

September, 2009

ANNOUNCING 24 PEP TEACHER GRANT AWARDS

The Partnership for Educational Progress is pleased to award 24 Grants, totaling \$16,815, 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 five feeder elementary districts to provide enrichment opportunities for students.

In eighteen years, the PEP foundation has awarded more than 345 Teacher Grants worth over \$190,000. The following teachers will implement their Grant projects during the 2009-2010 school year.

Glenbard High School District 87

All of the Glenbard librarians as well as local public librarians are looking forward to the "One Book, One Glenbard" PEP project. Project coordinators Kathy Cerabona, Jeannine Glock, Diane Mankowski and Susan Midelton will use this special grant to help make reading a priority for all students in District 87.

Another PEP Grant project designed to support student reading and language development is Susan Midelton's project, "Audio Books in the Classroom." Statistics indicate that one in three students are auditory learners. With this in mind, Midelton plans to work to identify the reading and comprehension needs of the students. Those needs will suggest which audio books should be purchased to best support the curriculum. Students' reading

abilities will be positively impacted as they have the opportunity to learn while listening to the new audio books.

A recognized need at the highschool level is “High Interest – Low Level Books for Special Education.” Working with input from the special education department, Kathy Cerabona and the library staff at Glenbard West will purchase books that have high interest appeal as well as lower reading levels appropriate for special education students. The students will be encouraged to check books out to read in the classroom. Once a book is read, the students will be asked to write a brief “book trailer” that will be linked to the library’s web page.

Another exciting PEP Grant in which the focus is books is a project co-authored by Jennifer Buck and Nancy Pierce called, “Civil Rights Research at Glenbard North High School.” The purpose of this project is to engage students in using print materials to conduct civil rights research. Students will be encouraged to read the research books that will be purchased with this grant to better understand the history and issues To Kill a Mockingbird prior to reading the novel.

Amy Moran and Nancy Pierce will coordinate a project called, “Abraham Lincoln Award at Glenbard North High School” for the entire student body at Glenbard North. The purpose of this PEP grant project is to encourage readers grade 9-12 to read the nominated Lincoln awards books, to discuss the books at meetings both at lunch and after school, to vote on the nominated selections and to read additional titles to nominate for the following year’s award. Studies show that the more students read, the more proficient they become in reading.

Lombard Elementary School District 44

Reading proficiency is also on the minds of Brenda Kawano and Karen Biernat, teachers at Glenn Westlake Middle School. With their PEP grant, Kawano and Biernat propose to use “Kindle 2 for Reading” to teach reading and language skills to their students. Students will be able to listen to text while reading the page using this unique device. The Kindle 2 also offers the benefit of delivering access to a large collection of books, which can be shared with the rest of the student population.

Marquardt District 15

Derek Soeren’s PEP grant project, “Ipod Touch for Feedback and Assessment,” will give 6th grade physical education students at Marquardt Middle School the opportunity to track their progress and continue to better their personal fitness for lifetime achievements. In addition, teachers will be able to give students immediate feedback in order to see how much they have progressed, and with the use of Excel and WiFi, teachers can create an individualized list of essentials and goals for each student. This is truly a win-win project!

Community Consolidated School District 93

Through a PEP grant proposed by Lisa Thomen, 6th through 8th grade French and Spanish students at Stratford Middle School will be able to take advantage of “Fluency Testing Using Technology.” Using programs such as Photostory, students will narrate stories, answer vocabulary questions, record themselves and revise their answers before turning them in. The integration of

time-saving technologies in the foreign language classroom benefits students and teachers, alike.

Community Consolidated School District 89

Sue Pumo, Marylou Andacht, Kevin Motsinger and Rebekah Askeland will introduce their 4th and 5th grade students to Froebel Blocks which are the educational tools that gifted architect Frank Lloyd Wright credited for giving him many design ideas. A PEP grant called, “The Wright Stuff Traveling Workshop,” will be used to purchase the set of blocks which will travel among the four elementary schools in District 89.

Elementary School District 41

At Lincoln elementary school, the teaching team of Cecilia White, Denise Capenigro, Farheen Sharif, Claudia Root and Donna Douglas will use their PEP grant to welcome all students who are new to the U.S. with a project called, “Welcome to Lincoln School: A Great Place to Learn, Grow and Achieve!” Kindergarteners through fifth graders will compose scripts which describe Lincoln school. The students will also use cameras to capture life at Lincoln school and in other environments outside of school. With this project, the teachers hope to help ease the students’ transition to not only a new school but also a new country.

