

Berkeley
Public
Schools
Fund



Jumpstart their future

Issue Eighteen
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Announcing 2015 Spring Luncheon Honorees!

The theme for our **2015 Spring Luncheon** is *Expanding Opportunity*. We're recognizing teachers who are successfully engaging students by reaching them outside the classroom. **The Distinguished Educator Honorees for the 2015 Spring Luncheon are** (envelope please):

John Fike, Teacher on Special Assignment, *Berkeley Technology Academy (BTA)*, for his outstanding efforts to address the socio-emotional needs of students at BTA.

Matt Tsang, Growing Leaders Program Director, *Willard Middle School*, for engaging students through cooking, gardening, entrepreneurship, and mentorship.

Naomi Washington, African American Studies Teacher, *Berkeley High*, for inspiring generations of students inside and outside the classroom through dance.



We'll share more about these incredible educators in the next few months!

Now is the time to sponsor a table or purchase tickets! Learn about our various levels of sponsorship and complete your commitment form [here](#). Or you can purchase individual tickets [here](#).

2014–2015 Strategic Impact Grants: The Full List



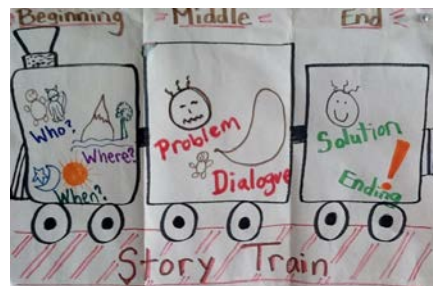
In recent years, the Schools Fund has awarded a growing number of Strategic Impact grants supporting educational excellence and equity across the District. We have awarded over \$146,000 in these grants this year! Here's the full list of

the [2014–2015 Strategic Impact grants](#).

The grant categories include Science, Music, Technology, Teacher Professional Development, and Cooking and Gardening, and they serve department, school site, and sometimes Districtwide needs. [Take a look!](#)

Mills Teacher Scholar Explores Early Literacy Gaps

For the past couple of years, the Schools Fund has been pleased to fund [Mills Teacher Scholars](#) at Rosa Parks, which gives teachers unique support for exploring a specific classroom question. Second grade teacher Brook Pessin-Whedbee shares a perfect example of the work being done in this [fantastic, in-depth blog post](#) focusing on her Story Play curriculum, which addresses the early literacy gap she witnesses in her classroom every day.



"Looking closely and routinely at this data with my fellow Mills Teacher Scholars each month, I have been able to identify my students' strengths and areas of growth and respond with revised strategies to move them towards meeting their learning goals."

Read the full piece [here](#).

Donor Spotlight: Meyer Sound



[Meyer Sound](#) has been a Berkeley institution since 1979, providing the Bay Area (and beyond, way beyond) with innovative, state-of-the-art sound design. Their fascinating work was recently profiled in [The New Yorker](#). For many years, John and Helen Meyer have been incredibly generous supporters of cultural and educational organizations in Berkeley. They've supported the Schools Fund as an ongoing sponsor at our annual Spring Luncheon for over ten years. We thank John and Helen Meyer for their tremendous generosity and community mindedness!

Teacher Summer Fellowships Applications: Now Open!

Teachers: [Apply](#) for a 2015 Teacher Summer Fellowship! Applications are due March 2.

Teacher Summer Fellowships support teachers to undertake a significant summer learning project of their choosing that will add greater depth, understanding, and breadth of perspective to their teaching practice.



Read about 2014 Summer Fellowship projects [here](#).

Featured Friends & Family Grants



[Friends & Family Grants](#), our new crowdfunding site exclusively for Berkeley teachers, has several projects currently looking for funding. From classroom equipment to books to field trips, we have

18 projects open for donations.

King Middle teacher John Alford-Leaks has a grant proposal for [STEM & Robot Teams](#). He writes, "We are the first to offer Robotic, Fighting Obesity, and Global Climate team Challenges in May. We want to encourage girls, under-privileged and under-represented students to participate. We are recruiting Mentors who reflect these communities, providing strong role models for our participants."

Help make John's (or another teacher's!) grants a reality by donating to [Friends & Family](#) today!

Upcoming Volunteer Orientations

Looking to give back to the Berkeley community in the new year? [Attend a Volunteer Orientation](#) to learn about the variety of opportunities we have for volunteering in our schools. From assisting with classroom science projects to getting muddy in the school garden to tutoring in after school programs, Berkeley Schools Volunteers can find something for you.



Curious about what it's like to be a volunteer? Visit our [volunteer page](#) and check out a [couple videos](#) from current volunteers talking about their experiences!

Upcoming Orientations:

Thursday, February 26: 5–6pm

Tuesday, March 3: 1–2pm

Thursday, March 12: 1–2pm

Wednesday, March 18: 12–1pm

Additional orientations available for UC Berkeley students

Donate Now