H.O.P.E
"Every Student, Every Day"
Peabody EDUCATION Foundation
P.O Box 233, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

NEWSLETTER – MAY/JUNE 2022

PeabodyEdFoundation.org

It's been an exciting and busy year for the Peabody Education Foundation!
Have a great Summer, and we will see you in the Fall!

The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to Gabriella Drinkwater who has been named the Cara Murtagh Memorial Scholarship Recipient for 2022!

Gabriella Drinkwater, a senior at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School, plans to major in elementary education at Westfield State University in the fall of 2022. Ella impressed the scholarship committee with her outstanding essay, her transcript and her letter of recommendation. The committee also felt that having taken elementary education courses all four years in high school, Ella demonstrated her true commitment to education.

The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship is provided by the Peabody Education Foundation as a way to honor our dear friend Cara's memory. On a yearly basis, we award a PVMHS senior with a $2,500 scholarship to help with their college education. Cara was an active member of our Foundation where she spearheaded many of our programs and events. After Cara's passing, the Murtagh family had generously asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Peabody Education Foundation. Donations and messages came in from across the country attesting to the love and admiration so many shared for her. Through this Scholarship, we hope to preserve Cara's dedication and commitment to the education of the school children of Peabody for years to come.

Mental Wellness Initiative 2022 Summary

The Peabody Education Foundation was pleased to provide several outstanding programs in 2022 as it launched its Mental Wellness Initiative to benefit **Peabody students and teachers/staff. Special thanks to North Shore Bank, the JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation, North Shore Community Action Program and the GraVoc Charitable Foundation who assisted the PEF by providing over $40,000 in funds for these programs.**

The first program under our new Mental Wellness Initiative was **Social Emotional Libraries**. These libraries were distributed to all eight elementary schools in the City of Peabody and are accessible to all elementary school teachers to use for social emotional teaching in their classrooms. Overseen by the school's guidance counselor, these motivational paperback and hardcover books cover topics including responsibility, respectfulness, being safe, cooperation, acceptance, resilience and empathy. Some of the books included in the library:" But It's Not My Fault", "Teach Your Dragon Respect", "The Juice Box Bully", "Can I Play Too?", "I am Enough", "She Persisted", "You are Awesome", "We're All Wonders", "How full is your bucket" and "What if Everybody Did That?". Stickers inside each book include the names of the sponsors and carry the message "Be Kind to Yourself'.

The PEF would like to thank school counselors Maria Champigny and Jackie Rose from the McCarthy Elementary School who initially brought the library to the attention of the Peabody Education Foundation Grants Program Committee as a Grant application. Maria and Jackie felt that, as a result of the pandemic, they were seeing an increased need for coping strategies in order to help students self-regulate and be able to access their learning. The Committee was impressed with the idea and expanded it to include all elementary schools under the Mental Wellness Initiative.

The Peabody Education Foundation also sponsored world-famous Speed-Painter, **ROB SURETTE**, performing at our elementary and middle schools! In the last 29 years, Rob has visited over 4,000 schools worldwide, spreading messages of self-empowerment, positivity, equality, kindness and hope! Rob has appeared on The TODAY Show, The Tonight Show, Good Morning America and The Oprah Winfrey Show! He is a Top-Tier Master Fine Artist for Disney, Lucasfilm, MARVEL, DC Comics, DreamWorks and Muppets!

Rob appeared at all elementary schools in Peabody during the month of March, and at the Higgins Middle School in late May. He brought his messages of perseverance, respect, strength and struggles, strategies and routines and healthy lifestyle to his art performance.

A portrait of former School Superintendent Cara Murtagh was one of Rob Surette's artistic creations and will now hang in the Higgins Middle School.

Norm Bossio, motivational speaker, spoke to the high school students at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School about how to take control of your life, getting your priorities straight and using the gifts you have been given while taking a long hard look at yourself in the mirror, all delivered with humor!

