

# EPAK

EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION

# NEWS

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.

## Spring Grants

This spring, EPAK made 194 educator micro grants, putting \$115,780 directly into classrooms in the Ravenswood community.

## EPAK Day 2018

Please join us for EPAK Day on Thurs., May 31 at 9am at Willow Oaks Elementary School. See first-hand how your donations and efforts are making a difference. Contact [info@epak.org](mailto:info@epak.org) to register.



Children discover the Exploratorium

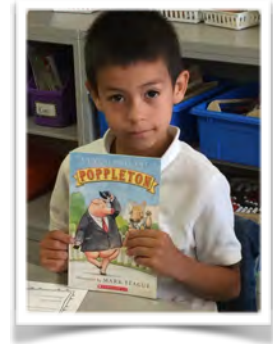
Find us on 

## Share EPAK

Many of EPAK's most ardent supporters are teachers, friends and family of teachers, and parents with children in nearby school districts. This month, commit to sharing EPAK with five friends via email or social media. Together, small things make a big difference.

## Executive Update

Often the small things can make the biggest difference. For East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park schools, it might be a book. Over the past year, EPAK grants have funded library purchases ranging from *Extraordinary Means* and *My Sister Rosa* to *Wayfarer* and *The Legend of Zelda*. Students say books like these transport them to wondrous worlds and teachers say they spark a child's curiosity and drive to learn more.



Small things like art supplies - glue sticks, modeling clay and colored feathers - can spotlight a student's personal creativity and flair. In the science lab, a DNA kit can heighten the awareness of self, while outdoors, seed packets convey the cycle of life. A short bus ride and a zoo ticket allows entry into an exhilarating, exotic ecosystem - one that students will remember for years to come.

Many of these supplies cost only a few dollars, yet they all add up, resulting in operating budgets that area schools simply cannot afford. This is why your donation, no matter how small, is so important.

We're proud that approximately half of EPAK's annual funding comes from individual donors. Our donors contribute sums of all sizes, knowing that their money - whether used to fund a book, a packet of seeds, or fuel for a field trip - creates rich and often life-long experiences for children.

They say *every dollar counts*, and for East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park schools the phrase is truer than ever. Fortunately, with your support, we can bridge the budget deficit and deliver critical classroom resources to those who need them the most.

**Lee Dinneen**  
EPAK Board President

## Teachers Count on EPAK

While budget concerns and uncertainties dominate the headlines, over 200 caring teachers and staff dedicate every day to giving their best to students.

With every \$600 educator micro grant, EPAK helps a teacher meet the needs of their classroom so they can focus on the needs of their students.

*"I've received EPAK grants for 17 years. [With them], I've created an environment in my classroom that is inviting and safe. I want my students to feel like once they cross the door of classroom three, poverty is not a part of their world. EPAK has been that 'safety net' so that I can have the classroom supplies that I need to be able to teach effectively."*

— 2nd grade teacher at Costano

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## Every Picture Tells a Story

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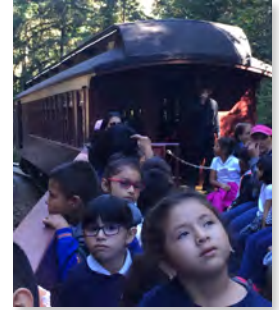
By supporting EPAK, you play a key role in helping teachers focus on engaging their students and preparing them for the bright future they deserve. Here is a sample of the many ways EPAK made a big difference this school year:



A memorable science lab at Ravenswood Middle School



Costaño's fifth-grade flute choir!



Los Robles 2<sup>nd</sup> graders ride a train in the redwoods

To help students in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park schools, please make a tax-deductible donation at [www.epak.org](http://www.epak.org)

## Inspiration:

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"Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world."

- Malala Yousafzai

**GRANTING OPPORTUNITY IN EVERY CLASSROOM**

**EPAK**  
EAST PALO ALTO KIDS FOUNDATION

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