

The *Pirate Speaks*

Childhood Memories
December 2011



The Pearl High School Newspaper since 1948

The Pirate Speaks

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The Pirate Speaks
Pearl High School
500 Pirate Cove
Pearl, MS 39208
www.pearl.k12.ms.us

Annual Military Inspection

By Juliet Ferrell

NJROTC had their Annual Military Inspection on Tuesday, 15 November 2011 in the gym. This year was different from years in the past because the Inspection was held during the day. The cadets began getting inspected at 8:45 that morning. The inspector, Captain Eddie Martinez (USNR), was presented and began inspecting the cadets. During the inspection, each platoon showed off their hard work by performing their individual drills.

But these drills were not magically perfect overnight. "The cadets started preparing shortly after school began in August," said Senior Naval Science Instructor, Captain Lewis. "The Annual Military Inspection is THE most important inspection for the cadets." This is because this is a mandatory event as dictated by the US Navy.

After the individual drills were completed, the Unarmed and Armed drill teams marched out and showed how they do things. At the end of the Inspection, Captain Martinez presented the awards and named the Honor Platoon. All in all, these cadets showed how hard work can really pay off.



(above) The NJROTC Drill team gets ready for Inspection.

*"I know we'll do well,"
said the Unit Commanding
Officer, junior Special
Hubbard, a week before
the Inspection.*

*Merry Christmas,
2nd Lieutenant
Billy Weems!*

*From Your Family
and
The Pirate Speaks!*

*Thank you to all of the soldiers
fighting for our country!*



(left): Georgia Weems, daughter of Billy and Ashley Weems, wishes her father a Merry Christmas.

(below): Billy and Ashley Weems, teacher at Pearl High School.





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If you keep Jesus in your heart,
he will always give you the courage
to do what is right.

It's Your Turn to Make a Difference!!

It only takes a minute to.....



- ♥ Compliment someone on how they dress/look.
- ♥ Smile at someone who is having a bad day.
- ♥ Help someone who is struggling.
- ♥ Have a listening ear.
- ♥ Hold a door open for someone else.
- ♥ Sit with someone who seems lonely.
- ♥ Be a friend to someone who needs one.
- ♥ Offer to have a study group with your peers.
- ♥ Cheer someone up.

When did you finally pack away your toys?

By **Emily Waters**

"I never packed my toys away!"
- **Sophomore, Hunter Busby**



"Around 10 or 11; because I was becoming a man!"

-**Senior, Ben Hodges**

"Back in the day, because I felt there was a need to."

-**Junior, Candace Jackson**



"I packed my toys away after college, but my wife still has stuffed animals in our house!"

-**Choir Teacher, Mr. Tommy Creel**



"Sixth grade; that's also when I started reading!"

-**Freshman, Jacob Shelton**



"Why give up the toys? I never wanna grow up!"

-**Freshman, Samantha Morgigno**

"Sixteen, because my mom made me."

-**Senior, Ben McGraw**

"I never did; they just sort of.. disappeared."

-**Junior, Dana Brown**

"When I was 12 or 11; I enjoyed being a little kid."

-**Senior, Scott Erickson**



"I never packed away my toys. My sister, Amanda Rogers, burned them before I got the chance."

-**Freshmen, Ashley Rogers**



From Grass to Turf

By Hanna Lewis

Senior and jersey number twelve Stewart Summers was this past season's Pearl High School quarterback.

Summers transferred last year from Madison Ridgeland Academy when MRA got a new coach. Summers said, "[I came here because] I like Coach Perry and I thought we had a good team this year with DJ. DJ had been trying to get me over here, too."

Playing football has always been in Summers' life. He first remembers throwing the football in the front yard with his grandfather when he was a young child. When he joined his first team, his father was his coach.

Summers' college plans also include football. He said he is trying to get a football scholarship; but even if he does not, he may still play walk-on football.

