



The Latest Buzz

SPRING 14

PERRYSBURG SCHOOLS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

A Class of Firsts

The Perrysburg High School Class of 1964, that marks its 50th high school graduation this year, was a class of firsts.

The first baby boomers... most were born in 1946, the first year of the baby boom generation.

The first kindergarten class to attend Elm Street School (later renamed Toth).

The first senior class to graduate from the new High School on East South Boundary (more on that later).

In 1951, the Class of 1964 began their kindergarten year in the fall by attending school in the building on Indiana and Louisiana Avenue. Halfway through their first year they marched, along with the rest of the elementary students, a few blocks down Elm Street to finish off the remainder of their kindergarten year at the new Elm Street School. After finishing sixth grade, they returned to the Indiana/Louisiana building for their Junior High and High School years.

But wait. Halfway through their senior year they once again had to move. This time it was to the new high school on East South Boundary (now the Junior High School). While the 148 members of the Class of 1964 actually graduated from the new high school, the 1965 class is given



Some of the members of the Class of 1964 as Elm Street (Toth) kindergartners.

the distinction of being the new high school's first graduating class for having completed a full year in the new building.

Witnesses to History

Not only did the Class of 1964 establish several "firsts" in their school years, they also lived through some monumental moments in U.S. history. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated during their senior year. The Vietnam War had quickly escalated, and many young men in the graduating class were worried about their draft status. It was the year the infamous Boston Strangler was captured. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize.

There were other major historical events that occurred in 1964. On February 7, 1964 Beatlemania hit the country as the Beatles arrived for the first time in the United States. Cassius Clay backed up his brash talk by beating Sonny Liston for the World Heavyweight Boxing Championship. The first Ford Mustang rolled off the assembly line, inspiring a generation of Mustang lovers. And the long-anticipated World's Fair opened in New York with bold predictions about future technologies.

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THE DAY BOOMERS WILL NEVER FORGET

Ask any baby boomer old enough to remember, and they will tell you exactly where they were and what they were doing when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in November of 1963. The 1964 Black and Gold Perrysburg High School Yearbook was dedicated to President John F. Kennedy. PHS freshman Karen Schmidt wrote a reflection on that moment in time. It was printed on page 2 of the yearbook. Here are some excerpts:

■ "It was a dull and dreary Friday afternoon. I was sitting in my sixth period Science class taking a quiz on balancing chemical equations. All of a sudden I heard a chime, which was the signal for an oncoming announcement. It seemed like a strange time to interrupt classes, but this didn't really disturb me.

■ 'Students of Perrysburg High School,' the announcer said. 'The President is dead.' My first reaction was to laugh. He went on to say that President Kennedy had been killed by an assassin's bullet in Dallas, Texas. This had to be some kind of joke. This is the United States of America, the greatest nation in the world. Things like that just don't happen here, at least not anymore.

■ The tears streamed down my face. I didn't care that everyone could see me. My mind was in mass confusion. When I got to my locker some of my friends were waiting for me. We tried to console each other, but I guess we all realized that it wasn't going to do any good. I put my coat on and started to walk home. It was raining, but I couldn't tell the raindrops from my tears."



(continued from Page 1)

A Class of Firsts



Fate Was Kind

If not for fate, many in the Class of 1964 would never have seen their graduation day. On June 24, 1963 a teenage dance was scheduled at The Bee-Hive, also known as the Perrysburg Recreation Center. Located on Walnut Street and Indiana Avenue, the 91-year-old building was once the Perrysburg Township Hall. Just hours before the scheduled dance, the building's second-floor ceiling completely collapsed onto the first floor. If the teenagers had been present, the accident could have been devastating to the class and community.

Unique Circumstances

"The Class of 1964 certainly faced unique moments in their school years with all the moves they had to make to various buildings," says Becky Visser, a local historian and Past President of Historic Perrysburg, Inc. Becky's husband, Ronald, was a member of that class. "The Class of 1964 was most definitely unique for all of the firsts they encountered during those early years of their lives."

