

PAXTON-BUCKLEY-LODA EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ANNUAL
IMPACT REPORT
JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

UNPRECEDENTED.....

“Unprecedented times,” a phrase we have all heard over and over and over since last winter. I believe every one of us can agree that the phrase is not an exaggeration of the challenges the pandemic has brought to our world.

Have you ever played Jenga? Jenga is a game where blocks are stacked high and players remove blocks one at a time trying to appropriately balance the remaining blocks so the pile doesn’t tumble. As we try to live, work and educate our students while adhering to restrictions of the pandemic, it feels like we are playing Jenga. And, like you, I am ready for “it” to end!

Last March when the Governor announced school closings, The PBL Education Foundation was able to make an impact on student learning by helping the district purchase “filtering” software that allowed students to take home devices for remote learning. The grants budget still had almost half of its allotted funds available. Without in-class learning, it was highly unlikely these monies would be used. With the administration’s blessing, staff grants were suspended for the year and the remaining funds were used where they were needed most during unprecedented times.

The “show-and-tell-information” contained in this report is intended to give you an overview of how The Foundation used gifts entrusted to us, to enhance learning during the first semester, as well as the unprecedented times of the 2nd semester.

Looking ahead to the new school year, now more than ever, we need to ensure we can continue to fulfill our mission - no matter the circumstances.

The 2020-21 school year opens in an environment of unprecedented times and challenges. The strength of our foundation depends on continued generosity to fulfill our mission: “to provide our students and staff with academic resources they need to become the best they can be” - even during unprecedented, Jenga-like times.

Robin Niewold, Chairman
Paxton-Buckley-Loda Education Foundation

Together We can do so much *more!*

\$18,000

Earned income from The PBL Endowment Fund, distributed to the district.

1,400+

Students and staff have a technology device assigned to them.

\$609,807.55

Endowment Fund Balance as of July 21, 2020.

3,000+

New books provided to K-8 students.



“Thank you for giving the gift of reading to our kids!”

- Amanda Styck,
Assistant Principal, Clara Peterson Elementary School



To all of our Community Members,

I am happy to share that our PBL staff, students, parents, and community members continued to stay strong, optimistic and engaged in the learning process despite the many challenges we faced the second

half of the school year. The PBL Education Foundation was definitely a bright spot among (too) many disappointments. I want to thank The Foundation's leadership and donors for easing our burden during the school closures. They were in constant communication asking how they could assist. They assisted by providing approximately \$6,000 of funding for filtering software for over 100 students who benefitted from having a school-owned device at home during school closures. Many of these same devices were purchased with Foundation distributions from The PBL Endowment Fund.

As the 2020-21 school year begins, I encourage you to use any or all of the the district's online resources to stay up to date on district announcements and happenings: PBL mobile app @Paxton-Buckley-Loda CUSD 10, IL, on the App Store; Facebook @PBLUnit10; Twitter @PBLCUSD10; and our district-wide website at www.pblunit10.com.

I will end with sharing what another area Superintendent said, "We are trying to change a tire while driving our car." This seems to aptly describe the challenges all schools face during this pandemic. We appreciate everyone's support and patience as we all try to do what is best for our students.

*Cliff McClure, Superintendent
Paxton-Buckley-Loda CUSD #10*

The Panther Way

P.S. Both the district website and PBL app have information regarding the district's reopening plans as of mid-July, 2020.



PBL EDUCATION FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

Income:

Annual Fundraising Campaign	\$38,468.47
Book Fair Sponsorships	\$5,500.00
Endowment / Pillar Campaign	\$82,050.00
Facebook Giving Tuesday Donations	\$3,165.00
Harvest for Tomorrow Donations	\$469.61
Interest Received.....	\$361.07
Memorials & Honorariums.....	\$927.00
Scholarship Administration Income.....	\$763.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$131,704.15**

Expenses:

Administrative Expenses:.....\$27,170.63

Program Funding:

Book-a-Month (Facebook Giving Tuesday)	\$3,204.00
Book Fairs.....	\$5,184.07
CEO Program.....	\$1,000.00
Endowment Fund Gain/Loss	\$4,847.42
Staff Grants.....	\$14,244.37
*PBL Endowment Fund Distribution	\$18,000.00
New Teacher Gifts	\$500.00
Senior Awards Night	\$276.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$74,426.49**

NET INCOME **\$57,277.66**

** PBL Endowment Fund principal is not spent. The investment income is distributed to the district to be used for technology.*

PBL Education Foundation 2020-21 Board of Directors

Robin Niewold, Chairman

Josh Houtzel, Vice-Chairman

Justin Swan, Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Allen

Carl Hudson, Jr.

