



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

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

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2024

PeabodyEdFoundation.org

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 12th Annual George Peabody Legacy Award Recipients!

The Peabody Education Foundation is pleased to announce the names of this year's 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.

In total, this year we selected six (6) recipients to receive this honor from the many nominations that we received:

- **The Honorable Peter Torigian – (Posthumously)**
- **Jill Houlden – (Teaching)**
- **John (Buddy) Manning – (Retired)**
- **Patricia Morneau – (Retired)**
- **Mary Winifred McCarthy – (Retired)**
- **Dr. Charles Milton Burnett – (Retired)**

Each of these individuals will be recognized and honored for their lifetime of contributions to our educational system. An awards ceremony will be held at the Higgins Middle School on Thursday, October 17th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The event will feature a buffet dinner in the cafeteria prior to the ceremony.

Ad deadline: October 4th, 2024

Ticket Deadline: October 10th, 2024

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 2024-2025 PEF Grants Program

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling-basis until January 31, 2025, 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 – up to \$2500!
 - School-wide grants – up to \$10,000!
- 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 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:

<https://peabodyedfoundation.org/programs/pef-grants/>

PEF Books Programs



New “First Book Club” Program for Grades K-2 this year!

This year, the PEF welcomes a new program, the "First Book Club", which is being funded by the Rotary Club of Peabody in conjunction with a District Grant from Rotary. The First Book Club will take the place of Birthday Books in Grades K-2. The focus in this area is going to be on Dr. Seuss books which will be given as a gift to each child with a special reading day on Dr. Seuss' birthday when Rotarians will join forces with our guest readers to celebrate reading.



Birthday Books Program for Grades 3-5

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 Grades 3-5 this year, 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.

Guest Reader Program



Students Love Guest Readers!

The Guest Reader Program is for students in kindergarten through grade 5. From January 13, 2025 to May 23, 2025, business leaders and local community members will 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: Our Guest Reader program is intended to bring adults from the community into your classrooms for approximately 20-30 minutes per week to read a book to the students. If you are interested in having your classroom participate in the Guest Reader Program, please click the link below!

For Readers: We are looking for adults who are willing and able to spend 20-30 minutes, once a week reading to the students. We hope that you, your co-workers, & friends will consider being a part of this wonderful program this year, visiting a classroom, reading aloud to the students and showing them that reading is fun for everyone. If you are interested in becoming a Guest Reader, click the link below!

If you make arrangements directly with a specific teacher or guest reader, we would appreciate it if you would still complete the form. This will allow us to provide updates to all our Guest Readers.

Application for both Teachers & Guest Readers: <https://peabodyedfoundation.org/guest-reader-program-application/>

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.

In October, Motivational Speaker “Jim Basketball Jones” will visit the Peabody elementary schools to deliver inspirational school assembly programs for all grade levels. His engaging and highly interactive school assemblies have made Jim one of the most sought after school assembly in the country and one of the most recommended assemblies from the PTO / PTA Leadership Facebook Group. His “whole brain” presentation style along with his strong knowledge about current topics make him a highly effective school assembly. Jim’s assemblies bring joy and happiness to schools with a powerful message. It is an impactful, fun school assembly that will leave our STAFF and STUDENTS feeling inspired and motivated. Jim’s presentation will highlight anti-bullying, focusing on kindness, inclusion and tolerance. Students will learn how to be an “UpStander,” standing up for and including others. This will be a fun and engaging assembly that focuses on KINDNESS. Students will be encouraged to “Do Something Kind” and take action to support other students.

A special welcome to Sharon Cameron, City of Peabody Health Department Director, 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 fourth year of providing resources.

Science From Scientists



New exploratory science program for 4th & 5th graders!

The PEF will be funding this district wide program in the 4th and 5th grades in all seven elementary schools. This is a yearlong program conducted by the SciSci staff in conjunction with our teachers is an exploratory science program that is very experiential in nature. Students are brought together to work on various science activities in a group setting. The program addresses both STEM and mental wellness as students work collaboratively in a social setting. Thanks to the JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation, North Shore Bank, and the Gravel Family Foundation for providing funding for this innovative program!

Career Day



Save the Date!

The Annual Career Day at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School will be held on April 10, 2025.

If you know of any businesses who would be interested in setting up an informational table for the event, please contact Committee Chairperson Laura Meisenhelter at lmeisenhelter@nscap.org

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!

Donate to Peabody Education Foundation!

If you would like to donate to the Peabody Education Foundation, please visit our website by clicking below.
100% of all donations go directly to the teachers and students of
Peabody Public schools!

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

PEF Board News



We are hard at work!

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!

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook!](#)

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