

Bluejay Strong – January 15, 2024

Good afternoon, students and parents.

We are devastated by the news regarding High School Principal Dan Marburger, who passed away Sunday morning as result of the injuries he received protecting others on January 4th. We grieve with Dan's family and friends. Dan served our district for almost three decades, he and his family are ingrained in the Perry Bluejay story.

This tragedy will impact our schools and community for quite some time. However, we are receiving an outpouring of support from all over the nation, and we are thankful for the tireless work that faculty, staff and community leaders are doing to map our plan forward.

Our school reopening plan announced last week is on hold until further notice. Please watch the website, Facebook pages, and this daily update for more information.

If you have additional questions, please send them to Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us.

Please remember, even though we are currently not in school, there are different activities and services that might be affected by winter weather. Consult the usual channels – School Messenger, the school website, local TV and radio stations, and the school Facebook pages – for updates and announcements.

News for Today – Thursday, January 15, 2024

SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

Parent Concerns – There have been a lot of questions regarding safety and security measures for our return to school. We are mindful of the concerns and are taking them very seriously. Likewise, we are seeking out the special expertise of law enforcement and the advice of other safety experts. The District is also awaiting DCI's conclusion of its pending investigation. As announced previously, we will have uniformed officers onsite to ensure a smooth transition back once that date is finalized. We appreciate your patience as we put in the time and thought necessary to carefully study this issue.

School Reopening Plans Paused – Our school reopening is delayed following the announcement yesterday of the passing of Mr. Marburger. We recognize that students, staff and families may need more time. We continue to assess that timeline and will keep you posted on this information. Counseling opportunities will continue to be available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: Extracurricular Activities

Competitions for middle school and high school students participating in extracurricular activities will resume tomorrow, January 16th. The girls' and boys' varsity basketball teams are playing at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines against Saydel High School in the [High School Hoops Series](#). Game time begins at 6:15 p.m. and tickets are still available to support our Bluejay teams! Our wrestling teams will also be in action tomorrow with the girls at Colfax-Mingo and the boys at Greene County. Please check the district website for updates on activities.

Fitness Training

On Thursday, January 18th, ETS Performance is hosting fitness training opportunities for students at the McCreary Community Center.

- Noon: 4th – 8th grade

- 1 p.m.: 9th – 12th grade

Reminder: Movie Opportunity

Perry Grand 3 Theatres, with support from the Optimist Club of Perry and RE/MAX Concepts Cares, is offering free admission, pop and popcorn to support the community on Wednesday, January 17th at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Visit the Perry Grand 3 Theatres [website](#) for information.

RESOURCES

PACES

PACES will reopen when school begins again. Please watch for updates.

Therapy Dogs

The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs team were delayed due to the weather. Please watch for updates on therapy dog opportunities this week.

Childcare

Childcare is available at the McCreary Community Building free of charge for school age children from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. There are also disaster relief resource coordinators there for families who have questions.

- Meals, snacks and activities will be provided at no cost; and parents will need to escort children into the McCreary Community Building, and sign them in. Also, if the pick-up guardian will be different from those who drop off, please make sure to include contact information (email and phone number).
- For more information, please contact the McCreary Community Building at 515-465-5621

Lunches

Grab & Go Lunches are available each day until further notice at the elementary school from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Any changes due to winter weather will be posted on the school's website, School Messenger, KCCI and the school's social media pages.

COUNSELING

Special Counseling Session

On January 17th, from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., staff and families from Perry can join a secure Zoom meeting led by a psychologist. This month's topic is *working through grief and loss*. This interactive webinar is available in both English and Spanish. To participate, pre-register using the link for your preferred language.

English: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qWjtEYSQTIS1yScbWm6fPQ#/registration

Spanish: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-3FhbxETZ6M-PGJPm7rQw#/registration

Heart of Iowa Community Services

Counselors are on-site at the Perry Public Library for in-person counseling this week (weather permitting) from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Heart of Iowa Community Services (www.hicsiowa.org) can connect students needing counseling to long-term mental health support and care coordination services. Financial assistance is available for those without insurance or with limited insurance coverage. We will also post support resources on the school Facebook pages. Contact Brandon Tews at brandon.tews@dallascountyiowa.gov or 515-993-1722.

Project Recovery Iowa

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.

Donations Reminder

Accounts were created at Raccoon Valley Bank in the wake of last Thursday's incident.

- There are two distinct accounts: one for the Ahmir Jolliff Family and the other for the Victims/Staff/Students of Perry Community School.
- 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-/SbqI8AQ
 - Ahmir Jolliff Family - 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.

For those who would like to donate to the Marburger Family, please use the established [GoFundMe](#) account.