

# the Putnam Pioneer

A Putnam City Schools Foundation Publication

Autumn 2016

## Putnam City's 102nd School Year Off to a Smooth Start

New pencils, new school uniforms, and a new teacher! The 19,000+ students in Putnam City Schools have hit the ground running with pep in their step.

Having been in all the buildings since the start of school, we've noticed pride in the adults and students.

Thanks to the patrons' support of the



PC Foundation President Jennifer Seal with Administration Office Secretary Debra Martin-Barber

Centennial Bond from 2014, new safe rooms are open and ready for use, some serving as libraries and others serving as classroom space.

The investment our patrons put back into their schools proves that the Putnam City community believes in its schools.

We all know that a school's secretaries are CRUCIAL to the running of a building, which is why the PC Foundation delivered small lotions as tokens of our appreciation to



Wiley Post Elementary secretaries Justina Fitzgerald and Katherine Smith.

secretaries in every building.

It was a great opportunity to meet these school leaders, and share a little about how the Foundation helps the district. Here's to another great school year!

## A Letter from our Chairman:

It is my pleasure to serve as the Chairman of Putnam City Schools Foundation for 2016-2017. I see the foundation as an outstanding way for individuals and businesses in our community to support public education and enhance the learning experience for our students.

My family has lived in the Putnam City School district since moving here from Ardmore in

2001. My wife, Priscilla, and I have two children who have gone through Dennis Elementary School, Hefner Middle School, and Putnam City North High School.

We were involved with the PTA and other parental support organizations, so we were able to see first-hand the outstanding,

and dedicated educators and administrators in the district. We



were also made aware of the challenges, and "holes" in the formulas and methods in which all schools are funded, and allowed to provide for the financial needs of the teachers and students.

This is where I believe

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# Mission Focus: Early Birds

## Helping Parents Become Their Child's First Teacher

Rarely do you find a program that has the depth of proven success that you find in the Putnam City Early Birds. The goal of Early Birds is to get parents to read, sing, talk to, and play with their children each and every day.

Classes are offered to parents of children from birth to pre-K, with Putnam City's certified teachers instructing the parents through a research-based curriculum. Parents get specific information about

what their child should be able to do at a given age, and what teaching moments they can find when they are in different situations with their child, such as at the store or on a walk.



The children of parents who attend Early Birds classes pass their kindergarten literacy benchmark at nearly 30 percent higher than children whose parents did not attend.

In the class, families receive a Parent Literacy Kit which includes a binder, a book, educational toys, construction paper and other items to enhance constructive playtime.

Due to state budget cuts, **these classes will be reduced** for our district, meaning that **505 fewer families** will receive this transformational knowledge. The Putnam City Foundation will continue to look high and low for a way to continue this exciting program at the same level as before.

*J Seal*



**Thank you to all of our generous sponsors!**

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# Link Crew Kicks Off

Students at all three Putnam City high schools launched the Link Crew program at the start of the school year. Link Crew is designed to match junior and senior volunteers with incoming freshmen students in an effort to help ease their transition into high school life.

Link Crew Leaders met for a training workshop in August before welcoming freshmen at each school site. These mentors will meet with their respective ninth grade students periodically throughout the year to check in and offer support.

One possible benefit of the Link Crew program is increased retention and graduation rates. The Foundation is proud to support this effort.



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## #givingTuesday

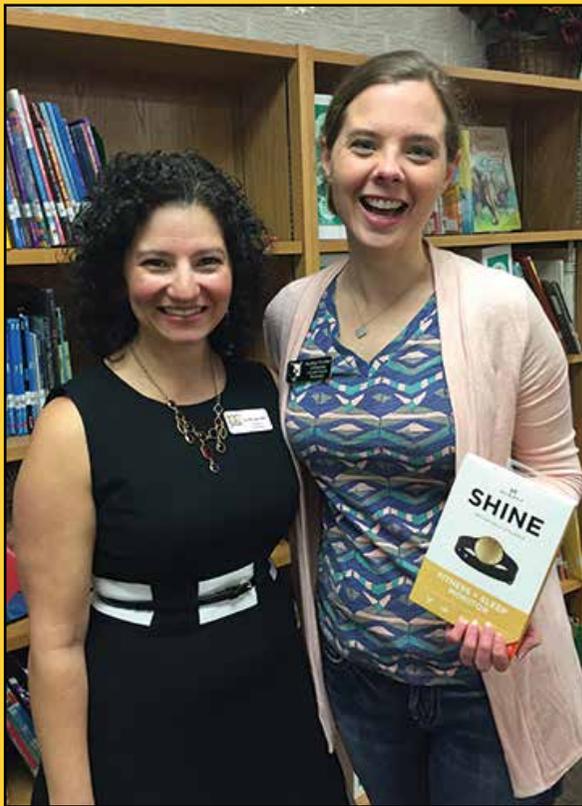
A few years ago, New York City's 92nd Street YMCA and the United Nations Foundation started an international day of giving to counter the consumerism prevalent during the end-of-year shopping period.

