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The Pearl River School District (PRSD)

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PRSD Pulse

February 2022

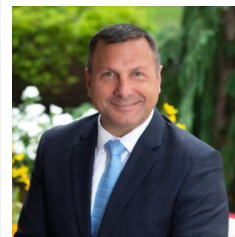


Pearl River School District
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's Update

Hello Pearl River School District Families and Staff,

January 2022 brought the start of a new year – and each of our District's school buildings delved right into a variety of interactive and hands-on lessons, projects and labs that integrated curriculum and creativity.



This February issue of our monthly e-newsletter showcases the wonderful ongoing work of our students, staff and educators as they continue to dedicate themselves to our District's educational philosophy centered on developing character values, while stimulating and expanding a continual learning process.

In anticipation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 17, a number of PRHS students and Pirates United club members worked together to collaborate on a colorful and creative door-decorating activity aiming to promote a culture of acceptance, inclusivity and respect. Grade-wide assemblies and activities throughout the week spread awareness of these efforts and served as reminders of how our District and community must remain united in order to move forward and work together.

Entering another month, we are so excited to continue progressing forward and to share the highlights of each of our school buildings.

Sincerely,

Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed.D.

Front of the Class: School Spotlights



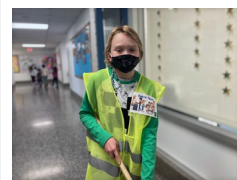
Sixth-graders in Lauren Bell's Mythology PEP (Personalized Education Period) class at Pearl River Middle School presented their projects – designing a self-made Google website showcasing a mythological world of their own. Using what they learned about ancient cultures' gods, goddesses and myths to come up with their own ideas, students crafted an original myth. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Fourth-graders in Melissa Alm and Johannah Mitchell's class at Evans Park Elementary School explored potential and kinetic energy through constructing their own spool racers! Students worked in pairs to investigate the essential question of their latest science unit: where does energy come from and where does energy go? Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



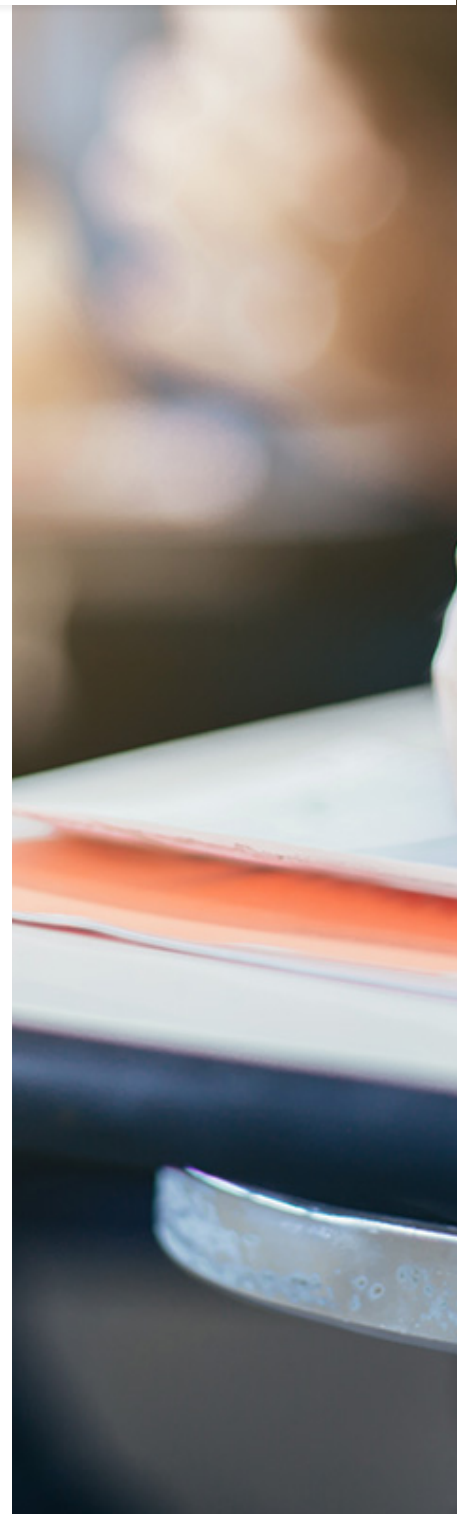
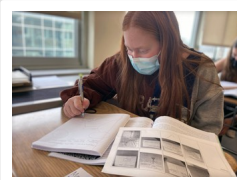
Pearl River High School students enrolled in the course, Tales of Terror and the Supernatural, concluded their deep-dive into the biology of horror by putting together their findings to create final projects that depict a specific decade's horror films – analyzing how the horror stories of that time serve as reflections of society's fears. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Beginning in January, Franklin Avenue Elementary School fourth-graders submitted job applications for important positions within the school building – ranging from Safety Monitor, to Morning Greeter, to Bus Room Monitor, to Green Team, to Library Book Collector, to Morning Announcer. Donning official yellow vests and badges, these students carried out their job responsibilities by doing their best, being kind and showing respect to all members of their school community. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Pearl River High School students enrolled in Emily Perlman's Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature & Composition class engaged in debates spanning a range of topics – each connecting to the novel, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, written by Mark Twain. These AP students delivered compelling arguments debating on two sides, arguing "for" or "against" a motion within a formalized debate structure. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

