What started as a venture to win a free concert through a Good Morning America contest turned into so much more for students at Pickerington High School Central.

Seniors Darby Burch and Shayna Fowler set out to create a video that would convey unity, victory and perseverance.

The girls began gathering stories from their peers with the prompt: “I am a champion of . . .” and learned about students overcoming self-harm, abusive relationships, and even the fight against cancer.

The idea was to bring the school together as a whole, not just the athletes or popular students. Often times people think of champions as the athletes and academic scholars of the school. This video focused on celebrating the victories of the entire student body.

All students were encouraged to participate in the video. One of the main characters, freshman Holly Hollopeter, a victim of bullying, was excited to participate in the project.

As it turned out, the joint efforts of students and staff paid off in a big way. PHS Central’s Roar video was chosen as one of the five finalists from hundreds of entries nationwide.

On Friday, October 11th, GMA brought their cameras to PHS Central for live feeds throughout the morning show. The excitement and energy was contagious, and the memory will last a lifetime.

The winner of the contest was announced Friday, October 18th and was treated to a free concert by Katy Perry on Friday, October 25th.

The video brought students, staff and the community even closer together by demonstrating that anyone can overcome obstacles if you band together.

It’s a great day to be a Tiger!
2013-2014 school year

Great start to a new year

Our district has enjoyed a great start to the school year - thank you parents, students and staff for making a smooth transition into the school schedule.

We are completing the first quarter, and I would like to take this opportunity to identify some key new programs that we will be implementing during the 2013-2014 school year.

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes! - is a new slogan/motto that came about during the district’s trip to the Model Schools Conference this summer. It originated from Tussing’s building principal, Jeannette Henson.

As we prepare our students to be college and career ready, this motto captures the belief and attitude that our district employees must have when working with all of our students.

One Call Now - One Call Now is a new rapid communication system that allows administrators, teachers, and coaches to communicate information rapidly utilizing automated phone calls, texts, and emails.

The system will be used to announce school closings, delays, early releases, changes to the regular schedule, interim/grade card information, and other timely information for students and parents.

Technology - During the September 9, 2013 Board of Education meeting, the district implemented a new technology plan committed to providing new laptops and iPads for students and staff beginning in October 2013.

Each staff member will receive a new laptop computer along with providing iPads in a 1:5 student ratio. The district entered into a lease agreement with Apple for a 3-year lease.

Community Engagement Meetings - A series of community engagement opportunities are planned for parents and citizens to meet and talk about a variety of topics taking place in our school district.

During these meetings, parents and community members will have the opportunity to meet with myself and other district and building administrators during the months of January and February 2014.

These meetings will occur in private homes as well as public locations throughout the community.

A schedule of the public engagements will be made available on the district website along with information sent home in the building email updates.

Finally, a special congratulations and thank you goes out to PHS Central students and staff for their participation in the Good Morning America - Katy Perry contest.

I would like to thank the two senior leaders, Darby Burch and Shayna Fowler, who launched the idea and wrote the script. A special recognition goes out to Holly Hollopeter, Sarah Gilbert, and Austin Walker who starred in the video. C3 Church also receives a special thanks for their professional video efforts in the shooting and production of the video.

The enthusiasm and excitement that was generated over the past few weeks was very special, not only for the students, but for our community as well.
Pickerington Local School District

Five-Year Forecast Submitted

During the month of October, the Pickerington Local School District submitted its Five-Year Forecast.

Ohio Revised Codes 5705.391 and 3301-92-04 require a Board of Education to submit a five-year projection of operational revenues and expenditures along with assumptions to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) prior to October 31st of each fiscal year and to update this forecast between April 1st and May 31st of each fiscal year.

School districts are also encouraged to update their forecast whenever events take place that will significantly change the forecast.

What purpose(s) does the Five-Year Forecast serve?

As noted by ODE at http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Five-Year-Forecast, the purposes and objectives of the five-year forecast are at least three-fold:

1) To engage the local board of education and the community in long range planning and discussions of financial issues facing the school district;

2) To serve as a basis for determining the school district’s ability to sign the certificate required by Ohio Revised Code 5705.412, commonly known as the “412 certificate”; and

3) To provide a method for ODE and Auditor of State to identify school districts with potential financial problems.

A district is required to include the following funds in its forecast:

- General funds (001)
- Any special cost center associated with general fund money
- Emergency levy funds (016)
- Any debt service (002) activity that would otherwise have gone to the general fund
- Education Jobs Fund (504)

As noted by ODE on its website: “A forecast is somewhat like a painting of the future based upon a snapshot of today. That snapshot, however, will be adjusted and the further into the future the forecast extends, the more likely it is that the projections will deviate from actual experience. A variety of events will ultimately impact the latter years of the forecast, such as state budgets (adopted every two years), tax levies (new/renewal/replacement), salary increases, or businesses moving in or out of the district.

As noted by ODE at https://www.pickerington.k12.oh.us/contentPage2.aspx?cid=612 or contact Treasurer Ryan Jenkins at (614) 834-2140, or by email at ryan_jenkins@plsd.us.

