



PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC NEWS

Issue 7 • October 2012

EXCELLENCE REQUIRED

Pearl Public Schools have a long history of excellence. In 2006, the administration decided to set forth a long-term strategic plan for the future that would ensure this tradition of excellence would always be the case. The approach to planning was to include representatives from all areas of our community. In October of 2007 these representatives met as a group for the first time. These administrators, community leaders, parents, and students formed what would be known as the Core Planning Team. The Core Planning Team was instrumental in identifying our core values. The following core values shape our current mission:

We believe that . . .

Everyone has purpose and worth.

Everyone is responsible for his/her choices.

Lifelong learning enriches the individual and the community.

Goal setting and high expectations are the foundation of success.

Everyone has the potential to make a positive difference.

Faith-based values create community stability and prosperity.

One of Pearl's most valuable resources is the community. Our community members have always been supportive of the schools' endeavors. Now we are enlisting the aid of the community to ensure that each student accomplishes the mission. We are asking you to continue this support by living our mission. Are you a lifelong learner? Can you share your thirst for knowledge with students? Do you set and accomplish personal goals? Can you help a student meet a goal? Do you contribute to the common good of the community? Can you assist students with projects that benefit others? These are just a few of the ways that you as an important member of the Pearl community can assist our schools in striving for excellence. As a district and as a community, we will continue to strive for excellence. *IT IS THE MISSION OF THE PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PREPARE EACH STUDENT TO BECOME A LIFELONG LEARNER, ACHIEVE INDIVIDUAL GOALS, AND POSITIVELY IMPACT A GLOBAL SOCIETY.*



EXCELLENCE CELEBRATED

On September 17, 2012, Pearl Public School District held the third annual *MCT2 Mania!* at the Clyde Muse Center on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College. This student recognition event celebrated students who scored advanced on both the language arts and mathematics sections of the 2012 MCT2. Also recognized were the top scorers on the Mississippi Science Test, Grades 5 and 8. After a welcome by Dr. Clyde Muse, President of Hinds Community College, guests were treated to a wonderful meal. Following dinner, former Pearl High School graduate, teacher, and administrator Dr. Billy Stewart addressed the assembly about mastering a new MCT: **M**aking the most of the time you have, **C**ompleting things you start, and **T**reasuring what is important. Students were also honored individually with a certificate and framed picture to commemorate their accomplishments. A special "thank you" goes out to the event sponsors: Hinds Community College, Pearl Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club of Pearl, US Foodservice, Church's Chicken, LuVel, Hayes Family Dentistry, Rainbow International, Merchants and Farmers Bank of Pearl, McAlister's Deli of Pearl, Members Exchange Credit Union, and Pearl Educational Foundation for Excellence.



Pictured in front of the backdrop designed by Pearl Junior High School student Oscar Clemente-Cepeda are Dr. Raymond Morgigno and Dr. Billy Stewart.

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 High School

Pink Glove Dance Video: A Collaborative Effort

Pearl High School's cheerleaders, dance team, colorguard and digital media class collaborated to create their own Pink Glove Dance video to help spread the word about breast cancer awareness and prevention. The video was submitted to a national competition to determine the best Pink Glove Dance video of 2012. The second annual competition is sponsored by Medline Industries, Inc., manufacturer of the gloves and producer of the original Pink Glove Dance video.



As part of the Pink Glove Dance 2012 competition, Pearl High School's video will be posted on www.pinkglovedance.com on October 12 along with the videos of the other participants to be viewed by the public. Viewers can vote on their favorite video. (Voting requires a Facebook® account.) Each of the top three winners will receive a donation in its name to the breast cancer charity of its choice. Pearl High School has designated the Central Mississippi Steel Magnolias Affiliate of Susan G. Komen as the charity of its choice should it win the competition. The winners will be announced November 2 on pinkglovedance.com.

Principal's Message

Hello! I am Dr. Lundy Brantley, the new principal of Pearl High School. I am very honored and excited to be the principal here at PHS! I am beginning my 5th year as a principal and 7th year in administration and 16th in education. My last position was principal of Eupora High School.

My vision for the highest-in the state of This has been PHS and I believe again. We also want to be the top school in the metro area every year. We also want to continue the fine tradition of athletics, fine arts, ROTC, and extracurricular activities.



PHS is to be scoring school Mississippi. done before at that can be done

As principal of PHS, I want to ensure that every student's needs are met to the highest degree and the highest level of integrity. It is our school's expectation that we "Demand Excellence" in all we do. We are using "Demand Excellence" as our theme this year for our staff. It is our desire to see all students graduate and become lifelong learners, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society, which is our district mission statement.

Teacher Academy

Pearl High School has a new class for students who are interested in pursuing a career in education—Teacher Academy. This two-year course, taught on the Pearl High School campus, is designed to provide coursework and field experiences to help prepare students for the rigors of a career in education.

