



The Latest Buzz

WINTER 15

PERRYSBURG SCHOOLS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Alumni Association Forms Advisory Council



The first meeting of the PAAAC on Oct. 4 – clockwise: Jeff Abke '96, Stacy Archambeau Geissler '95, Rich Jambor '98, Sarah Bedee '00, Ryan Sherman '92, and Rick Schnittker '70.

The Perrysburg Alumni Association is quickly becoming an active force among PHS graduates thanks, in part, to the formation of the Perrysburg Alumni Association Advisory Council (PAAAC). While the Alumni Association existed in the past, it lacked widespread alumni involvement. That is all changing now with guidance from Jeff Abke '96 Director of Development, and the PAAAC.

“Our Advisory Council is still in the process of coming together,” says Abke. “But we already have 11 members on the council, and we hope to eventually have as many as 25.” The group held its first meeting on Homecoming weekend, Oct. 3 & 4. Abke says the council will be structured to include a diverse alumni base, with members representing different eras, areas of the country, life experiences, and career fields. “We want the group to be a conduit between our alumni and the school district,” says Abke.

The Perrysburg Alumni Association Advisory Council has four main goals:

1. Engage alumni from different eras and different areas of the country
2. Build a network to be used for professional

and personal connections

3. Build pride in being a Yellow Jacket for life
4. Inform alumni about the needs of Perrysburg Schools and the opportunities to give back their time, talent and treasure

The Alumni Association Advisory Council will develop opportunities for alumni to connect as volunteers and investors in the schools. Some examples are:

- Career Days for current students
- Online networking opportunities
- Regional and local alumni event committees
- More formalized reunion efforts
- Development
- Class Agents/Class Gifts
- Class notes development
- Alumni newsletter
- Alumni Hall of Fame/Outstanding Alumna/us Awards

Abke says the Alumni Council will meet in person twice a year in Perrysburg. Those meetings will be centered on a fall event, such as Harrison Rally Day or Homecoming. The group will also meet in the spring, and that meeting will occur

Purpose of the Perrysburg Alumni Association (PAA)

The purpose of this Association shall be to bring together alumni of Perrysburg Schools to advance the interests and to promote the welfare of the district, and to advance the interests and to promote the welfare of its alumni to foster closer relations among them.

around an event... such as high school graduation or alumni reunions. In addition, the council will also conduct two virtual meetings a year.

“Our goal is to divide the council into four or five committees,” says Abke. “Each committee will focus on a specific topic, and we’ll hold committee meetings as needed.” Abke says the committees will focus on:

- Career Networking/Mentoring
- Events/Reunions
- Fundraising
- Communications/News
- Awards/Nominations

“Right now the Advisory Council is concentrating its efforts on coordinating the 150th graduating class event that will be held May 9, 2015,” says Abke. This year’s Perrysburg High School graduating class will be the 150th from the high school, and a commemorative event is being planned in May with the Advisory Council actively involved in the planning. The PAAAC is also involved with PHS class reunions and in seeking nominations for the Outstanding Perrysburg Alumna/Alumnus Award.

“We are here to stay in touch with our alumni and to keep them in touch with each other,” says Abke. “We are grateful for the alumni who have stepped forward to serve on our first Advisory Council. They will set the pace for the growth of our Alumni Association.” *(continued on page 2)*

Alumni Association Forms Advisory Council *(continued from page 1)*

Perrysburg Alumni Association Advisory Council Members

Rick Schnittker '70, Naperville, IL

Nancy Stratso Szczublweski '81, Perrysburg, OH

Emily Owen Conley '87, Perrysburg, OH

Ryan Sherman '92, Perrysburg, OH

Meredith Moore Sherman '93, Perrysburg, OH

Stacy Archambeau Geissler '95, Perrysburg, OH

Kerry Corrigan Wellstein '95, Perrysburg, OH

Mike Nycz '96, Columbus, OH

Rich Jambor '98, Perrysburg, OH

Sarah Bedee '00, Perrysburg, OH

Ellen Schaf Main '00, Cincinnati, OH



Students from Perrysburg High School's 150th graduating class - the class of

PERRYSBURG HIGH SCHOOL'S 15th GRADUATING CLASS

Outstanding Alumni Awards

Alumni Events: Save the Date

- Jan. 30 - PHS Boys' & Girls' Varsity Basketball Game - Alumni Night - All-State athletes recognized
- April 25 - Mary Poppins Spring Musical & Alumni Event. Location: PHS.
- May 9 - Celebrating the 150th graduating class of PHS (Details Coming Soon)



The Perrysburg Alumni Association is seeking nominations for Perrysburg Alumna/Alumnus Awards. We'd like to know about your classmates, friends, neighbors, or family members who have represented the Perrysburg Alumni Association in outstanding ways. Think about those who have excelled in the world of business, education, community/national/global service, the arts, and more. Deadline for nominations: February 10, 2015.

Online nominations can be made by visiting perrysburgschools.net and visiting the Alumni page. Or, you can print a form, fill it out, and drop it off/mail to Jeff Abke '96, Director of Development, Perrysburg Schools, 140 East Indiana Ave., Perrysburg, OH 43551. Questions? Contact Jeff Abke at jabke@perrysburgschools.net or 419-874-9131, Ext. 2274.



