



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

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

NEWSLETTER – December 2024

PeabodyEdFoundation.org

Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy holiday!

George Peabody Legacy Awards



Congratulations to our 12th Annual George Peabody Legacy Award Recipients!

On Thursday, October 19, the Peabody Education Foundation honored this year's George Peabody Legacy Award winners at Higgins Middle School. 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. The Award winners included:

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

Congratulations to all the winners! Their names have been added to the Legacy Award wall located outside the Higgins Auditorium

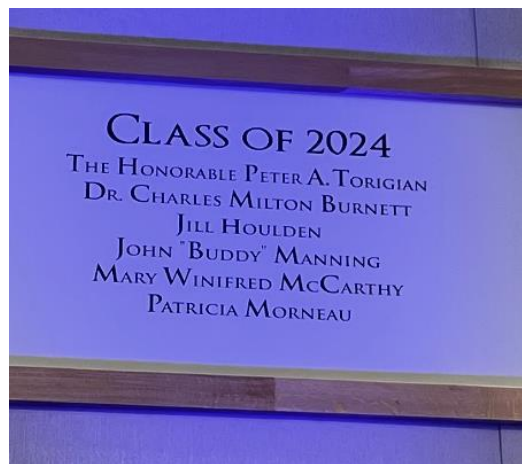
Special thanks to the following:

- Events for Rent
- Kane's Flowers
- Peabody City Hall
- Toscana's Restaurant
- Jon Simmons & the Peabody High School Chorale
- City of Peabody Department of Public Services
- Peabody TV

And additional thanks to our sponsors!

- GraVoc
- Lyon-Waugh Auto Group
- The J.B. Thomas-Lahey Foundation
- North Shore Bank

Check out the impressive histories of our recipients, and videos from the event on our website:
<https://peabodyedfoundation.org/george-peabody-legacy-awards>



PEF Grants Program



A reminder that applications are still being accepted!

The PEF Grants Program Committee would like to remind teachers and principals that applications are still being accepted for the 2024-2025 school year. **Applications will continue to be considered on a rolling basis until January 31, 2025, or until funding is no longer available.**

Here are some of the applications we have funded to date!

- Horror Literature
- Brainpop Helps our Brains Grow
- Empowering Students Through School Store Success
- Inspiring Innovation: In School Field Trip STEM Days for Middle School Students
- Traveling S.T.E.A.M. Museum
- Milestones Creative Cooking
- No Red Ink Writing
- Classroom Magazines
- Biology in Research and Design Guest Speakers
- Specialty Applications for Courses
- Everyday Speech
- Kahoot!+Max Teacher for Individuals
- Making Science Visual
- Leveraging Virtual Resources to Maximize Student Learning
- Scholastic News Magazine for Third Graders
- Class set of TI 30 calculators
- A Christmas Carol at North Shore Music Theater
- Scholastic Magazines

- Haitian Dance Group Visit for World Language Week
- ELA Enrichment Reading Program
- STEM- In the Game Peabody
- Kindergarten in the Community
- Scholastic - Lets Find Out
- Edpuzzle
- The Observer - The High School's Literary Magazine
- Milestones Craft Fairs 24/25
- 5th Grade Field Trip - Christmas Carol at NSMT
- Communication and Language Processing Skills Flash Cards/Word Flips
- Microscope After School Club
- The Sports Museum
- Our Community Interests
- Gizmos for Science
- Community, Value, Hope and Sense of Belonging
- Project Lead the Way
- Spectrum Yoga
- Yoga for Therapeutic Learning Community
- 7th grade outdoor classroom natural history art project
- A Collaborative Mural Project
- Hello History (Humy)
- Technology Grant
- Thomas Carroll School PBIS ROARS Initiative
- Environmental Science Field Site Visit Research and Safety Supplies
- Field trip to North Shore Music Center for students in small group English
- Portable Learning Stations
- Shaped by the Sea, Cape Ann History: Exploring Identity Through Artifacts
- The Boston Tea Party Museum
- Every Day Speech Subscription
- "Beyond the Halls" PODCAST
- North Shore Music Theater - Curious George: The Golden Meatball
- Enhancing Science Education with Nearpod
- Salem Sound Coastwatch Field Trip
- Intro to Creative Geometric Constructions



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/>

Peabody Cares



Blanket Project

For the second year, the Peabody Education Foundation has sponsored the Blanket Project.

