

In this short monthly e-newsletter, the Polk Education Foundation would like to share with you things that we were able to do over the last few months to support the teachers and students of Polk County, and to also make you aware of any upcoming opportunities. Please forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would be interested learning more about the Polk Education Foundation.

Have you heard the latest news from the PEF?

AT&T donates \$25,000 !

Grant funds from the AT&T donation will be used to help students who are struggling to complete high school and to help prepare students who are college bound, as well as those who plan to immediately enter Polk's workforce.

Focus areas are FCAT ,SAT and ACT preparation, tutoring, college and career exploration and support for career academies. All Polk County high schools are eligible to apply for these funds. 10 grants of \$2,500 have been awarded to the following schools.

George Jenkins High School

Mulberry High School
School

Ridge Community High School

Life Skills East

Lake Region High

Tenoroc High School



Selena Quick, Community Relations Director for AT&T, West Florida region, Marshall Criser, President of AT&T present a check for \$25,000 to Frank O'Reilly, Polk County School Board and Susan Copeland, Polk Education Foundation

Thank you Wachovia!

Wachovia recently donated \$10,000 through a grant written by the PEF. These funds will be used to improve student achievement. Congratulations to the following schools on receiving \$1000!

Crystal Lake Elementary School

Kingsford Elementary School

Loughman Oaks Elementary School

Laurel Elementary School

Dundee Ridge Middle School

Combee Elementary School

Ridge Community High School

Lake Region High School

Lakeland High School

Alta Vista Elementary School



Citigroup Mentoring Program

Twelve teachers were recognized Thursday, April 23, 2009 at a semi-annual School Board Recognition Program for their participation in the **Citigroup Team Mentor Grant** program, sponsored by Citigroup and administered by the Polk Education Foundation.

This year, twelve teachers were chosen from Combee Elementary in Lakeland, Florida. They worked together in teams over the past four months compiling and synthesizing student-based projects that they then implemented into their classrooms in order to increase student achievement. The six mentor teachers are Bonnie Warren, Ellen Carey, Mary Ann Mummey, Lisa Willman, Andrea Sawyer, and Rachel McCall. The mentee teachers are Angelique Littlejohn, Lisa Mack, Sarah Cunningham, Lisa Mottarella, April Diaz, and Candace Crosby. Two representatives from Smith Barney, a division of Citigroup, were also honored with a certificate of appreciation. The representatives, Kevin Griffith and Wade Harvey also helped to distribute the awards to the honored teachers.



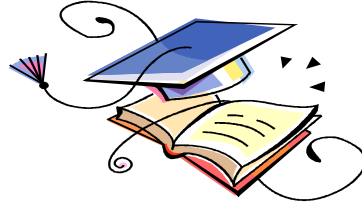


State Representative John Wood with Susan Copeland of the Polk Education Foundation

State Representative **John Wood** of District 65 donated his unused campaign funds to the PEF to provide \$8000 in scholarships to Polk County seniors.

Other political candidates donating their unused campaign funds this year are: Dick Mullenax, Polk County School Board, Marsha Faux, Polk County Property Appraiser, Paula Dockery, State Senator and Brenda Reddout, former Polk County School Board member.

Thank you to all of the candidates for their generosity!



The Polk Education Foundation would like to thank **Bartow High School, McKeel Academy** and the **Education Talent Search** for hosting scholarship information meetings. PEF Director, Susan Copeland, spoke to students from these schools about scholarship opportunities with the Foundation and other sources. We also wish to express our appreciation to the college and career lab managers at each high school for acting as our scholarship liaisons at the schools. The scholarship process could not be completed without their hard work and dedication. Announcements of scholarship awards will be made at each high school's senior award ceremonies. Special thanks to **Abdu Taguri**, Sr. Director of PCSB Information Services and his staff, **Jason Cochran** and **Tom Van Pool** for their work on the online scholarship application. Their work helped streamline the electronic application process.

Macy's Charity Day nets \$1400 for the PEF! On March 28th Macy's Department Stores sponsored a Charity Day in their Florida stores. Between February 14th and 28th, shoppers could purchase an exclusive one day discount card for \$5. The card entitled shoppers to a 20% discount on purchases made on February 28. Macy's donated 100% of the proceeds from the sale of cards from the Winter Haven and Lakeland Stores to the Polk Education Foundation to be used to purchase classroom supplies for Polk schools.

