



# THE BUZZ

## AT PJHS

### PERRYSBURG JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

550 E. South Boundary  
Perry'sburg OH 43551  
419-874-9193

ISSUE 37  
FEBRUARY 2023

#### ADMINISTRATION

**Scott Buker,**  
*Principal*

**Brandon Decker,**  
*7th Grade  
Assistant Principal*

**Chad Warnimont,**  
*8th Grade  
Assistant Principal*

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear PJHS Families,

Our Second Semester has begun at PJHS and we continue to look forward to what that brings to our students and school community. It also is hard to believe that we are already looking ahead to next year and the transitions your student is making, whether it be to 8th or 9th grade.

We would like to pause for a moment and reflect back on our First Semester, highlighted by our student achievements in the classroom and outside of it. Our students are achieving at a high academic rate with over 85% of the students achieving an Honors Recognition for Quarter 1 and then 75% of the students receiving an Honors Recognition for Quarter 2. Over 85% of our students are testing at or above national norms in the STAR Math Assessment while 71% of our students are meeting that standard on the STAR English Language Arts Assessment. Our attendance rate at PJHS for the First Semester was just under 94% and we are extremely proud to share that 68% of our students are involved in at least one school sponsored team, club or activity. We were moved by our students' participation in our Silent Night Teddy Bear Toss at our December 13 boys basketball games against Anthony Wayne in which students tossed over 200 teddy bears onto the court to be donated to Toys for Tots.

Our Jacket Way Program continues to reinforce positive student behaviors. At the end of the First Semester, 72% of our students had received at least one Jacket Way Ticket and our positive

referral to negative referral ratio was 14:1.

We continue to look forward to building on our student achievement and experience through the Second Semester. On January 19, our student body was treated to a special theatrical presentation of *Letters from Anne and Martin*, which saw two actors portraying Anne Frank and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sharing parallel experiences from their lives. We have planned a Military Appreciation Night during a girls home basketball game, a Student Council "Lock-In" and the return of the PJHS Annual Dodgeball Tournament that will take place in February.

As we look forward to the 2023 - 2024 school year, we are busy working with schedule requests for incoming 7th and 8th grade students. Our current 8th grade students are working with our high school student services department with their registration for freshman year. On April 28, all of our 8th grade students will be attending Perry'sburg High School to participate in their annual "FroshFest," during which the students will be able to experience the school, talk to current students and see the different extracurricular activities that PHS offers.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of your students and our PJHS community.

***Go Jackets!***

Scott Buker  
*PJHS Principal*

## JACKET WAY

The PJHS Jacket Way Program continues to provide students with positive behavior interventions as we progress through the year. This year our 8th grade students have been working on service-oriented projects to better our community. The students have decorated bookmarks to promote reading to Perrysburg Schools' third grade students and made thank you posters for our local first responders. 7th grade students recently attended a lesson on rumors and the impacts rumors have on individuals. This lesson was directed by our hardworking 8th Grade WEB Leaders.

Congratulations to the following students for being selected as our latest Jacket Way Subway winners:

**Student Winners:** Brenna Callaway, Lillith Bell, Brooks Heitmeyer, Chloe LaFaso, Senna Musa, Eda Ovacikli, Krisha Raichura, and Zach Speer.

**Employee Winners:** Mr. Dan Blue, Mr. Wade Kuns and Mrs. Corine Roach.

The next Jacket Way Prize Raffle will be held on Friday, February 24 during the Spirit Assembly. Items in the raffle include: \$100 Visa Gift Card, an Astro MiniFridge, an Oculus Quest, a popcorn machine and a JBL speaker. Students may turn in their earned Jacket Way Tickets for Raffle Tickets during their lunch on Fridays instead of taking the instant reward.

## JUNIOR HIGH PARENTS ORGANIZATION

The PJHS Parent Organization ran a Scholastic Book Fair in December. All students visited the Book Fair with their English Language Arts classes as well as having the option to visit before and after school. 484 items were sold, raising \$1,046.95 in Scholastic Dollars. Every instructional teacher was welcomed to the book fair to pick out a free book to use in their classroom. The remaining Scholastic Dollars were used to purchase Scholastic items to benefit the school library. Thank you to everyone who purchased items, volunteered at the fair and purchased gift cards for teachers!