Standards in the curriculum are based on the National Board Professional Teaching Standards, PRAXIS standards, ACT college readiness standards, and the National Educational Technology Standards for Students.

The course includes studies of human growth and development, learning styles, instructional planning, and assessment. Students will participate in field experiences to observe and assist classroom teachers and other educators. They will visit college campuses to learn about educational programs and scholarships. Students will earn two Carnegie units each year (a total of four Carnegie units upon completion of the two-year program).

The course is taught by Sheri Carter, a National Board Certified teacher who also serves as business department chair and newspaper adviser.

Pearl High School is the only school in Rankin County that makes this program available to its students.



Pearl Junior High School

The New PJHS Gymnasium

On August 17, 2012, Pearl Junior High School held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of its beautiful new gymnasium. Housing a state-of-the-art sports area, broadcast studio, and 3 large classrooms, the new PJHS gymnasium is built on a foundation of excellence, constructed on the same ground as the old PJHS gymnasium which had been in use since 1957. The students and staff of PJHS would like to thank our community for its support and the Pearl Public School Board of Trustees for its unwavering commitment to enhance opportunities for our students and to ensure that Pearl's educational and athletic facilities are second to none.

Then 2011



Now 2012



organization in Pearl. Required reading texts for the program were donated to the students by PJHS. The Pearson Foundation welcomes community volunteers for tutorial services and other workshops held throughout the year. For more information, contact Deborah Jenkins at PJHS.

Showcasing Our Pirates

The superior performing Pearl Junior High Singers will begin competitions on November 3 with the Riverland Choral Festival at Pearl High School followed by a trip to The University of Mississippi on November 17.

Students in Mrs. Burns's Quest class recently completed an activity

to introduce themselves to each other and discuss their interests for the upcoming year. The students discussed the importance of "Taking a Hand" in their education, developing their own interests, and impacting a global society.

The creative arts and drama classes at PJHS have set goals to become screenwriters of the future film guild by focusing on writing scripts and filming. They are learning about set renderings, lighting, and voice projection.

PJHS mathematics students participated in a recycling drive. Students loaded trucks with boxes of old workbooks, papers, and trash to be taken to a local recycling center. The money raised was used to purchase supplies for mathematics classes at PJHS for the 2012-2013 school year.

PJHS Service Projects



The 2011-2012 PJHS student body adopted a child through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. During the year the school raised \$5,000 to grant the wish of a child with cerebral palsy to whom a therapeutic bike was presented during field day on May 4, 2012. The student body also donated \$1,800 to CARA and provided 200 boxes of band aids to the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital.

New PJHS Staff

P J H S welcomes new staff to the Pirate family. New staff members are Paige



Brantley, Terrance McKenzie, Britnee Pearson, Jasmin Lewis, Brittany Canterbury, Caroline Watts, Chrystine Larrington, Reagan Mullins, Robin Henderson, and Melinda Perkins. Not pictured are Chris Barnett and Amy Sullenberger.

PJHS Reads

During the summer of 2012, Pearl Junior High School was pleased to host a Summer Reading Program for upcoming 6th graders and current 7th and 8th grade students. The program's focus was to enhance student literacy, exposing students to their assigned summer reading selections and preparing them to become more purposeful readers.



Also over the summer, Pearl Junior High School exceptional education teachers, along with other metro-area teachers, volunteered their time with 26 students at a summer reading camp held by the Pearson Foundation, a non-profit

Pearl Upper Elementary School

School of the Year

Pearl Upper Elementary was proud to be selected as the 2011-2012 Pearl Public School District School of the Year. The purpose of PPSD's School of the Year program is to encourage administrators, faculty, staff, students, and parents at each building to improve in student achievement, student attendance, teacher attendance, publicity submissions, community service projects, and community involvement in school programs. Data from each of these areas was collected monthly and tallied on a rubric. The monthly rubrics were combined to determine the PPSD School of the Year.



New Teachers

Pearl Upper Elementary welcomed six new certified faculty members this year. From left to right are fourth grade teacher Heather Haycraft, special services teacher Teresa Condon, fifth grade teacher Jennifer Hite, music teacher Dr. Michele Champion, fourth grade teacher Amanda Hollingsworth, and fourth grade teacher Kristen Warren.

Heather Haycraft is from Brandon and previously taught at Mendenhall Jr. High. Before moving to Mississippi, Teresa Condon taught at the Early Childhood Center in Deer Park, Texas. Jennifer Hite previously taught at Brandon Elementary. Dr. Champion came to Pearl Upper from McLeod Elementary in Jackson and is from Clinton. Amanda Hollingsworth is a first-year teacher and is a graduate of USM. Kristen Warren is also a first year teacher and is a recent graduate of Mississippi College.

