

November 15, 2013



New school director appointed at Perpich

Antwan Harris, who joined Perpich Dec. 3, 2012 as assistant principal, has been named Perpich Arts High School director, effective immediately. He succeeds Carlondrea Hines, who, after being named principal of both Perpich and Crosswinds Arts and Science School in Woodbury last summer, will focus solely on the Crosswinds program.

Harris came to Perpich from ISD 191—Burnsville, Eagan, Savage—where he served as dean of students for four years. Previously, he taught in the Osseo and then Robbinsdale school districts for about 10 years before taking an administrative role in the Burnsville district. He also worked as an administrator handling discipline procedures and as a district cultural diversity coordinator.

He holds B.S. and M.A. degrees in kinesiology from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and an educational leadership certificate from St. Cloud State University. His licenses and certifications are in K-12 physical education and K-12 administration with pending licenses for superintendent and special education director.

In addition to his work in schools, Harris is recognized as “one of the most successful youth coaches in Minnesota at age 40,” according to “The Minnesota Daily.” He started coaching an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team in 1995 and led the team to its first ever title in ESPN’s AAU national championship. This success earned him the honor of coaching for “various medal-winning youth teams for USA Basketball in 2007 and 2009-12” six times, according to “The Daily.” This year, Harris was “promoted to head coach for the Nike Global Challenge in 2013, when he led his team to a bronze medal,” according to the University of Minnesota newspaper.



Renowned local artist Ta-coumba Aiken coming to Perpich

Ta-coumba Aiken, a big advocate for Perpich, is a painter and public art maker in the Twin Cities. His work will be featured in the Laboratory Fine Arts Gallery in December and he will be speaking to visual arts students next month. Aiken has been instrumental in the St. Paul Lowertown art and housing development and won a “Sally” award in 2012 for innovation in art education. To see the highlights of his career go to ta-coumbaiken.com.



Alumna receives Jerome Fellowship

Amara Hark-Weber ('99, lit) recently was awarded a Jerome Fellowship through the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. She will do a project combining traditional shoe-making techniques with traditional bookbinding and printing techniques to create objects that can be worn and read. Congratulations Amara!



Perpich workshop for dance educators focused on “The Language of Dance”

As part of Perpich’s arts courses for educators, Diane Aldis, dance education coordinator for the professional development and outreach team at Perpich, led an all-day workshop Nov. 8 based on the “elements of dance” vocabulary and concepts and “Brain Dance,” which uses the eight movement patterns that humans develop during their first two years of life. The day was constructed of opportunities for teachers to learn through doing and apply Perpich dance lessons and tools to their K-5 classrooms and grades 6-12 content areas. Twenty-eight metro and outstate educators from seven different school districts attended the workshop.

These teams started in August with the kickoff of what is a two-year professional development program. Teams attend workshops at Perpich and receive additional coaching and planning services as well as site visits by teaching artist instructors. The schools also receive a grant to cover expenses such as substitute teachers and travel costs.

Perpich education research coordinator’s article published

Byron Richard, Perpich education research coordinator, recently had an article he co-wrote with Christa Treichel, “Increasing Secondary Teachers’ Capacity to Integrate the Arts,” published in “The Clearing House: A Journal of Educational Strategies, Issues and Ideas.” Congratulations, Byron!



Perpich in the news

Kate Hampton, senior in arts/science, was the featured “Standout Student” on local Golden Valley television station, Channel 12. Arts/science instructor Tory Peterson also was taped, explaining why Kate was chosen for this honor. Way to go, Kate!

Perpich media senior Kim Atchley and music junior Maja Sullivan of Royalton and theater senior Paris Mickelson of Hillman were featured in an article in their hometown newspaper, the “Morrison County Record” with the headline, “Morrison County teens passionate about Perpich Arts High School.”



Band featuring two Perpich alumni featured in the “Star Tribune” and Twitter

Alumni Liz Elton and Corrie Harrigan are two-thirds of the rock trio, Kitten Forever, that got a very nice write-up in the “Star Tribune” on Oct. 31. The story led to some tweets and alumni connections in the social media world. Congrats to Liz and Corrie and band mate Laura Larson on the story!