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

In 1964:

- The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 874
- A typical new house cost \$13,050
- The average income was \$6,000 per year
- Gas was 30 cents a gallon
- The average price for a new car was \$3,500
- A loaf of bread cost 21 cents
- 5 cents would let you purchase a U.S. First Class postage stamp
- A ticket to the movies was \$1.25

Source: thepeoplehistory.com

Perrysburg Schools in 1964:

- Had just opened the "new" high school on East South Boundary, now our Junior High
- Graduated 148 members in its senior class
- Woodland and Ft. Meigs Elementary Schools did not exist; Toth & Frank schools opened in the 1950's

Toth School Drew National Attention



All of you Toth Elementary School graduates, listen up! Did you know that when your school first opened it was considered one of the finest elementary school buildings in the country?

That's right. *Time* magazine featured it in a full-page spread in February of 1953. It was also cited in *U.S. News & World Report* as well as *Newsweek*. More than 50 boards of education visited the school in the first year and a half of its opening. Then there were educational consultants from Germany, Japan and Hawaii who sent representatives to study the building.

The architectural firm of Britsch and Munger created the design, while George Lathrop and Sons handled the construction. At the time, the school's unique architectural features included:

- Clerestory lighting (windows set high on the wall near the ceiling for natural light)
- Glass chalkboards
- In the kindergarten room:
 - One-way glass
 - Window seats
 - Toilet fixtures scaled to the size of young children
- Drinking fountains in each room
- Energy-efficient windows
- Door openers
- Fiberglass acoustical tile
- A small theater
- A huge lounge-lobby
- Artificial fireplaces
- Exceptionally large classrooms

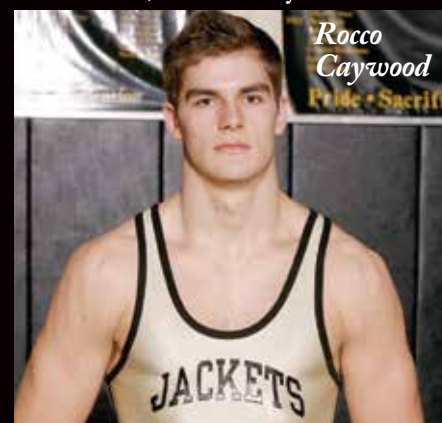
Next time you visit Toth Elementary School, you can appreciate the building just a little bit more!

Source: Bob Boyd article in *The Perrysburg Messenger Journal*, 5-7-03

Unprecedented Athletic Success

It has been a fantastic year for the Yellow Jackets. We set a school record with 12 of our teams winning NLL championships: Girls' - Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track, and Volleyball. Boys' - Baseball, Basketball, Football, and Wrestling. Four of those teams had undefeated regular seasons: Girls' Basketball, Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball & Boys' Wrestling. Two of our coaches were selected as Coach of the Year: Jamie Babcock, Volleyball and Rick Rettig, Golf.

Our Girls' Golf and Cross Country teams competed at the State Meet. Rocco Caywood '14 won the 182-pound weight-class state wrestling title and led the team to a runner-up finish at the state meet in Columbus. He was selected as one of eight All-Ohio Athletes. Congratulations to all of our athletes!



Rocco Caywood
Pride & Sacrifice

District Update

U.S. News & World Report Silver Medal Award

U.S. News & World Report ranked Perrysburg High School #63 in Ohio and #1,340 in the nation, which again resulted in a Silver Medal Award this year. This award is a testament to the great educators and students in Perrysburg Schools, from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

Board of Education

Perrysburg School Board President Gretchen Downs and Dr. Walter Edinger, Vice President, welcomed three new members in January: W. Jarman Davis III, Sue Larimer and Cal Smith. Valerie Hovland, Mark Schoenlein '77 and Barry VanHoozen were honored for their service as they ended their terms in December. Valerie Hovland was a Board Member from 2006 to 2013 and Mark Schoenlein and Barry VanHoozen were both Board Members from 2002 to 2013.

