



PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC NEWS

Issue 5 • October 2011

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.

A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Excellence in Education

Pearl Public School District has always strived for excellence. In September the state department of education released the performance labels for schools under the state's accountability model. The state awards the following performance levels: Star, High Performing, Successful, Academic Watch, Low Performing, At-Risk of Failing, and Failing. The district received a ranking of High Performing. Pearl High School received the ranking of Star.

This year our school district, along with many across the country, moves toward Common Core State Standards. These standards are designed to better prepare our students to meet college and work place expectations. We will continue to keep the community members informed as we move forward.

Excellence in Extracurricular Activities

Pirate Pride isn't just for academics. Our students excel in many areas. During the 2010-2011 school year, the Pirates received the following State 5A Championships:

Clarion Ledger All-Sports Award -
Number one in 5A

Boys' Cross Country State
Championship

Dance Team State
Championships in Pom & Jazz

Boys' Powerlifting State
Championship

Girls' Powerlifting State
Championship

Boys' Soccer State Championship

Boys' Track and Field State
Championship

Excellence in Leadership

On September 2, 2011, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 513 "congratulating and commending legendary Pearl High School Track and Field Coach Woody Barnett for winning the 2011 State Title and for being named State 2011 Athletic Director of the Year and the Boys' Track Coach of the Year by the Mississippi Association of Coaches" was signed by Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant, President of the Senate, and William J. McCoy, Speaker of the House.

Coach Barnett was presented with a copy of this honor and a Blue and Gold Award in recognition of being named as the 2011 Gill High School Regional Track Coach of the Year for the southeastern region at a pre-game ceremony on September 23rd. Presenting these awards were Senator Dean Kirby, Representative Ray Rogers, and Superintendent Raymond Morgigno. Also present were School Board President Sondra Odom, and Principal Dr. Matthew Dillon, Mrs. Kathy Barnett, and Mr. Kevin Barnett.

Coach Barnett has been a professional educator

for 34 years and a track coach for 33 of those years. All of these years have been in service to Pearl Public School District. Coach Barnett's accomplishments and awards also include being inducted into the Mississippi Coaches Hall of Fame in 2008 and leading Pearl to 42 state championships.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Matthew Dillon, Representative Ray Rogers, Kevin Barnett, Woody Barnett, Kathy Barnett, Senator Dean Kirby, School Board President Sondra Odom, and Superintendent Raymond Morgigno.

PEARL HIGH SCHOOL

Positively Impacting a Global Society

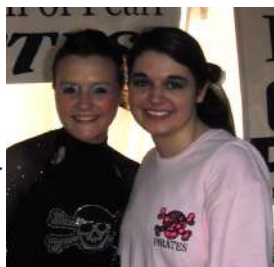
In keeping with their strong tradition of sharing time, money and energy to help others, Pearl High School students and teachers continue to make a positive impact on the world around them. Students work individually and collectively through extracurricular activities and student organizations to help make the world a better place.



Members of the National Art Honor Society, led by art teacher Vicky Miley, helped the Pearl Beautification Board by painting four signs about recycling for display in Pearl Park.

Approximately sixty students worked on the project. These students received an award at the Pearl Beautification Board banquet. Because of the work of NAHS students on this project, the Pearl Beautification Board earned first place in a state competition. Mrs. Miley and her students plan to assist the Board again this fall on another city beautification project.

The Pearl High Cheerleaders and Pirates' Crew dance team worked together to raise money for the American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation. They sold "Pirates arrrgh tough enough to wear pink" t-shirts and donated the proceeds to the charities in memory of Ricki Blalock, the father of cheerleader Shannon Blalock. In a separate project, the cheer and dance teams sold t-shirts to raise money to help pay medical expenses for the child of a former PHS cheerleader, Katie Ard Puckett.



NJROTC cadets volunteer to return something back to their community and to positively impact the lives of others, including the homeless, those with special needs, and even animals. During the 2010-2011 school year, cadets helped with two Habitat for Humanity projects and the Annual Special

Olympics Games. This year, each of the 130 cadets is tasked with donating forty hours of community service. Projects in which students will participate include Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Stewpot, Gateway, Department of Human Services, Mississippi Wildlife Federation, CARA (Community Animal Rescue and Adoption), Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, and the Pearl Fire and Police Departments.

