

Perkins Board of Education Gains Two New Members

With the recent resignation of long time Board member Chris Smith, and relatively new board member, D.J. Young, the Perkins Board of Education found itself needing to appoint two new board members over the past month. The Board would like to thank Mr. Smith and Mr. Young for the dedication to the youth of our community and wish them well in their new endeavors.

Mr. John Reddaway, a process excellence manager with Tenneco, was appointed to fill the spot formerly held by Mr. Smith. Mr. Reddaway has been a long time resident and advocate of the Perkins School District. He has served as a board member and President of the Athletic Boosters. He has a bachelors' degree from Bowling Green State University in Technology.



Mr. John Reddaway

Mr. Matthew Kosior was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. D.J. Young. Mr. Kosior is a Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Color Inc. in Sandusky. Matthew has a MBA in finance from Case Western Reserve University as well as a bachelors' degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry. He is active in the American Chemical Society, Society of Plastic Engineers, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and St. Mary's Church. Mr. Kosior has been a Perkins resident for the past sixteen years and has two daughters attending the school district.



Mr. Matthew Kosior

Perkins State of our Schools Meeting

On Wednesday, September 30th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Perkins High School cafeteria, Jim Gunner, Superintendent of Schools, and other district personnel will provide an update on the Perkins Local School District to our community. All members of the Perkins community are invited to learn more about the current status of the school district. A presentation by district personnel will be followed by a public question and answer session.

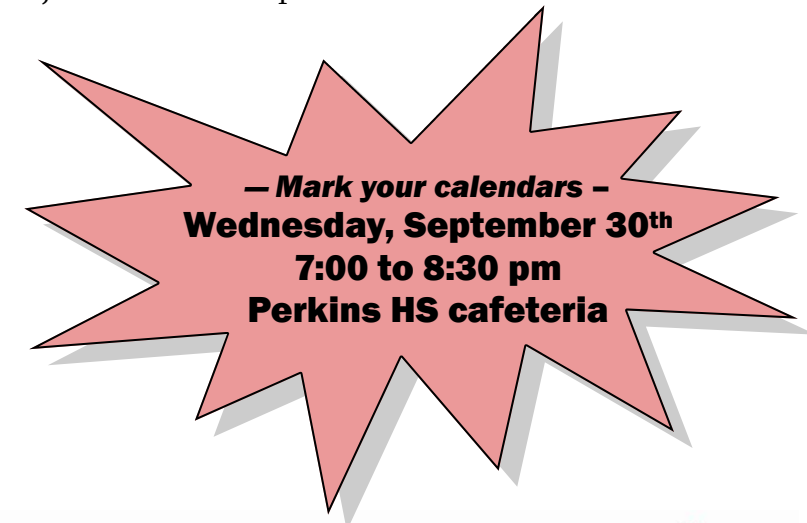
The 2009-10 school year began with many new initiatives within the Perkins district. Perkins community members should plan to attend to learn more about:

- ◆ Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (or STEM) grant and what it will mean for the students of our district. What are 21st Century Skills and why are they important? Can we focus on STEM without ignoring the humanities and the arts?
- ◆ One-to-One Laptop initiative in grades 6 through 12. Why issue laptops to students? What do we hope to gain? How is it going so far?
- ◆ A longer school year for students. Every building added approximately 30 minutes to their day. How is it being used? What will the benefit be for students and teachers? What are the concerns?
- ◆ Open Enrollment grows during its second year. How many students have we accepted? Why are we accepting students from other districts? Have we had any problems?
- ◆ The "Little Pirates" program was implemented to help our youngest students get off to a good

start at school. How many students are enrolled? What's the initial reaction to the program?

- ◆ The school district added Chinese language and culture instruction at both Meadowlawn and Briar. How did this come about? What is the future for foreign language instruction in the district?
- ◆ Funding for Ohio Schools continues to be troublesome for districts all across the state. What is our financial condition? Can we expect a levy soon?
- ◆ The School Facilities Commission gave a report to the Board of Education last year. What ever became of that report? Are we thinking of new facilities?
- ◆ I notice the wind turbines are running again. What is the latest update on our turbine project? How does the delay affect our energy savings commitment with Honeywell?

The Board of Education, administration, teachers and staff at Perkins School District hope that you can join us for this important informational event.



Guanyu “Kevin” Wu arrives to teach at Meadowlawn

Guanyu, or his American name, “Kevin”, Wu arrived in early August to our community as a guest teacher from China. Kevin will teach Chinese language and culture to the students at Meadowlawn this year. Students will learn beginning Mandarin Chinese words and letters, as well as calligraphy and the art of Chinese macramé. Mr. Wu has taught a variety of English classes for the past four years in China before coming to the Perkins community. Kevin is a graduate of Heilongjiang University with dual majors in English Language and Literature and Elementary Education. He enjoys outdoor activities and was a participant in the Harbin College track team running the 4x400 relay event. He has also taught himself beginning Japanese as a third language.

