

2012 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR SUPPORTERS

For 30 years the Berkeley Public Schools Fund has existed because of the commitment the Berkeley community has to providing an extraordinary public education for every child. We hope that our 2012-2013 Annual Report will bring you closer to the people your contributions help support. These teachers, staff, and volunteers all play critical roles in the success of our schools.

These pages document just some of what you helped support in the 2012-13 school year. Whether it's proven successful programs that have become indispensible to a Berkeley public education, exploring new teaching methods and training, or helping to create excitement and joy for learning, the Schools Fund seeks to support the continued improvement of public education in our community.

All of this is possible thanks to thousands of incredible community members, like you, whose commitment inspires us every day. In this report we are telling the stories that document the tremendous potential that each of us has for transforming a child's school experience. You'll see quotes from interviews with donors, volunteers, staff, and teachers, and you can see their full stories on our website. Whether it's time, money, or other resources, anyone can make a difference.

We thank you for your commitment to an extraordinary public education for all of Berkeley's children, and we hope you will continue to support the Schools Fund. Great public schools are made by you!

Sincerely,

Erin Rhoades Executive Director

Christopher J. Hudson Chair, Board of Directors



Jumpstart their future

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 2012-2013





*AND INDEPENDENT STUDY MAP DONATED BY EUREKA CARTOGRAPHY

"The Schools Fund is one of the **big factors** that keeps me as a teacher in Berkeley"



HEAR MORE ONLINE

PRESCHOOLS

\$12,172 + \$770 districtwide 21 grants

Outdoor play equipment; speech and language therapy materials; cooking classes: these are just a few of the projects we funded in the District preschools this year. We funded Literacy Fiestas, which, as Louise Rosenkrantz explains, "gave all of our community the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of family literacy." Hopkins teacher Nicole Reif also received a grant for reading materials: "With your funds I was able to bring new characters and new adventures to my students!"

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

\$95,569 153 grants

When Jefferson's Wendy Fong took her 2nd graders to the Berkeley Marina, she noted, "students were able to make connections and deepen their understanding of the concepts taught in class. The students were also able to sharpen some important skills: observing, recording, comparing, analyzing, labeling, and summarizing." Other grant highlights include document cameras for Le Conte, which "increased our capacity to close the achievement gap" (Susan Katz), yoga mats for Jefferson to help "calm and center" 2nd and 3rd graders (Barry Fike), and a whole school chalk drawing project at Oxford that "helped develop a sense of school community" (Lauren Brollier).

MIDDLE SCHOOLS \$35.912

57 grants

"They learned so much about the scientific method and engineering design process through these experiments," writes Willard teacher Deborah Lenz about the science equipment we supplied to her 8th grade classroom. Other middle school grants included opportunities to create apps at King Middle with MIT's App Inventor, a Longfellow 8th grade trip to study the Civil War at Fort Point, and netbooks and laptops for differentiating algebra instruction at Willard.

HIGH SCHOOLS

\$32,703 43 grants

BHS's Rachel Chodorow-Reich treated her students to a day of Shakespeare and writes, "the memory of so many students laughing and squealing in delight, both during the performance and while doing the workshop, has made such an impact." Other highlights: Lauren Illingsworth's Cooking for Special Ed students, which "gave them all a sense of pride and accomplishment with an outcome they could see, taste, and smell!"; B-Tech's Margaret Agbowo's grant for materials for better understanding personal finance; and graphing calculators for Pam Drew's Independent Study class.

SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL LIST: www.BerkeleyPublicSchoolsFund.org

MAKING IMPACTS DISTRICT WIDE

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE PERFORMANCE LAB

After providing the Storybuilder program to 2nd and 3rd graders for two school years, in 2012-13, the Schools Fund decided to take advantage of a rare opportunity for middle school programming with the Berkeley Rep's 2012/13 production of Troublemaker. This play centers on a middle school-aged protagonist and deftly speaks to the trials and tribulations of that age group. Seven classrooms from Willard, King, and Longfellow Middle Schools participated in the program last season and each attended a student matinee performance. The Performance Lab curriculum led students through the process of creating original plays rooted in a topic or theme and incorporated creative writing and critical thinking assignments to challenge students and spark their engagement, giving them a deeper experience with the subjects that they study and a richer understanding of the world of theatre.





COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE

The Schools Fund annually supports Community Resources for Science (CRS) and its activities in Berkeley's elementary schools, including K-5 teacher CRS memberships, which provide access to curriculum information, support services, and lesson presentations by Bay Area Scientists in Schools (BASIS). In 2012-2013, for the first time, the Schools Fund also supported CRS membership

benefits for middle school teachers. In addition, we supported the development of a program providing assistance to middle school science teachers as well as continued professional development for BUSD Grade 4-5 Science Resource Teachers. CRS has become an integrated and indispensable component of science education in our schools.

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS

Last year BUSD was recognized as one of the top ten school districts in California for musical education. We are proud to have supported musical education since our beginnings and to annually support the Berkeley Symphony's Music in the Schools

"It's a unique opportunity for children to be in a world-class scientific facility and to realize their own potential as future scientists."