For over 30 years, Norm Bossio has spoken in front of nearly 3 million audience members in venues ranging from an American Indian Village Tribunal to the Hoosier Dome. Norm once spoke to 400 high school students, 50 lingerie salespeople, and 45 nuclear physicists…all in the same day. Having keynoted national conferences in virtually every major industry, Norm's audiences have included clients ranging from Bill Clinton to Stephen King. Prior to starting his own business, he served as a teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools. For 8 years, Norm was an adjunct faculty member and consultant to the management certificate program at Stonehill College. He received his B.S. from Springfield College and M. Ed. from Boston State College. In 2006, Norm hosted the national public television special, "Staying Motivated on the Deck of the Titanic with Norm Bossio." His first book was recently published by DogEar Publishing in Indianapolis, IN. In 1994, Norm was named Speaker of the Year by the Yankee Chapter of Meeting Planners Internal.

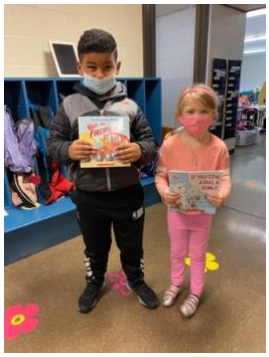
The PEF continues to look for additional ways to provide resources on Mental Wellness for our students, and is looking into programs for both teachers and parents during the upcoming school year. More information will be forthcoming!

Check out these links for more information on the Mental Wellness Initiative!

- **Boston Globe** – New program to address mental health issues in Peabody in wake of pandemic
- **Salem News** – New PEF initiative spreads support for mental health wellness in Peabody schools
- **WBZ NewsRadio** – New Initiative Supports Mental Health Wellness in Peabody Schools
- **MSONEWSports** – (Video) Peabody Education Foundation Promotes New Wellness Initiative (and Other Good Stuff, too)

Birthday Books Program

This year the Peabody Education Foundation implemented a "Birthday Book" program for the eight elementary schools and the Peabody Prep program. Over 3000 students, on their birthday, have had the opportunity to choose a book of their liking. Students have chosen books from a variety of genres and interests that encourage independent reading. This literacy initiative has been supported by the Peabody Education Foundation and the JB Thomas Lahey Foundation. The "Birthday Book" program will continue into the 2022-23 school year with the continued support of the Peabody Education Foundation and the JB Thomas Lahey Foundation.



Guest Reader Program

The 2022 Guest reader program has ended and it has been a very successful year. We had volunteer readers in 47 different classrooms.

At the suggestion of one of our readers, we plan to survey our readers prior to the end of school about the books they read to their classes and provide their thoughts and suggestions to new volunteers next year. Special thanks to all of the readers, teachers and students who participated! Our readers had a great time, the teachers appreciated the opportunity for someone to come read to their class, and the students were great listeners!

PEF Grants Program

Almost $50,000 in grants were awarded to teachers/principals throughout the Peabody School System this year! Pictures from this school year's grants can be found on the PEF website. Teachers can be on the lookout for the 2022-2023 application which will appear on our website at the end of the summer! The PEF is always looking for new and creative programs!

PEF News

Check out our new PEF video on our website! https://peabodyedfoundation.org/ You may see some students or teachers you know!

A new PEF Grants Program video is also on its way and will be posted on our website in the next few weeks! Thank you to all of the teachers who allowed us to come into their classrooms and let us tape the wonderful programs they were funded during the school year.

Special thanks to James Wynn and Kristine Bruno at GraVoc for creating our new videos!

The Peabody Rotary received a visit in May from PEF Chairman David Gravel, who shared with local Rotarians all of the exciting programs the PEF has funded this past school year.

George Peabody Legacy Awards

Would You Like to Nominate a Fellow Educator Who Has Gone Above & Beyond?

Do you know an educator who has had a lasting impact on education, effects change for the good of the people over a significant period of time, is an active member in the Peabody Community, is a tireless advocate for the betterment of Peabody students, and lives or works in Peabody?