Theresa Rueck

Connie Ross

Cliff McClure, Superintendent

Craig Loschen - School Board Representative

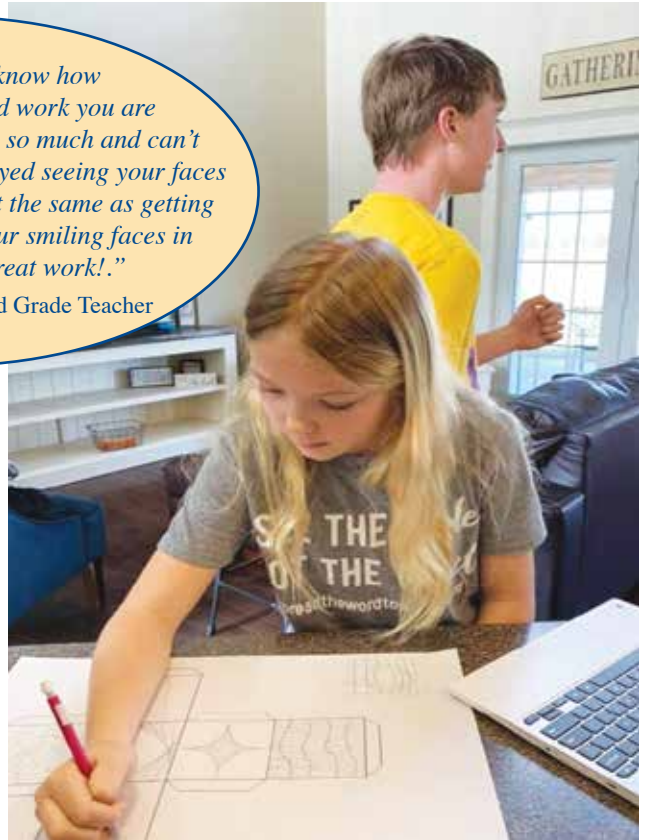
Remote Learning

Bedrooms, parent's offices and dining room tables replaced classrooms from March-May. Some students helped keep track of younger siblings while doing their work; some benefitted from having an older student/sibling available to help, and others found carpet to be more comfortable and spacious than traditional classroom seating.



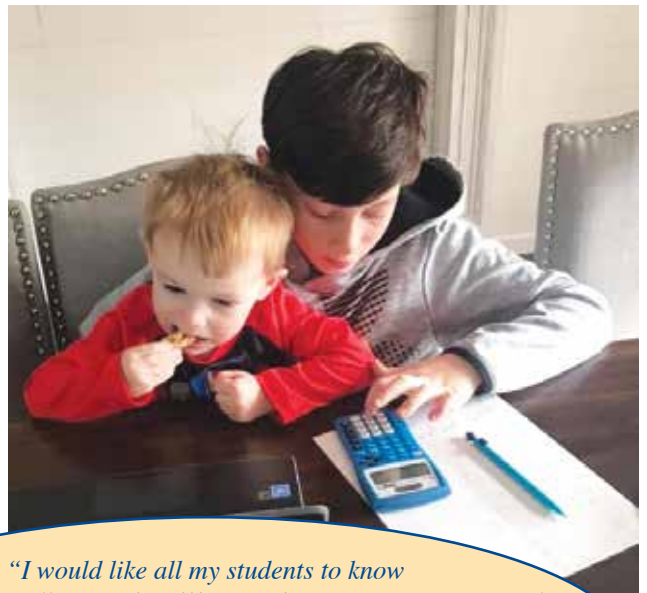
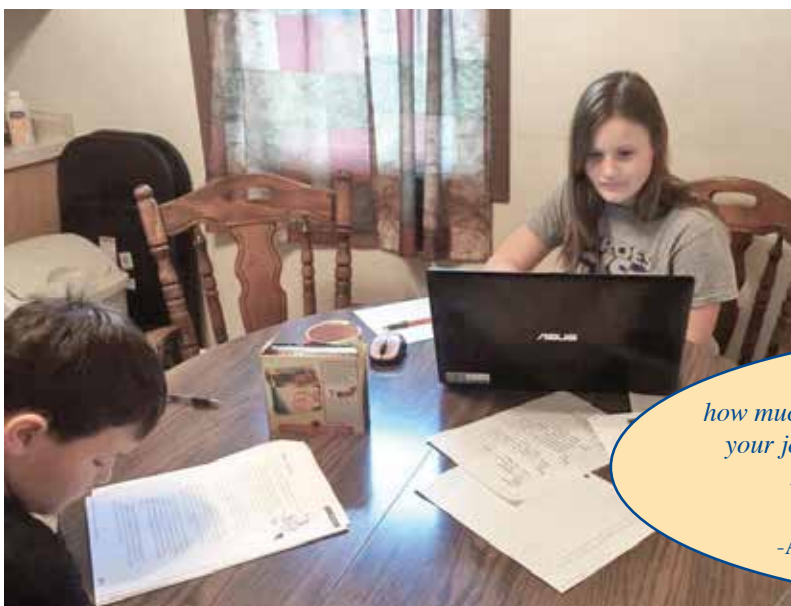
"I just want you to know how proud I am of all the hard work you are doing at home! I miss you all so much and can't wait to see you again! I've enjoyed seeing your faces on Zoom chats, but it's still not the same as getting morning hugs and seeing your smiling faces in person. Keep up the great work!."

- Jamie Rosenbeck, 2nd Grade Teacher



"From the parent side, I had a daughter in Hillary Sawyer's 5th grade class. She did a phenomenal job! I had difficulty keeping my daughter going while still working. Hillary reached out daily to her and to me and was very patient and encouraging through it all. It all came together remarkably well."

-Melinda Busby, Parent and Staff



"I would like all my students to know how much I really miss them!!! I miss hearing your stories and your jokes. I also missed seeing all of your beautiful faces! Please take care of yourself and do your work. If you need help call, email, or text!"

-Alexandria Goudy, Special Education Teacher, High School

Rube Goldberg & Daron Johnson

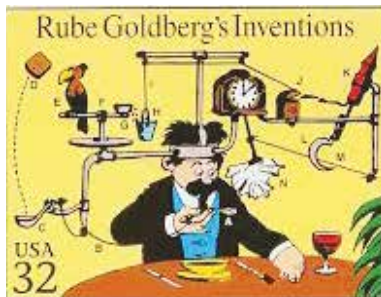
Make Learning FUN!

