

GALESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FOUNDATION FACTS

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Reading @ the Crossroads II...

“Overcoming Adversity to Achieve Our Dreams”

The Galesburg Public Schools Foundation is again funding one of the most successful curriculum initiative in District 205 history - **Reading @ the Crossroads**. This motivating and successful year-long focus on literacy will feature three nationally known authors, with presentations to both Churchill and Lombard middle schools, as well as public performances which are free and open to the community. Throughout the school year students will be reading, writing and studying these books, authors and themes. The common experiences created by this school-wide study opens opportunities for a dialog between students, teachers and the community that makes a statement about the importance of education as a tool to overcome adversity.

Many exciting projects have been created by the students with some printed in a quarterly insert to the Register-Mail known as Pencil Points, called **Kids @ the Crossroads**. Other students have been interviewed on the radio, or made radio spots to advertise the author's public performance. Opportunities like this bring real-world relevance to student learning, punctuating the importance of their school work.

This fall students and teachers have concentrated on **Sahara Special**, a book written by Esmé Raji Codell. Winter term brings the literature of Sarah Weeks with students reading **So Be It**. In early spring, Marion Blumenthal Lazan visits Galesburg. Mrs. Lazan's **Four Perfect Pebbles**, documents her personal experience as a holocaust survivor and will give our students a powerful example of overcoming adversity.

The year will culminate with the publication of a Student Anthology and if it's anything like the first one students created in 2006 - Carl Sandburg himself would be proud! This collection of short stories, poems, and art work will represent a years worth of study, learning and growing by our middle school students. Each student will receive a signed copy of all three books, along with the anthology to remember all they learned during Reading @ the Crossroads II.

Throughout the school year both middle schools will have community readers come, read and talk about overcoming adversity in their own lives. It is the combination of the community, great literature, conversation on book themes and writing with purpose that makes Reading @ the Crossroads a powerful learning experience. Churchill principal Bart Arthur commented, "This is the best literacy project I have been involved with in my 25 years in education. The positive impact on student learning and achievement is matched only by the excitement the students and teachers display when the authors speak to them."

Plan on attending one or all three public performances and see for yourself the excitement they generate. Funding for this project comes from the Galesburg Public Schools Foundation, District #205, Galesburg Community Foundation and the Illinois Reading Council. We would like to thank the R@C committee members for their hard work that made this venture possible and thank you, our donors, for supporting the Foundation and hope you find this project an excellent use of your financial gifts.



Students at Lombard are thrilled to speak to 'Miss Pointy' (portrayed by teacher Shana Hinton) - the dedicated, colorful and much-loved teacher in several of Esmé Raji Codell's books.

Ducks leave bucks for education...



The **13th Annual Rubber Duck Race**, held last September at Lake Storey, was a great success...thanks to all those who 'adopted' ducks this year! Despite the 'fowl' weather on race day, we are pleased to say that we had the most ducks adopted ever this year!!!

Again this year, the event began with a 'beach fun run' with nine school representatives competing for the traveling **"Ducky Award"**. Participants were taken through a course of fun tasks on the beach and then over to the water slide area where they flew down the slide and 'plucked' the winning ducks! This year, **Churchill Jr. High School** won the beach fun run and Outreach Worker, Brad Mowen plucked the Grand Prize winner out of the water (see photo). **Nielson School** won the **"Most Improved Duck Sales Award"** with an increase of nearly 380% over last years duck sales! The **"Top School — Most Ducks in a Row"** award was given to **Galesburg High School** for selling the most ducks of all the schools.

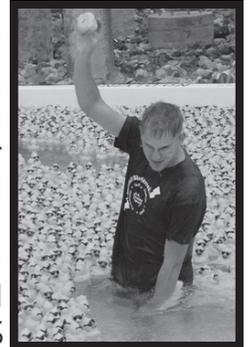


Photo courtesy of Sue Dickinson

Churchill Jr. High's Brad Mowen plucks the winning duck!



Photo courtesy of Sue Dickinson

Marcy Herrin, Teacher, Nielson School & Tom Wallace, GPSF President with the "Most Improved Duck Sales" award

As our **'TOP DUCK'**, **Dick Blick** was very generous and their support and help is immeasurable. The **Register Mail** along with **Galesburg Broadcasting** were also key in our fundraising efforts. Our events this year included **'Celebrity Bagging'** at both **Hy-Vee** stores (see photo), along with our Telethon and radio **Duck-a-thon**. **Happy Joe's Duck Bucks** were again a great selling tool for the ducks...making your duck purchase **FREE!** Our little duck canisters popped up all around town at various restaurants asking to be fed with your spare change. We want to thank our **Quacker Backers,**

prize donors and all who helped make the race both successful and a fun time for all.



Photo courtesy of Sue Dickinson

Tom Wallace, GPSF President presents Mike Reynolds, GHS Basketball Coach the "Top School— Most Ducks in a Row" award.



Joel Estes, District 205 Administrator & Wayne Krus, Principal, King, show their 'strength' at our Celebrity Bagging event at HyVee!!

