



PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Strategic News

*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.*

## Students of the Year



**Pearl Schools Welcome New Superintendent**

Raymond Morgigno officially took the helm of Pearl Public Schools on July 1, 2010. As a Pearl graduate and resident of the community, Mr. Morgigno has a vested interest in navigating the district toward many more successful endeavors.

Each year Rankin County Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Student of the Year program in which students from each of Pearl's schools are recognized. These students are chosen because they have exhibited superior academic, as well as, leadership qualities. These are just a few of the outstanding students who attend Pearl Public Schools.

These students were recognized at the May 10th meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Each honoree was

presented with a gift Berry Good Frozen certificate to either Bop's Yogurt. Frozen Yogurt or Berry



Pictured: (First Row L-R) Ajia Davis; Tayler Sears; Yebin Park; Robert Beacham; (Second Row L-R) Tanner Phillips; Lillian Bryant; Jake Neal; Ariel Collins; Braddon Williams; (Third Row) Former Superintendent John G. Ladner, Ed.D.

## Message from the Board of Trustees

The Pearl Public School District 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 do a good job. Please take time to read this current newsletter and stand with us in support of our children.



# Pearl High School

## Reality Fair

In November of the 2009-2010 school year members of the Pearl community volunteered their time to provide their expertise with ninth grade students concerning finances in the real world. Ninth grade students completed interest inventories in order to determine their careers. They were assigned entry level salaries based on their career choice. Students who excelled academically or participated in extracurricular activities earned increases in their pay. During the tour of the reality fair, students made purchases of vehicles, homes, insurance, food, entertainment, etc. to de-



Community volunteers gather to provide ninth graders with real-world experiences.

termine if their income would support the lifestyle they envisioned. Many students learned the value of obtaining a strong

education and how it would lead to the careers and lifestyles they desired.



Presenters assist students in their quest for continuing education.

## College Fair

The counselor's office at Pearl High School organized the college day fair in which every major college in Mississippi sent recruiters to Pearl High School to talk with our students. Students were introduced to the admission policies, tuition, and scholarship opportunities that were offered by these institutions.

## 100 People: A Pearl Portrait

This is a community project that began with a vision of the art teachers at Pearl High School. Vicky Miley and Rebecca Wilkinson became acquainted with the international project called 100 PEOPLE: A WORLD PORTRAIT, while viewing a presentation by a high school's visual art department in New Orleans at the National Art Education Association's annual art educator's convention in 2007. At that time they started looking into the international organization of New York City known as the 100 People Foundation which was formed in 2005.

In writing about the history of this organization (100 Peo. Found.) and its initial idea, Carolyn Jones, researched and found that this organization began with a question "What do we really know about the people with whom we share this planet and why should we care about them, or more to the point, how do we express our care?" They recognized that as a result of looking at the world population as a village of 100 people, they could better come to know our world neighbors. We could gain greater understanding of some of the issues that affect the planet we all share, and we could learn more about what it means to be a global citizen.

In Pearl, Mississippi, a population of people live here who are very community minded and who have been earnestly spending much of their lives to make this a better place to live. The art department at Pearl High School has identified 100 such people, interviewed them and has created

unique portraits of these individuals. Last spring Mrs. Miley and Mrs. Wilkinson requested and received a \$500 grant from the Pearl Education Foundation to help them and their students with creating these 100 portraits in various media. Much planning took place over the summer and interviews began in September of 2009.

During October and November, advanced art students at Pearl High School began working on the portraits of their selected honorees. Various media was used, from charcoal drawing, to painted stencils, to clay busts in 3D, to photography. Many of the advanced students are in their second and third years of art in high school. Each brings his/her own skills, techniques, and ideas to their special artistic representation of the 100 well-respected individuals in Pearl. Student in Mrs. Miley's Art II classes and Ceramics I class, Mrs. Wilkinson's Drawing and Painting class, and Mrs. Lee's Advanced



**Linda Ward, one of the chosen 100, and artist Jordin Collins, Class of 2012, are pictured next to Jordin's artwork.**

Photography class each created a unique work of art.