Xiaosu “Cherry” Tang starts at Briar Middle School

Xiaosu, or her American name, “Cherry”, Tang arrived in early August in the Perkins community as a guest teacher from China. Cherry will teach Chinese language and culture to the students at Briar Middle School this year. Students will learn beginning Chinese language and experience the culture of Chinese cooking. Mrs. Tang hopes to teach students how to make their own Chinese dumplings. Cherry has taught English over the past three years at all levels including the University level throughout China. Mrs. Tang graduated from Sichuan Teachers University with a degree in English Teaching. She is married and the proud mother of a 9-year old daughter who she regularly communicates with through the use of the Internet.

Family Getaway and Fundraiser at Kalahari is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2009!

Room cost is \$124. Perkins Schools earn \$10 for each room reserved. Reservations must be made by calling 877-KALAHARI (525-2427) on or before **Sunday, October 25, 2009**. Please ask for the Perkins Schools



Wind Turbines Back Up

If you have driven by Perkins High School recently you will have noticed that the three wind turbines are back up and running. Recently, the district gave approval for the installation of 4.8m blades, updated software and control systems to be installed on the Perkins wind turbines. The 4.8m blades are a temporary solution to help us assess and test the new software and control systems added for safety. The 4.8m blades will begin their operation at 70-75% capacity. We will then go through the conservative process of running the blades for two to four weeks at 70-75% capacity while we gather data and observe their response to the new software control systems. If successful at 70-75% capacity, the turbines will then be run at 80-85% for two to four weeks, then at 90-95%, and finally at 100%. During any major events at the football field and track the turbines will remain locked in the off position until all testing is complete.

Newly designed 6m blades are in final testing against new international standards for the construction of wind turbine blades. As soon as the newly designed 6m blades are fully tested and ready, the Perkins turbines will be taken down once again. The existing 4.8m blades will be removed and replaced with newly tested and certified 6m blades. The same very conservative testing will be done starting at 70-75% and worked up to finally 100%. Overall, we are looking at several months before the final 6m blades are installed, tested, and operational at 100%.

Student 1-to-1 Laptop Distribution

During the weeks of August 24th and 31st over 1,250 laptops were distributed to every student in grades seven to twelve. Perkins middle and high school students were issued a Macbook laptop computer to enhance their educational experiences. With this technology in the hands of every student, teachers will be able to access and distribute more up-to-date curriculum through the Internet. Students will be expected to focus on higher order thinking skills essential to the 21st Century. We expect that our students will show improvement in creativity, collaboration, and problem solving skills by having access to the latest technology 24-hours a day, seven days a week. By adding the laptop technology we are preparing our students for their future.

Perkins is one of over 1,500 schools nationwide that have entered the electronic age by providing laptops to all students in one or more grade levels. The early research on 1-to-1 laptop projects shows promising results. Students are more engaged in their learning. Student attendance rates at school improve and discipline issues decline. There are some early indications in research that students begin to think and function with increased higher-order thinking skills. To date, the research does not show an improvement in standardized test scores. While scores on the Ohio Achievement and Ohio Graduation Tests are important benchmarks for our students and district, we believe that our students will require more to be ready for entrance into the technology rich 21st Century careers. Watch for more updates as we continue to assess this innovative program in Perkins.



Attention Parents and All School Volunteers:

We are asking all parents and community members with background checks more than five years old who wish to continue to volunteer at our buildings and/or accompany a child on a field trip to update their BCII background checks for the 2009-10 school year. We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for volunteering on behalf of our students!

With the Flu, What are Schools to Do?

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is no longer advocating school closure as a containment mechanism. Rather, the CDC’s position is that the decision to dismiss students should be made locally and should balance the goal of reducing the spread of the virus influenza with the goal of minimizing the social disruption and safety risks to children sometimes associated with school dismissal. The CDC does caution that the overall impact of the 2009 H1N1 may be greater than last spring, and school dismissals may be warranted, depending on the disease burden and other conditions. In other words, this is a “wait and see” issue and, hopefully, we will not be seeing a surge in health-related issues.

To stay current with the latest information. These Web sites are updated regularly with new information about H1N1 and with practical information about what schools and families can do now to prevent illness:

- [Ohio Department of Health \(ODH\)](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/phs_emergency/swineflu.aspx)
- [Centers for Disease Control](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/)
- [ODE Web site on H1N1](http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=431&Content=73776)

The Perkins Local School District will make every effort to stay open should there be cases of the flu in our district. Students and Staff with signs of the flu will be sent home with directions to stay home until they have no flu symptoms for 24 hours. Any decision to close a school or the entire school district will be made only in consultation with local health officials, and will only be done if absolutely necessary.