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the perry way

WWW.PERRY-LAKE.K12.OH.US JANUARY 2012

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LOOKING FORWARD

by Jack Thompson, Ed.D., Superintendent

I would just like to take a moment to thank our students, staff, and families for all of their hard work during the first half of the school year. Preliminary data indicates we are well on our way to making significant academic strides for the 2011-2012 school year. I am confident we will stay focused and continue to push on toward our goals and have a very successful school year.

Winter is here, which means we must keep a watchful eye out for potential inclement weather. As always, if it becomes necessary to cancel school, the local television and radio stations will be notified immediately. I will try to send out the call through Infinite Campus around 6:00 a.m.

The Ohio Department of Education is in the process of going through sweeping changes in how the effectiveness of schools and teachers are going to be evaluated in the future. A big part of this will be what is called the Value-Added measure. At a recent work session, the Board of Education reviewed the new value-added measures being utilized by the state. Value-Added measurements attempt to calculate a snapshot of how much a student has grown academically since the previous year. The growth measure has been used for a few years to rate school districts as above, met, or below expected growth in the areas of math and reading in grades three through eight. The state is now expanding the Value-Added measure to rate individual teachers in the grades being tested on the Ohio Achievement Assessments. Teachers will be individually rated as falling somewhere between most effective and least effective. These ratings will eventually be required as part of their annual evaluation.



There is still much that must be done to iron out the specifics of how this new evaluation system will be implemented. Although we consider Value-Added to be a critical measure, especially when averaged over multiple years, we must not lose sight of the fact this is only one of multiple measures needed to capture the whole story of how well a teacher or school is performing. The only way to suppress errors of measure is to have many data points. Using one test to determine success or failure is highly volatile, because there are too many outside variables that could impact the results on a single test taken on one day during the school year. For example, a student may have been ill or had a crisis to deal with at home causing them to underperform.

So as you begin to see these new measures published, whether good or bad, please remember they are only one small piece to a larger puzzle. Please feel free to contact me at 440-259-3881, or by email at thompsonj@perry-lake.k12.oh.us, if you have any questions.

My wishes go out to you for a prosperous new year!

BUILDING A DIGITAL LEGACY

by Robert Knisely, PHS Principal

What type of digital legacy are our students building for themselves?

When we think about people leaving a legacy, we often think of rich, famous, and powerful: presidents, popes, royalty, and celebrities. Unfortunately, we usually only start talking about a legacy after that person has died. The fact is, we all leave a legacy, in life, at school, and in work — and what we do and how we interact with others can influence that legacy.

The dawn of digital media technology has allowed people to communicate in ways never thought possible. Not only do we have access to so much more information, but it's also mostly free and accessible everywhere. Most importantly, now we can all contribute to this new digital world — blog, tweet, upload, tag, like, and become your own little media empire! Texting, messaging, email, and social networking have become norms for our teens. How they use this technology can determine the type of digital legacy they may be building.

In the pre-Internet days, we depended on social interactions, with friends, family, even acquaintances. Each moment spent talking added to how others perceived us. Now we can share what we're thinking, doing, eating, buying, our opinions on anything and everything online instantaneously. All this now occurs in an age of unlimited storage and retrieval capabilities.



With every tweet, status update, blog post, photo or video uploaded, we're essentially leaving bits and bytes of ourselves (some of which you may never be able to take back). Just because you forgot about what you tweeted yesterday, and just because tomorrow you may abandon Twitter or Face Book, doesn't mean that what you've shared is forgotten. As search technologies keep evolving, there's going to be very few places for the information you've shared, and consequently, for you to hide.

Some interesting facts:

- 45% of employers — more than double from the previous year — said they use social networks to screen job candidates.
- 8% of companies have fired employees for their behavior on Facebook and LinkedIn.
- A survey of 500 top colleges found that over 10% of admissions officers acknowledged looking at social-networking sites to evaluate applicants.
- Many large corporations and companies that maintain trade secrets utilize comprehensive Internet security background checks on all new employees. These checks can bypass many settings and access information/postings that were long forgotten.