A special art exhibition and celebration took place on December 3, 2009, at the Pearl Public Library. The 100 adult honorees and the Pearl High School art students were recognized at 6:00 on this evening. The art students unveiled their portraits to the world. A special reception was provided by the Pearl Ed. Foundation and the PTO parents of PHS. Family and friends came to celebrate and to support both honorees and artists.

A selected group of the art students' essays and portraits were sent to the *100 People: A World Portrait Project*, in hopes that some of our unique, and wonderful Pearl citizens, and their stories and lives will be featured in the top 100 people of the world. One thing that all of these honorees have in common is a special place in their hearts for a unique city in Mississippi, called Pearl.

# Pearl Jr. High

Students, faculty and staff at Pearl Junior High continue to live out the mission of the district through rigorous curriculum and extracurricular activities. During our end of the year awards ceremony, over 500 students received recognition for outstanding academic achievement, citizenship, and community service. These recognitions exemplify the commitment that students, faculty, and staff have for the process required to prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieve individual goals and positively impact a global society. In keeping with our theme that everyone contributes to the success of our students, we believe...it takes a village.

## MATH DEPARTMENT

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade math department has lived the mission by holding 7 sessions of "Target Time" after school enrichment to assist students in meeting their individual goals of scoring Advanced on the MCT2. Students were divided into groups that rotated to different classrooms throughout each session. During rotations, students completed various activities designed by their teachers to be both fun and challenging.



Activities were based on areas of need determined from Spring MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) scores. Students completed the sessions feeling more confident in their math abilities.

The Algebra I class conducted an experiment relating the speed of a marble to its height of release. Students collected data using pipe insulation, marbles and cell phones; graphed the data in a scatter plot; found the equation that described the relationship between the two variables involved; and predicted the speed of the marble for other heights of release. The curiosity created by this experiment and the spirit of exploration motivated students to continue learning even after they graduate. Students were also able to connect the concept of data analysis

with its use in the real-world and enjoyed working together to achieve a common goal.

Four students competed in the MCTM (Mississippi Council for Teachers of Mathematics) Math Tournament held at Hinds Community College in March. Andrew Downs and Joseph Hanes won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade school category, while Kaitlin Shaver and Drew LaFontaine won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade school category. Joseph Hanes also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> as an individual, which qualified him to advance to the state competition held at Holmes Community College.

## LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

In order to grow professionally and to ensure academic growth for students, the Language Arts teachers set goals for themselves and their students. The English and Reading teachers participated in the Writing Thinking Institute, which is part of the National Writing Project. This was an excellent opportunity for our teachers to learn new strategies to bring back to the classroom to meet the students' individual needs. Student-specific data from MAP testing was used to determine reading levels, and students' academic strengths and weaknesses. The results received from that data helped teachers plan differentiated instruction to ensure the success of their students. This data also helped teachers plan and implement after-school and Saturday programs, where teachers and students worked toward achieving the goal of being the best that they can be.



## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Our students are preparing to impact a global society through a rigorous study of the fields of civics, history, geography, and economics. Students benefitted from guest speakers who provided them with wonderful examples of lifelong learning. Students were required to set individual short and long term goals and strived to meet those goals.



Students were encouraged to explore careers in which social studies is required. Students impacted a global society by interviewing Mississippi veterans and recording those interviews for preservation by the Department of Archives. Students who expressed an interest in pursuing careers in the fields of architecture, construction, or carpentry explored architecture and building techniques from different historical periods. The Social Studies Department's continued its commitment to fostering individual goal setting, lifelong learning, and encouraging students to impact a global society through their study in the rigorous curriculum in the social studies areas.

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science department engaged students by utilizing small group activities with each unit of study. This allowed students to interact as part of a group, work with others to solve problems, give and receive positive critiques, learn to appreciate the strengths of others, and become a more productive and positive part of their classroom society. The PJH Nature Club planned and completed school beautification projects, learned about native plants and ecosystems, and produced hand-made items for fundraisers that support community activities such as Pearl Day at Pearl Summer Fest.

With the support and assistance of parents, the science teachers sponsored field trips to the zoo and natural science museum. Students observed animals and related their observations to the unit that included animal adaptations. The teachers also sponsored a trip to the local theatre to see the Disney film *Oceans*. A portion of the entry fee for the group was donated to an organization that supports the protection of at-risk coral reefs.

