

East Palo Alto Kids Foundation

Every dollar you give touches a student, a teacher and a family.

FALL GRANTS:

Grant Numbers:

75 New Teacher Grants

@\$375 = \$28,125

222 Grants = \$160,869

Total Grants \$188,994



Legos!



Field Trips!

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.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Our teachers and students returned to school this fall in anticipation of a near normal school year. EPAK received grant applications in September. Field trips, that had not been possible during the pandemic, are making a comeback. A team of five teachers from Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School are pooling grant funds to take their sixth grade students to the de Young Museum's Pharaoh Ramses exhibit. For many of the students, this would be a first time visit to a museum.

The applications also reflect teachers' awareness that skills in core subjects remain a central focus. National testing results released in August confirm the pandemic's toll on student achievement. The New York Times reported on September 1, '22 that the pandemic "erased two decades of progress in math and reading." State testing results released in August show that in the Ravenswood school district, 12% of students met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts, while 6% did so in math. The district is responding to monitor students' educational health, and has expanded mental health support. Sobering data confirms our teachers and students need us, their village, to rally around them more than ever.

EPAK is committed to the work of closing the education equity gap in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. With that goal in mind, we are examining ways to expand our community network.

Our strong, all-volunteer board is engaged in seeking new partners, streamlining our communication by going digital, and reimagining ways to help our dedicated teachers and students this critical school year. Thank you for your sustained support of our work.

In partnership,
Nisha Pillai, EPAK Board President



Finger Puppets!

Go digital!

EPAK newsletters are going paperless. More of your donations go directly to

teachers when you sign up for emails. Subscribe at epak.org/go-paperless/ or send an email to newsletters@epak.org.



SIGN UP FOR DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS!



info@epak.org · www.epak.org Follow us on Facebook at: EPAK - East Palo Alto Kids Foundation

GRANT HIGHLIGHT

Aspire School teacher Shannon Smith describes how her EPAK grant was invaluable as a literacy aid for her special needs second grade students (Spring '22).

"I was fortunate to attend a conference this winter that helped me understand more about the science of reading. Since that conference, I've been doing everything I can to learn more as a teacher and incorporate strategies in my classroom that support orthographic mapping (mapping words in the brain to support fluent reading).

The EPAK funded "Secret Stories" program has been a big hit with my students! Not all students are ready to learn all the English phonics patterns all at once. "Secret Stories" helps to bridge that gap. It gives me a tool to introduce new sounds and phonics patterns that we encounter as a class during read-alouds. Every child in a reading group has the ability to understand at one's own pace. Best of all, the stories are fun and the kids love them! Thank you EPAK!"



Secret Stories Wall

BOARD MEMBER NEWS

We extend our sincere thank you to Lara Burenin as she leaves the EPAK board for her new role as an assistant principal in Sunnyvale schools. We welcome new EPAK board member Bailey Linden who will provide a valuable perspective as a former teacher at East Palo Alto Charter School and as a current kindergarten teacher in Los Altos.

EPAK Board of Directors

Stacy Arevalo	Jeannine Marston
Audrey Crowley	Nisha Pillai
Henning Heine	Karen Ross
Ellen Jones	Renee Scott
Nancy Kerrebrock	Jenna Wachtel Pronovost
Bailey Linden	Erin Wakshlag