

# A Living Classroom

At the beginning of the next school year, Perrysburg High School will offer students a real-life lab experiment right outside its doors. Thanks to the combined efforts of students and staff, the high school is developing a wetlands green space on one acre of the school's campus, between the apartment complex and the teachers' parking lot.



The proposed project will be a seasonal wetland, disappearing in the summer when it is dry. Dry weather and the introduction of mosquito-eating insects will help to control the mosquito population in the area. During wet seasons, the water will be six inches to two feet deep in two areas. Biology teacher Kevin English and other science department faculty members have been working on the project with the Wood County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Wood County Park District.

"I've wanted to do this since we moved into the building," said Mr. English. "Hudson High School has a great outdoor campus. After seeing it we put our heads together, did some research, and found out it wasn't nearly as costly as we had thought." The total estimated cost is \$2,000. Ninety percent of the cost involves moving the dirt, and Perrysburg resident Gary Bowers, of Bowers Asphalt & Paving, volunteered to move all the dirt for free. Last fall Mr. Bowers was instrumental in putting in the walking track at Toth Elementary School.

Primarily ecology and Advanced Placement (AP) biology classes will use the wetlands. Students in those classes have learned that nearly 1/3 of Ohio's endangered and threatened wildlife species live in wetland habitats. Over 33% of Ohio's wildlife species depend on wetlands for survival.

The design for the project came from a competition held by Perrysburg ecology classes, with senior Kyle Bonner winning. "Wood County also came up with a design for us," noted High School Principal Mike Short. "So the final design is a combination of the two, because they had some requirements that we were not aware of. The students are working now on what to plant and what kind of wildlife we want to attract. It will all be native to the area."

Mr. English said students would also help to maintain the wetlands. Future projects include water quality testing, dissolved oxygen testing and macro invertebrate surveying. Mr. English said he would like to open the wetlands for other groups to use, including Perrysburg elementary schools, the junior high and the public.

For Mr. English and Mr. Short, the project is the culmination of a long-held vision of providing the best possible learning environment for Perrysburg science students. "This is kind of a living textbook," commented Mr. Short. "It is absolutely the best kind of hands-on tool. It's one thing to read about it; it's another to actually experience it."

The school is seeking donations for the remainder of the project, including funds for boots, nets and lumber for bat boxes and bird feeders. If interested, please contact Mr. English at [kenglish@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:kenglish@perrysburgschools.net). Donations can be sent by check to Perrysburg High School with a notation that the check is intended for the wetlands.



## The Last Lesson Plan

The following staff members have retired at the end of this school year. Perhaps they touched your lives at some point in your school career:

### PRINCIPAL

**Terry Teopas**, *Robert Frank Elementary School Principal, 23 years.* In May 2005, Mr. Teopas was awarded the Perrysburg Board of Education Golden Heart Award for his many years of Perrysburg Community Service.

### TEACHERS

Listed alphabetically, with grades/subjects taught and facility/facilities.

- Clyde Bame** -1985-08-*Science-High School*
- Marlene Bierlein** -1989-08-*Tutor-Woodland, Frank*
- Nancy Davis** -1989-08-*3rd, 4th, 5th grades-Woodland*
- Shirley Eagan** -1981-08 - *6th grade-Woodland, Commodore, Jr. High*
- Audrey Gorsuch** -1974, 1989-08-*Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 6th grade, Coordinator of Gifted Education - Pine St., Toth*
- Madelyn Rexer** -1986-08-*4th grade-Toth*
- Betsy Schaf** -1977-78, 1987-08-*Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd & 4th grades, -Toth, Woodland*
- Roger Southward** -1972-08-*Social Studies, German-High School*
- Susan Stahl** -1974-77, 1991-08-*Language Arts, Reading-Middle School, Toth*
- Kris Young** -1980, 1982, 1991-08-*Kindergarten, 2nd grade -Toth, Ft. Meigs*



**Perrysburg Schools**

Board Offices  
140 East Indiana Avenue  
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

## Bee Proud of Your School!

Perrysburg Schools has a great academic reputation ... read on!

