



SUMMER 2016

connect

... with Portage Township Schools

We Are Portage Proud

Our School Corporation is here to serve.

Inside this issue

- Portage Proud.....page 1
- R. Smith Inspires..... page 2
- Vertical Articulation... page 2
- Bison-ennial page 3
- Helping Hand page 3
- Porta-Botz..... page 4
- Esprit de Corps page 4
- Calendar page 5
- Registration page 6
- Immunization..... page 6
- Follow Us..... page 6

PTS is an "A" rated district

Our Mission is educating, empowering, and inspiring excellence.



Working together we can achieve anything. PTS is a committed group of educational professionals that ensures that every child under our care will be supported to reach his/her full potential. Learning is our business and our incredible staff takes that very seriously

Last year we integrated 1:1 technology in grades 6-9. This coming year we will be 1:1 in grades 6-10 as well as improving the ratio of technology in all the other grades. Yet, technology by itself is not the answer. It is the skills of our committed teachers that make the greater difference.

There is far too much required testing. To remedy that situation we will fully implement NWEA testing this coming year. We like the data that it provides to help us improve the learning that happens in the classroom. It is a national test so we can compare our students to others around the country. The parent reports are excellent so we can show the true growth of every child. This allows us to have fewer tests. We are still required by the state to take the ISTEP+, but its use is diminished in comparison.

We are committed to working our Strategic Plan. PTS will create 1) a culture of high achievement; 2) a culture of technological innovation; 3) a culture of collaboration and acceptance in a safe and secure learning environment; 4) PTS will be nationally recognized.

Our world is changing rapidly and to prepare our students for their future we need to think and do some things differently. So, we are working with the strategies of Whole-Brain

Teaching, Project-Based Learning, Flipped Classrooms, Blended Learning and Integrated Content. This supports our students with higher levels of learning with our teachers as the "personal coach" who helps each child individually.

Our school corporation is here to serve. We love our community and focus on the success of all our students. We have partnerships with the city, area colleges, and many of our local businesses. We ensure that every child has a personal relationship with school adults. We tailor instruction while we encourage our students to innovate and experiment without the fear of failure. We resonate as a school

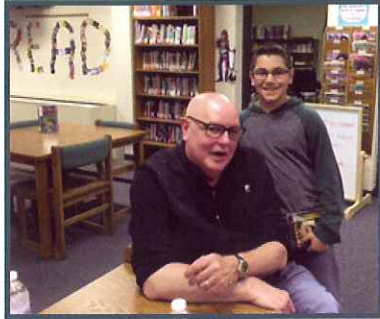
corporation moving forward while providing the skills for each child's future. We are Portage Proud!

-Dr. Richard Weigel, Portage Township Schools Superintendent



"Learning is our business and our incredible staff takes that very seriously."

Portage Township Schools is educating Portage Township Schools



Author, Roland Smith inspires future writers at Fegely Middle School

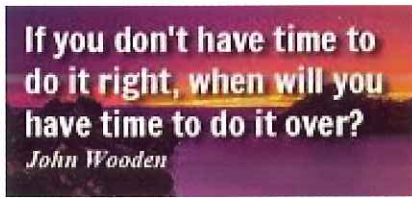
How do you persuade a teenager to read

...and even become a novelist?

By reading one of Roland Smith's adventure novels at school and hearing his personal journey through a compelling school assembly. Fegely Middle School hosted author Roland Smith May 16 after all students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade read one of his novels followed by innovative lessons. And the bonus? Students could get their Roland Smith books autographed!



Four happy judges stand with the winners of Jones' Declaration: (left to right): Isaac Alic, Emerson Ross, Elmore Mundell, Gizelle Valdez, Laila Ibrahim, Kayla Malec.



YOU have a future in public speaking!

