



PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

# PPSD Strategic News

ISSUE 2 ► JULY 2009

*The MISSION of Pearl Public School District is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society.*



## Upcoming Events

### **JULY 22 - 24**

Residency Verification, Grades K-5 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **JULY 27 - 28**

Residency Verification, Grades 6-12 – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **AUGUST 4**

Registration for Grades K, 2, 3, 4, & 5 – 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### **AUGUST 5**

Registration for Grade 1 – 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### **AUGUST 7**

First Day of School

## Message from the Board of Trustees

The PPSD Board of Trustees is the voice of the children. We make decisions that are in the best interest of all the students that attend our schools. Our responsibility is to preserve our rich heritage, cater to the current needs, and secure a brighter future for generations to come. These tasks are not taken lightly, and the Board has tried to use every resource available to provide a quality education for all of the students. Please take time to read this newsletter and stand with us in support of our children.

# Fine Arts Department

## Art Department

Five art students and their art teachers at Pearl High School were recognized on the state and national levels in January-March of 2009 through the Scholastic Art Competition at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson. In Category II (grades 10-12) on a statewide level, Joe Hennessey (Clay Mask), Kimberly Goldberg (Batik), and J. T. Griffith (Batik) were all given Silver Key Awards for their artwork. Brad Chambers received a Certificate of Merit, also for a Batik. All were students of Mrs. Vicky Miley. In Category I (grade nine) two students received Gold Keys, and their work went on to compete in New York on a national level. Dylan Sanchez created a Pastel drawing (student of Felicia Lee) and Jorge Reyes created a pastel painting (student of Rebecca Wilkinson). A ceremony was held at the MMA, and all five students' art was on display at the museum for two months (February-March).

The National Art Honor Society went on a field trip to the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, Louisiana, where they saw the largest collection of southern art in the United States. They also toured local galleries and saw a variety of art media from local, regional and national artists.

Mayor Jimmy Foster proclaimed March as Youth Art Month in Pearl. All seven art teachers in the Pearl Public School District and students from each school met the Mayor at City Hall for this proclamation. The first annual Pearl Public School District Art Show was displayed at the Pearl Public Library for the month of March. Over 250 works of art were displayed from all of the schools in the district. A well-received reception for the public was held on March 10. Friends of the Library and local businesses provided a reception for students, families and



friends. PHS Chamber Singers presented a memorable concert during the reception. The art teachers are Nancy Head, Lower Elementary; Rebecca Self, Northside; Kim Saxton and Donnis Simmons, Pearl Junior High; Vicky Miley, Rebecca Wilkinson, and Felicia Lee, PHS.

Six art students won a school-wide art competition for the Google Logo design to represent Pearl High School for region seven in a national competition. Three Pearl High School Art students won the Mississippi Statewide Law Day Art Competition, and their artwork was displayed at the Capital in Jackson. Dylan Lawson won first place for 12th grade; Stephen Wells won second place for 11th grade; and Jessica Pickett won second place for 10th grade. Their art was designed to celebrate the theme "Legacy for Liberty, Abraham Lincoln" and will be printed in the Mississippi Law Magazine in June of 2009.

## Drama Department

The combined choral and drama students presented "Children of Eden" as the spring musical. Dayle Watts, a former Singers' parent, joined the cast as "Father." This is the first time that an adult from the community, other than faculty members, has participated in our musicals.

Drama II performed a children's play called *Rutherford Wolf* at Northside Elementary. Thespians attended State Thespian conference where several students received superiors for their individual performances, and the "One Act Play" placed second. Marie Adkinson, Cesar Munoz, Megan Poole and Erick Weeks will be performing his/her individual performances at International Thespian Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, this summer. Drama III/IV held "A Night of One Acts" where all three plays were directed by students. Drama I students built models of a set they designed for a one act play and wrote their own short plays.

## Band Department

The Seventh Grade Band, Varsity Band and Concert Band participated in the South Mississippi Band Festival at Jones County Junior College where they received all superior concert and sight reading ratings.

The Varsity, Concert and Symphonic Bands attended the State Concert Band Festival at Pearl High School. Varsity received excellent ratings in concert and sight reading. Both Concert and Symphonic Bands received all superior ratings

Indoor Percussion competed at the Winter Guard International South Percussion Regional in Pensacola, Florida. They won the Percussion Scholastic A Class at the Mississippi Indoor Association Championships.