Now this day is its own movement called Giving Tuesday. It always falls on the Tuesday after Black Friday and Cyber Monday, and is set aside as a day to support your favorite charity through social media.

This year, the Putnam City Foundation is encouraging all our supporters to give \$55, the cost of one Early Birds Parent Literacy Kit, through our website at <https://pcf4kids.ejoinme.org/donations>. Then once you've donated, please use your social media accounts to share your action using the hashtags **#givingtuesday** and **#pcf4kids**.

The social aspect of Giving Tuesday is what makes it fun, but at its core the day is about making a difference in the life of a child.

# Shine Winner Announced!



Over the summer and through the start of the 2016-17 school year the Foundation found many new Friends – Putnam City employees who generously donate to the Foundation through payroll deduction. Coronado Heights Librarian Audrey Fowler (pictured with Foundation President Jennifer Seal) was one of those new friends and the winner of our drawing for a Misfit Shine fitness tracker. Thank you to all of our new Friends!

# : Shop and Smile!



*Are you a fan of online shopping? Consider using your shopping dollars to benefit Putnam City children. Purchases made from smile.amazon.com give a portion of proceeds back to the charity you choose.*

## Tweet, Snap, and Post!

No, it's not a new version of that delightful rice cereal, but our request to you to get social with us. We are on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with the handle

**@pcf4kids** and hope that you will join us, like us, and re-post our posts. Share your pictures and stories of great Putnam City news! Each Thursday, we have new blog posts on topics as varied as music and lunch. Find the blog at [www.pcf4kids.org/AboutUs](http://www.pcf4kids.org/AboutUs).



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public schools foundations nationwide provide the greatest benefit to schools. School foundations are not held to any formula, or quota as to their funding of programs and/or activities. They are able to be nimble in their support, and able to act in an expedient manner when time is of the essence, to assure a program or activity that will enhance the educational opportunity of students is able to take place.

My family and I are grateful for the education our children received during their time in Putnam City Schools. It is for this reason, and also to help maintain the great reputation of the district for producing great students and leaders, that we support the Putnam City Schools Foundation. I encourage you, if you do not currently, to go to our website or follow us on social media and find out more about our foundation and programs. I encourage you also to consider supporting our work to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities for all students in Putnam City Schools.

Roger Cude, Chairman  
Putnam City Schools Foundation

# CareShare Gearing Up For the Holiday Season

Putnam City is unique in that we offer a program for our students to help children, in the words of CareShare's founder Penny Poe, "hold onto their hopes" at Christmastime.

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



CareShare helps about 1,000 Putnam City children each year.

CareShare volunteers also stock up on coats and shoes in preparation for needs that arise unexpectedly in Oklahoma's fluctuating climate. Your family or business can

then ensure that those children receive something special during the holiday season. It is quite a logistical task, but under the leadership of Sherri Boyd, the task is met. In fact,

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](http://www.pcf4kids.org/care-share).

## Board of Trustees gathers for Annual Retreat

The Putnam City Foundation started the year off right with our annual board retreat. This year's meeting was held at Water's Edge Winery, owned by our chairman of the Board of Trustees, Roger Cude.

We enjoyed brainstorming about the direction of the organization, and making plans for upcoming events. If you are interested in getting involved with the foundation this year, please reach out to us. We love to meet Putnam City's supporters.



From left: Foundation Board of Trustees members Steve Hull, Michael T. Leake, Jr., Secretary Chuck Thomas, Chairman Roger Cude, Jason Pierce, Foundation President Jennifer Seal, and Vice Chairman Michelle Nisbett.