Also during December, the PJHS Parent Organization provided hundreds of cookies to the dedicated teachers and staff members during our annual 'Cookie Jar' event. The event was well-attended and very much appreciated by teachers and staff members - thank you to everyone who contributed cookies!

Please assist us in our support of the PJHS community by:

1. Liking us on Facebook @perrysburgJHPO & on Instagram @JHPOperrysburg
2. Attending our monthly meetings - 2/16, 3/15, 4/12 - all Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the school library
3. Making a financial donation by check or through Venmo (@jhpoperysburg)
4. Designating Perrysburg Junior High as your charity of choice for Box Tops for Education (Perrysburg Junior High School) and Kroger Community Rewards (Org. UV412): The QR codes at right are links to Box Tops and Kroger.
5. Looking for our volunteer needs in the Daily Announcements and on our social media.



Box Tops



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## ATHLETIC AVENUE

The winter athletics seasons are winding down at Perrysburg Junior High School. Winter sports have had a successful run to this point and are looking to close out their season strong.

Our Wrestling Team is currently undefeated and have taken home first place in every tournament they have entered. The team has won championships at Genoa, Lake, Fostoria and Wauseon Invitationals. The NLL tournament will be hosted at Springfield on Saturday, February 4th as the Jackets look to continue their streak as NLL Champions. Good luck, grapplers!

Our 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team is currently 11-1 and the 8th Grade Girls Team is 9-3. Both teams are looking to close out their season on a high note before heading into the NLL Tournament February 8-16th. Good luck!

Both the Boys 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Teams are sitting at 11-1 on the season as they make the final push toward the NLL Tournament, also

February 8-16th. The 7th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament is hosted at Perrysburg Junior High School this year, beginning February 8th. Good luck!

As we finish up the winter season, we would like to encourage all of our students to continue to come out and support our teams at basketball games and wrestling matches. Our Jacket Pep Band creates an exciting and entertaining atmosphere for all of our students. We are so proud to have them be a part of our events. PJHS continues to be a special place for so many reasons!

For anyone interested in Track and Field, our Spring Code of Conduct meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16th at 6:30 PM in the PJHS Auditorium. This meeting is mandatory for any athlete who has not already participated in a Fall or Winter sport. For more information, please contact Mr. Sorg, PJHS Athletic Director, at ssorg@perrysburgschools.net.

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## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Attention 8th grade students!

### PHS Registration and Curriculum Fair

Perrysburg High School is excited to host the annual Registration & Curriculum Fair Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. All 8th grade families should attend this event to learn more about registering for classes at Perrysburg High School for the 2023-24 school year.

After the registration meeting, families will have the opportunity to speak with departmental staff members to learn more about the educational opportunities at Perrysburg High School. Families will also have the chance to tour the high school academic wing after the presentation to view classrooms and academic lab settings.

Families may contact Rick Rettig, Counseling Department Chair, with any questions about the evening program. Email: rrettig@perrysburgschools.net Phone: 419-874-3181 ext. 5186

*The Buzz At PJHS*  
February 2023 • Issue 37  
Perrysburg Junior High School  
550 E. South Boundary  
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### National School Counseling Week

School Counselors: Helping Students Dream  
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## REGISTRATION

The 6th to 7th Grade Registration meeting was held on Monday, January 23rd and Thursday, February 2nd.

The 7th to 8th Grade Registration meeting was held on Monday, January 23rd and Thursday, February 2nd.

\*\*Registration forms are due February 3rd. If you missed the registration meeting, the presentations are available on the Perrysburg Junior High School webpage on the Student Services tab.

## STATE TESTING

Please mark your calendars. State testing will be held on March 27, March 29, April 25, April 27, May 3 and May 4. These tests will take place in the morning. Please do not schedule appointments during these times.