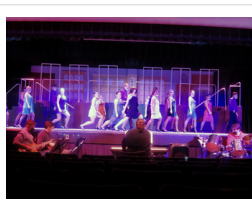
Students in Tracy Holihan's period 7 English 9 class at Pearl River High School discovered various ways to structure their reader's notebooks – working with literacy coach Dana Silver to determine what works best for them as they begin to note theme and characterization in the book "The Necklace" written by Guy de Maupassant. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).





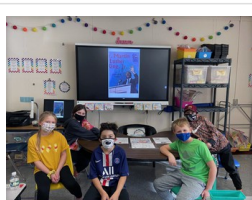
Elementary School completed an interactive, hands-on match box cars science lab – focused on determining where toy cars get their energy from in order to travel distances when colliding with one another! Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Led by physical education teacher Kelsey Rehain, students in Krista Potenza, Kimberly Duggan and Molly McMenamin's third grade classes at Evans Park Elementary School played outdoor space-themed cooperative games with scoops and bean bags! Through playing team activities in a structured environment, these students develop healthy interaction – learning leadership and good sportsmanship while having a blast. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



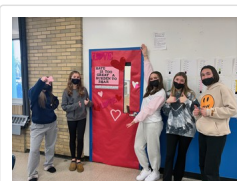
Student-performers excitedly prepared for the premiere of the Pearl River High School Class of 2022's production of Chicago: High School Edition! Taking the stage, singers, dancers and musicians performed renditions of classics like, "All That Jazz" and "Razzle Dazzle" for a live, in-person audience.

Students in Andrea della Cava's period 9 metals class at Pearl River High School learned about the fundamentals of metalsmithing including forming, texturing, cutting, piercing, shaping, filing, buffing and finishing sheet and wire metals such as copper, brass and nickel silver – creating wearable art, mini sculptures and jewelry. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Leading up to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 17, students in fourth grade teacher Karen DiMenna's class at Lincoln Avenue Elementary School paid a visit to classes throughout the school building to share information about the civil rights leader's philosophy, his practices, and his lasting and impactful legacy through read-alouds. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Pearl River High School students and Pirates United club members teamed up to design and decorate classroom doors in anticipation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The doors – adorned with colorful messages of hope, tolerance, love, acceptance and inclusivity – were located throughout the high school in each wing of the building. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).





and Carolyn Murphy. Centered on lessons about various animals, like bears, that adapt in order to survive the cold winter season, students explored how animals gather food and where they find shelter. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Student voice at Evans Park Elementary School was amplified through powerful persuasive writing as part of third-graders' writing unit! Led by long-term substitute teacher Katherine O'Neill, students in Jennifer Coppola's class shared their persuasive writing pieces with the class as part of an exciting writing celebration to top off their unit. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



