

New club takes flight

Students pilot new drones

By Sam Cook

Hovering high over Perry skies, the new Flight Club will deploy their dedicated drones. Starting in January students will have the chance to learn about and even fly drones themselves.

Librarian **Diane Turpen** applied for a \$1,000 grant over the summer which allowed the school to purchase eight mini drones and one larger drone for the new Flight club, created by Turpen and physics teacher **Andy Nuetzel**.

“It’s going to go anywhere if you have no idea.”

- **Brandon Adams**

The two hope the club will introduce students to the technology and teach the basics of flying. The club will meet after school every other Monday starting Jan. 15.

Turpen hopes to spark interest in a variety of careers such as the military, construction and real estate.

The drones will be used to to introduce students to ways they can use them as a potential hobby, too. Nuetzel said that he will be teaching students not only how to fly, but repair drones. They also plan to use the drones in some science classes such as Nuetzel’s physics classes.

The larger drone is the DGI Predator. The DGI Predator drone can fly higher and hover in place allowing for video of the school from above and the stadium from above, as seen in the Environmental Club’s award-winning video. The eight mini drones don’t fly as high Students may well have seen Nuetzel conducting test flights throughout the school’s halls.

The club will learn about the many laws and regulations that restrict or control the usage of drones. For example, the large drone can only legally fly up to 400 feet high. Nuetzel plans to “navigate the lovely laws” and is excited for the club and the possibilities such as racing the drones.

The drones are not necessarily easy to fly as junior **Brandon Adams** said, “It’s going to go anywhere if you have no idea.” Nuetzel explained that, flying has a learning curve the first couple times of practice. He further said, “They [the mini drones] are not the most responsive.” Turpen also explained that the small drones are harder to fly as they lack some of the agility of the DGI Predator

The X-Box remote is similar to the drones, said Nuetzel. Videogame players may pickup the art of drone flying more easily than non-gamers.

The drones themselves are pretty tough and are “built to take a little bit of bruising”, said Turpen. They can additionally be used to take video or pictures from stunning heights.



The photo above shows an example of a drone’s view from onboard camera hovering above Perry Meridian. Taken by the large DGI predator drone, the photo captures an overhead view of students before school (Photo provided by Diane Turpen).

Mice crash Thanksgiving lunch

By Payton Romans and Alisa Raufeisen

‘Twas the weeks before finals, and all through the halls, not a student was stirring...only the mice after fall.

During the time around fall break, a series of mice related horror stories came scurrying into the halls of PMHS.

With a turkey and pumpkin bar adorned Thanksgiving lunch making its annual debut in the PMHS cafeteria, an unexpected guest made a surprise appearance.

Sophomore **Alyssa Hunt** was in the middle of consuming a spoonful of mashed potatoes when her friends stirred in an uproar to point out the pattering feet of a mouse in the fluorescent lights above them. Hunt describes the situation as a shock to everyone.

“You could see its feet and its long tail right above us. I definitely lost my appetite after that.”

Freshman **Kaitlyn Gornik’s** classroom mouse encounter was before fall

break this year in her Honors Biology class. “Before fall break, I was sitting in class during second period, and all of a sudden Mrs. Knight screams and jumps onto her desk, pointing and yelling about their being a mouse in the corner.”

Science teacher **Nikki Knight** further explained the incident saying, “I saw the tiniest mouse scurry across my room, and I screamed. The kids all came up and tried to catch it with cups but he was just so fast. It was like a game. Like a crash course in how to catch a mouse.”

Knight says a common theme with the appearance of the mice is left-out food.

“There are just so many kids with food in their lockers and they leave it out everywhere. The mice are looking for a warm place in the winter, and we have this big building with food everywhere so it’s like a smorgasbord paradise for them.”

After a finals fiasco featuring furry

friends in her classroom last year, Spanish teacher **Kaitlyn Camp** said, “I don’t bring in any kind of snacks anymore. I used to have crackers and candy, but not anymore. I still have traps under my desk because of the mice from last year.”

Custodian **JB Johnson** further confirmed food and candy being the main perpetrator for mice.

The field outside the school is usually what mice call home, until it gets too cold and they scurry indoors- to PMHS.

After explaining that mice come into the school through gaps in doors of the school, Johnson said the school goes through about 2 boxes of 70 traps a school year.

He says the traps have caught about 10 mice every year, “Except for the ones I’ve caught with my hands.”

Johnson said in his 20 years at PMHS, “There have always been the same amount [of mice] every year.”



Junior Alex Hooton and Andy Nuetzel practice drone flight skills. Nuetzel acknowledged breaking a drone himself, so learning repair skills is important (Photo by Alisa Raufeisen).

“You could see its feet and its long tail right above us. I definitely lost my appetite after that.”

- **Alyssa Hunt**



The picture above shows a mouse trap in the back office of the cafeteria, next to at least five other traps (Photo by Emily Lloyd).