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

neper SPRING 2017

DISTRICT SPELLING BEE

MARK IT UP!



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EXCELLENCE



Page 5

This year marks nine decades of the national spelling bee. Every year, students from all walks of life have the opportunity to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, one of the nation's oldest and most iconic competitions. Once again, students at Perry, in grades 4-8, participated in their own grade level spelling bees. The top three students from each grade level represented their in the District Spelling Bee on February 3rd, at Perry Middle School. The winner, 4th grader Weston represented McGroarty,

Perry Schools at the Lake



Center's Auburn Career Presentation Center.

The Lake County Bee grade includes District winners from each of the nine public school systems in Lake County, winners from any of the church-affiliated and/ or independent schools in Lake County, and any home- Lombardo & Bradley Peters County Spelling Bee at schooled children who have

registered for the County Bee.

The Tri-County Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, March 9th, at the Kirtland Public Library.

Perry's grade level winners and District Finalists were:

Grade 4: Cade Henderson. Eddie Cooney, Weston McGroarty

Grade 5: Calli Thompson, Hannah Green, Jake Merrill Grade 6: Calvin Peters. Emma Pietrzak. Lukas Rosipko

Grade 7: Tyler Larson, Ethan Hicks, Jake Morton

Grade 8: Samantha

CHALLENGES



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REMEMBERING



Page 7

EACHER OF THE

Perry Local Schools is pleased to announce that Perry High School STEM teacher, Mrs. Sarah Rivera has been selected to receive 2016-2017 Lubrizol the Corporation Lake County Teacher Award. STEM Lubrizol, along with the Lake County Educational Service Center, is proud to sponsor a program that honors teachers who make difference in science. engineering, technology, and mathematics (STEM) education.

Each year, a Lake County, Ohio teacher or team at the elementary or secondary school level in a public, private or parochial school, is recognized for their excellence in STEM disciplines.



Perry High School STEM teacher, Mrs. Sarah Rivera is congratulated by Chris Ciolli (left) and Bob Graf of the Lubrizol Corporation on being named the 2016-2017 recipient of the Lubrizol Lake County STEM Teacher Award.

selection panel consists of teaching expenses of their the Lake County Educational choice, financial support up Service Center and Lubrizol to \$2,000 to attend a national employees.

The individual or team's teaching lead teacher receives an award sponsorship to attend the The of \$5,000 for STEM-related

society teacher professional development conference,

...continued on page 3

PURSUING GREATNESS AT PERRY

Greetings to the Perry Community! We are getting a little more daylight each day; a sign that the winter grind is coming to an end. The approaching of spring means we will soon be taking time to reflect and celebrate all the outstanding accomplishments of the 2016-2017 school year. I am already very proud of everything our students and staff have achieved so far, and know there is still more ahead of us before closing out this school year. It is no secret Perry Local Schools is an outstanding district looked upon as a model to be followed. One core value that got us here and will ensure we remain an elite school system is our relentless effort to always improve. You may be aware we have committed to improving the behaviors we believe are essential to maintaining our culture of excellence. With the help of the consulting firm Focus 3, we have established a "cultural playbook" that details the beliefs, behaviors, and outcomes we are dedicated to fostering. Our core values have been transformed into three simple beliefs and intended outcomes:

• Pursuit of Greatness - Better Everyday

- Power of Relationships Stronger Together
- Personal Responsibility Prepared for Life

The Pursuit of Greatness can feel somewhat overwhelming at first, but once you break down the behaviors and the short term outcomes we expect this belief becomes much more manageable. Greatness doesn't happen overnight and requires a long and challenging journey to achieve. However, if you approach this belief by just setting out to get a little better today than you were yesterday and a little better tomorrow than you are today you are on the path to greatness! One of the daily behaviors we need to focus on in pursuit of greatness is to first understand the why. We must know the purpose of what we are doing and have clarity on the goals we are trying to achieve. We must also understand that learning and building skill will be challenging as we push ourselves to our limits. This is called *chasing the edge*. Finally, we must be willing to stick with it as long as it takes. Becoming the best image of ourselves will require failing multiple times. So in our pursuit of greatness, if we commit to first knowing

by Jack Thompson, Superintendent the why, chasing the edge, and sticking with it as long as it takes, we will get Better Every Day.