- We were the 3rd district in the state to earn district-wide accreditation status through the North Central Association - AdvanceED.
- Perrysburg has been named "One of the 100 Best Communities for Music Education" in America for its increased enrollment in, and funding for, school music programs.
- Perrysburg Schools was named "Excellent" by the Ohio Department of Education for 7 consecutive years. It is one of 62 school districts in Ohio to achieve this status for 5 or more consecutive years; Ottawa Hills is the only other district in the area to earn the same distinction.

## Ohio Principal of the Year!



It all started with a letter from a parent praising Toth Elementary School Principal Dr. Beth Johnson-Christoff. The letter was sent to the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators. It ended with Dr. Christoff being honored with the organization's Distinguished Principal Award for 2008. "When you meet Beth it is obvious that she's all about the children," says Tom Hosler, Perrysburg Superintendent. "She has that something special that makes her one of our key team players." Dr. Christoff has high praise for the administrators and teachers she has worked with through the years who have helped develop her leadership skills. "If you surround yourself with good people, they will make you look good," says Dr. Christoff.

Dr. Christoff's selection involved a 10-page application and an on-site visit from three OAESA panel members who spoke with staff, parents, students, and community members. She will represent Ohio at the National Distinguished Principals program in Washington, D.C. in October. Dr. Christoff has been with Perrysburg Schools since 1997 and previously held principal positions with two Bowling Green, Ohio elementary schools. She began her educational career 28 years ago as an art teacher.



**Perrysburg Schools**

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**Perrysburg Schools Administration - 419-874-9131**

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- Matt Feasel**, *Treasurer/CFO*, Ext. 22125
- Roseanne Barker**, *Director of Policy/Communications*, Ext. 22139
- Ray Pohlman**, *Athletic Director*, 419-874-3181, Ext. 25194

**Perrysburg Schools Principals**

- High School** - Michael Short
- Junior High** - Patrick Calvin
- Fort Meigs Elementary** - Scott Best
- Frank Elementary** - Brent Swartzmiller
- Toth Elementary** - Dr. Beth Johnson-Christoff
- Woodland Elementary** - Dan Creps

For Address Updates, Click on Alumni at [www.perrysburgschools.net](http://www.perrysburgschools.net), or Call 419-874-9131.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

This newsletter has been a long time coming.

When I took over as Superintendent of Perrysburg Schools in August of 2007, one of my goals was to connect with our alumni. It may come as a surprise to you, but our mailing list of Perrysburg High School graduates has reached 10,000. The list ranges from this year's 18-year-old graduates to those who graduated in the 1930's. Our alumni live, study and work across the globe and many live in Perrysburg, Ohio!

If you graduated years ago and moved out-of-town, you may be surprised at the growth of our school district. Our new state-of-the-art high school was opened in the Fall of 2001, and the previous high school became our junior high school. We have four elementary schools: Ft. Meigs (our newest), Frank, Toth and Woodland.

The addition of the new high school necessitates the building of new athletic fields, courts, diamonds, and a track. Perrysburg voters have generously supported our tax levy issues in the past, but private funding will be necessary if we are to provide the first-class facilities our students deserve.

This newsletter serves to keep you informed about the progress of Perrysburg Schools along with the success stories of our graduates. We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Latest Buzz* as well as future issues.