In addition, teachers supported the students in their daily endeavors, encouraging them to understand their personal purpose and worth through opportunities to set goals and be successful in class. Teachers shared their goals for the students' mastery success with each class and challenged the students to meet their expectations. Students were given verbal praise, extra credit, or other rewards when they reached personal and classroom goals for improvement and success. The science teachers conducted Super Scientists, an MCT2 review activity, after-school and on Saturdays for a few weeks before the test. Student activities included review using Jeopardy and other



games. They were provided with pizza, other snacks, and time for fun and fellowship. In addition, the teachers modeled the concept of being a lifelong learner by taking graduate classes toward achieving masters degrees, applying for and achieving National Board Certification or Recertification, and attending the Mississippi Science Teachers' Association Conference in the fall.

### SPECIAL SERVICES

This year, students set individual goals to maintain passing grades. Several students were recognized and received Citizenship Awards at the end of year awards ceremony. Two students scored above grade level on the spring 2010 MAP test in mathematics. One student excelled by achieving 1<sup>st</sup> chair in the trombone section twice. Students visited the livestock building near the Jackson fairgrounds to participate in the Horses for Handicap. Students were able to experience some of our state's agricultural contributions, ride horses and actually have hands-on experiences with different animals through the generous help of local

volunteers. The opportunity to use their hands and help other students who were not as mobile demonstrated that these PJH students were living the mission by impacting a global society. Students experienced improved confidence levels. These 7<sup>th</sup> graders took a field trip to the Jackson Zoo and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. The students explored the exhibits, read about the animals in their habitats and enjoyed walking on the nature trails. These field trips afford students the opportunity to experience lifelong learning. To enhance professional growth, several teachers visited Northwest Middle School to observe a reading program (Lexia) thought to help struggling readers. As a result of this visit, this computer-based instructional program is being offered to the students beginning in the fall of 2010.

### ELECTIVES DEPARTMENT

Career Discovery motivates students to develop and exhibit unique ideas and talents. It gives them the tools to make life choices that lead to lasting careers and ultimate happiness. The Career Discovery instructors provide students with essential real-world skills and hands-on activities. Students engage in activities that foster teamwork, a positive attitude, and concentration. It is through these activities that each student prepares to become a lifelong learner and continues the journey of achieving individual goals. Career Discovery students are continually encouraged to become ethical leaders who enjoy meaningful lives and positively impact a global society through careers they will love and enjoy for a lifetime.

Computer Discovery students learned to use Microsoft Office. PowerPoint is one program that gives students the unique opportunity to

present information about themselves or something they have learned. Students were not only challenged by different projects, but were also asked to use creative thinking to develop designs and ideas for these projects. One project had students "fast forward" 10 years into their lives. This seemed so far away and was somewhat hard for students to imagine. By creating a timeline to include milestones, students were better able to judge the time. Students created slides demonstrating their goals for education, career, family, hobbies, and travel. This project helped students not only think about careers, but also allowed them see what steps

are required to attain these goals in work and pleasure.

Students participating in band had many performance opportunities during the 2009-2010 school year. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band performed a Christmas

Concert, performed in the Pearl Christmas Parade, played for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students for recruiting, and did a Spring Concert for parents and family. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade band performed a Christmas concert and in the Christmas parade, played for 5<sup>th</sup> grade recruiting, and played in the Spring Concert. In addition, they performed at the South Mississippi Band Festival at Jones Jr. College and received superior ratings in concert and sight reading. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band performed at three of the Junior High football games held at Pearl High School. In addition, they were invited to perform with the Pearl High School Pirate Band at the last home game of the season. At Christmas, they performed a Christmas concert, marched in the Pearl Christmas Parade and Mississippi State Hospital Parade.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band attended the South Mississippi Band Festival and received Superior ratings. They also performed in the Spring Concert with the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands.





# Pearl Upper Elementary

Over the past school year, the teachers and administrators at Pearl Upper have implemented the strategic plan daily through various activities, events and lessons. The strategic plan has provided the clear direction to support the outstanding academic achievement of our students. Students gain the tools necessary to become successful learners.