The wonderful truth about being part of our Perry Community is we don't have to experience life's challenges and our constant battle to improve alone. We care about each other and understand that everyone matters, has an impact, and contributes to our culture. The Power of Relationships is extremely important. We expect each of us to invest the time to intently listen to one another. Rather than gossip, blame, or complain about each other, we agree to talk to each other when necessary. We understand there will be disagreements but will genuinely respect the opinions of others and treat each other fairly. If we follow these behavior guidelines, we will be Stronger Together than we could ever be by ourselves.

Finally, we believe each of us must take Personal Responsibility for how we respond to the constant events we face. When confronted with adversity we must purposefully look inside ourselves and resist the temptation to blame the outside world of which we have no control. None of us is perfect and we all will make mistakes. ...continued on page 3

GRAFFITI BOOKS

The project is called, 'Graffiti Books' and it allows students to annotate high-interest books.

The brainchild of Perry High School teacher, Rachele Mielke and Media Specialist, Jodi Rzeszotarski, Graffiti Books asks students to write in their books, something they are not used to. In fact, they are encouraged to share their views, react, and even draw all over the pages, in order to create a discussion and a social experience around reading.

"I want them to create a written conversation, while reading, that the next reader will also take part in," Mielke explained. "The idea is that a student will write all over the book, and the next reader will continue the conversation by reacting to what the first reader wrote and adding their own thoughts and information."

With a \$3,000 grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, the pair is creating a library of around 300 high-interest books. These will be books,



Perry High School seniors, Ryanne Locker (left) and Whitney Davidson begin unpacking and arranging the new shipment of Graffiti Books to display in the PHS media center.

when given to reluctant readers, will almost always capture their attention. They will be designated Graffiti Books.

The Graffiti Book will be read by multiple readers creating a collection of thoughts, views, and ideas in a book that can then be read by others. All will participate in a written conversation and will create an oral history of their —by Rachele Mielke and Jodi Rzeszotarski reading of the book. This is also a way to give a voice to those students who are often quiet or reserved during class conversations.

The idea for this project came about from the 15-20 minutes of daily independent reading time at the start of each of Mielke's classes. Most of the work they do is independent, with little to no discussion with the rest of the class. The process of reading these books is a very solitary one.

"That's where Graffiti Books come in," added Rzeszotarski. "This project will make the process of reading their Independent Reading books discussion-based too, turning it into a social experience as students "discuss" what they read within the pages of their book. These books will be written in multiple times and then retired as books to write in, but still offer the opportunity for students to read a text that is full of comments from past readers."

ACT: FREE OPPORTUNITY FOR JUNIORS



On March 21st, our current Juniors will take the ACT and Sophomores will take the Pre-ACT. Perry High School will operate on an adjusted bell schedule this day, and further logistical information will be posted on the website and sent home via Infinite

Campus in the coming weeks. The ACT for our Junior students is paid for by the state of Ohio, and the progress of our students will be highlighted in the state report card. Our students will benefit from this free opportunity and can use the results in the college

- by Todd Porcello, PHS Principal

application process starting in the fall of their senior year. The results from both exams will be analyzed by our teachers in their Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) to better understand changes in instructional approaches and interventions that will benefit our students. In addition, Sophomore students will receive detailed reporting to help them prepare for the upcoming ACT and receive career suggestions based on their goals and interests.

ACT results are important to our college bound students as the score impacts college selection in addition to scholarship selections. The higher the ACT score, the greater the opportunities for our students in their college selection process and when seeking scholarships. To learn more about the ACT or Pre-ACT visit www. act.org.

PURSUING GREATNESS AT PERRY...continued from page 2

We must be willing to own our situation and be disciplined in determining what response will get us to the outcome we desire. It is important to constantly remind ourselves that our behaviors, beliefs, and attitude have a profound impact on others and influences the organizational culture. We must take responsibility for how we respond to situations - even those we didn't create. No matter how adverse the event, our response must be to improve the situation. If we embrace and

continually work on these behaviors we will be as Prepared for Life as we can possibly be.