Community Reads

Perrysburg Schools and Way Public Library partnered for a community-wide book discussion in March. The 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at Perrysburg Jr. High all read Sharon Draper's book, *Out of My Mind*. They passed the book between the three grade levels and then passed the books on to the community. It culminated in a community book discussion with the author at the library with about 100 attendees.

Mercy Donation

Mercy Emergency and Diagnostic Center recently opened its doors in Perrysburg. Before breaking ground, Mercy and Perrysburg art teachers crafted an arrangement whereby students would loan artwork to decorate the new facility. To thank the district for this partnership, Mercy donated \$5,000 to our arts programs.

Music

Perrysburg Schools has placed among the "Best Communities for Music Education" for eight consecutive years offering Band (Marching, Pep & Jazz), Choir, Jazz Singers, Orchestra and Women's Select. 30% of high school students participate in vocal or instrumental music. Annie Lueck & Carter Adams were accepted into the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All-State Band. Chris Klammer, Ryan Smith and Stephen Wolf were accepted into the OMEA All-State Orchestra. Michael Gerber was accepted into the OMEA All-State Choir.



The cast/directors from the 1994 PHS production of West Side Story. Front Row (L-R) - Marla Adams, Costumer; Dan Adams '95; Jessica Peiffer Miller '96; Abby Downs Kravitz '96; Kathryn Studer Lankey '94; Rob Getz '95; Zak Ward '96. Back Row (L-R) - Brian DeToto '94; Pam Williams, Former Music Director; Terry Watson, Choreographer; and Rob Gentry, Director.

Theatre Department

Perrysburg High School's 2013-2014 season started off with the Neil Simon farce *Rumors*, directed by Rob Gentry and assistant director Deb Drew. The Winter One Acts included *10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse*, *Thistle Blossoms* and *Of Widows and Vegetables*. Co-directors Rob Gentry and Joel Hamilton and instrumental director Mick Smith proudly presented a talented cast and crew in the spring musical, *West Side Story*. We had a wonderful alumni night after one of the performances. All attending alumni were recognized and shared memories after the show.

Decision Day 2014

May 1 is the day that most colleges and universities use as their decision day for incoming students to have selected which school they will attend. Perrysburg High School's seniors enjoyed a luncheon, where they signed a banner indicating where they are going to school, had lunch sponsored by State Bank, wrote thank you notes to teachers and staff members and registered with our Alumni Association. Welcome Jacket Alumni!



School Resource Officer

This spring, we welcomed our first School Resource Officer, Mark A. Lepkowski '84. Though SROs certainly help with the safety and security of school facilities, they also serve as a bridge between the schools, community and the police department. In addition, they are role models and instructors to our students.

Energy Saving Upgrades

In a continued effort to cut costs and be more eco-friendly, the district recently contracted with ABM Building Solutions and Campbell, Inc. to implement energy and infrastructure upgrades guaranteed to save \$205,556 over the next 15 years. The overall goal is to reduce the district's energy and operating expenses, as well as to create a better learning environment.

Cheerleading Alumni

PHS Cheerleaders recently hosted an alumni cheer event, where over 20 alumni came back to learn a new dance and cheer with the 9 current varsity cheerleaders during half time of a Varsity Basketball game versus Bedford.



PHS Students Survey Alumni



Seniors Kellin Ryan, Maddie Sulewski & Rachael Olmstead

How important is an alumni association to Perrysburg High School graduates? That's the overall question three current PHS students attempted to answer by using an online survey to gauge answers from the school's alumni base. Seniors Kellin Ryan, Maddie Sulewski and Rachael Olmstead, who will all graduate this year, conducted the survey as part of their Marketing Program for DECA. DECA is an association that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The organization provides opportunities for students to learn and apply marketing skills in real world situations at competitions at the district, state and international levels.