Aaron Hilden
1976 - 2013

New Perpich Scholarship established in Aaron Hilden's name

Linda Henning, president of the Perpich Foundation, announced the establishment of a foundation scholarship program in the name and memory of Aaron Hilden, music teacher at Perpich and Crosswinds, who died unexpectedly at the end of October from complications of diabetes.

"We deeply mourn his passing and our hearts go out to his family," Henning said. Funds raised for the scholarship will be given to Perpich music students who excel academically and artistically and are accepted at a four-year college, university or conservatory to pursue a degree in music, music education or other related program. The first scholarship will be awarded to a graduating arts high senior in the spring of 2014.

The foundation made an initial contribution of \$250 to the scholarship fund. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the scholarship fund may do so by either placing a check made out to "Perpich Foundation" in the foundation's mailbox at Perpich or sending it via U.S. mail to Perpich Foundation, Aaron Hilden Scholarship Fund, 6125 Olson Memorial Hwy., Golden Valley, MN, 55422. If you prefer to donate by credit card, you may do so at the Foundation website at: perpich.org/donate.aspx. If you donate through the website, please send an e-mail to Henning at lrhenning100@hotmail.com indicating that your donation is designated for the Aaron Hilden Scholarship Program.



Artsience hosted two community groups at Perpich this week

The artsience program hosted two events at Perpich this week, inviting a group of design thinkers and designers to meet with them on Wednesday and the Innovators and Entrepreneurs of the Twin Cities on Thursday. The goal is to raise awareness of the artsience program and to recruit community expertise and funding to support artsience students and their projects.



Crowd-sourcing invades the halls of Perpich

Installations have popped up around the building asking for viewer participation. Visual arts seniors are currently working on crowd-sourced art projects. They studied the work of contemporary artist, such as Aaron Koblin and Phil Hansen who draw on James Surowiecki's "wisdom of crowds" concept to make art with the contributions of thousands of people.

Students were given an assignment to create their own crowd-sourced art projects. They could decide what scope of participation was reasonable for them. Some chose to engage only other visual art students; others are seeking contributions from the Perpich community; and others have turned to social media to engage a global audience. These are works in progress and may continue to grow as the year goes on. Over the summer we will exhibit the more successful projects in the Laboratory Fine Arts Gallery. Visual art juniors will be given this same assignment in the spring.



2D visual arts class gets a “curve ball”

Pat Benincasa’s 2D Fundamentals students were given an unusual challenge for their final project. They were asked to cut out 30-40 magazine images of objects, using art elements of line, color, shape, texture and value to guide their selection. They could not use faces, hands, feet or text. They then organized painting compositions using at least eight of their images out of context. The paintings are non-narrative, do not tell stories and are not organized by theme. Students had to organize their objects based on the overall design flow of art elements and use objects free from their real life functions. This project is called “Viewfinder Mixed Realities” because students are approaching painting through a different view and juxtaposing multiple realities, scales and value systems in one painting. The results are on the walls in the west studio.



Perpich Foundation and parents feed Perpich teachers during conferences

The Perpich Foundation and parent volunteers served a fantastic dinner to teachers and staff during teacher/parent conferences Nov. 7. Parent Jodi Yarusso coordinated the event. Thank you to all the volunteers who cooked and brought food for the meal and served it to our terrific instructors!

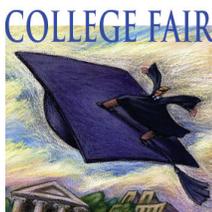


Perpich Arts Library is “pinned”

Librarian Anne Dennison has been adding many “pins” to the library’s Pinterest site. She created a board for the [Minnesota Music Collection](#) and pinned many of the [new visual art/photography books](#) she has been steadily cataloging and adding to the collection this fall. Please check out what’s new (several of the art books are also on display in the library). Remember you don’t have to be a member of Pinterest to look at the library Pinterest page!