PHS Welcomes New Teachers

Pearl High welcomed thirteen new teachers for the 2011-2012 school year. Pictured are (front row left to right) Heather Allen, Sarah Hankins, Victoria Walker, Whitney McBeth, Meagan Harris, Sarah Edwards, Betty Harmon, (back row left to right)



Steve McCann, Josh Reagan, Michael Brewer, Andrew Halford, and Jason Young. Not pictured is Felicia Cook. All PHS faculty and staff members and their families were invited to a back-to-

school BBQ in August. In addition, faculty members, families and friends gather for tailgating at The Cove prior to each home football game.

Star School Celebrations

The Mississippi Department of Education announced that Pearl High School achieved Star performance classification. School classifications are based on achievement, academic growth or improvement, and graduation rate. Pearl High School had a Quality Distribution Index (QDI) score of 218



and an 80% graduation rate. Students who scored Proficient on subject area tests were awarded free admittance to a Mississippi Braves game on August 29, compliments of the Mississippi Braves. Over 300 students scored Advanced and participated in an outing to Gattitown Pizza in September. The entire student body will celebrate the Star school status with a field day including games, food, and activities on October 19.



PEARL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

New Additions to PJHS

Pearl Junior High School is excited about the addition of several new members for the 2011-12 school year. Pictured are (seated left to right)

Lauren Smithhart, Sonya Hayes, Linda Frenz, Paula Williams, Emily Massey, (standing left to right) Kimberly Waites, Zach Sanford, Dr. Jessica Broome, Luke Daniels, and Kathryn Daniels. Not pictured are Charlie Jackson and Rusty Phillips.



2010-11 Highlights

For the first time, Quest students participated in the Rankin County Chess Tournament and placed

2nd Overall in the tournament.



The Science Fair Club represented PJHS at the Regional Science Fair held at Jackson State University. The

students did a wonderful job presenting their projects to multiple judges, viewing projects by other students, and meeting students from all over the region.

PJHS Nature Club members participated in gardening, plant and animal identification, and recycling. Members also created and maintained the school gardens. Reusable items were used to make bird feeders, critter catchers, and gifts for teachers.

The PJHS 7th and 8th Grade Bands received superior ratings in both concert and sight reading performances. The choirs at Pearl Junior High School achieved many successes in the 2010-2011 school year. All five of the performing choirs received high superior ratings at both district and state festivals. The PJHS Art Program partnered with the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency in designing a float for the Hal and Mal's St. Patrick's Day parade to benefit the Blair E. Batson Children's



October 2011

2011-12 Preview

Mr. Daniels is sponsoring an exciting new Robotics Club at PJHS where students will use both math and science to solve real-life problems created by engineers. MathCounts club members are again planning many activities for this year, including another service project for Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital.

Our new Information and Communication Technology (ICT I) classes are a part of the Mississippi's Redesign Project. Through this project PJHS was able to completely install two new technology labs for 7th grade classes. Susanne Sykes, Tamra Cashion, Emily Massey, and Bridget Nelson went through extensive training to teach these new ICT I courses.

Mrs. Clementine Bryant, Ms. Tamekia Stewart, and Ms. Hope Daniel are coordinating a Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser for PJHS and will be participating, along with select PJHS staff, in a 5K walk at the Mississippi State Capitol with all proceeds being donated for breast cancer research.

The Pearl Junior High School Theme for the 2011-12 school year is RIGHT NOW! Right now, and for the entire school year, our students will be working diligently to maintain our school's tradition of excellence. Right now, we are working to make every day a great day to be a PIRATE!

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Hospital at the University Medical Center. This summer, the PJHS Cheerleaders attended UCA Cheer Camp at Mississippi College where they placed 2nd in the Home Pom Competition and 1st place in the Camp Champions Competition. They were chosen an All Superior squad.



PEARL UPPER ELEMENTARY

High Performing School

Pearl Upper Elementary has been rated a High Performing School by the Mississippi Department of Education. All 265 students who scored Proficient or Advanced or showed significant growth on the Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT2) were rewarded for their achievement with a trip to Pump It Up of Metro Jackson, "The Inflatable Party Zone." Pictured is one of the fifth grade groups who enjoyed the field trip.