Teacher Jill Houlden from the McCarthy School originally started the blanket making project several years prior for students in need during the holiday season. This year, recognizing the substantial need across the entire district, the count of blankets surged to over 100.

Over the past several weeks, volunteers throughout the community came together to assemble the handmade tie fleece 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 inspiration, 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; **Joann Fabrics**; the **Peabody AOH**; **J. Stone Diamond Foods**; **GraVoc**; and the many volunteers throughout the community who helped assemble the blankets, including: staff and students from **Peabody Public Schools** and students from the **Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School**.



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!

Planning for the Guest Reader program is well underway. Applications have been received from over 50 teachers and 50 prospective readers and confirmation letters have been mailed to all readers and teachers. The program will officially kick off on January 13 and run through 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.

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” visited 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 left our STAFF and STUDENTS feeling inspired and motivated. Jim’s presentation highlighted anti-bullying, focusing on kindness, inclusion and tolerance. Students learned how to be an “UpStander,” standing up for and including others. This was a fun and engaging assembly that focused on KINDNESS. Students were encouraged to “Do Something Kind” and take action to support other students.

Thanks to our sponsors JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation, North Shore Bank, Gravel Family Foundation and Lyon-Waugh Auto Group!



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

The PEF is funding this district wide program in the 4th and 5th grades in all elementary schools. This 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.

The PEF has received some great feedback from our schools regarding this innovative program! According to Dr. Jocelyn Sullivan, South School Principal, “Science from Scientists has been an exceptional program. Our students are engaged and excited, and they look forward to visits from these scientists. Their learning is evident in the conversations we have with them about their experiments. We are so lucky to have Science from Scientists!”

Ms. Lacey Becotte, Burke School Principal, added, “Science of Scientists has brought experimental hands-on science learning to the Burke school that is inclusive and engaging. It has provided an enriching experience to our general science curriculum for fourth and fifth graders that promotes academic discourse, problem solving, and collaborative learning. Students and teachers are both excited for the learning presented within each experience. Science for Scientists has provided materials and resources that we would not have without the program. This opportunity has provided depth to student learning and has helped teachers find new ways of presenting the content.”

Special 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://peabodyeducation.org/contribute/>

PEF Board News



We are hard at work!

The Peabody Education Foundation would like to welcome its newest Board member, Taylor Lee from Eastern Bank! Taylor has been an active member of the Peabody business community for many years and will be a welcome addition to our Board!

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!](#)

EXECUTIVE BOARD	BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
<p>David Gravel <i>GraVoc</i> <i>President & Chairman</i></p> <p>Mary Bellavance <i>GraVoc</i> <i>Vice Chair</i></p> <p>Barbara L. Kelly <i>Community Representative</i> <i>Secretary</i></p> <p>Daniel Vassallo <i>GraVoc</i> <i>Treasurer</i></p>	<p>Kristine Casciato <i>GraVoc</i></p> <p>Maria Champigny <i>School Adjustment Counselor</i></p> <p>Dr. Kelly Chase <i>Assistant Superintendent of Schools</i></p> <p>Donna Craven <i>Community Representative</i></p> <p>Lauren Cyr <i>Salem Five</i></p> <p>Thomas Gould <i>Treadwell's Ice Cream</i></p> <p>Dr. Mark Higgins <i>Assistant Superintendent of Schools</i></p> <p>Jarrold Hochman <i>Lepore & Hochman, P.A.</i></p> <p>Taylor Lee <i>Eastern Bank</i></p> <p>Debbie MacGregor <i>Community Representative</i></p>	<p>Natalie Maga <i>Peabody TV</i></p> <p>Karen McGovern <i>Community Representative</i></p> <p>Laura Meisenhelter <i>North Shore Community Action Programs</i></p> <p>Christopher Pesce <i>North Shore Bank</i></p> <p>Steve Shea <i>Life Solutions Group</i></p> <p>Dr. Josh Vadala <i>Superintendent of Schools</i></p> <p>Katrina Vassallo <i>Harvard University Press</i></p>