



(pictured above) Jasmine Lax, Special Education Teacher, East Palo Alto Charter School, with her students using EPAK grant materials to make puppets.



Dear EPAK Friend,

Chances are school staffing today looks quite different from the schools you attended as a child. EPAK has expanded its grant eligibility range to meet the changing needs of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park students and schools. Our 2022-23 grants go to classroom teachers, but also to special education teachers, reading intervention teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists, health and wellness teachers, makerspace teachers, counselors and librarians. The principal of Belle Haven, Michelle Masuda, recently wrote:

Everyone who interacts with our students plays a vital role in developing our scholars from custodians and kitchen staff to our teachers and counselors. With all that is going on in the world around us, we strive to make school a safe space that students can look forward to daily. When connections are made between staff and students the possibilities are endless!

Expressing her specific thanks to EPAK and its expanded eligibility, Principal Amika Guillaume, East Palo Alto Academy, spoke about the team of adults currently teaching students:

The most important part of learning for any child is the relationship with a caring adult. Now more than ever those caring adults can come in a variety of forms. We think of all our adults as part of our teaching team. This group includes our SPED colleagues of all varieties from the speech team to the therapy team. This can also include our school counselors who are also teaching students about college and career readiness. In addition to our college and career specialists who host students and families regularly in classes and workshops.

EPAK is constantly searching for ways to serve our deserving community of teachers and students in an inclusive way.

In case you missed it: Our Giving Tuesday Matching has been extended through December 31. All increased donations and donations from new donors will be matched up to \$6,000, thanks to the volunteers of the EPAK board of directors.

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Thank you to our top donors of 2022!

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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) believes that all students deserve an inspiring, engaging, and tailored classroom experience. For nearly 30 years, we have provided grants to teachers to enhance educational opportunities for students in the Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) and public charter schools in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

**EPAK is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation
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