

## Our Mission is Clear

### *In tough times, Peru Central sees gains in student achievement*

As Education Commissioner Richard Mills would say, the mission of Peru Central School District is certain for this rural school community and its children: Teach all students a continuously updated curriculum, using a variety of practical, proven research-based methods to actively engage students and meet individual learning styles.

Federal and state accountability reports on Peru CSD released summer 2008 reflect gains in student achievement and professional practice among faculty and administrators. Continuous improvement of student success, curriculum and instruction are priorities at Peru CSD.



### *Uncertain National and Statewide Economies*

In contrast, national and state economies are in a period of uncertainty. The Rockefeller Institute Fiscal Studies Program October 2008 state-by-state national report on revenues suggests that states such as New York which rely heavily on the financial services industry will be hit extremely hard, via the taxes they levy on the financial services sector, and through the spillover effects on other parts of the state economy.

There is growing anticipation of a more significant and more prolonged recessionary period. During our seventy years as a rural school district, Peru Central has weathered prior economic downturns and is committed to doing so in the future. The district will be mindful of this economic downturn in the months ahead, particularly in regard to the budget development process this winter. 🍏





# Fiscal Accountability: Progress & Next Steps

	<b>Fiscal Accountability Function</b>	<b>Updated as part of 21st Century Fiscal Accountability Initiatives</b>	<b>Identified by Peru CSD Fall 2007 as a Priority for Fiscal Accountability Updating</b>	<b>Action Already In Progress</b>
1	Audit Committee	🍏		
2	Cell Phones	🍏		
3	Competitive Bidding	🍏		
4	Conference/workshop Reimbursements	🍏		
5	Inventory Control	🍏		
6	Mandatory Board Member Training	🍏		
7	Meals & Refreshments	🍏		
8	Medicaid Reimbursement	🍏		
9	Multi-Year Financial Planning	🍏		
10	Purchase Orders	🍏		
11	Payroll	Started Fall 2007	🍏	🍏
12	Cash Disbursements	Started Fall 2007	🍏	🍏
13	Cash Receipts	Started Fall 2007	🍏	🍏
14	Extra-Curricular Activity Accounts	Started Fall 2007	🍏	🍏
15	Information Technology Network Controls	Started Fall 2007	🍏	🍏

# State Comptroller to Release Audit on Peru CSD Fiscal Responsibility

The Empire State's mission to improve public accountability includes having the Comptroller's Office audit each of the state's approximately 830 school districts, charter schools and Boards of Cooperative Services [BOCES] by year 2010. Such audits are intended to help school districts and BOCES enhance and improve their practices, policies and protocols associated with fiscal accountability and resource management.

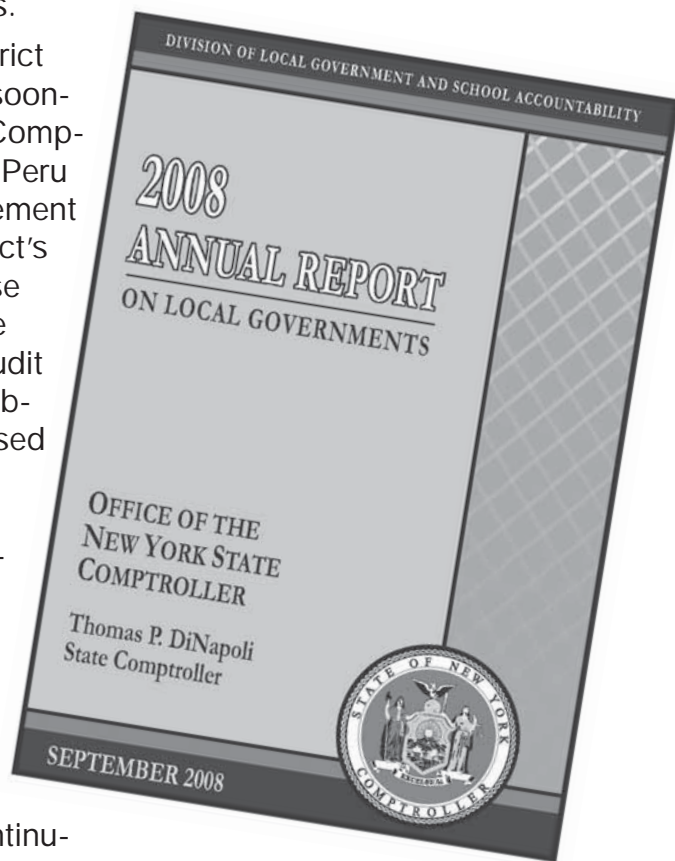
Many of our internal controls and accounting practices and procedures have been in place for decades. Top priorities for the school board and administration for fiscal accountability updating have included establishing an audit committee, updating policies and practices for cell phones, competitive bidding, conference workshop & attendance, inventory control, meals & refreshments, Medicaid reimbursement, purchase orders and multi-year financial training.

