



H.O.P.E
"Every Student, Every Day"

Peabody **EDUCATION** *Foundation*
P.O Box 233, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2023

[PeabodyEdFoundation.org](https://peabodyedfoundation.org)

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

PEF President/Chairman Dave Gravel and Vice Chair Mary Bellavance welcomed teachers back to school in August and updated them on the Peabody Education Foundation's Programs. Dave and Mary received a great response from the teachers, and the PEF looks forward to working with the School Administration and the teachers throughout the upcoming school year. Here's a look at the [PEF video](#) that was recently produced for the presentations to the teachers in August.

George Peabody Legacy Awards



Congratulations to our 11th Annual George Peabody Legacy Award Recipients!

The Peabody Education Foundation is pleased to announce the names of the 2023 George Peabody Legacy Award Recipients! This award was created to recognize and honor the educators and philanthropists from within the community who work to provide a lifetime of contributions to our educational system. Nominations for this award were solicited from the public and selected by a nomination committee. This year we selected six recipients from the many nominations that we received. Each of these individuals will be recognized and honored for their lifetime of contributions to our educational system.

- Karlyne Furnari (retired)
- Fran Gallugi (retired)
- Dave Gravel (Peabody Education Foundation)
- Keri Kinnaly (currently teaching)
- Rosemary Slattery (retired)
- Mark Whiting (retired Manager – North Shore Mall)

An Awards Ceremony will be held at the Higgins Middle School on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The event will feature a buffet dinner in the cafeteria prior to the Awards Ceremony.

Deadline for sponsorships is October 6, 2023.

Deadline for tickets is October 13, 2023.

Information can be found on the PEF website <https://peabodyedfoundation.org/george-peabody-legacy-awards/>

PEF Grants Program



Applications now available!

The PEF Grants Program is the signature program of the Peabody Education Foundation. Every year the PEF offers funding to teachers and schools to provide their classrooms and students with programs and resources that fall outside of the normal school budget. Applications are submitted to the PEF Grants Committee for consideration and approval. Funding is provided through the generous donations of our community and local businesses. Since 1985, the Peabody Education Foundation has worked endlessly to raise over \$1M from within the community to bring innovative programs to our public schools!

Highlights of 2023-2024 PEF Grants Program

- Applications are now available August 1 instead of the first day of school.
- Applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling-basis until February 1, 2024, based on availability of funds.
- The application process is now completely electronic and on-line! No paperwork!
 - Just log on to the PEF website and go to the updated PEF Grants Program page.
 - All receipts and invoices will also be submitted electronically.
- The PEF Grants Program continues to offer two kinds of grants:
 - Individual teacher's grants – increased from \$1500 to \$2500 cap limit!
 - School-wide grants - \$10,000 cap limit
- For the first time, there are two grant categories:
 - Creative Learning – innovative, creative and academic based
 - HOPE/Sense of Belonging – mental wellness based.
- If you have never filled out an application, there is now a sample application on our website to help you out!
- You will need to notify your principal that you are filing an application, and your principal will also receive a copy of your approval/rejection letter.
- We will be listing applications on our website page that are being funded on a continuous basis so other teachers can see what kinds of programs we fund! Check out our Grants Program website page!
- When issuing any publicity or press release, please give credit to the PEF for supporting your project.
- Remember to send us photos of your program/project so that we can share it with social media and on our website.
- If you have any questions about the program, check with some of the teachers in your school who have received grants, or feel free to contact us by email. pefgrantsprogram@gmail.com

For guidelines and applications, please check out our website at
<https://peabodyeducation.org/programs/pef-grants/>

Birthday Books Program



Happy Birthday, Students!

Many children from within our City come from homes where books are not readily available. The objective of the Birthday Books Program is to help children and families see books as valuable treasures and treats that can be enjoyed as presents and shared with the entire family. The Birthday Books Program hopes to foster a love of reading and books, promote family time together and help families to realize the importance of having books in the home to read again and again.

Each elementary school has a member of the teaching staff who is coordinating the ordering of books for their school. Books ordered cover all grade levels, are high interest and represent the cultures and diversity of the students. Books are distributed by each elementary school to their own students with a Happy Birthday sticker included inside each book. Over 3000 students are now able to take their own birthday book home every year and share it with their family!