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. Pearl Upper Elementary Student Council members sold *Smencils* as a fundraiser for the Blair E. Batson *Adopt-A-Floor Campaign*. The Adopt-a-Floor program helps families whose children are hospitalized for extended periods of time. Family members don't always feel



comfortable leaving their child to go buy lunch or find a snack machine. It can also become a financial challenge when hospital stays are long and mom or dad is forced to leave their job to care for the child. Pictured from left are Blake LaBouve, Audrey Ivy, and Angel Williams.

Battle of the Books

Pearl Upper Elementary students participated in the school's annual *Battle of the Books* competition. This is a reading incentive program. Students read books and came together to demonstrate their abilities and test their knowledge of the books they had read. The competition is similar in style to the TV series *Family Feud*. The winners of the 2012 competition were "The Olympic Readers." From left to right are Bethany Buras, Madilyn Dew, Hannah Pinter, Tyler Gangwer, and Clare Pinter.



Northside Elementary School

Warm Welcome

Northside Elementary received a new entrance this summer! The entrance that was once two hundred and eighty six square feet is now more than twice its original size. This inviting area is not simply spacious; it is warm and welcoming. The staff is excited to have this addition that embraces our parents and community members as essential stakeholders.

Canned Food Drive



Northside Elementary again partnered with Pearl High School to raise food items for the MS Food Network. Pearl students and residents raised 101,000 canned or non-perishable food items to kick off the 2012-2013 Food for Families Drive. These contributions will help provide food to feed families in Mississippi and will benefit the Mississippi Food Network and the

MidSouth Food Bank. Congratulations to Northside Elementary for doubling your contribution from the previous year.

Meeting the Goal

Northside Elementary's third grade students exceeded their school's goal by obtaining an overall QDI of 193 on the MCT2 (Mississippi Curriculum Test). Northside does not receive an individual school rating; however, its goal is to give the students of Northside

a strong foundation to ensure academic success for their future. This past spring, 250 students scored proficient or advanced on the MCT2. Northside teachers and students will continue to strive for academic excellence.



Multicultural Fair

After learning about the seven continents and our country, second graders at Northside Elementary participated in a Multicultural Fair and had the chance to explore the cultures of Australia, England, Egypt, Greece, Ireland, Japan, and Mexico. During the fair, students played games, created flags, and heard stories. All of these activities represented the featured countries. Parent volunteers were instrumental in the success of the day as they lead the games and activities. Local area businesses and members of the community also donated food and items for the fair. Thank you PTSO, Papa John's, Pizza Hut, and our parent volunteers for making this fair an event to remember for our second grade students.

New Teachers at Northside

The Northside faculty, staff, and PTSO board members were invited to a meet and greet at Trustmark Park sponsored by our school adopters, the Mississippi Braves. Northside Elementary proudly welcomed new teachers and staff to the 2012-2013 Northside family. Pictured left to right are Melissa McKay, Julie Price, Shea Hennessy, Jessica Collins, Sandra Garcia, Ellen Jussely, Anna Houston, and Antrice Friday. Not pictured is Jacqueline Gray.



Pearl Lower Elementary School

New Teachers and Staff at Pearl Lower

Pearl Lower Elementary welcomes the new members of their team. They are pictured here with Canda Jackson, Principal. Pictured left to right on the front row are: Angela Rimes, Morgan Roark, Lauren Bailey, Alana Johnston, Amanda Robison, Brittany Childress, and Latoya Davis. Pictured left to right on the back row: Lori Smithhart, Kayla Grooms, Jowana McAbee, Sarah Morehead, Leigh Ann Weaver, Aly Weems, Rebecca Houston, Kayla Miles, Bridget Smith, Lisa Smith, Caralee Pitts, Amanda Bagwell, and Canda Jackson.



PRIDE for Popsicles

Pearl Lower reinforces positive behavior by treating the students that stay on green weekly 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 Playground Equipment

Thank you to Pearl Lower PTSO for the purchasing of new playground equipment and swings. We appreciate all you do for us!



PHS VISITS PLE

The students at Pearl Lower showed their Pirate Pride by cheering "Eat Dirt Brandon" with the cheerleaders and dance team at the pep rally. The PHS Cheerleaders and Dance Team did an awesome job and the students had a blast!

Pearl Parent Teacher Community Resource Center

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. All of our programs and services help lay a solid foundation for children. Our Parents As Teachers program, monthly Art Club, and monthly Play Date are for parents with children birth to kindergarten-entry age. Our Teacher Prescription program provides parents with specific skill-related materials to help their kindergarten to sixth grade child. Our services include a work area with an array of materials and equipment, and a lending library with educational materials for children birth to sixth grade. At PTCRC, we strive to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society. We encourage you to utilize our programs and services, and look forward to working with you soon!



Parents and children utilize the equipment and materials in the work area to complete school projects.



Children experience various hands-on activities during September's Art Club.



Parents and children meet with Parents As Teachers educators in bi-weekly sessions and receive developmental information and activities to use at home.

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 students. Our responsibility is to preserve our rich heritage, cater to 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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