As part of their state DECA project, the three seniors set out to assist the Perrysburg Schools Alumni Association in learning more about its members. The survey asked a sample of alumni questions such as:

- What activities were you involved in during high school?
- How often do you attend Perrysburg Schools' extracurricular activities?
- Which activities do you attend?
- Do you stay in contact with fellow alumni and if so, how?
- Have you used other Perrysburg graduates to network in your career?
- What services do you see yourself using if provided by the alumni association?

The three students concluded from the results of the survey that Perrysburg High School alumni are, indeed, seeking ways to be more connected with one another for professional networking, reunions and alumni events in their home area. In March, they presented their findings to the Perrysburg Schools Foundation and School Board on expanding the Perrysburg Alumni Association.

"Perrysburg is a unique community, and it isn't surprising that our graduates want to remain in touch with one another for a variety of reasons," says Jeff Abke '96, Perrysburg Schools Director of Development. "We appreciate the efforts of Kellin, Maddie and Rachael in confirming the importance of our Alumni Association. It is nice to see some of the newest members of the Perrysburg Alumni Association taking such an interest in its membership."



Scribbles from Jeff

Spring has finally sprung in Perrysburg, and it feels great! After living outside of the area for several years, it is nice to remember what that means around here: the lines at Mr. Freeze spilling out into the parking lot each night, Louisiana Avenue filling with merchants and music on Thursdays for the Farmers' Market, and the fishermen and women standing shoulder to

shoulder in the Maumee River for the walleye run. It is all even more exciting after this past harsh winter.

As you read in the district update section, Perrysburg has had unprecedented success this year. The items noted in the update are just a few examples of why we, as alumni, are proud to be Yellow Jackets. If you spend some time in or around the schools, I promise that you would see countless other sources of pride in Perrysburg.

This is why I want to invite you to do just that and to get involved. Whether you live close by, or on the other side of the world, we want you to reconnect with Perrysburg. We are re-launching the Perrysburg Alumni Association to offer ways for graduates to be involved in career networking/mentoring, events, reunions, and connecting with other alumni and current students.

There are plenty of ways in which you can be a part of the excitement of the schools and the alumni association: follow us on Facebook and Twitter; plan to come back for a reunion or for one of the many theatre, music, art or athletic events; and help spread the word to your classmates and friends about the good work happening here.

One of the keys to having an active and helpful alumni association is to be able to get information to you, and that is why we have partnered with Harris Connect to produce our Commemorative Sesquicentennial Alumni Directory. The directory will be in honor of Perrysburg's 150th graduating class in May of 2015. You can find out more about this project at perrysburgschools.net – just click on Alumni.

Many of you will celebrate reunions this year or find your way to the 43551 zip code this summer. When you do, please stop in or contact me when you are in town. I would love your feedback and ideas on how the Alumni Association can better keep you connected to Perrysburg Schools. If you don't have plans to spend time in the area, please get in touch with me anyway. I hope you will use this upcoming special year – our 150th anniversary – to make the trip. There will be more details about events and gatherings we will be planning to celebrate.

As we close out this extraordinarily successful year for the schools and welcome the Class of 2014 as newest members of the Alumni Association, I want to thank each of you for being part of the long and proud legacy that makes Perrysburg such a special place.

Go Jackets!

Jeff Abke '96

Director of Development, Perrysburg Schools
419-874-9131, ext. 2274
jabke@perrysburgschools.net

A New Member of the Alumni Association



Noah Tye '14 knew he wanted to be a performer since the age of 4. That's when his dad, Greg Tye, lead singer for the popular local band Hepcat Revival, called Noah to the stage to sing a song. "I was hooked on performing from that moment on," says the younger Tye. He followed that singing

performance with the role of Chip the Teacup, in his 4th grade class' production of *Beauty and the Beast*. But Tye was just getting started.

