

GALESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FOUNDATION FACTS

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FALL 2015



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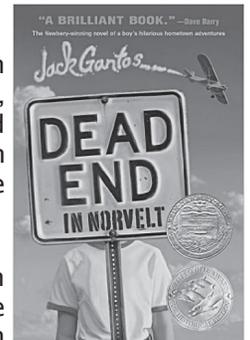
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Reading @ the Crossroads...

The Foundation is again funding one of the most successful curriculum initiative in District 205 history – **Reading @ the Crossroads**. This motivating and successful focus on literacy features a nationally known author, with presentations to both Churchill and Lombard middle schools, as well as a public performance, which is **free and open to the community**. The common experiences created by this school-wide study open opportunities for a dialogue between students, teachers and the community.

This year we welcome author Jack Gantos, who has written books for all ages, with memorable characters like Joey Pigza, Jack Henry, and Rotten Ralph. Gantos won the Newbery and Scott O'Dell Awards for *Dead End in Norvelt*, the book chosen for this year's study. Each student will receive a free autographed copy of this book.



Gantos has overcome many challenges in his life, even spending time in prison. Juanita Scott, Reading @ the Crossroads chair, admires his artistic ability and honesty in sharing his personal story of perseverance in overcoming the mistakes of his past. She believes that these qualities will make him an inspiration to our students, especially those who have challenges of their own. He shows that challenges CAN be overcome and gives students hope for their future. *(continued page 2)*

Time to say Goodbye—Patti is Retiring...

After nearly 25 years of working at the Foundation, Patti Bibo is retiring. Patti started as the Galesburg Public Schools Foundation (GPSF) was just beginning its fundraising campaign to build the auxiliary gym and pool at Galesburg High School. As the Assistant Campaign Director and then the Campaign Director, she worked tirelessly to help raise nearly \$2 million dollars making the new facility a reality. At the completion of that fundraising project, she was asked to stay on as Administrator to help make the GPSF become a strong and much needed asset for Galesburg District 205.

Patti played an important role in setting our foundation on a good path towards raising funds for our students through our Annual Support Letter, our Newsletter and of course, our Annual Rubber Duck Race. She has worked diligently with our teachers, our School Board, our community and most importantly, with our students. Patti says, "I started out thinking this would be a nice part time job and then I got hooked on helping our students. I've loved working with my board members, our teachers, administrators and our students... and that's what I am going to miss the most. I also want to say thank you to all of them for making my job easier and allowing me to be successful"

Yes, the "Duck Lady" has left the flock - Patti hasn't flown south...you just might see her helping out now and then!

Duck Dollars helping our schools...



The **20th Annual Rubber Duck Race** held at Lake Storey was another great event! The weather cooperated and we had both a fun event and a great fundraiser!

The day started with the 'Beach Fun Run' event which had eight school representatives - including several new teachers and administrators—competing for the **"Traveling Ducky Award"**. After running through a course of fun tasks on the beach, school representatives then climbed up on the water slide and flew down 'plucking' the winning ducks! The young students in the crowd enjoyed watching their teachers and principals get soaked and flipped into the water!

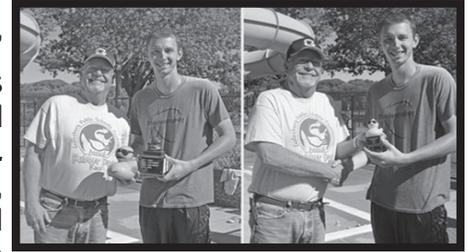


Photo courtesy of Sue Dickinson

Tom Wallace, GPSF President presents **Chad Thompson, Gale Elementary**, with both the **Traveling Ducky Award** and the **Percentage Ducky Award!**



Photo courtesy of Sue Dickinson

Kyle Barshinger, of GHS won the **Top School—Most Ducks in a Row!**

Gale, represented by Chad Thompson, took home the **"Traveling Ducky Award"** and plucked this year's Grand Prize winner. The **"Percentage Ducky"** award also went to **Gale**, which sold 742 ducks, an increase in sales of 118% over last year! **"Top School — Most Ducks in a Row"** award was presented to GHS and **"Most Improved Sales"** went to King Elementary. (see photos).

Our duck race helped us raise over **\$19,000**, which will go right back to our schools. In addition, the schools' PTO's or fundraising groups that sold ducks for their schools also received over **\$5,238!**



Photo courtesy of Sue Dickinson

Geoff Bergstrom, King Elementary, accepts the award for **Most Improved Sales** with a sales increase of **140%!!**

Your Duck Dollars are used to help students succeed at every grade level. Grants have gone out to both **Lombard Middle School** and **Churchill Junior High**, for teachers' technology training which is helping increase student engagement in the classroom. **Gale Elementary** used their grant to purchase both writing and math programs for their students in grades K-5. We are anxiously awaiting grant requests from other schools as well. Your donations help make this all possible!