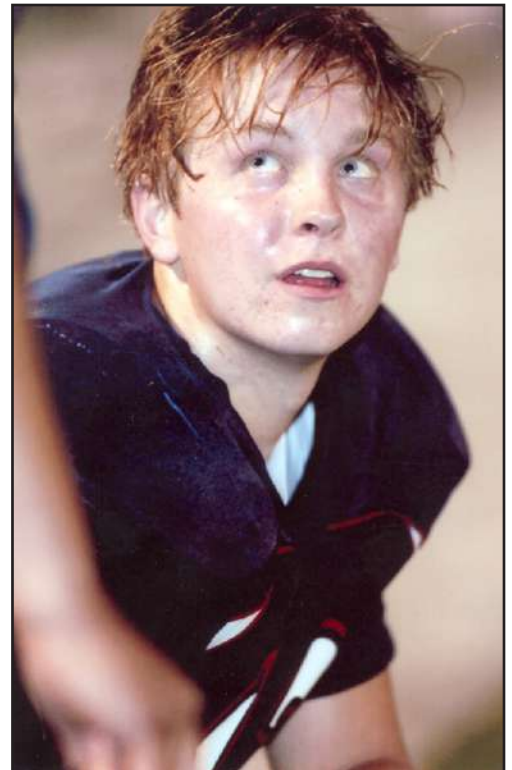
As a child, Summers said he was always outside with his friends either playing sports or a good game of cowboys and Indians. He also remembers tailgating at Ole Miss with his family; watching football games when his hero, Eli Manning, played; and just having a good time.

Summers still likes to have a good time, whether that is playing more sports; hanging out with his family, friends, and girlfriend; or just going to the church youth group.

When asked about younger students who might look up to him, his closing words were "Just make the most of the time you have and enjoy it... just trust in God because it's his plan."



"Just make
the most
of the time
you have."





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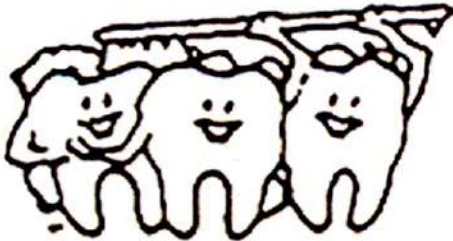
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College Style Art: High School Course

By Hanna Lewis

Pearl High School offers many art classes to its students. These classes range from visual art studios, which is a class that gives an overview of ancient art, all the way to specialized classes for qualified art students.

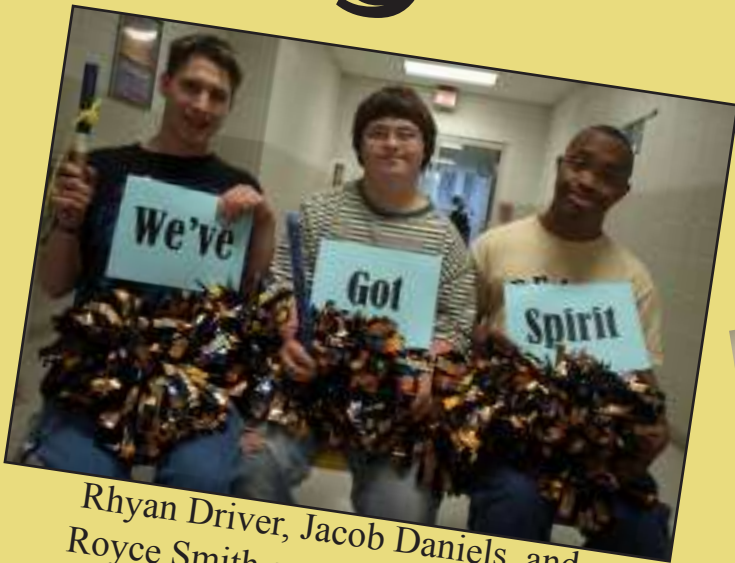
One specialized art class offered at PHS is the semester-long Drawing Studio. In drawing, advanced art students who have taken lower level arts and meet the specific requirements of the class learn more about drawing. These students also develop their technique based on their individual style and current interest.

Unlike most art classes, drawing is an individual college-style class where the first nine weeks is spent reviewing drawing styles and techniques and also refining their skills. The second nine weeks is a more independent study where the students decide what direction they want to go with their drawing. Mrs. Heather Rumfelt, who teaches the class, then gives the student advice while they complete their project.

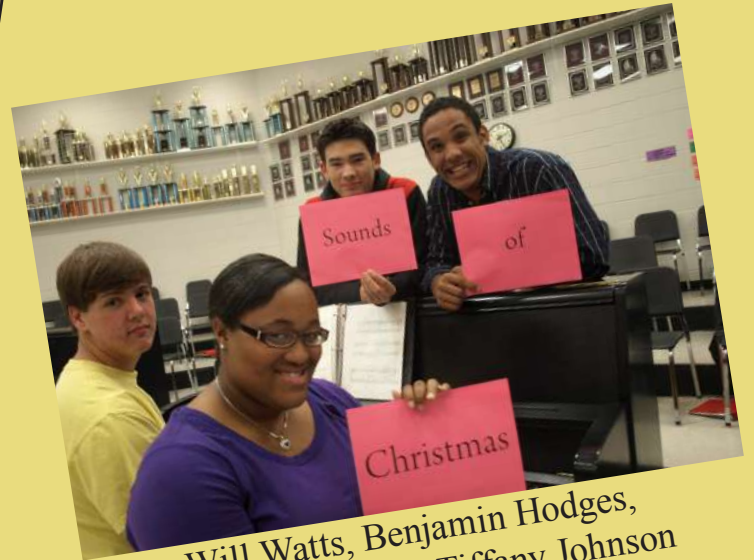
This unique way of teaching the class helps prepare the student for college level art courses. Mrs. Rumfelt said, "I feel like it is really important the students understand what it is going to be like in college [should they choose to major in art]."