## OHIO'S WHOLE CHILD FRAMEWORK

Please go to the website below for a great explanation of and videos about Ohio's Whole Child Framework from the Ohio Department of Education.

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Ohios-Whole-Child-Framework>

## OHIO MEANS JOBS

This is a great website for your child to explore careers and future jobs! To learn more, please click on "For Students" at the following link: <https://jobseeker.k-12.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/seeker.aspx>

## 7TH GRADE COUNSELING SMALL GROUPS

Mrs. Monheim is running four Stress Management Small Groups and two Self-Confidence Groups this semester. Groups meet once a week for six weeks and rotate between the class periods. Students who participate in these groups will receive a folder at the end of the program with all of the materials learned throughout the course.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

**Career Expo** | Tuesday, March 14, 2023

The 8th grade will take a field trip to Penta Career Center in the morning to learn about various career options and potential career paths.

**Frosh Fest** | Friday, April 28, 2023

The 8th grade will travel to the high school for half of the day to participate in tours, play games, and learn about all of the activities offered at the high school.

**Registration & Curriculum Fair** | Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Perrysburg High School is excited to host the annual Registration & Curriculum Fair in the high school auditorium. All 8th grade families should attend this event to learn more about registering for classes at Perrysburg High School for the 2023-24 school year.



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## PJHS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

### POWER OF THE PEN

The Power of the Pen season officially kicks off on Saturday, February 4th at Tiffin Middle School. Twelve students will compete at the district tournament with the hopes of advancing to the regional tournament on Saturday, March 11th. At each competition, students complete three rounds of writing, and they have 40 minutes to write a story from a given prompt. Our students have been working hard and preparing since October and they're excited for the season to begin!

#### Power of the Pen Team

**8th Grade:** Alexander Ban, Luella Eynon, Ria Khatri, Maanya Parikh, Krisha Raichura, Alexandra Severt and John Simpson

**7th Grade:** Lillith Bell, Audrey Canales, Chase Cannon, Myla Dawson, Morgan Easter, Momina Gill, Amelia Mazzarella, Maura Tehan and Anushree Verma

### STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council has continued its mission to make PJHS the best place it can be!

Last November, Operation Bread Basket was a huge success, helping our school collect over 3,660 canned food items for families in our area. There were two winning Jacket Period classes: Mrs. Krueger (8th grade) and Mr. Ferguson (7th grade). Both classes were awarded ice cream parties on the day before winter break.

Last December, Student Council also thanked teachers and staff members for all they do by providing a Hot Cocoa Bar! Candy canes, whipped cream and marshmallows were just a few of the items teachers and staff members could add to their yummy hot cocoa cups.

PJHS Student Council also sponsored another successful PJHS Lock In! We were excited to invite all 7th & 8th grade students to the PJHS Lock In on Friday, January 27, 2022. It was a night of food, games, sports and friends!

### GIRLS IN STEM

#### PJHS Prairie Update

We are deep into the winter season and our PJHS outdoor classroom is busy building a strong foundation for spring. Warm temperatures and increasing direct sunlight will return our winter refuge to a visible and active habitat for hibernating and returning organisms.

We have been busy adding donated and customized bird and bat homes built by staff members and students. We are so thankful for their time and expertise and in helping expand our prairie resources. On these posts, we hope to add trail cams to capture the emerging spring flowers and native animals.

Our Girls STEM Club volunteered time to begin an

outdoor mural. We are at the beginning stages of design and, as it continues to be a work-in-progress, we hope to harness additional resources to complete the mural during the 2023-2024 school year. We want to thank Sherwin-Williams in Perrysburg for their expertise and support!

Also in design mode are signs highlighting a nature walk throughout the prairie for our students and community members.

We know we cannot cultivate such an outdoor experience for our students without the support of our school administrators and staff, district, community and city. We are forever grateful and hope our students and all stakeholders will find this an asset on our campus.