Our school strives to increase academic achievement for all our students by



meaningfully and strategically engaging our families in student learning. We kept parents informed by publishing weekly classroom newsletters and a monthly school-wide newsletter, *Pirate Treasures*, which is available on the school website. We also added a new school website with classroom web pages. Some opportunities for parental involvement offered throughout the year included Family Math Night, Two Days in Space, Open House, Report Card Conferences, Parent Day at the Book Fair, Thanksgiving Luncheon, National



Anthem Project, MCT Pep Rally and quarterly PTO Meetings.

Pearl Upper partnered with various individuals, businesses and organizations, such as Bop's Old

Fashioned Ice-Cream, Bancorp South, Kiwanis Club of Pearl, Keep Pearl Beautiful, Tinseltown, PriorityOne Bank and the City of Pearl, to promote a positive learning environment.

Faculty meeting agendas were broken into components based on Pearl Public School's mission statement: becoming a lifelong learner, achieving individual goals and impacting a global society. Teachers and students recite the mission statement together every morning.

In an effort to support and contribute to the achievement of our strategic objectives and mission, various programs and strategies were implemented. Here are just a few . . .

## Prepare each student to become a lifelong learner

- ★ Battle of the Books – Students read books and shared their knowledge of the books.
- ★ Pottery Lessons - Children are empowered by expressing their personal visions in clay.
- ★ Professional Learning Communities and Pod meetings
- ★ Reject All Tobacco
- ★ Student Council
- ★ Beta Club
- ★ Science Club
- ★ Let's Go Walkin' Mississippi
- ★ Red Ribbon Week
- ★ Veteran's Day Observance



## Program

- ★ Read Across America Day **Achieve individual goals**
- ★ Accelerated Reader – Students read, took tests, and earned points to receive AR tags. Students who earned 200 or more points went on a special field trip at the end of the year.
- ★ Family Math Night – Teachers provided students and their parents with hands-on math activities in an effort to improve student math scores and encourage critical thinking.
- ★ Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing – This assessment tool monitored student progress and provided data used to guide instructional decisions for each individual students learning plan.
- ★ Language Arts Remediation
- ★ Math Remediation
- ★ Reading Fair Competition
- ★ Technology – All classrooms have been equipped with

## SMARTboards and ELMOs.

## Positively impact a global society

- ★ Motivational Speakers for students and staff
- Mark McLeod left teachers inspired by his enthusiastic and encouraging presentation.



Melvin Adams encouraged students to believe in themselves and always do their best.

- ★ Great American Clean Up
- ★ Arbor Day Celebration
- ★ *Go Green, Stay Green* Recycling Program



# Northside Elementary

This year students at Northside Elementary School were able to explore the mission statement and deepen their understanding of becoming lifelong learners, achieving individual goals, and positively impacting a global society through various learning activities.

Teachers continued their lifelong learning through the pursuit of National Board Certification, technology trainings, and listening and interacting with guest speakers, such as Mark McCloud.



*Science Fun Night*



*Boom Town*



*Future Track Stars*



*Weather Watchers*



*Exploring other Cultures*

# Pearl Lower Elementary



Mrs. Estes's class had the opportunity to write to their class hero, a soldier in Iraq. The student shared letters with him and the men in his platoon. The students were later surprised with a visit from their class hero, Mr. Green!

## Career Day

The students were very excited to dream about what they want to be when they grow up.



## EXPERIMENTING on Family Science Night



## Farm Day

was sponsored by PTSO. Students dressed like farmers and experienced life on the farm, by eating roasted corn and seeing farm animals.





# Pearl Parent Teacher Community Resource Center

## Living the *Mission*

What an exciting first year! Pearl Parent Teacher Community Resource Center (PTCRC), is working to assist “each” child within the Pearl community to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society by providing developmental activities, support services, educational materials, and training opportunities.

## Developmental Activities...



Hands-on learning activities occurred during monthly Play Dates and Art Club Days. During two special event days, a Fall Festival/ Health

Fair and a Spring Fling, children, parents, and community members enjoyed lunch, games, art activities, and more!

