



JAN  
2019

# SETTING THE BAR

## WELCOMING DUBOIS

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## NEXT UP? GUILFORD ELEMENTARY

With the help of 3rd and 4th grade students and some suggestions from the community, we are thrilled to announce that the name of our fifth grade school will be GUILFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

As residents of Guilford Township, the selection of the name Guilford not only represents us geographically, but is also a nod to our history. Guilford was the first settled township in Hendricks County, with records dating back to 1820. By 1824, Guilford Township was more heavily populated than all other Hendricks County townships combined!

Mrs. Colleen Perry has been named Principal of Guilford Elementary. Colleen joined the Plainfield Schools family four years ago as the Assistant Principal at Clarks Creek Elementary.

In making the decision, Superintendent Scott Olinger had this to say: "Colleen Perry was the clear candidate for this role. She's ready for the new challenge, having been an excellent Assistant Principal who works well with our other elementary administrators."

Colleen began her education career in neighboring Wayne Township, where she taught grades 1, 2 and 4 for nine years before spending seven years as an assistant principal. The Perry family now lives in Plainfield, where her boys are firmly rooted in school and athletics. Colleen commented "It's not often that a leader and staff can work together to develop a school culture. I'm excited and honored by this opportunity!"



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# WELCOMING BRAD DUBOIS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

This fall's election included two school board seats in Plainfield. Incumbent Jessica Elston ran again, while Barry Blackwell was completing a vacancy on the board and did not seek re-election.

Brad DuBois, president and CEO of the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce, ran unopposed.

Brad knows Plainfield well, as the father of a 2012 PHS graduate and a current Little Quakers Academy student.

When asked why he wanted to serve on the school board, the Anderson-Highland High School alumnus said this: "Connecting local business, government and education entities through collaboration leads to successful communities. The three groups don't always have to agree, but they should collaborate."



While he didn't run for school board to take on any specific issues, he does acknowledge that the polarization of today's populations — here and elsewhere — bring new challenges to schools. "From security, to social, political, economic and religious opinions," he explained, "we need to prepare students to discern

information and figure out how we can live in a world where we can get along even when we don't agree with everyone."

He added, "I see my role as one that listens to the voices within our community and brings them to light. To be thoughtful, mindful of all the successes that have come before me while continuing to support all that is needed for Plainfield students to be successful. And to always remember that if we aren't growing, we're dying."



*The 2019 Plainfield Teacher of the Year, Ann Mennonno, was honored as a Finalist in the Indiana Teacher of the Year program. In addition to her second-grade classroom, Ann is the English Language Learner (ELL) lead for Clarks Creek. With more than 50 ELL students at Clarks Creek, Ann works with other teachers to ensure a culture of empathy and understanding as these young minds absorb, learn and master the English language.*

# From the Superintendent



**Scott Olinger**  
Superintendent

## Staff raises monies for United Way

Whether as simple as writing a check, or as predictable as payroll deductions, or as fun as silly dress-up days, the Plainfield Schools staff came through yet again for the United Way of Central Indiana. This year, school employees have pledged \$32,800 to the non-profit that supports so many social agencies.

I say this all of the time, and I'm going to say it again: we have some of the absolute best educators in Plainfield. Our community, our Board of School Trustees, and I all have high standards, and our teachers meet or surpass them.

This is reflected in many ways, one of which is that again this year, we were recognized as an "All-A" District, which means that all PCSC schools earned an "A" rating.

It should be no surprise, then, that our teachers are excellent. But let's not forget that they went to school to study education, and now they are being tasked with mental health, social and emotional health, security and digital safety expectations as well.

We've said for many years that the safety of your children while under our care is our top priority. We honor that pledge by continuously improving the way we protect your children. Some examples:

- We have five police officers working in our schools this year; there will be six next year, and seven when Guilford Elementary School opens.
- Many school districts do not have counselors in every school; we do, and we are now providing support for Home School Advisors to earn their Master's in School Counseling. This will provide additional skills as they

are seeing increased mental, emotional and social health concerns.

- Talking with students and parents about digital and cybersecurity topics is now something we do regularly. We work closely with law enforcement and other professionals to ensure we are sharing the latest and most appropriate messages.
- In addition to the School Resource Officers at PHS and PCMS, assistant principals from PHS, PCMS and Clarks Creek have been certified as School Safety Specialists. Part of their certification requires annual training, and they in turn share their resources with all PCSC schools.
- We've added a "Student Concerns" link to the website, allowing students, parents or members of the community a way to share anonymous tips related to student safety. Of course, in an emergency, calling 911 is the best approach.