Daron Johnson, 8th grade Science teacher, helps his students learn and stretch their imaginations with this fun program.

What is a Rube Goldberg Project?

Each year PBL 8th grade students in Mr. Daron Johnson's science class participate in The Rube Goldberg Project. Overall, a "Rube Goldberg" is a contraption, invention, device or apparatus that is *deliberately over-engineered* to perform a simple task in a complicated fashion, generally including a chain reaction. For the Rube Goldberg Project all 8th Grade Students complete a project, either with a partner or individually, affording them the opportunity for fun and an outlet for their creativity as well as applying some scientific theories learned in their science class.

Students host an open house in early March where guests are able to see the student's contraptions in action and speak to the inventor(s).



Invention: The Fiver



Ethan Bruens, left

"My Rube Goldberg was just something my partner and I were like why not do a machine that gives someone a high five. We thought it wouldn't be that hard since my partner already had a robotic arm. We just used what we had, and then made it into something cool. The project is even better if you do something positive, so you can maybe make someone's day."

Isaiah Geerdes, right

"It is a great opportunity for students to be hands-on and to express creativity through technology. Our idea came from listing a bunch of potential unique ideas and I think we made it work, overall it is extremely satisfying just to see it work and fun to laugh it off when it doesn't."

Invention: The Snacker Packer



"Our Rube Goldberg had 18 steps and 6 simple machines. We spent 15 hours constructing it and had to do a lot of trial and error. Our end task was to drop trail mix into a cup for people to eat. Our project also won the most votes at the open house."

Noah Steiner, right and Caiden Riecks, left

James Blackburn invented a method to jump over the Snake River Canyon with Evil Knievel Snoopy.



Cali Jones created a contraption to automatically park a race car.



TOGETHER we can do so much more!

Staff grants provide programs and equipment to enhance students' education.

PBL Jr. High School Career Conference

Submitted by: Stacy Johnson, Jr. High Guidance Counselor

Number of students impacted: 100

Grant summary: Students will be surveyed regarding careers they may find interesting. My goal is for our students to learn more about different careers and what employers are looking for in their employees.

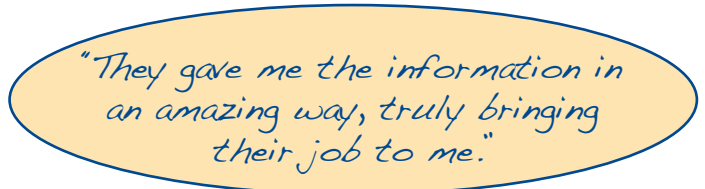
In addition to the career guests pictured here, other guests included:

- * Justin Goss - Owner of Premier Construction and PBL Grad.
- * Ben Grice - Owner and Chef, Humble Hog Restaurant and PBL Grad.
- * Representatives of Cornbelt Fire District - Firefighters & EMT
- * Gibson Area Hospital - Physical Therapist
- * Representative from Elite Sport & Fitness - Health & Wellness
- * Representative from Gibson City Vet Clinic - Animal Science Career
- * PBL Superintendent Cliff McClure - Education Career and journey to current position
- * Bijoux Salon, Paxton - Hairstyling



"I could visualize my future."

Andru Zulueta, an engineer from Ameren, discusses his career with students.



"They gave me the information in an amazing way, truly bringing their job to me."

Jay Eshleman, lineman with EIEC Paxton and former PBL graduate, talks with students about his career.



Marc Changnon, keynote speaker, tells students to find a career they will love and then how to reach that goal.

"Everyone is here for us and wants us to succeed."



Mark Williams, Horizon Hobby, Champaign, talks to students about the field of international business.



Jenny Jamison, GCMS guidance counselor, talks with students about her job in the field of education.

TOGETHER we can

Staff grants provide programs and equipment



Grant: School Grounds

Submitted by: Lisa Allen, Special Education,
PBL High School

Number of students impacted each year:

15-20 students ages 14-21

Grant summary: Start a coffee cart business in the high school. My classroom curriculum focuses on everyday functional skills such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, using money and budgeting. Starting a small business could give students a more hands-on, true-to-life experience. And, a high school coffee shop business would foster social communication, following directions, money skills, and health and hygiene. The profits from the business will be used to fund the business' consumables.

"This will be an important education opportunity for these students as they learn various work skills. Additionally, a coffee cart will add to the culture of the building as this is something both students and staff have expressed interest in."

- Travis Duley, Principal, PBL High School

"The PBL Education Foundation has been a vital partner in the progression to one-to-one. PBL has come to rely on the Foundation to assist in funding innovation and STEM curriculum."

- Cliff McClure, PBL Superintendent



Grant: Art Pottery Wheel

Submitted by: Mary Ager, Jr. High School

Number of students impacted each year:

All Jr. High Students

Grant summary: Adding a pottery wheel at the jr. high level will add another dimension of knowledge and skill for all jr. high students. Currently, students learn about pottery by watching videos which allows me to introduce them to the process of working with clay. A pottery wheel will let students explore all aspects of the process first hand.



do so much more!

