

The Foundation Focus

The Penn Manor Education Foundation Newsletter May 2013

Creative Thinking Crosses Language Barriers

Discovering, awakening and applying your creativity - like everything else - requires disciplined practice. We've all experienced drawing a blank when it comes to solving a problem or coming up with an idea. Whether in the form of writer's block, frustration with a home improvement challenge, or trying to collaborate in a



group, many of us struggle when the answer isn't clear!

Thanks to the generosity of the Penn Manor Education Foundation in the form of a venture grant, Penn Manor High School's ESL students were able to attend a four-hour creativity workshop at the Lancaster Museum of Art. They were introduced to the essential elements of creativity and practiced ways to develop these skills individually and by working in groups. The presenter, Zachary Towne-Smith, is a former Lancaster resident whose younger brothers graduated from

Penn Manor High School. After graduating from Harvard University, Zach traveled to Guatemala on a mission trip and has remained there teaching for the past ten years.

The museum scheduled Zach to conduct workshops for groups of teenagers during the Fafael Ferrer exhibit in October. Students viewed 60 years of art by the nationally known 80 year old Puerto Rican artist while learning how to develop their own creativity. The Penn Manor students came from Russia, Dominican Republic, Columbia, Vietnam, Kenya, Cuba and Puerto Rico. Some of them still struggle with English but were not hampered by language in this workshop.

Zach engaged the students in a variety of activities to introduce the four elements of creativity:

Fluidity (more ideas = better ideas)
Flexibility (maintaining multiple
simultaneous perspectives)
Originality (assessing personal strengths
and weaknesses)
Attention (without perception, there is
nothing)

Penn Manor ESL teacher, Wendy Letavic, commented that she heard much more interaction from her students who often struggle with English. Five months later, she asked her students what they remembered most about that day: Tinh, Maikol and Alberto enjoyed making art by replicating Ferrer's paper bag portraits. Luis enjoyed how they learned about being creative and using their imagination. Shadrack appreciated seeing the museum and Ferrer's art. Carlos appreciated that he got to meet his favorite baseball coach's brother (Zach's brother is Steve O'Neil, PM grad and baseball assistant coach). Leiska liked writing a note to herself. Students were asked to thank themselves in writing for their strengths and forgive themselves for everything else. Several students enjoyed the brainstorming activity in which

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NAMED ENDOWMENT PROGRAM NEARS \$1,000,000 TARGET

The generosity of the Penn Manor family is made evident by the remarkable success of the Penn Manor Education Foundation's "Founding Friends" named endowment program. Started approximately eight years ago, the Founding Friends endowment program now has financial commitments targeted to grow to a current total of \$945,000.

Individuals who have chosen to participate in the named endowment program are designated as a Founding Friend on the endowment plaque pictured at right. These very appreciated donors have made a commitment to the long-term vibrancy of the Education Foundation mission. Endowment funds, when they grow to their targeted value, will produce income for future educational innovations. The Founding Friends program insures that our students will always find a friend via the Penn Manor Education Foundation.

In the very near future, when the fund reaches its \$1,000,000 intended value, opportunities to be included as a Founding Friend will come to an end. Donors are reminded that the Founding Friends endowment program is based in restricted donations conservatively invested to grow to a targeted value and then tapped to provide a steady funding stream for Foundation activities. A contribution of just \$2,550 (or \$2,900 over five years) can purchase a \$5,000 endowment.

If you are a supporter of the Penn Manor Education Foundation mission and if you want to insure our future by becoming one of our valued Founding Friends, you should act now before the program is concluded. Interested individuals can contact any PMEF board member, email us at pmef@pennmanor.net or contact the Executive Director, Donald Stewart, at 717-875-4583.

PMEF is now on Facebook and Twitter!

PMEF has joined the social media revolution! Penn Manor Education Foundation can now be found on Facebook and Twitter.

In an effort to engage a new audience, the Board of Directors decided that these social media sites are where our extended Penn Manor community members are spending their time. It is another great venue for informing and educating them about our programs and initiatives.

Please take a minute to find us on these sites, and share them with your friends and family already on Facebook and Twitter too!

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/PennManorEducationFoundation

Twitter: @PMEdFoundation / http://www.twitter.com/PMEdFoundation

See you online!





Founding Friends



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	Lloyd M. Boyd	Rintz Family Foundation	Doris Manning Otto	Tony & Deb Purcell	Millersville Woman's Club
	Ken & Heidi Long	Jan Mindish	1974 Football Team	Class of 1972	Chris & Trish Johnston
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	Black & Black Dental	RBC Capital Markets	Anne & Chuck Besterman	Norma B. Aston	Class of 2012
-	Jerry & Dawn Brooks	Lenahan Family	Penn Manor Community		

Our Leaving a Legacy for Learning partners have generously named the Penn Manor Education Foundation a beneficiary for the future. Utilizing planned gifts, charitable gift annuities or insurance planning, our Leaving a Legacy partners have helped to brighten the long term future of education in the Penn Manor School District. If you wish to learn more about the Leaving a Legacy program, you can talk with any PMEF board member, email us at pmef@pennmanor.net or contact our Executive Director, Donald Stewart at 717-875-4583.



