

Bluejay Strong – January 9, 2024

Good afternoon, students and parents,

I have been thinking of you all as we collectively experience our healing journey.

I know you have been asking for more logistical information as we move forward. The purpose of this message is to provide updates on a variety of important topics. Our goal is to have a new message shared on the district's website, sent through the School Messenger system, and posted on the school Facebook pages by 3:00 p.m. each day.

This will be an important communication tool for us to share timely information with everyone, so please watch for additional updates all this week. If you have additional questions, please send them to Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us.

Please note, while we are not in school right now, there are different activities and services that might be affected by winter weather. Consult the usual channels for those updates – School Messenger, the school website, local TV and radio stations, and the school Facebook pages.

News for Today – Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Announcements

School leadership has made the decision to postpone participation in ALL extracurricular competitions until at least January 16th; coaches and sponsors will also be sharing more information with their teams, including details on practices.

Reminder: Ahmir Jolliff's Visitation is tomorrow at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home's Perry Chapel from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., with the family being present from 4 – 7 p.m.

Reminder: Ahmir Jolliff's Funeral is Thursday, January 11th at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Perry beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Overflow seating will be available at the First Christian Church across the street from St. Patrick Catholic Church.

The funeral will also be livestreamed. A link can be found at: www.caldwellparrish.com/obituaries/Ahmir-Jolliff?obId=30279853.

NOTE: Parking is very limited around the churches. Bus transportation will begin at 9:00 a.m. from the Perry Elementary School teacher parking lot off Dewey Street to the church. The last trip will leave the school to the church at 10:15 a.m.

Once the funeral is over, transportation will begin immediately following the funeral, returning to the elementary school.

DMACC Clarification: In person classes will begin on Wednesday (now due to snow). If students have questions or need help, contact the DMACC Perry VanKirk Center. For students taking online courses emails were sent to the students from instructors. If students need assistance or flexibility, please let your instructor know.

Resources

COMFORT DOGS: The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs team has arrived in Perry and they are ready to support you. These furry friends have an excellent track record of providing soothing support and comfort. The Comfort Dogs – Eden, Gideon, Katie, Phineas, Charity, and Joanna, and their handlers are available by appointment. They will also be at the McCreary Community Building from approximately 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. as well as other locations in the community. Watch the school website and social media for updates. To schedule a visit, email coordinator@k9comfort.org or you can call or text 847-287-6612.

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: 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 social media pages.

COUNSELING: 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. Contact Brandon Tews at brandon.tews@dallascountyiowa.gov or 515-993-1722. We will also post support resources on the school Facebook pages.

Today and tomorrow there is free online confidential support through 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. 800-447-1985

Easter Seals is offering free virtual counseling today. The link to a drop in room is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6388777999>- There will be a waiting room, we'll do one person at a time unless we hear from someone a group wants to drop in together.

FITNESS TRAINING FOR ALL: ETS Performance is hosting fitness training opportunities for students at the McCreary Community Center. Everyone is welcome.

4th – 8th grade – Noon on Wednesday and Thursday

9th – 12th grade – 1 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday

DONATIONS: The Perry Community School District has set up accounts at Raccoon Valley Bank in the wake of last Thursday's school shooting in Perry, Iowa. There are two

distinct accounts: one for the Ahmir Jolliff Family and the other for the Victims/Staff/Students of Perry Community School. If you would like to make a donation by check or cash, 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 written in the memo line. 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.

Return to School

All students – high school, middle school and elementary – will NOT be returning to classes this week. More information on the district's plan to return to the classroom will be shared as soon as a decision is made.

Please watch the school website and social media channels for any other updates and announcements.

Happening Tomorrow – January 10, 2024

Ahmir Jolliff's Visitation at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home's Perry Chapel from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., with the family being present from 4 – 7 p.m.