2015

News From The



PHS Principal Dr. Michael Short with Deb Drew & Dean Ferguson

PHS named National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Department of Education

Perrysburg High School was one of just 48 high schools in the country designated as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2014 by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). PHS qualified in two categories: Academic Excellence and Closing Achievement Gaps in Student Sub Groups. According to the USDOE: "The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing an entry or flying overhead is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning." Dr. Michael Short, PHS Principal, traveled to Washington, D.C. in November with teachers Deb Drew and Dean Ferguson and Superintendent Thomas L. Hosler for a recognition ceremony.

PHS Fall Play a Success

Perrysburg High School's fall play, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," was a huge success! The play, under the direction of Rob Gentry and Deb Drew, was a non-musical whodunit that took the audience through hilarious mistaken identities, false accusations, twists, and turns.



PHS Drama students

District Passes Bond Issue To Construct 5/6 School

The Perrysburg Board of Education thanks the community for their continued support and backing of the 2014 bond issue. Voters approved the bond issue to address the growth of the district (600 students since 2001) by constructing a 5th and 6th grade school



David Matolyak & Kerry Corrigan Wellstein

building. The bond levy will also provide safety and security enhancements to our elementary schools, construct an auxiliary gym at the High School and upgrade our Junior High. The campaign was led by Citizens for Perrysburg Schools and Co-Chairs David Matolyak and Kerry Corrigan Wellstein '95.

Fall Sports Update

- Girls' Cross Country – Team finished 5th in the state for the second year in a row – NLL Champions, District Champions and Regional Champions.
- Boys' Cross Country – Team finished 6th in the NLL. Clayton Shook was a regional qualifier.
- Girls' Golf – Team finished 2nd in the NLL. Katie Diehl was a district qualifier.
- Boys' Golf – Team finished 3rd in the NLL, 3rd in the Sectionals and placed 8th in the District.
- Girls' Soccer – Team finished 1st in the NLL and claimed a District Championship with a 16-3-2 overall record. Alex Brown was named Second Team All-Ohio.
- Boys' Soccer – Team finished as District Champions and finished 2nd in the NLL with a 10-4-5 record.
- Girls' Tennis – Team finished 17-2 and won NLL Championship. Erica Fastnacht, Camryn Kiel and Kennedy Northcutt qualified to the State Meet.
- Volleyball – Finished as NLL Champions and District Runners-Up with a 22-4 record. Audra Appold was named First Team All-Ohio and has signed to play at The Ohio State University next fall.



Schools



- Football – Finished 11-1 and as NLL Champions with a perfect 10-0 regular season. Defeated Massillon Washington 56-7 in the first home playoff game in Perrysburg history. Finished the regular season as the #1 ranked team in Division 2 in the Associated Press Polls.

One-to-One Technology Rollout Continues

We aspire to be a statewide model school that anticipates challenges and is an early adopter of programs and tools that keep us on the forefront of educational transformation. We are strong proponents of student collaboration by encouraging 21st century skills to prepare students to communicate in real-world situations. We strive to be a destination district with the strength and agility to work with our students, employees and community and are willing to meet any challenge. The Ohio Department of Education is phasing in online testing by 2014-15. This is a driving force behind our pilot of a “one-to-one” technology program. Last year, in grades 5, 8 and 9, each student was issued a laptop, which they use throughout the school day and take home every evening. The rollout continues this school year in grades 5-10.

the children to read to during Dog Days of Summer week. Students made s'mores and camped out in tents to read by flashlight during Camp Read-A-Lot week. Reading is a Blast was the theme for the week of July 4th, and students made rockets filled with sight words to practice reading at home. Read like a Pirate week found students reading in front of a pirate ship, going on a treasure hunt to read printed clues that led to a special treat, and learning to talk like a pirate!

Community-Funded Summer Camp Helps Young Readers

Summer Reading Camp served 68 students from grades kindergarten to three! This project was made possible by donations from our community. Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence, a program of The Ability Center, brought four service dogs in training for

Investment in Saving Energy

ABM Building Solutions was hired by the school district to implement district-wide, comprehensive infrastructure improvements through ABM's Bundled Energy Solutions program. This provided energy efficiency upgrades and facility enhancements to each of the six schools within the district. The project, which began in October 2013, was completed in August 2014. It is estimated the schools will save over \$5.5 million in energy and operating costs over a 15-year period.



Go Jackets!

Douglas Brinkley '78 to Deliver Keynote Address



PHS Alumnus Douglas Brinkley will be the keynote speaker at Perrysburg High School's 2015 graduation ceremony. The event will take place on Sunday, May 24, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Stranahan Theater. The 2015 ceremony will take on added significance since the Class of 2015 will represent the 150th graduating class from Perrysburg High School.

Brinkley is an author, a professor of history at Rice University and a fellow at the James Baker Institute for Public Policy. He serves

as the CBS News history commentator and is a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair* and *American Heritage* magazines. Brinkley is also a public spokesperson on conservation issues and serves as an editor at *Audubon* magazine.

