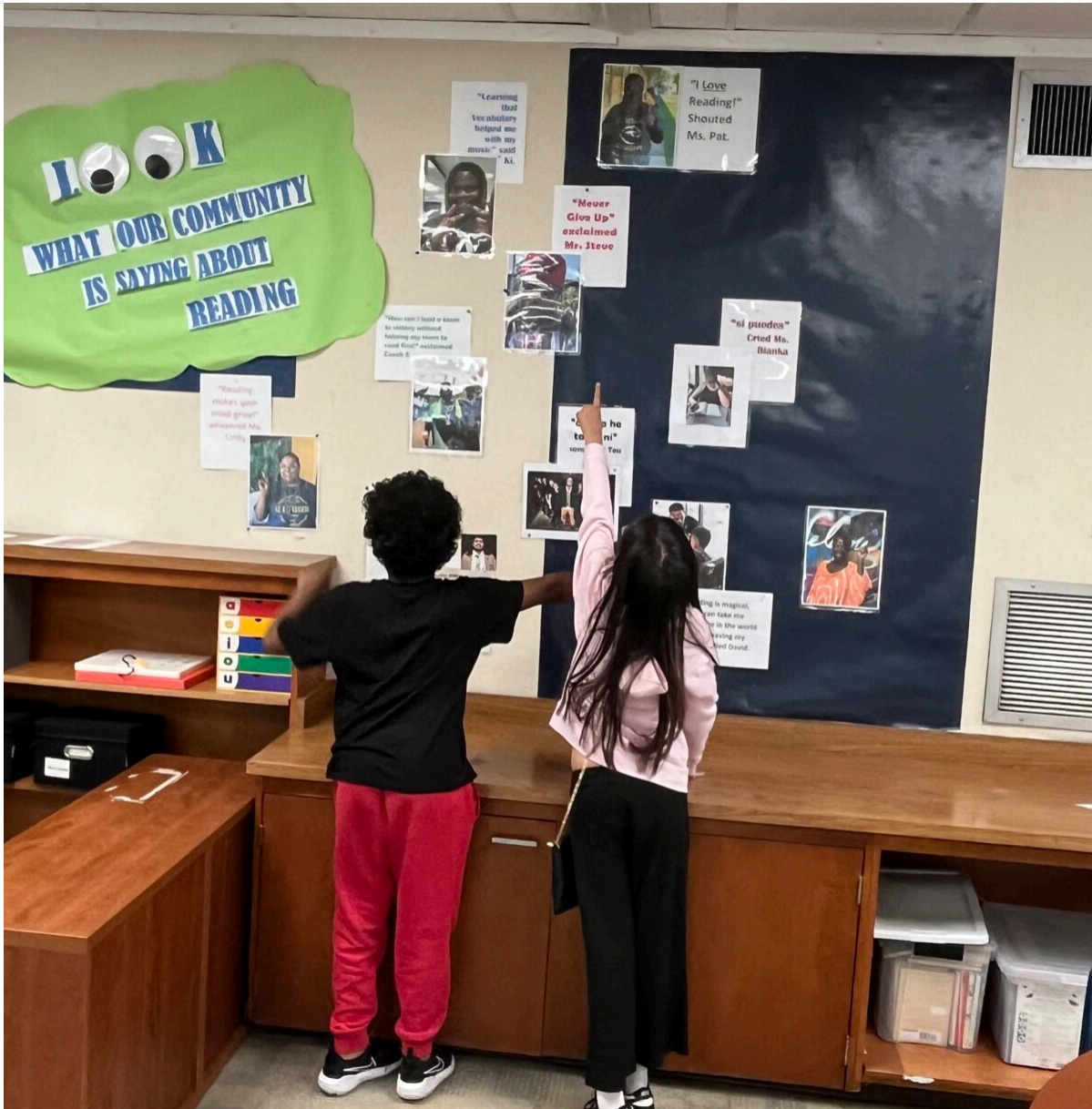




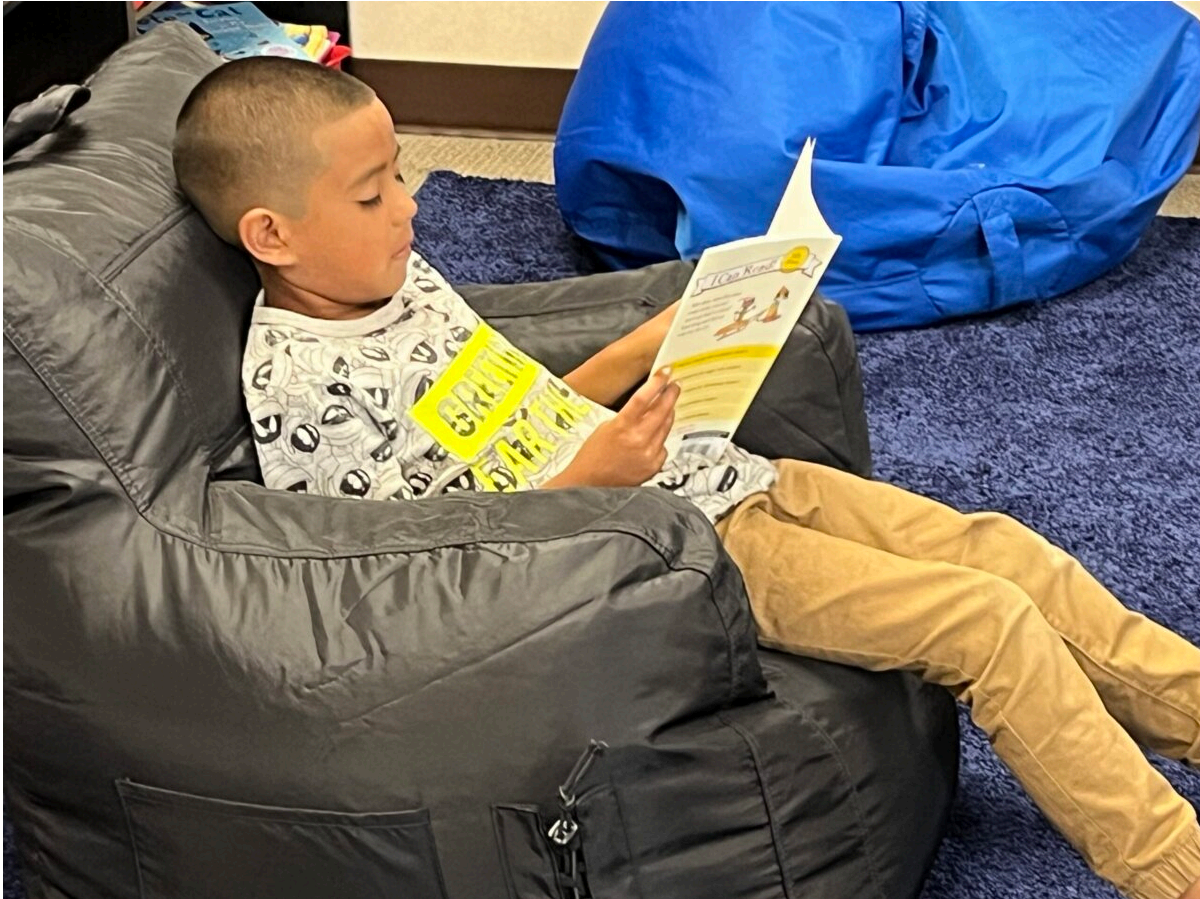
## Concerns about reading scores? EPAK teachers are on it!



We all have heard about post-pandemic student reading loss in California and throughout the country. The good news is that EPAK grants are already hard at work as EPAK teachers step up their efforts to combat this problem. Costañó reading specialist Kristina T. explains in her Fall 2024 post-project report:

*"What a joy and privilege to watch our students have a safe, colorful, meaningful environment! I asked for materials to help our classroom environment feel a part of our student's community. As a reading specialist I am helping reading become more than just a slide presentation. I want my students to feel connected that*

*reading is all around them. I want them to know that many people they know struggled in reading and overcame many obstacles. That is why I created the "What Our Community Says About Reading!" As you see in the picture, there are staff, coaches, barbers, musicians from our community families that gave me quotes and great pictures to display. This bulletin board is being added to every month. All the materials were purchased by this grant. Thank you so much, EPAK!"*



### **Grant continuity**

Often our donor supported EPAK grants work in sequence for consistency. Kristina's Spring 2025 application builds on the work supported by her previous grant:

*"EPAK has helped so much with giving me the beginning tools to start this effort in the first semester. I would like to enhance and build upon what was started in my first year grant. One is our library selections. I plan to continue to provide reading leveled books in English and Spanish."*

### **Your crucial support**

The support of EPAK partners remains crucial to the efforts of hard-working teachers and their students in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. Thank you for your continued support to address pressing needs in their classrooms.

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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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