

East Palo Alto Kids Foundation

Every dollar you give touches a student, a teacher and a family.

FALL GRANTS

This Fall, EPAK awarded 197 educator micro grants to teachers, putting \$116,540 directly into classrooms in the Ravenswood community.

DID YOU KNOW?

EPAK grants bolster classroom curricula for more than 3,500 students in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park schools.

62% of grants support literacy and science

95% of donations go directly to benefit students



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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.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Ravenswood School District Interim Superintendent Gina Sudaria is determined not to let funding shortfalls get in the way of her aspirations for the 2019-20 school year. Among her priorities: increasing academic outcomes; providing more services to students, from mental health support to electives; improving the quality of classroom instruction; and continuing to boost the morale of teachers and administrators.

EPAK believes wholeheartedly in Sudaria's vision and is committed to helping district schools bridge the budget deficit to deliver critical classroom resources to those who need them the most. To make it easier for teachers to apply for EPAK grants, we've made improvements to our online grant application process. For the first time, teachers can set up an online account – via our website – to view their current application status and past applications. We've also streamlined post-project reporting to get them back into the classroom faster and have added a resource library for creative inspiration. You'll see examples of the impact of these grants elsewhere in this issue.

Thank you for your continued support of EPAK, and for improving the prospects of students in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.



Karen P. Ross

GRANT RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHT

Jesusita Rivera, 5th-grade teacher at Costaño Elementary School, knows first-hand the struggles Ravenswood students face.

Rivera, who grew up in East Palo Alto and attended Costaño as a child, always knew she wanted to come back to serve her community.

"The children are so disadvantaged, yet so deserving," says Rivera. "My elementary school teacher, Ms. Fama, had a profound impact on me. It's teachers like Ms. Fama who guided her students and showed them that their circumstances did not have to determine their future. I strive to be one of those teachers."

Rivera shares how EPAK's educator micro grants have made a profound impact on her students.

"The grants allow me to purchase resources that my students desperately require, including: dissection kits; microscopes; classroom tools for

individualized math instruction; and novels.

I wouldn't be able to afford 99% of these resources without EPAK's educator micro grants. These resources have given my students the tools they need to open up a world of opportunities through experiences they will never forget. **EPAK grants have made a huge difference in my life and the lives of my students."**



COMMUNITY SUPPORT KEY TO STUDENTS' SUCCESS



EPAK offers credentialed teachers two grants per academic year in the amount of \$600. Grants make it possible for teachers to immediately fill the instructional gaps for their classes and bolster their curriculum.

Items that are funded include: science materials for experiments, leveled reading books to bring students up to grade level, scientific calculators for math lessons.



BOARD MEMBER NEWS

Welcome Stacy Arevalo, Nancy Bardsley, Nancy Kerrebrock, Courtney Schmit, Renee Scott and Erin Wakshlag to the EPAK Board. The new members bring a range of extensive experience as classroom teachers, specialists in business and in the non-profit sectors.

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www.epak.org

SUPPORT EPAK!

"Our students are English learners and don't have a rich literacy background when they begin learning with us. Beautiful books, with clearly illustrated vocabulary support, make all the difference in their educational experience."

– RCSD teacher and educator micro grant recipient

To help students in the Ravenswood City School District, please make your tax-deductible donation today at www.epak.org