



A Community Comes Together to Serve Others

Each year as football rivalries meet, the Mississippi Food Network looks for donations from local communities to help them stock their food pantries to serve families in need across the state. A competition to collect the most canned goods was held between the communities of the rival schools statewide. This year as the *Fighting Pirates* readied themselves for what would later become a victory on the gridiron, the schools in Pearl focused on collecting food items for the needy. Students enlisted the aid of the community to help collect an unprecedented amount of food. A record-setting 100,964 food items were collected by Pearl, demonstrating the communities strong spirit of giving.

Although these food items were collected in a short amount of time, the impact lasted much longer. Pearl High School, aided by the entire community of Pearl, collected more food items for this food drive than any other school in the state. The benefits of this competition were reaped not only by the community, but also by the families served through the Mississippi Food Network.

What began as a PHS Student Council competition during Spirit Week grew into a community-wide service project. This event is just one of the many examples of the community and schools in Pearl working together to positively impact the lives of others.



Accepting the award from the Mississippi Food Network are Jake Neal, Bridget Page, and J.T. Wilkinson.

Pearl Public School District

Administrator of the Year



Nikki Smith
Northside Elementary

Teacher of the Year



Cheryl Thompson
Pearl Junior High

Parent of the Year



Angela Sellers
Pearl Lower Elementary

The MISSION of Pearl Public School District is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society.

Pearl PTCRC

The PTCRC (Parent Teacher Community Resource Center) provides developmental activities, support services, and training opportunities for residents of Pearl.

Developmental Activities...

Language activities and hands-on learning activities occur during monthly Community Play Date and Art Club Day.



faculty member “fills” the prescription with skill related materials as prescribed by the teacher.

Work Area: Students, parents, teachers, and community members make school projects and educational items using the Center’s paper cutters, poster maker, laminator, binding machine, and Ellison Die Cut and Cricut machines.



During special event days, such as Fall Carnival and Read Across America Celebration, children, parents, and community members participate in games, art activities, and more!



Lending Library: This area contains an array of educational materials. Parents, community members, and teachers may access and check out items, free of charge, on a weekly basis.

Support Services...

Parents As Teachers Program: The early years of a child’s life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life. Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers. At PTCRC, we use a nationally recognized curriculum for parents with children, ages prenatal to Kindergarten entry. This



Parents As Teachers curriculum is used to help parents enhance the healthy development of their children. PTCRC’s educators provide families with developmental information, materials, and support needed to

help their child develop optimally. Thirty minute sessions occur in the family’s home or at PTCRC bimonthly.

Teacher Prescription Program: This program is utilized when additional practice is needed at home. First, a teacher writes a specific skill on a PTCRC Teacher Prescription. The prescription is then sent home with the student. Next, the parent brings the prescription to the Pearl Parent Teacher Community Resource Center (PTCRC). Last, a PTCRC

S.P.A.R.K. office: Located in Suite C, S.P.A.R.K. representatives work with communities, schools, state agencies, and families to create a seamless transition into school to ensure that children are ready for school and schools are ready for children.

MSCCR&R office: Located in Suite C, representatives provide training opportunities and a lending library for residents of Hinds County, Madison County, Rankin County, and Yazoo County.

Training Opportunities...

Various training events occurred in PTCRC’s Meeting Room.

- MSU Extension Services Resource and Referral provide many training opportunities for childcare provider workers to earn contact hours.
- S.P.A.R.K. (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) held meetings
- Parent Support meetings
 - Incredible Years Parent Support Group
 - Parents of children with Speech and Language Disorders
 - Parenting skills for infants and toddlers, presented by YMCA



Pearl Lower Elementary

Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Martha Shirley



I consider it an honor to have been chosen as Pearl Lower Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2010-2011 school year. There are many outstanding teachers at Lower and to have been selected by those same teachers is an awesome honor. I sincerely believe that teaching is a calling from God, and I can honestly say that I feel that I belong here at Pearl Lower as a kindergarten teacher. I thoroughly enjoy each and every day. I have been teaching kindergarten at Pearl Lower for 6 ½ years, and I can't imagine a more rewarding and/or fulfilling endeavor. I look forward to each day, teaching and reaching children in their educational experience. I strive to interact with my students with love, kindness, and patience. I strive fervently to make the classroom fun, active, hands-on, and engaging. I want my students to enjoy coming to school each day. I want them to enjoy learning from me as much as I enjoy teaching them. In all actuality, education works both ways in my classroom because I feel that I learn almost as much from my students as they learn from me.



