

# The Putnam Pioneer

A PUTNAM CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

BACK TO SCHOOL 2018

## IN THIS ISSUE

MISSION FOCUS:  
THANK YOU TEACHERS

BLOG: YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

PUTNAM POOCHES WINNER

CARESHARE CHRISTMAS

#GIVINGTUESDAY

PLANNED GIVING

THANKS TO YOU

## New Website Asks All to Sow Big Dreams

By: Jennifer Seal

We are so excited to unveil our new website to you all and hope you find it to be a wealth of easy-to-access information, as well as a source of pride.

After an extensive search for a design partner, we selected myheartcreative, a local company who has created numerous eye-catching websites.

Our aim was to have a mobile-friendly website that streamlined our pages, providing responsive information in different ways for our different kinds of supporters, and bring the view of the Foundation into the modern era.



Our website has a new look and feel. Check it out at [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG).

This website also gives us the opportunity to share our new tagline "Sow Big Dreams." As you are aware, the Foundation moved to a new logo as part of our 30th anniversary, so adding a tagline about growth makes perfect sense.

*Continued on page 2*

## Golf Scramble Supports STEM

Our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Golf Tournament was held on Monday, Sept. 17 at the lovely Greens Golf & Country Club.

The sun was shining brightly on a fun day of competition which began with lunch from Health Nut Café, sponsored



Congratulations to team Granite Re for winning 1st place in the first flight. From left: PCF board member DiAnne Bryant, Kyle McDonald, Brandon Gainer, Aaron Fischer, and PCF board member Lawrence Fugett.

by Lingo Construction, and beverages donated by Pepsi & Granite Re.

Golfers received a great gift bag from Sodexo and then headed out to their carts for a shotgun start. Fun contests tested their skills throughout the course, including a hole-in-one challenge sponsored by B.C. Clark.

To cap off the day, participants enjoyed a hearty dinner thanks to Pub W on Memorial, while PC Science Coordinator Heather Johnston shared the great things the district is doing to educate our youngest students in the areas of STEM.

This event will net over \$16,000 for STEM education in Putnam City Schools.

### OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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## Mission Focus: Thank You Teachers

Even though teachers are not specifically named in our mission statement, they are the most important conduit to fulfilling our mission for so many reasons.

Without our teachers (as well as counselors and principals, of course), the Putnam City Schools Foundation would not have people to conduct the programs that we fund.

Our STEM Labs are staffed by teachers, the ELL and Early Birds classes are taught by teachers.

Teachers are the ones who notice the child who needs a coat from Penny's Closet, or reaches out to CareShare for a child who won't get Christmas gifts.

They are the ones who have the innovative ideas, who research the



professional development and who write the grants to get those things for their students.

None of the programs the Putnam City Schools Foundation supports can be done without our teachers.

The teachers are also the ones who support this foundation generously through regular financial contributions

as Friends of the Foundation, through the Parent Teacher Organizations who purchase tickets to our Wall of Fame Celebration, and through their yearly gifts earmarked for special programs.

Simply put, thank you to our teachers for all your dedication, not just to the children you teach, but to finding creative solutions to the challenges you face.

Thank you for helping us Sow Big Dreams.

### Win a \$25 Gift Card!

To celebrate the launch our new website, we're having a contest! Here's how to enter:

1. Go to [www.pcf4kids.org](http://www.pcf4kids.org) and locate the blog posted on Sept. 6, 2018.
2. Send the name of the book mentioned in the blog to Kris at [kbaggerly@putnamcityschools.org](mailto:kbaggerly@putnamcityschools.org) by Friday, Oct. 12.

One winner will be randomly drawn from everyone that responds.