The five-year forecast is viewed as a key management tool and must be updated periodically. In Ohio, most school districts understand how they will manage their finances in the current year. The five-year forecast encourages district management teams to examine future years’ projections and identify when challenges will arise. This then helps district management to be proactive in meeting those challenges.”

ODE further states: “In a financial forecast, the numbers only tell a small part of the story. For the numbers to be meaningful, the reader must review and consider the assumptions to the Financial Forecast before drawing conclusions or using the data as a basis for other calculations. The assumptions are very important to understanding the rationale of the numbers, particularly when a significant increase or decrease is reflected.”

The chart below shows a summary view of the total revenue, total expenditures, and overall end of fiscal year cash balance for the General Fund of the Pickerington Local School District. For a detailed view of the Five-Year Forecast, please visit: http://www.pickerington.k12.oh.us/contentPage2.aspx?cid=612 or contact Treasurer Ryan Jenkins at (614) 834-2140, or by email at ryan_jenkins@plsd.us.
The Leader In Me

The numbers aren’t wrong!

At Toll Gate Elementary, staff and students are using the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People to teach and learn 21st Century skills.

Guided by Stephen Covey’s book, The Leader In Me, staff at Toll Gate Elementary spent their summer preparing for many changes. Covey asserts that the deepest human need is to be valued.

We believe that students want to take on responsibility and independence.

Therefore, Toll Gate Elementary has started several new programs to discover and unleash student potential.

A few of the programs are:

- a school passport program and leadership badge recognizing students who are utilizing the 7 Habits;
- student goal setting and progress monitoring in data notebooks;
- leadership lunches;
- a community career video series; and
- multi-grade leadership committees where students can develop individual interests in arts, communication, community outreach, and fitness.

We know it’s important to have students take ownership of their education giving them a sense of value now and in the future.

If you have questions or would like to help expand the building’s efforts, contact Mr. Darren Drake, school counselor at (614) 834-6315 or by email: darren_drake@plsd.us.

In Mrs. Bentley’s class, we did an Angry Birds math project. It helped us with our rounding, adding, and ordinal numbers.

This project really helped me to learn to line up my numbers the right way because I was doing it wrong before.

Going step by step really helped me to understand place value better. We worked on all of the steps and then made a poster and put it out in our hallway for everyone to see. I really liked working with my partner, Kireonna, on this project.

By: Elliot Hartman
Grade 4 Toll Gate Elementary
Students in Mrs. Tinsley’s 3rd grade class at Sycamore Creek Elementary have been learning about Americanism and Patriotism.

Students were given a Patriot Day project using the STEM process: Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Reflect, and Redesign! The parameters of the assignment were:

You have been chosen by President Obama to design and create a 9/11 memorial that will be displayed in Washington, D.C. As a dedication to the men and women who lost their lives and those who survived, this memorial must:

1. Acknowledge the service and sacrifice people made to save those who survived.
2. Celebrate those who lost their lives and those who survived.
3. Reference the Twin Towers and the USA in some way.
4. Be transportable to get from Ohio to Washington, D.C.
5. Be large enough where it can be seen from a distance.
6. Name the memorial.

The students have been working very hard and hope to send a presentation video to President Obama upon completion.

Pickerington Elementary was recently awarded the Heart Safe School Accreditation based on their efforts to provide extra safety and security for students, faculty and visitors in the area of a sudden cardiac need.

As part of the accreditation process, staff and last year’s fourth graders were trained in Hands-Only CPR during the 4th grade Health Day and concluded with medical emergency drills.

To maintain accreditation, the school will conduct medical emergency drills at various times throughout the school year. In addition, this year’s 4th graders will be receiving training in the spring.

Life cycle of a chicken

Each year Pickerington Elementary has representatives from the Fairfield County Extension 4-H Program come speak to 3rd grade classes about the life cycle of a chicken.

Each classroom is given an incubator and a dozen fertilized (they hope) eggs.

During the 21 days of waiting for the chicks to hatch, students study the life cycles of animals.

After hatching has occurred, and the students have completed studying life cycles, the chicks are given to local farmers.
29th Annual Antique and Craft Show

Saturday, November 2nd will mark the 29th year of the Pickerington Antique & Craft Show. This annual community event is made possible by a group of volunteers from both Pickerington High School Central and Pickerington High School North Parent Teacher Organizations.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pickerington High School Central, 300 Opportunity Way.

The joint fundraiser for both schools attracts thousands of shoppers to the event each year. This year promises to be even bigger and better with 115 vendors from around Ohio and surrounding states slated to set up shop.

Visitors will have access to a wide variety of antiques and handcrafted items - offering a little something for every home and taste.

A full lunch menu and bake sale items will be offered. If you're interested in donating baked goods, contact Lisa Reade - lreade@insight.rr.com.

All vendors accept cash, most accept checks and some have credit card capabilities.

To view some of the new items this year, you can like them on Facebook at “Pickerington Antique & Craft Show.”

Monies raised are divided equally between both high schools to fund academic programs and scholarships for graduating seniors.

Parking is free, admission is $4 for adults; $2 for seniors; and children 12 and under are free.