Maybe so or maybe not, but by practicing and perfecting fluency and expression helps a young person in all their communication no matter their future vocation. In May, students at Jones and Saylor Elementary schools prepare individual declamations, or monologues. They memorize them and then present to their classmates, with semi-finalists chosen for a schoolwide competition on Declamation Day.



Say it at Saylor! Winners of Saylor's Declamation are (left to right): 4th graders Ashley Polarek and Grace Koebecke; 5th graders Regan Claussen and Makenlie Hamlin.



Teachers from various grade levels in thoughtful conversation working to help PTS educate, empower, and inspire excellence.

Vertical Articulation = No gaps in curricula.

PTS is finishing a year-long district-wide project to create a curriculum map that propels students from beginning concepts to higher depths of knowledge. Based on state standards, teachers have collaborated on each subject at each grade level to meet PTS Goal #1 creating a culture of high achievement.

There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.

~Nelson Mandela



In October, Portage High School publications advisor Melissa Deavers-Lowie receives the Sengenberger Advisor of the Year Award from Indiana High School Publications Association with members of her newspaper and yearbook staffs. Pictured far left is Lydia Gerike who received the title of Indiana Student Journalist of the Year and represented Indiana at the National High School Journalism Convention in Los Angeles this past April.

empowering, and inspiring excellence. Schools is an "A" district.



PTS celebrates Indiana's "Bison-ennial"

After researching the history and ecology of our unique piece of Indiana here in Portage Township, Team Bison (some very talented Portage High School artists), began their work on our 5 foot fiberglass bison. Many dedicated hours during and after school went into the images conveying the spirit of Portage Township displayed on our bison. The 2016 Bison-ennial Public Art Project is in partnership with Indiana Association of United Ways and the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, the United Way of Porter County and Prompt Ambulance. The name of our bison is "Appa" after a student body vote at PHS. Now, we hope the votes at the Indiana State Fair this August will be YES as Appa competes with bison from around the state.



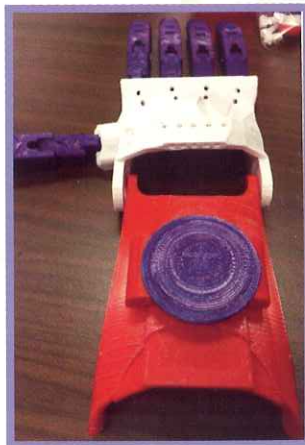
Team Bison is delighted to unveil "Appa" the artistically enhanced bison who will represent Portage Township at the Indiana State Fair this August in celebration of our state's "Bison-ennial".

PHS's fiberglass bison is designed, painted, and adorned in a myriad of creative images depicting this slice of Indiana. "Appa" will be displayed throughout Porter County and the rest of Indiana as part of the Indiana Association of United Ways' Bison-ennial Public Art initiative.

Time
has a wonderful
way of showing us
what really matters.

Lending a Helping Hand

A prosthetic hand - not your typical science project, but Fegely Middle School students in a pre-engineering program called "Project Lead The Way" were up for the challenge. For a fellow student who is missing all of the digits on one hand, students went to work with the oversight of Michael DePasquale, PTS Director of Technology Integration, and Troy Pawlak, Project Lead the Way teacher.



Fegely Middle School Project Lead the Way students lend a helping hand, literally.

The project took more than a month to complete. Measurements were taken of the student's hand and students were given math problems to figure in order to get correct measurements and create the hand to the proper scale. The student's mother and occupational therapist gave input for the prosthetic hand to make sure that all of the necessary details were present and available to the students. Using a 3-D printer borrowed from the high school, printing all 30 parts of the hand took about 17 hours. Once the prosthetic hand was printed, then it was assembled considering the tendons and muscle aspect of the hand. Fegely students found a way to lend a helping hand through this unusual science project and will likely always remember that technology can touch lives and engineering is all about making our world better. This is Project-Based Learning in action, and is one example of how to meet PTS Goal #2 of creating a culture of technology innovation.