We have spent ICE time with each of the grade levels to present this critical information to our students. Some of the things that we recommended to best protect their Digital Legacy were to:

1. Maximize your privacy settings.
2. NEVER give anyone your passwords.
3. THINK before you send or post!
4. Know that what you post is there FOREVER!

(To view the presentation go to: <http://www.perry-lake.k12.oh.us/HighSchoolPortal.aspx>).

Some helpful tips to help your student to stay safe and maintain a positive digital identity:

1. Know your kids' online activities and friends.



2. Supervise Computer Use: Keep your child's computer in an open area of your home, and be aware of other computers and other devices children may be using outside of the home.
3. Check your child's privacy settings on Facebook. With just one mouse click in your child's account information, you can make sure that people they are not "friends" with, can see their posts, education or personal information.
4. If your child participates in chat rooms or tweets on Twitter, ask them to remember, that they shouldn't share personal details like their schedules, such as, "after school I'll be at football practice at the high school field", or, where they are if they are alone or will be alone.
5. Blogs are places that kids tend to let their guard down. Share with your kids the importance of not telling everyone exactly what they are doing, or do on a regular basis through their blog. Encourage them instead to stick to "social" information, such as music, movie and other wide spread interests.
6. If your kids are active in chat rooms, ask that they not use their real name as their blog or chat name, that is displayed to other users.

Adapted from <http://blog.safetyweb.com/top-5-things-parents-need-to-do-to-protect-a-child%E2%80%99s-privacy-online/>

THE QUEST AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Perry Local Schools is pleased to offer your child the opportunity to participate in a variety of enrichment including: academics, recreation, project-based learning, and character/leadership education. The QUEST Afterschool Program is funded by the U. S. Department of Education, and is FREE for ALL students enrolled in grades 5-8.

The QUEST Afterschool Program will begin January 18, 2012. It will be offered four days a week, Monday through Thursday, from the time school dismisses until 5:25. Transportation home is provided and is FREE.

During the QUEST Afterschool Program, students will participate in...

Fuel-Up Snack Pit Stop - Students receive a healthy, nutritious snack to fuel up for the afternoon events.

Get Moving! - Students will have the opportunity to be active prior to the start of the academic and enrichment portions of the program. Structured programs, such as Just Run® will be available.

Homework/OAA Support - Tutors and staff will assist students in completing their homework and help students prepare for the next day of school.

Enrichment Time - Students will be offered challenging enrichment and a variety of project-based learning activities planned by the teachers or coordinator, that builds on academic state standards and enlightens students about their community and world around them (i.e. YMCA based exercise instruction, Willoughby Fine & Performing Arts programs, Science Club, Video Production, Just Run!®, and character-building activities based on the 40 Assets).



QUEST director, Dr. Colleen Blaurock briefs a group of Perry fifth graders about the new afterschool program.

Reading and Math Extended Learning and Small Group Intervention - Guided by a certified teacher, students will use the Plato® Software to accelerate their success in Math and Language Arts. This hands-on, computer based learning experience is aligned to state standards and prescribes engaging content that is individualized for each student.

Field Trips - Students and a parent will be offered activities outside the school to build upon knowledge and experiences that are related to school and afterschool program events (i.e. theater visits, local museums, YMCA outings). Students attending 30 or more QUEST afterschool sessions will qualify for the free QUEST trip to Cedar Point at the end of the school year.

To register your child in the QUEST Afterschool Program, please complete the on-line registration form, and address any questions, to the QUEST Afterschool Program Director, Dr. Colleen Blaurock, at blaurockc@perry-lake.k12.oh.us.

PREPARING FOR THE COMMON CORE

Parents may have noticed some changes in the math learning targets on the first report card. The teachers at Perry Primary have been busy working on implementing our new math curriculum that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. They are refining and creating assessments to match the new curriculum. The purpose of the new curriculum is to develop deeper understandings on fewer topics. In addition, the teachers are also working on the new Language



by Jodi Poremba, PPES Principal

Arts curriculum, which will also be aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The Language Arts curriculum will be implemented next school year, along with refined and new assessments.

Several of you may ask why the K-2 teachers are so focused on this, currently – and why now. This year's kindergarten students will be the first group of students to take the new assessments, based on the new standards, in 2014.

