

What's the Buzz?

January Newsletter

549 Family Foundation
200 5th St. SE
Perham, MN 56573

Happy New Year!!

Congratulations! 549 Family Foundation granted \$1000.00 to the PHS Science Department to support Becky Rennie's Science Research projects using GIS. The students do authentic, environmental research working with local, regional and state experts. The projects the students are working on this year include:

The Perham Wellhead Protection Program

The Perham Firewise Project

Eyes on Wildlife Research

Urban Forestry Program.

All these projects are direct, hands-on, real experiences for students, which inspire enthusiasm and interest in issues of community interest and will perhaps inspire these students to pursue careers in the science field.

And to kick start students' interest in this science area, 549 Family has granted Prairie Wind Middle School \$500.00 to purchase 2 GPS units used by Rondi Ulmer's 8th grade Earth Science class. Some of their activities actually assist some of the research that takes place with Rennie's science class at PHS. The 8th graders do 3 days of GPS well locating and assist the Department of Agriculture and the Soil & Water Conservation Service to do water testing. The data is compiled and used to follow the health of our aquifers. 549 Family is proud to support the Sciences in our district!

To apply for a grant to benefit ISD 549, go to www.549family.com for the application. It is recommended, but not required that grant applications for the '05-'06 school year be submitted by September 30, 2005. Drop your completed app at any district school office, attention of coordinator, Jo Strege, PWMS.



Ariel Pankonen, Jessica Speicher, Kari Cavanagh & Becca Huebsch share a giant "THANK YOU" to 549 Family on behalf of Sue Jones' Computer Applications class. All 8th graders have been using their new digital camera bought with a grant from 549 Family as they learn to use PowerPoint and to import digital pictures. Some students are using the camera to compile a presentation for the 8th grade celebration in the spring. Students are also learning to use Adobe Elements to edit & enhance their photos. 7th graders will soon be able to use the camera for their upcoming assignment of making a calendar.

"We love our new camera and really appreciate the excitement its use has brought to the classroom," says teacher Sue Jones. Thanks 549 Family!

Meet 549 Family Board Member, Tom Spencer

Saying Tom Spencer is dedicated to our schools is a major understatement. Mr. Spencer has dedicated his last 32 years to the students of Perham High School teaching, ...teaching, ...and teaching some more!

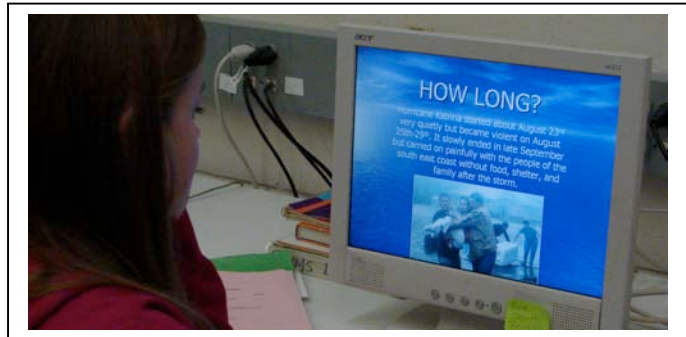
Tom graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1971 and earned a Masters of Teaching at the University of St. Thomas in 1972. After teaching 2 years of grade school at St. Luke Catholic School in St. Paul, Tom moved to Perham when he married his wife, Mary Melancon in 1974. They have 3 daughters: Eden graduated PHS in 1997, Julia graduated PHS in 2000 and Maria graduated PHS in 2004. Tom began his term on the 549 Family board on Jan. 1, 2005.

In addition to teaching, Tom has also been involved with the elementary football program, and has been advisor for the National Honor Society and the Student Council. Currently, he is the coach for the PHS Knowledge Bowl Team and is a member of the PHS Building Leadership Team.



Who are the members of the 549 Family?

PARENTS of students in this district would be the most obvious group of people looking to make sure their kids have every possible opportunity and advantage for their future by providing a solid education now. They know taxes just don't cut it.
ALUMNI have interest in supporting their alma mater. They feel they gained something from the Perham-Dent school system, and are proud to see traditions continue and students excel. They know this is a great way to give back to the community.
BUSINESS OWNERS are interested in having a healthy school system that will attract people to the area. Healthy schools, healthy local economy, healthy businesses. They know this investment is a good one.
COMMUNITY MEMBERS/RETIREEES are interested in high education standards and active kids that will be strong, thriving members of the community one day as neighbors, parents and leaders. They know that STRONG SCHOOLS lead to STRONG COMMUNITIES which lead to STRONG FUTURES for all of us!
With so many obvious benefits for everyone, the question would have to be...If you're not a member yet, why not??



More pictures of 8th graders in Sue Jones' Computer Applications class learning more about digital photography and applications thanks to a grant from 549 Family!

Honey Bee Gala Planning Meeting
Monday, January 9th, 6 – 7pm, Lakes Café Back Room
All 549 Family Members Welcome!!

www.549family.com

218-347-0549

Board Members:

Brian Mort, President

Dean Bahls, Treasurer

Jo Strege, Coordinator

David Arvig

Tom Spencer

Bob Wilkowski

Superintendent to Advise:

Tamara Uselman

