

September, 2008

ANNOUNCING 41 PEP TEACHER GRANT AWARDS

The Partnership for Educational Progress is pleased to award 41 Grants, totaling \$24,585, to teachers in School Districts 15, 41, 44, 87, 89 and 93. "PEP" is a charitable foundation which partners with Glenbard School District 87 and its feeder elementary districts to provide enrichment opportunities for students.

In seventeen years, the PEP foundation has awarded more than 320 Teacher Grants worth over \$175,000. The following recipients will implement their Grant projects during the 2008-2009 school year.

Glenbard High School Dist 87

PEP and District 87 are again looking forward to the "One Book, One Glenbard" project. Students, staff, parents, and all interested individuals, are invited to read this year's selected book and to participate in group discussions and activities. By providing this excellent community-wide opportunity to read a selected book, project coordinators Kathy Cerabona, Jeannine Glock, Diane Mankowski and Susan Midelton are taking another exciting step to help students relate to reading and to the community at large.

Freshmen at Glenbard West will target a different discipline each quarter of their school year, as outlined in a project called, "Freshmen Reading Across the Curriculum." The students will read books that tie into Science, Social Studies, Math and Health/PE, and they will be asked to write book reviews, which

will be linked to the school library's webpage. All grade levels will be added to the program in the future.

Kim Te Grootenhuis and Deb Karavitus-Uhl are co-authors of an intriguing grant project called, "A Gorilla in the Classroom." For this project, upper classman at Glenbard North will discuss the important topic of what our responsibility is to sustain and support the earth. My Ishmael, a book about a telepathic gorilla, will be used to spark discussion and encourage critical thinking.

Diane Mankowski and the Glenbard South English Department will offer two similar collaborative programs: "Books are Bewitching," for freshmen and "Brake 4 Books," for juniors. Students will attend presentations given by professional book talkers, which will be followed by time given for the students to browse, ask questions and select a book to read for class. The goal of this innovative project is to encourage teenagers to read by offering them a wide range of interesting choices.

Nancy Pierce and Lila Birchfield have teamed up to design a project called, "Expanding the Borders of the Library." The purpose of this project is to expand the Glenbard North library collection to better serve their English Language Learner. Adding new materials that are accessible for ELL students will result in greater student learning, reading and success.

Another exciting addition to the educational materials available for students in District 87 will be the "Inspirational Educational Films," which have been purchased through a PEP grant under the lead of Jed Schuldt, Wayne Rapp, Scott Boehm and Anastasia Hetman. The films chosen will showcase

inspirational and engaging situations that have been faced throughout time. Students will discuss the relevance of issues of the past as certain issues continually reappear on our today's society. Focusing on universal questions will assist students find constructive answers and develop into responsible citizens.

Marquardt Elementary School District 15

For their PEP Grant project, "Parent and Student Book Club," Rubinson and Kroener have developed an exciting initiative to bring the community of Marquardt Middle School together with parent and student involvement. Every month a new book will be chosen for reading and discussion, and students and parents will be encouraged to attend discussions about the books.

Community Consolidated School District 89

Wouldn't you have like to have the opportunity to be a part of a "Book Reporters Club?" Tim Brinker's PEP Grant project will introduce this exciting club to students at Westfield Elementary School. The Book Reporters Club will meet weekly for 10 weeks to share and celebrate reading. The grant project will culminate with an open house highlighted by projects done by students to be shared with parents and other family members.

Tina Bungert and Jeralyn Olszewski will focus on helping students develop fine motor skills with their innovative project, "Handy Learning." Students entering Park View Elementary School will be guided through a program designed to help them develop the essential foundational skills needed to be successful with handwriting.

Kathy Schmidt and Chris Schull will challenge their students with their Grant project, "Everyday Leadership, Who Will I Follow? How Will I Lead?" Throughout the year, students will be engaged in discussion, journal writing, age appropriate reading and presentations by visiting speakers, all with the goal of analyzing and better understanding the important task of making good leadership decisions.

Julie Breen, Mary Wolski, John Batiste and Corey Toppel are planning to implement a core fitness station using indo boards in the Glen Crest Middle School fitness room. Students will start by learning the correct balancing form on the boards and then progress to using the boards to achieve higher core fitness. The goals of the project are to make core fitness a part of lifetime fitness and to do it in a fun way!

Students at Arbor View will be treated to Lauren Clavelli and Jessica Langman's Grant project, "Book Buddies: Pairing Children and Parents With Literature. Students in grade levels K-2 will be able to check out a "Book Buddy" bag to take home and read with their parents. Not only are the parents and children "paired up" to read, but also the book bag will contain non-fiction books paired with fiction books, so that families will have plenty of avenues for discussion.

