



Petoskey Education  
Foundation

Petoskey Education Foundation  
1130 Howard Street  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Summer 2018

## Turning Gifts Into Opportunities

The Petoskey Education Foundation (PEF) has been working for the past several months on a strategic initiative to strengthen its donor base, increase its community recognition, and ultimately serve more students. Thanks to grant funding from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation (\$3,500) and the Petoskey Rotary Club Charities (\$5,000) the PEF was able to update its branding and obtain new donor database software.

One step in the re-branding process was the development of a new logo to better tell the PEF story. That brand was approved in May by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. It was designed by Christa Rensel of the Petoskey-based company Nimble Kettle and features graphic elements that represent higher learning, including ivy, a shield, and a traditional block letter as the center focus.

The PEF Marketing Committee worked with Rensel to develop the new brand to better complement the colors of the Public Schools of Petoskey while maintaining a first-class look that reflects the image of our schools. A slogan of "Turning Gifts Into Opportunities" will be used with the new brand to let people know that their generosity through charitable giving is put to good use to create new learning opportunities for our students.

While the logo and brand have changed, the PEF's mission remains steadfast:

*"Our mission is to raise funds to help students and support programs and/or facility improvements in the Public Schools of Petoskey that the district is unable to achieve through other means."*

We invite you to read on to learn how we're turning your gifts into opportunities for our students!

For more information about the Petoskey Education Foundation, including how to make a tax-deductible donation, visit the [PEF's website](#) or call the Spitzer Administration Building at (231) 348-2100.

## District Welcomes Class of 2031

Incoming kindergarteners Willow Hume and Bryce Wilcox show off their Class of 2031 t-shirts. The PEF has provided a shirt for each member of next year's kindergarten class, so that all students will begin the school year with the knowledge that there's a special place for them in the Public Schools of Petoskey.



## Middle School's LEGO® Drone Program Takes Flight

A generous grant from the Petoskey Education Foundation funded the purchase of 15 LEGO® Flybrix drone



kits and controllers for STEM classes at Petoskey Middle School. The drones are a great resource for teaching the engineering design standards that are part of the middle school curriculum. Students are able to use the materials to design, build and fly drones to complete specific tasks. Plus, because they are LEGO® drones, they can be built repeatedly to allow students to refine their designs through trial and error—a great way to practice and apply real-world skills.

Middle school STEM teacher Lisa Leavy and her students have thoroughly enjoyed building, designing and testing their new drone designs. "The excitement, student engagement and problem-solving these students have demonstrated is amazing!" Mrs. Leavy said.

## Annual Camp Daggett Trip Teaches Full Value Agreement



This spring, all Petoskey 5th graders traveled to Camp Daggett for a day of team-building and learning how to implement the Full Value Agreement. The PEF is instrumental in the district's work with the Full Value Agreement and believes strongly in its three tenets: *"Work as a Team, Be Safe and Speak Up."* While at Camp Daggett, students were able to meet their future classmates and current middle school students and staff.

## 2018 Kids Biking Initiative

The PEF is proud to partner with the Top of Michigan Trails Council in support of the Kids Biking Initiative. A \$1,000 grant from the PEF helped fund a spring bike ride for all Public Schools of Petoskey 4th graders. The students participated in an educational field trip on bikes, riding seven miles round-trip on the North Western State Trail from Spring Lake Park to Michigan DNR's State Fish Hatchery in Oden.



Along the way, students learned about bicycle mechanics and safety from Latitude45 staff, invasive species from a member of the Little Traverse Conservancy, and enjoyed a history lesson from a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Generous grant funding from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee and the PEF allowed the group

to lease a fleet of bicycles and purchase 28 helmets for students.

## 2018 Mini-Grants



Twice each school year, once in the fall and again in the winter, the PEF awards a series of mini-grants to teachers and programs. The 2017–2018 grant cycle provided more than \$10,000 in projects and materials for students in grades K-12. The PEF awarded the Petoskey Middle School underwater remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) team \$500 for materials needed to support their ROV engineering designs for regional competition. They also used their ROVs, supported by PEF, to integrate ROVs into the PMS science curriculum and mentor 4th graders during their ROV engineering unit. The team took 1st place this year at the Thunder Bay Regional MATE competition.

## 2018 Scholarships



The PEF awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors in 2018, as well as a number of scholarships for undergraduate and middle school students. Dr. John Jeffrey's widow, Sam Jeffrey, presents the first John Jeffrey Memorial Scholarship to senior Sabrina Schoonmaker, daughter of Wendy and Erik Schoonmaker. In Dr. Jeffrey's words, "No matter where you are in life's journey, you always, *always* have the opportunity to do good."

*Help us turn gifts into opportunities.  
Please consider making a  
tax-deductible contribution to the  
Petoskey Education Foundation.*