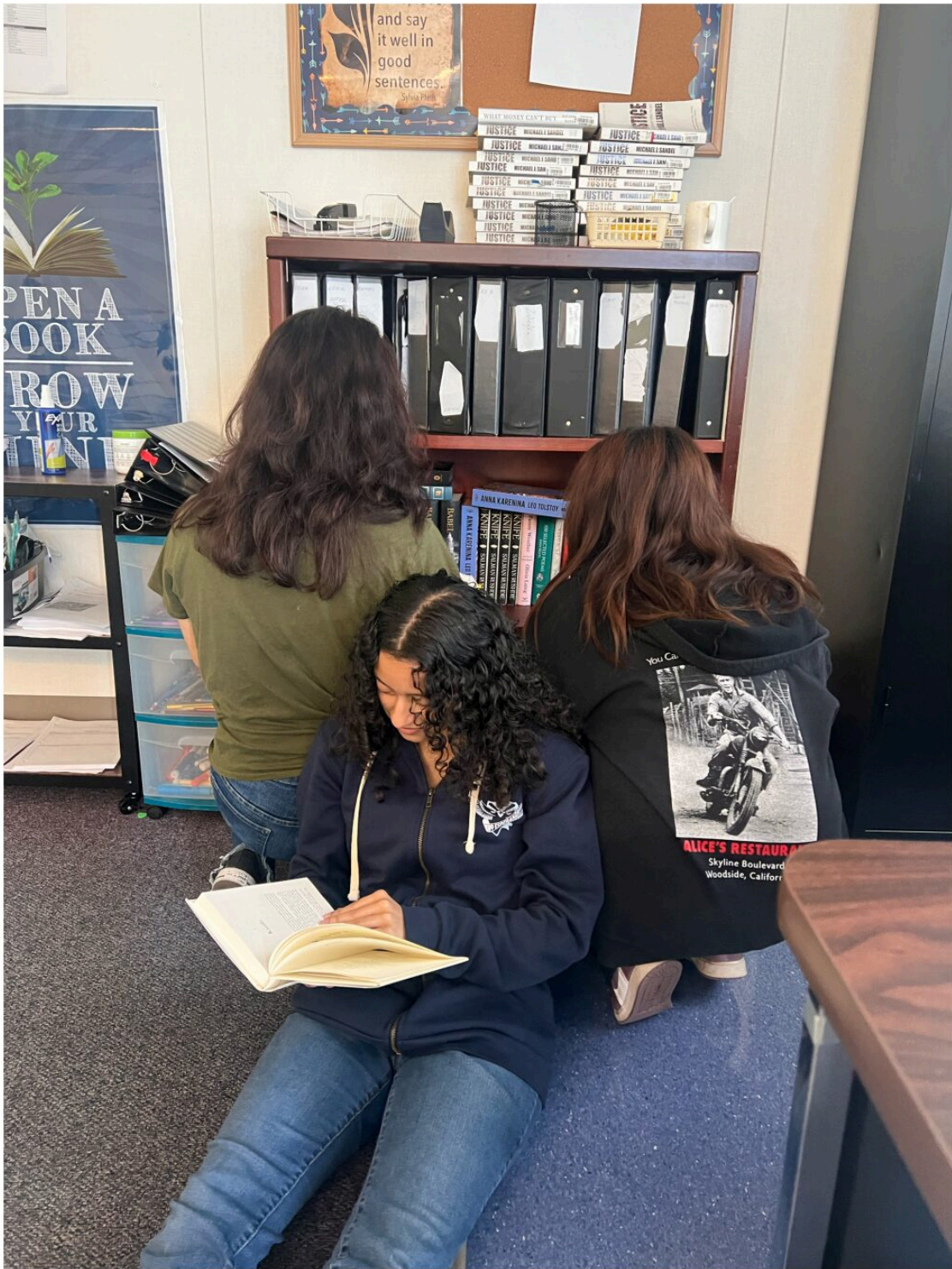


Recently, educators and parents have underscored the challenges of getting teenagers to read. The New York Times reports that “almost 30% of 13-year-olds ‘never or hardly ever’ read for fun” (*NYT*, “*To Persuade a Reluctant Tween to Read...*” 9/8/24).

A 2024 EPAK grant supported eleventh grade teacher Tanu P. from Kipp Esperanza High School to inspire students to read. In thanking EPAK and our supporters, Tanu wrote:

“The Literature Enrichment Program was initiated to enhance the English 11 curriculum by expanding access to a diverse range of literary materials and fostering in-depth literary exploration. EPAK funding enabled the purchase of an array of books, including classic literature, contemporary fiction, non-fiction, poetry and culturally relevant texts. These books have been cataloged and are now available in the English 11 classroom library for student use. The selection was strategically chosen to reflect different voices and themes, aiming to resonate with and challenge our students. This investment is foundational, ensuring students have access to a wide variety of books.

Plans are underway to establish reading clubs within the English 11 classes. These clubs will provide structured time each week for students to discuss their chosen books. The clubs aim to foster lively discussions, enhance comprehension skills, and encourage students to consider multiple perspectives. We then heighten student engagement and increase their enthusiasm for reading! Thank you, EPAK.”



Educators and reading specialists agree: one of the best ways to inspire students to read is to encourage them to share their favorite books with their peers, and talk about the books in a group setting. This teacher and their EPAK grant accomplished such a goal.

EPAK is proud of our teachers' initiative and thank our supporters for their continued help. **With the beginning of a new school year, we hope to match the over 400 grants we gave to teachers in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park during the**

last school year. Thank you again for supporting EPAK and making all of this possible!

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East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) believes that all students deserve an inspiring, engaging, and tailored classroom experience. For 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.

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