



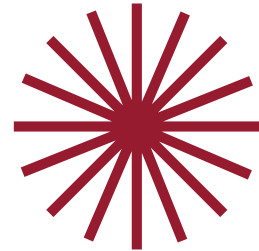
FRIENDS
of Peterson Elementary

Annual Report 2022-23

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www.friendsofpeterson.org

About Us

The Friends of Peterson was incorporated in January 2014 as a 501(c)3 to support Mary Gage Peterson Elementary School. Since its inception, Friends of Peterson has raised over \$900,000 to support the work of Peterson School and the surrounding community.



The Board

The Friends of Peterson volunteer board is comprised of staff, teachers, parents, and community members. The current board includes:

- Catherine Korda, President
- Jennifer Gillan, Vice-President
- Stephen Johnson, Treasurer
- Chuck Deters, Secretary
- Megan Fair, Board Member
- Alex Mukanda, Board Member

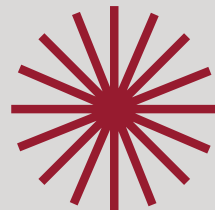
Our Vision

We fund opportunities for all students at Mary Gage Peterson Elementary School.



Our Mission

The Friends of Peterson raises funds to support the vision of Mary Gage Peterson Elementary School



A Year in Review

The 2022-2023 school year brought both challenges as well as many opportunities for our students, teachers, and families. Friends of Peterson raised \$97,365 during this fiscal year, bringing our total to \$912,692 during our nine years of existence. In addition to general donations, we raised over \$38,000 through our second annual Walk-a-thon as well as \$9,600 through our Giving Tuesday and end-of-year campaigns. Friends of Peterson also began selling gear through both an online store and in-person sales.

Books & Curriculum

Throughout this year, we have been able to supplement the school budget to provide enhanced literacy instruction and new books for our classroom libraries. We were able to assist with the purchase of Wilson Foundations, a structured literacy curriculum for early elementary students and teachers, which was new for Peterson.

"Our new Foundations curriculum is an absolute game changer for our phonics instruction! It has illuminated what our students need and has provided the steps and materials necessary to support our eager readers and writers!"

Ms. Rivas, 2nd grade teacher





Ms. Platt, a first grade teacher, is also enthusiastic about the impact: “Foundations systematically and comprehensively instructs our students in phonemic awareness and word study and contributes greatly to fluency, vocabulary development, and the applications of strategies for understanding text. This program has been an essential part of our curriculum; we love it and have never seen growth like this before.”

Apparel Sales

We held a contest for students to design and vote on a new Peterson t-shirt. We received 20 entries, and seventh grader Aminah Bha won, designing this shirt, which we have sold online and in-person.



For the 2023-24 school year, there is also a new English Language Arts curriculum for all primary grades called EL Education, which we assisted in funding as well.

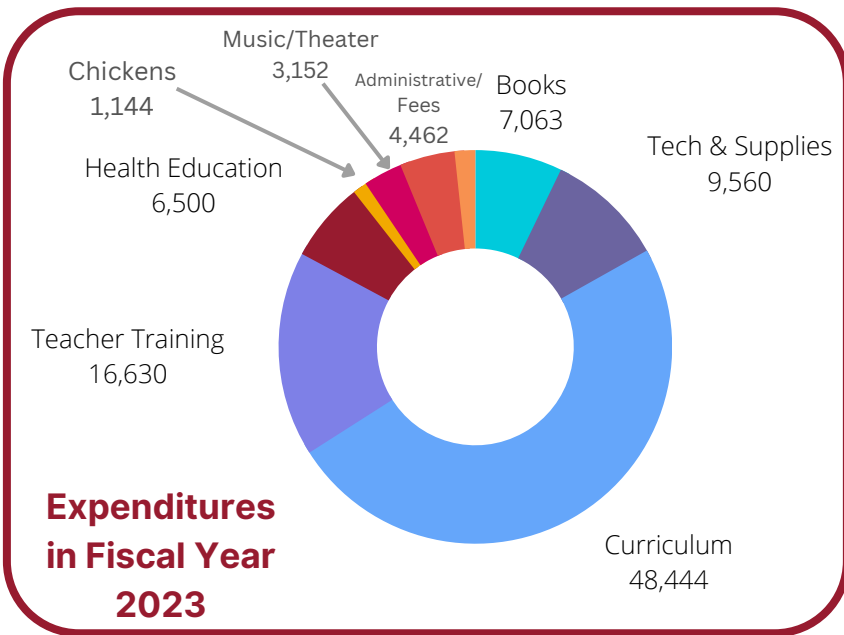
In total, Friends of Peterson contributed \$55,507 to purchase books and curriculum.

Teacher Training

As primary grades began using a new math curriculum in the 2022-23 school year, Friends of Peterson also provided funding for teachers' professional development to support this new endeavor.

Partnerships

Friends of Peterson continued our ongoing partnerships with Chicago Women's Health Center (CWHC) and the Raven Theatre. CWHC continued to provide sexual health education for our 4th-8th grade students, while the Raven residencies gave the opportunity for 3rd graders to practice their acting skills.



**Expenditures
in Fiscal Year
2023**



Chickens

In June of 2022, Peterson School started a chicken coop on Catalpa Avenue, just outside the building. By bringing chickens to Peterson, students have had more authentic opportunities to connect their learning with real-life applications. Families care for the chickens for a week at a time, and collect eggs in exchange. Through grant funding and donations, Friends of Peterson has been able to cover the initial expenses as well as the minimal ongoing costs of the chickens' needs. During the initial year, we spent \$1,144 on the initial setup and ongoing maintenance of the chickens.

Music Program

Through contributions to our instrument repair fund and the music program, we were able to fund needed repairs for woodwind and brass instruments used by the Peterson Band.

Community Needs

We also continued to support the needs of all our families, including newly arriving refugees, through our ongoing maintenance of the Peterson Free Pantry and our emergency fund.



8th Grade End of Year Trip

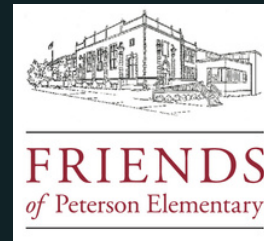
We were able to support Peterson 8th graders on an end of year trip to iFly to celebrate their time at Peterson with a special STEAM field trip and a chance to fly!



Join Us

We are currently seeking someone with accounting or financial experience, especially with non-profit organizations, to join our Board. Please contact petersonfriends@gmail.com for more information or complete this Google Form and we will be back in touch with you - <https://tinyurl.com/fopboardrecruitment>.

Watch for information soon about applying to join the Board or joining a fundraising sub-committee.



www.friendsofpeterson.com



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https://www.instagram.com/friends_of_peterson



petersonfriends@gmail.com