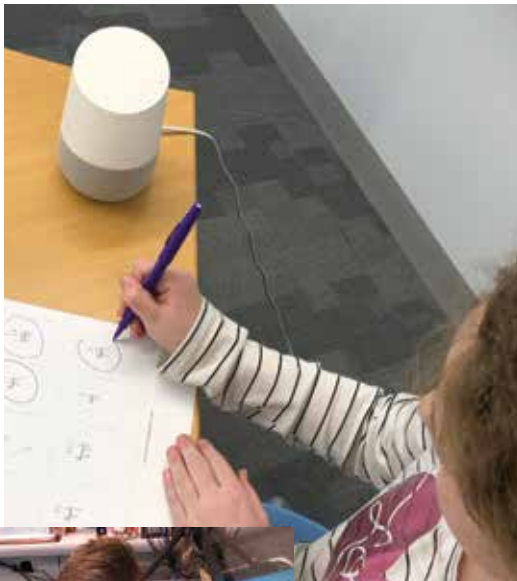
to enhance students' education.

Grant: Enhancing a Google Classroom

Submitted by: Wendy Niebuhr and the First Grade Team

Number of students impacted each year: Approx. 95 each year

Grant summary: As our school focuses on becoming more technology-driven it is important that teachers use tech resources that allow our students the opportunity to grow academically. Google Home would be a great addition as it has applications for both student learning and classroom management. Some of the many uses includes: assisting students in spelling and research, listening to a story, guided reading, and math programmed by a teacher to help in group settings. Devices have reminders and timers, as well as relaxing music to be used during quiet, brain-recharging times.



Grant: Community Art

Submitted by: Emily Wood, Fine Arts, High School

Number of students impacted each year: 15-20 students

Grant summary: Typically paint and other necessary items for classroom projects are provided within the school budget. However, I would like to include a new unit in my Community Art classes to include projects that extend outside the classroom and into our school "communities." Possible projects may include large wall murals or quotes painted on walls. Additional paint and supplies will be necessary to accomplish these projects.



First graders using the newly-acquired Google Home devices.

TOGETHER we can do so much more!

Staff grants provide programs and equipment to enhance students' education.

Grant: Plasma Cutting System

Submitted by: Travis Duley, Principal, PBL H.S.,
Mike White and Kirsten Wyatt, PBL Ag Dept.

Number of students impacted: Approx. 70
students/yr

Grant Summary: A plasma cutter allows students to design, create and build metal projects. Welding shops and other mechanics are implementing CNC plasma cutting tables to their operations. Using this cutting edge technology will give our students the upper hand as they seek post-secondary career opportunity. At the same time, this equipment will reinforce other academic areas like science, technology, and math.



Despite being rigorous, the Elementary P.E. students are having fun using their new mats as "vehicles"

Grant: Tumbling Mats & Balance Beam

Submitted by: Jake LeClair & Amy Swan, P.E.,
Clara Peterson Elementary

Number of students impacted: over 550 each year.

Grant summary: These mats and tumbling beam will be used for rigorous physical education programs: gymnastics, obstacle courses, yoga, and many other areas where developing skills will benefit from these items.

Grant: Finale Music Software Upgrade

Submitted by: Tim Hess, Band Director, PBL H.S.

Number of students impacted: Approx. 150 for 5+ years

Grant Summary: This software is used to write or arrange music for the Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band and individual students. The updated software will aid in productivity as it will also generate music worksheets and musical drill lessons.



THANK YOU!

Notes from Donors, Staff and Students



"The PBL Education Foundation has donated a book a month to each student at Clara Peterson for the months of January-May.

Thank you for giving the gift of reading to our kids!"

*- Amanda Styck,
Assistant Principal*



...From our Staff

"Thank you so much for approving my grant and awarding me the funds to start a coffee shop at school. This will be an incredible experience for my students that will be enjoyed by many!" - Lisa Allen, Life Skills Teacher, PBL High School

"I am so excited to integrate the potter's wheel into my curriculum at the Jr. High. I intend to allow each student in art an opportunity to throw on the wheel during class time. If a student wants, we will set up individual studio time after school where they can really get an opportunity to learn these skills (in more depth). I cannot tell you how much this is a game-changer for our students!"

- Mary Ager, Fine Arts, PBL High School

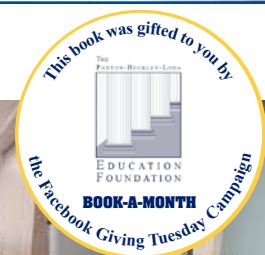
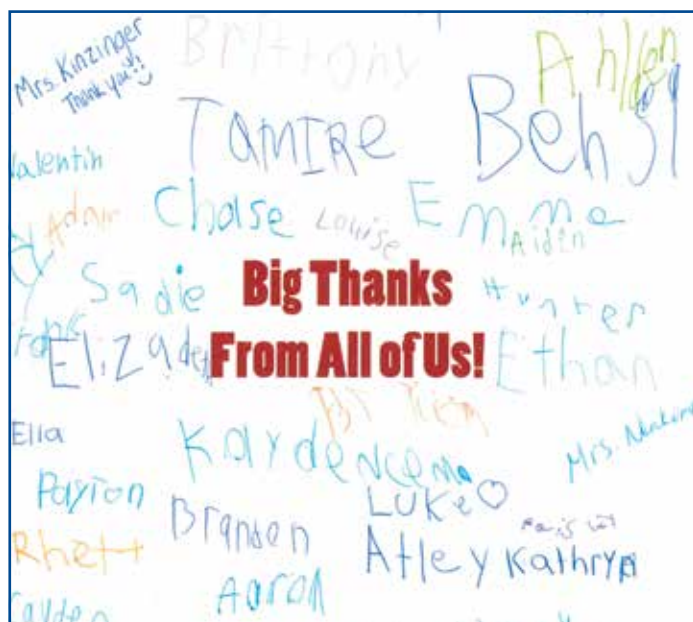
...From our Donors

"I (also) feel blessed and very grateful that I am able to contribute to such a worthy cause. Our young people need all the support they can get. I hope the Foundation will continue to grow now and in the future."

