



After a pandemic pause, EPAK Day '23 took place at Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park the morning of April 25th. This traditional day highlights the work EPAK does for all who attend, including donors, volunteers, board members and educators. Board member Audrey Crowley welcomed the visitors, and classroom tours led by students allowed visitors to observe the ultimate beneficiaries, the students themselves. **This current school year EPAK granted 416 Teacher grants and 91 New Teacher Grants, totaling over \$335,000.**

The grants benefit a wide variety of school teachers and subjects: classroom teachers, art and music, sports and physical education, science, and new areas such as maker space, health and wellness, English learner teachers, occupational therapy, reading intervention, special education, and speech.

One of the Belle Haven teachers featured on the EPAK Day tour was newcomer English language teacher, Darcy H. Her recent EPAK grant allowed students to analyze their growth in English and demonstrate their improvements over time by using new recording devices. She wrote:

*"Through the use of the recording devices, students were able to listen to each other speak English, recognize strengths and weaknesses of their performance and make*

*small adjustments to improve their English."*

Each classroom visited had an EPAK funded project on display such as learning centers, instructional materials, and even a garden area where curriculum and the outdoor world come alive for students.

*"What an inspiration it was to be guided by fifth grade children to see how teachers utilize their twice-a-year grants, helping their classroom children to be the very best that they can be."* - Karen Ross, EPAK Board Member and organizer of EPAK Day.

All agreed the day was a welcome reappearance of a very special occasion!



(above) Students at Belle Haven Elementary School enjoying EPAK day.

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### **Who we serve**

***12 publicly funded schools and programs in the Ravenswood area of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park***

#### **Pre-Schools**

All Five Preschool (infants-PreK)

#### **Elementary/Middle Schools**

Belle Haven Elementary

Costano School of the Arts (TK-5)

Los Robles-Ronald McNair (K-5 Spanish-English dual language immersion)

Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School (6-8)

Ravenswood Special Education

Aspire East Palo Alto Charter School (TK-8)

Kipp Valiant Community Prep (TK-8)

### **High Schools**

East Palo Alto Academy (9-12)

Kipp Esperanza High School (9-11)

Oxford Day Academy (9-12)

Tide Academy (9-12)

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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.**

**Federal Tax ID: 77-0359913**

### **East Palo Alto Kids Foundation**

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