The PHS alumnus was born in Atlanta and raised in Perrysburg. He received his B.A. from The Ohio State University in 1982. He completed his M.A. (1983) and Ph.D. (1989) in U.S. Diplomatic History at Georgetown University. In addition to his position at Rice University, Brinkley has also served on the faculty of Hofstra University, the University of New Orleans and Tulane University. He received an honorary doctorate from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut for his contributions to American letters.

While on the Hofstra faculty in the 1990s, Brinkley taught American Arts and Politics on board the Majic Bus ... a classroom on wheels. The experience led to his authoring the book, *The Majic Bus: An American Odyssey* (1993). In 1993, he moved to the University of New Orleans where he, once again, taught the class from natural-gas fueled buses.

Brinkley has authored numerous books and is the authorized biographer for author Jack Kerouac. He has also written profiles for *Rolling Stone* magazine of popular writers Kurt Vonnegut, Norman Mailer, and Ken Kesey. In 2009, Brinkley interviewed Bob Dylan for a *Rolling Stone* cover story. His biography of Walter Cronkite (2012) was selected as a *Washington Post* Book of the Year.

Brinkley is a member of the Century Association, the Council on Foreign Relations and Society of American Historians. He and his wife, Anne, live in Austin, Texas. They have three children: Johnny, Benton, and Cassidy.



Support the Programs at Perrysburg that Made a Difference for You.

During the recent season of thankfulness, memories, and reconnecting, we hope that many of those memories included your time at Perrysburg Schools. Having graduated from Perrysburg, you are a part of the strong tradition of excellence in the visual and performing arts programs, athletic teams, and academic offerings. Your teachers were an important part of that, and continue to be among the best in the state, while they strive to incorporate new techniques and devices for the benefit of their students and profession.

You can help the growth of all of these areas, maintaining the high level of performance for the students of today and tomorrow.

Please consider honoring your past by making a gift to a program that made a difference in your life at Perrysburg Schools. Your tax-deductible gift can be directed toward any of the following areas:

- **Academic Programs** - supporting the gifted and intervention programs as well as exciting opportunities for new initiatives
- **Arts** - including visual and performing arts in grades K-12
- **Athletics** - fund the robust Jr. High and High School Yellow Jackets
- **Faculty Support** - provide needed funds for training and opportunities to bring new ideas into the classrooms for students
- **Technology in the Classroom** - give students the tools to succeed in our high-tech world
- **Highest Need** - unrestricted gifts to meet the needs of Perrysburg Schools

You can make your donation via credit/debit card or download a giving form to mail with a check at www.perrysburgschools.net/alumni. Gifts can also be set up to make as a one-time, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payments.

You will have the opportunity to make your gift in honor/memory of someone. If you provide their address in the comment section, we will make sure to send them a note sharing the news of your gift.

Your investment in Perrysburg Schools will make a difference in closing the ever-widening gap between what is funded through the State of Ohio and other sources and the needs and expectations of the school district. The goal is to ensure that innovation is never held back in the classrooms, studios, stages, fields, or facilities because of a lack of resources.

If you are interested in making a gift of securities, stock or an estate gift, please contact:

Jeff Abke '96, Development Director - Perrysburg Schools
419-874-9131, Ext. 2274
jabke@perrysburgschools.net

*If you work for a company with a matching gift program, your gift can have an even larger impact. Please check with your employer.

On November 10, members of the Perrysburg School staff socialized with alumni at an alumni event in Washington, D.C



PHS Alumni Information



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www.perrysburgschools.net

2015 PHS Reunions

Class of 1965 (50th Reunion)

September 12, 2015 (Harrison Rally Day Weekend), The Carranor Hunt & Polo Club, 502 E. 2nd St. Perrysburg

Class of 1995 (20th Reunion)

July 18, 2015, The Carranor Hunt & Polo Club, 502 E. 2nd St., Perrysburg

Reunions

For details and how to register, or to become involved with the planning of the reunion, or if your class is planning a reunion that isn't listed, please go to www.perrysburgschools.net or contact:

Jeff Abke '96, Development Director

419-874-9131, Ext. 2274

jabke@perrysburgschools.net



Chris Hawker '93 is the President of Trident Design, LLC in Columbus. He is an inventor of consumer products, and his company helps independent inventors and innovative companies to develop new products and then commercialize them. In May he returned to PHS to speak to students as part of a career networking effort.

Board of Education - '15

Jarman Davis, *President*

Dr. Walter Edinger, *Vice President*

Gretchen Downs

Sue Larimer

Cal Smith

Administration - 419-874-9131

Thomas L. Hosler, *Superintendent*, Ext. 2103

Matt Feasel, *Treasurer/CFO*, Ext. 2107

Ray Pohlman, *Athletic Director*, 419-874-3181, Ext. 5194

Principals

High School – Dr. Michael Short

Junior High – Dale Wiltse

Fort Meigs Elementary – Scott Best

Frank Elementary – Brent Swartzmiller

Toth Elementary – Dr. Beth Christoff

Woodland Elementary – Brook Price

For Address Updates, Click on Alumni at www.perrysburgschools.net or Call 419-874-9131.