

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

the perry way

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

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Once again, students, parents, and other community members were invited to volunteer their efforts to work during the 2012 Community Green Day, held this year on Saturday, April 28th. More than 65 energetic participants gathered to perform such activities as, cleaning senior citizens' yards, clearing trash and recycling items from schools and public areas, driving to pick up paper products for recycling, assembling benches for the new sustainable garden, and cleaning a Lake Erie beach.

Highlights of this year's Community Green Day were the inauguration of the new sustainable garden on the Perry High School campus and presentation of the annual School Recycling Award from the American Forestry and Paper Association (AFP&A), which included a \$2,000 grant to the Perry High School Recycling Club. The Recycling Club is actually a cooperative of students from Perry Service Learning (PSL), the Science Club, Student Council, and the United Way Club. Representatives from the AF&PA were on hand to present the award to members of the Recycling Club on Community Green Day.



Cleaning up a flower bed on Community Green Day are volunteers (from left) Mary Strahan, Ava Strahan and Aaron Gessic.

This year, the Perry Middle School Science Department was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Partners in Science Excellence, with which eight microscopes and several supporting materials were purchased. On Community Green Day, middle school students and staff members shared their learning activities with those in attendance in the PHS cafeteria.

The volunteer workers all met at Perry High School in the morning to receive their assignments and ended their day with a cookout in the cafeteria.

4th GRADERS' WIN IS SUPER SWEET!



Perry 4th Graders Jaelyn Tomoletz and Isaac Tomoletz represent their class as they ride in the 2012 Geauga Maple Festival Parade.

This year's maple syrup, produced by Perry Elementary 4th graders in Science Lab, has placed first, out of more than 30 entries in the hobby category, in the 2012 Geauga Maple Festival competition.

The following points were earned for quality:

- Density - 25 out of 25
- Clarity - 25 out of 25
- Color - 18 out of 20
- Flavor - 26 out of 30

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KEEP LEARNING THIS SUMMER

by Jodi Poremba, PPES Principal



Summer is an opportunity for us to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather while spending time with family and friends. It is also an opportunity for us to continue the learning that has taken place all year at school. Look for opportunities to enhance the lessons that children have learned throughout the year in their everyday activities. Try to devote one day a week to review basic math and reading skills.

Reading:

- Spend at least 15 minutes reading each night; take turns reading pages or words to make it a game!

- Make reading engaging and meaningful by asking questions while you read, such as: What do you think will happen next? How do you think that character is feeling? I wonder what I would do, if I were that character.

- Model reading for your children daily, by reading interesting facts in newspapers and magazines.

- Encourage children to read directions on packages instead of quickly reading it for them.

- Read road signs together on road trips.

- Show the children maps outlining family road trips, and challenge them to find another route.

- Sign up for the Perry Public Library Summer Reading Program.

Math:

- Turn math facts into a game by trying to see how many you can solve before the kitchen timer beeps!

- Practice counting by 1s, 2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s while driving to a game or practice.

- Have your child estimate the cost of groceries on your next trip!

- Make meal time learning time with their help to follow recipes.

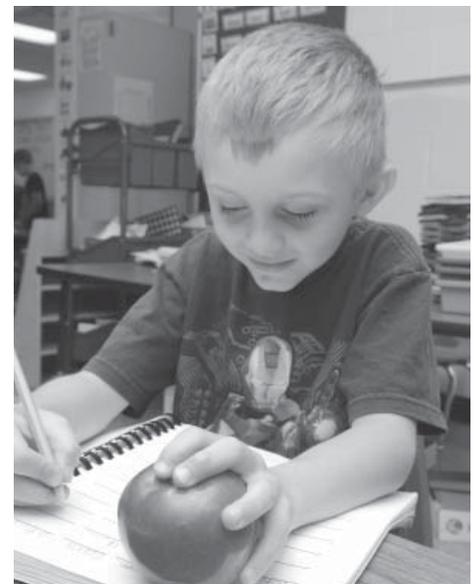
- Play games like Memory, Guess

Who, Go Fish and Top It (War) to keep those higher-order thinking skills active.

- Use an analog clock, and set certain times for activities throughout the day.

- Use a calendar to keep track of your days, and use a journal to write about your summer activities (math and reading).

