



THE BUZZ

AT PJHS

PERRYSBURG JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

550 E. South Boundary
Perrysburg OH 43551
419-874-9193

ISSUE 48
DECEMBER 2024

ADMINISTRATION

Scott Buker,
Principal

Brandon Decker,
8th Grade
Assistant Principal

Chad Warnimont,
7th Grade
Assistant Principal

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear PJHS Families,

It's hard to believe that half of our school year is almost complete. It's been an exciting first semester for our staff and students and we look forward to continuing to build that into January and second semester.

In November, our Drama Club presented *Aladdin, Jr.*, their annual theatrical performance. Over three performances, our students did an outstanding job! It amazes us each year how talented and driven our students are!

Our winter athletic seasons have kicked off with boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and cheerleading. Many of our clubs are actively engaged throughout the year and we introduced several new clubs and services to the junior high recently, including a new Fashion Club, Curling Club, and a Tennis Club that will begin in the spring.

As we turn our attention to January, we will be holding informational meetings in the evenings regarding class registration for the 2025 - 2026 school year. Those dates will be announced when decided, but typically take place towards the end of January or early February.

More information will be emailed about these nights and specific nights to attend, but these events are designed to retrieve information about next year's course registration, specifically for incoming Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. Incoming Grade 9 students will have a Curriculum Night at Perrysburg High School on a different evening.

The last day of the semester for students is Thursday, December 19. As a reminder, if your student is leaving school early for family travels, please complete a Pre-Planned Absence Form, which can be obtained in our Student Services Office or online at the school district website under the "Families" tab. Students are responsible for coordinating with their teachers on when any missing assignments are due.

Thank you again for your support of your students, our staff and our PJHS Community.

Go Jackets!

Scott Buker
Principal



Scan the QR Code above to learn more about cell phone issues and Ohio Law concerning cell phones.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Studies show the rise of the use of cell phones contributes to several related harms in the daily lives of smartphone users, including social deprivation, sleep deprivation, and attention fragmentation. For students, these harms may contribute to an increase in youth mental health concerns and have negative impacts on academic performance. Youth mental health symptoms and disorders continue to rise at concerning levels in the United States, with at least 1 in 5 children reporting mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral disorders.

In the United States, 95% of teens (children ages 13 to 17) have access to smart cell phones. Students, on average, receive 192 alerts per day from their cell phones, about 11 notifications per waking hour, one every five minutes. Cell phones and their applications are designed to catch the attention of students, which is disruptive to both learning and relationships. Even when students do not check their cell phones, the presence of a phone impacts their ability to think.

Cell Phones in Ohio Schools

Ohio law now requires all schools to adopt a policy governing the use of cell phones by students during school hours. Our policy summary may be found in our handbook at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yrmatbx5>.

7th Grade Small Groups with Mrs. Monheim started November 18, 2024. Groups being offered this year are Friendship, Grief, Self Confidence, Stress Management, Study Skills, and Internet Safety. These groups will be staggered between November, December, January, and February. Students signed up for these groups on Schoology.

The WEB Lesson for November was Creativity. This lesson will help students see the possibility of having fun and being creative without relying on others to entertain them. This will also show students that they can find and create their own fun in life.

Winter is coming!! Do you need help getting coats, boots, or shoes for your children?? If so, please reach out to Mrs. Monheim or Mr. Przybylski and let them know your needs. All information will be kept confidential!!

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JUNIOR HIGH PARENTS ORGANIZATION (JHPO)

JHPO wants to thank everyone for their support as we re-introduced the Fall Craft Show at PJHS on Saturday, November 23! We hope you enjoyed the 78 vendors, 8 student tables, and food trucks outside! We had over 600 attendees and look forward to increasing that in years to come!



Also, we were able to receive almost \$500 in earnings due to working just three concession stands! Keep an eye out for some more opportunities to help by working just a few hours, where it can make a HUGE difference!

Watch our Facebook page and Schoology for signups for our next event: *The Cookie Jar*, an event where we bring in cookies and let our teachers assemble a plate of goodies for the holidays! Any contribution is welcome!

You can always reach us at jhpoperrysburg@gmail.com with any questions/concerns/ideas on how to improve the teacher/student experiences!

