – This can be defined as perseverance and passion for long-term goals. Research has shown that grit can help a student overcome different barriers that many of our children face on a day-to-day basis. The path to a career is often more like a marathon than a sprint. Students need the encouragement to plow forward.

We want to help our students with the areas listed above. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our guidance counselors or administrators, as we would be glad to sit down to plan, review current progress, or to help parents have these discussions with our students. We are here to help and support. Our students are worth the effort, and we are confident they will go on to do great things and pursue their dreams and passions.

POSITIVE FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS ...continued from page 2

Student accepts and takes personal responsibility for his/her behavior. Student accepts and takes personal responsibility for their actions and decisions at home, school, and/or in the community.

November #26 - Caring. Student cares about others. They place a high value on helping other people. He/she thinks about ways of helping others and is motivated to initiate kind and thoughtful acts.

We can all do a better job of communicating. With the older students, we discussed if you lose your temper, the communication stops.

When need to stay calm; parent, child and teacher in order for our points to be heard. With regard to home school communication, we can do better as well.

Whether it's a written note that we expect our child to deliver, a question for the teacher via e-mail, phone conversations, or face to face, we need to be calm and therefore productive.

Let's work together to make our communications with school, home, child and each other to be more positive. That way, everybody wins, especially the kids!



Third grade students participate in a classroom exercise that focuses on listening during family discussions.

PERRY ELEMENTARY UPDATES

—by Jodi Poremba, PES Principal

Perry Elementary started the school year with some changes to positively impact the students. The students now go to recess first, and then lunch. Next, parents have an option to add their students to the permanent pick-up list. Lastly, all students are participating in our PEEPs initiative at Perry Elementary.

The first change was the switching of lunch and recess, so that the students go to recess first and lunch second. Perry staff members have noticed that this change has positively impacted the students since the students are eating more food.

Staff members have also noticed that the students are quieter while they are eating, since they have already had an opportunity to run around and talk with their friends. They are now ready to focus on eating lunch.

Research shows that students tend to focus more on their meal and eat more food, if they eat after they are outside playing. The implementation of this change has required food service, custodial, and educational associate staff members to collaborate and problem-solve through this new format. We appreciate their flexibility in making this work for our students.

The second change at Perry Elementary was the introduction of a new permanent pick-up option for students that are picked up on a regular basis. The new permanent pick-up option has been received well by families, and we appreciate the feedback that we have been given to help improve the process throughout the school year. As a result of this change, we feel that we have increased the safety and security of our students, with fewer pick-ups in the main office and clear procedures throughout the permanent pick-up line.

This new procedure was in response to a concern brought forward to the safety committee of the Perry Schools. The concern was regarding the number of parent pick-ups that we had at the end of the day in the elementary office with such a small space to accommodate close to 80 pick-ups per day. The third change at Perry Elementary School is the introduction of our PEEPs program, Peaceful Environment 4 Everyone @ Perry Schools, as part of our peaceful schools initiative to create a safe environment for our students. We have seen a marked improvement with student behavior throughout our school.

All staff members share a common understanding of behavior expectations at school, and posters serve as reminders to staff and students of these expectations. This initiative combines clear expectations and communication of the 40 Developmental Assets for students. The students are working to model the three main expectations of our school: Be Respectful-Respect Self, Respect Others, Respect Property; Be Responsible; and Be Safe. These three main expectations are the focus of student behavior in all areas of the school: the classroom, recess, lunch, hallway, restroom, etc. The students are also receiving PEEPs tickets for modeling the monthly asset, and are then entered into a weekly drawing to receive a prize from the prize box.

The students at Perry Elementary have structures in place to positively impact their health with more focused meals, safety with additional student pick-up options, and behavior with clear expectations. We look forward to working together as a school community towards the success of these changes, and we will continue to update you on the progress.

WELCOME TO PERRY!



Mr. Ryan McKnight



Mrs. Arianna Neading

Ryan McKnight is Perry High School's new assistant principal. Mr. McKnight brings 12 years of teaching experience from the Euclid and Willoughby-Eastlake School Districts.

Arianna Neading is Perry Elementary's new assistant principal. Mrs. Neading brings 6 years of teaching experience from Maple Heights City Schools, teaching kindergarten and first grade.

GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR JUNIOR BAND ...continued from page 1

participants coming from schools all across Northeast Ohio. Representing Perry High School, were freshmen, Grace McGarry, Stephen McGuire, Sarah Regnier, Samantha Whelpley and junior, Austyn Cousins.

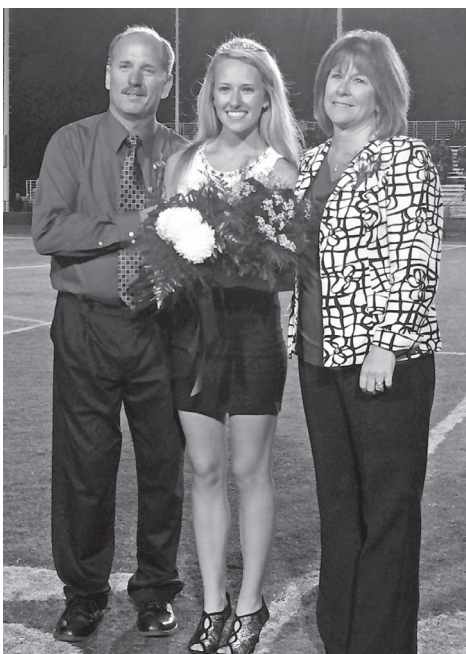
Rehearsals and performances were held at the Vernon Howard Pavilion at the south end of the fairgrounds. The band performed music in a wide variety of styles including classical, jazz, Broadway, patriotic, and more.

Highlights of this year's repertoire included: music by Mozart, Edvard Grieg and Samuel Barber, Latin-jazz classic "Malagueña", highlights from the smash Broadway hit "Wicked", and a stirring tribute to American heroes called "For Our Heroes". The concerts concluded with the adult members of the Great Geauga County Fair Band joining the group for a rousing performance of John Philip Sousa's "The Invincible Eagle March."

Membership is limited to 90 musicians taken on a first-come basis. The group rehearsed Monday evenings in August, and performed the Saturday and Monday of the fair.

Young musicians interested in joining the Junior Fair Band should contact: Greg Hillis, director at 440-474-4106, or the Geauga Music Center at 440-286-8481.

Learn more about the Great Geauga County Fair at: www.geaugafair.com.



Congratulations to Perry High School Homecoming Queen Alysia Klinger, pictured here with her parents, Jeff and Mary Klinger.



Perry High School Theatre proudly presents the comedy, "Lend Me a Tenor" on November 15th & 16th at 7:00 PM, & November 17th at 2:00 PM, in the PHS Goodwin Theatre.

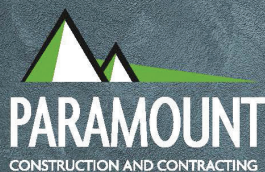


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