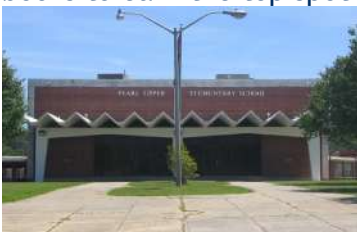
Project Fit America

One of our goals at Pearl Upper Elementary is to create new opportunities for our students to be active, fit and healthy. We applied for and became the beneficiary of a \$25,000 Project Fit America Grant sponsored by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. The grant provides funding, equipment, teacher training, curriculum, and resources to foster a positive attitude toward fitness and healthy lifestyles.



Students of the Year

Based on their outstanding academic achievement and exemplary citizenship, fifth grade students Anna Mical Burkes and Tyler Gangwer were selected to represent the student body at Pearl Upper Elementary as the 2010 - 2011 Students of the Year. When asked to comment on their goals for the 2011 -2012 school year, Tyler was quick to respond that he was determined to read enough books to earn the top spot in the Accelerated Reader Program for the second year in a row. Anna Mical commented that she wanted to be a high achiever and make all A's.



New Teachers

We would like to extend a warm welcome to four new teachers at Pearl Upper Elementary.

- Brittany Hawkins is a native of Raleigh and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. She stated that she cannot wait to see what this school year holds.

- Brittany Gambrell graduated from Ridgeland High School and Mississippi College. She is thankful for the support that she has been given at Pearl Upper.



- Christy Lewis, a National Board Certified Teacher, is a graduate of Pearl High School with a Master of Education degree from Mississippi College. She said, "I always enjoy seeing my students' knowledge grow over the course of the school year."

- Lisa Knowles is a Jackson State University graduate. She said, "From day one, I have felt at home among my students and co-workers."

Community Service

One is never too young to learn about helping others. It is our desire to teach the students at Pearl Upper Elementary the importance of community service. Fifth grade teacher, Megan Bell, is pictured instructing a group of students on how to make small blankets which will be donated to patients in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Students participated in a school-wide effort to raise funds to purchase supplies for this project.



NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY

Positively Impacting a Global Society

Northside students and staff are doing their part. Each year, the Northside Singers visit the Mississippi Veterans' Nursing Home. This past year, the students and staff of Northside donated money to purchase toiletry items and treats. During their visit, the singers sang Christmas carols and distributed bags of goodies purchased with the donations from the school.



This year art teacher Mrs. Rebecca Self is offering Northside students and their families another opportunity to impact a global society by leading a recycling brigade. Items currently being collected are Lunchables packaging, candy bar wrappers, Capri Sun pouches, and Elmer's glue containers. Mrs. Self will use the proceeds from the students' recycling efforts to enhance the art program at Northside.



Northside's New Lexile Library

Northside Elementary is implementing the use of lexile scores into our curriculum this year by making available to teachers a check out library organized by lexile levels. Teachers will use MAP results to pair students with the appropriate reading material for both whole group and individualized instruction. Northside Elementary is excited about having this resource for our teachers and is looking forward to expanding it throughout the year.

Mississippi Braves Adopt Northside Elementary

Northside is proud to announce that the Mississippi Braves have partnered with Northside Elementary in the school adoption program. The Mississippi Braves sponsored a "Back to School" dinner for faculty and staff. On August 28, students and staff had an opportunity to see our sponsors in action at "Northside Night" at Trustmark Park. Each student and staff member received tickets to attend the game.



Northside's New Members

Northside Elementary has 70 teachers and staff. We proudly welcome Jessi Parisi, Jason Ellis, Tracy Perkins, Leah Wilson, Yolanda Randolph, Kevin Barnett, Misty Marascalco, Elizabeth Woods, Melanie Irby, and Amanda Pennypacker to the Northside family as we are "hitting it out of the park" with the Mississippi Braves.



Hitting It Out of the Park

Third grade students, who met the school's incentive requirements on the Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT2), were rewarded with a trip to Gattitown. Third grade students hit it out of the park with 248 of the students scoring proficient or advanced on the MCT2.



