

Peshtigo freshmen learn public speaking skills

Lessons may help them reach future career success

Editor's note: This article was submitted by the Peshtigo School District.

Special to the EagleHerald

PESHTIGO—Peshtigo freshmen students presented speeches to their classmates to improve their speaking and presentation skills.

English teacher Glenn Berry had his students prepare speeches recently. "Building skills in public speaking will help students in situations where they have to speak with unfamiliar or intimidating people," Berry said. He emphasizes that communication skills are vital for success in their careers.

Freshmen English students just finished up a grammar unit reviewing clauses and sentences. As a final assessment, students created informative and demonstrative speeches about topics they chose. Berry required students to include a specified amount of clauses and sentences in the outline, coupled with the use of a visual aid.

Team teacher Alison Stauss explains that public speaking helps students "build confidence and courage in front of their peers." She adds that lessons like this also teach critical thinking and job readiness skills.

"This speech allows students to find something they're good at and share their expertise with their peers," Stauss said.

For example, Berry explains that one student spoke about bow hunting and explained about types of arrows and blinds. Another student explained how to bake cookies and brought in homemade cookies she baked for the class.

Stauss adds, "Students gave excellent speeches on topics including dog-training, make-up application, hunting, and farming."

Students see how their lesson relates to their future. Freshman Hannah Behnke taught her classmates how to convince their parents to say "yes" to anything and noted, "Speaking in front of others will help with any career."

Nathan Staton taught classmates how to jig while



Peshtigo freshman Elaina Weddel teaches snowman building techniques to her classmates as part of public speaking training.

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ice fishing and stated, "When you become a manager or owner of a business you will need to talk to a lot of people."

Delia Paquette hopes to become an author and recognizes that she'll need to deliver a pitch to publishers.

Eliana Weddel taught classmates how to "build the best snowman" and shared, "I know this will help me with my career path because you have to talk to people for nearly every profession."

Speaking with confidence is a very useful skill. "Having

the ability to fight through one's nerves and deliver confident remarks will help students through many aspects throughout life," Berry said, adding that that speaking skills can help with "a situation like a job interview or even the first day on the job."

He said, "Students want to learn. They don't always want to learn about direct and indirect objects, but they want to learn."

Berry said he works hard to make lessons "relatable and enjoyable so they succeed."

NATION

Georgia DA asks for special grand jury in election probe

By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

ATLANTA—The Georgia prosecutor looking into possible attempts to interfere in the 2020 general election by former President Donald Trump and others has asked for a special grand jury to aid the investigation.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis on Thursday sent a letter to Fulton County Superior Court Chief Judge Christopher Brasher asking him to impanel a special grand jury. She wrote in the letter that her office "has received information indicating a reasonable probability that the State of Georgia's administration of elections in 2020, including the State's election of the President of the United States, was subject to possible criminal disruptions."

Willis has declined to speak about the specifics of her investigation, but in an interview with The Associated Press earlier this month she confirmed that its scope includes—but is not limited to—a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call between Trump and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a November 2020 phone call between U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and Raffensperger, the abrupt resignation of the U.S. attorney in Atlanta on Jan. 4, 2021, and comments made during December 2020 Georgia legislative committee hearings on the election. A Trump spokesman has previously dismissed the investigation as a politically motivated "witch hunt." Graham has also denied any wrongdoing.

In a statement Thursday, Trump said his call to

Raffensperger was "perfect."

"I didn't say anything wrong in the call, made while I was President on behalf of the United States of America, to look into the massive voter fraud which took place in Georgia," Trump said. He ended his statement by saying, "No more political witch hunts!"

Federal and state officials have repeatedly said there was no evidence of widespread voter fraud in Georgia or elsewhere in the country during the 2020 election.

An AP investigation into cases of potential voter fraud in Georgia and the five other battleground states where Trump disputed his loss to Democratic President Joe Biden found fewer than 500 cases.

In Georgia, officials

identified 64 potential voter fraud cases, representing 0.54% of Biden's margin of victory in the state. Of those, 31 were determined to be the result of an administrative error or some other mistake.

Willis' office has tried to interview multiple

witnesses and gather evidence, but some witnesses and prospective witnesses have refused to cooperate without a subpoena, she wrote in the letter to Brasher. For example, Willis wrote in the letter that Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, whom

she calls an "essential witness," has "indicated that he will not participate in an interview or otherwise offer evidence until he is presented with a subpoena by my office." A special grand jury would have the power to subpoena witnesses.



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