I hope that all members of the Plainfield community share my pride in the team of teachers and support staff who are responsible for educating and protecting our students. They truly are the best of the best, and they take on whatever new challenges come their way.

# SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

by Jessica Elston, President

For parents and students, school is a series of snapshots. This year is first grade, and their attention is completely focused on all the amazing learning activities. Next year will be second grade, with a brand-new list of things, and so on, all the way through senior year.

Plainfield's administrators and School Board look at school a little differently. We view each year as one piece of a larger picture, and much of our attention is focused on how all those pieces will flow together to prepare each student for success as an adult. When a second-grader is learning fractions, it's a big step, but we see it as the foundation for the algebra class that second-grader will take in middle or high school. When fourth-graders explore the difference between facts and opinions, we're thinking about the research paper they'll draft in their junior year of high school.

It's more than just lessons, tests, standards, and grades. It will be a long time before a kindergartner starts giving serious thought to a career and life after high school, but we

want to be sure that when the time comes, that kindergartner has gained the skills, knowledge, and insight to prepare for the next step. We may not be able to predict what she will want to do (or even which choices may be available to her by then), but we want to be confident she'll be ready.

That's why we developed The Imagination Lab — the first facility of its kind in Indiana, and have added the IdeaLab at PCMS. When that kindergartner programs a small robot to perform a task, she's done more than complete an assignment. She had to figure out how to solve a task, test her solutions, determine why some may not have worked, and persevere until she succeeds. That problem-solving foundation will serve her when she's performing experiments in a high school physics class, and it creates habits that will help her succeed in the workplace one day. And most of all, we want her to feel the joy of learning something new.

By looking at a student's entire education as a continuum, rather than as a series of separate events, we've been able to weave connections throughout schools, subjects, and grade levels. Are we proud of our test scores? You bet, but we're even prouder of what The Plainfield Way will prepare our students to accomplish after they graduate.



*L-R: Pat Cooney, Jud Wolfe, Scott Olinger, Colleen Perry, Scott Flood, Jessica Elston, Mike Allen, Katie Chamness*

# ON THE WORLD STAGE

Ask many parents of preschool-aged boys if their children wrestle, and it's likely that many would say, "of course!" But for one local family, when their four-year old son started wrestling, it was quickly followed by attending the PHS Wrestling Camp.

Cheaney Schoeff competed for a couple of years before earning a win, but according to dad Jason, "he had a smile on his face from Day One, and begged us to go back."

Fast forward to this Fall, when 8th-grade Cheaney was part of a 22-member USA Wrestling team that competed in Västerås, Sweden. Not only was he selected from 2000 wrestlers to participate, he finished in second place!

Wrestlers in the US tend to focus on what is known as folkstyle wrestling, but the Olympics and other world competitions are done in either Freestyle or Greco style. According to Cheaney, "Greco is my worst style. It's all upper body, with no attacks allowed from your legs." But that didn't seem to slow him down in Sweden.

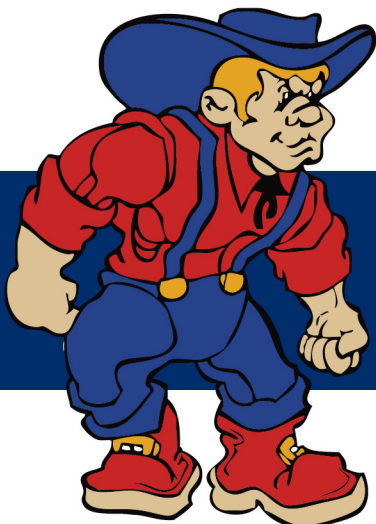
Cheaney and his dad are quick to credit his personal coach (and PHS alum) Ryan Parrish, owner of Contenders Wrestling Academy, with much of his success. In fact, two other Hendricks County wrestlers who also train at Contenders were part of the team.

While he has also donned a football uniform for



many years, he's not sure about future plans, as his first love is wrestling. "Everything is on me, win or lose," Cheaney explained. "It requires tremendous self-discipline and responsibility, and I'm on the mat all alone except for my opponent."

As his travels expand (Finland and Estonia are in the works for February, as well as Macedonia and Greece in July), Cheaney's parents are also teaching him about classroom responsibility. Mom Deanna teaches at PHS, while Jason is a former teacher. Neither cuts their oldest of four sons any slack when it comes to homework. "He's in middle school now. He has to learn to plan ahead, to ask for assignments when he's going to be gone, and to turn them in on time when he gets back," explained Jason. "We support him completely, but he has to do the work to be successful."



**DID YOU KNOW?** Plainfield students scored quite well on last Spring's ISTEP+ assessment, finishing fourth statewide among public schools. And our 7th grade students ranked first in the state on the social studies portion of the test. Congratulations!