## Choral Department

Northside Singers contributed to a positive impact of the mission statement when they performed in the Rotunda of the State Capitol Building on April 7. After singing, they made a tour of the building.



The Singers learned about the Senate and House of

Representatives, sat in the members' chairs, and were truly amazed by the building. Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant came down from his office to hear them sing and spoke to the singers after their performance.

Upper Elementary Honor is reaching a global society by their participation in the making of a "teaching" CD for "Mississippi Sings". The CD is distributed to teachers who have their students participate in the annual "Mississippi Sings".

Pearl Junior High Singers performed at the community Easter Service. This has been a long tradition for these students. It is one of many ways Junior High Singers implement our mission statement. They also participated in the Brandon Invitational Festival as well as district and state

contests. Several students were selected to participate in the state honor choir held during the state music convention.

Pearl Singers were invited to perform at the Opening Session for the Mississippi Music Educators Association and the Mississippi American Choral Directors



Association State Convention. Only two groups were selected to perform.

This was an honor, and Singers were well received by musicians from around the state. Participation in this event was important for students in Pearl Singers and contributed to their efforts to achieve individual goals and positively impact a global society.

Students from Pearl Singers were selected by DSU faculty to participate in Delta State University Honor Choir in February.



Other students were selected by judges to participate in the Mississippi Music Educators Association and American Choral Directors Association honor choirs that took place at the state music convention. These students obtained

individual goals through participation in these events.

The semester ended with concerts given by all choral groups, including performances at PTSO meetings at the elementary schools.

### Dance Department

The mission of Pearl Public School District is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society. In an effort to ensure that the dance class is adhering to the mission statement, the dance team viewed the movie, "C Me Dance." The plot of this thrilling movie involves a young ballet dancer who, despite great adversity, finds the courage to stand strong against evil, faithfully serve God and use the gifts He has given her for His glory. Following the viewing of the movie, each dancer wrote an essay that has been entered into an essay contest being sponsored by the company that produced the film. In the essay, students told how the theme of the movie relates to their own beliefs and experiences and made a connection between the theme of the movie to a specific personal experience they have had in their own life. Gift cards in the amount of \$200 will be awarded to the top 20 winners. There will be two grand prize winners who will receive \$2,000 to be

awarded to their chosen private or public organization, and \$5,000 will be donated to the Leukemia Foundation on the student's behalf.

Through their participation, each dancer was encouraged to achieve her individual goals by watching the film that focuses on the life of "Sheri," a teenage girl who has trained her entire life to dance for the Pittsburgh Ballet. Dancers were also encouraged to become lifelong learners by using a non-traditional learning experience - viewing a movie - to learn more about the art of dance and the accompanying essay contest to practice writing skills they have acquired in their English classes and that are part of the Subject Area Test in English II. The learning experience was also interdisciplinary in that they were asked to have their English teachers proofread their essays before turning them in. Finally, dancers' entries into the essay contest contributed positively to a global society. They learned that indirect activities such as entering an essay contest can allow them to earn money to support benevolent organizations such as the Leukemia Foundation, which is the only national organization dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders.

## Northside Elementary

In February, the third-grade students read stories about horses and the old west. The students studied vocabulary terms from an old boom town. The historical fiction book, *Boom Town*, described how members of the community positively helped their community to survive.



People used skills that they did best to help their community. The third-grade

teachers worked together with the help of Ginny Copley, third-grade teacher, and Denise Harrison, Special Services teacher, to have a special Boom Town day at Northside Elementary. Several people from the community came and gave demonstrations similar to the workmanship of an old boom town. The mayor of Pearl, Jimmy Foster, dropped by



to watch the opening of the day. The Dixie National Rodeo Queens also came by to visit the students. They passed out autographed photos. A group of high school cowgirls presented a Grand Entry on stick horses to start the day. The owners of Old West Special Trails, Danny and Debbie Cooley, brought an exact replica of an old stage coach. All of the students were delighted that they were able to ride in the stagecoach pulled by two Percheron horses. Even a few staff members were treated with a ride.





# Pearl Lower Elementary

**First grade students visited community workers.**



Rankin Medical



Pearl Fire Department Station 1

## **"Showing Our Support"**

**Pink Pirates participated in the "Race for the Cure". Teachers and students volunteered to walk/run in the "Race for the Cure" to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness.**



## **"Busy Buzzy Bee"**



Students in Miss Nelms' first grade class recently read the story *Busy Buzzy Bee* by Karen Wallace. In the story, students learned that bees make honey cells, pollen cells, and egg cells in the bee hive. Students were able to look at and touch a real honeycomb. They saw the three different types of cells that bees make. The students then were able to taste homemade honey.