During fall of 2007, our internal auditor and district office administration identified 'next steps:'

payroll practices and procedures, cash disbursements, cash receipts, extra-curricular student activity accounts and information technology network controls.

The school district anticipates the soon-to-be released Comptroller's Audit of Peru CSD will complement our school district's attention to those 'next steps.' The Comptroller's Audit is likely to be published and released from the Comptroller's Office later this semester.

Such updating of fiscal accountability policies and practices has been part of continuous improvement at Peru Central during recent years. Such updating will continue in the future. ●



## Operations at Peru Central

This school year, as has been the case for decades, Peru Central School District enrolls more students than any other school district in our BOCES region. October 2008 enrollment was 2,167 students. Support operations at Peru Central are structured to serve large numbers of students, staff and volunteers in efficient fashion.

During the 2007-2008 school year:

- 30,170 staff hours were completed by custodial services team members.
- 905 work orders were completed by the building maintenance team members.
- 200,274 school lunches were served by cafeteria services team members. ●

### *Over 2,500 Volunteer Hours in 2007-08*

The community has offered its time, talent and ideas throughout the decades. Volunteerism is alive and well at Peru Central. This past school year alone, school volunteers completed 2,514 hours of logged volunteer service at school. Such strong support adds tremendous value to our community's children and their school district. Thank you!

# Thanks for approval of EXCEL project and annual budget

Peru Central offers its appreciation for the March 12, 2008 voter approval of the EXCEL project referendum. Planning efforts associated with design, specifications and submittal to Albany of the various repairs, renovations and improvements are well under

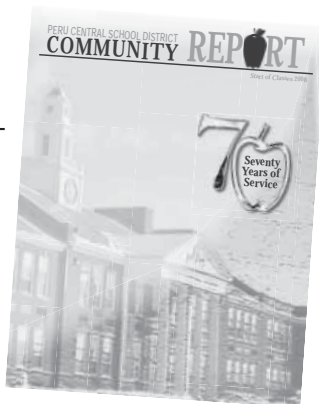
way. This capital project work is slated to start by summer of 2010.

Peru Central also offers appreciation for the May 20th voter approval of the 2008-2009 budget plan, which sustains our instruc-

tional programs and services provided to our community's children. Peru Central recognizes and offers thanks to the community, which has customarily been very supportive of its local public education system. 🍏

## Fall 2008 Report Available

A more detailed report highlighting Peru Central's seventy years of service to this rural community, coupled with a more detailed report on current instructional programs and support operations, is available to residents via the Web site at [www.perucsd.org](http://www.perucsd.org) or by telephoning the district clerk at 643-6002 to request a paper copy of that report be mailed to you. That report was available at the September 2008 'open house' events across campus. 🍏



## Winter/Spring 2009 Budget Workshop Dates Set

The Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator have reserved specific dates for early evening budget development workshops this school year. Peru CSD residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Budget workshops are slated for the following evenings in the Community Room near the renovated lobby of the high school: February 3rd; February 10th; March 3rd; March 10th; March 24th and March 31st. Start times and agendas for these meetings will be posted on the Peru CSD Web site a week or so in advance of each meeting at [www.perucsd.org](http://www.perucsd.org).

Interested individuals may telephone the district office at 643-6002 a few days before a budget meeting to gather the start time for that meeting.



## COMMUNITY REPORT

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