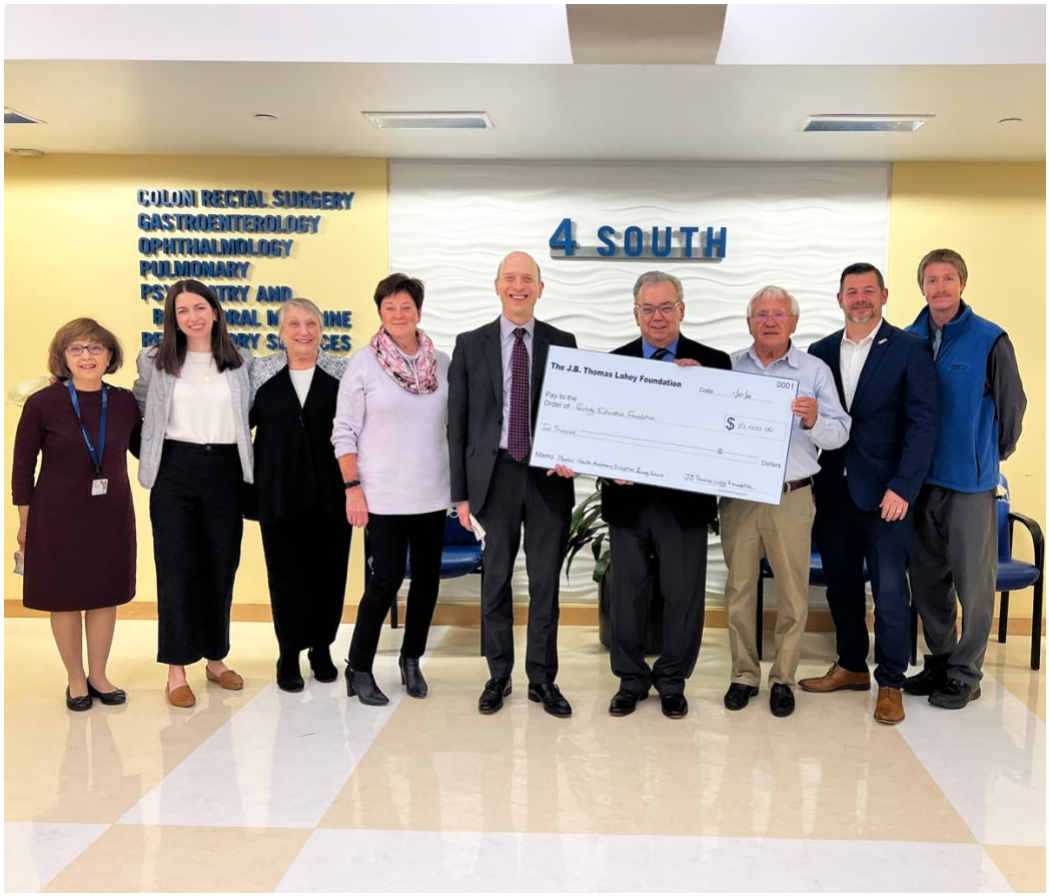
The George Peabody Legacy Award is presented by the Peabody Education Foundation to recognize and honor the educators and philanthropists from within the community who work to provide a lifetime of contributions to our educational system. It is an honor to recognize educators who have gone above and beyond to make a lasting difference in the lives of their students. In the classroom they are both learners and facilitators of learning. They attend to the social and emotional needs of their students making a lasting, positive impact by providing a progressive learning atmosphere meeting the needs of every, individual child.

To nominate a worthy candidate, please visit our legacy awards webpage below and tell us all about them! **https://www.peabodyedfoundation.org/george-peabody-legacy-awards/**

The Deadline is Friday, August 1, 2022.
The Legacy Awards Ceremony is scheduled to be held at the Higgins Middle School on October 20, 2022. Information regarding purchasing tickets will be available in September 2022.

Donations

The JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation recently presented the PEF with a check for $10,000 to assist in funding the new Mental Wellness Initiative.



In the photo from left to right: Jan Menovich, J.B. Thomas-Lahey Foundation Liaison; Michelle Snyder, J.B. Thomas-Lahey Foundation; Natalie Maga, J.B. Thomas-Lahey Foundation, PEF; Mary Bellavance, PEF; Jeffrey L. Marx, M.D., J.B. Thomas-Lahey Foundation; David Gravel, President & Chairman of the Board PEF; former Mayor Michael J. Bonfanti, J.B. Thomas-Lahey Foundation; Dr. Josh Vadala, Superintendent of Peabody Public Schools, PEF; Dan Vassallo, PEF

PEF Board News

Thank you!

The PEF would like to thank Tom Gould for his many years of serving as the Vice Chair to the PEF. Tom has stepped down from his role as Vice Chair but plans to remain on the Board of Directors and continue his commitment to the Education Foundation.

The PEF also wants to thank all of the volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors and various Committees, planning and implementing the many programs that provide support to our students and teachers! We couldn't do it without your help!

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