



PIRATES WORKING TOGETHER

In Pearl Public Schools, parents, teachers, and administrators work together to help students achieve academic and personal goals. Pearl parents are actively involved. Whether organizing fundraisers or rewarding students and teachers for their achievements, parents go above and beyond for our students. Annually, each school honors a parent for having made significant contributions. From these building representatives, a district parent of the year is selected.

Working with parents, educators who are committed to student success use innovative strategies to meet students' needs. From small-group instruction in the classroom to skill-specific tutoring after school, our teachers go the extra mile for our students. Along with these teachers, dedicated administrators set high expectations and provide the resources needed to encourage student success. Exemplary teachers from each school are recognized as teachers of the year, with one being named district teacher of the year. Additionally, one administrator is selected as the district administrator of the year for fulfilling the mission of Pearl Public School District. It is with great pride that Pearl Public Schools honors the parents and educators.

Administrator of the Year



Janice Dukes
Director, Parent Teacher
Community Resource
Center

Parents of the Year



Rachel Castle
Pearl High



Sheila McQuirter
Pearl Junior High



Stephanie Webb
Pearl Upper Elementary



Christie Copeland
Northside Elementary



Beth Hayes
Pearl Lower Elementary
and
Pearl Public School District

Teachers of the Year



Kevin Worrell
Pearl High



Corey Welch
Pearl Junior High



Megan Bell
Pearl Upper Elementary
and
Pearl Public School District



Teena Welborn
Northside Elementary



Miriam Carman
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.



- www.pearl.k12.ms.us/ptcrc



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* All services are *FREE*

**must be a resident of Pearl or work for the PPSD*

Parents, teachers, and community members

- Books, books w/CD, book s

-
-
-
-
- Language Arts skill items/games
- Science skill items/games
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... and so much MORE!

the following items

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For families with chil

- Child family sessions are scheduled for 30 minutes twice

- Sessions occur @ PTCRC or in the family's home.
- Parents As Teachers educators provide each family with the materials, support, and services necessary to positively impact the growth and development of

Enjoy an hour of fun
on learning activities

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-
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Special Outdoor Activity

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-
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P.T.C.R.C.'s Partners (located @ PTCRC, Suite C)

- child care to participate in the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS); and integrate the Early Learning Guidelines into their curriculums to improve early learning environment
- professional development trainings and technical assistance to providers
- Coordinating transition activities and developing child transition plans from Head Start to school and from child care to school
- working with parents, families and communities to promote school readiness activities
- resource fairs and workshops on quality early education practice
- literacy fairs, art and cultural events

Learning Advocates: Dr. Patricia Rancifer

Care Resource & Referral

Services include:

- Childhood Lending Library
-

Tajuana Thicklen

Resource Technician

PEARL LOWER ELEMENTARY

Pearl Lower Teacher of the Year Miriam Carman

I was so humbled to be chosen as the Pearl Lower Elementary Teacher of the Year. I believe my greatest accomplishment in my seven years of teaching kindergarten at Pearl Lower is the foundation in education and love of learning I have instilled in the many students I have taught over the years. As a kindergarten teacher, I have always felt the huge responsibility of instilling a strong love of learning in my students because I am many children's first introduction to education. I accomplish this by creating a classroom learning community that is loving and welcoming. I want all students to know that they can learn. I also accomplish this by modeling lifelong learning to my students by continuing my own education through attending classes in a Master's Degree program and by becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. I feel by holding my

expectations high for every student and trying to make learning a fun, hands-on experience, I am providing a quality education that will help my students on the path to becoming lifelong learners.



Mississippi Forestry Commission Donates to PPSD

The Mississippi Forestry Commission donated a pine tree for each student at Pearl Lower. Students were able to take the trees home and plant them. Mrs. Berryhill's class chose to plant them at school.



100th Day of School

Students celebrated the 100th day of school on January 17th by dressing as if they were 100 years old. Throughout the day, students also participated in several counting to 100 activities.



First Lady Visits Pearl Lower Elementary

During Dr. Seuss week, First Lady Deborah Bryant visited PLE to read to some of the students. She read *Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?* Special thanks to her for taking the time to be a part of Pearl Lower Elementary.



NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY

Northside Teacher of the Year Teena Welborn

I am very excited to be chosen Northside Elementary Teacher of the Year 2011-2012. There are so many great teachers at Northside, so to be selected was a tremendous honor. As a teacher, it is my belief that building a solid foundation in the lower grades is the most important aspect of education we can give our students. I try to emulate this belief daily. This is my ninth year as a certified teacher, and it is rewarding to me to see those little “light bulbs” plugged in daily. As a Mississippi educator, I continue to reach for more knowledge to teach the students in the Pearl Public School District. I have received a Masters and Specialist degree in Administration, and I am currently pursuing my Doctorate in Education Leadership at Mississippi College. I am very excited about the future in education and plan to impact many more students in this district. Along with the students in this district, I am currently serving on committees to make education better for all the students in Mississippi. Again, it is with great appreciation that I serve as the Teacher of the Year at Northside Elementary in Pearl.



Breast Cancer Awareness “Real Pirates Wear Pink”

Northside Elementary hosted the first annual Breast Cancer Awareness “Real Pirates Wear Pink” on October 28, 2011. In an effort to impact a global society, Northside’s staff and students each donated \$1.00 to participate in the Walk for Life, which included four laps around the school. Students also had the chance to purchase pink ribbons throughout the month of October, and those ribbons were displayed on the walls around the school. Northside raised a total of \$1,894.00, which was donated to the American Cancer Society.

Reading Fair

Northside recently held its annual Reading Fair. Students were allowed to select their own book to read and create a story board. The story boards were judged anonymously for creativity and story elements.

The students had the choice to complete these projects individually, with peers, or with family members.



Boomtown

Each year, third grade students study about Boomtown in their reading series. Boomtown allows the students to participate in an interactive learning experience. They get to ride in a covered wagon pulled by mules; visit a blacksmith and petting zoo; and enjoy campfire songs and line dancing. Students are able to enjoy these activities while extending their learning outside the classroom.



PEARL UPPER ELEMENTARY



Megan Bell Named Pearl Public School District Teacher of the Year!

Fifth grade teacher, Megan Bell, was recently named Pearl Public School District Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Bell holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisiana. For the last several years, she has led a school-wide initiative to raise money for Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital - Mississippi Children's Heart Fund. She founded an organization, Cross Healed Hearts, for the purpose of supporting and encouraging families of children who are affected with Fetal Cystic Hygroma, Congenital Heart Defects, Turner Syndrome, and other medical difficulties. This dedicated educator is leading by example and encouraging our students to positively impact a global society.

Sports for the Mind...

Pearl Upper Elementary Science and Robotics Club

Our school has a unique club that not only educates students in the world of science, but also teaches them teamwork. The FIRST LEGO League is an organization that encourages children from ages nine to fourteen to engage in team focused activities involving robots that are constructed from LEGOs and programmed to perform tasks and challenges for points in competitions. Pearl Upper Robotics Club team members participate in this program where they learn teamwork and important life skills such as analytical thinking and problem solving.



And for the Body...

Archery in Physical Education Class

Pearl Upper Elementary students are fortunate to be able to participate in an exciting and beneficial archery program during their physical education classes. Archery requires students to build on physical strength and mental fitness. It also encourages the development of focus, flexibility, and attention skills. Archery is a great way to build self-esteem and create a stronger atmosphere for success in the classroom. At Pearl Upper, students learn archery skills as well as an outdoor hobby they may enjoy for the rest of their lives.



PEARL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Pearl Junior High School Teacher of the Year Mr. Corey Welch

We are pleased to announce Mr. Corey Welch as our Teacher of the Year. Coach Welch has been a valued member of the Pearl Junior High School faculty for four years. His enthusiasm, innovativeness, and dedication to the athletic and physical education programs are exemplary, and his flexibility in working with students, teachers, and the community has earned him an enviable reputation as an excellent teacher who truly cares about students and their academic and athletic accomplishments.



Students in ICT I classes recently participated in a job shadowing day. Students selected area businesses and professionals to job shadow. This experience afforded students the opportunity to experience occupational requirements in their areas of career interest.

Students Win Annual Geography and Spelling Bees

The PJHS recently held its annual Geography and Spelling Bees. Eighth grade student Taylor Mason was named the 2011-2012 overall winner of the PJHS Geography Bee. Taylor will represent PJHS in the regional competition. The winner of the 2011-2012 PJHS Spelling Bee is sixth grade student Prem Parshotam. Prem placed third overall in the Rankin County Spelling Bee.

Digital Learning Day at PJHS

On Digital Learning Day, students used SuccessMaker, a reading and math computer-based instructional program designed to help bridge the gap between functional and instructional level skills for students who struggle with basic reading, mathematical computation, and reasoning skills.

