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NEWS FROM PIONEER SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Winter 2009

Capital project yields cost savings

Space, the Final Learning Frontier

Marching Band in Disney spotlight

Capital construction project paying off with cost savings, energy efficiency

With Pioneer Central School facing the possible reduction of \$1 million in state aid, district officials are looking at ways to keep spending in line and not create any additional burdens for taxpayers.

One area that is already helping the district realize cost savings—and will continue to do so for decades to come—is the current capital construction project.



Approved by voters in early 2007, the \$32 million capital construction project has made a major impact in cost savings and energy efficiency for Pioneer. The project has also met objectives regarding staff and student needs and safety concerns.

The following capital project items have a direct, long-term money and energy savings impact:

PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL

- Replacement of almost 40-year-old window blinds. When used properly, the blinds can reduce heating and cooling cost, and make classrooms safer.
- Replacement of two large water heating tanks with multiple smaller tanks, allowing for more efficient operation and maintenance.
- Planned replacement of pool water heating system.
- Installation of new, energy efficient heat pump/cooling units.
- Planned installation of a larger emergency generator, to help prevent Food Service losses if a power outage causes freezers to shut down. Also allows use of the high school as a Red Cross emergency shelter.
- Installation of new stadium lighting improves visibility while allowing for fewer lights and less energy use.
- Retrofitting classrooms, offices, and hallways with energy efficient

fluorescent lights and ballasts.

- Implementing motion sensor light switches in classrooms, which will shut lights off when rooms are not in use.

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Replacement of 30-year-old window blinds.
- Replacement of the roof, including new insulation. The color of the new roof is lighter, which means less heat absorption in the summer.
- Installation of new water heaters and pool water heaters.
- Replacement of damaged, worn exterior doors with better insulated doors. Also, vestibule doors are being replaced, to help eliminate drafts.
- Planned replacement of courtyard area glass with double-paned, energy efficient windows.
- Replacement of hallway and foyer lights with energy efficient, higher quality light fixtures.

DELEVAN ELEMENTARY

- To take advantage of Arcade Elementary access to low-cost Arcade electric, Delevan's electric kitchen appliances were shifted to Arcade. The gas equipment specified for Arcade will be installed at Delevan, utilizing its access to less expensive natural gas. Delevan's electric costs are the highest in the district.

- Replacement of single-pane windows with double-pane.
- Replacement of window blinds.
- Installation of seven new heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) rooftop units. These operate on natural gas, lowering electrical costs.
- Water heater replacement.

ARCADE ELEMENTARY

- Planned reconstruction of the front entrance foyer, with new doors and weather stripping.
- Planned kitchen makeover, with new energy efficient appliances.
- Planned replacement of water heating tanks.

ALL BUILDINGS will realize cost savings through the upgrade and updating of programs for the Johnson Controls energy management systems. These systems help optimize energy use with regard to peak demand periods and weather-related fluctuations.

Throughout the coming months, Pioneer will make more information available to residents regarding ways in which fiscal belt-tightening will be implemented. As always, our objective will be to balance student needs with the financial constraints of our community.

Register for text message alerts regarding school closings

A handy way to instantly know if Pioneer School District is closed or cancelling after school activities can be found at the school web site at www.pioneerschools.org.

If you have not previously signed up, click on the Register link in the upper righthand corner. You will be asked to provide some basic information. The options include entering an email address and/or a cell phone number to receive emergency alerts.

If you have previously registered, visit the home page and click on the 'Sign Up for Enews' link along the right side, and enter a cell number in the appropriate field. Providing you have text capabilities on your phone, you will receive text alerts about weather-related closings and cancellations.

Magical trip for Marching Panthers



During Thanksgiving recess, the Pioneer Marching Panthers travelled to Disney World for a trip that combined performing, fun and learning.

Sixty students and 12 chaperones made the 18-hour, 1,200-mile bus trek from Yorkshire to Florida. According to advisor April Woolley, the group spent three days in the parks and participated in clinics and a parade.

Students marched through the Magic Kingdom in front of thousands of people. “It was a sight to see the band marching in front of Cinderella’s castle,” said Mrs. Woolley.