These are just a few suggestions to encourage you and your children to keep learning this summer. Get creative, and together you will create meaningful learning opportunities for you and your child.



RACHEL'S CHALLENGE

by Perry Guidance Counselors

Perry Schools was pleased to present Rachel's Challenge on March 29th to students in grades K-12. This powerful program is the story of Rachel Scott, the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Rachel's acts of kindness and compassion, coupled with the contents of her six diaries, have become the foundation for a life-changing program in America. Audio and video footage of Rachel's Challenge held students in grades 6-12 spell-bound during a one-hour school presentation, that motivated them to positive change in the way they treat others. The K-5 program did not refer to the

Columbine shootings but focused on kindness. A peer training occurred with high school students following the assembly, that discussed ways to sustain the message of kindness and compassion in their school. Finally, an evening presentation was held for parents and community members. Rachel left behind an amazing legacy and a simple challenge to anyone who will accept it - treat others with kindness and compassion, and you just may change the world you live in.

This program fits well with our district's decision to adopt the Search Institute 40 developmental asset framework two years ago.

Along with that initiative, several Perry High School students attended the Search Institute national conference. This trip was funded by the Lake County ADAMHS Board and the BOAT coalition. Perry High School student, Alexa Roberts, attended a session at that conference on Rachel's Challenge and was instrumental in bringing it to Perry. Some of the assets that are reinforced include caring school climate, parent involvement in school, positive identity, empowerment, youth as resources, safety, positive peer influence, modeling responsible behavior, service to others and integrity to name just a few.

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MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR DISTRICT

by Jack Thompson, Ed.D., Superintendent

June marks the close of the 2012 school year. May I wish this year's graduating class and retirees a sincere congratulations. 2012 will always be a special year for me, as it marks my beginning in serving the Perry Local Schools. This past year has been very valuable to me as I continue to become more "Perryized" every day. Having lived it once, I now have a much better understanding of the many traditions that run deep through our school culture making Perry a great place like no other. We will continue our pursuit to maintain world class standards by transforming our school landscape and evolving to increase our capacity to provide our students with the 21st century skills needed to be successful. As we continue this work, I vow to honor those traditions and hold sacred the practices and processes that create the common ground to keep connected all who have ever had the privilege of becoming a Perry Pirate.

The preparation for 2012-2013 has begun. As we turn the page, our attention now shifts to positioning personnel where they will best serve the needs of our students, setting goals, budgeting, and developing the plans and timelines necessary to achieve our benchmarks. I



Student volunteers interacted with safety forces during a recent crisis simulation drill at Perry High School.

understand we have many challenges ahead of us; however, I am more enthusiastic, excited, and energized than ever to meet the trials we will face in the future. I owe so much to the Board for supporting, while holding me accountable, the numerous decisions we have already made in an effort to continuously improve our school district. I truly am looking forward to embarking on

the work that looms ahead of us. Thank you for the opportunity!

A few of the major changes being made for next year are administrative assignments, school security measures, and saying good-bye to PIES.

As we evaluated the challenges ahead of us, we felt the need to reassign our leadership to best meet the needs of our district. Dr. Scott Hunt has accepted a new role as Director of College and Career Readiness. This new role will encompass work related to the development of a new teacher evaluation system required by law, oversight of district testing and guidance services, as well as providing support to the MS and HS principals in student management and staff evaluations.

Mr. Robert Knisely was asked and accepted an offer to become the new Perry Middle School Principal. Mr. Knisely has a proven track record of success at the middle school level and will continue to provide us with expert instructional leadership going forward as our middle school principal.

Mr. Todd Porcello has been appointed as our new High School Principal. Mr. Porcello has demonstrated outstanding creativeness and a strong capacity to lead.

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A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

As the school year closes, we reflect on the events that made this a great year for all of us. We are proud of the many accomplishments and successes of the staff and students of Perry High School this year.

Our students have demonstrated success through academic achievement, as well as through extra-curricular involvement and leadership activities. At Perry we are proud of the level of participation of our students beyond the classroom. These activities include athletics, drama productions, music nights, arts displays, and student council events.