### YEARBOOK

Yearbooks are only available online for a few more weeks! After Friday, February 24, yearbooks will be available in-person on a first come, first served basis in May. Books are available online for \$40 at this link:



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## MATHCOUNTS

MathCounts is well under way and nearly twenty students come each week to attack challenging math problems. Working together, they complete problems that push their mathematical understanding beyond the typical classroom walls. We are beyond proud of all the students who come to work on math for fun after school each week. Ten of these students have qualified to move on to the next level of the competition against other schools in northwest Ohio. We will continue to practice and prepare for this competition that will take place at the end of January.

The following ten students will be moving on to the next level of competition: Angela Choi, Simon Deng, Bismah Gill, Elizaveta Krasikova, Freyja Langrish, Zachary Meyer, Maanya Parikh, Krisha Raichura, Anna Waldo and Aiden Wilson. Congratulations and best of luck to these students!

## WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB

On Monday, February 13th, the World Language Club will meet to make Valentine's Day cards in multiple languages!

## MOCK TRIAL

The Mock Trial students have been hard at work, gleaning information from the six witness statements that will be used in presenting the case at the Showcase in May. As the students are learning, all of the witness statements contain both facts that support their respective sides of the case and facts that are fodder for cross-examination. As roles are being assigned, students will step into the shoes of prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys or witnesses. They'll be creating attorney-witness dialogs, which will convey information about Warden Walker's guilt or innocence to the judges. The students will also work on the skill of raising objections to their opponents' presentations.

In early January, the students heard from an outstanding guest speaker. Ellis French, a 2021 graduate of PHS, shared his experiences in Miami University's Mock Trial program. Ellis is playing an attorney on Miami's team for the second year in a row. He talked about his travels to competitions in St. Louis and Washington D.C. and gave the students invaluable tips and insights on how to excel in Mock Trial.



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## PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

### Choir

#### Evening of Love

Wednesday, February 8th  
7:00 p.m. at PHS

Students are preparing for their annual fundraiser concert, the Evening of Love. This cabaret-style event features all PJHS choir students including solo performances. Tickets are available for purchase starting Thursday, February 2 via ShowTix4U.com.



### Bands

The PJHS Bands rang in the new year with the exciting news that 18 PJHS students were selected for the Ohio Music Education Association District 1 Honor Band. That is the most students selected from any of the 30 participating schools in Northwest Ohio and the 7th consecutive year PJHS Bands had the most students selected. Students will be performing at the Stranahan Theater in Toledo on Sunday, January 22nd. Congratulations to our students for representing our school, district and community with pride and musical excellence!

The PJHS Pep Band is thrilled to be back at PJHS Boys and Girls Basketball games this season! The Pep Band started performing in January and will be in attendance at PJHS games through the beginning of February. We're also excited to combine with our big siblings in the PHS Pep Band for the PHS Girls Varsity Game vs. Bowling Green on Thursday, February 9th at Perrysburg High School. Come out to PJHS Boys and Girls basketball games and experience the electric atmosphere created by our athletes, cheerleaders and the PJHS Pep Band!

Be on the lookout for more information about this year's PJHS Bands Recital Day happening on Thursday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. Students will perform a variety of solos, duets, trios and quartets while collaborating with a professional piano accompanist. The PJHS Bands hope to see you soon, and until then... GO JACKET BANDS!



### Orchestra

PJHS Orchestra students will perform their next concert on Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Perrysburg Junior High School Auditorium. Please save the date. We'd love to see you there!

The following 29 PJHS orchestra students were selected to participate in this year's OMEA District 1 Junior High Honors Orchestra, based on their submitted auditions. This was the highest number of students accepted from any school in Northwest Ohio. We are so proud of the PJHS orchestra students for representing our school district in such an impressive way!

