

Amy Balsbaugh is Recipient of the Kades-Margolis Corporation's 2022 Mini-Grant Award



Amy Balsbaugh, principal at John R. Bonfield Elementary School in the Warwick School District, is the recipient of the **Kades-Margolis Corporation's 2022 Mini-Grant Award**. She was honored at the recipient of the mini-grant at the PA Principals Association's LEAD22 Conference at Kalahari Resorts Poconos on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022.

The mini-grant is awarded annually to a current and practicing elementary principal who is also a member of the PA Principals Association. This one-time award of \$1,000 may be used to enhance the member's elementary school and the children it serves.

According to Mrs. Balsbaugh, funding from the Kades-Margolis Mini-Grant will be used to support community visits via school bus by the teachers and staff who will spend an afternoon traveling through neighborhoods sharing popsicles and back-to-school supplies (ear buds, water bottles, backpacks), and engaging with students and families. The goal of the project is to meet students

on their "home turf" to involve more families in the back-to-school meet up, removing the barrier of needing to come to the school to participate in *Popsicles with the Principal*.

"We are so thankful to receive this funding. It allows us to use creative and innovative ideas to connect with students that would not be possible without this financial support. We are excited to see the impact it has on positive connections to start the school year," said Mrs. Balsbaugh.



John R. Bonfield Elementary teachers and staff travel to neighborhoods sharing popsicles and back-to-school supplies with students.

Karen Hodge Honored with the 2022 Bob D. Schiller Memorial Cancer Research and Support Award

Principal, Karen Hodge, and Lorane Elementary School in the Exeter School District (Reading), received the **2022 Bob D. Schiller Memorial Cancer Research and Support Award** (sponsored by Lincoln Investment Planning, LLC) at the PA Principals Association's LEAD22 Conference at the Kalahari Resorts Poconos on Oct. 17, 2022. They were selected for this honor for their fundraiser, "**Whitney's Play-Doh Drive.**"

Instituted in 2007, the **Bob D. Schiller Memorial Cancer Research and Support Award** is designed to provide monetary assistance to schools that promote programs that support cancer research and the survivors of cancer.

Third-grade teacher, Josie Whitney, has coordinated a Play-Doh drive for seven years where cans of Play-Doh are collected for the children to enjoy while receiving cancer treatment at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Mrs. Whitney had a student whose three-year-old brother was diagnosed with cancer and sadly passed away. After speaking with his mother, she learned that he loved playing with Play-Doh during his hospital stays, but CHOP was always in need of cans of Play-Doh as it cannot be sanitized and is tossed after a single use.

"Mrs. Whitney was humbled to find out I had submitted her program for this grant. My goal is for Mrs. Whitney and our school to double last year's total," shared Mrs. Hodge.

"This year, Mrs. Whitney raised over 12,000 cans of Play-Doh and over seven years, she's collected over 22,000 cans with the help of the Lorane staff, students and community," she said.

According to Dr. Maureen Letcher, President of the PA Principals Association and award selection committee chairperson, "Choosing an award recipient this year was difficult as there were many organizations doing amazing things for others. Lorane Elementary's program stood out due to helping young children cope with cancer through playing with Play-Doh. We believe any activity that can help soothe and distract a child who is going through a tough time should be supported and commended."



Third-grade teacher, Mrs. Whitney, and Lorane Elementary students with the Play-Doh collected for the children at CHOP.