**Pearl Lower's First Grade Singers sang and visited with the residents at Wysteria Gardens of Pearl. The choir also sang for Preschool Hour at the Pearl Library.**



**Students in Mrs. Joslyn's class learned about fire safety during Life Center.**

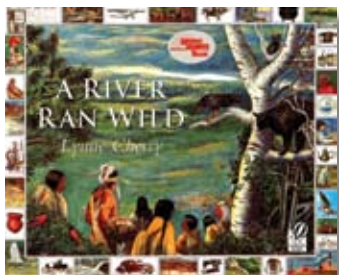


**February was a patriotic month for PLE with the presentation of "Freedom for All."**

# Pearl Upper School Grades 4-5

## PEARL UPPER GOES GREEN

As part of the school's mission to positively impact a global society, students and staff at Pearl Upper School (Grades 4-5) went "green" this spring! During the months of March and April, students participated in a variety of activities.



In the library, students listened to the book *A River Ran Wild* by Lynne Cherry. This book is an environmental history of the Nashua River, from its discovery by Indians through the polluting years

of the Industrial Revolution to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it. In April, National Poetry Month, Mrs. Burns, Pearl Upper Library Media Specialist, read the poem "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout" from the book *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein to increase awareness of how much garbage we produce.

Science teacher Judy Young coordinated with the Pearl Urban Forestry Board, Keep Pearl Beautiful, Pearl Chamber of Commerce, Pearl Kiwanis Club, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to present an Arbor Day environmental puppet musical to educate students about the importance of trees in an urban setting. Mrs. Young also collaborated with Keep Pearl Beautiful and Wal-mart to organize Pearl Upper's first recycling program. Students and teachers have been recycling paper, plastic, cardboard and other items from school and home since the beginning of the school year. Darlene Slater with Keep Pearl Beautiful says that the Upper Elementary has collected over five tons of recycled material since the program's inception. Keep Pearl Beautiful also sponsored the *Great American Cleanup Campaign* by providing students with gloves and trash bags during the week of Earth Day. Students participated by picking up trash in different areas of the



school's campus. Students gained ownership in taking care of the environment. For the *Great American Cleanup Campaign*, the Mississippi Department of Transportation also provided literature for the students on the effects of litter in the environment.



Pearl Upper's "green" unit culminated on Friday, April 24, with a visit from singer and storyteller John M. Stark.



Mr. Stark, a Mississippi Arts Commission endorsed artist, sang songs and told stories about nature and the environment. Students also learned about the importance of cultural

diversity and keeping the Earth clean. Songs and stories like "Earth Day Twist and Shout" and "The Man Who Loved Ugly Bottles" were performed and were also available on a CD for students to purchase. Students also participated in an Earth Day poster contest, and the winners of the contest won a John M. Stark CD.



Upon completion of the "green" unit, students were encouraged to set individual goals at home by spending less time playing video games or watching television and more time outside in nature.

# Pearl Upper School Grades 6-8

Four students (two seventh graders and two eighth graders) attended the annual MCTM mathematics competition held at Hinds Community College in February. Jimmy Bailey, an eighth grade Algebra I student, received the bronze award in the overall individual competition. Thomas Manchester and Jimmy Bailey together won the silver award in the school competition. Drew LaFontaine and Hunter Busby represented our seventh grade Pre-Algebra classes well and hope to place next year. We are extremely proud of all four students!



MathCounts competition was also held in February at Clinton Jr. High School. Five members from Pearl Upper 6-8 attended and had a great day of competition and fun with other Mathletes. The competitors were Jimmy Bailey, Madison Brown, Seth Romines, Thomas Manchester and Dana Brown.

Mrs. Romines' honors Pre-Algebra (seventh grade) and Algebra I (eighth grade) are participating in a competition for a Popcorn and Movie party. The "heat is on" as the Pre-Algebra classes compete for the best scores on their MCT2 practice and the Algebra I classes do the same. May the Best Class win!

Algebra I students took their Algebra SAT test on April 30. A pizza party was enjoyed afterwards as a reward for the students' hard work in preparing for the exam. A few have made it their personal goal to be in the 500 club at PJH and were excited to take the first step towards achieving their goal on the Algebra SAT.



