



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

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

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2024

PeabodyEdFoundation.org

PEF Grants Program



Deadline for applications is **February 1!**

The PEF Grants Program Committee would like to remind teachers and principals that applications are still being accepted for the 2023-2024 school year until February 1!

Since August 1, more than \$70,000 has been granted to teachers and schools!

- Applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling-basis until February 1, 2024, based on availability of funds.
- The application process is 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
- There are two grant categories:
 - Creative Learning – innovative, creative and academic based
 - HOPE/Sense of Belonging – mental wellness based.
- **Check out our PEF Grants Program website page for a list of applications that have already been approved this school year!**

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

Guest Reader Program



Guest Readers start reading in classrooms this month!

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. This year, we have 52 readers reading to 54 classrooms. This is the highest number of classrooms we have ever had in our program!

Here is the breakdown in our schools:

Schools with Readers

Brown - 10 classes
Burke - 9 classes
Carroll - 10 classes
Center - 6 classes
McCarthy - 4 classes
South - 6 classes
Welch - 6 classes
West - 3 classes

Grade Levels with Readers

Special Needs - 7
Pre-K - 3
Kindergarten - 5
1st - 6
2nd - 12
3rd - 7
4th - 11
5th - 3

Reading to children brings enjoyment to both the readers and the students, and reinforces the idea that reading is fun for everyone!

Peabody Cares



PEF launches new initiative!

This year, the Peabody Education Foundation launched a new initiative called “**Peabody Cares**”. This initiative brings together a dynamic coalition of community volunteers, dedicated faculty members, and local businesses and nonprofits, all united in a shared mission to make a positive impact on the lives of students facing challenges.

Committed to fostering a sense of community and empathy, Peabody Cares operates as a collaborative force, channeling the collective energy and expertise of its diverse participants. Through strategic partnerships and a shared vision, we aim to spearhead a range of initiatives that are specifically designed to uplift and enrich the lives of students who find themselves in need.

This initiative serves as a testament to the power of community-driven efforts, illustrating how the combined resources and talents of volunteers, faculty members, and local businesses can create a positive ripple effect in the lives of students who require assistance.

Blanket Project

The first initiative under Peabody Cares was the Blanket Project. Approximately 200 students throughout the Peabody School District received handmade tie fleece blankets this holiday season.

In the Fall, Peabody school teacher, Jill Houlden, approached the PEF for assistance in funding the project. Jill originally started the blanket making project several years prior at the McCarthy School for students in need during the holiday season. This year, recognizing the substantial need across the entire district, the count of blankets surged to nearly 200.

For several weeks, volunteers throughout the community came together to assemble the blankets in time for the holidays. The blankets were distributed by the schools to students in the elementary schools, the middle school, and the high school.

Special thanks to **Jill Houlden** for her time and effort in coordinating the blanket making project; the **Peabody Education Foundation** for both funding the project and providing volunteers to make some of the blankets; **the Girls PVMHS Volleyball and Field Hockey teams**; **the Sunday Funday Group**; members of the **Peabody Public Schools Staff**; **the AOH**; **Stone Paper**; **GraVoc**; **Maria Champigny**; and numerous other volunteers throughout the community who helped assemble the blankets.

To see more photos from this amazing effort, visit our website page:

[Peabody Cares | Peabody Education Foundation \(peabodyeducationfoundation.org\)](https://www.peabodyeducationfoundation.org)



The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship



The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship is provided by our Foundation to honor our dear friend Cara's memory. On a yearly basis, we award a PVMHS senior with a scholarship to help with their college education. Cara was an active member of our Foundation where she spearheaded many of our programs and events. 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.

Applicants for this scholarship must be interested in the field of Education. This scholarship will be awarded to a Peabody High School Senior who possesses a strong work ethic, demonstrates excellent preparation and organizational skills, is engaged in the community, has achieved good academic standing and is self-motivated.

Students selected to interview with the Scholarship Committee will be contacted to schedule a date and time in May. Students will receive notification by mail if they have not been selected for an interview. Scholarship will be awarded directly to the recipient upon receipt of a PAID tuition bill or payment plan accepted by the school.

If you know of a college bound student interested in pursuing a career in education, please have them use the online form to submit their application!

Deadline:

April 12, 2024

Application link:

<https://peabodyedfoundation.org/scholarship/>

Career Day



Held each spring at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School, Career Day is an informal, non-threatening environment in which more than 50 local businesses set up exhibit booths, allowing students to get informational materials and ask questions about possible future vocations.

High school students are allowed to explore the various trades and career paths represented in their community and are able to interact with representatives of those occupations throughout the day. Career Day helps create ties between the student body and the community at large.

Career day is scheduled for April 11, 2024 from 9 to 11 am at PVMHS.

Any business interested in participating can go to the PEF website for more details, or email Committee Chairperson Donna Craven at Lascrave@comcast.net

Birthday Books



The goal 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. Many children from within our City come from homes where books are not readily available. The Birthday Book 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.

In 2021, 2022, and 2023 the PEF teamed up with JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation to fund the Birthday Book Program for every elementary school student in Peabody! Books are distributed by each school to their own students with a Happy Birthday sticker included inside each book. This year, over 4000 books for elementary school students have been ordered - almost \$14,000 worth of books – to go home with our birthday students to share with their family!

The JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation has been a continuous supporter of the PEF and its programs for many years, and the PEF is truly grateful to the Foundation for its substantial contributions which have assisted in providing supplemental programs to Peabody Schools.

Mental Wellness Initiative



Working to keep minds healthy!

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

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

Thanks to our sponsors: The JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation, North Shore Bank, GraVoc Charitable Foundation and Lyon-Waugh Auto Group!

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
- Peabody Cares

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.

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