Math instructor retiring

Kathy Nyseth, math instructor, is retiring after 17 years of service. Her last day at Perpich was today. As colleague and English instructor Sun Yung Shin wrote, “she begins a delightful new chapter of her life which will include quality time with her two wee granddaughters (aged 3 1/2 and 2), continuing to perform with the Kenwood Symphony as a cellist and engaging in other various activities that—alas—do not involve grading math homework.” We wish you the very best, Kathy!



College fair alert

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have invited all students in the Twin Cities area to a college fair representing their four-year colleges on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6-8 p.m., at Brackett’s Crossing Country Club, 17976 Judicial Rd., Lakeville; and on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6-8 p.m., at Rush Creek Golf Club, 7801 County Rd. 101, Maple Grove.



Dance educators' retreat co-sponsored by Perpich Dec. 6

The K-12 Dance Educators' Retreat II will be Dec. 6th at the Davis Education & Service Center, 1250 W. Broadway, Minneapolis. The retreat will include a professional teaching community that first convened in February 2013 around a key question: "How do Race, Ethnicity and Culture Play Out in My Classroom?" This essential question remains the cornerstone for ongoing dance educator retreats in which K-12 dance educators from many districts come together to grapple with this question as well as share expertise and discoveries about designing, teaching and assessing dance in a 21st century student-centered classroom. The K-12 Retreat is a joint project of Perpich Center for Arts Education, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and West Metro Education Program (WMEP). The core design team includes Diane Aldis, dance education coordinator for the professional development and outreach team.

Readings and performances starting to fill the calendar

Yesterday saw the opening of the junior visual arts self-portrait exhibition. If you weren't able to make the opening, be sure to walk through the gallery the next time you are at the school—the originality and talent just pops off the walls! The first literary arts reading of the year was in the Black Box Theater last night with seniors bringing their writing skills to the public with verve and style.

The theater's fall performance begins next Wednesday evening, Nov. 20, and runs through Saturday, Nov. 23. The show features Latino folk tale vignettes with an emphasis on movement to reveal objects and surroundings that aren't actually there. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and cost \$8 for adults; \$5 for youth (under 18) and seniors (over 62); Perpich students and staff, free.

On Monday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. the junior literary arts students will give their first reading of the year in the Performance Hall. All literary arts readings are free.

Share information about the performances with friends and family! Attend and bring friends! One of the most valuable aspects of being a student at Perpich is to share one's work with the public.

New vending machine in dorm

A new vending machine featuring healthy options has been installed in the dorm. The machine features fresh perishable and non-perishable products from popular brands at reasonable prices. It has non-chilled and chilled sections to choose from. The machine accepts credit and debit cards as well as cash.





Upcoming information session

As we look to the next school year and how to best reach potential Perpich students, the communications department would like you to know about our admissions MailChimp campaign. Our most **recent update** was just sent out to people who have signed up at our last info session, at the fair and on our website.

Feel free to share this with friends and family and through any social media platforms you may utilize. People who are interested in learning more about admissions at Perpich can also sign up for updates here: perpich.us6.list-manage.com or on the Perpich website: perpich.mn.gov/ahs/admin

Word of mouth continues to be one of the biggest ways that students find out about Perpich, so even if MailChimp isn't your thing, please let people know that we are still hosting two info sessions for the upcoming school year on Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 11 from 1-3 p.m.

Calendar

Dates

Nov 19	Information Session 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Nov 20–23	Theater Performances 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Nov 25	Jr. Literary Reading 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Nov 27	No Classes
Nov 28–29	Holiday
Dec 7	SAT Test
Dec 11–14	Dance Performances 7:30 p.m.

Perpich Arts High School	6125 Olson Memorial Highway	Sue Mackert
Perpich Arts Outreach	Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422	Executive Director
Perpich Arts Library	perpich.mn.gov	763-279-4160

If you have news or events, please email: communications@pcae.k12.mn.us. Follow us on Facebook: [Perpich Facebook Page](#), [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#)