Utilizing this cultural playbook in our journey to get better every day, stronger together and prepared for life, we can accomplish our vision of ensuring all of us "leave with hope" and remain optimistic that we are on the right path to achieving individual success; whatever that might be. Our complete cultural playbook can be viewed on the

Perry Local School's website at http://www.perry-lake.org. In addition, our next community forum summarizing this training and discussing how we will continue this important work is being held on March 7th, from 7:00-8:30 pm, in the PHS Media Center. All are welcome. Please RSVP by contacting Gina Deas at (440) 259-9200 ext. 9215.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your superintendent of schools.

2016-2017 STEM TEACHER OF THE YEAR ... continued from page 1

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council (OCTC) Teachers, Industry and Environment (TIE) Conference, and an engraved crystal plaque.

The honorees' school also receives an award of \$5,000 for STEM equipment and a commemorative plaque. In the award's 22-year history, Lubrizol has honored over 60 Lake County teachers.

Addressing Perry Local Schools' administration and faculty, Bob Graf, corporate vice president of research and development for Lubrizol, honored Sarah by highlighting her innovative unit entitled "Empathy in Engineering", which focused on helping students better understand the needs of end users. Graf stated, "Understanding the end-user

perspective is critical to successful product design and it's really impressive to see this element incorporated in a high school curriculum."

"It is truly the highest honor to be nominated for this award by my colleagues," said Rivera. "I am so grateful for the opportunities I've had here at Perry, and I plan on using the \$5,000 to help my students develop authentic, hands-on projects for meaningful learning experiences during their time in my class."

Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and, Assessment for Perry Local Schools, recognized the impact of the award on Sarah and her students, saying, "Opportunities like this, coupled with community partnerships, can transform the world-class learning experience for students. This type of recognition also ignites the educator's passion to continually seek real-world learning experiences that truly matter – learning pursuits that have potential to positively impact others, the community, and even the world."

Perry High School principal, Todd Porcello added, "Sarah has exemplified the characteristics of a lifelong learner and someone who is always seeking personal excellence. She is a true leader in the field of education. We are thankful that Lubrizol supports education and the \$5,000 will be used to create and expand hands-on learning opportunities for our students."

CALLING ALL PARENTS-WELCOME ALL FAMILIES

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

Partner with Us in the Culture for Learning and Achievement at Perry

Based on our commitment to the district mission, each student deserves a learning experience that leaves them with a sense of success, hope and readiness. We aim for our classrooms and our schools to engage students and adults in a culture that engages the following:

• Clear expectations for learning the guaranteed curriculum through real-world experiences

• Sufficient practice and specific feedback that moves learning forward to achieve on assessments

• Ownership of goals and pursuit of greatness - productive struggle is opportunity to learn

• Social, emotional, wellness, and

ethical development

• Literacy (reading, writing, and communication used to discern information, express ideas and solve problems)

• Power of relationships - invest the time; everyone matters

• Personal responsibility - step up and improve the situation

We aim for students to confidently answer these questions:

1. What am I learning (clear learning targets)?

2. Where am I now?

3. Where do I go next? How have I grown?



Content objectives alone will not lead us to achieve the district mission. The guaranteed curriculum at Perry ensures real-world learning units of instruction and accurate assessments on both (a) content standards and (b) life skills (e.g., communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and civic engagement).

Summative assessments used in a course are common, no matter which teacher teaches the course/grade level. Summative assessment (both traditional and performance-based) is used to determine achievement; formative assessment (i.e., practice, observations, quick checks) is used to provide sufficient practice and determine progress to inform next instruction (specific intervention for individual/small group/and whole class needs).

Technology is used to leverage innovation, the exchange of knowledge, and to solve problems.

In the vast informational era in which we live, there are so many ways to communicate and support your child's school experience. We at school want to increase our partnership with parents and other adults who support Perry students at home. We want to provide you with a clear and transparent understanding on what your student is learning, how he/she is progressing, and how you can support a successful school experience from home. We aim to launch greater parent communication to parents regarding learning and achievement by spring 2017. Get connected – set up the Perry Mobile App. Then, subscribe to ACADEMICS on the App!

