

# The Putnam Pioneer

A PUTNAM CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

WINTER 2019

## Mission Focus: Sowing Big Dreams

BY: JENNIFER SEAL, FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

By now I am sure many of you have received a letter or email from us about our annual campaign we call **Sow Big Dreams**.

This is our effort to raise the funds needed to help our children's dreams become a reality.

We're highlighting our students **because everything we do is for them**. We want to ignite their imaginations so they will dream big.

We as a community can surround them with opportunities to learn more about the world and find that passion that inspires them.

Please take a moment to [WATCH THIS VIDEO](#) and hear firsthand the dreams of Putnam City's littlest students, then



Students at D.D. Kirkland Elementary dress up for Career Day. (Photo by Steve Lindley.)

go to [CBS NEWS](#) to learn how a Putnam City graduate who dreamed of flying with large birds became one of the world's experts on falconry.

We need you to sow their dreams

so that our children will know that **we believe in their dreams too**.

If you haven't had the opportunity to support our campaign, please do so at [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG) today!

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THIS IS WHY WE DO IT!



GOLDEN APPLE  
NOMINATIONS OPEN



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



MIKE MITCHELL  
WALL OF FAME HONOREE



THANKS TO YOU

## Thunder STEM Rally

We are so excited to announce that Wiley Post Elementary is the winner of an Oklahoma City Thunder STEM Rally sponsored by Devon Energy.

This fall, we hosted a video contest for our elementary schools asking them to show us why their school deserved to win the rally. We [POSTED THOSE VIDEOS ON OUR WEBSITE](#) and [FACEBOOK PAGE](#), and asked the community to vote for their favorite. They were all so cute, but Wiley's was the winner.

The rally will happen this spring, so be on the lookout for pictures from what we are sure will be a fun educational day for us all!



Wiley Post Elementary Principal Sheryl Rexach (right) was thrilled to get the news from Jennifer Seal (left) that her school won the Thunder STEM Rally.

## From the Blog: Insider Info

*Did you know that the Putnam City Schools Foundation has a blog? It comes out each Thursday on our website [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG) 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 Dec. 13, 2018. Please take time to read and comment on them each week!*



One of my favorite aspects of my job is conducting what we call site visits. In these, I go to each school site at least once a year and present the updates on the Foundation. It's important for our teachers — who are the single largest source of our donations — to know what their gifts are doing for Putnam City. Of course I am proud of our foundation and love to share, but my favorite parts come after my presentation when I get to learn what is going on in the schools.

Most of the meetings start out with good news which is of both a

personal and professional nature. Teachers report having great days with some of their more challenging pupils and being excited about their upcoming breaks. The camaraderie this conversation engenders builds the climate we all want in a workplace.

Each of our buildings has recently conducted a climate survey and I am so proud of the results I have heard from them in these visits. Sure there are always areas for improvement, but overall people seem happy with the atmosphere. This helps explain how our district was ranked #11 for great places to work in an anonymous survey conducted by The Oklahoman.

I've learned about Whole Brain teaching from the 3rd and 4th grade teachers in one school. They divided a book into chapters and have been presenting their key points to the rest of their team in faculty meetings. So many of our schools are using this

teaching technique these days, so it was good to get a stronger understanding of how it improves student learning.

I was there when one of our schools painted rocks for a new garden they are installing and at another site when teachers gave an Oscar to a helpful coworker. I've seen principals tear up over serious situations and heard raucous laughter about an inside joke.

Sure faculty meetings often include some level of tedium, but in so many buildings they are a place to reconnect with people who share your circumstances and can commiserate on those issues no one else would understand.

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be a witness to these experiences. It's just another reason I love this district and am so proud of our staff.

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

## This is Why We Do It!

A sincere **thank you** to everyone who supports the Putnam City CareShare program. Because of YOU, 430 families, representing 1,239 children, experienced the wonder of Christmas this year.

We **could not do this** without the love and support of our wonderful Putnam City Community!

Here's something else to consider: based on an average of \$75 for gifts purchased per child, our community provided over \$90,000 in support this holiday season. It is heartwarming to



see this level of commitment to our children.

Throughout the year, CareShare also provides new coats and shoes to students. Last year, we provided 208 coats and 159 pairs of shoes.

If you, your business, your faith group, or someone you know would like to help, please contact the Putnam City Schools Foundation at 405-495-5200 and ask for Jennifer Seal or Kris Baggerly. They will have a CareShare volunteer contact you ASAP.

## Nominations for Golden Apple Award Needed

So many wonderful people work to make our district the place where children can get a world class education while being surrounded with the support they need. We want to honor these people with a Golden Apple!

The Golden Apple is the highest award anyone associated with Putnam City can achieve.

It can go to a teacher, principal, volunteer, secretary, custodian — anyone who works with the district in some capacity.

The form is simple to complete, but the nomination is enhanced by

recommendation letters extolling the virtues of your candidate.

Our Golden Apple Committee meets in March to rank the nominees. The winners receive a monetary gift as well as the Golden Apple award itself.

For more information and to download a nomination form visit [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG/GOLDEN-APPLE](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG/GOLDEN-APPLE).

Nominations must be received in our office by Friday, February 22, 2019 to be considered.

Your biggest challenge might be deciding whom to nominate, so start planning now!



Jeryl Lee, a crossing guard at Ralph Downs Elementary, was a 2018 Golden Apple Award recipient. His wife Emma, pictured with him, is also a past Golden Apple winner.