The hard work of our volunteers helped the Foundation raise nearly **\$20,000** that will go right back to our schools. With the profits of the duck race, the foundation board sets an amount per student to be given back to the schools each year.

As of this printing, we have approved several requests. **Silas Willard** will be using their duck dollars for books and testing materials. **Nielson School** is purchasing **Reading A-Z**, a program that offers reading books that can be customized

(continued next page)

More re“*duck*”ulously good news...

to include student’s names as characters in the stories and can be printed and sent home for additional reading practice. **Gale School** is using their money for award winning visiting author Jim Aylesworth who promotes reading and writing to all grade levels. **Churchill** has been awarded funds for two motivational speakers, Carl Cannon & Col. Roy Webb along with a video which will address fear & how it can stifle success.

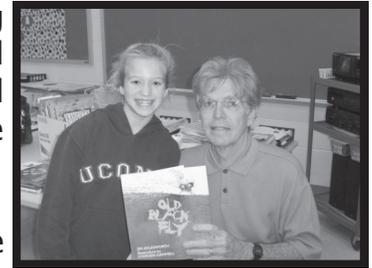


Photo courtesy Kent Krieghauser/The Register-Mail

Bart Arthur, principal Churchill Jr. High & Col. Roy Webb, Veterans Day speaker, speak to students about patriotism and pride.

The board looks forward to hearing what the other schools have planned for their monetary awards and we will let you know how your dollars were spent at a later date.

As our largest annual fundraiser, the Foundation wants to say ‘**thanks**’ to all who helped make our Duck Race successful. **Thank you** for coming out, having fun and most importantly helping our schools and students with your generous donations!



Visiting Author Jim Aylesworth poses with student Sara Saey after his presentation to 1st graders at Gale Elementary school.

Memorials...

Selecting an organization to donate to is a very personal decision. We’d like to thank all those that choose to make the **Galesburg Public Schools Foundation** the recipient of their friends and loved ones memorial donations. This year, memorial donations were made in the names of *Judy Taylor* and *Harriett Lew*. These monies are used to help our students in many different ways. Our condolences are extended to the family members and friends for their loss and appreciate them thinking of us.

Scholarships...

The Foundation is pleased to announce several new scholarships for Galesburg High School students. The **Ann Asplund Scholarship** is available to a worthy student who plans on continuing their education. Ann’s continued support of GHS and her desire to help students continue their education was her driving force behind setting up this scholarship. The **Marcus Daniel Memorial Scholarship** was set up this year to help a GHS student planning on majoring in Special Education. Marcus was a GHS special ed student until his untimely passing at the young age of 17. Charles F. West was a dedicated District #205 employee for over 16 years, the **Charles F. West Memorial Scholarship** was set up to honor his dedication and underlying support of education and is available to those GHS students with plans to become a teacher.

**We are only as good as our Volunteers & Supporters and...
WE ARE GOOD!
Thank you for your support!**

Donating in today's economy...

We are fortunate to have a community that sees the need in helping our local educational system with their generous gifts. The Foundation believes that effective community support is needed to provide the best educational opportunities for our children. When you make a donation to the GPSF, you're saying that you won't accept an average education in our community....that your children deserve the best. Those that don't have children in schools, know that strong public schools promote strong communities and that their donations help shape the future of Galesburg.

There are many different solicitation methods of Annual Giving...each a vitally important process that helps form the financial backbone of our Foundation. Whether you have 'adopted a duck' during the Duck Race, our largest fundraiser, sent in a memorial after the loss of a loved one or remembered us during our Annual Support Campaigns...for those donations, we say **thank you!**

Planned Giving is another way to donate to the Foundation. Planned Gifts are popular because they can provide valuable tax benefits and/or income for life. Most bequests are made through Wills, Life Insurance and Retirement Plans. Donors should contact their attorney and/or tax advisors to get information on the benefits of these gifts. **Matching gifts** from your employer is yet another way of doubling your donation to the Foundation. Please check with your employer to see if they offer this option. All gifts to the Foundation are **tax-deductible**.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Who Are We...

The **Galesburg Public Schools Foundation** is a chartered, 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt not-for-profit foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to raise funds to supplement educational, extracurricular and interscholastic programs in District 205, and to strengthen the relationship between the public schools and the community.

*Believe
In It!*

Thank you for your past support of the **Galesburg Public Schools Foundation** programs. Educators today face many challenges. The opportunities for youth today are limited only by the quality of their education. We hope you will continue to support the Foundation in its endeavor to enhance our youth's education...an education that prepares them for the next step in their lives and gives them the desire to be lifelong learners.

Help us Help our Students Succeed!

Yes, I want to support GPSF's innovative educational opportunities for all District 205 students.

My **tax-deductible** investment in education is: ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ other.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Year Graduated: _____

My gift will be matched by _____ (company name). Enclosed is my employers matching gift form.

___ I would like to volunteer my time or services to help the Foundation.

WINTER 2008

Please clip and return with your **tax-deductible** gift to:

Galesburg Public Schools Foundation (GPSF) P.O. Box 687 Galesburg, Illinois 61401