Glen Ellyn Elementary School District 41

Laura Nakashima's PEP project, "Virtues and the Visual Arts," will give students at Forest Glen School the opportunity to hear different perspectives on life and art. The students will create posters depicting the theme of 25 different

virtues. Through classroom conversation on these virtues, students will have the opportunity to share their feelings and express themselves both verbally and visually.

The teaching team of Kelley Vail, Lynna Hildner and Amy Bishop will introduce their third grade students to the genres of fables, mysteries and plays with the Grant project, "It's All About Genre." Students will work on comprehending the main ideas or morals of selected stories. The project will end with students writing mysteries and sharing student-written plays about fables, to demonstrate the students' knowledge of these genres.

Amy Wagner and Laura Malay are launching a winning Grant project called, "Team Read: Sports and Books Score With Guys." Groups of fathers and sons will be invited to read sports related books together and to spend an evening "bouncing" their reactions to the books off of one another. This will be followed by a visit from District 87 athletes who will share their favorite childhood books and the impact that reading and books have had on their lives. A choice of reading materials will be given, including books with strong male role models, in order to encourage independent reading.

Another PEP Grant project designed to promote a love of reading is Holly Olsen's project, "Good Movie, Better Book." Olsen would like her students to read award-winning books and watch the correlating movies to compare and contrast story elements. As students discuss the similarities and differences between the two mediums, Olsen's project will promote a love of reading with fun and educational activities.

Fifth graders at Abraham Lincoln School will receive practice with “Building Conceptual Relationships Between Fractions, Decimals and Percents” under the direction of teachers Nikole Bauman, Pattie HarteNaus, Ed Klingberg, and Brian Pindar. With this PEP Grant, the teachers will purchase materials required to teach these math concepts successfully to students of all learning modalities, languages and abilities.

Music skills, such as patterning and visualization, are the focus of a PEP Grant called, “iPod Stations for Listening Comprehension,” proposed by Brianne Benages, Michele Couzens, Julie Maher and Wendee Passini. Familiarity with an iPod will allow students to make more musical connections and to create new levels of excitement and engagement.

Lynn Bruno’s students will be “Using Elmo Document Camera to Develop Literacy.” By projecting real time photos of documents, students and teachers can physically engage with these texts. The ability to display maps and historical documents, images, student work, photos and scientific slides, etc., on a screen, will provide students with an easy method to visually model the processes necessary to read and to write.

Jeff Burke, Jeanne Chmelik, Cathy Gerlach, Autumn Hall and Kathie Toulouse are collaborating on a Grant project called, “Concrete Mathematics Building Multiplication and Division Concept with Math Manipulatives.” This grant will make it possible to purchase specific materials proven to assist in the development of multiplication/division concept in children. The overall goal is for

each student to grow mathematically by understanding numbers and the relationship between numbers.

Kristen Garcia and Karen Grieger are collaborating on a PEP project for junior high students called, "Building Bridges with Buttons." Special needs students will design and assemble buttons that will be sold to staff and students during lunch periods. The guided students will advertise, take orders, sell and deliver buttons, and profits from the sales will be donated to a local charity of the students' choosing.

Eighth Grade students in Kelly Lewis's class will have the opportunity to see how robotics can be integrated into their changing world. Lewis will use her PEP grant to purchase Lego Robotics sets to facilitate a project called, "Learning with Legos." The robotic kits will introduce students to the concepts of systems analysis, design and computer programming in a fun and interactive way.

The use of "PDA Pronto Data Acquisition" will benefit students at Churchill school, under the lead of Mary Lou Katarzynski and Brent Barker. Data currently recorded by hand and then typed onto computer spreadsheets will be collected more rapidly using PDA's, which will result in more time directly teaching and less time compiling data.

Students at Hadley Jr. High School will be "Using Interactive Learning Tools in the Classroom," thanks to PEP grants proposed by Christina Graves, Hillary Shumate, Heidi Hann, and Paul Luczak. Students will be able to edit their writing or solve problems on an interactive tablet device with their results immediately projected on the board for feedback.

Karen Lundgren plans to extend the activities and resources that were begun last year with her exciting PEP grant project, "Reading Takes You Places 2." This year's grant emphasis will be on the Take-Home Practice portion of the project. Third graders will be able to take home different materials that have been successful in helping them learn to read. The additional resources will be a tremendous asset to the students as they develop into lifelong readers.