"We recently had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Didier and Mr. McClure while touring the middle school. We're happy to support the educators and students with our gift."

Dear Friend of Education,

Thank you so much for donating money for my class to pick out a new book at the book fair! What a wonderful gift! sincerely,
Mrs. Anna Talbert



CEO Program



Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities

Thank you to all the Paxton area investors and supporters of Prairieland CEO! The first year of our program was a huge success thanks to their financial investment, participation, and enthusiasm for the program.

In addition to many fascinating business visits within the communities, our students enjoyed numerous guest speakers on business topics and professional development, completed business etiquette training, and even enjoyed a visit from an Olympic speed skating medalist who talked to them about mental “toughness.” As a class they very successfully formulated and executed a micro-business project and a class Murder Mystery business event. Through these projects they learned how to work as a team, marketing concepts, sales skills, financial concepts, budgeting, and how to write and present a business plan.

From what they learned and earned from the two class businesses, the students each developed and funded their own individual business projects. For these businesses each student prepared a complete business plan and “pitched” it to a team of “sharks” at our very own Shark Tank Day. Due to the COVID-19 quarantine, our year was cut short after Shark Tank Day and we were unable to finish our business projects and present them at the CEO Trade Show.



We finished the CEO year via video conferencing where students enjoyed personal live discussions with high level entrepreneurs and business owners from across the nation, as arranged by the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship. Despite our year being cut short of what is typically normal within the course of a CEO year, we are amazed and proud of the tremendous professional growth and development achieved by this first class of students.



*Standing L-R: Mackenzie Bruns, Anastasia Campe, Levi Zbinden, Nathan Daughenbaugh, Dylan Raub, Emily Adwell
Seated L-R: Daneigh Burk, Emma Kurtenbach*

With 10-12 students participating for the 2020-2021 school year, we are anticipating that our CEO class will be able to proceed as normal this fall while following COVID safety procedures. We are very excited about the coming school year and new class of students, and look forward to being out and about in our local business communities very soon!

Shanna Hortin
Facilitator - Prairieland CEO
facilitator@prairielandceo.com

Left: CEO students are pictured with Joel Hastings of NexStep, Paxton. NexStep is a manufacturer of commercial cleaning products.

The PBL Education Foundation supports the Prairieland CEO with an annual donation (your gifts). In addition, some Foundation board members have served as mentors and guest speakers. While Prairieland CEO operates independently of The PBL Education Foundation, the opportunities it offers our students are a perfect fit with the Foundation's mission.

2019-2020 Donors

Annual Campaign

Amsden, Kay
 Apland, Jeff
 Barbieur, Ann
 Bastert, Susan
 Benson, Larry
 Biggs, Jim
 Bixby, Robert & Joan
 Buckley State Bank
 Busboom, Darrell & Barbara
 Cardinal, Rod & Mary
 Carlson, Joyce
 Carson, John
 Cook, Connie
 Coplea, Jeff
 Cottrell, Leslie
 C. W. Hicks Foundation
 DeAtley, Steve & Jill
 Dimond, Thomas & Jolene
 Dowling, David & Kathleen
 Eckerty, Laurie
 Elliott, Doug
 Eppelheimer, Daniel
 First Lutheran Church
 Franzen, Patsy
 Fratia, Janet
 The Frederick Community Bank
 Frichtl, Don & Patti
 Frichtl, Edward
 GHR Engineers & Assoc., Inc.
 Glazik, Steve & Jackie
 Gonzalez, Mary Jane
 Graham, James
 Griffin, Mike & Merrily
 Griffith, Addy
 Guy, Mary Lynn
 Harweger, Gerald
 Healey, John & Ann
 Hilgendorf, Ellen
 Hofer, Kendall & Cherrie
 Hofer, Todd
 Houston, Douglas
 Houtzel, Joshua
 Hudson's Drug Shop
 Hydra Fold Auger, Inc.
 Ingold, Bill & Lynn
 Jepsen-Popel, Judy
 Johnson, Allen & Nancy
 Kaufmann Welding Shop
 Kenney, Dolores
 Ken's Oil Service, Inc.
 Kief, Craig & Alaina
 Kief Realty
 Kielar, Kathy
 Kietzman, Bruce & Lori

Kietzman, Katie
 Knuth, Gerald
 Krumwiede, Nancy
 Larson, Robert
 Lee, Angie
 Lee, Joe
 Lindgren, James
 Lithgow, Gail
 Livingston, Carol
 Ludlow Cooperative Elevator
 Luhrsens, Dennis & Pat
 Magers, Fred & Lisa
 Market Street Barber Shop
 Marshall, Roger
 Matco Fire Protection, Inc.
 Matthews, Rita
 Matthias, Leah
 Meessmann, Yvonne
 Meyer, Phillip
 Miller, Tracy, Braun, Funk & Miller LLC
 Morin, Charles
 Morin, Tom
 Morone, Sally
 Newsom, Robert & Tonya
 Niewold, Wayne & Janet
 Ondercho, Judith
 Pacey, Steve & Brenda
 Parks, Phil
 Paxton IGA Foods
 Peterson, Julie
 Pool, Clyde
 Pool, Joyce
 Power Planter, Inc.
 R & C Loschen Farms, Inc.
 Reinhart, Joe & Mandy
 Reynolds, Ted & Charlene
 Ross, Jay & Connie
 Ross, Norman
 Rowe, Wendall
 Rueck, Greg & Theresa
 Sam's Janitor Service II
 San Diego, Anthony, MD
 Sass, Jo Laine
 Schofield, Tim & Sheila
 Schroeder, Alan & Margie
 Seibring, Clark & Carol
 Shields Auto Mart
 Shilts, Debra
 Spitler, Nancy
 Sprehe, Robert
 Swan, Justin & Amy
 Thompson, Ron & Marsha
 Thorstenson, Robert & Diane
 Turcheck, Audrey
 Twin City Energy Services, Inc.