2011 OMEA HONOR BAND

This year, three members of the Perry High School Band were invited to participate in the Ohio Music Education Association's (OMEA) District Seven Honor Band hosted by Cleveland State University. Chosen for their outstanding musical abilities were: Colin Bliss on trumpet, Jeff Fabis on saxophone and percussionist, Peter Huston. The Perry High School Band program is directed by Mr. Brad Hruska.

Students from schools all around the Greater Cleveland area participated in the Honor Band and were led by guest band clinician, Dr. Ann Porter from the University of Cincinnati, performing in concert on Saturday, October 15, in Waetjen Auditorium at CSU.

The OMEA is the third largest of the 52 federated state affiliates of The National Association for Music Education. OMEA members are involved at all levels of music education, serving more than 1.8 million public school students in 612 public school districts and 51 colleges and universities in Ohio.

First formed in 1924 in Fostoria, Ohio, the Ohio School Band Association, was designed to "promote high school band contests" in Ohio, but by 1929, had expanded its emphasis to include all areas of music study.



2011 OMEA District Seven Honor Band members are PHS seniors, Colin Bliss on trumpet, Jeff Fabis on saxophone and percussionist, Peter Huston.

2011 CVC HONOR CHOIR

Perry High School is once again pleased to announce this year's talented group of music students who participated in the 2011 Chagrin Valley Conference (CVC) Honor Choir.

The CVC Honor Choir and Band originated as an opportunity for area high school principals and choir and band directors to provide

their students with the experience of interacting with their peers in a positive, non-competitive way.

Participating students are selected by audition. This year, Perry was represented by seniors, Nate Densmore, Rylee Mitchell, Nick Walker and Jacob Wallie; juniors, Danielle Croff and Katie Lauria, and sophomore, Amy Jackson.

Each year, the CVC Honor Choir is hosted by a participating school. Held this year at Harvey High School in Painesville, on November 18 and 21, thirteen schools participated from around the CVC Conference.

The main purpose of the Honor Choir is to feature local, talented high school musicians, give them an opportunity to sing advanced music, as well as, allowing them to work with a college music professor.

This year's guest conductor was Dr. Brian Bailey, Director of Choirs at Cleveland State University. The students performed several major works by Randall Thompson, Brahms, Billings and Rollo Dilworth.

The Chagrin Valley Conference includes the school districts of Aurora, Beachwood, Berkshire, Cardinal, Chagrin, Cuyahoga Heights, Fairport Harbor, Harvey, Hawken, Independence, Kenston, Kirtland, Newbury, Orange, Perry, Richmond Heights, West Geauga and Wickliffe.



2011 CVC Honor Choir members are, from left: Katie Lauria, Amy Jackson, Riley Mitchell, Jacob Wallie, Nick Walker, Danielle Croff and Nate Densmore.

WORKING TOWARD SUCCESS ON THE OAA by Shelley Pulling, PIES Principal



The teachers in the Intermediate School work together to be sure all students are making academic gains throughout the year. The teachers meet each week in their Professional Learning Community (PLC) to monitor student progress, by reviewing the results of the students' current classroom assessments and practice assessments, that are taken throughout the course of the grading period. The teachers take the results of their assessments and put

the students into essentially, three categories; progressing, meeting, and exceeding the objective. They then determine their plans for the next day's lesson based on these three categories. After instruction, the students are assessed again, and the teacher plans the next level of instruction. The teachers are able to look over all of their data in their PLCs to be able to determine which instructional practices work for their students.

The most current data collected in the PLCs has demonstrated that most students are making growth, but there are students who need extra assistance. As a result of this, our third grade team has worked together with a few parent volunteers to be able to provide math intervention before school four days a week. We appreciate the assistance we have received from the parents who have come forward. It is nice to see the students getting the extra assistance before their school day even starts. One of the tutors said the other day, that the tutoring sessions are truly the highlight of her day. It is great that we not only have dedicated staff members, but also, parents who want our students to set and reach their goals every day.

It is our hope that all students will get the assistance they need throughout the year in order to be successful. It is the combined effort and collaboration between the school and the parents, that will help all students achieve success.