PEARL LOWER ELEMENTARY

Can Food Drive 2011

Students participated in our annual can food drive. Pearl Public School District and Brandon Schools compete each year to raise the most cans for Food for Families. Pearl Public School District collected around 187,000 cans this year. Pearl Lower collected 4,382 cans and we want to thank the parents for donating to make the can food drive a success.



PRIDE for Popsicles

Pearl Lower reinforces positive behavior by treating the students who stay on green weekly and monthly with small rewards. One thing that the students and teachers are talking a lot about this year is PRIDE. The students are learning what each letter stands for and ways to demonstrate each one. They receive the honor of having popsicles with the principals, popcorn with the principals, and pixie-sticks with the principals for being on green all week and demonstrating their Pirate Pride.



New Teachers to Pearl Lower Elementary



Pictured-Top row, left to right: Nicole Sanders, Rebecca Foster, Vertecia Hodge, Pat Case, Erin Lowery, Bottom row, left to right: Latrice Chandler, Melissa Fagan, Leigh Wilson, Denise Harrison, Chris Rash

"My experience at Pearl Lower Elementary has already been quite rewarding. Although the time I have spent here has been brief, the friendships and bonds with the children are already strong and something I do hold close. I will admit entering an atmosphere of women and 5 to 6 year olds can leave you a bit anxious, and wondering what to expect. Fortunately, all experiences so far have been great, and I really see the

kind of a positive influence I can have on a child even as an Assistant Teacher. My goal for this year is to be as positive of a male role model as I can possibly be, and I hope the children come away not only more educated, but better people because of what I have done for them!"

- Chris Rash, First Grade Assistant Teacher



PEARL PTCRC

The Pearl PTCRC (Parent Teacher Community Resource Center) offers a variety of no-cost programs and services to children, parents, teachers, and community members who reside within the Pearl community.

Educational Lending Library

Our Lending Library Area contains an array of educational materials for children infant to 6th grade. Some of the materials include books, infant and toddler items, math skill materials/games, language arts skill items/games, science skill items/games, outdoor materials, and MORE! A maximum of 5 items can be checked out on a weekly basis.



Additional Services

Additional services are available through the MSU Extension Services. The MSU Extension Services Child Care Resource and Referral (located in Suite C) provides infant and pre-school lending library for residents of Hinds, Madison, Rankin, and Yazoo Counties. This agency also provides many training

Work Area

Educational items can be created by accessing paper cutters, a laminator, a binding machine, Ellison Die Cut machines, Cricut machines, and MORE!

Computer Area

Computers are available for students to complete homework assignments and projects.

Teacher Prescription Program

This program is designed for students who need additional practice at home on a specific educational skill. First, a teacher submits a specific skill on a PTCRC Teacher Prescription (via intranet). Next, a PTCRC faculty member “fills” the prescription with skill-related materials as prescribed by the teacher. Then, the child’s parent is contacted about the prescription. Finally, the parent picks up the “filled prescription” at the PTCRC.

Services for Preschool-Age Children

The Parents as Teachers Program is a nationally recognized curriculum for parents with children, ages prenatal to Kindergarten entry. PTCRC’s educators provide families with developmental information, materials, and support needed to help their children develop optimally. Thirty minute sessions occur in the family home, in-home childcare provider’s home, or at the PTCRC twice a month. Monthly Activity Dates for these children are also available. Parents and home daycare providers may bring children to participate in the fun, hands-on activities during our monthly Play Date, Art Club Date, and Make & Take Activity Date. Visit www.pearl.k12.ms.us/ptcrc for specific dates and times.



opportunities for childcare provider workers to earn contact hours. For information concerning these trainings, please contact Shea Wallace at 601-936-3696. MSU Extension Services also provides in-home child care providers with training, support, and education materials at no cost through the MSU Extension Services Nurturing Homes Initiative. For more information, contact Kelly Carmondy at 601-540-8952.



Transition from Home to School

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. The representatives also provide assistance to locate childcare providers who are already in the process of QRS (Quality Rating System) Certification or those interested in beginning the QRS process. For more information, contact Rose Jenkins at 601-932-2707.

School Uniform Closet

For more information on availability of uniforms for school-age students, contact Rosie Henderson at 601-933-2461.





School Board of Trustees

Sondra Odom, Board President

James Morris, Secretary

Jill Havard

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Tracy Smith

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Skip Jernigan, Attorney

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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