Thank you Macy's for this great fundraising event and to everyone who purchased a discount card.



Congratulations!

Ruth Teets
2009 Teacher of the Year
Purcell Elementary

Cindy Wickham
2009 School-Related Employee of the Year
Dixieland Elementary School



Ruth Teets was named 2009 Teacher of the Year and Cindy Wickham was named 2009 School-Related Employee Of The Year before more than 1,000 teachers, staff members, community members, event sponsors and guests. The School-Related award is for paraeducators, secretaries, maintenance, foodservice, transportation and others in support roles.

Teets and Wickham will move on to compete for state Teacher Of The Year and state School-Related Employee of The Year honors respectively.

Eight finalists for each award were announced during the evening prior to naming the winners.



Ruth Teets , Teacher of the Year, Purcell Elementary (Lakeland)
Audrey Gelin, Boone Middle (Haines City)
Keli Keyes, Highland City Elementary
Barbara Langford, Alta Vista Elementary (Haines City)
Nicole Maassen, Bartow Middle (Bartow)
Wanda Miles, Garden Grove Elementary (Winter Haven)
Saralyn Smith, Kingsford Elementary (Mulberry)
Joan Turner, Westwood Middle (Winter Haven)

Cindy Wickham, School-Related Employee of the Year Dixieland Elementary (Lakeland)
JoAnn Cassidy, Daniel Jenkins Academy of Technology (Haines City)
Sherry Gary, Lake Alfred Elementary (Lake Alfred)
Layne Mayo, Kingsford Elementary (Mulberry)
Sunnie Parkins, Polk City Elementary (Polk City)
Jackie Prevatt, Bartow High/Bartow International Baccalaureate/Summerlin Academy
Claudia Sandoval del Valle, Purcell Elementary (Mulberry)
Angel Torres, East Area Adult School (Auburndale)



Congratulations to all the nominees for 2009!

The Teacher / School-Related Employee of the Year Banquet is hosted by the Polk Education Foundation in partnership with the PCSB Community Relations Department.

Thanks to our Teacher of the Year/School-Related Employee of the Year Banquet sponsors for making this special event possible!



Bank of America
Bunting Tripp & Ingley
Huntington Learning Center
MM Parrish Construction
Polk Education Association
Sun Trust Bank

Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.
Community First Credit Union
Lakeland Electric
Morgan Stanley
Smith Barney
Verizon
Progress Energy

Bright House Networks
Holland and Knight
Pepsi Bottling Company
State Farm Insurance
Citizen's Bank
Teacher's Exchange

A special thanks to Herff Jones for the donation of rings for both the winners and the \$1000 for the Teacher of the Year, to the owner/operators of McDonalds' Restaurants for highlighting the finalists on their tray liners, and to MIDFLORIDA Credit Union for \$2000 gift to the School-Related Employee of the Year and brand new car for the Teacher of the Year.

Good news for schools



The PEF recently donated a total of \$5000 to Crystal Lake Elementary, North Lakeland Elementary and Dixieland Elementary Schools as part of a partnership with Junior Achievement. These schools' fifth graders attended Junior Achievement's JA Biztown where students experienced "real life" employment. JA Biztown allows students to hold jobs and manage their personal finances for the day. What a meaningful learning experience for them all!



Tampa Bay Rays fund-raising opportunity!

The Polk Education Foundation, Polk County schools and the Tampa Bay Rays partnered for a special Polk County Education ticket offer. The PEF and participating schools offered \$15 upper deck tickets for the Rays vs. the Red Sox game on May 3rd. For each ticket sold at participating schools or sold by the PEF, \$2 was donated back to the seller.

The following schools participated in this event:

Ben Hill Griffin Elementary
Boswell Elementary
Highlands Grove Elementary
Lawton Chiles Middle Academy
Spook Hill Elementary

Berkley Charter Elementary
George Jenkins HS
Inwood Elementary
Roosevelt Academy

Bethune Academy
Hartridge Academy
Lake Gibson HS wrestling
Scott Lake Elementary

Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets. We look forward to making this an annual event!



Thanks Huntington Learning Center!