To highlight several notable achievements; Perry High School was ranked among the top 3% of high schools in the United States by US News and World Report. The PHS Robotics team finished 3rd nationally at the US Robotics competition held in Washington DC.



Success occurred in the athletic arenas - our Boys Cross-Country team qualified and competed in the state meet in the fall and our Wrestling, Gymnastics, and Swim teams represented PHS well in the winter.

We look forward to seeing all of the Grades 9, 10 and 11 students back in the fall, to continue the journey they started with us. We bid goodbye to the Grade 12 students as they move on to the next stage in their journey. We will remember the contributions

by Robert Knisely, PHS Principal

they made to Perry High School during the last four years. Congratulations to the graduates, and remember to embrace all the new opportunities and challenges. We look forward to working with a brand new group of grade 9 students who will be starting their journey with us next fall.

Thank you to all our staff, including teachers, secretaries, educational associates, custodial, and maintenance personnel for your dedication in providing a supportive, caring, and safe environment for all.

We bid farewell and happy retirement to two PHS legends...Cathy Priest and Gary Stevenson. We thank you for your years of service to the Perry Local Schools.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer. We will see you in the fall!

Go Pirates!

END OF YEAR MESSAGE

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

Thanks to each and every one of you for a productive 2011-12 school year in Perry. It has been a pleasure getting to know students, staff, and parents and listening to open conversation about our history, what works and how we can continually improve. One thing is for certain – every professional on our team wants to see students reach their fullest potential and positively contribute to the information rich, entrepreneurial world they will inherit. And, is there a more superior public school in Ohio for students to seek opportunity than in Perry Schools? I think not.

In charting our next steps ahead, what is required in high performing school districts in order to achieve excellent

results is well researched and clear. Excellent school districts have no “silver bullet” but have strong systems in place around clear academic targets and responsive teaching, as illustrated in the diagram to the right.

Personally speaking, what are our greatest accomplishments in Perry as well as our greatest needs for systemic change, is much clearer today than it was when I returned to Perry ten months ago. I look forward to working together on our most urgent aspects of improvement. Have a relaxing summer and cherish your family.

I look forward to the work of the school year ahead!



PHS RECYCLING CLUB WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Perry Local Schools is pleased to announce that Perry High School Recycling Club has been awarded the American Forest & Paper Association's (AF&PA) 2012 School Recycling Award.

Perry's recycling program stood out from more than 200 applications from 42 states as a result of successfully recovering 280,000 pounds of paper and paper-based packaging in 2011, an average of 466 pounds per person.

The school received a \$2,000 award at a presentation ceremony during Perry's Community Green Day event on April 28.

"This is a shining example of what can be accomplished through a community supported paper recovery program," said AF&PA President and CEO Donna Harman. "We at AF&PA are proud to recognize Perry High School and all of the hard-working individuals who make this initiative a priority on a daily basis."

"We are appreciative to receive this award," said Mr. Robert Glavan, Perry High School science teacher and one of the program's advisors.

The PHS Recycling Club represents a collaboration between the United Way Club, Student Council, Library Council, Science Club and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). It originated in 2007, as an offshoot of the PHS Science Club, and has grown from there.

RACHEL'S CHALLENGE ...continued from page 2

Over 100 high school students along with adult volunteers received a peer training in promoting a caring school environment. They will be forming a Friends of Rachel's Club. Perry Middle School Kids Care Club is planning the next steps to keep the momentum of Rachel's Challenge strong. Perry Elementary School students have been recognizing acts of kindness with chain links that were connected at the carnival this year. Student Council at the elementary school is considering including components in KC club which stands for kindness and compassion. With the recent, tragic events that occurred in Chardon, the message of Rachel's Challenge was timely and meaningful to our entire school community.



CONGRATULATIONS, AND GOOD LUCK TO OUR RETIREES!



Evey Barber



Sharon Chapman



Diana Layman



Jim LeMasters



Butch Moats



Cathy Priest



Gary Stevenson

Perry Schools would like to extend its best wishes to members of our staff that are retiring at the end of this school year. Mrs. Evey Barber, PMS Educational Associate, has been with Perry Schools since 1987; Ms. Sharon Chapman, PES Educational Associate and Secretary/Receptionist since 1987; Mrs. Diana Layman, School Bus Operator since 1987, Mr. Jim LeMasters, Bus Mechanic since 1997; Mr. Butch Moats, PES Head Custodian since 1994; Mrs. Cathy Priest, English/History teacher since 1997; Mr. Gary Stevenson, Technology Teacher since 1977. Thank you all, and good luck!