- **Violin** - Sammy Alnaqeeb, Elise Born, Paige Dickman, Habeba Elmalhoud, Beatrice Hudson, Elise Kaiser, Lauren Longenecker, Ria Khatri, Preston McClain, Rory Moreno, Aaralynn Rodrigues, Elise Segovia, Allie Severt, Quinn Vail, Anushree Verma, Katelin Williams and Aiden Zechman
- **Viola** - Alex Ban, Samiyah Bennett, Elaina Farley, Elyssa Hinesman, Gurbani Kaur, Emma Newhouse, Maanya Parikh and Max Williamson
- **Cello** - Nadia Phillipi and Iris Weisstein
- **Bass** - Liam Hamilton
- **Harp** - Jonah Sweetser

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## "LETTERS FROM ANNE AND MARTIN" PERFORMANCE

PJHS had the opportunity to see the performance *Letters from Anne and Martin* on Thursday, January 19. During this performance, two actors portraying Anne Frank and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., read excerpts from *Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl* and Dr. King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

Student reactions to the performance may be found below:

- I learned to treat people better and with respect.
- I learned that you shouldn't judge people for something they cannot control.
- I took away not to deny people nor exclude them.
- My takeaway from the performance today was to never accept defeat, keep going and push through what you are facing.
- I learned that to receive someone's respect you must show them your respect.
- The performance really stood out to me because it was crazy how they were

both fighting for their freedom, but in different ways. I definitely understand their stories better now. I am grateful that we were able to see this.

- I thought the Anne Frank and Martin Luther King, Jr. show was a gift. I was very thankful to be able to watch the show. I thought the actors did a great job at telling their stories and making it real.
- "Being who you want to be is good, but being who you are is better."
- "Don't be afraid of who you are just because others aren't the same."



Students created six-word takeaways from the performance in English Language Arts classes.

### A Student's Reflection on the Performance of Letters from Anne and Martin

By Siena Eggenberger

On Thursday January 19, 2023 PJHS had the wonderful opportunity to view a professional program "Letters from Anne and Martin" from the Anne Frank Center in New York.

Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl who lived at the time of the Holocaust. She, like many other girls her age, was concerned with boys and dreading math. But her life took a turn when Hitler invaded Poland and her father decided to hide her and her family in a secret annex behind his office. While in hiding Anne wrote a diary in which she kept all of her secrets and feelings about the world around her. She and her family were later found and Anne died in a concentration camp months later, Her father being the only one to survive granted Anne's wish and published her diary.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a Civil Rights activist who is most famous for his leadership during this time period in the United States. His most famous line was "I have a dream." During a peaceful protest he and other activists were arrested in Birmingham Alabama. He was sent to prison which is where he writes his famous "Letters from a Birmingham Jail." He later was released. After years of work Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

The dramatic performance portrayed both iconic

voices of Anne and Martin. The performance was about the parallel thoughts that both Martin Luther King Jr. and Anne Frank had. The production started off with special audio effects that perfectly portrayed the horrors of each of the characters' time periods. Throughout the performance both of the characters thoughts were perfectly woven together into one very impressive and impactful script. A similarity between Anne and Martin that most people don't know about is that they were both born in the same year, 1929. Most people don't associate the Holocaust with the Civil Rights movement, and though they did live very different lives both of them faced many similar challenges including injustice, discrimination, and prejudice against their race and culture. Both historical figures impacted their societies for the better with their sublime and remarkable writing.

As an 8th grader, this performance gave me a deeper understanding of how these people that were being oppressed found joy in the little things in life. It also helps me understand to not take the little things for granted, things like being able to have the same freedoms as everyone else. This was a truly remarkable performance I hope to never forget.



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## NOTES 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 may land in the mouth or nose of people who are nearby. A person might get the flu by touching a surface or objects that has 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, such as:

- Staying away from people who are sick.
- Staying home from school if you are sick. This will help the spread of the illness!
- 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.

## JACKET CLUB

Jacket Club (an after school opportunity for students to work on homework with BGSU students assisting as needed) returns on Monday, February 6th. It will run only on Mondays/Wednesdays 2nd semester from 2:45-3:50 p.m. Those who were in Jacket Club 1st semester have priority. However, if you wish to be on the waiting list, please email Andrea Monheim, the 7th grade school counselor in charge of coordinating Jacket Club, at [amonheim@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:amonheim@perrysburgschools.net).