**Thomas L. Hosler**  
*Superintendent, Perrysburg Schools*

*Go Jackets!*

*Superintendent Tom Hosler (left) observes the May 16th ribbon cutting for the new student/community walking track at Toth Elementary School. Pictured with Superintendent Hosler are Kevin Weber from The Shelly Company, Toth Principal Dr. Beth Johnson-Christoff, David Bowers from Bowers Asphalt and Paving Company, and four-year-old Jonathan Bowers. The two companies provided the materials and labor to install the track.*



[www.perrysburgschools.net](http://www.perrysburgschools.net)  
[alumni@mail.perrysburgschools.net](mailto:alumni@mail.perrysburgschools.net)

## Athletic Complex Vision



The world of sports is huge across the globe. Just think about all the movies that revolve around sports. Or consider the 24-hour coverage of sporting events offered on cable and network TV. For many young athletes, playing sports is about following their heroes while dreaming of great performances on the field, court, or track. But sports are more than movies, ESPN and dreams. It's about forging lifelong friendships that transcend time, and excelling individually within the framework of the team. It's about excitement and bringing an enthusiastic and proud community together.

Perrysburg has a beautiful new high school, but its athletic fields are in need of development. The district's strategic planning committee developed the master plan for an athletic complex. The plan calls for an athletic complex on the campus of the new high school, complete with a soccer stadium, baseball and softball diamonds, tennis courts, and an outdoor track. It also includes plans to upgrade the junior high school facilities.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Perrysburg Athletic Booster Club, more than \$200,000 of private funds have been raised to help realize *(cont.)*

# Athletic Complex Vision (cont.)

the athletic complex vision. The Ken Widdel family donation of \$500,000 (see related article) brought that total to \$700,000 and kicked off the next phase of the Perrysburg Schools athletic complex capital campaign.

Through a combination of private donations and permanent improvement funds, the school district has already replaced the track at Steinecker Stadium at the beginning of the school year. It will soon open a soccer field at

the high school, and several future athletic fields on the high school's campus have been cleaned, graded and seeded. The next phase of the plan is to build a new track, tennis courts as well as baseball and softball diamonds on the new high school campus. The timing for this work will be determined by the timing and amount of private donations collected.

Would you like to help our students continue their dreams of athletic greatness? Or maybe you would like to provide them with the opportunity to participate in sports and make lifelong friends? If you would like to help with the Perrysburg Schools Athletic Complex capital campaign, please contact **Ray Pohlman, Athletic Director**, at 419-874-3181 or [rpohlman@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:rpohlman@perrysburgschools.net).



Perrysburg athletics have been a lifelong commitment for Ken Widdel ('74), from his own school days through those of his daughters. Mr. Widdel continues to take a keen interest in the lives of Perrysburg student athletes, both current and future.

Joining him at the basketball game were his wife, Debbie, daughter Jamie Widdel ('99) a Perrysburg sixth grade social studies teacher and the junior varsity volleyball coach; daughter Kelly ('02) who is attending nursing school; daughter Kerry ('08), who

organizations, will enjoy this significant contribution to Perrysburg athletic facilities. Thanks to the Widdel's donation, students of all ages will be able to use Steinecker Stadium year-round, regardless of the weather.

While at Perrysburg High School, Mr. Widdel participated in football, wrestling and baseball. He pitched two no-hitters against Maumee High School and was voted All-State his senior year. He graduated from Bowling Green State University where he was a member of the varsity baseball team for four years and was named freshman of the year in 1975.

Mr. Widdel has been in the insurance/financial services industry for 31 years. He is one of four founding partners of Creative Financial Partners in Perrysburg and serves as senior vice president. The firm works with individuals and businesses providing life insurance and investment needs with an emphasis on charitable giving.

## \$500,000 Donation For A New Turf Field

On February 15, 2008, at the Perrysburg boys' varsity basketball game, the Perrysburg School District announced that Mr. Widdel and his family were donating \$500,000 toward the purchase of a turf field to replace the grass in Steinecker Stadium. Widdel Field, located next to Perrysburg Junior High School, will feature state-of-the-art synthetic grass that will allow countless Perrysburg students to compete year-round in a variety of ways.

plans to attend the University of Cincinnati to major in nursing; and granddaughter, Brooklynn, a future member of the Perrysburg Class of 2025.