At one of the clinics, members practiced and performed in a recording studio, where they then provided the background music to “The Little Mermaid.”

They also attended breakfast at the House of Blues, where band members and staff were up on their feet dancing and forming a conga line—at 7:30 in the morning!

Anyone who interacted with the students from Pioneer said they were some of the best students they have encountered. The band is planning another trip to Disney in four or five years.



Pioneer Marching Band members worked over a year to raise funds for their trip to Disney World.

ON THE COVER...

Katie Nelligan and Kendell Jirak of Arcade Elementary School take an outdoor study break with their classmates from Mrs. Hall’s room.

E-mission gives students sense of space

The year is 2080. For the past 10 years space travel has been expanded to the entire solar system.

Space stations exist on the Moon, Earth and Mars. An exploration vessel launched from the moon has been missing for five days.

Pioneer Middle School 5th grade students recently had the opportunity to test their skills in dealing with such a scenario, when they took part in an “e-mission” via videoconference.

In the scenario, led by teachers Mary Sue Asquith and Eric Kramer, there is no audio communication from the lost ship and its navigation system appears to have shut down. It is up to “Pioneer Rescue” to save the ship.

Students are divided into teams. The role of the **Navigation Team** was to chart and graph data to track the lost ship. **Transmission Team** was charged with handling the coded messages being sent by the lost ship to try to locate it.

Cargo Team was assigned with planning the supplies needed for the astronauts on the rescue ship and the return trip home with the recovered crew. This includes the amount of food, water and oxygen.

Communication Team reports all data to Mission Control.



LEFT: Students pay close attention to Mission Control for the next instructions during their recent e-mission.

The students were sent the data they needed by Mission Control directly to their laptops. The students solved their task cards and reported the information to the Communication Team, which reported directly to NASA.

After almost two hours, the lost ship was located and the ship and crew were rescued. The students got to see the rescue ship attach to the lost ship, and witnessed the rescue astronauts open the hatch connecting the two ships and see the reunion.

“The mission was successful, fun and exciting,” said Mrs. Asquith.



ABOVE: Team Uranus included Transmission Specialist Tobias Prey, left, Cargo Specialist Kameron Fisher, and Navigation Specialist Alec Neamon.



Bon appetit!

Pioneer High School French IV students recently took a trip to Delish, a cooking school/pastry shop in Buffalo. They learned to prepare six different hors d'oeuvres (escargot, anyone?) and dined on Coq au Vin with fresh pasta and salad. Shown are juniors Bethany George, left, Katie Kosmerl, Jaclyn Ely, and Erin Steiner.

Pioneer PRO's Giving Tree warms up season for area needy families

Once again in 2008, Pioneer High School's student service group, Pioneer PRO, proved that it has the ability to change people's lives.

Throughout the year, Pioneer PRO helps with many local charities, with the Giving Tree being their biggest project. The members of Pioneer PRO spend countless hours making ornaments, organizing and wrapping gifts, and putting the tree up in the high school foyer. The tree holds ornaments that list the wants and needs of area children, and those who take ornaments can purchase the gifts.

The Giving Tree Project is hosted in all four Pioneer buildings. For the 2008 holiday season, the high school and Delevan Elementary together supported 76 families consisting of 199 children. The middle school supported 30 families consisting of 86 children, while Arcade Elementary supported 24 families consisting of 70 children. All told, the district supported 130 families, totaling 355 kids.

This year, the Arcade Area Chamber of Commerce assisted in this project by donating some of the profits made from the presentation of "The Christmas Story," performed by the Arcade Area Community Theater (AACT). Also, the Arcade VFW hosted two breakfast buffets and donated all profits to the project.

Many other local clubs, businesses and churches donated money and gifts to support the project. They include:

Arcade Area Chamber of Commerce; J & S Agen; Agen Quick Lube; Edward H. Miller; Willey Well Drilling; Gernatt Asphalt; AC Payment Services; The Colour Barre; Aurora Optometric Group; Dr. Dale Deahn; Ward & Kutzuba; Logel Appliance; Prestolite; Zimmer's Shoes; Tri-County Supply; King Brothers Masonry; Bank of Castile; Tompkins Insurance of Arcade; Devin Manufacturing.