"The Schools Fund **breaks down barriers** for us"

- PACO FURLAN, PRINCIPAL



HEAR MORE ONLINE

program. As elementary students make their way from Kindergarten to 5th grade, they get increasingly more exposure to the Symphony's individual members and more sophisticated in their instrumental development. Music in the Schools has enhanced Berkeley's musical culture and tradition by training and instilling our youth with a passion for music.

BERKELEY LAB ADVENTURE ZONE IN ELEMENTARY SCIENCE (BLAZES)

The Lawrence Berkeley National Lab offers the BLAZES program to East Bay 5th grade classes, a 3-hour workshop held at the Lab that provides hands-on activities, a research lab tour, and talks by scientists. For six years, the Schools Fund has sent every 5th grader in the District to have a scientific learning experience at the Lab. Offered by the Lab's Office of Workforce Development & Education, it's a unique opportunity for children to be in a worldclass scientific facility and to realize their own potential as future scientists.

MORE DISTRICTWIDE PROGRAMS: www.BerkeleyPublicSchoolsFund.org

TEACHER SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

The 2012-13 school year was the second year that the Schools Fund awarded Teacher Summer Fellowships. Six teachers were awarded fellowships in the subject areas of music, dance, special education, foreign language, and economics. Here are a few of their projects:

BEN SANOFF

BHS ECONOMICS TEACHER Ben traveled to Chile to study the neoliberal economic model in Chile in order to examine its role in equitable economic growth.

"I think this fellowship is really important and beneficial to teachers. I am developing a culminating Socratic seminar (for AP macroeconomics) based on my experiences and learning that took place during this fellowship. I feel excited and refreshed heading into the school year."



MICHAEL HAMMOND

KING MIDDLE MUSIC TEACHER Michael attended the Centrum workshop in Washington to learn strategies to engage and encourage Berkeley's young musicians to learn the art of jazz and appreciate its rich legacy.

"This program has changed my lessons in that they are now emphasizing the aural aspect of musical knowledge. The students internalize the music before they try to play it on their instruments. By the end of the year I would like all my students to play a blues melody from memory and feel comfortable improvising on it."

JONI MILLER

FRANKLIN PRESCHOOL TEACHER Joni attended a conference on Social Thinking, focusing on the specific skills needed for children on the autism spectrum.

"This (program) will pair nicely with the Second Step curriculum that all of the preschool classrooms use. The metacognition strategies and vocabulary will be easily added to the classroom. The typical peers catch on quickly and begin to incorporate these skills within their own classroom during their play."

MAKING A CONTRIBUTION BERKELEY SCHOOLS VOLUNTEERS

We are thankful to have over 1,300 amazing volunteers in schools every year. These dedicated individuals offer their time, talent, and enthusiasm to classrooms, after school programs, and kitchen and gardening programs throughout the District. Here are just a few of their stories:

CHARLIE SCHAD

THOUSAND OAKS, K-4 VOLUNTEER

In 2011, Charlie Schad began volunteering for two hours a week. His teacher soon recognized his passion for the work and invited him to help out for one full day a week. One day turned into two days in 2012, and Charlie says, "two days was twice as good as one day." This year Charlie spends three days a week at Thousand Oaks and mentions, "I would have worked all weekend if I could have."

Last year, Charlie was given the opportunity to help 3rd graders write fairy tales. He was tasked to type up the stories as the children wrote them, but notes "what I really was doing with them was being an editor." By asking questions, helping to tighten sections, and assisting with grammar, Charlie was "taking the creativity part of what they're trying to do and helping them realize it." At the conclusion of the project, Charlie was given a book of all the students' stories. "I'm a book person, and I have hundreds of books at home. But I don't have any book that's more special than this."



ALLISON KRASNOW WILLARD MATH TEACHER

Willard math teacher Allison Krasnow says she has "had the opportunity to have many, many Berkeley Schools Volunteers in my classroom, some of whom were exceptionally caring community members; others were students who were actually interested in becoming teachers." Allison has frequently worked with students from Cal Teach, which is an undergrad program for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) majors at UC Berkeley. Participants in Cal Teach learn teaching concepts and then apply them to local K-12 classrooms. Allison explains, "It's been really wonderful to have volunteers in my classroom who are super committed to the kids and really interested in learning how to become a teacher." She especially loves "to feel like I have a role in shaping their views of what teaching is all about." Many of the volunteers from Allison's classroom have gone on to get their credentials and become teachers. She says, "It's really exciting to have the opportunity to work with them from the beginning of their teaching careers."