Wagner, Tina
 Weisenbarn, Diane
 Wissmiller, Jean
 Young, Karla
 Zakoian, Rosemary
 Zimmerman, Barbara

Facebook Giving Tuesday

Abbe, Karen
 Allen, Scott
 Balk, Abby
 Burgess, Bill & Julie
 Busboom, Holly
 Buss, Diane
 Bruens, Amy
 Cockburn, Brenda
 Cole, Jack & Vicki
 Curtis, Austin
 Curtis, Beverly
 Daro, Stan
 Deany, Susan
 Donaldson, Amanda
 Eckerty, Laurie
 Edwards, Kurt & Julie
 Evans, Cindy
 Fairfield, Brooke
 Flessner, Erich
 Foster, Julie
 Funk, Brian & Grace
 Geerdes, Priscilla
 Gooden, Amanda
 Graham, Erin
 Groom, Harry
 Heiser, Hannah
 Herges, Dennis & Jill
 Herriott, Linda
 Houtzel, Joshua
 Izatt-Draper, Deborah
 Jones, Amy
 Kief, Craig & Alaina
 Kietzman, Bruce & Lori
 Mareci, Judith
 Maulding, Terri
 Mitchell, Carrie
 Mrase, Jessica
 Niewold Nguyen, Jessie
 Niewold, James & Robin
 Pitman, Cheryl
 Reinhart, Joe & Mandy
 Ross, Jay & Connie
 Rueck, Greg & Theresa
 Scherbring, Sherri
 Schuler, Kris
 Shinsky, Sarah
 Smith, Kristin

Sparks, Margaret
 Stone, Lindsey
 Stout, Rhonda
 Swan, Justin & Amy
 Turner, Marvin
 Ulrich, Sarah
 Veatch, Katie
 Wagoner, Nancy
 Walwer, Alexis
 Walwer, Donald
 The Warehouse at Paxton, LLC
 Whitaker, Cherin
 Wurmnest, Shannon

*Harvest for Tomorrow Grain Donations

Carson, Keith & LeaAnn
 Jarboe, Jeff & Gigi
 Short, Mike & Candy

*Memorials (given by)

Abbe, Larry
 Griffin, Mike & Merrily
 Haile, Jerry
 Hawkins-Coffey, Doris
 Houser, Jerry
 Hudson, Carl & Janet
 Niewold, James & Robin
 Pool, Joyce
 Ross, Jay & Connie
 Sprague, Nancy
 Wood, Charles

*Honor a Teacher

Niewold Nguyen, Jessie

Scholarships

Farmers-Merchants Bank of IL
 Kingston, Dr. Rodney & Jane Quinlan

Sponsorships

Farmers-Merchants Bank of IL
 Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services
 Swanson, Cynthia

PBL Endowment Fund

Healey, John & Ann
 Hudson, Carl & Janet
 Martensen, Robert & Sue
 Peterson-Falzone, Sally
 Rodeen, Kathy
 The Frederick Community Bank

** all gifts are invested in PBL Endowment Fund*

High School AP Classes

AP (advanced placement) is a program of classes developed by the college board to give high school students an introduction to college-level classes as well as to gain college credit before even graduating high school. Advanced Placement classes are rigorous and offer a level of intellectual stimulation students won't get in their regular high school courses. In order to receive college credit for an AP course, students are required to pass an AP exam given at the end of the year.

The PBL Education Foundation provided funding for the first AP class at PBL High School. Today, PBL High School students have seven AP classes available to them. New this year are European History and Psychology, as well as Pre-AP English for freshmen and sophomores.

Below, two of our AP teachers and a PBL alumni share their thoughts on the significance of having AP classes available at PBL High School.



**Blake Bodine,
AP Psychology**

AP classes provide more opportunities for students to challenge themselves. Most students who take AP classes plan on going to college. AP classes can help them transition to that next step in their lives.

Students also elect to take AP classes because they are genuinely interested in a certain subject and these classes allow them to further explore their interests, which may be related to their future career.

My role in the AP Psychology class is to be a guide and collaborator. My goal is to help students ask tough, sometimes controversial questions, analyze different theories, and form their own opinions on big questions.

As a collaborator, I hope to form a community amongst the students and myself.

*"The Paxton-Buckley-Loda
Education Foundation's mission
is to provide our students and staff
access to academic resources they need
to become their best"*



**Amanda Dunlavey,
AP English and History**

This year I will teach AP History for the first time, but as a veteran of AP and Pre-AP English, I can attest that these upper-level classes have a great deal of value to our students. The AP program creates a space where advanced students can feel safe and supported to stretch their intellects. The small sizes and quicker pace of these classes encourage collaboration and fosters a sense of community that challenges students to work to their full potential. When choosing which social studies classes to add this year, we thought it would be important to add an AP version of a class that we already offer (Psychology) and one that we don't (European History), therefore allowing advanced students who are interested in social studies to take four years or more. I am looking forward to teaching AP European History this year, and hopefully growing the AP program in the future.