The app is FREE and available for download today:

1. From a smartphone, go to the App Store or Google Play

2. Search Perry Local School District and download the App for FREE.

3. Go to your Perry Mobile App

4. Swipe to the Settings Wheel and tap on it. Then tap on Follow Schools.

5. Scroll down to Departments and choose Academics /Curriculum & Instruction

6. Click "All"

You are now ready to connect to better access to information on learning and achievement!

PERRY GIVING LIBRARY

The Perry Giving Library is a project to put three small 'library boxes' in the community to house preschool through second grade books. Children can take a book and replace it. Perry High School STEM teacher, Sarah Rivera's Engineering 2 class created designs and models after meeting with PHS Media Specialist, Jodi Rzeszotarski, to learn of the project and expectations.

Perry Public Library is a partner in this venture and new Director, Beth Hatch, was present to listen to students' presentations and help select the winning design. The winning design, by Jared Tetonis, has been passed on to Perry teacher, Ryan Zusy's Design and Fabrication class, who along with his after school group, will manufacture the three boxes.



Perry High School Media Specialist, Jodi Rzeszotarski listens as Perry junior, Jared Tetonis describes the operation of the door to a model of his winning design of the new Perry Giving Library boxes.

In addition, students from Art, Video Production, Perry Service Learning, Web Design, Environmental Science, Spanish, and Journalism classes will all have a part to play in this project. Nina Sorine, a student in Perry Service Learning, will oversee the collection of books and maintenance of the boxes. Tippi Foley, Director of Early Childhood from Lake County Educational Service Center, is adding her expertise in book selections.

It is truly a school/community wide project to get books in the hands of the communities' youngest readers. Donations to the project of Preschool through 2nd grade books will be greatly appreciated. To donate, please contact Jodi Rzeszotarski at rzeszotarskij@perry-lake.org.

ATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Perry Local School District is proud to announce that Perry High School senior, Sarah Paquin, is a Finalist in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship Competition.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists submit a detailed scholarship which includes application, essays and information about extracurricular achievements. awards, and leadership positions. Semifinalists also must have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed and recommended by a school official, and earn SAT scores that confirm their qualifying test performance.

The selection of some 8,200 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of more than 15,000 Finalists is now in progress. Winners will be announced beginning in April.



Perry High School principal, Todd Porcello, congratulates Perry senior, Sarah Paquin on being named a finalist in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

"Sarah is an outstanding student and person who is an excellent role model for our younger students," said Perry High School principal, Todd Porcello. "Her dedication to her studies along with her commitment extracurricular to activities is exemplary. We are proud of Sarah and look forward with excitement as she continues to strive for personal excellence."

Merit Scholarship awards are of three types: National Merit - \$2500 Scholarships, Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards Merit and College-sponsored Scholarship awards. The awards are supported by some 550 independent sponsors and by National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) own funds.

Sarah is the daughter of Thomas and Suzanne Paquin of Perry.

EARNING THROUGH INTERNSHIP

by Rita Soeder, Learning Through Internship Instructor

The Learning Through Internship course is preparing for year number three of matching Perry High School juniors and seniors with specific experiences that connect to their career-related interests. Students can register for the 2017-18 Learning Through Internships course by contacting their high school guidance counselor, Mrs. Jonozzo or Mrs. Kosloski.

This the semester Learning Through Internship students are matched with companies such as Fredon, Lake Co.Tax Service, Then Now Designs, Lake Co. Sheriff's Dept., Signature Health, The News Herald, Lakeland Community

College IT and Nursing Depts., as well as Cuyahoga Community College Interior Design just to name a few. Interns report to the partner businesses three-days per week and attend classes at PHS two-days per week (block 6) in order to process their experiences. Interns engage in classroom simulations designed to practice professional behaviors, reexamine self-assessments as well as take new ones, conduct specific industry research, and fine tune specific skills related to their own wage. strategic job and college searches.

course, will individually conference should contact Mrs. Soeder to get with interested students to learn more started!

about their specific plans and goals for the internship prior to the start of the semester. These personalized career advising sessions ensure that potential interns have an experience that enables them to move their future planning forward.

