

Class Notes

August 2010

Beating the Odds

In an effort to address the needs of low-performing schools, the Michigan Department of Education began a process to identify schools that were "beating the odds." Peck Jr./Sr. High School was identified as one of 11 high schools from throughout the State of Michigan showing the greatest gains in the areas of reading and mathematics over the past four years. Peck Jr./Sr. High School will serve as a model for other schools to observe in an effort to improve their performance on standardized tests. This is truly an honor and one the entire community should feel very proud of. The districts commitment to academic and social growth of all students is alive and well!! Congratulations to the staff of Peck Schools on a great job!!

Schools of Choice

Peck Community Schools is extremely proud of the education it provides for all students. The environment for learning, coupled with meeting the academic and social needs of all students, is a top priority. The small school atmosphere is unique because it allows for individual attention and extra academic support. Staff members are committed to maintaining high academic standards while meeting individual student needs. Our exceptional educational program is evidenced by the number of school-of-choice students attending Peck. We are currently accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. If a quality education is a top priority in your family, please contact the school at (810) 378-5200. All inquiries are welcome!

Open House & Kindergarten Orientation

Peck's elementary annual open house and Kindergarten orientation will take place on Wednesday, September 1, from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m.. Students and families are welcome to come any time during that hour to meet the teachers and view the classrooms. Kindergarteners can visit their classrooms, obtain orientation information, and receive answers from our bus supervisor concerning transportation questions. This will be an exciting night as students and teachers prepare for the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. We look forward to seeing you!

2010-2011 School Calendar

August	31	7th grade orientation, 6:00 in new gym
September	1	Elementary Open House/KG Orientation
	7	First Day for Students
October	16	Homecoming
	27	Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00 pm
	28	1/2 day, 11:30 dismissal, No lunch Parent-Teacher Conferences 12:30-5:00 pm
	29	1/2 day, 11:30 dismissal, No lunch
November	1	No School - Staff In-Service
	24-26	Fall Recess - Thanksgiving
December	23	Winter Recess Begins
January	3	School Resumes
	24	No School - Staff In-Service
February	2	Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00 pm
	4	1/2 Day, 11:30 dismissal, No lunch
	21	Mid-Winter Recess
April	4-8	Spring Break
	11	School Resumes
	22-25	No School - Easter Weekend
May	22	Graduation
	30	Memorial Day - No School
June	10	1/2 day, 11:30 dismissal, No lunch Last Day for Students

All snow days or other days missed will be scheduled and made up at the end of the school year if necessary.

Elementary Academic Interventions

At Peck Elementary we work hard to provide a quality education for all our students and are always striving for ways to provide a better education. As next year approaches, we are preparing to implement many new interventions for our students in the areas of reading and math. These extras will accommodate students who are struggling in specific areas of reading and math. Some of the interventions to look for as the year moves along are: Read Naturally (We have had this but are moving to the computerized version which will allow us to have more students participate.), PALS (Peer Assisted Learning Strategies for reading and Math), Six Minute Solution (to help with reading fluency), REWARDS (a reading intervention for 4th-6th grade students), and Road the Code and Road to Reading (interventions for kindergarten through 3rd grade students). We are excited to not only continue the excellent instruction taking place at the Elementary level, but to provide additional assistance to students with special needs.

Dress Code

Student dress affects student behavior and educational attitudes. In order to promote a positive learning environment certain standards should be maintained. Improper apparel includes: hats, sunglasses, bandannas, clothing without sleeves, bare midriffs, flip-flops, sheer or otherwise revealing clothing, pajamas, spiked jewelry, chains hanging from clothing, skirts, dresses and shorts of less than mid-thigh length (must extend past finger tips), shorts that are not properly hemmed (no cutoffs), and apparel that is torn, cut or ragged. Pants must be worn so undergarments are not visible. Clothing viewed as educationally distracting or inappropriate due to wording or sayings will not be allowed. Any item that has any reference to drugs, beer, alcohol, or tobacco of any kind is not allowed.

In addition, elementary students must wear shoes that are appropriate for recess outdoors. Shoes with wheels, high heels, platform shoes, sandals and flip fops may inhibit play and promote injuries and should not be worn. Socks must be worn with shoes.

A responsible dress code takes the combined effort of faculty, parents, and students. We appreciate the support of all those involved.

Non-Disclosure

Federal law requires that local school districts provide military recruiters the same access to information regarding secondary school students as they do to students of postsecondary institutions. Schools are required to provide students' names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters, when requested. Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act parents have the right to refuse the disclosure of personal information. If you choose to withhold directory information, please contact the high school office to fill out a non-disclosure form.

Varsity Fall Home Athletic Schedule

Homecoming 2010 will be held on Saturday, October 16th. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. and the football game, against Memphis, starts at 2:00 p.m. An update of all the weekend activities will be available in the fall.

