

### FALL GRANTS:

EPAK has disbursed 57 New Teacher Grants and 221 Regular Grants which means more than \$180,000 are at work in classrooms this fall thanks to our generous donors!



Since 1993, EPAK has been a community based, all-volunteer organization whose mission is to promote educational opportunities by awarding grants to teachers in the classrooms of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

### BOARD UPDATE

Autumn signals the start of another school year and the first round of EPAK grants to teachers in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. Our mission is simple: we trust teachers to tell us their classroom needs for the students in the twelve high need schools we support. Fall grant applications reflect the dedication of our teachers. An East Palo Alto Academy librarian wishes to “build a culture of literacy” by purchasing books she knows students will be eager to read. A ninth grade biology teacher from Oxford Academy hopes to give her students a “hands-on” experience about ocean marine life. A Kipp Valiant teacher writes, “School supplies may seem commonplace, but they are essential to a well-functioning classroom that supports effective learning.”

The 2023-24 school year also marks the beginning of a pilot program for EPAK special teacher grants. We recognize that larger scale projects with wider application and a longer time-line might require additional funding. This year we are launching a pilot program in two schools to encourage collaboration and to inspire a group of teachers to apply together. An example of such a project might be a school community garden or a senior college trip for first generation students.

As we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of East Palo Alto Kids Foundation and the goal of promoting educational opportunity to all students in our community, we are proud of the work that has been done to date and grateful for all the support from our communities throughout the years. Accomplishing our mission is only possible with the outstanding help from donors large and small. Thank you in advance for supporting EPAK grants to teachers.

—The EPAK Board



### SIGN UP FOR DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS!

**Go digital!** Not getting our digital newsletter? Here is what you might be missing!

#### March: “Thinking Beyond Our World”

—An EPAK grant supports a trip to Chabot Space Center and a writing assignment based on

essential questions about Space Travel. (Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School)

#### July: “Students Teach”

—High school seniors support 5th graders in their social and emotional learning with an EPAK grant. (East Palo Alto Academy)

#### September: “Back To Basics”

—EPAK supported teachers develop an “essential skills” class to promote executive function and academic success as well as life skills. (Tide Academy)

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### GRANT HIGHLIGHT

#### JELLYFISH EXCITEMENT

Sam K. describes a Spring '23 EPAK post pandemic enrichment opportunity for his 8th grade class. (East Palo Alto Charter School)



“My EPAK Grant funded an 8th grade field trip to the California Academy of Sciences. We had an excellent immersive academic experience at this museum all the way in San Francisco! The students loved the opportunity to visit the hands-on science and history exhibits featured at the museum.

A particular highlight was the aquarium for my students. They were blown away by the jellyfish! Thank you to EPAK for supporting our students and learning to help them build bridges between classroom activities and the ‘real world.’”

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Effective October 5th, I will be stepping down as President of the Board. Jeannine Marston will take over the President’s role, and Audrey Crowley will step in as Vice President.

It has been my honor to serve on the EPAK Board since Fall 2017, and as President since March 2021. Thank you for your continued support of EPAK and our amazing all-volunteer team. —Nisha Pillai

### THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Atkinson Foundation
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI)
- Ferrari Owners Charitable Foundation
- First Tech Federal Credit Union
- The Franklin and Catherine Johnson Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto Charitable Foundation
- Literacy Partners - Menlo Park
- Meta Local Community Fund
- Palo Alto Community Fund
- Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund
- Silicon Valley Realtors Charitable Foundation

**SAVE THE DATE: #GivingTuesday is November 28th!**