The Polk Education Foundation and our Take Stock in Children Program were guests of Huntington Learning Center at a luncheon celebrating diversity. The luncheon, held at the Lakeland Center, was sponsored by the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce as well as other local businesses. Special guest speaker for the event was Betty Nguyen, CNN Weekend Newsroom anchor. Thank you Huntington Learning Center, and Carol Sherron and Janiene Bambridge for inviting us to this special event.



Lindsey Aderholt and Grace Mathew, Take Stock in Children participants with Betty Nguyen (center) of CNN Weekend Newsroom

PROGRAMS OF THE POLK EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN (TSIC):



THANK YOU!

The Take Stock in Children Program would like to thank Dr. Keim and the Chair Scholars Program for their donation of \$62,571.74. This donation will be used to purchase Florida Pre-paid scholarships for selected physically challenged students in Polk County. Applications for Chair Scholars Scholarships can be found at www.polkeeducationfoundation.org under the Take Stock in Children tab.



Congratulations to the following students for being awarded tuition scholarships through the Polk Education Foundation's Take Stock in Children Program.

Alberta Palma	Ridge Teen Parent Program	60 hours Career scholarship
Dominque Harris	Ridge Teen Parent Program	60 hours Career scholarship
Savannah Grant	Tenoroc High School	60 hours Education Major scholarship
Leiter Hernandez	Tenoroc High School	60 hours Education Major scholarship
Dejameyson Green	Tenoroc High School	60 hours McDonald's scholarship
Michael Rodriguez	Lake Region High School	60 hours Career scholarship
Rachelle Davenport	Lake Wales High School	60 hours Education scholarship
Shikira Saul	Harrison School for the Arts	120 hours PEF scholarship
Michael Smith	Harrison School for the Arts	60 hours McDonald's scholarship
Keidra Lamont	Harrison School for the Arts	60 hours McDonald's scholarship
Jeannette Fiallo	Harrison School for the Arts	60 hours McDonald's scholarship
Quinteise Douglas	Bartow High School	60 hours McDonald's scholarship
Caitlan Hopkins	George Jenkins High School	60 hours McDonald's scholarship
Octavia Page	Haines City High School	120 hours Chair Scholars Scholarship
Joseph Vasquez	Lakeland High School	\$1000 Publix Vocational scholarship
Isabelle Cavazos	Auburndale High School	60 hours Lakeland Electric Scholarship
Victoria Williams	Kathleen High School	120 hours Kiwanis Scholarship
Vanessa Colchato	Bartow IB	2+2 Ed Maddox Scholarship
Rainbow Williams	International Baccalaureate East	60 hours Paxson Morrison Scholarship
Samantha Willis	Fort Meade High School	60 hours Paxson Morrison Scholarship
Anna Wilson	Stambaugh Middle School	120 hours Chairs Scholars Scholarship
Kewanna Dyer	Ridge Community High School	\$1000 Technical scholarship
Hector Rodriguez	Ridge Community High School	\$1000 Technical scholarship
Jessica Guffey	George Jenkins High School	120 Chair Scholars Scholarship
Shayla Alexis	Lake Wales High School	60 hours Kiwanis Scholarship
Raven Gilmore	Lakeland High School	60 hours Kiwanis Scholarship
Alan Kemp	Auburndale High School	60 hour PEF Scholarship
Nancy Jaimes	Fort Meade High School	60 hours Paxson Morrison Scholarship

TEACHER TO TEACHER / SCHOOL TO SCHOOL CONNECTION (TTC/SSC):

Tri-county K-8th grade educators were honored at the 2009 Developer Grant Meeting held by the Teacher to Teacher/School to School Connection Program.



This year, 27 teachers were awarded Developer Grants totaling up to \$1,000 for a classroom or school-wide program he/she developed and implemented at his/her respective schools. These educators will be receiving a monetary gift as well as money to purchase classroom materials to better enhance their teaching methods and opportunities for students. These teachers exemplify the good works being produced in Polk, Hardee and Highlands County school districts. To date, the Teacher to Teacher Connection has awarded over 700 grants worth more than \$250,000 and the School to School Connection has awarded 16 grants worth \$16,000, benefiting numerous teachers and countless students.