Semi-State Champion PHS Wrestling Team



Junior shot putter Victoria Farley wins her second consecutive State Championship with a throw of 46'11.75"

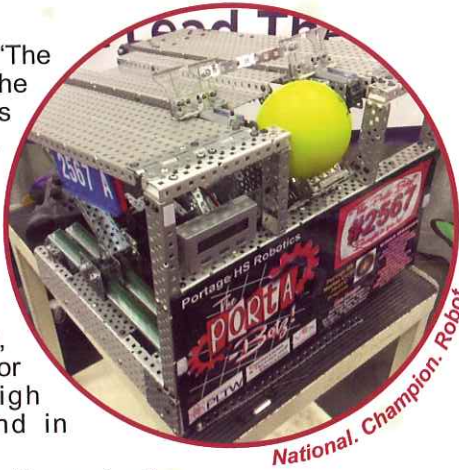


After winning as Open Division National Champions at the US Open Robotics National Championship in Iowa, the Portage High School Robotics Team, "The Porta-Botz!" competed in Kentucky in the VEX World Robotics Championships where they received the World "Create" Award.



"The Porta-Botz!"

Portage HS Robotics team "The Porta-Botz!" competed in the VEX World Robotics Championships in Louisville, Kentucky. 500 High School teams from over 30 countries were in their division. The team, led by PHS Teacher John Kappes and represented by students Zach Hughes, Sanja Kirova, Brendan Dilbeck and Connor Edwards, set season-high scores and finished 42nd in qualifying rounds.



National Champion Robot.

The Porta-Botz! were honored to receive the World "Create" Award which recognizes the team with the most creative and unique solution to the robotics challenge with a well-documented approach using the engineering design process. The award also recognizes a creative game-play strategy, overall teamwork and quality interview with judges. In all, 1,075 robotics teams competed from all levels of education, Elementary through College, which set a Guinness World Record for the largest robotics competition. Thank you, Porta-Botz!, for helping PTS meet Goal #4 of becoming nationally recognized.



Indiana State School Music Association, Inc. Proudly Presents the 2015-2016 All-Music Award to Portage Total Department

The Indiana State School Music Association has bestowed the All-Music Award for 2015-2016 upon Portage High School's band, choir, and orchestra. This is the fourth consecutive year that Portage has earned this prestigious distinction. Congratulations to all our hard working secondary school musicians, directors, and supporting volunteers.

Esprit de Corps

Esprit de Corps /e.sprɛ də kɔːr/ noun is defined as the pride and honor shared by the members of a group. Our school community can be very proud that our Willowcreek Middle School 8th grade music students were selected out of all the schools at the Music in the Parks Festival at Six Flags Great America to win the 'Esprit de Corps' award. This award is based on the students' behavior, attitude, and overall presence throughout the contest and day in the park. Looking for expressions of respect, kindness, loyalty, patience, following directions, our students wowed the judges.

PTS strives to educate the whole student, not just in the academic areas, but also how to be contributing members of society. Every day we look to our PTS Core Values to guide our

students on how to act - no matter where we are, who we are around, and what we are doing. When we take our students outside of the Portage school walls, we have the opportunity to see how the students take hold of these values and showcase what we are encouraging here in Portage - behaving honorably. This is at the heart of PTS



Goal #3, creating a culture of collaboration and acceptance in a safe and secure learning environment.

Excellence is to be strived for in academics and music, however, excellence in our Core Values are basic to education. Congrats to our music students for demonstrating these honorable qualities that often go unsung: Esprit de Corps!