## Putnam Pooches Winner Crowned



*Putnam Pooches photo contest winner Sherman and his owner Nadia Kattan (left) stopped by our office to pick up his gift basket donated by Affectionate Grooming and posed with Foundation Chairman Chuck Thomas (right). Sherman is a certified therapy dog and Nadia is a special education teacher who taught at Windsor Hills Elementary and is now at James L Dennis Elementary. We hear that Sherman loves working with special needs students as much as they love him. Thank you to all who entered and voted in the contest!*

### New Website

*continued from page 1*

This aspirational tagline encompasses our desire to ensure all our children are exposed to visions of a future they could not comprehend without the programs our donors provide.

Take a tour of our new site, locate where the YES! Grant applications are, learn about planned giving, and even find helpful information on our Alumni page.

We want to hear from you! If you enjoy the new design or have suggestions, please let me know.

## From the Blog: Neighbors Helping Neighborhood Schools

*Our blog is posted each Thursday and includes news about Putnam City, musings on Jennifer's time as a student and teacher in the district, and thoughts on the state of education in Oklahoma. The blog below is from August 2, 2018. Please take time to read and comment on them each week!*



One of my favorite things ever is when someone walks up to me just to say, “I want to know how I can help the schools.” You can guess the answer I have is about a mile long. When this happened recently, the person explained why she felt a sense of urgency on the matter and her reasoning revealed to me a real problem we have, but it is a solvable one.

My friend revealed that in reading her neighborhood NextDoor website, a new resident was moving into the district and inquired about the local schools. The response he got was almost universally negative. She was disheartened by this and being a problem-solver herself, resolved to do something about it. “How can I help?”

This got me thinking about an idea I have been considering since before I got this job. How can neighbors help their neighborhood schools? I notice that people who don't have children in the local school seem to have a real disconnect from the school, as if what happens in it doesn't affect them.

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

I resolved to reach out to neighborhood associations and offered to speak at their meetings or write an article for their newsletters on topics related to education in Putnam City. I look forward to getting this opportunity. The gist of my initial remarks is that we as neighbors are in a symbiotic relationship with the neighborhood school, whether we acknowledge it or not. We rise and fall together.

Why do people build neighborhood associations, pay their dues and

even attend neighborhood meetings? For the most part it is because they want to maintain or increase their home value by joining together with like-minded people to improve their surroundings. This mentality should extend to the local school as well. As the neighborhood school goes, so goes the neighborhood. Doesn't it make sense that those living around that school should care about what goes on inside it?

Because I firmly believe that American democracy is built in the public school system generation after generation, it is crucial that I do my part to ensure that our schools are strong.

Helping my local school, even though I don't have children in it, is an act of civic duty to me. If you see it that way too, and if you live in Putnam City, please reach out to me so we can work together on this. It pays dividends in a myriad of ways.

*Find the blog each Thursday at*  
[WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG)

**We value your feedback! Please take a moment to complete this brief, confidential survey about our newsletter. Your response will help us ensure we are providing you with what you want to know.**

[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/DV7JF9V](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DV7JF9V)

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year



For many of us, looking forward to the holiday season is almost half the fun of the holiday season. What will we bake? Who will come to the party this year? What am I gonna get??

Imagine though that you are a child without any hope of receiving a Christmas gift, much less some needed school clothes since you've outgrown the ones you have.

If you want to be a part of changing the narrative for a child in Putnam City, please sign up for CareShare this year.

More than 1,000 Putnam City

children receive love and hope from hundreds of adoptors who purchase toys, games, and clothing for our children each year.

Church groups, businesses, and families routinely use this opportunity as a way to show the value of sharing and to give back to others who are less fortunate.

Sign up today to adopt a family at [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG).



## #GivingTuesday #PCF4kids #EarlyBirds

What would you change if you got to start all over again raising your kids? I imagine many people would say they would read to their child more, or spend more time just playing together.

Though you might think those things are just ways to build the parent-child bond, they are also very effective techniques in preparing your child to learn in school.

Parents are their child's first teacher, exposing them to language, interpersonal relationships, and creativity.

The Putnam City Schools Foundation is proud to partner with Early Birds, a program that helps parents be the best first teacher ever.