Please consider us if you shop at Kroger by signing up for Community Rewards and having the contributions set to PERRYSBURG JUNIOR HIGH PARENTS ORGANIZ!

We wish all our families a safe and wonderful holiday season!

GO JACKETS!

FROM THE NURSE

Are you ready to fight the flu this season?

The best protection against the flu is getting the flu vaccine.

What is the flu?

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

What are flu symptoms?

Flu symptoms are different from a cold. Flu usually comes on suddenly.

People who have the flu often have some of all of these symptoms.

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills – it is important to note not everyone has a fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny/stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea

How does the flu spread?

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouth or nose of people who are nearby. A person might get the flu by touching a surface or objects that have the flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes (the T-Zone).

Period of Contagiousness

People with the flu virus are most contagious in the first 3-4 days after the illness begins.

Preventing Seasonal Flu

The CDC recommends getting the flu vaccine every year. The CDC also recommends everyday preventive actions like staying away from people who are sick.

- Stay home from school if you are sick. This will help the spread of the illnesses!
- Cover your cough or sneezes (do not use your hands).
- Frequently washing your hands will help slow down the spread of germs.
- Do not put your fingers in your eyes, nose or mouth.



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PJHS

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

PING PONG CLUB

A big shout out to JHPO for purchasing an additional ping pong table for the ping pong club last month. This will allow for more play time with over 25 boys and girls who attend weekly. The students and Mr. Blue say thank you!!



POWER OF THE PEN

The following 7th and 8th grade students earned a spot on the Power of the Pen team:

Sophie Carter, Fiona Davies, Lucy Feyes, Helena Gallant, Aubrie Ghesquire, Cheyenne Grounds, Emily Hanf, Sophia Lee, Natalie Miller, Francesca Pallitta, Bently Ray, Evelyn Souvenier, Elaine Tan, Delilah Torio, Advika Vijay, and Dima Yasin.

We are excited about this year's team, and we are preparing for our first tournament on February 8th!

QUIZ BOWL

The Quiz Bowl team's season is just coming to a thrilling close. Throughout the season, these exceptional students have showcased brilliance, teamwork, and a commitment to being lifelong learners. Their unity and support for each other truly set the team apart, displaying not just individual prowess but a collective strength forged through collaboration. The team finished second in the league this season, winning 6 of the 7 matches. Here's to the Quiz Bowl team for an extraordinary season!



PJHS STUDENT COUNCIL

Throughout the fall months at PJHS, our Student Council has been working on many exciting and student-led events. One of these big events is our Veterans Day assembly. We look forward to honoring our men and women who represent our country as some of the strongest and bravest people we know. These people are our parents, grandparents, siblings, and many other family members who are very important to us. The Veterans Day assembly was held on November 7th where our family veterans were invited to celebrate their dedication.

Although giving is something we decided is always good to do, we are excited to announce a time where we can really focus on helping those who may need a little help to stock their food pantry. We are once again hosting our annual PJHS food drive called Operation BreadBasket. The food drive will be held **November 25th through December 6th**. The foods you can bring for the food drive should only be non-perishable items. Please do not include items contained in glass. If you are able to donate - please consider dropping off your donations to the school or for students - in your Jacket Period.

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MATHCOUNTS

PJHS MathCounts is a club for 7th and 8th grade students who want to be involved in math problem solving and, if interested, in math competition against other schools. The PJHS MathCounts club began meeting in late September and will continue meeting through the end of our competition series (typically February - March) to practice math problem solving skills. The club meets after school with Mr. Zwyer from 2:50-3:45pm once a week.

MathCounts club members will have the opportunity to take part in math problem solving competitions and will be eligible to compete for a spot on the team that could head to a national competition. Students are encouraged to attend even if they don't want to be a contest-going mathlete.

See Mr. Zwyer in room 212 or email Mr. Zwyer with any questions.



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MOCK TRIAL

Off and running, the mock trial students have been busy learning about the trial process. They've discussed the roles of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, witnesses, and bailiffs. They will soon learn how to maneuver the rules of evidence and raise objections.