A COLLEGE TRIP FOR THE CLASS OF 2016

by Peggy Saxon, PMS Counselor

It is never too early to start planning for college! The eighth grade class at Perry Middle School has been visiting the Lake Erie College Campus for quite a few years now; this year's trip occurred on November 21st. This visit is a quick snapshot of what college life offers. The students receive

information similar to what high school juniors and seniors obtain on a college visit. They view the admissions video and hear about majors offered, sports, financial aid, extra-curricular activities, dorm life, etc. Students then tour the campus and see firsthand what is available on the grounds. Some groups have

even had the pleasure of meeting the University President, Michael Victor. As a district, one of Perry's goals is to make students career and college ready. We want every middle school student to know, that college is an option, and that there are resources in the Lake County area that can help them get there.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The annual *Hope for the Holidays* food drive for the Perry Center, once again, was a huge success - exceeding our goal of \$1,000.00 in cash, and 100 boxes full of food, for a grand total of

\$1,142.00 in cash, and 121 boxes of food - totaling over 2400 lbs.!

High school classrooms competed for a donut breakfast that was awarded to the top three donors, as students were asked to bring in two

food items or \$2.00 each, during the first week of December.

Thanks to everyone who donated, and please remember the needs of the Perry Center throughout the year.

2011 DISTRICT SPELLING BEE

It began with the word, “flock” and ended with “diminish.” When all was said and done, 186 words later, seventh grade student, Nina Sorine, earned the title of Spelling Bee District champ for Perry Schools.

Before Nina was crowned champ, many spellers, from grades four through eight, took the stage.

The first group to the mic was Grade Four. Fourteen rounds later, Natalie Young was declared champ, and Bailey Charlton was runner-up.

Taking spelling to the next level was the fifth grade team. Nikhil Goel took top spot, and Amanda Schueren was runner-up.

Angelina Renko was declared the winner among the group of sixth

grade spellers, with Emily Holroyd as runner-up.

In Grade Seven, Nina Sorine, took the lead spot and Jacob Rigby earned runner-up position.

Camryn Miller became the winner in the eighth grade competition, and Libby O’Donnell was runner-up.

With grade level contests completed, it was time for each grade level champ to return to the stage. The crowd cheered for Natalia Young, Nikhil Goel, Angelina Renko, Nina Sorine and Camryn Miller. Nina took control and was declared the winner. She will continue on to the Lake County competition in February, where she will compete against a brand new group of spellers, all district champs, from schools in the

Lake County area.

Good luck, Nina! We know you will represent our school well.



2011 District Spelling Bee champion, Nina Sorine, with Perry Middle School principal, Dr. Scott Hunt.

ROBOTOTS

This year, a team of Perry High School students is partnering with the Perry Nuclear Plant Employee Association to design and build a robot to compete with other area schools at AWT (Alliance for Working Together) RoboBots. AWT Robobots is a regional competition affiliated with the National Robotics League (NRL), which promotes and encourages the exploration of careers in manufacturing.

Members of the Perry team include: Darrin Neiman, Evan Nichols, Courtney Brassow, Caleb Ziamba, Josh Tamburlin, Blaine Luszczak and Zak Kramer. Student advisors are: Mrs. Suzanne Tetonis and Mrs. Bonnie Kovacic. Mr. Tim Barlow, from the Perry Nuclear Plant, is the coach.

Each AWT RoboBot team designs, engineers, manufactures and builds a 15 pound combat robot to face off in an NRL-sanctioned

regional competition. Local manufacturing companies are paired with the high school teams of students to lend their facilities, employees and expertise.

The competition is scheduled for April 28, 2012, at Lakeland Community College.

Learn more about RoboBots at: www.thinkmfg.com - scroll down the homepage to “Community” and select “AWT Robobots”

Learn more about the competition: <http://www.gonrl.org/>.



A STUDENT OF INTEGRITY

Perry High School senior, Lauren Pugh, has been honored by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Greater Cleveland as a *Students of Integrity* scholarship recipient.

The annual, essay-based competition recognizes high school students in Northeast Ohio, who exemplify integrity through leadership, academic excellence, community service, and strong character ethics.

Lauren was one of three students in our region chosen to receive a \$1000 scholarship, in a field that included students from 45 area schools.

Recognizing that significant adults in a student's life contribute to their formation of personal ethics and educational success, parents and selected teachers of the essay award winners were also honored.

