

## Bluejay Strong – January 12, 2024

Good afternoon, students and parents.

As we all move forward in our respective healing journeys, I want to continue to encourage you to lean on one another and use the support resources that are available. No one should feel they must deal with this alone, and there are many people ready to help you, if needed.

I also want to mention safety, as I know everyone is thinking about this as we prepare to go back to the classroom. Perry Schools already have good policies in place, and we have been commended for our safety procedures and preparations. We will continue to follow our policies. More will be shared in the future, including plans to have uniformed officers onsite to ensure a smooth transition back. I firmly believe lives were saved due to our plans, procedures and training.

To help give everyone some time and space, Bluejay Strong will take a short break over the weekend and pick up again on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. If there is anything new to share over the weekend, we will certainly let everyone know. In the meantime, our hope is that you use the weekend to continue to heal and spend time with loved ones.

If you have additional questions, please send them to [Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us](mailto:Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us)

### NEWS FOR TODAY – Friday, January 12, 2024

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Comfort Dogs** – Due to the winter weather, the dogs and handlers have returned home and will not be available over the weekend. They will return for the opening of the elementary and middle schools and be available next week, Wednesday through Friday.
- **PACES** – This before and after school learning center will start back up on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Preschool** – Preschool will be available again starting Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. The early out schedule will be followed until further notice.
  - At the elementary school – 8:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.
  - At St. Patrick's – 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and 11:05 a.m. – 1:35 p.m.
- **Movie Opportunity Rescheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>** – Due to today's winter weather, the Perry Grand Theater's offer of free admission, pop and popcorn at their 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. showings have been rescheduled for Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Check the Perry Grand 3 Facebook page for more details or updates.
- **Counseling Opportunity** – On January 17<sup>th</sup>, from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., staff and families from Perry can join a secure Zoom meeting led by a psychologist. The topic is *working through grief and loss*. This interactive webinar is available in both English and Spanish. We were invited to participate in this webinar by the Marshalltown School District. To participate, pre-register using the link for your preferred language.  
English: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qWjtEYSQTIS1yScbWm6fPQ#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qWjtEYSQTIS1yScbWm6fPQ#/registration)  
Spanish: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_-3FhbxETZ6M-PGJPm7rQw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-3FhbxETZ6M-PGJPm7rQw#/registration)

#### RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

### Elementary

- **Jan. 17:** Open House for elementary parents and students, 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Onsite counseling available.
- **Jan. 18 & 19:** Elementary students return, early dismissal both days at 2:00 p.m.

### Middle School

- **Jan. 18:** Open House for parents and students, 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Onsite counseling available.
- **Jan. 19:** Middle School students return, early dismissal at 1:45 p.m. that day.

### High School

- The plans for the return of High School students are still being discussed. More information will be shared when it becomes available.

**Note:** An early dismissal schedule will be followed for the elementary and middle school until ALL buildings are up-and-running and ready for a regular schedule.

## ONGOING RESOURCES

### Childcare

There will be no childcare available at the McCreary Community Building over the weekend. This service will return on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Lunches

There will be no Grab & Go Lunches over the weekend. This service will return on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Counseling

- Weather permitting, Heart of Iowa Community Services ([www.hicsiowa.org](http://www.hicsiowa.org)) will have counseling services available at the Perry Public Library tomorrow (Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>) from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Financial assistance is available for those without insurance or with limited insurance coverage. Contact Brandon Tews at [brandon.tews@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:brandon.tews@dallascountyiowa.gov) or 515-993-1722 with questions.
- Project Recovery Iowa will offer virtual counseling over the weekend, January 13 and 14. Visit [Project Recovery Iowa](#) – to sign up for a time for a virtual conversation, phone or chat and indicate the time that works for you. Call 1-800-447-1985 for more information.

### Happening This Weekend

There is nothing new to report currently.

### Donations Reminder

Perry Community School District has set up two, different accounts at Raccoon Valley Bank in the wake of last Thursday's incident.

- Anyone wanting to make a donation by check or cash can stop by any of the Raccoon Valley Bank locations in Perry, Adel, Dallas Center or Grimes. All checks should be made out to the "Perry Community School District" with the account distinction/preference written in the memo line.
- Donations can be accepted online here:
  - Bluejay Strong - [www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Bluejay-Strong-/Sbql8AQ](http://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Bluejay-Strong-/Sbql8AQ)
  - Ahmir Jolliff Family - [www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Ahmir-Jolliff-Family/SdUyyS9](http://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Ahmir-Jolliff-Family/SdUyyS9)
- Donations can also be mailed to the Raccoon Valley Bank at PO Box 129, Perry, Iowa 50220. Perry Community Schools will distribute 100% of the donations collected to those impacted.