Reading @ the Crossroads (cont'd)...

Churchill and Lombard students will visit with Gantos at on April 18th and 19th. At 7:00 p.m. on April 18th, he will speak and sign autographs at the Orpheum Theater, a **free public event**.

Scott says, "Our middle schools are so fortunate to have the Reading @ the Crossroads literacy events to share with our students. Giving students the opportunity to meet top young adult literature authors in the nation shows our students how valued they are by our community. We strive to bring in all members of the community to share in reading, writing, listening, learning, speaking, and growing as a literate community. **Thank you GPSF** for making this possible."

Ron Clark Academy Update...

In June, the Foundation provided several scholarships for teachers to travel to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. As a result, they are taking their teaching to new levels, inspiring their students in many new and positive ways. Teachers who attended the Ron Clark Academy say:

"Thank you so much for assisting with funding for our trip to the Ron Clark Academy in June! It wouldn't be possible without your support! The experience is a once in a lifetime workshop and we are so blessed to be working in a community with an organization like the GPSF!!" Jodie McNally

"The passion and love for both teacher and learning that I felt while there (Ron Clark Academy) were very inspiring! It is something every educator should experience." Kristen Lingafelter

"I have a renewed passion and enthusiasm for teaching at GHS! My mind is spinning with so many ideas to implement in my class, in the halls and with my colleagues! It truly was a "game-changer" for me." Laurie Aten

"With your support (GPSF) we were able to DREAM BIG! This experience will change the education for students in District #205!" Bailey Cavanah

"The three days that I spent in Atlanta have truly been life changing. It forced me to think critically about what I was doing in the classroom and what effect it has on my students. The RCA staff gave me hope that I could answer those questions and exceed my own expectations." Kyle Barshinger

I found my passion for teaching again while attending RCA. I was overwhelmed with positivity and a school culture that supports each other. It is our goal to bring those strategies back to our classrooms and share the instructional practices with our students, teachers, and community." Teresa Powell



Photo courtesy of Teresa Powell

District 205 Ron Clark Academy attendees

We Welcome Our New Administrator...

The Foundation would like to introduce our new Administrator, Teresa Baxter. Teresa has lived in Galesburg for the past 11 years. She graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in elementary education and earned her Master's degree in reading education from Western Illinois University. She taught middle school reading and language arts for 15 years, six of those years here in Galesburg, before resigning to stay home with her two children, who now attend school here in Galesburg. She and her husband Dave, a teacher at Galesburg High School, both know firsthand how valuable it is to have the support of our community in education, and Teresa is very excited to work with the school district in her new role as Administrator of the Galesburg Public Schools Foundation.

Memorials...

Selecting an organization to donate to is a very personal decision. We'd like to thank all of those who 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 *Joseph Patterson, Marlene Hanson Brewer (GHS 1959), Norma Pico, Nancy S. Wilson, John S. Boydston, Sheila Ann Grone Roehlk (GHS 1959) Dorothy Varner Hershman (GHS 1949) and Bill Burkhalter.*

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 we appreciate their thoughtful consideration of the Foundation.

Please help us save money! If you would like to receive future mailings of our Foundation Facts newsletter and Annual Support letter, please send us an email at gpsf@grics.net and let us know!

Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your support...

The Galesburg Public Schools Foundation feels very fortunate to have a community that values education and shows their support through their generous contributions. When you make a donation to the GPSF, you are telling the community that our students deserve the best that we can give them. You are also equipping them with opportunities that they would not otherwise have and helping them to see value in education. Through contributions to GPSF, students benefit from many programs and grants including:

- * 1st Grade Richardson Readers program
- * Reading @ the Crossroads
- * Teacher scholarships for motivational workshops, like Ron Clark Academy

There are many different ways to support the efforts of the GPSF:

- Support the GPSF during our Annual Support Campaign
- Clip the bottom of this page, and return it with a donation
- Volunteer your time to help with GPSF projects and fundraisers
- Set up a memorial to honor a loved one



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. Please contact your attorney and/or tax advisors to get information on the benefits of these gifts. **Matching gifts** from your employer are 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** and the students of District 205 say **THANK YOU!**

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 enhance and 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 employer's matching gift form.

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

___ I would like to receive future newsletters via email.

@ _____

Fall 2015

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

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