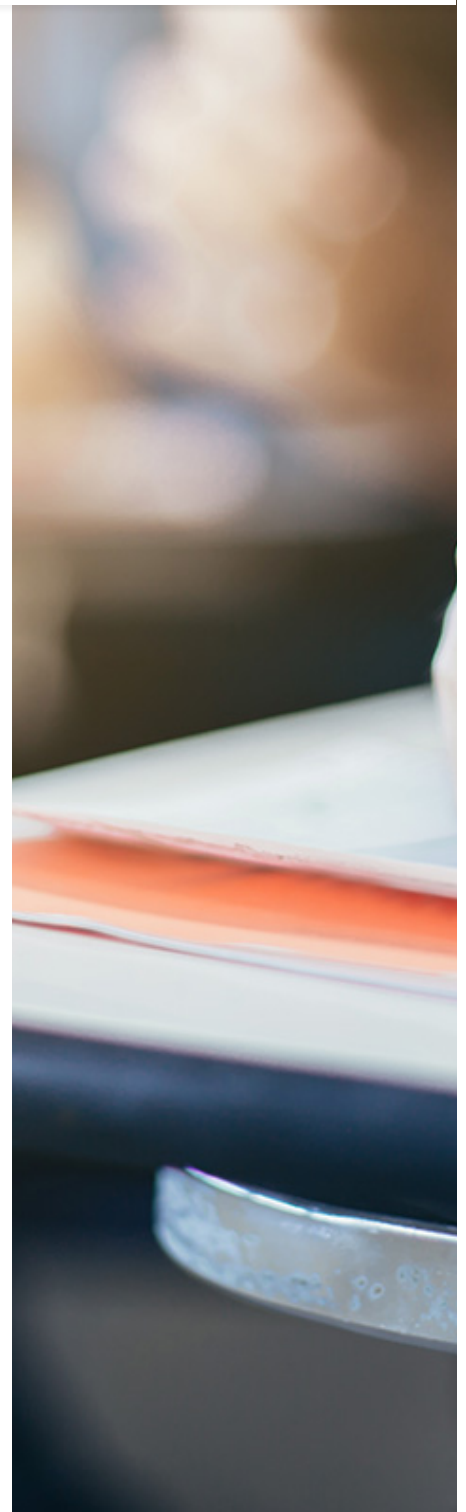
Carefully examining items representing food – ranging from paper clips, to rubber bands, to marbles, to macaroni – seventh-graders in Rosann Whipple's period 5 science class at Pearl River Middle School determined which birds and animals would be best suited to survive on an island based on the 'food' found there, working together to complete their lab assignment. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

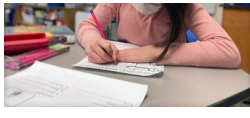
First-graders in Tarra Nicholson's class at Franklin Avenue Elementary School incorporated sounds into a story with the help of music teacher Scott Louis! Following a read aloud of the book, Crocodile Beat, written by Gail Jorgensen, the musicians were each assigned an animal character from the book and a classroom rhythm instrument of their choice – bringing the storyline to life with their own sounds. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Budding young artists in Stephanie Shapiro's kindergarten class at Lincoln Avenue Elementary School worked on penguin creations – learning all about the flightless birds, exploring where they live and their distinguishing characteristics. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Pearl River Middle School seventh-graders reached the conclusion of their literary unit, Fairy Tales as Cultural Clues – working together in groups to prepare to defend a story villain of their choice! In Jeanenne Verret's period 9 English Language Arts class, students selected a villain to use as a basis for their case, selecting a defense strategy to create their opening statements and final presentations to share with the class. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).





on self improvement through goal setting, working with school counselor Morgan O'Donohue to determine ways they can productively plan and set goals for themselves – analyzing SMART goal planning and establishing short term and long term goals for themselves. Read more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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