



"The best way to predict the future... is to help create it"

Peabody EDUCATION Foundation

P.O. Box 233, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

# NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2022

PeabodyEdFoundation.org

## PEF Grants Program



### \$50,000 IN GRANT MONEY AWARDED THIS SCHOOL YEAR!!!

The PEF Grants Program Committee funded over \$50,000 in programs to benefit our students! Applications were received from every school in the City. 45 applications were received totaling \$89,274.98 in requests. The application deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup> has now passed, so start planning for next year!

#### Applications that we have funded include:

- *A Forensic Science Guest Speaker*
- *Higgins Helping Hawks Student Mentoring Program*
- *Curriculaughs in Literacy*
- *Intergenerational Book Club*
- *Scholastic Classroom Magazines*
- *Wake Up Brain Bins*
- *Young Audiences of Mass*
- *Makerspace STEAM Weekly Classes*
- *Curious Creatures Reptile Zoo*
- *Math Mania | Fraction Fun*
- *Stay Sharp Barbering*
- *Art Mural Contest*
- *Let's Find Out Magazines*
- *Rainforest Reptile Shows*
- *Printmaking Materials*
- *PBL Hot/Cold Chocolate Stands*
- *STEM Math Enrichment Program*
- *STEAM Museum*
- *Sign Language Materials Library*
- *Books!!!!*
- *Outdoor Classroom Water Quality Study*
- *Humor-Infused Poetry Education and Reading*
- *Spectrum Yoga*

In addition to the above grants, the PEF Grants Committee expanded on two individual teacher applications and is funding those programs district wide!! Birthday Books and Social Emotional Libraries will now be enjoyed by every elementary school in the Peabody School System, thanks to some very innovative teachers in our system! Thank you, teachers!!!



# Mental Wellness Initiative



## Programs to Address Mental Health Awareness

The Peabody Education Foundation is pleased to announce that it is launching a Mental Wellness Initiative to benefit Peabody students, teachers and parents. In collaboration with North Shore Bank, the JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation, and the GraVoc Charitable Foundation, the PEF will be providing reading materials, motivational speakers, and other resources to help our schools deal with the mental health issues that have escalated during the past two years due to COVID, as well as those issues that continue to challenge our schools every day. The PEF is working with School Administrators to determine which programs will most benefit the schools.

According to PEF President David Gravel of GraVoc Associates, *“Mental Health has become a crisis in this country, especially with the current Covid pandemic, and the Peabody Education Foundation feels it is important to assist the Peabody Schools by providing resources to address this growing concern. Our hope through this Initiative is to deliver programs that will help bring balance and emotional support to our schools. Special thanks to our incredible sponsors, North Shore Bank, JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation, and the GraVoc Charitable Foundation, for stepping up and assisting us in this endeavor.”*

Superintendent of Schools Joshua Vadala echoed those sentiments, stating, *“We are so grateful for the generosity of the PEF and their donors, North Shore Bank, the JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation, and the GraVoc Charitable Foundation, for specifically identifying Mental Health as an area to support the schools. The past two years have taken an incredible toll on our students, staff and families. Supporting mental health in our schools and community is a critical need. These funds will be utilized to provide resources and activities for our students, staff and families as they foster our vision of Hope for Every Student, Every Day.”*

Anyone interested in contributing to this Initiative can do so by visiting <https://www.peabodyedfoundation.org/contribute/>. More information regarding specific programs under this Initiative will be forthcoming.

# Guest Reader Program



## Students Enjoy Guest Readers!

Thank you to all of the teachers and guest readers who have signed up for this wonderful program! There are 47 classrooms that will have readers this year! The program began in January and will run through the week of May 20.

Please remember to contact your guest reader if your class will be unable to participate on a scheduled day.

# The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship



## Do You Know a Student Interested in Pursuing a Career in 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.

If you know of a student interested in pursuing a career in the field of education, possesses a strong work ethic, demonstrates excellent organizational and preparation skills, is engaged in the community, has achieved good academic standing, and is self-motivated, encourage them to apply for the Scholarship at <https://www.peabodyeducation.org/scholarship/>.

**The deadline is Friday, April 15, 2022.**

# George Peabody Legacy Award Nominations Sought!



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

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.

If 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, go to our website <https://www.peabodyeducation.org/george-peabody-legacy-awards/> and tell us all about them!



## **JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation Pledges Large Donation to PEF!**

The PEF is excited to announce that the JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation has pledged \$10,000 to support funding for mental health awareness in the Peabody School System! The JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation earlier this year donated \$15,000 to fund Birthday Books in the elementary schools this year and next year. The PEF is thrilled that they have become such a major supporter! Thank you, JB Thomas/Lahey Foundation for your support!

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## **GraVoc Charitable Foundation Announces Large Gift to PEF!**



The newly organized GraVoc Charitable Foundation is pleased to announce that one of its first major donations will be a \$10,000 donation to the Peabody Education Foundation to support the new Mental Wellness Initiative in the Peabody Schools. GraVoc has been a huge supporter of the Peabody Education Foundation for many years, providing leadership, staffing and support to the PEF. Thank you, GraVoc!!!

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## **Donations Made in Honor or in Memory of....**

Over the past several months, the PEF has received many donations in honor or in memory of someone near and dear to them. If you would like to make a donation in someone's honor/memory, the PEF will notify the family or recipient and let them know that we have received that donation. What a great way to honor someone or remember a loved one!

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## **Do You Shop on Amazon? Your Purchases Can Benefit the PEF and Your Students!**

Did you know that if you shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), Amazon makes a donation to the PEF? Just list the Peabody Education Foundation as your program of choice and Amazon will send the PEF a donation each month! Those pennies add up quickly and could be buying books or supplies for your classroom!

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