The bilingual Spanish/English program will get an early start at Churchill school where Jill Waszak plans to implement a project called “Spanish Language Combo Software.” Pre-kindergarteners through second graders will use Spanish software to learn speaking and reading skills. Having younger children

become comfortable with basic vocabulary has been shown to be beneficial for future reading readiness and speech production skills.

Janet DiSilvestro plans to utilize “Audio Books to Enable ELL Students to Have the Literacy Levels Reached by Peers” with her PEP grant project.

DiSilvestro’s students at Hadley Junior High will use audio books to become acquainted with the same materials which students in the rest of the school use in class. This provides a learning opportunity, which would not be available, were it not for the audio books format.

Students in Gia Kunkel’s classes will be engaged by the creation of interactive lessons using “W11 Mote White Boards.” This PEP project will involve building an interactive whiteboard using W11 remotes and an LED pen. All lessons and examples will be visually stimulating for various types of learning styles, and the lessons can be saved for future use including being able to duplicate classroom lessons for students who are absent.

Jennifer Chavez and Mariola Kosinski plan to teach “Yoga for Young Ones” to first grade students using a PEP grant. Yoga in the classroom has been shown to improve appropriate behavior, increase self-control, improve physical fitness and raise self-esteem. Students will benefit by being more able to manage their feelings and behaviors to be ready for learning.

“Get the Picture?” is Lisa Wessman’s PEP grant project. Lisa’s goal is to tap into different ways that children learn. To this purpose, she plans to use a document camera in her classroom to help her students to ‘get the picture.’ Pictures are invaluable ways to duplicate portions of maps and books, as well as

pieces of students' written work. Using a document camera for math, students can place problem-solving techniques on the camera for their classmates to see.

Ed Klingberg, Pat HarteNaus, Molly Risberg, Lynna Hildner, Cathy Gerlach, Jeff Burke, Kathie Toulouse, and Autumn Hall judge the possibilities to be limitless for their project, "Elmo Projects Literacy and Math to Students." An exciting new technology, the Elmo will offer a perfect visual to their fourth and fifth grade students no matter where the students are seated in the classroom.

The Lincoln team of second grade teachers will implement a Grant project which is "Larger than Life." Carter Griffin, Margaret Peter, Dawn Bredfeldt, John Bower and Heather Buccola envision entire classes of students being able explore maps, artifacts, written work and much, much more using a document camera. This educational enhancement will allow the second graders to see important items up close, at once and on the spur of the moment.

Kindergarteners at Ben Franklin School will dictate and record their own written pieces using headset microphones, as outlined in a project authored by Sarah Rodriguez, Cathy Pinski and Ann Schlabach called, "Kindergarten Storytelling Through Technology." The students will make a yearlong collection of their work, which will show not only their storytelling ability but also their understanding of story structure.

Michelle Quenneville of Churchill School plans to incorporate Photo Story into her curriculum with a grant project titled, "Little Bytes –A Photo Project for Pre K." Using Photo Story, children will be able to electronically document

their artwork, journal entries, read-aloud activities and independent story dictations. To help parents understand the many benefits of employing Photo Story, examples of its uses will also be demonstrated at a school open house evening.

Linda Anderson's project, "Artistically Speaking," will focus on helping students acquire skills to produce art and understand how others express ideas in art forms. Over a nine-week course, students will create and chose a piece of artwork to showcase in the Hadley Art Exhibit. During this time the students will also record an analysis of their artwork using iPods and microphones. Visitors to the art exhibit will use the iPods to hear descriptions of the artwork in the students' own words.

The interactive Smart board is a helpful tool used in the classroom to engage students and accommodate different learning styles. Whitney Crouch proposes to utilize, "Smart Board in First Grade," for her Grant project. First grade students will have the opportunity to think, respond and interact at higher learning levels as they become comfortable with the visuals provided by the Smart board.

Additional classrooms where the curriculum will be favorably impacted by the use of a Smart board include Annie Wilkovich's fifth grade at Forest Glen School and Mayra Kulik's 6th-8th grades at Hadley Junior High School. Wilkovich will be launching a PEP grant project called, "A SMART –er Way to Write and Learn" in her classroom. She will integrate the Smart Board in her lessons in order to scale back on the use of paper and chalk. At the same time, her

students will discover the ease of manipulating text and images using electronic pens and fingers. Students in Kulik's classes will also utilize the smartboard to write paragraphs, solve math and science problems and review social studies maps, as provided for by the PEP Grant, "Smartboard for Smart Kids."

PEP 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 our website: thepepfoundation.org.