Brian Pindar, Juli Kennelly, Margi Gates and Ce Ce White have unveiled a new project at Lincoln Elementary School called, "Student Ambassadors: Shirts for the Stellar Students Who Strive to Uphold the Pillars of Character." Using a PEP grant, the teachers plan to purchase shirts for each member of the 2008-2009 Lincoln Student Ambassador Team. These 4th and 5th grade "ambassadors" are students who will have performed volunteer services such as speaking at assemblies, organizing special events for the school, and acting as greeters at various school functions.

A Grant project called, "Pre K Discovery Center," will impact the youngest learners at Benjamin Franklin School. The goal of teachers Michelle Quenneville and Hannah Barnard is for students to be able to partake in a variety of activities of exploration. Students will have opportunities to use their senses to touch, feel, taste, smell and see, and to share all of their new experiences.

The second grade teaching team at Ben Franklin will initiate a project called, "Listen and Learn." Students already use headphones when they are on the computer. With this Grant project, students will gain the use of portable tape players that will allow them to practice reading to themselves. Hearing good

literature expands will help students expand their vocabulary and become better readers.

Jennifer Vasile and Margaret Peter will invite incoming kindergarteners and their families to a night called, “ABC Adventure.” During the adventure night, the children and families will participate in hands-on activities for learning early reading concepts. Then the families will take home a blank alphabet book and a disposable camera to create a personalized alphabet book. These activities will foster a home/school connection for incoming kindergarteners from the start.

Julie Zukauskas and Grace Greenberg will be starting a “School Store” at Lincoln School with their PEP Grant. The inventory will consist of school related items and non-school related items. It will be designed to serve all students of Lincoln with money brought from home. The purpose will be to have non-special education students and special education students learn necessary life skills in math, communication and cooperation.

Two grants called “Working With Wonderful Words” and “Making Developmental Word Study Count For Everyone,” proposed by Priscilla Witte, Denise Cassidy, Whitney Crouch, Karen Nash, Deborah Albergo Lazzara, Melinda Keller and Danielle Sanew, will give first and second graders at Churchill Elementary School the opportunity to select reading materials in order to boost their understanding and knowledge of spelling, phonics and vocabulary. The grants will fund a library of materials that the teachers can use to support, extend and reinforce word study instruction.

Lombard Elementary School District 44

Karen Elifson's second and third grade students will launch into a PEP project called, "Raptors, Reading and Writing." Activities across the curriculum will be combined as students learn about raptors in relation to their environment. The culminating activity will be a visit by handlers and 2 owls from Willowbrook Wildlife Center.

All students at Hammerschmidt School will have the opportunity to hear the book, The Invention of Hugo Cabret read to them, as part of Karen Egan's "K-5 All-School Reading Project." In addition to having read aloud time, students will be engaged in simple machine activities, art projects, history discussions and language arts lessons.

In the changing world, it is important for students to be able to obtain the most current and comprehensive materials available in order to make the best choices to have healthy lives. Brenda Kawano's project, "Health Materials," will provide critical information for students studying how to lead healthy lifestyles.

The team of Barb Kennedy, Jill Vaupell, Marilyn Kirkwood and Jennifer Buescher plan to integrate digital audio into their classes, with their PEP project, "Hey, Have You Heard the One About..." The team of teachers will be working to promote collaboration between students, who will be learning in small groups, using multiple headphones. This project will also provide an avenue for enhancing critical thinking skills by providing an opportunity to advance into pod casting.

Rose Grumstrup has proposed expanding the Pleasant Lane physical education program to include a climbing wall in the school gymnasium. Having a

climbing wall will also encourage team and cooperative experiences. Students will acquire movement skills and learn concepts needed to engage in health-enhancing physical activity.

Community Consolidated School District 93

Michelle Lia's project, "PBIS: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports," is aimed at improving student behavior at Western Trails School, with the goal of improving academics as well. Research shows that a school-wide continuum of systems and interventions to meet student needs translates into improved academic achievement.

CASE (Districts 15, 16, 41, 44, 89 and 93)

The purpose of Megan Mencinsky's project, "Glenwood Family Support Network," is to offer assistance, education and support to the families of children diagnosed with emotional disorders. Using PEP funds, Mencinsky plans to invite speakers with research-based knowledge and practice to give parents useful, appropriate tools to use for consistent implementation of social skills education and positive behavioral interventions.

The annual Partnership for Educational Progress Grant Program is supported by tax-deductible gifts contributed by individuals and businesses and through other fund raising activities. More information on the foundation or the PEP Grant program is available by calling the PEP office at 630-942-8605, or by visiting PEP's website: thepepfoundation.org.