

the Putnam Pioneer

A Putnam City Schools Foundation publication

Fall 2017

Attitude Reflects Leadership

School has started once again in Putnam City, and nearly 20,000 children are in our buildings singing, playing, calculating and contemplating each day.

The start of school always brings so much hope. A year of possibilities, new opportunities, and new solutions to challenges awaits.

Those responsible for making sure the day-to-day building operations run smoothly are our school principals. We invited them over for a little thank you

party to share more about what the foundation does for schools, and learn about needs in their buildings.

Our foundation offers grants to principals looking to provide enrichment in a variety of ways to a group of teachers and students or to the entire building.

We know that the attitude of a principal is reflected in the attitudes of our teachers, and makes a world of difference in the building's success. It can truly be a daunting task, but we want

to do our part to keep the great principals we have in place by showing them support in ways they need it.

Leadership of our district has also seen that there are pressing

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Golf Scramble a Huge Success

Our tournament at the beautiful Quail Creek Golf and Country Club was held on Monday, Sept. 25.

We had a fabulous day with good food thanks to Pub W on Memorial, a great gift bag

provided by Sodexo, and some of Putnam City's top vendors and supporters as our players.

This event will net over \$15,000 for programs that the Putnam City Schools Foundation supports.

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Congratulations to the Stephen L. Smith Corp. team for winning 1st place! From left: Andy Davis, Tim Bart and Kyle Hubbard receive their prize from PCF board member Lawrence Fugett. (Not pictured: Jordan Smith)

Mission Focus: Oct. 10 Bond Issue

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, voters in the Putnam City school district will consider a \$22 million bond proposal that contains just four items and if approved will not increase taxes on district taxpayers.

If voters give the OK, the four items the bond proposal would fund are 1) additional technology for teaching and learning in schools across the district; 2) replacement of technology to protect student and staff health and safety; 3) completion of a new middle school; and 4) new school buses to take the place of a portion of the aging buses in the district's fleet.

Technology for Teaching and Learning

This item would provide funds to purchase additional iPads so that every student in every classroom will have one available for use.

Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent of Putnam City Schools, notes

significant cost savings from using digital content.

"In this era of reduced state funding, it's a good time to invest in a plan that saves money," says Rhodes.

Instead of buying textbooks, last summer district teachers worked together using open source digital textbooks, online resources and state standards to create 6th-grade and 7th-grade math digital content. That effort cost just \$12,416 — a savings of \$221,684 compared to what traditional textbooks would have cost.

Technology for Health and Safety

The district intends to purchase automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for each of our schools. AEDs are portable, electronic medical devices that automatically detect dangerous cardiac arrhythmias and send an electric shock to the heart to re-establish a normal heart rhythm.

"Whether we're talking about students, staff or school visitors, it's

potentially life-saving technology," Rhodes says.

In 2008 the district purchased 78 AEDs for district schools using MAPS for Kids funds. Those funds are no longer available. Now, nearly 10 years later, the warranty on Putnam City's AEDs has expired. The devices are expected to last a few more years before they can no longer be used.

Capps Middle School Completion

This item calls for completion of a new Capps Middle School to replace the aging, inefficient building now in use.

In the Putnam City 2014 bond election, voters approved funding for the construction of a new Capps Middle School, but additional funding is now needed to complete the school because the initial cost estimate was too low.

New School Buses

A bit more than half of the buses are 10 to 15 years old, which means they more often need

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CareShare Christmas Kicks Off



Putnam City's patrons and supporters make a special and unique offering each year as the Christmas season approaches through CareShare.

Putnam City Foundation is proud to partner with a large team of dynamic volunteers, and counselors who identify qualifying families, match those families with businesses, high school classes, and churches, and then ensure that those children receive something

special during the holiday season.

Your family or business can adopt these children and enjoy sharing your cheering spirit during the season. Please visit the PC Foundation website to learn how at WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG/CARE-SHARE.

If you are interested in supporting this project, please reach out to Dondra Floresca, CareShare Coordinator at 405-820-6089 or floresca@cox.net

From the Blog: Good Citizen

I hate littering. I still remember the jingle Oklahoma had when I was a kid which discouraged littering — “don’t lay that trash on Oklahoma!” I took the jingle to heart, as I know many people my age did because of that catchy tune. In my eyes, one who litters is not being a good citizen, plain and simple.

During these times of sincere unrest all around the world, and divisive politics within our own, I’ve been trying to find places where I can encourage good citizenship among the people with whom I come in contact. Looking back on my teaching career, I know I could have done more to support those efforts. Civics is a required course in Putnam City, but it shouldn’t happen in isolation. Maybe there’s a way to encourage all teachers to have discussions, lessons and activities that encourage citizenship in one way or another.

My concern about the lack of citizenship — and let me digress a bit here, I’m not talking about patriotism. That’s something

different. Patriotism should encourage you to be a good citizen, but plenty of people are justifiably proud of this nation without being good citizens. So my concern about the lack of citizenship was increased when I read an article



#GoodCitizen

that said 90 percent of U.S. students didn’t pass the NAEP Civics Assessment. The article concluded that this was because students were not immersed in civics activities like discussions of current issues, visiting a local city council meeting, or role-playing a senate debate.