Get ready - cold and flu season is coming

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), influenza or seasonal flu can start as early as October and may peak in January. The single best way to protect against the flu is to get a flu vaccine each year.

The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated each season. The earlier in the season you get vaccinated, the better.

Other steps you can take to prevent flu illness include taking preventative actions every day to stop the spread of germs:

✔ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

Cold continued on page 7
You Failed, and It Was Awesome

Borrowing the above line from the movie Meet the Robinsons, Mrs. Candace Smith and Mrs. Merri Biggs’ 7th grade students know that failure can lead to success. Keep Moving Forward, also taken from the movie, is the motto of the new science/English dyad at Lakeview Junior High. Although science and English may seem like an unlikely pair, it is surprising what a great combo they really are.

Because English is skills-based and science is content-based, it is remarkably simple to combine the two subjects. Each nine weeks has a theme, and all of the content and skills that are taught fall under that umbrella.

Design challenges, based on the STEM teaching philosophy, are being used in this innovative classroom. BE3 Energy and South Central Power have been the community partners for the first nine weeks. While learning about energy, the BE3 Energy program provided students with different energy-saving devices to take home and install in their own homes. Not only did South Central Power create fake electric bills for the students to use as they designed modifications for their homes to reduce kilowatt usage, two Energy advisors from South Central Power gave a presentation to the students about energy-efficiency. Pack H2O is the community partner for the last nine weeks and is going to build a rain garden that students will design.

Mrs. Biggs and Mrs. Smith have embraced Mastery-Based Grading which allows students to redo their work until they have attained at least a basic level of mastery. Students were randomly selected to participate in the dyad, and their parents were required to purchase their child’s Chromebook, a small, web-based laptop. In a totally paperless classroom, students use their Chromebooks on a daily basis. Students store their work on Google Drive, have an online notebook through the Evernote app, and use various Chrome apps which include Autodesk, Homestyler, and Prezi to enhance their learning. As new educational philosophies and standards are being embraced, Pickerington Local Schools is helping lead the way into an exciting, innovative and challenging classroom.

Cold
continued from page 6

✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

✓ Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

✓ If you are sick with a flu-like illness, you should stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to seek medical care. Your fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medication.

✓ Limit contact with other people while you are sick.

For more information, contact your child’s physician or school nurse.

2013-2014 Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines Released

Free and Reduced Lunch Program

Pickerington Local Schools announced its 2013-2014 program year policy for free and reduced price meals for students unable to pay the full price of meals or milk served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast, After School Care Snack or Special Milk Program. Each school office and the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party. The Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines will be used for determining eligibility. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the Federal Guidelines are eligible for free and reduced price meals or free milk if the school participate in the Special Milk Program.

Application forms were distributed to all students in a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free and reduced-price benefits, households should bill out the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal’s office in each school. A complete application is required. Households which currently receive Special Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits (SNAP, formally known as food stamps) or Ohio Works First (OWF) funds for a child must provide the child’s name, the SNAP or OWF case number and signature of an adult household member on the application. Households which do not receive SNAP or OWF funds must provide the names of all household members, the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the adult signing the application or state “none” if the adult does not have a Social Security Number, the amount and source of income received by each household member, (state the monthly income) and the signature of an adult household member. If any of this information is missing, the school cannot process the application.

FREE HEALTH CARE: Families with children eligible for school meals may be eligible for FREE health care coverage through Medicaid and/or Ohio’s Health Start & Healthy Families programs. These programs include coverage for doctor visits, immunizations, physicals, prescriptions, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse and more. Please call 1-800-324-8680 for more information or to request an application. Information can also be found on the web at http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohy/consumers/familychild.stm. Anyone who has an Ohio Medicaid card is already receiving these services.

The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program official. To discourage the possibility of misrepresentation, the application forms contain a statement above the space for signature certifying that all information furnished is true and correct. Applications are being made in connection with the receipt of federal funds. Schools or other officials may check the information on the application at any time during the school year. Deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable state and federal laws.

Households will be notified of the approval or denial of benefits.

Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits regardless of the household’s income. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals or milk for them, contact the school for more information.

Under the provision of the policy, Judy Riley will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian disagrees with the decision on the application or the result of verification, the decision may be discussed with the determining official on an informal basis. If a formal appeal is desired, the household has the right to a fair hearing. A fair hearing can be requested either orally or in writing from Erica Wolf, Pickerington Local Schools, 90 N. East Street, Pickerington, OH 43147, (614) 833-2110. The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

Households may apply for benefits any time during the school year. If a household is not currently eligible and if the household size increases or income decreases because of unemployment or other reasons, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for free or reduced-price benefits if the family income falls at or below the specified levels.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. “In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”
Antique and Craft Show

Saturday, November 2nd
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Pickerington High School Central
300 Opportunity Way

Variety & Quality in Antiques & Handcrafted Items

Admission $4
Seniors $2
Children 12 and under free

Lunch & Baked Goods Available
50/50 Raffle
FREE Parking
Door Prizes

Sponsored by: Pickerington Central & North Academic Boosters/PTO's