Varsity Football

September 2.....Whittemore Prescott
JV @ 4:00, Varsity @ 7:00

September 10...Deckerville
October 8.....Arenac Eastern

October 16.....Memphis

JV & Varsity Volleyball

August 26Sandusky
September 11...JV Tourny @ 9am

September 14...Kingston

September 16...CPS

September 23...Dryden

September 28...Memphis

October 7.....Owengage

October 19.....Deckerville

October 21.....Caseville

Boosters & PPTO

Peck Community Schools has two great organizations that support our district, Peck Boosters and Peck Parent-Teacher Organization (PPTO).

The Peck Boosters organize events such as 3 on 3 basketball tournaments, fish fries, apparel sales, and a variety of other events. The majority of their fund raising is done through concessions at home sporting events, and all of the money raised benefits the school. Funds raised are used to purchase items for classrooms, provide scholarship money for graduates, supply Jr/Sr High School student handbooks, purchase Honors Banquet prizes for students who excel academically, and acquire a variety of athletic equipment.

Peck Elementary has an active Parent-Teacher Organization (PPTO) that works to improve the educational experiences for students. The PPTO welcomes all who are willing to lend a helping hand.

To learn more about joining either organization contact Peck Community Schools at 810-378-5200.

Athletic Passes

Peck Schools will again be offering athletic passes to all home athletic contests for regular season games. Individual passes are \$40 and a family pass is \$150. They can be purchased at the high school office or the athletic department office beginning August 30th. For more information call the school at 810-378-5200.

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Good nutrition is an essential part for achieving educational success. Our kitchen staff prepares nutritious, well-balanced, and delicious meals for students. Our school breakfast and lunch prices are as follows: \$1.75 Elementary; \$2.00 Jr./Sr. High; \$1.25 breakfast; Adult breakfast \$1.50, \$.35 milk only.

Students from families at or below the income levels indicated on the table below are eligible to receive free and reduced priced meals or free milk.

The school will be sending home paperwork. It is extremely important that every family fill out and return the forms; it will not only benefit you, but the school benefits from other areas of funding.

Please take time to submit the documents. Additional information regarding these programs can be obtained by calling 810-378-5200.

2010 Guidelines to Determine Free and Reduced Price meals or Free Milk

Family Size	Scale for Free or Reduced Price Meals		
	Year	Month	Week
1	\$20,036	\$1,670	\$386
2	26,955	2,247	519
3	33,874	2,823	652
4	40,793	3,400	785
5	47,712	3,976	918
6	54,631	4,553	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	1,317
Each additional family member add	6,919	577	134

Staff Retirements

Peck School would like to announce the retirement of Sarah Maitland, Rick Pritchett, Barb Venohr, Debbie Gordon, Helen Humble, Cathy Clark, and Marie Churchill; all of them took advantage of the State's retirement incentive.

From the teaching staff, Sarah Maitland and Rick Pritchett are retiring after many years of service. Mrs. Maitland has been an employee of Peck Schools since 1979. During her career she touched the lives of hundreds of students, most recently as a Kindergarten teacher. She did an outstanding job of preparing students for the start of their educational journey.

Rick Pritchett worked in education for 30 years with the last 9 years working as an Industrial Arts teacher at Peck Jr./Sr. High School. During this time his leadership helped build a program that is respected throughout the area. Many students learned and developed skills that will benefit them for years to come.

We also received notice of the retirement of two Paraprofessionals – Barb Venohr and Debbie Gordon. Debbie Gordon was hired in 1987. During this time she has worked as a bus driver, paraprofessional, was instrumental in establishing the Accelerated Reader Program, and in updating the Media Center. She truly loved helping and supporting all students.

Barb Venohr has been an exceptional employee for the past 25 years. She worked in the capacity of a paraprofessional and was instrumental in the updating the media center and managing the CCC lab. Barb has always been very professional in working with students, parents, and staff members over the years. Her support of students will be missed by all.

One of the "Points of Pride" of the district has always been the condition of the building and grounds. Helen

Humble and Cathy Clark have been a big part of helping to establish a clean and safe environment for our students. Helen has been with the district since 1984. She has always taken great pride in the work she has done and has been a model of consistency in performing her duties.

Cathy is retiring after 17 years of being employed with the district. She was an extremely hard worker who always went the "extra-mile" in performing her daily tasks. She was a very thorough and detail oriented employee. Both Helen and Cathy will be greatly missed!

Marie Churchill will be retiring after 20 years of service. She worked initially as a secretary and now as business manager. She has proven to be very detail oriented, organized, and efficient. School auditors raved about the quality of work she has done in her role as business manager.