The Sixth Grade Honors Math Students took a trip to Paradise Lanes to put their skills to the test! After a lesson on Mean, Median, Mode and Range, students engaged in some friendly bowling competition. The successful morning of

bowling and averaging scores was concluded by a trip to the Braves Stadium for lunch. Students enjoyed being able to take knowledge from the classroom, go out into the community and apply that knowledge in a real-life activity.



## Special Services Department

Special Services staff participated in training across the district and in many areas, not only as a participant in various staff development opportunities, but also in sharing the information with building level and/or district staff.

### ▶ **Becoming a Lifelong Learner**

Many changes were made to alternate assessment. Several teachers participated in training to learn the new procedures. All special services teachers attended a workshop in the district for Extended School Year Services. Special services teachers also attended a half-day training in the area of Individualized Education Program (IEP) Development.

### ▶ **Achieving Individual Goals**

An assistive technology team from the T. K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability evaluated several students in the district to recommend devices and services to help students progress on the goals and objectives outlined in their Individualized Education Program.

### ▶ **Positively Impacting a Global Society**

An Orientation and Mobility consultant provided training to personnel working with visually impaired students to help students develop skills and techniques necessary for a person with a visual impairment to travel safely, efficiently and gracefully through his/her environment and under all environmental conditions and situations. The PPSD Visually Impaired consultant held a training for P.E. and Special Services staff on how visual impairments affect participation in P.E. Class and how a visually impaired student learns differently from a sight student.

The Special Services Staff also provided staff development to district staff in the area of Least Restrictive Environment to ensure that students with disabilities are participating to the maximum extent appropriate in the regular education environment. Ongoing staff development in this area for all Pearl Public School District Staff will be implemented throughout next school year.



# Pearl High School

## *Living the Mission Out Loud!*

### **Preparing Each Student to Become a Lifelong Learner...**

#### **Reality Fair 2009**

Over 200 freshmen were given the opportunity to experience life's real world financial struggles and successes at Pearl High's first ever reality fair. Over thirty local businessmen, bankers, insurance agents, car salesmen, and realtors were present to assist students in this simulated real life bill paying activity. Students were assigned a job, salary, and responsibilities based upon their first semester GPAs and

leadership activities. As students learned to make purchases in the real world, the importance of education and becoming a lifelong learner was quickly evident! Thanks to all of the community members who made this event a great learning experience for our freshmen.

### **Achieving Individual Goals...**

#### **Class of 2009 Scholarship Record**

Over six million dollars in scholarship money was offered to the members of the Class of 2009. This unbelievable figure is double the amount ever offered to a graduating PHS class. This wonderful accomplishment reflects many individual goals that were set, met, and paid off for our seniors. Hours of academic study, fine arts practices, athletic training, and

college preparation paid off, as goals were attained and past records were smashed! PHS is proud of the class of 2009 and its outstanding accomplishments. We are excited to see how these talented students impact our community in the coming years.

#### **State Championships**

Individual goals were met as the 2009 PHS Boys and Girls Powerlifting Teams excelled in individual and group competition. The first ever girls' competition team won their region and are excited about meeting even higher goals next year. The boys' team regained their state championship, and are training to repeat next year. Goals were also achieved as state championships were won by both the Pirate Boys Cross Country and Boys Soccer teams. Along with the state

championship in soccer, Pirate Dillon Walker was named as the state's top soccer player by the Clarion Ledger and Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Individual goals were also met as the Pirate Band's Percussion Line won their first ever state championship for Indoor Percussion. Congratulations to these students, coaches, and directors on these outstanding achievements.

### **Positively Impacting a Global Society...**

#### **Academics Reach Out at PHS**

Pearl High School students continued to raise the bar of academic achievement during the 2008-2009 school year. With combined test scores ranking Pearl High as one of the top performing high schools in the state, PHS students were honored for their academic achievements at Mid Year Recognition, Awards Night, and Class Day Ceremonies. But not content to merely learn from a book, PHS teachers and students truly reached out to learn from and impact the outside community. For example, Spanish III students advertised and actually taught night Spanish lessons to adults

in our community during the spring semester. Technology courses continued to advance at PHS. Mrs. Carter's business students continued to interact with students across the globe and learn from each other. History students held a Time Tunnel night, where community members were invited in for a living history lesson. Students dressed up and presented information about important figures in history. The search for academic excellence is moving forward at PHS, and it is doing so by reaching out and learning in new and exciting ways.



## PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.pearl.k12.ms.us](http://www.pearl.k12.ms.us)

*It's a Great Day  
To Be a Pirate!*



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