The following teachers were honored:

Allison Carter	Highlands Grove Elementary	Gloria Neel	North Wauchula Elementary
Neena Williams & Katherine Noller	North Lakeland Elementary	Shannan Combee	Inwood Elementary
Stefanie A. Brokas	Doris Sanders	Sharon Ussery	Zolfo Springs Elementary
Stacie C. Whaley	North Wauchula Elementary	Amy Till	Bartow Elementary Academy
Doreen Diefendorf	Lake County Elementary	Brittanie Moore	Inwood Elementary
Jennifer Shackelford	North Wauchula Elementary	Karen Reece	Bartow Elementary Academy
Jennifer Blanton	Eagle Lake Elementary	Joy Eastman	Sebring Middle School
Sharon Francis	Snively Elementary	Jill O'Leary	Berkley Academy
Caroline Kaiser	Davenport SOA	Connie Harris	Bartow Middle School
Laura Mastrangelo	Snively Elementary	Kay Teehan	Bartow Middle School
Shannon Lima-Jones		Joy Conley	Dixieland Elementary
& Rebecca Charlet	Kathleen Elementary	Hillary Hendrix	Inwood Elementary
Rebecca Probst	Lake Country Elementary	Jennifer Clark-Chrow	Lake Marion Creek Elementary

For information on the Teacher to Teacher Connection and School to School Connection grant programs, please visit the Polk Education Foundation website www.polkeducationfoundation.org and click on the T2T tab.

AMERICORPS POLK READS:



In addition to providing reading tutoring to elementary students in our county, AmeriCorps members have required community service projects they complete as a group. Members assisted in an auction benefitting HELP of Ft. Meade at the American Legion Hall on February 7th. HELP of Ft. Meade, Inc. is a social service agency serving families in crisis in the town of Fort Meade. Through community partnerships and individual donations, HELP has been able to reach out to struggling families and individuals in the local community. During this event AmeriCorps members helped to raise \$1700 for the cause.

On March 3rd AmeriCorps members assisted HELP in a circus-themed literacy event at Lewis Anna Woodbury Elementary. This event was very exciting with over 150 students and parents coming out to the "Under the Big Top" event.

In February members served with the Polk County Board of Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Department at the Medulla Community Center for the Black Heritage Festival.

In celebration of the Great American Cleanup Project, AmeriCorps members chose Saddle Creek Park as their designated area in the Keep Polk County Beautiful project. Members met at the park on Saturday, March 21 and picked up trash and recyclable materials from the park grounds.

OFFERS FOR PCSB EMPLOYEES:

For all current offers available to all PCSB employees, please visit the STAFF page of the PCSB website
www.polk-fl.net

Offers are also listed on the weekly staff email sent from Dr. Tonjes' office to PCSB employees each Friday.

Current offers:

- Cirque du Soleil Saltimbanco The Lakeland Center
- Aska Lodge Bed & Breakfast—Georgia discounted stays ,through 12/31/09
- Gaylord Palms Teacher Appreciation rates—available to all PCSB employees through12/31/09
- Wet 'n Wild discounted tickets— \$29.95 + tax for 1-day admission \$2.00 per ticket goes to the PEF
- Superlube discount—available in Auburndale, Bartow, Lake Wales and Winter Haven stores. Teachers and staff in these areas will receive a discount card at their school site.
- American Lube—10% discount for all teachers at the Havendale Blvd. store in Auburndale

Sam's Cub update

If you renewed your Sam's Club membership, or you applied for a new membership with Sam's Club through the PEF, your membership is now active. To activate a new membership, please visit a Sam's Club Customer Service desk, provide a picture ID and a new card (s) will be issued to you. Renewal memberships will continue as normal.

POLK EDUCATION FOUNDATION STAFF:

Susan Copeland, Executive Director, 863-534-0434
Vicki Ginda, AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, 863-519-8638
Kristen Gartrell, AmeriCorps Program Assistant, 863-519-8638
Miranda Collins, TTC Program Coordinator, 863-534-0803

Susan Fenich, TSIC Program Coordinator, 863-519-8077
Teresa Choquette, TSIC Student Advocate, 863-519-8076
Shirley Brosie, Accounting Specialist, 863-534-5073
Lou Ann Antonelli, Admin. Assistant, 863-534-0519