Portage Township Schools Corporation 2016-2017 School Year Calendar

August 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 2016 August**
 12 Orientation Days - HS
 15-16 Teacher Orientation Days
 16 Orientation Day - Gr. K
 16 MS - 1/2 day 6th Gr Orientation
 17 First Student Day ES/MS/HS
- September**
 5 No School-Labor Day
 6 School Resumes
 7 Late Start Wednesday
 22 MS - Progress Reports
- October**
 5 Late Start Wednesday
 5 ES - Progress Reports
 20 MS/HS - End of 1st Grade Period
 21 & 24 No School - Fall Break
 27 MS - Report Cards Distributed
 27 HS - Progress Reports
- November**
 2 Late Start Wednesday
 11 ES - Trimester 1 Ends
 14 ES - No School ES - Records Day
 15 ES - Trimester 2 Begins
 24-25 No School - Thanksgiving Break
 28 School Resumes
- December**
 1 MS - Progress Reports
 7 Late Start Wednesday
 21-Jan 3 No School - Holiday Break
- 2017 January**
 4 School resumes
 13 MS/HS - End of 2nd Grade Period
 16 MS/HS - No School - Records Day
 17 MS/HS - 1st Day of 2nd Semester
 18 ES - Progress Reports
 19 MS/HS - Report Cards Distributed
- February**
 1 Late Start Wednesday
 16 MS - Progress Reports
 16 ES - Second Trimester 2 Ends
 17 & 20 No School - Presidents Holiday (Feb 17 1st snow makeup day)
 21 School Resumes - secondary
 21 ES - No School ES - Records Day
 22 ES - Trimester 3 Begins
- March (ISTEP+ TESTING)**
 16 MS/HS - End of 3rd Grade Period
 17 MS/HS - No School - Records Day
 23 MS - Report Cards Distributed
 27-31 No School - Spring Break
- April (ISTEP+ TESTING)**
 3 Classes Resume
 5 Late Start Wednesday
 12 ES - Progress Reports
 14 No School - April Break - 2nd Snow Makeup
 27 MS - Progress Reports
- May**
 29 Memorial Day - No School
 30 Classes Resume
 31 Last Student Day
- June**
 1 Records Day - No School for Students
 2 ES - Report Cards Mailed Home
 4 PHS Graduation Day

February 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

180 Student Days



Approved - 12/14/2015



connect
our schools AND our community

Portage Township Schools
Administration Center
6240 U.S. Hwy. 6
Portage, Indiana 46368-5057

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 18
PORTAGE, IN 46368

Register for the 2016-2017 School Year

New Students

Register online by going to <https://registration.portage.k12.in.us>. After completing the online registration you must visit one of your children's schools to provide residency (see below) and complete the registration process. To determine which school your child/children will attend, please call our Transportation office at 763-8080 and give them your address for information on what elementary and/or middle school your children will attend. All students in grades 9-12 will attend Portage High School.

Returning Students

Registration information has already been updated. Students who have changed addresses and students entering Grades 3, 6, 9, and 11 must verify residency at the child's school July 26-29. Hours are:

July 26 and 28: 12 PM to 7:30 PM
July 27 and 29: 9 AM to 3 PM

Buildings will also be open August 1-5 from 8:30-11:30; no appointment necessary.

If you have not already updated your student's information, please do so at <https://infoupdate.portage.k12.in.us>

*****ECRWSS*****



2016-2017 School Immunization Requirements

Parents or guardians as you ready your children for the 2016-2017 school year there have been changes to the immunizations required for school entry. The Indiana State Department of Health has added the following requirements:

- One (1) dose of Tdap (Tetanus and Pertussis) and one (1) dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) for students entering 6th grade
- One (1) booster dose of MCV4 (meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine) for students entering 12th grade

The full list of school immunization requirements can be found online at <https://chirp.in.gov> under News or Document Center. These immunizations may be obtained through your family physician, the Porter County Health Department (759-8239) or NorthShore Health Centers (763-8112).

Please turn in the updated record of the immunizations to the school your child will be attending by August 17, 2016. If you are unable to get an appointment prior to the start of the school year, proof of an appointment must be turned in to your child's school by August 17, 2016 for your child to remain in school.



Follow us on Twitter

@dr_weigel
@PortageSports
@portagebands
@JenSass3



www.portage.k12.in.us