Nick Porter

- * Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School
Class of 2016
- * Bradley University Class of 2020
- * Southern Illinois University
School of Medicine Class of 2024

Being able to take Advanced Placement (AP) classes at PBL High School was an exceptional advantage for me going on to college at Bradley University. I was not only challenged academically in these classes and consequently better prepared for college, but the credit that I earned was also integral in freeing up my schedule. As an already busy student-athlete at Bradley, I was able to carry both a Biomedical Science major along with a Spanish major because I had more room in my class load; obviously, AP credit that I earned in high school was a big part of this effort. As a result of having two majors, I was able to further strengthen my application to medical school and, ultimately, be accepted straight out of college. I do believe that the AP classes I took set me up for success on a collegiate level before I even stepped foot on campus, and that is a really powerful educational tool to provide to students.

PBL Endowment Fund

September 19, 2020 was the date we had scheduled to recognize our Pillar Campaign donors. But as you are aware, scheduling has become another casualty of the pandemic. Planned events are either tentative, cancelled or postponed.

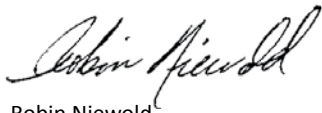
After much discussion, The Foundation Board of Directors accepted our recommendation to postpone the recognition event until next year “when we can do it right” — without social distancing, wearing masks, and health risks to our guests and donors.

In the meantime, the campaign will remain open for those who may still wish to help jumpstart the Endowment Fund. The plaque has been designed but it has not been “cast.” Nothing would make us happier than to have a reason to make it larger!

The PBL Endowment Fund total as of July 29, 2020 is \$609,807.55. The Foundation’s conservative asset allocation kept us strong through weeks of stock market turbulence, and today we are seeing much more positive market trends.



Carl Hudson
217.379.4236
chudson108@hotmail.com



Robin Niewold
217.386.2463
robinniewold@pblfoundation.org

“It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade to those he may never meet.”

-Unknown Author

Create your Legacy

When you begin planning for your legacy, you search for a cause where you know you can truly make a difference and where your gift will be maintained and multiplied through sound, trustworthy management practices.

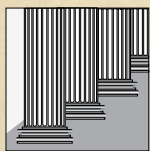
We believe making a planned gift to The PBL Endowment Fund provides you with exactly this type of opportunity.

It is our intent to preserve the principal and distribute income generated by the invested principal to our school district to fund technology - equipment, software and infrastructure.

Textbooks can be used for up to 12 years but technology needs to be updated every couple of years. These updates cost money that is not provided by traditional state funding. The PBL Endowment Fund will provide our schools with a more reliable and steady stream of income needed to keep pace with fast-changing advances in technology.

There are many different types of planned gifts with each of them providing different benefits. Ask your legal or financial advisor whether The PBL Endowment Fund is the right opportunity for your legacy.

Proposed plaque to recognize Pillar Campaign Donors



PAXTON-BUCKLEY-LODA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

PILLAR CAMPAIGN 2019-2020

*In recognition of the individuals and businesses
who provided start-up funding for the PBL Endowment Fund*

*“It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day
provide shade for those he may never meet” Unknown Author*

Anonymous

Frank Drendel

The Frederick Community Bank

Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services

John and Ann Healey

Carl and Janet Hudson

Andy and Richelle Hudson

Robert and Sue Martensen

DONOR

Janet and Wayne Niewold

Jim and Robin Niewold

Brenda and Steve Pacey

Cynthia Swanson

Phillip W. K. Sweet, Jr.

David A. F. Sweet

P. W. Kirkland Sweet

DONOR

Opening of Time Capsule - September 2070



Pillar Campaign Gift

The Frederick Community Bank’s President, Justin Swan and Vice-President, Cody Kietzman give Foundation Chairman, Robin Niewold, a check for \$25,000, as they joined others in supporting the ongoing Pillar Campaign to jumpstart the Endowment Fund.

Appreciated Securities • Charitable IRA Rollover • Real Estate • Life Insurance • Charitable Gift • Annuity • Bequest
Charitable Remainder Trust • Charitable Lead Trust • Retirement Plan Assets • Bank or Investment Account

Outstanding Alumni

Hall of Fame's 2020 Award Recipients

The PBL Education Foundation provides annual financial support for this worthy program that recognizes outstanding achievements of our distinguished alumni.



Harold Eugene "Hek" Kenney

Loda High School
Class of 1922

After dropping out of school for three years to help his father on the family farm during World War I, Harold Eugene "Hek" Kenney graduated from Loda H.S. in 1922.

Harold then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in 1926 and a Master's degree in 1932 from the University of Illinois, and his Doctorate in Education from Vanderbilt University.

After completing a successful wrestling career at the University of Illinois, "Hek" was offered a position as the Head Wrestling Coach at the University, which he accepted in 1928, and remained in until 1947. During this time, in addition to winning five Big Ten titles, "Hek's" teams placed in the top ten nationally ten times, placed second in the nation twice (1930 & 1938), and placed third once. He also produced eight individual NCAA champions, 13 runners-up, 10 third-place winners, and four fourth-place finishers.

During World War II, "Hek" wanted to go into combat but was told he was too old, so in 1943 he completed the V-12 Navy College Training Program for commissioned officers and was appointed the Director of Physical Training for the 6th Naval District, where he wrote a book on rough and tumble fighting that was widely used during World War II.

