



Tri-State Gazette

Issue
4

The Official Phineas and Ferb Wiki Newsletter
News and information from the world of Phineas and Ferb

October 1,
2009

<http://PhineasAndFerb.wikia.com>



by *JeremyCreek*



Upcoming on the show

- [Phineas and Ferb's Musical Cleftastic Countdown](#) — Premiering October 12th on Disney XD US, October 16th on Disney Channel US.
- [Bubble Boys](#) and [Isabella and the Temple of Sap](#) — 17 October 2009 on Disney XD
- [Cheer Up Candace](#) and [Fireside Girl Jamboree](#) — 24 October 2009 on Disney XD
- [The Bully Code](#) and [Finding Mary McGuffin](#) — 31 October 2009 on Disney XD

Current forum discussions

- [Who is Ferb's Real Mom and Phineas's Real Dad?](#)
- [Rules of conduct](#)
- [Jeremy and Candace in the future?](#)
- [Bango-Ru toys](#)
- [What if a new girl came into Phineas and Ferb?](#)
- ["Her" fan fiction story](#)
- [Switching to the new Rich Text Editor](#)

Crat Corner

by *Topher208*



Monthly Voting Forums

This issue, we're going to talk about voting. No, not for "[Phineas and Ferb's Cleftastic Countdown](#)" ([Vote here](#)) but rather on the wiki. We have several things that get chosen for our [main page](#) that are based on your votes. What do you mean you haven't voted before? We have things that we are voting on all the time that we need your help on. Remember, this wiki is all of ours and we need your help.

- **Featured Articles** are extremely high quality articles that are featured on the main page. They represent the best of our work. They change on the main page every two weeks, so it is important that we get plenty of participation in selecting them.
- The **Song of the Month** is located on the main page. You can choose a topic for the month and then vote for which song they like best.
- **Monthly Quotes** get selected by popular vote. You can choose to support or oppose a current nominee or nominate a new one. The quote with the most votes wins.
- **Did you know...?** items are also by popular vote. Like the Monthly Quotes, you get to choose the most interesting one to put on the main page.

The more you participate, the better this place becomes. You shape the way this wiki evolves and changes only happen because someone speaks up and wants it to change.

Community Portal update



by *Ardi*

If you saw the editor's note last week for my article, you would now know that the Community Portal now has an ongoing sandbox here with an introduction about it.

The Sandbox RR uses an "Around the Wiki"-style from the main page. There are a few items from the old Community Portal at the bottom that will be used in other places. Feel free to give him any comments on the talk page of his sandbox here. Please note that the set-up of RR's sandbox is temporary and will eventually change as things progress.

I just got an interview with the man himself, [RR](#).

What was your inspiration for the sandbox?

It was the new Main Page. The "Around the Wiki" section impressed me as to how simple and elegant it was in presenting links to the major areas of the wiki.

Earlier this year, the Main Page was primarily lists: lists of community news, lists of what's new, lists of how to get to the sections of the wiki. May 9th was the first time that we began using pictures to help visually demonstrate what the links were for.

Today, we have a Main Page that is much shorter yet conveys more useful information. The design of the sandbox complements the Main Page.

What else do you intend to add/change in your sandbox?

I have a list of pages on this wiki that need to be linked to by the Portal. They are pages such as Point of View, our page naming policy and the Manual of Style. I also have a folder on my computer with lots of text files that tell me how to make links to Wikipedia, how to put in tags, how to work with tables, how to put in references, etc.

These are the things that I've had to piece together over the past year and teach myself how they work. The Community Portal will help everyone out by showing them those same things.

Do you have an idea of what you plan your sandbox to look like? If so, could you give me a description?

Beyond visually matching the Main Page, the Portal can be thought as the hub of a wheel, linking out through spokes to the main help and "how to" pages.

The following questions were asked by [Tophier208](#), our local crat and the one who delivers the Gazette to your user talk page:

Why are we updating the Community Portal?