Mentors provide experiences that allow our interns to apply what they learn in the PHS classroom in a real work setting. If you are interested in mentoring one of our interns please contact Mrs. Soeder at soederr@ perry-lake.org.

The experience has proven to be mutually beneficial to both the business partners and the interns. 93% of the seniors report that their internship experience helped them to further clarify their goals for career and/or college plans postgraduation. So far 20% of our interns have been hired by their business partners at the conclusion of their internships and of that 20%, 100% made more than minimum

Interested mentors, business Mrs. Soeder, who teaches the partners, students, and parents

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FINALISTS IN ECO-CHALLENGE



Since 2006, students and teachers have been making a difference in the health of the planet through the Lexus Eco Challenge, a national STEM competition that encourages middle and high school students to develop and implement environmental programs that positively impact their communities.

Members of Perry Middle School's Eco Challenge Club, The Light Savers, are competing in the contest's 10th year. The 10 member team includes: Paloma Rivera, Tatum Sedillo, Payge Silvis, Monica Kline, Emily Ortega, Tony Palomo, Matthew Krepshaw, Angel Nagy, Datone Washington,

and Ryan Brubaker. The aim of the students' project was to reduce the school's greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the amount of electricity the school uses. Some of the students organized a bake sale which raised \$225, enough to get motion sensors for four rooms in the school. Now, when there are no students in the room, the lights will automatically turn off, to save electricity over the course of the year.

The team, coached by science teacher, Miss Angela Germano, was one of 16 winning teams nationwide chosen by Lexus and Scholastic, Inc. Each team received a total of \$10,000 in grants and scholarships. All winning teams from this challenge were invited to participate in the Final Challenge for a chance to win one of two grand prizes of \$30,000 in grants and scholarships. Eight first place prizes of \$15,000 in grants and scholarships will also be awarded.

For their Final Challenge, the Eco Challenge Club wants to take their mission globally. They have created a video explaining why we should protect the environment and what actions we



can take to help the planet. They want everyone to take a pledge to protect the planet at: www.ecolightsavers.weebly.com .

Pledges can be as simple as turning the lights off when you leave the room or getting outside more often. Their goal is to receive 1000 pledges from across the globe by people making a pledge and sharing their video. They want to reach at least one person in every U.S. state and in at least 20 different countries. They believe that by getting the whole world involved in taking action, we can all make a difference. Potential winners will be notified on or about March 10, 2017.

PERRY AREA JOINT RECREATION YOUTH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

2016-17 PERRY YOUTH BASKETBALL

A special Thank You to all of those that have volunteered/coached this season!

Jim Bartlett, Tim Flenner, Todd Porcello, Vanessa Rockwell, Kristen Winters, Lundon Albrecht, Joe Matson, Brian Keipert, Tim French, Jason Scardino, Mike McClure, Dustin McGroarty, Doug Phinick, Jesse Mucciarone, Mike Ard, Doug Robinson, Greg Newsome, Tara Lynch, Dominic LaMarco, Bill Eppich, Art Zentgraf, Sam Taylor, Meghan Blaha, David Sarosy, Soloman Mosby, Steve Sivon, Greg Pettrucelli, Greg Costello, Jason McCann, Travis Lefelhoc, Tammy Arcaro, Ally Arcaro, Michael Arcaro, Michael Lutz, Jeff DeFisher

2017 SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS

visit: www.perryrec.com to register
Baseball: Ages 6-14. Baseball age determined by participant's age as of May 1, 2017
- Registration Deadline: 3/25/2017

Softball: Ages 6-14. Softball age determined by participant's age as of January 1, 2017 - Registration Deadline: 4/2/2017

TBall / Little Sluggers: co-ed, ages 4+
- Registration to open in March, Program to run May/June

SUMMER REC

8 week summer camp / ages 4+
Half day summer camp, participants are engaged in an array of activities from arts 'n crafts, science and exploration to sport related contests. Program will go on weekly field trips!