"I had lead roles in several Junior High productions, and when I got to Perrysburg High School I joined the Choir and Drama Club," says Tye. At PHS he appeared in *West Side Story*, the *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Of Widows and Vegetables*, Neil Simon's *Rumors*, and the Woody Allen Comedy, *God*.

Tye, who has lived in Perrysburg all of his life, attended Toth Elementary School, followed by Perrysburg Junior High and then Perrysburg High School. He plans to attend Pace University in New York City where he will major in the arts and graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. "I know it will probably be a culture shock for me, leaving Perrysburg and then living in New York City," says Tye. "But my goal is to become a versatile actor who can land roles in film, television, and do voiceover work." Tye says Pace University allows its students to audition for roles while going to school and to take a leave of absence should they land the role.

He says some of his best high school memories are from time spent in the PHS Drama Club. "I met my best friends there, and the club helped me grow as a person and find my passion in life." Tye says he will miss Perrysburg, especially the sporting events around town. "Perrysburg is such a tight knit, supportive community. It's like one big, giant family!"



Giving Back Through the Perrysburg Schools Foundation



Perrysburg has been an integral part of my life. I have been lucky enough to serve the community in a variety of roles. Of course I was a member of the police department, serving as the D.A.R.E. Officer, a Safety Town Officer and eventually Chief of Police. I was also honored to have been the Mayor of Perrysburg for eight years. Before all of this though, I was a student in Perrysburg Schools and graduated in 1972, well prepared for the next level and where life would take me.

Recently I have taken on another role, and that is as a board member for the Perrysburg Schools Foundation (PSF). If you are not familiar with the PSF, it is a group of alumni and community volunteers who work to help financially support the teachers and students of Perrysburg Schools. As a group, we raise money to provide grants for teachers that support innovative programs in classrooms in each of our schools. We also award scholarships to students who excel both inside and outside of the classroom.

At the heart of most strong communities is a strong school system. That has certainly been the case in Perrysburg, regardless of when you graduated. I hope that you feel the same sense of pride and gratitude for everything that our teachers, classmates and schools gave to us. Please take the time to find out more about the work of the PSF and consider supporting today's teachers and students as they continue the good work.

Thank you, and Go Jackets!

Nelson Evans '72

Board Member

Perrysburg Schools Foundation

Donate online via PayPal or contact us:

www.perrysburgschoolsfoundation.org

419-874-9131, ext. 2274

THE PERRYSBURG SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

- Formed in 1983 by Judge Wayne Leatherman
- Comprised of community business leaders and school supporters
- Encourages excellence and enrichment of the educational experiences of Perrysburg students
- Is a non-profit group that is separate from the Perrysburg School District
- Has awarded over \$105,000 in mini-grants to assist teachers in the classroom
- Has awarded students with more than \$125,000 in scholarships from endowments and/or memorial contributions
- Honors teachers and support staff across the district with numerous awards



*Perrysburg
Schools*

Board Offices
140 East Indiana Avenue
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551



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*The Women's Basketball team won
the 1923 NW Ohio Championship.
We have always had great teams,
even back then!*

Photo courtesy of Virginia Treece Hutflyes.

PHS Alumni Information

2014 Perrysburg High School Reunions

Class of 1954 (60th Reunion)
September 20, 2014

Class of 1959 (55th Reunion)
July 25-27, 2014

Class of 1974 (40th Reunion)
September 20, 2014

Class of 1984 (30th Reunion)
July 18-20, 2014

Class of 1994 (20th Reunion)
August 1-3, 2014

Class of 2004 (10th Reunion)
December 26, 2014

Need Help?

Are you looking for details on how to register for an already scheduled PHS reunion? Perhaps you need help planning one? We can assist you with press releases, door prizes, tours, providing classmate contact information, and more! Or maybe you just want to update your address information in our database. Whatever the situation, we are here to help. Please contact:

Jeff Abke, Director of Development
419-874-9131, ext. 2274
jabke@perrysburgschools.net

Or visit:

www.perrysburgschools.net

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