WATCH ALLISON'S STORY: www.BerkeleyPublicSchoolsFund.org

"It's probably one of the **most fun things** I've ever done"



HEAR MORE ONLINE

JESSIE LUXFORD

BHS BRIDGE PROGRAM The Bridge program is designed to help students transition to Berkeley High, support them throughout high school, and motivate them to attend college. Last year, BSV provided 24 volunteers to the program, and Coordinator Jessie Luxford writes, "The Berkeley Schools Volunteers make it possible for our program to offer students the one-on-one attention and individualized instruction they need to achieve academically. Students have told me that they sincerely appreciate the volunteers because they make the students feel confident, capable, and comfortable asking questions. Bridge parents are constantly thanking me for the support from these tutors."

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PAMELA FADEM

WRITERCOACH CONNECTION In the five years that Pamela has been volunteering with WriterCoach Connection, she has realized her role is only partly about punctuation and literary analysis; "A big part of why we're there is just working with these kids as a human being to a human being saying, 'I'm an adult, you're a kid. You're great; you're okay wherever you are.'"

Pamela told us the story of working with "the class joker" her first year. One afternoon her site coordinator noticed her obvious frustration and explained, "This guy is always being disciplined, but he's a good kid. It's not our job to discipline kids. We're here to help them." Eventually she and the student were able to find common ground over a Young Adult author they both enjoyed. She notes, "We had fun working on that book. It didn't mean he did all his work, but we had a connection."

Pamela, like many of our volunteers, understands how important mentoring and one-on-one attention is for students. She praises WriterCoach Connection and volunteering; it "gives kids confidence in themselves to tell their own story."

SUPPORTING SPECIAL PROJECTS DEDICATED FUNDS

The Berkeley Public Schools Fund is the trusted fiscal entity for administering donations dedicated for special purposes within the Berkeley schools. Every year the Schools Fund both receives and distributes dedicated funds to support an array of unique programs. Funding—which averages around \$200,000 a year—comes from within and outside our community, from multiple or single sources, and for specific or broadly-defined purposes. Here are a few examples of such funds:

BUSD COOKING AND GARDENING PROGRAM

With the loss of Federal funds for Berkeley's Cooking and Gardening Program, a community effort is underway to rebuild this program. All funds from districtwide fundraising efforts are held and administered by the Schools Fund to support our valued garden programs.

HOMELESS STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Over 500 students in the District were homeless at some point last year. Transient housing affects students' physical, academic, and social well being. The Homeless Student Support Services Fund provides assistance to help stabilize these students' school experiences.

"Working with their Principal at Malcolm X, the Newmans identified projects that would serve every student in the areas of literacy, technology, professional development, and playground improvements."



THE NEWMAN FUND FOR MALCOLM X

Malcolm X parents, Jack and Karyn Newman, had the opportunity to support every child at their school with a \$111,400 stock gift. The Schools Fund administers the fund as directed by the school's Principal. Working with their Principal at Malcolm X, the Newmans identified projects that would serve every student in the areas of literacy, technology, professional development, and playground improvements. Their fund has provided document cameras and LCD projectors for every Malcolm X classroom, 252 nonfiction library books, leveled literacy intervention libraries in all classrooms, training for all staff in "Constructed Meaning" academic language, and major yard improvements. These contributions supplemented District programs and improvements.



MORE DEDICATED FUNDS: www.BerkeleyPublicSchoolsFund.org

DONORS

Great public schools are made by you! Today, as always in our 30-year history, 100% of our funding comes from you: community members wishing to make Berkeley schools the best they can be. To all our 2012-13 donors, we give a huge THANK YOU! *A special THANK YOU to our 2013 Spring Luncheon Sponsors of \$1,250 or more

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"This is an opportunity for you to be part of something extremely meaningful"



- KAREN MCKIE, FORMER BOARD MEMBER

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JANET HUSEBY Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Berkeley High School

Janet Huseby has served Berkeley public schools for over 30 years in a variety of roles: PTA co-President for 4 BUSD schools; author of the award-winning *Guide to the Berkeley Public Schools* and *Berkeley Book of College Essays*; cofounder of the BHS e-tree. For the past 9 years, Janet has also served as the BHS Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator.



BELINDA MCDANIEL Program Assistant Berkeley High School

Belinda McDaniel makes the administrative office more efficient as well as joyful. Not only does she coordinate substitutions, write the Daily Bulletin, and assist all administrators, parents, volunteers, and students, but she also reaches out to children in crisis. Belinda led a Life Academy girls group focusing on behavior and attitude, and she now advises students at the Student Parent Resource Center.



TERI GOODMAN Counseling Department Chair Berkeley High School

Teri Goodman provides students at Berkeley High with "whatever help they need." Her commitment to fostering the "college-going assumption" for all BHS students fueled the creation of the 1st Step Scholarship, which helps low-income students with initial college costs. Teri also organizes a yearly College Panel for 10th graders to hear from recent BHS grads about their college experiences.



TAMARA FRIEDMAN

English Language Development Teacher Berkeley High School

Tamara Friedman has been dedicated to improving students' learning for almost 20 years. She has been involved in professional development in the World Language department, worked to close the achievement gap in language classes, and trained teachers in preparation for the Common Core State Standards. In 2012, Tamara received the prestigious National Board Certification, and she was recently named one of Alameda County's Teachers of the Year.

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