Tentative dates: June 5th through July 28th

Registration to open in April

PERRY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS 'GUYS and DOLLS'



All the hot gamblers are in town, and they're all depending on Nathan Detroit to set up this week's incarnation of "The Oldest Established Permanent Floating Crap Game in New York"; the only problem is, he needs \$1000 to get the place. Throw in Sarah Brown, who's short on sinners at the mission she runs; Sky Masterson, who accepts Nathan's \$1,000 bet that he can't get Sarah Brown to go with him to Havana; Miss Adelaide, who wants Nathan to marry her; Police Lieutenant Brannigan, who always seems to appear at the wrong time; and the music/lyrics of Frank Loesser, and you've got quite a musical. Includes the songs: Fugue for Tinhorns, "Luck Be a Lady", "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat".

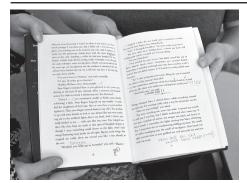
"Guys and Dolls"
PHS Goodwin Theatre

Thursday, March 30th at 7:00 pm Friday, March 31st at 7:00 pm Saturday, April 1st at 2:00 pm

Tickets available at the door: Adults - \$8.00 Seniors and students - \$6.00

Checks are to be made payable to Perry High School.

GRAFFITI BOOKS ... continued from page 2



Students will be inspired to markup a clean book, add to the conversations of others, and read books that have been read by other students to see what their thoughts are too. It is hoped that through these conversations, students can teach each other about the book and the world around them.

Each will be given a colored pen that they will use throughout reading the book when they make annotations. They will write their name at the start of the book, and the color will allow other readers to know who made the specific comments.

Graffiti Books will also provide an opportunity for readers to reflect on the novel and then in writing, share their thoughts, which some students may not be able to do well during in-class discussions.

There is also a community component to the program.

"We've purchased twenty copies each of four titles, that we plan to invite teachers and those in the community to read and mark up," Mielke added. "We believe that when we connect students, teachers, and the community, we can create an environment that celebrates books and reading."



Community members and teachers are also invited to participate in the Graffiti Books program with these four additional titles.

THE VIETNAM "MOVING WALL" COMING TO PERRY



The Vietnam "Moving Wall" is coming to Perry High School, September 20th through 25th.

"The Moving Wall" is a half-size replica of the Washington, D.C.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for thirty-plus years. Built by volunteers to be shared with those not able to go to Washington, the Wall went on display for the first time in Tyler, Texas, in October of 1984. Two structures of The Moving Wall now travel the USA from April through November, spending about a week at each site.

To raise money for the exhibition. A Reverse Raffle is planned for Saturday, March 11th, at Perry Community Center, 2800 Perry Park Road, Side Boards open at 5:00 PM.

Tickets are \$25.00, and dinner is included (BYOB). Insurance is an additional \$5.00. (This can double your chances of winning!)

Make checks payable to AMVETS Post 1971, notating: The Vietnam Moving Wall. Donations will be accepted through Perry Amyets Post 1971.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, please call 440-259-5131, or Event Coordinator, Ernie Gant, at 440-259-5613.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the event, please contact Cindy Gant, at gantc@perry-lake.org.



CHECK OUT PERRY'S NEW MOBILE APP

The latest news and information from Perry Local School District is now available on smartphones and mobile devices with a new mobile communications app launched recently. Perry is expanding its communications outreach with a mobile app that is now available in the online App Store and Google Play for free.

The mobile app offers a constantly updated feed of district news and events with photos and links to the district's website. The app can also be customized by the user by selecting the schools they are most interested in for news and updates. Users can choose



to receive push notifications to get breaking news and updates about school closures, calendar changes, or even sports updates. "We know that students are more successful in school when parents are engaged in their learning and school activities," said Dr. Jack Thompson, Perry Schools' superintendent. "With our new mobile app, parents and community members can stay connected with our schools like never before and with the activities our students are engaged in everyday."

Parents and the public are encouraged to download this free mobile app to their smartphones from the App Store or Google Play, by searching "Perry Local School

District".

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