

# EPAK

EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION

www.epak.org



FALL 2014

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.



## EPAK Welcomes New Board President

Lee Dinneen took over the gavel on August 25. Lee has steadfastly served the EPAK board for five years and brings her expertise as a financial executive and non-profit leader to this role. Previously, Lee was Chair of the Finance Committee while spearheading EPAK Days. The board looks forward to working with Lee in her new capacity.

### Message from Lee:

EPAK is off to a fantastic start this Fall by awarding 44 new teacher grants and a record 211 microgrants. We have also had a strong start with donations from foundations and corporations who have steadily supported us. I want to thank Tami Espinosa for her hard work and leadership as Board President of three years. Tami has been a stellar EPAK representative in the community. Her first-hand experience as a district teacher and principal and experienced participant in our organization made her an ideal spokesperson and liaison. We are thrilled that she will remain active on the Allocations committee, will chair the Board Development committee, and will serve as a valuable resource as I seek to live up to her high standards.

The board also joins me in a hearty thank you to three board members who are stepping down after a combined 27 years of service. Former Presidents Tasha Castaneda and Laura Roberts as well as Eve Murto have left an indelible mark on every facet of EPAK. Tasha has been with EPAK since shortly after its founding and served as President for many years. Shortly after joining, Laura became Vice President, working diligently in a fundraising and an organizational capacity before serving a three year term as President. Eve brought us expertise in marketing and communications and also shared her boundless energy. Although they have helped us recruit new volunteers, we will miss them greatly. Laura continues to volunteer and will provide continuity with our donors. On behalf of our board members and constituents, I'd like to thank you, our supporters, for making our service to the students possible! Your support motivates both the teachers and the EPAK board!

*Lee Dinneen*  
EPAK Board President

## Strong Start to Granting Year

**\$6,600** new teacher grants of \$150 each for classroom supplies and books.

**\$126,000** microgrants which among other opportunities will allow students to:



Take part in a Junie B Jones field trip where they will attend a performance of this popular book series that the children are reading in class



Have access to a social justice and equity themed leveled book library



Utilize new educational tools for preschool learning including fine and gross motor skill manipulatives, foam letters, numbers and a sand table for sensory development

## Social Media Update

One of EPAK's social media goals this year is to double our "likes" on Facebook. According to the website Visual.ly, "the average value of a Facebook "like" for a non-profit is \$161 over twelve months" and "climbs to \$215 when combined with other channels" of giving. Please help us achieve that goal by "liking" us. [facebook.com/EastPaloAltoKidsFoundation](https://facebook.com/EastPaloAltoKidsFoundation) In addition, please send us your preferences for where YOU would like to receive YOUR news about EPAK.



Post it on Facebook or  
send us an email at  
[info@epak.org](mailto:info@epak.org).

## Welcome New Board Members and Volunteers

The board was pleased to elect two new board members, each of whom is stepping up to significant responsibility. Jennifer Gravem, Principal of Ronald McNair Middle School, joins as Secretary. She replaces Jenna Wachtel in the post. Jenna will be leading EPAK social media efforts. Ellen Jones, who is a financial executive by day, joins our Finance Committee where she has already assumed the role of Auditor. Both of these impressive women have hit the ground running with their involvement on the board.

We are equally pleased to welcome new volunteers to our committees. We thank them for their commitment and willingness to serve and are delighted with the energy and fresh ideas they bring.

## Join the EPAK Volunteers

EPAK is looking for new volunteers and board members with fresh ideas. Share your talents or hone new ones while serving with a committee that is passionate about education. Offer a specific amount of time to an assignment or take a project and run with it. We're waiting for you!

### Volunteers are currently needed for these roles:

**Marketing Communications**  
**Fundraising strategy expertise**  
**Event Planning**

Please email Tami Espinosa at [tami@epak.org](mailto:tami@epak.org) to learn more about each role.

Join us in improving the educational experience for thousands 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.