

# EPAK

EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION



SPRING 2013

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

We are thrilled to be entering our 20<sup>th</sup> year of service to the children of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. Over the past 20 years EPAK has supported out of town field trips for students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to travel outside their community. We have garnered donations of leveled book rooms and classroom libraries for each school in the Ravenswood City School District. We have provided materials for students to participate in 'hands-on' science projects the district could not afford to supply. We have supported new teachers in setting up their classrooms with basic materials and supplies. EPAK can do this because of the commitment of our donors. We are so thankful that for 20 years you have generously contributed to the education of children in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

## Classrooms Funded Early 2013

Once again the teachers' applications for micro-grants spanned a wide variety of supplemental learning opportunities. We granted \$84,000 to 171 teachers.

**Literacy** was the number one category funded. This semester many teachers are taking students on science-related field trips including Vida Verde Science Camp, California Academy of Science, San Jose Tech Museum and Angel Island. All were made possible by EPAK grants.



## 20th Anniversary Year Kicks Off

As EPAK begins it's 20<sup>th</sup> year of "granting opportunity in every classroom", we reflect on the secret to our longevity.

- C**lose community ties
- L**ean budgets and low overhead
- A**bility to adapt quickly
- S**imple model
- S**upport of loyal donors
- R**ealistic planning
- O**pportunities for students
- O**ne team with a focused mission
- M**anagement team that is experienced and diverse



## EPAK Day May 31 at Belle Haven

The EPAK board invites all donors, volunteers and anyone interested in our mission to EPAK DAY, May 31 at 8:30a.m. We will showcase EPAK grants to Belle Haven School. Please join us for light breakfast and celebration of success with EPAK grants. 415 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park, CA. RSVP to <http://epakday2013.eventbrite.com>

## Thank You Donors!

Many organizations gathered significant donations throughout their communities on our behalf. Thanks to the the Los Altos Town Crier, the Palo Alto Weekly and the San Jose Mercury News Wishbook for turning the holiday season into a season of giving. These holiday funds multiply our fundraising efforts and allow our foundation overhead to remain low. You can make a donation by going to [www.epak.org](http://www.epak.org)

## EPAK All Star: Jenna Wachtel



Jenna Wachtel

Serving as Board Secretary for the past three years is just one way that Jenna Wachtel supports education for all. Jenna has taught in East Palo Alto and Palo Alto for the past 6 years. She currently works with groups of teachers to examine the new Common Core curriculum and is earning her reading specialist credential. Although she is offered opportunities across the country to share her expertise, she has planted her feet in East Palo Alto. Jenna was married last summer to a fellow educator and STEM coordinator for the Ravenswood City School District, Robert Pronovost. They generously asked for donations to the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation in lieu of wedding gifts. The couple lives in East Palo Alto and is actively involved in the community. We appreciate Jenna's dedication to social justice, education, and the East Palo Alto Kid's Foundation.

## Tesla Test Drive Challenge

The winner of our Tesla Test Drive Challenge was Steve Patterson of Mountain View. He took an exhilarating test drive in a new Tesla Model S, all-electric car on Skyline Boulevard. According to Steve, the Tesla "hugged the turns and accelerated amazingly well". Thank you to Steve and his wife, Bambi, for their support.

## EPAK Seeks Volunteers

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

- **Fundraising Expertise**
- **Webmaster**
- **Event Planning**
- **Marketing Communications** - including graphic design and social media.

Please email Tasha Castaneda at [tasha@epak.org](mailto:tasha@epak.org) to learn more about each role.



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

JOIN US FOR SPECIAL EVENT EPAK DAY ON MAY 31 AT BELLE HAVEN SCHOOL. DETAILS WITHIN.

GRANTING OPPORTUNITY IN EVERY CLASSROOM

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