The Phineas and Ferb Wiki was created in March 2008. The Community Portal was automatically created at the same time, giving us a basic set of starter materials. Things like what the last 10 pages to be edited were, listing article stubs so they could be expanded and "dead end" pages.

The Portal states that it is a place to organize and discuss projects for the wiki, but we've grown beyond that and developed our own "PF Projects" for that purpose. Because of this and because nothing has been done to improve the Portal since it was created, it is long overdue for an update.

Who is the Community Portal for?

I see the Portal being used by newcomers and experienced members alike. For the newcomers, it will collect Help pages together into one location for them to use. Long-time members will still benefit from the links to the Forums and to places like the new "Filling in the blanks" area which shows the pages that need attention.

Why should users be excited about having a Community Portal?

When you visit the Main Page, you get to see the areas of the wiki that everyone knows about: episodes, songs, characters, news, etc. The Portal will lead them to the behind-the-scenes areas of the wiki, the areas that they might not know are there. For instance, I didn't know that there were videos that show how to edit pages and upload videos. I only found them because I stumbled across them. →

Community Portal Update

It will be a central reference point that makes it easy to find the info that has been scattered throughout the wiki.

How far along is the design so far?

I'd say it's about 90% of the way done. We need a few more links to cover some topics, but not many. The rest of the work will be in the pages that the Portal links to. For example, "Standardizing content" needs to incorporate the things I listed before (last 10 edited pages, list of stubs, etc.). That's where I will need help.

What still needs to be done, and can regular users help with its design?

We need to finish gathering the help pages that are scattered across the wiki. Some can be found through the Help category, but not all.

Next, we need to write some new articles to cover the "how to" subjects. For instance, what templates have we created and how do you use them in a page? How do we want the episode and character pages to look? How should song lyrics be written? That sort of thing.

Can regular users help? Definitely. In fact, it's required in a sense. Not because it's mandatory but for other reasons.

The first is due to the nature of a wiki itself. This is a community of people working together to build the pages. If one person does all the work, then the community does nothing. That person might as well put everything up on their own private website that no one else can see.

The second reason has to do with burnout. I started working on the portal because I said I would do it a couple of months before. I was also getting to the point where I felt like I was spending more time cleaning up problems on the wiki than I was adding to it. So I dove in last week and made that my main focus.

But I think that if I continue working on this to the exclusion of all else, I will reach the point where I can't stand working on the wiki. I don't want that to happen, so I'm more than willing to share the load and get some fresh ideas in.

Any final words?

I've laid the groundwork. Now it's time for everyone to chip and finish the Portal.

To see the latest work, visit the sandbox. Comments and ideas for what to include should be posted on the Discussion page.

Doofenshmirtz Activity Task Force report



by [RRabbit42](#)

What's on the fax machine? Looks like a message from the D.A.T.F. I wonder what Doofenshmirtz up to this time.

Let's see... communicator broken, having to use the fax at the local copy shop, expense report forthcoming... the usual.

"Doofenshmirtz bringing up", no, "buying up construction trays at an alluring rate". Man, this handwriting is terrible. Oh, it's "alarming". "Doofenshmirtz buying up construction toys at an alarming rate". Well, that makes more sense. I mean, he's not exactly a looker, you know. What with that pointy nose of his.

This message was sent three hours ago! I better [notify Agent P](#) immediately! Or right after I give a young intern that's been neglecting his duties a good talking to, that is. Carl! Where are you?

Pages from The Book

as told to [RRabbit42](#)

Dear diary:

Today we went to the mall. I wanted to a copy of this [new song](#) I heard on the radio, but I couldn't get through all the people. Some [big event](#) going on. Everyone was either standing in line, or up on stage for some kind of talent show, or in the audience.