Also, Curves (management &



Pioneer PRO members get ready to deliver the holiday goods to area needy families. From left: Jon Wolfe, Chelsey Smith, Ryli Chmiel, Jeanine Youngers, Kari Marowski, Jordan Roth, Brianna Rosa, Megan O'Donnell.

members); Genesee Community College; Arcade Area Community Theater; Java Kiwanis; Arcade VFW; Barnyard Crew 4-H Club; Laces of Love; Living Waters Ministries – Circle C Ranch; Chaffee Community Baptist Church; St. Jude's Church - Sardinia; East Aurora Christian Church; Sardinia

United Methodist Church; Arcade Church of God; United Methodist Church of Sardinia; Yorkshire Free Methodist Church; Pathways Christian Fellowship, South Wales; Joy Community Church, Machias; Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational.

A Giving Tree thank you note

Pioneer Pro received the following thank you note from a mother whose family was helped by this year's Giving Tree campaign:

"I would like to take the time to say thank you to everyone who took part in the Giving Tree. Because of all of you, my children now have a Christmas. Just knowing that there are people who care enough to go out of your way to give to others means so much to me. God bless every one of you.

"The gift I am going to receive is seeing the smiles on my children's faces on Christmas morning when they open [their gifts]. I am so thankful for everything. You all made this a special Christmas for us. Thanks again and Merry Christmas to all of you and your families!"



Pioneer Cares

Interested in an outstanding lifetime investment?

Hard as it is these days to feel confident about any financial investment, there is dramatic positive evidence about one particular kind – education! Besides enabling us to communicate well, understand and appreciate our world, learning pays huge financial dividends over long periods of time.

The accompanying table (below, right) illustrates how educational attainment increases average annual and lifetime earning power. Few other investments are as sustained and reliable.

Credentials build on one another. Without a high school diploma, obtaining an associate or bachelor's degree is unlikely. Also, the usefulness of credentials in the real world usually depends on the accumulated quality of effort put into obtaining them. Put simply, doing well in school can help you open the door to future opportunities, just as barely getting by will come back to bite you.

Finally, the gap in earning power between degrees of attainment is growing. Skill requirements for both service and manufacturing jobs have

From the Superintendent



Dr. Jeffrey Bowen

raised earnings for graduates while depressing the wages of those with lesser credentials when measured in constant dollars. The difference in earnings is compounded over a lifetime.

The message for Pioneer students and their parents? Student choices about whether to stay in school and take responsibility for one's learning are urgent, immediate decisions that will affect the decades to come.

The payoff for our broader community can be seen in certain economic trends for our region. At least seven of every 10 Cattaraugus County residents have lived AND worked in the same county for the last decade. In addition, a large percentage of our baby boomers are on the verge of retirement. So our economic survival will depend largely on replacing retirees -- with educated individuals who have the skills and know-how to meet our regional employment needs.

To sum up, when we spend public tax revenues on Pioneer public schools, we invest in the future of every child multiplied by every child's lifetime, and at the same time we preserve our community's economic survival.

Education	Average Annual Earning	Average Lifetime Earning
High school dropout	\$22,000	\$1.1 million
High school diploma	\$31,000	\$1.4 million
Associate degree	\$38,000	\$1.8 million
Bachelor's Degree	\$50,000	\$2.5 million

Source: College Board, *Education Pays*, 2004

Date change for "The Wiz"; Musical will be March 6-8

The date of the annual Pioneer Music Department musical, "The Wiz," has been postponed from Jan. 31-Feb. 2, to March 6-8.

Performances will be given on Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m., and on Sunday, March 8, at 2:00 p.m., inside George C. Crawford Auditorium.

A senior citizen show will be announced later.

Board members trained & certified

Two Pioneer Board of Education members have received citations from the New York State School Boards Association's Leadership Development program.

Raymond Haberer and Suzanne Ellis received the Developmental Achievement Citation for completing 40 credits. Mr. Haberer has been a school board member since 1991 and has served as clerk of the board for much of the last 14 years. Mrs. Ellis was first elected in 2008.



Suzanne Ellis Raymond Haberer

The program was designed to recognize the extensive time and effort required of school board members who strive to continually expand their governance knowledge and skills.