My 3 Words

By *Mackenzie Bell*



Rhyan Driver, Jacob Daniels, and Royce Smith earned spirit sticks at the homecoming pep rally.



Will Watts, Benjamin Hodges, Seth Romines, and Tiffany Johnson rehearse for "The Sounds of Christmas" program.



Coaches Latrice Jackson and Tracy Yates place the blame on Coach Torey McKenzie.



Band members David Anderson, Faith Harris, Randa Amason and Drew LaFontaine helped earn the State Marching Championship.



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What's Your Favorite

By *Ayanna Bloom*



Chelsea Black, 11, **Tweety Bird**



Mr. Cannon, Teacher, **Peanuts**



Ben McGraw, 12, **Power Rangers**



Jarvis Gatlin, 11, **Power Puff Girls**



Austin Eitel, 10, **Toy Story**

Childhood **CARTOON?**



Iyonna Minor, 9, **Barney**



Patrick Byrd, 12, **Catdog**



Mr. Smithhart, Principal, **Looney Tunes**

Jacob Ragland, 11, **The Pink Panther**



Rykesha Davis, 9, **Mikey Mouse and Pluto**

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, WHAT SUPERHERO DID YOU WANT TO BE?

By *Hailey Blair*

CALEB LOVE
9TH GRADE
HULK

AUSTIN JENNINGS
10TH GRADE
GREEN LANTERN

CODY GRICE
11TH GRADE
SUPERMAN

EVAN OSBORNE
11TH GRADE
CAPTAIN
AMERICA

BEN MCGRAW
12TH GRADE
SPIDERMAN

CHELSEA

BLACK JACKIE LIPSCOMB
11TH GRADE 10TH GRADE
ROBIN BATMAN





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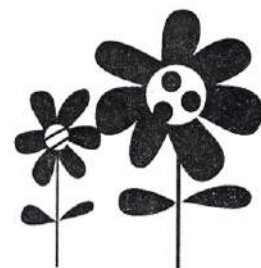
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October - December....

Sports Zone

By Amanda Rogers



Starting from the left:

- **Terry Dixon**, a freshmen, aims for the goal as he practices his shot.
 - Senior, **Karli Blakely**, keeps herself occupied before practice to warm up with some drills.
 - **Jace Williams**, sophomore, has a smile on her face at every practice and game.
- Photos by Amanda Rogers.





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Dr. John G. Ladner
Former Superintendent
Pearl Public School District
Pearl, Mississippi

"The students know they can contact me anonymously. That opens the dialogue. Students write that 'so and so is picking on me, please stop it.' Because they know what they say is confidential, they go ahead and say who the bully is. It has helped stop our bullying problem."

Karen Wilson
Former Principal
Pearl Jr. High School
Pearl School District
Pearl, Mississippi

"We're seeing that this generation feels very comfortable discussing things in that format [online messaging]... We're seeing an increase in students using counseling services."

Gina Morgigno
Counselor
Pearl High School
Pearl, Mississippi

"We haven't had a lot of large problems, but we were able to stop a potential suicide when we found out about it through the system. You can't put a price tag on that."

Ray Morgigno
Former Principal Current Superintendent
Pearl High
Pearl, Mississippi

Incident Type	Number of Incidents	Percentage of Total Incidents Reported
Stress	910	15%
Bullying	588	10%
Depression	452	8%
Peer Pressure	185	3%
Drugs	140	2%
Suicide	107	2%

Ever wonder if anyone truly cares? If anyone out there in this cruel world would ever truly listen? To help? Maybe you're just not looking close enough. Pearl High School is one of the four hundred subscribers to AnComm, a way for students to anonymously communicate with counselors and administrators at the high school.

Pearl High started using AnComm approximately four years ago, as "a way for students to break the ice and get their concerns heard" as Mrs. Tiffany Durr, counselor, put it. The first year PHS had AnComm, counselors and administrators received quite a few inquiries from students; however, lately, not very many. Counselors Mrs. Becky Rowan and Mrs. Durr, both agree students should hear more about AnComm.