NEW BEGINNINGS

— by Shelley Pulling, PES Principal

As the 2011-2012 school year comes to a close, our students began to transition to next year. As this was going on, there are some changes occurring in our district. Next school year the schools will be set up to align more closely with the buildings in the district. In the past the district had an Elementary and a Middle school building with each building having a principal and an assistant principal. There was a decrease in an administrator and a realignment of the buildings to accommodate this decrease. The buildings were set up to have the three grade level bands; K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. This was where the Intermediate School began.

After careful consideration this past spring, it became evident that we can still cluster our students into grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8, but not use the term Intermediate School, because there

really isn't a separate building. The K-4 students are in the Elementary building, and the 5-8 students are in the Middle School building. We will go back to having an Elementary and Middle School concept, but the principals will remain the same.

We hope to make a smooth transition back to the Elementary and Middle School titles to help lessen the confusion that has occurred in the past few years. I look forward to continuing to work with the students in grades 3-5 as their principal.



WHAT I LEARNED AT CAMP...

by Pat Betteley, PMS Camp Co-Director



...FROM THE MOUTHS OF THE CAMPERS!

Our Camp Fitch mission: growing in spirit, mind and body as we develop strong character and develop lifelong skills of self confidence and independence." Perry Middle School sixth graders experienced this mission as they camped in cabents (structures with a cabin roof and tent sides) at Camp Fitch, May 30-June 1.

Growing in body, many campers tried learned new physical activities that they tried for the first time at camp:

- "One thing I learned at camp was that, I'm good at rock climbing and canoeing." – Lily

- "I learned archery, canoeing, and how to set up a tent." – Zach

- "I learned I'm really good at archery and got a bull's eye."

– Casandra

Many students grew in mind, as they learned about nature and outdoor/camping skills.

- "I learned that bug spray doesn't work." –Tommy

- "I learned that bug spray works." – Haley

- "I learned that I am not good with spiders." - Elena

But for staff and students alike, some of the greatest lessons are about growing in spirit -- building confidence, independence, and strong character.

- "I learned how to survive in a room with 9 other people." - Allison

- "I learned that I can be funny." –Marlena

- "I learned that you can make friends wherever you are."

– Mason



- "I learned that I can be a leader." – Abby

- "I learned that I am able to accomplish many things, if I set my mind to it." – Brenna

After two days and nights jam-packed full of activities with friends, teachers, and camp staff, all agree that there was a whole lot of learning going on at camp: about growing in mind, spirit, and body.

Camp Fitch Mission accomplished!

PCTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Those who know Mike Ryan would most certainly agree that for many reasons he truly deserves the honor of 2012 PCTA Teacher of the Year.

Mike always greets everyone with a smile, and his contagious positive attitude shows just how much he cares for all of his co-workers and students. He knows that the positive words he has for students may very well be the only positive things that they will hear that day from the adults in their life.

In the classroom Mike always takes a special interest in the students whom others may have given up on, find it difficult to work with or simply cannot get engaged in the coursework.

One of Mike's catch phrases is "Do the right thing, all the time." Mike lives by this saying. Everything he does is driven by his desire to positively impact students.

Mike knows how important it is to respect the students and have high expectations for them. If you show students that you have respect for them, then they will eventually respect you as well. We are responsible for teaching them so much more than just the required content for a particular class. Most important to Mike is that we need to put students first at all times. Without the students, none of us would be here doing what we love to do.

Congratulations, Mike!



Industrial Technology Teacher,
Mr. Mike Ryan is the 2012 Perry
Classroom Teachers Association
Teacher of the Year.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR DISTRICT

...continued from page 3

A surveillance system is being installed throughout our entire campus, which will allow us to closely monitor all activities and movement going on in our District.

In addition, all staff on campus will wear picture identification to ensure all the adults on campus are authorized to be there. We are also working closely with safety forces. Most recently, an intensive drill was conducted on campus to help prepare us should there ever be a major crisis such as a shooting on campus. The plan is for this to become an annual event.