The turf field will cost \$600,000. Once additional monies are raised through a capital campaign to collect private funds, the field will be installed. The Perrysburg marching band, soccer, lacrosse and football teams, as well as other community

Mr. Widdel served as a school board member from 2002 through 2005. He also serves on the nominating committee for the Perrysburg High School Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Widdel has maintained his interest in sports, not only serving as coach for his daughters in both softball and soccer, but also as a player. He is currently participating on two Roy Hobbs baseball teams, made up of players age 28 and older and ages 48 and over.



# Sports Corner

### Fall Sports

**FOOTBALL** – Made 1st trip to state playoffs  
**BOYS' SOCCER** – Ranked in top 3 in state, league champions  
**GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY** – Qualified for regionals  
**GIRLS' TENNIS** – State finalists

### Winter Sports

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** – Ranked 3rd in state, 21-1 record, conference and sectional champions, district semi-finalists  
**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** – League and sectional champs, 18-5 record, Head Coach Mark Schrock named District Coach of the Year  
**SWIMMING** – Boys' and girls' teams were NLL champs  
**BOYS' HOCKEY** – League champs, 26-5 record, won two post-season playoff games

### Spring Sports

**GIRLS' TRACK** – NLL & District champs  
**BASEBALL** – District finalists  
**BOYS' TENNIS** – NLL champs

We're all proud of our athletic teams and this year parents, students, and alumni had a lot to cheer about. Here are highlights of our high school athletic teams' accomplishments for the '07-'08 school year:



## Alumni in the News

Perrysburg Schools has produced outstanding individuals who move on to do outstanding things. Students who walked the halls this school year will one day be leaders in their respective fields. Check out these Perrysburg Schools graduates:

**Scott Radcliffe ('98)** – West Point graduate, Commander in Iraq, former speechwriter for military leaders, Republican candidate for Congress.

**Burke Badenhop ('01)** – Current starting pitcher for the Florida Marlins; originally drafted by the Detroit Tigers; former standout pitcher for Bowling Green State University and Perrysburg High School.

**Russ Davie ('99)** – Currently ranked #2 in the nation in Greco-Roman wrestling and has qualified as an alternate for the U.S. Olympic team.

**Anna Tunnicliffe ('01)** – The World's #1-Ranked Woman Laser Radial Sailor (1-person), Anna won the Gold Medal for the U.S. at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

**Casey Latchem ('04)** – Former starting goaltender for The Ohio State University Men's Soccer Team; played in the NCAA national championship game. Led '03 Perrysburg Men's Soccer Team to the Ohio State Soccer Championship game where they finished second.

**Jim Leyland ('62)** – 3-time Major League Baseball Manager of the Year. Currently manages the Detroit Tigers. Led the Florida Marlins to the 1997 World Series Championship. Also managed the Colorado Rockies and Pittsburgh Pirates.

**Jerry Glanville ('59)** – Head Coach, Portland State University football team; former National Football League head coach and also served in a variety of NFL coaching positions. Also served as a television football analyst and commentator.

**Sam Jaeger ('95)** – Film and TV actor. Currently plays Matt Dond on ABC TV's Eli Stone series; has also had roles on TV's The West Wing, That's Life, Law & Order, ER, Scrubs, CSI, and NYPD Blue. Film credits include: Behind Enemy Lines, Hart's War, Blood Work, Sexual Life, and Catch and Release.

**Douglas Brinkley ('78)** – Historian and author of the book, *The Great Deluge*, focusing on Hurricane Katrina. Selected by former First Lady Nancy Reagan to write a biography of former President Ronald Reagan.

**Ronnie Tisdale ('06)** – Won the Pepto-Bismol Pepto Star contest for the creation of a 1-minute video portraying the five symptoms treated by the pink liquid. Earned one of 25 National Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year (SAMMY) Award scholarships and a spot in the famous milk mustache ad.