

TRF Newsletter

Fall Has Arrived!

It may not feel like it here in Southern CA, but with the change in season schools are back in session and The Riordan Foundation's main grant programs get their start.

High Interest Shown for September PBL Conference

Less than two weeks after announcing the professional development event, "Take Thinking Deeper with Project-Based Learning," all fifty participant spots were full with another ten people on the waiting list. The conference promised a day of collaborative, hands-on learning with practical strategies for designing engaging and academically rigorous projects, and it did not disappoint!

Participating educators representing PreK-12th grade met for a full day on Sept. 22nd. Led by Suzie Boss, an educational consultant who is also a member of the [Buck Institute](#) National Faculty and a regular contributor to [Edutopia](#), the event introduced the Eight Essentials of Project-Based Learning (PBL) and challenged teachers to start developing ideas for their own projects.

To help participants understand what the process should look like, the event was modeled after a PBL lesson including a curiosity-inspiring entry event, a driving question, discussion of need-to-knows for answering that question, peer feedback throughout the process, and time for collaboration and reflection. During the conference, foundation staff posted highlights and tips on The Riordan Foundation Facebook page to engage with followers who could not attend.

We want to thank Suzie, our hosts at the CA Endowment, and the educators who made the day so successful. Our fall professional development calendar continues on November 6th with an event for K-8th grade classroom teachers led by DIY Girls, a nonprofit organization promoting hands-on engineering and science experiences for students. RSVP at www.riordanfoundation.org by Oct. 31st.



Educators at "Take Thinking Deeper with Project-Based Learning" explore the 8 Essentials of PBL

Fall 2014 Calendar

October (Multiple Dates): Grant Awareness Sessions

November 12th: Last Online Awareness Session

November 6th: DIY Girls Teacher Workshop K-8

November 24th: RRMG Applications Due



Grant Season Starts with Awareness

The first step in applying for any grant opportunity is to research the eligibility requirements, the goals of the program, and the application process to determine if it is a good fit for your project and timeline. To assist educators in these efforts, The Riordan Foundation is once again hosting a number of Grant Awareness Sessions that introduce our Instructional Innovation Grant and answer these very questions.

The Awareness Sessions will take place on various dates in October at locations throughout Los Angeles County. We will also offer a "last chance" online session in November for those school representatives who could not come in person (full schedule and RSVP form can be found on our website www.riordanfoundation.org). Any school that is interested in applying for the Instructional Innovation Grant must send a representative to one of these sessions.

Though not covered in depth at the sessions, The Riordan Foundation is also once again offering the Recreational Reading Mini-Grant to PreK-5 teachers. This program provides \$1,000 worth of books for classroom lending libraries. Eligibility information and application forms for this program are currently available from our [website](http://www.riordanfoundation.org). Applications are due by November 24th.

If you have any questions about these programs, please call us at (310) 472-2020. We look forward to working with your school!



Participants at "Take Thinking Deeper with Project-Based Learning" explore the latest headlines for inspiration.



Mayor Riordan joins UCLA Anderson MBA students and local community members to paint benches at St. Turibius Catholic School.

Volunteers Assist Local Catholic School

On August 23rd twenty volunteers from UCLA Anderson School of Management and the local community came together in partnership with The Riordan Foundation to renovate the lunch area of St. Turibius Catholic School just outside of Downtown Los Angeles.

After joining Mayor Riordan for breakfast at The Original Pantry, volunteers worked efficiently to paint benches, tables, and hallways of the school which serves over 150 students from the surrounding communities.

We want to thank everyone who participated in this great event and to recognize John Kapteyn, Christine Russell, and Emily Scadden, from UCLA Anderson and Victor Serna, principal of St. Turibius, for organizing. The students love their reinvigorated space!