In March, the 4 year old classes at Claudia’s Childcare and Mt. Elam Preparatory School participated in a pilot testing program. The children were administered the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). The MAP tested the children in the areas of Reading and Math.

## Support Services...

This year, the Pearl Public School District implemented a nationally recognized curriculum program, Parents As Teachers, for families with children ages prenatal through four. This program supported Pearl families and enhanced the healthy development of their children. Our Parents As Teachers educators provided families with



developmental information, materials, and support during bi-monthly visits.

## Educational Materials...

In our *Work Area*, students, parents, teachers, and community members made school projects and educational items using the Center’s paper cutters, poster maker, laminator, binding machine, and Ellison Die Cut machines.

Parents, community members, and teachers also utilized an array of educational materials in our **Lending Library**. Items were checked out, free of charge, on a weekly basis.



## Training Opportunities...

Various events occurred in the PTCRC’s Meeting Room.

- ◆ MSU Extension Services Resource and Referral provided many training opportunities for childcare provider workers to earn contact hours.
- ◆ PPSD held an annual childcare provider banquet
- ◆ Kiwanis Club & ADK Omicron Chapter held meetings
- ◆ Various Parent Support meetings were held
  - ◆ Incredible Years Parent Support Group
  - ◆ Parents of children with Speech and Language Disorders
  - ◆ Parenting skills for infants and toddlers were presented by YMCA
- ◆ S.P.A.R.K. (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) held meetings

# Fine Arts Accomplishments

## Drama

This semester has been busy for the **PHS Drama Department**. In February we performed a musical called *Once Upon a Mattress*, in conjunction with the Choral Music Department. We also went to our State Thespian Convention where our students performed in individual, duet, and group events. We had four students receive superior ratings and be invited to compete on the International level.

In April, we performed *Fools*, a comedy by Neil Simon. We were very fortunate to have Kerry Courtney, a senior at Belhaven University to come direct our spring play. *Fools* was a huge success, and we are all excited about what we learned from Kerry's insight and technique.

The Drama II class performed a children's play at Richland Elementary School. It was well received. The Drama III/IV class performed student-directed one acts. Students acted as directors- choosing plays, auditioning actors, and rehearsing scenes. It was a fun and educational experience for all.

## Art

This has been a wonderful year at Pearl Lower Elementary. We have drawn, painted, cut and glued some fun stuff. We even added an

enrichment group this year and plan to do so next year. The most enjoyable project this year was the clay. The faces and the excitement of the students were the sweetest things. The students loved the feel of the clay and molding it into shapes. They were surprised at what happened



when the clay dried and were curious as to what would be on the inside. I would like to take this time to thank everyone for bringing in the Box Tops for Education. With the return we got from this we were able to buy the clay and other n e e d e d material. Thank you for all your support and have a great summer.

## Music

The First Grade Singers went on a field trip to sing for the residents at Wisteria Gardens and for parents and customers at Miskelly's. After the performance, the kids each donated a dollar to the charity Big Brother, Big Sister and rode the



carousel. On Friday, April 23, the choir sang the National Anthem for the Mississippi Braves game.

Northside Singers presented a Patriotic Concert in the Rotunda of the State Capitol on April 13<sup>th</sup>. After the concert, they toured the building and learned about Mississippi State History. The Singers also visited the Eudora Welty House and Museum and sang a few songs in the garden. They were very excited to be present for a celebration of Miss Welty's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday and enjoyed cake and lemonade.

Pearl Chamber Singers performed for the Governor's Excellence in the Arts Award Ceremony. Students participated in the Mississippi American Choral Directors Association All State Honor Choir and All State Women's Choir. All groups had a successful year at district and state choral festivals.



# State Championships won in 2009 - 2010



**Pearl High School Cross Country won the 5A State Championship in November, 2009.**



**Pearl High School Dance Team won the 5A State Championship in Jazz Division in December, 2009.**



**Pearl Pirate Band won the 5A State Championship in October, 2009.**



**Pearl High School Boys' Powerlifting won the 5A State Championship in April, 2010.**



**Pearl High School Boys' Track and Field won the 5A State Championship in May, 2010.**



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*It's a Great Day to be a Pirate!*

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