One of the acts was some kids that called themselves "PFT". The lead singer was that boy I saw on the [rollercoaster](#) the other day! There was another boy on the keyboard with really bright green hair. He was also on that rollercoaster. They always seem to be next to each other. They almost act like brothers.

PFT was the group that sang the song that I heard on the radio. Or at least, they tried to. Their big sister threw a fit and stormed off the stage. Why couldn't she just have sung with them?

The lead singer called himself "Phineas" and said the kid with the green hair was "Ferb". How'd Ferb get green hair like that? I'll have to find out later.

Celebrating two years of *Phineas and Ferb*

by [RRabbit42](#)

Phineas and Ferb is one of the hit series on Disney Channel, with a worldwide audience and a loyal fan base. But as with any overnight sensation, getting the show on the air took many years. Even after the show began airing, creators [Dan Povenmire](#) and [Jeff “Swampy” Marsh](#) would have to wait a little longer for things to really get going.

September 28th was the second anniversary of the second episode, “[Lawn Gnome Beach Party of Terror](#)”, which premiered in 2007. About five weeks earlier, the pilot episode “[Rollercoaster](#)” aired. Networks will sometimes show an episode of an upcoming series several weeks or months in advance to generate interest in the show. In the case of *Phineas and Ferb*, it would be over four months before the series officially was launched. As fans of the show are aware, it was worth the wait.

Birth of the show

Phineas was “born” at a restaurant called Wild Thyme in South Pasadena, California. Wild Thyme provided butcher paper and crayons for the kids to draw with. Dan drew a “triangle-headed kid” and told his wife, “This is the show I’m going to sell.” He called Swampy that night and said, “Okay, I’ve got *Phineas*.” Each character is based on a geometric shape and those shapes are also in backgrounds to tie the two together.^[1]

That was sixteen years before Disney picked up the show, which would place this event in approximately 1991 (based on starting production in 2007). Dan and Swampy met while working on *The Simpsons* and would become a writing team on *Rocko’s Modern Life*. They realized that “Rocko” would eventually end, so they wanted to make a new show where they could continue to work together.

For a while they would be worlds apart, literally. Swampy headed over to England for six years to work on a few series there. Dan stayed in the U.S.

Selling the show

Dan had their pitch packet and while Swampy was abroad, every so often he would approach a network and try to sell them the show. Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, Fox Kids and Disney were amongst the ones that Dan contacted. Each, including Disney, turned it down. The initial response was great each time, but as it was passed up the corporate ladder, the higher-ups thought the show would be too complex to make.

But about a year later, Disney contacted Dan because they wanted to take another look. Though aimed at a different audience, Dan’s work on *Family Guy* actually helped convince Disney to give the pilot (“[Rollercoaster](#)”) a chance. Dan called Swampy to let him know. Swampy lept at the chance to return and work with Dan.^[2]

Another factor in Disney’s decision was the music. Dan and Swampy played *Gitchee Gitchee Goo* and Agent P’s theme (“[Perry the Platypus Theme](#)”) for the Disney Executives. They liked them: “These are great. Can you write a song for every episode?”^[1]

Turns out they could. Dan had described himself and Swampy as “frustrated musicians”^[3] and said that the decision to include original music in the show “was met with trepidation” and a standoffish attitude. Disney’s decision in favor of the show and a later Emmy nomination would provide validation for their efforts.^[4]

Coming in part 2: the worldwide premiere and the impact on other shows

References

↑ [1] [Animation World article](#)

↑ [2] [Phineas and Ferb: Music, Mischief, And The Endless Summer Vacation](#)

↑ [3] [Disney Talks: Disney Goes to Emmy](#)

↑ [4] [National Ledger interview](#)

Coming in two weeks:

- *Phineas and Ferb*’s “Two plus two” anniversary continues
- Doofenshmirtz Activity Task Force report #5
- More about the Community Portal redesign.
- Pages from The Book.

Got a question or comment about this issue? Leave a message on [this issue’s Discussion page](#).