Speakers Support Learning Inside the Classroom

Sergeant Vincent Grizzell of the Jackson Police Department along with four other police officers spoke to students about bullying and the consequences of negative behavior. The drug dogs, Alpha and Ringo, demonstrated how they find hidden drugs, and students were able to sit in the S.W.A.T. vehicle and dress in police gear.



Field Trips Support Learning Outside the Classroom

The PJHS 7th and 8th grade science classes took their annual field trips to the Jackson Zoo and Museum of Natural Science. These field trips are an extension of classroom instruction and correlate with Mississippi curriculum standards. Students experienced Mississippi wildlife, habitats, and ecosystems that they have studied during the nine weeks period.



New Computer-based Reading Program

Since implementing Power Reading Online (PRO) in November, students have averaged a 6 months gain in reading comprehension. The program allows students and teachers to conference one-on-one several times each week to discuss ways to improve fluency and comprehension. The texts offered by PRO are differentiated according to each student's current reading level and interest in a topic, offering students "wild cards" at a much higher reading level to serve as challenges as students progress through the program.



Health Classes Use Innovative Online Curriculum

HealthTeacher.com includes activities to help students in dealing with different peer pressure situations and consequences of actions. This program also includes drug and alcohol awareness, nutrition, disease prevention, and good hygiene.

PJHS Activities Showcase Student Talent

The PJHS Singers participated in the District VI Festival on February 27 and received All-Superior ratings. Students in Quest imagined, designed, and created models of their own dream tree houses. In addition, students are preparing for an upcoming chess tournament which will take place following completion of the tree houses.



PEARL HIGH SCHOOL

Assistant Principal Earns State Award



John Craven, PHS Assistant Principal and PPSD Safety Director, has been selected by the Mississippi Association of Secondary School Principals as the 2012

Mississippi Assistant Principal of the Year. Mr. Craven will attend the national forum and awards gala in Washington, D.C., in April. At this event, the national award, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Vicro, will be announced.

Craven has been assistant principal at PHS since 1994. Prior to working at Pearl, Craven coached baseball and basketball at several schools in North Mississippi. Craven said, "This is not a 'me' award; this is an award for the whole Pearl community."

"Mr. Craven is very loyal and has a servant's heart," said Dr. Matthew Dillon, Pearl High Principal. "He knows the heartbeat of the school, faculty, and community."

"The PPSD is fortunate to have Mr. Craven serve not only as Assistant Principal at PHS but also as District Safety Director. More than anyone, he understands that the students and staff must feel safe before teaching and learning can take place."

The NASSP award recognizes qualities in leadership, curriculum, personalization, and personal excellence.

Basketball Teams are District Champions

The 2011-2012 Pearl Lady Pirate and Pirate Basketball Teams were the



5A District 6 Champions. Kaelin Kersh and Alexius Giles were selected to the All-District team for the Lady Pirates; Jeremy Reddy, Calvin Spann, Twymond Howard, and D.J. Thompson were selected for

the Pirates. Neither team has hosted a playoff game in over 10 years. The boys' team advanced to the South State tournament while the girls were defeated by Long Beach High School. Both teams had great seasons and look forward to next year.



Worrell Selected Pearl High School Teacher of the Year

Kevin Worrell has been selected by his colleagues as the 2011-2012 Pearl High School Teacher of the Year.

A magna cum laude graduate of Mississippi

State University, Worrell has taught and coached for 27 years, the last four at Pearl High School. Worrell teaches Biology, Genetics, Zoology, and Science Skills and Reasoning. He is also the defensive coordinator for the high school football team.

Pearl High Principal Dr. Matthew Dillon said, "During my frequent observations in Biology classes, I am always impressed with how Coach Worrell engages students. He has a unique ability of commanding the attention of the entire class and making the information relevant. Coach Worrell teaches with passion and an evident knowledge of his subject matter. While meeting the demands of teaching in a subject-area-tested class, Coach Worrell is equally as motivated on the football field." Dillon also said, "The same passion he shows in the classroom is carried over to the football field daily. Coach Worrell also forfeits his planning period each day to work with the junior high football team. He serves as a great mentor and role model to all of his student-athletes while understanding that education comes first."

Worrell has also earned several coaching awards and was selected Teacher of the Year at Forest High School.



School Board of Trustees



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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. 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 we try 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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PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
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