Members qualify for recognition by participating in various NYSSBA development activities, such as the Academy for Public School Governance, Board Officers Academy, School Board Institute courses, legal conferences, regional workshops, or district-level custom improvement programs.

It's time to think about pre-kindergarten

Free and open to all children regardless of income!

Pioneer Central School District

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

2009 - 2010 school year

Pioneer anticipates that the New York State Universal Pre-Kindergarten will continue for the 2009-2010 school year. Although we are not yet certain of the dollar amount we will be awarded through the grant, it is important to survey parents as soon as possible to predict the number of students interested in attending the PreK program.

Pioneer's Pre-K program is planned to remain the same - 2 _ hours (morning or afternoon sessions), 5 days/week. (Class placement is determined by transportation routing.)

Eligibility for the UPK program includes:

1. Must be 4 years old by December 1, 2009 (any child 5 years old by Dec. 1st is not eligible to attend);
2. Must complete and return all school registration and medical record forms (Physical, Immunization Record, Health History) for enrollment in the Pioneer School District (forms are available in elementary school offices);
3. Must make a commitment to regular daily attendance (Students attending would be expected to abide by the district's attendance policy with attendance 5 days/week);
4. Parents must make a commitment to participate in their child's educational program.

Register early! All survey forms (below) must be in to an elementary school office by 4:00 pm May 18th to participate in the May 19th lottery drawing for a place in the class. Late registrations will be considered as they come in only if there is available space. A waiting list would be established.

Delevan Elementary has room for only 36 students . . . Arcade Elementary has room for only 72 students

If you are interested in your child attending Pioneer's Pre-kindergarten program for next school year, please return this survey and complete a Pre-K/School registration packet *.

I am interested in Pioneer's Pre-K for next year and am considering enrolling my child.

My child would attend PreK at Arcade Elementary Delevan Elementary

I will be transporting my child to and from Pre-K, 5 days/week for the school year.

My child will need transportation to and from home to attend Pre-K.

My child will need transportation to and from a location other than home. The address is _____

My child will need transportation to and from Early Bird (Arcade) Rainbow's End

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent's Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____

(Morning or afternoon class assignments will be determined by the specific geographic area where the bus will pick up and drop off your child - make sure Terry Grajek (# below) is notified of any change of address before the bus routing is completed in July to assure that your child will still qualify for transportation to either the morning or afternoon class sessions.)

*** . . . Pre - K/School official registration packets are available in elementary school offices . . .**

Please return this survey to the school office at Delevan Elementary, Arcade Elementary, mail or email to

Terry Grajek, Pre-K Grant Office, Arcade Elementary, PO Box 9 , Arcade, NY 14009

Call 716-492-9454 or email tgrajek@pion.unyrc.org for information

This is an equal opportunity program.

Pioneer School District
P.O. Box 9
Arcade, NY 14009

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Special education review under way

The Special Education Department of Pioneer School District is complying with a state review designed to help it improve the services it provides.

The following is the required announcement of the review:

The New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) has initiated a Special Education Quality Assurance focused review in Pioneer School District during the 2008-09 school year.

The purpose of this IDEA Effective Instructional Practices Focused Review is to assess the district's compliance with selected federal and state laws and regulations governing the education

of students with disabilities as well as its ability to meet key performance indicators identified by NYSED.

The review will be conducted by VESID's Special Education Quality Assurance office and staff from the Special Education Training and Resource Center (SETRC), and will include representatives from the school district.

The review will involve a review of school records of selected students with disabilities, classroom visitations and staff interviews. In addition, several meetings of the Committee on Special Education will be observed.

Further information may be obtained by contacting VESID's Special Education Quality Assurance office in your region and/or by contacting your school district.

Pennies for Patients returns for 7th year

Arcade Elementary School will participate in its seventh annual Pennies for Patients program from February 2 to March 9.

Over the last seven years, Arcade students have raised over \$9,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

This year, Arcade will honor one of its students who is undergoing treatment for leukemia. Cloey Smith is a third grade student of Mrs. Denise Feltz.

Residents are asked to help the staff and students with their collection of spare change to help the cause.