Early Birds offers training classes for parents, and provides them ways to integrate enriching activities into their child's life.

Honor your child or grandchild with a gift to the Foundation on November 28.



#GIVINGTUESDAY

They leave with a Parent Literacy Kit full of supplies to enhance those activities. These kits only cost \$55 each, but offer so much to a family.

As part of this year's #GIVINGTUESDAY (Tuesday, Nov. 28), we are asking our supporters to donate \$55 to the Putnam City Foundation on

or before Nov. 28 in honor of their own children or grandchildren.

Post your giving on social media, and share a favorite memory. Did you and your child read together each night before bedtime? Was she always seen with a book in her hand? Let us know, and use #GIVINGTUESDAY #PCF4KIDS #EARLYBIRDS to inspire others to follow your lead.

Support the school readiness of all children by making a \$55 gift through our website [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG).

The social aspect of #GIVINGTUESDAY is fun, but for us the day is about making a difference in the life of a child.

## Rollover for a Good Cause - and Save your Family Money

Many of us may not think it's time to start thinking about planned giving or retirement, but we urge you to reconsider. You might even be able to help your parents reduce their taxable income - or yours!

One way to do this is through an IRA Charitable Rollover. Read this FAQ for more help, and call us 405-495-5200 if you have questions.



### IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER FAQS

#### **What is an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift?**

*This is an opportunity for a donor with an IRA who is over 70 ½ years old to make a transfer directly from the IRA to the Putnam City Schools Foundation that meets the Required Minimum Deduction rules of the IRA.*

#### **How does this work?**

*If you are over 70 ½ years of age, federal law requires that you take the Required Minimum Distribution. If you do not make a charitable gift with this money, it will count as income on your taxes.*

#### **How can I avoid paying taxes on this money?**

*You may make a Qualified Charitable Deduction directly to a charity to avoid being taxed on that minimum distribution. While this gift does not qualify as a charitable income tax deduction, it does lower your adjusted gross income for the year by not including that IRA income in your taxes.*

#### **Does a gift from my IRA to the Putnam City Schools Foundation count as a Qualified Charitable Distribution?**

*Yes it does! We are a 501 (c)3 public charity.*

#### **When do I need to start the process?**

*In order for this gift to qualify for your Required Minimum Distribution, you must make the gift before December 31. Keep in mind it might take a few weeks to finalize the process, so starting the conversation now is crucial.*

#### **This sounds interesting. What is my next step?**

*Please contact your IRA's custodian. They will make the transfer directly to the Putnam City Schools Foundation. If you are designating your gift for anything particular, please let us know so we will put the gift in the appropriate place when it is received.*

*“The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not plan to sit.”*

— Nelson Henderson

# Thanks to YOU

Because of your generous support of the Foundation, Coronado Heights Elementary counselor Erin Frizzell received a YES! Grant for Kimochi Guidance Curriculum that will benefit the entire school. Your gifts make a direct impact on our students everyday!



## About Us

Established in 1987, the Putnam City Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization managed by a board of trustees which is comprised of involved patrons in the district, and two staff members.

The mission of the Putnam City Schools Foundation is to *enhance and enrich educational opportunities of children in Putnam City Schools*. The Foundation develops relationships with local businesses, foundations, and individuals, in order to garner resources and energies necessary to address pressing needs of Putnam City Schools.

The Foundation supports many district activities, including Early Birds, ELL for Immigrant Parents Classes, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Labs, Golden Apple Awards, Teacher of the Year/Excellent Educator Awards, YES! Fund Grants, and the Community Fund.

Annual fundraising events include a golf tournament, Indoor Recess Trivia & Game Night, and the Wall of Fame Celebration which recognizes distinguished alumni.

Putnam City Schools  Foundation

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## Follow Us! @PCF4Kids

Click on the icons to go directly to our social media pages.



## Contact Us!

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