

## 2014 Mini Grant Winners



L to R Amanda Garcia, Karen Fordham, Mary Bryant, Renae McGhee, Lisa Jenkins, Jessica Burns, Susan Bounds, Jamie Vaughn, Wyn Mims, not pictured are, Tracy Johnson, Cathy Lee, Melinda Moore.

The Petal Education Foundation awarded eleven, \$900.00 mini grants to Petal School District teachers on Friday at the annual convocation. Below are brief descriptions of the grants awarded.

Primary

**Lisa Jenkins—You're Gonna Hear Us ROAR!!—**

The grant will purchase licenses for Proloquo2Go, an app that transforms the iPad or iPod into an augmentative alternative communications device for students who are unable to speak or who have limited ability to express themselves verbally due to Autism, Down Syndrome, or multiple disabilities.

### **Jessica Burns—Panther Packs—**

The Panther Pack Project will provide materials for approximately 75 students weekly. Students will have the opportunity to checkout “classroom” resources such as sets of manipulative at home to provide a more constructive home to school connection.

### **Mary Bryant—Learning is Our Game**

Multi-sensory, hands-on, games and puzzles will be purchased and used by the 1000+ Petal Primary students as well as in individual classrooms as teacher resources. Opportunities to develop problem solving, and interpersonal skills will be enhanced when small groups learn through cooperative play.

Elementary

### **Tracy Johnson—Recorder Karate—**

350 Soprano Recorders will be purchased to offer the opportunity to perform on instruments. As 4<sup>th</sup> graders advance in playing skills, learn notes, fingerings, and rhythms, students can earn belts, as in karate. Each recorder karate belt becomes increasing more difficult with color.

### **Wyn Mims—The Classics’ Bowl Reading Club**

The grant will provide students with entertaining exposure to quality literature by meeting after school bi-monthly to discuss a classic novel and culminating activities. The group will be divided into two teams that compete each semester by answering questions concerning the novels they have read and discussed.

Upper Elementary

### **Karen Fordham—“Panther Sprouts Garden”—**

Life science will be further investigated through the use of raised bed gardening. First hand experiences will provide PUES students lessons in observation, discussion, language and mathematics. Funds will be used to purchase tools and storage, plant medium, and cypress for building more beds.

### **Renae McGhee—Science: Getting the Big Picture-**

Grant funds will be used to purchase an Elmo document camera. Students will view science specimens and be encouraged to discuss material as a group.

Middle School

**Susan Bounds—“Breathing Life into our Biographies” —**

Forty-four biographies will be added to the library to encourage students to read a different genre of literature. Books emphasizing famous Mississippians who have had a positive impact on society are included in the collection.

**Kathy Lee—“Acting Up” Character Interpretation for History—**

Grant funds will purchase teleconferencing sessions with professional actors from the American Lives: History Brought to Life program. By viewing historical figures on screen, noting their style and mannerisms, PMS students will be better able to prepare their U.S. History “Traveling Trunk Show,” oral presentations.

**James Vaughn—Explore Mississippi—**

Selected titles of books used for student research projects for the new 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mississippi Studies course offered at PMS will be purchased. Students will utilize this new set of books to focus on Mississippi’s domestic and global affairs, civil and human rights, economics, and culture in their writings.

**Melinda Moore--“It’s Not A Small World After All” —**

Thirty-two reference books will be added to the library to provide primary sources for the new World Geography class at PMS. Students researching different regions around the world will begin to analyze and evaluate information by using sources available.

High School

**Amanda Garcia—FLIPPED iNstruction—**

An iPad, Apple TV, Jstand V2, and Digital AV Adapter, will be purchased to flip the traditional classroom teaching methods, delivering instruction online outside of the classroom and moving “homework” into the classroom. Students will watch lectures at home at their own pace, communicating with peers and teachers via online discussions. Concept engagement takes place in the classroom with the help of the instructor. The findings for this type model have shown an extreme drop in failure rates in English (30 %) and (31%) in math. Discipline cases in one semester at 736 dropped to 249 cases using this innovation.