Based on the book, The Witch of Blackbird Pond, and set in the Connecticut Colony, this year's case finds co-defendants Goodwife Cruff and Goodman Cruff charged with attempted murder, arson, and criminal mischief. Surprisingly, two of the witnesses – widow Hannah Tupper and teenager Kit Tyler – had been suspected of witchcraft, but they are not the ones facing trial. As the students are learning, the prosecution bears the heavy burden of proving each and every element of the offenses beyond a reasonable doubt. To do so, prosecution attorneys will call three witnesses to the stand. And the defense attorneys will then call their three witnesses. All six witnesses not only testify on direct examination, but then face cross-examination by the opposing side's attorneys.

The team will meet on Monday afternoons from 2:50 - 5:00pm, in room 209 to prepare for the Middle School Mock Trial Showcase, which takes place in the spring at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center in downtown Columbus. At the Showcase, hosted by the Ohio Center for Law Related Education, the Perrysburg Junior High School teams will compete against teams from across Ohio. Retired Judge S. Dwight Osterud started PJHS's mock trial program over ten years ago.

GIRLS STEM



The PJHS Girls STEM club, in conjunction with NASA, is actively participating in a research project called Growing Beyond Earth. Our active research site is housing three different varieties of food sources that are grown in harsh conditions to determine the overall adaptation capability and success rate of each species. The girls maintain controlled variables and report back data on growth, levels, and other factors supporting the discovery of viable food options as we continue to investigate and explore opportunities to colonize the Moon, Mars, and beyond. What an exciting time to be in STEM-related research and fields.

If we are not helping to colonize foreign excursions, we are planning a mural design for our prairie. Much research and resources have already been considered on a massive scale to incorporate the love and techniques of art into this STEM project. We thank everyone who is on board to support our PJHS Girls STEM club members!



WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB

The World Language Club had a great time coloring calaveras (Mexican skulls), making Mexican tissue paper flowers, and trying Hispanic snacks for Dia de los Muertos at our October meeting. Our meeting during December was on the 6th.

TAYLOR SWIFT CLUB

The Taylor Swift Club has been busy planning our future activities for the year. We have many exciting things in the works. At our last meeting, we made friendship bracelets and played a game. Our time together is so much fun!

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FROM THE PERFORMING ARTS

Orchestra

The 7th and 8th Grade Orchestra students performed their first concert of the school year on October 30th. PJHS Orchestra students are now preparing music for their next orchestra concert on February 19th at 7:00pm at the PJHS Auditorium. Save the date!



Both the 7th and 8th Grade Orchestra students attended a performance by the Toledo Symphony Orchestra (TSO) this fall. The 7th grade orchestra attended a Young People's Concert at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Theater, then dined at Tony Packo's in downtown Toledo. The 8th grade orchestra attended a concert at the Peristyle Theater, then dined at the Spaghetti Warehouse in downtown Toledo. Thank you to the Perrysburg Schools Foundation for their financial support of this experience for our PJHS Orchestra students!



The Perrysburg Schools Arts Council is charged with suggesting areas of funding from the Perrysburg Schools Foundation and its Campaign for the Arts that supports the visual and performing arts through student discovery, student experience, program growth, and program sustainability.

Choir

Join us on Tuesday, December 17th, for an evening of beautiful music performed by the talented PJHS Choirs! This special concert will showcase a variety of songs that celebrate the season and highlight the incredible talent of our students. Mark your calendars and come support our young vocalists in what promises to be a memorable performance!

Bands

The PJHS Bands are busy rehearsing for their annual PJHS Bands Holiday Concert featuring our three concert bands: Jacket Band, Gold Band, and Commodore Band. We are excited to play the soundtrack of the holidays for our families and friends. Come celebrate the holidays with us on Thursday, December 12th at 7:00pm!



The PJHS Pep Band will be starting its winter season by banding together with our athletes and cheerleaders at our first two PJHS Basketball games. Come check out the very best junior high school game day atmosphere in NW Ohio on Tuesday, December 10th Boys vs. Anthony Wayne and Tuesday, December 17th Girls vs. Timberstone right here in the historic PJHS gymnasium at 4:30pm.