Her essay on leadership and service was presented at the BBB Annual Meeting, and will be featured on the Cleveland BBB website for the next year.

For more information, visit their website: <http://cleveland.bbb.org/students-of-integrity/>.



A FLEXIBLE ADVENTURE

While it's not uncommon for a Perry High School student to expand a conventional course of study into something more unconventional, high school junior, Zak Kramer has taken the flexible-credit option (Credit-Flex) in his AP science class to a new level. His project: building water purification systems for a remote village in Peru.

Credit-Flex allows students to learn subject matter and earn course credit in ways not limited to "seat-time" or the walls of a school building. It encourages student self-direction and motivates learners to develop new skills and fulfill their potential.

For an extra half-credit in science and an adventure of a lifetime, Zak joined members of a medical team from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and Case Western Reserve University to participate in the Lamay Clinic Project. Started in 2007, by a handful of medical students in Cleveland, members of the team collaborate with healthcare professionals in Lamay, Peru, to improve the lives of people living in Lamay and the surrounding mountain villages.

The group spends one month in Peru, providing basic medical care and

education to over 1,000 patients each year.

Zak had learned that in remote areas of Peru, like the village of Lamay, residents had no access to clean drinking water, which contributed to a variety of health problems.



Perry High School junior, Zak Kramer, shows one of his new water filtration systems to Lamay mayor, Guido Alvarez Chavez.

After meeting with medical project leaders, Zak sought the professional advice of Mr. Rick Douglas, the superintendent of the Bacon Road Water Treatment Plant in Painesville, to design a simple purification device to take to the residents of Lamay. His idea was to create a sand filtration system that was easy to build and maintain – one that would be inexpensive to reproduce for individual homes and would not rely on filter cartridges.

The sand filters proved to be an effective way of removing a wide range of bacteria, and the people of Lamay now enjoy cleaner water and a healthier lifestyle with this simple solution.

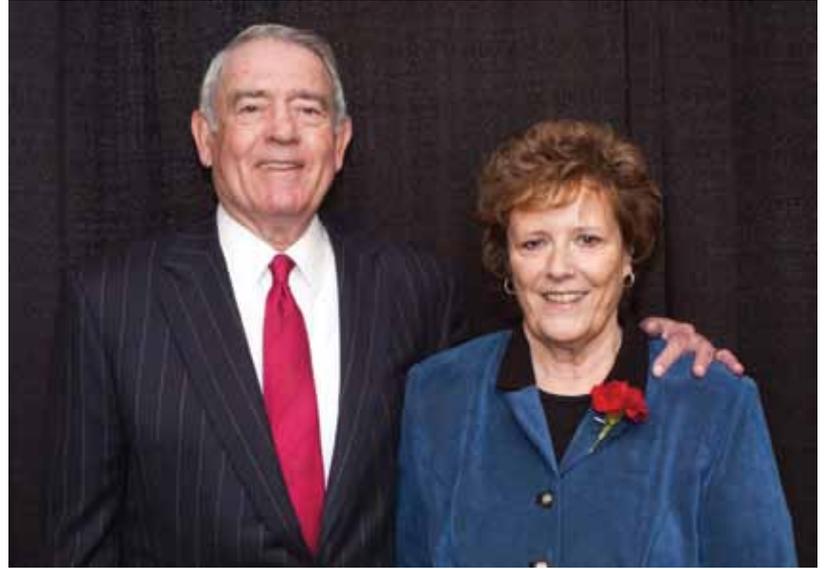
"The scope of Zak's experience in a third world country, blended rich science content with cultural study," said Perry Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky. "Credit-Flex opportunities for students place no ceiling on their intellectual possibilities. It is exciting to see students reach deeply to carve pathways to their future."

You can learn more about the project at: info@lamayclinic.org.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU !

A reception was held recently to honor Mrs. Carole Martin for her 25 years of service as a Perry Board of Education member. Mrs. Martin was also recognized for her many years of service last month, at the annual Ohio School Board Capital Conference in Columbus, as she was introduced at a general session by renowned American journalist, Dan Rather.

Congratulations, Mrs. Martin, and thank you, from everyone at Perry Schools!



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