

EPAK

EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION



FALL 2012

Since 1993, the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (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 Menlo Park.

Executive Update



Tami Espinosa
EPAK Board President

While most organizations affiliated with schools take a summer break, the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation board members stay busy preparing for the school year ahead. We are proud to have supported 27 teachers new to the profession with a grant of \$100 to get their classes started as they arrived at their new campus in August. When all EPA schools staff returned to work, EPAK school liaisons welcomed them back and provided information on the Fall grant cycle. By the end of September we awarded 182 grants of \$500 to classroom teachers. We are proud to see those grants in action as students engage in science projects, read new books, and experience new adventures on field trips.

Thank you for supporting EPAK and investing in these classrooms.

Classrooms Funded this Fall

Once again the teachers' applications for micro-grants spanned a wide variety of supplemental learning opportunities. Here are a few examples of funded projects:

For math classes, we are funding software to reinforce learning, CD ROMS, and Math applications such as Dragon Box, Math Board, and SonicPics. enVision consumables were also requested.

For reading, teachers purchased books that facilitated literature circles and expanded their classroom libraries. Also magazines like Scope Magazine, and online subscriptions were funded.

Educational field trip requests were plentiful to reinforce key concepts. Students from different classrooms and age groups will be visiting San Francisco City Hall, the Exploratorium, the San Jose Tech Museum, the Marine Science Institute, the Lindsay Natural History Museum, the Children's Discovery Museum and the Palo Alto Baylands.

Technology continues to be of interest, with many requests for Apple iPads, classroom projectors, and Kindle Fire products. Other requests came in for art supplies, music manipulatives, physical education equipment and classroom supplies.

Thank You Donors!

EPAK is fortunate to have a loyal core of repeat donors, including individuals, foundations and corporations. This diverse base of support is essential to our successful program delivery. Matching grants can double the value of an individual gift, and we encourage our donors to inquire if their employers offer this option. We are always grateful to welcome new donors to the EPAK

family, and thank the Melvin and Geraldine Hoven Family Foundation for its recent generous gift. In addition, a renewed gift from the John and Marcia Goldman Philanthropic Fund allowed us to once again make small grants to new district teachers, to assist in the set-up of their classrooms. Donate here: www.epak.org



Test Drive the New Tesla by Donating \$1,000

Exhilarating, spectacular, amazing are just some of the words used to describe the new Tesla Model S. The all-electric Model S goes from 0 to 60 mph in 4.4s with zero tailpipe emissions. One of our board members is offering a 30-minute test drive to the first 10 donors who donate \$1,000 or more before December 25, 2012. Email laura@epak.org for an opportunity to drive in this stylish new car and help EPAK support students in their classrooms at the same time.

Stanford Study Finds Widening Education Gap

A study published in 2011 concluded that family income was a bigger factor in determining educational success than race. The study was conducted by Sean Reardon, associate professor of education at Stanford University. Analysis of standardized tests over a fifty-year period showed that the gap in standardized test scores between affluent and low-income students had grown by about 40 percent since the 1960s. The results of this study underscored the importance of EPAK's mission to provide children in the Ravenswood school district with equal opportunities to learn despite their socio-economic disadvantages.



EPAK All Star: Lou Pelosi



Lou Pelosi

Board member Lou Pelosi has provided EPAK insight and expertise for six years. Lou, a Palo Alto resident and marketing executive, continues to lead in the areas of fund raising and communications. As Fundraising Co-Chair Lou has developed relationships leading to annual fund-raising opportunities such as the Holiday Tree Lighting at the Four Seasons and our sponsorship at a Palo Alto food truck event. His work as Chair of the Communications committee was essential to delivering the message of EPAK's mission. "My father, a long-time educator in Massachusetts," notes Lou, "inspired me to donate my time and money to EPAK. And it has been gratifying to participate in the leadership of this organization."



East Palo Alto Kids Foundation
P.O. Box 50542 • Palo Alto, CA 94303
www.epak.org • info@epak.org

Mercury News Wishbook 2012

EPAK was thrilled to learn of its inclusion in the upcoming 2012 Mercury News Holiday Wishbook. The Wishbook profiles individuals in need and local charitable organizations. A story featuring EPAK will appear in the Mercury News and San Mateo Times between Thanksgiving and Christmas and on the Mercury website. This is a special opportunity for EPAK to heighten our visibility with new audiences and of course to fundraise for the near future.

EPAK Seeks Volunteers

EPAK is always looking for new ideas and new volunteers. Volunteers are currently needed for these roles:

- **Fundraising Expertise**
- **Webmaster**
- **Event Marketing**
- **Marketing Communications**

including graphic design and social media.

Please email Lou Pelosi at lpelosi@me.com to learn more about each role.

Join us in improving the educational experience for hundreds of children. Donate online at www.epak.org or send us a check or money order payable to "EPAK". Questions? info@epak.org or phone **650.479.6716**.