The Clipboards and The Protractors, the official "rock band" of Perrysburg Schools, will kick off their Bop in the Holidays 2024 World Tour with a performance at the PJHS Breakfasts on Tuesday, November 26th and Friday, December 13th in the historic PJHS cafeteria! The band will also be playing its full length holiday show at The Waterford at Levis Commons on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm!



Aladdin Jr.

Magical Success: Aladdin Jr. Delights Audiences

Our school's production of *Aladdin Jr.* was nothing short of spectacular! This beloved musical brought the enchanting story of a "diamond in the rough" to life with vibrant performances, dazzling costumes, and impressive stagecraft, all led entirely by our talented students.

The cast featured 61 performers who sang, danced, and acted their hearts out, while a dedicated tech crew of 13 students worked behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly. From student directors to the stage crew and the operators of lights, sound, and projections, this show was truly a student-driven masterpiece.

A standout performance came from Alex Krieter, who brought the Genie's larger-than-life personality and magical antics to the stage. Lillian Barkholz portrayed the graceful and strong-willed Jasmine, while Caleb Blaine shone as the adventurous and charming Aladdin. Edward Callahan delivered a sinister yet captivating performance as the villain Jafar, with Delilah Torio stealing laughs as the mischievous Iago.

The students' dedication, creativity, and teamwork were evident in every scene, making this production a memorable event for cast, crew, and audiences alike. Thank you to everyone who supported this show and helped make *Aladdin Jr.* an unforgettable experience!



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ATHLETIC AVENUE

Quiz Bowl just completed their season. Their record was 5-1. They won many matches and fun was had by all. Thank you to our advisors Mrs. Scasny and Ms. Gressman for a great season! Thank you to our readers Tiffany Townsend and Jason Jordan.

Winter Sports are underway! Below are links to the winter sports schedules. Please come out and support your Jackets!

New Tickets Prices in effect for Winter Sports

\$6 For Adult Online and Cash Tickets

\$4 For Seniors 65+ and Students K-12 Online or Cash Tickets

Purchase Tickets HERE:



Girls Basketball



Boys Basketball



Gold Wrestling



Black Wrestling



PJHS LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

With the holidays coming up, students have access to our digital books and audio through our library catalog, INFOhio resources, and Way Public Library's digital resources. Students have directions for accessing these resources in our Junior High Library Resources Group in Schoology. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

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WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS (WEB) PROGRAM

Our WEB Program continues to thrive! The WEB Program is a peer mentoring and transition program that helps 7th graders adjust to PJHS. The 8th-grade WEB leaders are responsible for planning the first day of school and leading monthly class meetings with their 7th-grade WEB groups.

The 8th-grade WEB leaders held three class meetings outside of orientation day. The meeting topics were: Study Skills, Cooperation, and Sparking Creativity. The WEB leaders are also planning to run a Toys for Tots Teddy Bear Toss at a boys' basketball game in December. The adult WEB coordinators have been very impressed with the leadership demonstrated by our 8th-grade leaders.

THE JACKET WAY

The PJHS Jacket Way Program continues to recognize students for their positive behaviors at PJHS! October was the month of rewarding our students for all the great things they do. Students have the opportunity to earn raffle tickets by turning in Jacket Way tickets during our "Ticket Redemption Friday." During our October Spirit Assembly, the winning raffle tickets for the Jacket Way Raffle were drawn.

Congratulations to the following students for winning these rewards:

- Smart TV – Peter Lee
- Take out Lunch with buddies – Cameron Miller
- \$100 Visa gift card – Zach Fornwald
- 3D printer – Sullivan Tumino
- Beats headphones – Noah Heinline

We also selected students to play our giant game of Plinko for gift cards. Our Plinko winners were: Jake Goldman, Gabe Hartman, Kendall Huber, Barbara LaGessee, Makenzie Pohlman, and Aubrey Vickery.

We would also like to congratulate our October Subway Lunch winners: Justin Kalies, Bradley Keaton, Gio Lopez-Meyers, Calvin Martin, Avery Moll, Zane Petrie, Brayden Sadowski, and Jameson Shaneck. Staff winners included: Ms. Burke, Mrs. Krabill, and Mr. Marquette. The Jacket Way team is excited about all our winners and the great things our students do!

Congrats!