In addition, we would like to recognize Louise Jankowski, who retired in December. Mrs. Jankowski worked as an elementary teacher for 21 years. She held the highest standards for all students she instructed, which contributed greatly to their academic growth. Her efforts established a foundation that enabled the future success of all her students.

Peck Schools will definitely miss the experience and dedication of all retirees; we wish them well as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.

Seventh Grade Orientation

Seventh grade orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, at 6:00 p.m. in the south end gymnasium. All students entering the 7th grade as well as new 8th grade students (along with their parents) are encouraged to attend. Students will receive their class schedule, a student handbook, lunch information, and school expectations.

Jr. High Academic Interventions

Peck Jr./Sr. High School works hard to achieve the goal that No Child is Left Behind; that's why we have initiated *The Pyramid of Interventions*, a multilevel assistance program designed to ensure that all junior high students succeed academically in accordance with their individual needs.

FIRST LEVEL - Junior high students who earn a D or E in any class, at any given three-week grade reporting, will be required to properly fill out their planner and have it checked daily by their Tutor. The student will be scheduled for intervention with their Tutor in the Tutor Room, as deemed appropriate, and will do so until the next grade reporting check (progress report or report card). Also, teachers will be expected to contact the student's parents/guardians to explain why the student earned the D or E (progress report or phone call).

SECOND LEVEL - Student's who receive more than two E's at any given three-week grade reporting will be assigned to an after school study hall with their Tutor; they will also be required to properly fill out their planner and have it checked daily by the Tutor. The student will be scheduled for intervention(s) with their Tutor in the Tutor Room, as deemed appropriate, and will do so until the next grade reporting check (progress report or report card). Students in Level Two who consistently fail to complete assigned work will be assigned to an after school study hall with their Tutor, on a daily basis, until all work is completed. Permission will be required from parents/guardians for after school study hall in order to resolve transportation issues. After school study hall will be held from 3:10 – 4:00 p.m. All handbook rules apply to students involved in the study hall. To ensure that your child receives the best education possible, we request your support in our intervention initiatives. Thank you!

PECK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

222 E. Lapeer
Peck, MI 48466
Phone: 810-378-5200

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Emergency School Closings

School postponements and cancellations will be announced via the following television and radio stations:

Television Stations

FOX2	TV-2
WDIV	TV-4
WNEM	TV-5
WJRT	TV-12

Radio Stations

WMIC	660 AM
WTGV	97.7 FM
WLEW	1340 AM & 102.1 FM
WPHM	1380 AM
WSAQ	107 FM
WHLS	1450 AM

Current Resident
Peck, MI 48466



Peck Community Schools



If situations arise during the school day and school officials determine an early dismissal is necessary notice will be broadcast through the above radio stations. We advise that you be aware of the possible early dismissal and arrange, in advance, the necessary supervision of your children.

Board of Education Meeting Dates

The Peck Community Schools Board of Education meets the first Thursday after the 10th of each month at 7:00 p.m. During the months of May, June, July, August and September, the meeting time is 8:00 p.m.

Superintendent Leaves District

After 15 years, Superintendent David Bush is leaving Peck Community Schools to pursue other opportunities.

Mr. Bush originally came to Peck Community Schools to serve as Jr./Sr. High School principal. During his ten years as principal he played an integral part in the 1996-97 renovation and expansion of our school buildings; helped foster and guide the implementation of technology; developed and administered multiple academic intervention and assistance programs; and implemented a Professional Learning Community model of school improvement.

During the last five years Mr. Bush has served as superintendent with a devotion of academic excellence and fiscal responsibility. As superintendent he confronted countless challenges as school



funding evaporated and federal and state requirements swelled.

Mr. Bush's tenure at Peck Community Schools has influenced hundreds of students and will have a lasting impact for many years. He has been a true visionary with unwavering focus on the social and academic growth of students. We wish him success and happiness in his new endeavors.

Immunization & Medications

Students enrolling in Peck Community Schools must have current shot records, including hepatitis B and chicken pox vaccinations. If your child had chicken pox at a younger age please notify the elementary office the date the disease was encountered.

Students who need to take medications at school must have documentation on file with the office. This includes all over the counter and prescribed medications.

NONDISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

It is the policy of the Peck Community Schools to not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, or other prohibited educational programs.

MiBLSI

Congratulations to the Peck Jr./Sr. High School for receiving a MiBLSI (Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative) grant for the coming school year. As the high school incorporates new ideas into its existing program to improve reading comprehension and encourage positive behavioral initiatives, the elementary will be wrapping up its third and final year of MiBLSI grant support. The elementary will end the grant year by meeting three times with MiBLSI trainers to review and analyze data before incorporating the final stages into the existing programs. Peck Elementary is confident progress has been made in all areas over the past two years, and educators are excited about the positive changes that will continue to be made in the reading program and behavioral support system.