# RENOVATIONS COMING TO PCMS

When the school on Stafford Road first opened its doors in 1958, it was home to Plainfield High School. In 2008 it became Plainfield Community Middle School (PCMS), and along the way there have been more than a few additions and renovations. We're excited to announce that more are on the way!

As PCMS Principal Kyle Tutterow explained, there were several considerations in planning the work that will begin in April 2019.

"Improving the functionality of how this building works for kids has been important to all of us," she said. "Learning has changed since the school was built, and our learning spaces need to evolve to support those changes."

The updates will include better organization of subject areas and grade levels, improved safety measures for the front office, and several facelifts throughout the building.

The 24-month project will be done in phases, utilizing some of the 18-20 classrooms that are rarely used during the current school day.

"Our enrollment is 1,343 students, and the

school's capacity is 1,600," Tutterow added. "So while we have plenty of room for growth, we can do a lot to improve the way we're using our space."

In other big news, we are pleased to share that students currently attending ALPHA, a special education program run jointly by Avon, Brownsburg and Plainfield school systems and based in Brownsburg, will stay in Plainfield beginning in Fall 2020. Working with space on the west end of PCMS, the program provides services and programming that will now be accessible to our students without the bus ride to Brownsburg each day.

Ultimately, the Board of School Trustees and all Plainfield school administrators work hard to ensure that students have safe, engaging spaces in which to learn and grow, while preserving existing structures, building new ones when needed (see Page One), and doing so in a manner that does not significantly impact the school portion of taxes to Guilford Township residents. We are grateful for the support of our community.



## FOOD TRUCK!

Be on the lookout for the QuakerBrake food truck! It will be appearing occasionally at school and public events, serving simple items like popcorn, cookies and bottled water, all while being staffed by students from the PHS Life Skills program. This is another opportunity to help students develop skills that will serve them for years to come.

# ALLIES FOR EDUCATION WRAPS UP 4TH CLASS

In early December, the fourth class of Allies for Education completed their program, leaving them with a greater understanding of how public education works in Indiana, and perhaps even more important, a stronger network of friends and contacts throughout Plainfield's schools.

This year's program was expanded from four monthly sessions to five, leaving more time for discussion of complex issues.

Allies for Education meets once a month from August through December, for about two hours in the evening. Topics include Leadership for Plainfield Schools, Budget & Finance and Administrative Data, Student

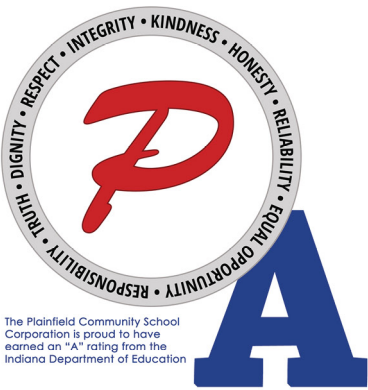


Learning, Student Support and Safety, and Looking Forward.

Names are being collected for next year's program. If you're interested, please contact Heather Bender at 317-839-2578.



Members of the PHS HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) club worked hand-in-hand with 5th grade students from across the district during a four-week after-school camp that was "All about DNA!" The final session focused on solving a crime scene by using gel electrophoresis to determine whose blood was left at a crime scene.



The Plainfield Community School Corporation is proud to have earned an "A" rating from the Indiana Department of Education

*Bringing joy to learning*

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An Indiana Department of Education **A** school corporation

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## Davis, Scifres join PHS Hall of Fame

The Plainfield Community Schools Legacy Foundation continues to award grants to teachers and principals each semester, in addition to providing support through many other programs.

At last June's Alumni Luncheon, two alumni were inducted into the PHS Hall of Fame. From the Class of 1951, Frank Davis, and the Class of 1975, Bruce Scifres, were present to receive the honor and celebrate with family and friends.

It's not too soon to be thinking about nominations for the 2019 Hall of Fame and Alumni Celebration. The event moves to Homecoming weekend in 2019, which features the Homecoming carnival, parade and football game (against Greenwood) on Friday, September 20th. The Alumni Luncheon will be held on Sunday, September 22, at PHS.

Recent inductees into the PHS Hall of Fame:

Graduation Year	Inductee
1942	Donald Cain
1942	Virginia Dill McCarty
1944	James Gilbert
1951	Margaret Miller
1951	Frank Davis
1953	Tom Newlin
1954	Donald Groninger
1957	Bill Strafford
1963	Robert Grosskreutz
1965	John Hoffner
1974	Thomas Clymer
1975	Rick Shaw
1975	Bruce Scifres
1976	Doug Esamann
1976	Scott Saxman