Along with his assistant coach, "Hek" was responsible for starting the Illinois High School State Wrestling Championships. The two organized and officiated the first statewide championships, which were held at Champaign High School. In 1974, The Military Drill Hall, later known as the Annex, (which is considered by many to be one of the most historic buildings on the campus of the U of I Urbana-Champaign), was renamed Kenney Gymnasium, after Harold Eugene "Hek" Kenney.

Hall of Fame nomination forms are located on our website

www.pblfoundation.org
(What We Do/Awards/Hall of Fame)

Candidates who have excelled and contributed in areas of education, work, military, made professional contributions, led in community activities and have had an overall positive impact on our society are eligible for this recognition.



Robert Frump PHS Class of 1965

Robert Frump graduated from Paxton High School in 1965. After graduating high school, Robert went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Illinois and Master of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University.

After completing his schooling, Mr. Frump went on to work for several newspapers before eventually landing at The Philadelphia Inquirer in 1976. It was in this position that Robert became a nationally-recognized journalist and author who served as the "anchor writer" for a Pulitzer Prize-winning task force. During his time at The Philadelphia Inquirer, Robert was awarded the George Polk Award for investigative reporting and the Gerald Loeb Award for National Business Reporting.

Robert Frump also authored four books, including *Until the Sea Shall Free Them*, which is considered a modern classic of non-fiction maritime literature and is required reading at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Robert has also held several senior executive positions including Executive Director for Corporation Communications for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, editor in chief of Merrill Lynch Private Client, and was co-founder of MediaLink, a successful communications company startup capitalized by Boston Ventures.

Past PBL Hall of Fame Honorees

2014

Frank Drendel, Paxton, 1963
Scott Garrelts, Buckley, 1979
Sam Schweighart, Paxton, 1995

2015

B. Lynn Allen-Hoffman, Roberts-Thawville, 1970
Tom Johnson, Paxton, 1977
Angie Lee, Paxton, 1980

2016

Janet Guthrie, Paxton, 1967
Randy Rieches, Buckley, 1969

2017

Dr. Walter Elrod, Paxton, 1980
Pete Larson, Paxton, 1962
Dr. Sally Peterson-Falzone, Paxton, 1960

2018

Carmen Gronewold, Buckley, 1976
Tom Meents, Paxton, 1985

2019

Kendra Workman Smiley,

Class Reunions

Class of 1970

Hello Classmates,

The Class of '70 has been actively planning our 50th reunion since February with the additional assistance of the PBL Education Foundation. The Board members have been instrumental in assisting with local arrangements and suggestions of new attractions. We are making plans to pack a full schedule of activities to take classmates down memory lane and introduce the many changes in the schools, businesses, and community.

However, at this time the reunion committee has **decided to postpone the class reunion until Homecoming weekend 2021 (51st reunion).**

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the fluctuation of new cases, we cannot guarantee that school will be in session or Homecoming festivities will occur this year. We do not feel safe asking classmates to travel and gather in large groups at this time. We are rescheduling the reunion for **September 2021** so everyone can feel Covid safe.

PAXTON HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANGS



You have plenty of time but why wait?! Send us your updates, including your cell phone, address and current email address, along with family, work and retirement updates to:

paxtonhighschoolclassof70@yahoo.com

To save expense, we will be sending as much communication electronically as possible.

Our **proposed** 2021 schedule of activities will begin with Thursday activities including making a float, participating in the Homecoming parade, followed by a pizza get-together. Friday activities include pontoon boat tours of Bayles Lake, tailgate and football game, followed by drinks and appetizers. Saturday could include Hall of Fame induction, school tours and our reunion banquet.

Sunday morning before you leave — meet for breakfast at the Arcade.

Your reunion committee: Beth Rodeen Lepper,
Norman McFarland, Kendra Workman Smiley,
Susie Miller Overstreet, Pam Frump

Updates can be found here:

PBL Education Foundation website:

www.pblfoundation.org/alumni-events/class-of-1970-reunion/

Facebook: Paxton High School Class of '70



Planning your reunion?

**Let the PBL Education Foundation help with local arrangements, online reservations, and payments.
(217) 379-4715**

"The Paxton-Buckley-Loda Education Foundation's mission is to provide our students and staff access to academic resources they need to become their best"



Left: PBL High School Band Director and American Legion Member, Tim Hess, raises the flag at the opening of the Clara Peterson Open House last fall.

Above: Superintendent Cliff McClure welcomes guests during the brief opening ceremony for the open house.



STEM education begins immediately at Clara Peterson and includes coding and robotics instruction through LEGO education classes. Students use LEGO WeDo and Ev3 to expand their skills and knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math.



Clara Peterson students LOVE their new library with all of the new nooks and crannies available for reading — not to mention the art structure hanging from the ceiling.



"I am blown away by the new Clara Peterson! Not only is it a welcoming, engaging place for students and teachers to spend 7+ hours a day, it meets the functional needs of a school that is collaborative, innovative, and professionally on the cutting edge — all of which positively impacts student learning. The community should take great pride in their investment!"

Dr. Julie Eckberg, PBL ELA Consultant

Updated classrooms provide ample space with flexible arrangement of furnishings and plenty of digital connectivity.



"My work provides opportunities to be in many classrooms throughout the state. PBL can be proud their facility is one of the greatest learning environments I have had the opportunity to work in. Combined with great educators, learning opportunities for students are boundless!"

Cathy Carter Shide, PBL Math Consultant



Eastlawn Elementary School, previously Paxton High School and PBL Jr. High School, was demolished late last fall.