Lastly, we say good-bye to Perry Intermediate School. As most of you have

heard, we are making an adjustment to the building identities beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. We have been looking at the current configuration of our grade levels (particularly the 5th grade) for the past several months. As much as the concept of having an intermediate school comprised of grades 3-5 makes absolute sense, it has become clear our 5th grade students' daily experience is much more "PMS like" than "PIES like" and, consequently, they have a strong desire to be identified and treated as part of the middle school. In response to this conclusion, the Board of Education approved a resolution on May 15th to

return to the following configuration:

K-4: Perry Elementary School
5-8: Perry Middle School

This change will require some adjustments to be made. However, there is no plan to change the grade level assignments of principals. Please bring any questions you may have concerning this decision to your grade level principal.

I wish all of you a fantastic summer and look forward to an outstanding 2012-2013 school year.

4th GRADERS' WIN IS SUPER SWEET!

...continued from page 1

The syrup measured 66.8 Brix. Syrup with densities of 66.5 and 67.5 has a more pronounced maple flavor and a higher sugar content. Total points awarded were 94 out of 100.

Previously, the group's syrup had earned 2nd, 4th and 6th place ribbons over the 12 years the class has been competing.

"The process is incorporated into the students' classroom studies," said Mr. Tom deHaas, science teacher and project organizer. "It begins with identifying the trees, tapping, collecting and boiling the sap, and the best part, sampling the finished product."

The classroom then becomes a make-

shift kitchen with mounds of pancakes smothered in the golden delight for everyone to enjoy. The Geauga County Maple Festival in Chardon is the area's premier showcase for maple products. Learn more, at www.maplefestival.com.

CONGRATULATIONS PHS JOURNALISTS

This year, Perry High School Journalism students and Yearbook staff were invited to participate in the annual Youngstown State University Journalism Press Day competition.

Press Day activities included contests in several categories – from news reporting, to sports photography, from the best yearbook theme to the best newspaper website.

The winning entries were selected from among ten high school journalism programs throughout the state.

Nell Cormack was awarded first place in the Editorial category, Alyssa Fults, second place Sport Feature, and Larissa Kanne with a third place Editorial. All three are high school sophomores.

Perry High School journalism teacher and yearbook adviser, Mrs. Jennifer Hunter was chosen Adviser of the Year, with Perry's 2012 Yearbook winning first place overall.

Learn more about this and other Youngstown State University's programs at http://web.ysu.edu/gen/class/Press_Day_m320.html.



Winners of the Youngstown State University Journalism Awards are (top left) Larissa Kanne, Mrs. Jenny Hunter and (seated) Alyssa Fults and Nell Cormack.

PHS Parent/Player Meeting

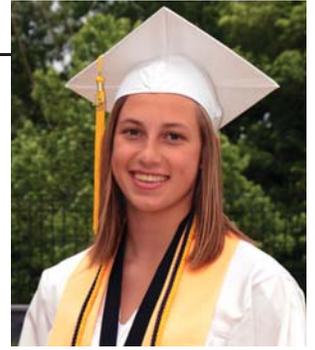
Save the Date!
Tuesday, August 14
7:00 PM
Goodwin Theatre

There will be a Parent/Player meeting for **ALL** high school student athletes that plan to participate in a fall, winter or spring sport at Perry High School. The Ohio High School Athletic Association is now requiring every parent and athlete to come to at least one meeting per school year, and that attendance is taken at the meeting. This is a **mandatory** meeting, if your son or daughter will participate in a sport next year. Fall coaches will meet with athletes and parents briefly, following this meeting. Thanks, and GO PIRATES!



PHS CLASS OF 2012

VALEDICTORIAN
Peter Huston



SALUTATORIAN
Heather deHaas

STUDENTS OF DISTINCTION

(Left to Right) Erica Sheridan, Lauren Hocevar, Sarah Doyle, Emily Hinton, Jenna Mills, Mitchell Murphy, Aaron Crow, Nolan Farrell, Kathryn Velecheck and Lauren Pugh (not pictured)



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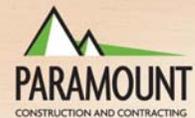


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