President's Message

The uncertainty of food is a daily reality for many Peoria Public School students. With the holiday season fast approaching, the PPS Foundation hopes to provide a reminder to pause and consider those that don't have enough to eat. Our Little Free Pantries provide a place for those students to get the food they need, but we need YOUR help to keep them stocked. Check out the video below for more information on our Food Drive that is going on now through November 22nd.

Thank You
For supporting the PPS Foundation's Food Drive

November 1 - 22
Non-perishable food
Household necessities
Personal hygiene products

Look for Donation Boxes.
Peoria Public Schools Administration Building, 3302 N. Wisconsin Ave.
Peoria High School • Richwoods High School • Manual Academy
Junction City Shopping Center

Little Free Pantries help close the gap for families facing food shortages by stocking non-perishable food, household necessities and personal hygiene products for school families and neighborhood residents. The November food drive helps stock the pantries for the holidays and the winter season.

Little Free Pantries are located at:
- Kellie Primary School
- Northmoor Primary School
- Charter Oak Primary School
- Dr. Maude A. Sanders Primary School
- Whittier Primary School
- Franklin Primary School
- Lincoln K-8
- Glen Oak Community Learning Center
- Manual Academy
- Hines Primary School
- Roosevelt Magnet School
- Harrison Community Learning Center
- Trewyn School
- Thomas Jefferson Primary School

www.peoriapublicschools.org
We're excited to announce that Dr. Marquita Furness Davis, a Manual High School Alum and the Deputy Director of Early Learning for the US Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will be this year's speaker!
Congratulations to this year's Classroom, STEM, Field Experience, and Classroom Innovation grant recipients!

The PPS Foundation, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, provided over $31,000 in grant funding for PPS teachers and staff this school year! Click on the picture below to see a list of recipients and their projects.

Congrats to Naomi Armstrong, a PPS Foundation SHERO!

Our November PPS Foundation "Shero of the Month" award goes to Naomi Armstrong. Naomi is a PPS administrative assistant at the Roy Ricketts Center. She also manages the PPS Foundation’s uniform closet to ensure our uniform inventory is well stocked and that requests from principals and staff, who have students that need new uniforms, are taken care of quickly. Naomi always goes above and beyond to support Peoria Public Schools. We are so grateful for the amazing work that she does!

This award will be given once a month to an unsung hero or shero in our schools. All heroes and sheroes will be recognized at our Appreciation Reception that will be held on May 14, 2020.

Meet our Foundation Board Member, Solivian Dismuke!

The PPS Foundation is excited to introduce Solivian Dismuke, one of our newest members of our Board of Directors.

Solivian is a Registered Nurse employed by UnityPoint Health, currently working as a House Supervisor, rotating between the Methodist and Proctor Hospital campuses. Solivian has a Master's Degree in Nursing Leadership and Management. Solivian was named the 2006 Clinical Nurse of the Year. She has volunteered within the community and is a member of the United Way Pillar Society. She attributes her success to
being a student within the Peoria Public School District. The district is part of her DNA! The daughter of a retired school teacher, she helped her mother grade papers after school when she was in the 1st grade! No worries, her mother taught primary school! She and her husband, John, have a combined six children, Brett, Dana, Jarel, Janise, Mariah, and Mikayla. Mikayla, the youngest, is a junior at Richwoods High School. The others, all PPS graduates, are college graduates with successful careers. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, exercising, and listening to audio tapes.

The PPS Foundation welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors at the start of this school year - Josh Newell, Daniel Musisi and Solivian Dismuke. More information on Daniel and Josh can be found in prior newsletters.

PPS Foundation’s Board of Directors: Andre Allen, Ruth Bittner, Solivian Dismuke, Maarten de Haas, Scott McCord, Daniel Musisi, Josh Newell, Cheryl Sanfilip, and Cathy Wiggers

PPS Foundation’s Staff: Cindy Morris (President), Jen Adler (Administrative Director), Sarah Oakford (Adopt-A-School Coordinator), Trish O’Shaughnessy (Director, Community Engagement & Horizons Program), Anne Kennedy (See It. Be It. Coordinator), Allison Coulter (Horizons), Ella Dancey (Horizons), and Jen Maushard (Horizons).