In 2021, the PEF teamed up with JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation to fund the Birthday Books Program for every elementary school student in Peabody! Because of the generous funding from our sponsor, the Birthday Books Program is now a permanent part of the Peabody Education Foundation's commitment to our children! Every year, every elementary student will be able to bring home that special birthday book!

Special thanks once again to the JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation for supporting this outstanding program this year!

Guest Reader Program



Reading to our students is key!

The Guest Reader Program is for students in kindergarten through grade 5. Every year, from January to May, business leaders and local community members spend 20 to 30 minutes per week in an elementary school classroom reading aloud to the children. The Program is intended to expose students to the pleasures of reading and to present a positive reading role model. Reading to children brings enjoyment to both the readers and the students, and reinforces the idea that reading is fun for everyone.

Teachers can pick out the books they want read to their classroom, or they can leave it up to the Guest Reader to choose the books. And teachers work with the Guest Reader to determine the best day and time for them to read

For Teachers: If you are interested in having your classroom participate in the Guest Reader Program, please complete the Teacher Request Form at <https://peabodyedfoundation.org/programs/guest-reader-program/>.

If you make arrangements directly with a specific person to read in your class, we would appreciate it if you would still complete and return the form. This will allow us to provide updates to all our Guest Readers.

Encourage your fellow teachers to also sign up for this program! We have lots of readers who would love to come to your classroom!

For Readers: If you would like to sign up as a Guest Reader, please complete the Reader Request Form at <https://peabodyedfoundation.org/programs/guest-reader-program/>. And ask your friends and co-workers if they would like to read! We love to have new readers!

Deadline to apply is November 1, 2023.

Mental Wellness Initiative



Working to keep minds healthy!

Once again, the PEF is exploring new initiatives to assist the Peabody School Department and our students, teachers, and parents with Mental Wellness.

The PEF Mental Wellness Initiative is pleased to announce that the “Kids Kindness Club” will be coming to all elementary schools beginning this fall! The Club is part of Connor’s Kindness Project, a nonprofit out of Lynnfield that was started during the pandemic to remind us that there is good in the world even at times when we are faced with conflicts and challenges. The ongoing goal is to help others while also spreading positivity, one act of kindness at a time. The “Kids Kindness Club” is a way to bring kindness to schools and lead students on their way to helping others with small acts of kindness and familiarize them with community service. Materials include: the Kindness Pledge, List of Challenges, and a Kindness Club Certificate upon completion. An assembly will be held in each school to kick off the Kindness Club.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks on other exciting programs!

A special welcome to Maria Champigny, Peabody School Adjustment Counselor, who recently joined our Mental Wellness Initiative Committee!

Thanks to our sponsors JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation, North Shore Bank, GraVoc Charitable Foundation and Lyon-Waugh Auto Group, the Initiative is now entering its third year of providing resources.

Donations



We need your help!

The last few years have been a struggle for everyone, especially our younger generation. Academic normalcy remains out of reach for many students, educators, and parents. Students and educators continuously wrestle with mental health challenges, higher rates of violence and misbehavior, and concerns about lost instructional time. This has prompted the PEF to step up our efforts and work harder to provide as many additional programs and funding for our Peabody public school children as possible.

A gift from you will help us continue our work and we ask that you consider supporting the PEF in one of the following areas:

- Birthday Books Program
- Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship
- George Peabody Legacy Awards
- Mental Wellness Initiative
- PEF Grants Program

Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated. 100% of all donations go directly to the programs that support our students. Our goal is to transform lives and build brighter futures. None of these programs would be possible without your support!

To donate or for more information, please go to www.peabodyedfoundation.org/contribute.

PEF Board News



We are hard at work!

The PEF Board of Directors held its annual meeting in June of 2023. Participants from all the PEF Programs were invited to attend. It was a great event and President/Chairman Dave Gravel thanked everyone for their participation throughout the year.

[A Year in Review video](#) was produced for the event, and you can access it right here! Take a look at all of the exciting things that happened in 2022-2023!

The PEF Board continues to work hard to bring programs and resources to our Peabody Schools. We meet monthly as a Board, but work goes on daily to assist our students and teachers.

We are currently fundraising, adding information to our website, working on newsletters, reaching out on social media, collaborating with community partners, and planning events.

Special thanks to all our Board and Committee members who donate their time and effort!

EXECUTIVE BOARD		BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
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