

## **Water, Water, Get Your Water**

Recently, the Portage Area JR/SR High School Student Council advocated for our students to be able to carry water throughout the day. The staff and administration of the school seriously considered the council's request. They worked to eliminate possible concerns, fully acknowledging that every possible scenario could not be addressed. After much consideration, the following plan went into effect on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Students could purchase a clear labeled water bottle for \$.75 from the cafeteria during breakfast or lunch. New sealed bottles would be available daily and students are strongly encouraged to purchase a new bottle each day. Several students are choosing to refill their labeled bottles at our fountains. We would like to express a concern with hygiene and safety, but will not be policing students refilling their bottle at our fountains. We do strongly encourage students to purchase new each and every day, if that is not possible, bottles should be cleaned with a light soap detergent after each use. Only the green labeled water bottle is permitted to be used throughout the day.

Building principal, Mr. Ralph Cecere stated, "We realize that our building can get very warm at certain times of the year, and that there are many benefits to the consumption of water. It is our hope that students will be better focused and prepared throughout the school day. I am proud of the Student Council for advocating for our students. How we move forward from here is really up to our students, if they can continue to handle matters in a responsible way, we will continue to work with them to improve our school."

We too are proud of our student council's efforts to advocate for our student body and very proud of the staff for their willingness to work with our students. These type of collaborations help make Portage Area a great place.