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Shoot for Education Event a Success

The Penn Manor Education Foundation sponsored its first annual basketball foul

shooting event, **SHOOT FOR EDUCATION**, that was open to all students, teachers, parents, community members, and alumni. All proceeds benefited the students in the Penn Manor School District in the form of a venture grant for a wellness/fitness initiative at each participating Penn Manor

school. The event raised \$5,000 giving each school a grant of \$500. Participants who collected \$25 or more received a Shoot for Education t-shirt; if they collected \$100 they received the t-shirt and a free pizza courtesy of Domino's Pizza in Millersville. The top student fundraiser for each school (collecting a minimum of \$100 to qualify) received a \$50 VISA gift card. Teams were also welcome to compete and received similar prizes. The next **SHOOT FOR EDUCATION**, contest will be held in November of 2013.



Thank you to our major sponsors: Oak Leaf Manor, Agape Care, State Farm and Fulton Bank.

Young Musicians Program - Opening the World of Music

In 2012 the Penn Manor Education Foundation initiated an exciting new program to bring the challenging opportunity of instrumental music to deserving elementary students.

When a 4th grade student longs to begin a career in Penn Manor's band or orchestra program, the cost of purchasing or renting a trumpet or a violin can be a real obstacle for some families. The Young Musicians Program is designed to insure that every child who wants to explore instrumental music has that chance.

With funding from generous donors, a grant from Tanger Outlets and a grant from the Armstrong Foundation, nearly \$5,000 has been made available for the purchase of instruments for students who are just beginning their careers as Young Musicians. The program is designed so that once a student has proven a willingness to stick with their music, their family is asked to support that willingness and then the Education Foundation instrument is turned over to another deserving starter.

If you wish to support the Young Musician Program, you can simply send your donation to the Foundation with a note indicating that you too want to open the world of instrumental music for a Penn Manor student. Who knows? Perhaps you might be setting free the next Yo-yo Ma.





Check us out on the web at www.pennmanor.net/foundation and on Facebook and Twitter



Kids Only Auction

On Sunday, March 17, the Penn Manor Education Foundation sponsored its 10th "Kids Only Auction" at Marticville Middle School. Auctioneer Jessica Shaub Meyer of Shaub Auction Services originally conceived the idea of an auction for kids and has very generously donated her time and talents to benefit the Penn Manor Elementary libraries.

Students who are currently in kindergarten through sixth grade have the opportunity to bid on auction lots donated by teachers, staff and foundation board members. The lots include games, books, sports equipment, stuffed animals, extra recess certificates, lunch with a teacher, movies, arts and crafts and other items of interest to kids. To date, these auctions have raised close to \$25,000. All the proceeds from the auctions are used to purchase books in the elementary libraries.





7th Annual PMEF Charity Golf Scramble

The 6th Annual PMEF Charity Golf Scramble will take place on June 18, 2013 at Meadia Heights Country Club. Registration begins at 11:00 followed by a hot lunch and 12:30 shotgun start. The event ends with dinner at 5:30 in the clubhouse. The format is a four person scramble and both individuals and foursomes may enter. Prizes will be awarded on several holes and the first Hole-in-One on the designated Par 3 will win a new car.



The entry fee of \$115 includes a round of golf with cart, a sleeve of golf balls, hot lunch, beverages and dinner. Several levels of sponsorship are also available.

All profits benefit Penn Manor students through PMEF grants and scholarships. For further information and/or registration or sponsorship, contact any PMEF Board member or Pat Kline at (717) 284-3107 or patrick.kline.gkls@statefarm.com.

The registration form is also available online at www.pennmanor.net/foundation.

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they quickly came up with words in response to their partner's words.

In her grant application, Wendy wrote: Our ESL students often feel alone in such a large school. This opportunity for a group activity can build confidence and a sense of belonging. The opportunity to visit a Museum filled with art by a Latino artist should encourage pride in their own heritage. Art is understood across languages and cultures. Regardless of their heritage, students can experience the power of visual communication.

Throughout the four-hour workshop, these students observed, listened, reported, brainstormed, worked with partners, worked in groups, moved, made art, wrote, reflected, laughed, talked, and learned to think more creatively!

Mission accomplished with another successful venture grant.

Teachers Receive Venture Grants Totaling \$64,074.52

During the 2012-2013 school year, teachers in the district were happy to see a PMEF board member at their door. The board members delivered funding for 52 venture grant ideas across the district. The grants ranged from the latest in technology to supplies for a school garden. Local artists-in-residence were brought in to encourage creativity (*Martic Elementary's bottle cap art pictured below*) while Trout in the Classroom brought hands-on learning to the AP Environmental Science class and STIHL 2 Stroke Testing equipment to the Ag Mechanics class.

Since the venture grant program began in September 2000, PMEF has returned nearly \$575,000 to Penn Manor classrooms. Thanks to your support, PMEF is able to enhance and enrich education for all of our students.