PTSSO Presents "Freedom"

First grade students participated in the annual PTSSO Program. Mrs. Berger led our students in a presentation that honored our past Presidents and taught the students about freedom and respect.



The Green Team

Pearl Lower reinforces positive behavior by treating the students who stay on green weekly and monthly with small rewards. They receive the honor of having popsicles with the principals, popcorn with the principals, and pixie-sticks with the principals.



PLE Is "On the Job"

After reading the weekly story "On the Job with Dr. Martha Smith," a local veterinarian visited our students to give them an authentic experience of listening and talking to a real vet.

Northside Elementary

Multicultural Day

After learning about the seven continents and our country, second graders at Northside Elementary had the chance to “travel” to Australia, Brazil, England, Germany, Greece, Japan, and Mexico. Northside’s teachers decorated their classrooms to represent these different countries.



Second graders created a passport that they used to collect facts from the different countries, as well as a stamp after visiting the countries. The students spent two weeks learning about the seven chosen countries and then held a multicultural

fair. At the fair, students played games from the different countries, made maps, created flags, listened to stories about these countries, dressed up in costumes from different countries and had their picture taken, and tasted food from the different countries.

Boomtown

Third grade students at Northside Elementary participated in an interactive learning experience when they studied about Boomtown in their reading series. They rode in a stagecoach, sat on a barrel horse, used a lariat to rope an iron calf, line danced, and visited a blacksmith. Students were able to extend their learning outside the classroom as they enjoyed all these activities.



Ms. Smith Named Administrator of the Year

Nikki Smith was named Administrator of the Year for Pearl Public School District. The announcement was made by Superintendent Ray Morgigno in the multipurpose building at Northside. Surrounded by her students and staff, Miss Smith was speechless.



Ms. Smith later said that, “...the honor represents a lot of hard work on the part of everyone here at Northside. I know this: we have to keep working harder and continue to do what is best for our children.” Ms. Smith said that mediocrity is completely unacceptable. She views her job as a ministry and herself as a servant-leader. A nine year veteran educator, Ms. Smith sees removing barriers that prevent children from doing their best as part of her job.



Quest Students Create Medieval Castles

The Quest students in Mrs. Rogers’ class recently studied a unit on medieval times. Students learned about customs, life in a castle, and jobs during this time period. As part of their study, students created a castle, complete with kings, queens, and knights. They even made a royal carriage for the lords and ladies to travel in! Students really enjoyed working on this unit.

Pearl Upper Elementary

Quest Students Create and Run a Society

Quest students enjoy participating in Mini-Society, an exciting hands-on program where they establish their own society, open their own businesses, and create their own government. The experience helps students understand more about entrepreneurship, economics, government, law, math, and ethics. Students are working cooperatively to solve problems as they try to find creative and workable solutions to the numerous problems that occur in any society.



Students Share their Love of Reading

Fourth and fifth graders participate in a Reading Fair. It instills a lifelong love of reading in students as they experience a deeper enjoyment and pleasure from reading. Students enjoy the process of reading, creating a storyboard project, and sharing their favorite book. The project may be completed individually, with peers, or with family members.

Science and Robotic Club Members Compete

Science and Robotic Club Members explore the world of biomedical engineering and programming robots. They competed in the "Body Forward" Challenge at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.



Pearl Junior High

Integrating Technology

Technology is being used to strengthen and enhance learning at PJH in a variety of ways. The history department is using interactive whiteboard technology to take virtual field trips such as touring the Notre Dame Cathedral. The eighth grade math department and computer discovery departments have worked collaboratively so students can reinforce their skills with Microsoft Excel to represent surveys graphically. The computer discovery students are also using their technology training to create a class newspaper that includes news, sports, and lifestyle sections. Creation of these newspapers will be enhanced through participation in numerous writing workshops conducted by the 7th grade English department.

A computer-based learning program to improve reading skills is being used in grades 6 through 8. This program is used in conjunction with intensive classroom instruction on students' instructional levels to make significant improvement in reading fluency.

The career discovery department held a Career Day for 7th grade students to allow them to gain insight into some possible professions they may choose in the future. Also, in preparation for future careers, a new technology curriculum will be introduced at PJH next year. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will allow us to better prepare students to further their education and be better prepared to enter the workforce.

Goal-Oriented Students

Students set academic and community service goals. All students at PJH have been involved in activities to help improve scores on the upcoming MCT2. However, the Algebra I students have set a goal for all advanced scores on both the MCT2 and the Algebra I Subject Area Test. To meet this goal, these students are participating in practice/help sessions. Student members of MathCounts completed their annual community service project by collecting breakfast bars for Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital. Those students delivering the bars were given a tour of the facility by Dr. Betsy Herrington, Director of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology and a Pearl graduate.