Many students have taken their time during the rush of changing classes to notice and read AnComm's "Talk About it" poster. "Talk about it" is the nation's first and only anonymous online and text based reporting and emergency notification service.

"The counselors have done more individual counseling this year than they have done in years past. It does take time on the counselors' part, but AnComm is another outlet by which kids can communicate. That makes it a positive," posted Ray Morgigno on AnComm's website.

Stress, bullying, and depression ranked in the top three highest-known incidents as reported by elementary, middle and high schools.

The number of incidents involving stress is higher in students than most. Bullying is another problem at most schools. Unfortunately there are few antidotes for dealing with stress, however bullying is something one could try putting a stop to.

Almost 77% of students have been bullied, verbally, mentally, and physically. School Nurse, Mrs. Bonnie DeSalvo states "If you witness bullying, you should definitely say its wrong, stand up, and immediately notify an administrator. Bullying is not a good behavior and should not be tolerated. We as a group should let it be known it's bad. Everyone should step forward in this case."

Depression is a main cause for suicide. Most people look down on depression as just another student trying to get attention. But depression is a serious condition. A person with depression has uncontrollable mood swings in which they feel all the bad emotions (sadness, anxiety, emptiness, hopelessness, worthlessness, etc.) and none of the good.

According to AnComm's website, suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, and the sixth leading cause of death for 5-14 year olds. "That's ridiculous. That should be stopped. That blows my mind. How bad can a five year olds life be for that to happen. That's horrible," said Junior Kendall Coleman.

By Amanda Rogers

Source: www.ancomm.com

**Ancomm is
All About
Making a
Difference.**

Christmas

By KATIE SIMS

Memories...



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND WHY?



"I enjoy spending time with my family and celebrating
Jesus' birth."

Ms. Sarah Hankins, Drama Teacher

"Jesus, family, and presents."

Joey Collins, 10th Grade



WHAT IS A FAMILY TRADITION THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN
PART OF YOUR FAMILY?



"A tradition we have always upheld is saying what we are
thankful for before we eat Christmas dinner. We get in a circle
and take turns telling what we are most thankful for and why."

Mrs. Victoria Walker, English I

"Opening one present the day before Christmas."

Raelyn Bell, 11th Grade





WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY DECORATION AND WHY?



"A wooden sleigh with Santa in it because it lets me know Christmas is coming."

Mr. Richard Smithhart, Assistant Principal

"The angel is my favorite; she wears a pretty dress and has wings."

Jessica Holmes, 9th Grade



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY MOVIE AND WHY?



"Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*); it teaches a lesson of caring for others."

Mr. Dale Shepherd, Assistant Principal

"*How The Grinch Stole Christmas* because it is funny."

Alexis Stevenson, 12th Grade



...That Last

Forever

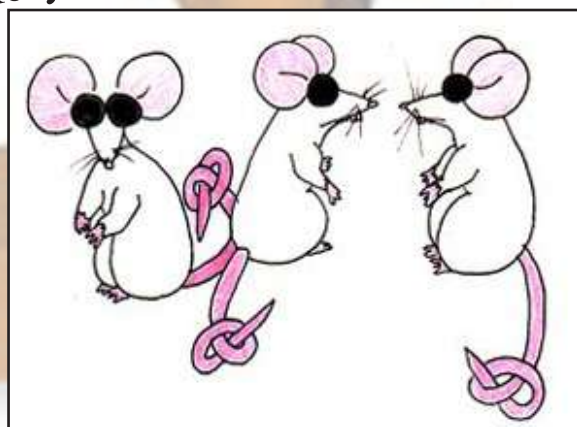


DO YOU KNOW THESE NURSERY RHYMES?

____ blind mice, ____ blind mice,
See how they run, see how they run,
They all ran after the ____ wife,
Who cut off their ____ with a ____ knife,
Did you ever see such a thing in your life,
As ____ blind mice?



Hickory dickory dock
The ____ ran up the clock
The clock struck ____
The ____ ran down
Hickory dickory dock



Little Miss Muffet ____ on a tuffet
Eating her ____ and whey,
Along came a ____,
Who sat down beside her
And ____ Miss Muffet away



Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet Eating her curds and whey, Along came a spider, Who sat down beside her And frightened Miss Muffet away.

Hickory dickory dock. The mouse ran up the clock. The clock struck one. The mouse ran down. Hickory dickory dock

Three blind mice, three blind mice, See how they run, see how they run, They all ran after the farmer's wife, Who cut off their tails with a carving knife, Did you ever see such a thing in your life, As three blind mice?

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