Just like most subjects, you can read about them in a book and memorize facts, but until you actually put the subjects into practical terms, they just won’t stick with people of any age.

I felt less bad about myself upon concluding the article because my students definitely did get to debate issues of today and role-play debates of the past. But I could do more, and I will. Oklahoma is now yet another state that has schools involved with Generation Citizen, a nonprofit whose mission is to “empower young people to become engaged and effective citizens.” Though we aren’t doing this in Putnam City yet, I love the spirit of the program, which matches college students with social studies students to articulate a problem of importance to the students, and then work to find out how they can be a part of solving it. They are expected to write letters to representatives, create informative presentations, or gather expert information on their chosen topic.

Some people might not see things the way I do, but I think being a litter bug is a sign of being a bad citizen. I see people throw cigarette butts out of their windows frequently, and it always shocks me. Why would you have so little regard for the shared spaces in our town? But then maybe these people don’t feel connected to these shared spaces, they don’t feel the

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Putnam City Schools  Foundation

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#Giving Tuesday #PCF4Kids



Once again, the Putnam City Schools Foundation is asking the community to make a special gift for Early Birds as part of Giving Tuesday.

Early Birds is a parent training program, taught by our own pre-kindergarten educators, that teaches parents how to be their child's first teacher.

In partnering with Smart Start Central Oklahoma, we have the opportunity to give our parents a literacy kit at a reduced price of \$55 each. The kit includes a book,

educational toys, and a curriculum binder that helps parents know what to expect at each stage of development.

Giving Tuesday always falls on the Tuesday after Black Friday and Cyber Monday (Nov. 28 this year), and is set aside as a day to support favorite charities through social media.

We are asking you to support the improved literacy of children by making a \$55 gift through our website at [HTTPS://PCF4KIDS.EJOINME.ORG/ANNUALCAMPAIGN2017-2018](https://PCF4KIDS.EJOINME.ORG/ANNUALCAMPAIGN2017-2018) and then tell people you did it using #GivingTuesday #PCF4kids to inspire others to follow your lead.

The social aspect of Giving Tuesday is fun, but for us the day is about making a difference in the

Winning Pooch



Congratulations to Max the Australian Shepherd for winning our Putnam Pooches contest! Max brought his "mom" Lynleigh Mead with him to pick up his prize, a basket donated by Affectionate Grooming.



Mission Focus: Oct. 2017 Bond Issue

BOND ISSUE NUMBERS TO KNOW

Oct. 10, 2017

Election Day

\$0

Amount of increase in property taxes property owners will have to pay if voters approve the bond proposal

2

Number of propositions voters will consider in this bond election

60%

Percentage of "yes" votes required for the bond proposal to be approved.

11th

That's where Putnam City ranks out of 14 metro area districts in terms of the level of property taxes paid to support schools.

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repair than newer buses.

This item calls for funds to be available for the purchase of about 20 new buses to replace some of the district buses from the early 2000s.

Momentum

Rhodes says the bond proposal is about enabling the district to continue to invest in beneficial programs and initiatives.

"The four items that are part of this bond proposal are all things we do now and want to continue to do because they're good for students. We want to keep that momentum, and the fact that we can do that with no tax increase is a plus," Rhodes says.

Leadership

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needs that can only be filled by our bond issue.

The patrons of this district consistently support the needs of our schools, and we hope to count on that support again. Read more about the Oct. 10 bond issue in this newsletter.

The foundation's leaders had an incredibly successful annual retreat, where we held authentic discussions about our organization and questioned what we can do to be stronger for our children.

Here's to another great school year striving for excellence in our buildings, in our district, and in our foundation.

From the Blog: Good Citizen

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collective spirit of community that would prevent them from throwing trash on their own yard.

If people aren't learning good citizenship at home, they must learn it in school, and they must have an opportunity to practice citizenship in a practical way. Our nation is in crisis in part because

we don't feel a strong connection — a responsibility — to those around us. Good citizenship fosters the public good, so when you see it use the hashtag #GoodCitizen and see if we can get on the road to being whole again.

Find the blog each Thursday at WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG/ABOUT.

Northridge STEM Lab Assembly



Jennifer Seal (right) and Mark Pierce, instructional director, Health Sciences Center at Francis Tuttle Technology Center, present the banner for the Northridge Elementary STEM Lab.

Follow Us! @PC4Kids



Putnam City Schools  Foundation

Our mission is to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities of children of Putnam City Schools.

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Contact Us!

Foundation Office
5401 NW 40th
Oklahoma City, OK 73122
405-495-5200, ext. 1205

Jennifer Seal, NBCT
Foundation President
jseal@putnamcityschools.org

Kris Baggerly
Communications & Programs
Coordinator
kbaggerly@putnamcityschools.org

www.pcf4kids.org