Newly-Formed Science Fair Club

PJH formed a Science Fair Club this year, having met the requirements, they participated in the MSEF Region II Science Fair held at Jackson State University in March. Students have investigated things such as Charles' Law, geotropism, and using vegetables and fruits as batteries. Their projects will be part of over 500 projects on display for the competition.



Special Services Teachers Provide Instruction for All

Students in general education classes reap the benefits of an additional instructor in some classes. Special services teachers serving as co-teachers are available to support instruction for all students through the use of small groups,

additional strategies for learning and organizing materials, and an additional source of knowledge.

Extracurricular Activities

Both the choral music and band programs have been successful in competitions this year. The 8th grade football team finished 3rd in the Little 6 Conference with a 6 and 2 record. Both the boys and girls 8th grade track teams ended their seasons second in the Little 6, while the 7th grade boys and girls teams boasted undefeated records. PJH basketball teams were also successful, with the 8th grade boys team finishing 2nd in the Little 6. Construction on a new gymnasium will not only improve the facilities for athletic teams, but it will also aid in enhancing the physical education program offered at PJH. Ground breaking is scheduled for this summer.



Pearl High School

Creative Curriculum

Pearl High School is continually updating curriculum offerings to best meet the changing needs of students. This year, students were provided the tuition-free opportunity to enroll in six different college courses taught by PHS staff on our campus. Through this partnership with Hinds Community College, students can leave Pearl High School with a full semester of college coursework completed. Plans are currently in place to add more college course opportunities in the near future. Students were also given the opportunity this year to take double block math and English courses, giving them a chance to earn math or English credits in one school year. In addition to these new offerings, photography was also added to the fine arts curriculum. Course offerings in broadcasting and the return of French and French II to the curriculum are in the plans for the next school year.

PHS Enforces No Child Left Behind Legislation in Creative Ways

Pearl High School is enforcing the No Child Left Behind federal legislation through use of an intervention program. The emphasis of intervention is on catching students *before* they fail. Students who are at risk of failing or dropping out are placed in what is called "Tier 3" intervention classes with Mrs. Anne Edwards. The program typically involves a 3 to 1 student/teacher ratio allowing for intense tutoring time. Mrs. Edwards works directly with classroom teachers in order to guide students and assess student progress on necessary skill sets. "Once they can grasp these skill sets, they can be successful in high school and reach graduation. That's the goal!" commented Mrs. Edwards.

There are situations when students are struggling and need more instruction than intervention can provide. These students are referred for more academic testing by the school psychologist. Some students choose the GED route and intervention is the first step in assessing eligibility for the PHS Day GED program. "No matter what, we want students to be successful in life," said Mrs. Edwards, "like our mission statement says, we want students to achieve individual goals and eventually impact a global society. That's what interventionists from kindergarten through high school are all about."



Quiz Bowl Team Competes

The Pearl High School Quiz Bowl Team offers students an opportunity to use the knowledge they've learned in extracurricular competitions. This year's team of Aaron Stewart, Jayce O'Shields, Rav Singh, Jimmy Bailey, Thomas Manchester, and Drew LaFontaine competed in several tournaments. Among

these tournaments were the Madison Central Invitational and the Mississippi College Academic Competition. In both tournaments, the team advanced to the semifinals. On April 2nd, the Quiz Bowl team participated in the state tournament held at St. Andrew's High School.

Community Volunteers Help Freshmen Get a Glimpse of the Real World

To help students understand the economic value of a high school diploma, PHS held its 3rd annual Reality Fair for Freshmen. More than 250 students and 35 teachers and community volunteers participated.

Prior to the event, students selected a career path with an entry-level salary. Good grades or extracurricular participation provided students with better salaries. At the fair, students visited tables where they paid monthly living expenses including housing, transportation, insurance, groceries, child care, and unexpected events. Financial advice and supplemental income tables were provided for students who did not earn enough to pay their expenses.

This real world simulation provided a fun learning experience that prepares students to become lifelong learners, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society. Local business volunteers and teachers guided students in making choices.



photograph by Dale Shepherd

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Message from the Board of Trustees

The Pearl Public School District Board of Trustees is the voice of the children. We make decisions that are in the best interest of all the students that attend our schools. Our responsibility is to preserve our rich heritage, cater to the current needs, and secure a brighter future for generations to come. These tasks are not taken lightly, and the Board has tried to use every resource available to do a good job. Please take time to read this current newsletter and stand with us in support of our children.

It's a Great Day to be a Pirate!

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