## Act Soon! Foundation Scholarships Available

Each year thanks to the generosity of various families over the years, the Putnam City Schools Foundation offers scholarships for both students and teachers. The scholarships are named

after people who made a difference in our district, and offer their families a way to leave a legacy of their loved ones. Below are brief descriptions of each scholarship currently offered.

Complete details and applications can be found at [WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](http://WWW.PCF4KIDS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS). Applications are due Thursday, February 28, 2019. Good luck!

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

<b>Dorothy Nixon Scholarship - \$1,000</b>	Mrs. Nixon taught PEAK (Putnam City's gifted and talented program) for twenty-five years. Her love of teaching is honored with this scholarship which is awarded to a senior who plans to pursue a career in teaching.
<b>Roger Barrios Scholarship - \$250</b>	Mr. Barrios was a well-respected science teacher at Putnam City North High School. This scholarship is for a Putnam City North senior who wishes to pursue a career in engineering, chemistry, physics, biology or technology.
<b>Michael Cutter Scholarship</b>	Michael Cutter's friends seeded this athletic scholarship to honor his outstanding high school athletic performance as well as his courage in the face of a difficult disease. <i>(There is no application for this scholarship; it is awarded to a deserving young man who participates in Putnam City West's athletic program.)</i>
<b>Thomas Glenn Scholarship - \$1,000</b>	This scholarship is awarded to a Putnam City High School senior who is involved in sports or other extra-curricular activities. <i>(Applications for this scholarship are handled by the Putnam City High counselor's office.)</i>
<b>Clay Culver Scholarship</b>	Clay was an outstanding young man — gifted academically and musically. His life was cut short due to illness, but his legacy lives on in this unique scholarship provided by his family. It is awarded to an outstanding ninth grade student attending Putnam City North. <i>(Applications for this scholarship are handled by the Putnam City North counselor's office.)</i>

### FACULTY SCHOLARSHIPS

<b>Ralph Downs Scholarship - \$500</b>	Named for one of our former superintendents, the Downs Scholarship is awarded yearly to a Putnam City faculty member who wishes to pursue graduate or undergraduate courses in administration or counseling.
<b>Roberta Jo Lowe Scholarship - \$1,000</b>	Ms. Lowe was a beloved faculty member at Hefner Middle School. Her family established this scholarship to honor her memory and provide an opportunity for deserving faculty members to pursue graduate or undergraduate courses in a variety of subjects she loved.

# Mike Mitchell Joining Foundation Wall of Fame



1988 Putnam City North alum Mike Mitchell to join Foundation Wall of Fame.

The Putnam City Schools Foundation proudly announces Mike Mitchell as the 2019 Wall of Fame honoree.

Mitchell is a 1988 graduate of Putnam City North High School and is

currently a film director in California. He will be inducted at a celebration dinner held in his honor on April 19, 2019 at the Farmer’s Market in Oklahoma City.

“From expressing his talent early at James L. Dennis Elementary, to being deeply involved in creative endeavors at PC North, Mike Mitchell is an excellent representative of Putnam City’s award-winning arts program,” said Foundation President Jennifer Seal.

The preparation Mitchell received as a Putnam City student combined with his unmatched creativity turned into acceptance at the prestigious California Institute of the Arts, where he studied filmmaking and animation.

Through his work on several films, Mitchell has collaborated with a host of Hollywood talent, including Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Eddie

Murphy, and Antonio Banderas.

Please join us to celebrate Mike Mitchell's accomplishments at the Wall of Fame Celebration on April 19!

*Mitchell was deeply involved in the arts while a student in Putnam City Schools.*



**Get your tickets to the Wall of Fame Celebration at [www.pcf4kids.org](http://www.pcf4kids.org) today!**

## Thanks to YOU

Our generous donors have made more amazing things happen in our district this school year.

We’ve helped students get an OSMO learning system, alternative seating and supplies for a Parent Resource Center.

Our donors are sending Cooper Middle School students to the Oklahoma Music Educators conference for a performance, Northridge Elementary students to Colonial Day at the Capitol, and Lake Park Elementary students to the Oklahoma History Center to learn about the land run.

Teachers and counselors alike have received curriculum to enhance their work because of our donors. We even got a surprise \$4,000 gift for Penny’s Closet and CareShare.

Thanks to each of YOU, teacher Stacy Stewart and her 4th graders at Windsor Hills Elementary (below) were overjoyed to receive a YES! grant for classroom book sets. The students quickly put them to good use!

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### SPECIAL THANKS TO LAST SEMESTER'S MAJOR DONORS

- Ad Astra Foundation
- BKD Foundation
- Roger & Priscilla Cude
- Inasmuch Foundation
- Independent Insurance Agents of Greater Oklahoma City
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- The Major Family
- Mayflower Congregational Church
- Meinders Foundation
- Lee & Vivian Rice
- Luis “Chi Chi” Rodriguez
- Someday Soon Foundation
- Neil Woodward
- Michael York

# Thanks to YOU

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Putnam City High teacher Mike Hardesty received a grant to pay for a ropes course for his students during their Adventures of Leadership Retreat (below). Students and teacher alike report that it was a valuable experience in team building, overcoming fears, and developing self-confidence. They are very grateful for your support, without which this grant wouldn't have been possible.



## 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 the 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.

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Putnam City Schools  Foundation

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