

Spring Luncheon Recap, What is MOUSE Squad,
Donor Spotlight: Bayer HealthCare

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2015 Schools Fund Spring Luncheon *Expanding Opportunity*



We had a full house at the Spring Luncheon last week! Our honorees—Matt Tsang, Naomi Washington-Diouf, and John Fike—inspired us all with a profound commitment to their students and teaching. We also gave Special Recognition to the [Friends & Family](#) developers,

[Cal Blueprint](#). Student jazz musicians from Longfellow and Afro-Haitian dancers from Berkeley High gave amazing performances. You can look through photos from the event [here](#).

An excerpt from Honoree John Fike's speech:

"Our goal at Berkeley Technology Academy—indeed our moral imperative—is to become what's called a 'trauma informed school,' where we build a healing community that has the understanding that unless we address the whole child—with an emphasis on social-emotional healing and growth—then the academics won't matter, and quite frankly, they won't happen at all. We often hear the lament of teachers that 'I'm a teacher, I'm not a counselor, or therapist, or nurse,' and so on. While this is indeed true, at a trauma informed school, we understand that we also need to be healers. History is calling us—all of us—to be healers."

Strategic Impact Grant: MOUSE Squad

In the 2014-15 school year, the Schools Fund awarded a [Strategic Impact](#) grant to fund MOUSE Squad at Willard, Longfellow, and Berkeley Technology Academy (BTA). MOUSE Squad empowers students to learn, lead, create, and collaborate with technology while building confidence and developing skills for academic and career success. MOUSE Squad is a flexible program that allows each site to tailor it to its schedule, student needs, and areas of interest.



At BTA, with the Exploring Computer Science curriculum, students created websites for teachers and learned about careers that were related to the programming, 3D design, and robotics lessons in the curriculum. At Longfellow, MOUSE Squad was an afterschool club that met three times a week. Nine of 12 students earned their certification in IT skills, hardware, software, troubleshooting and coding, eventually helping to maintain the student computers in the library and one of the Chromecarts in the school. At Willard, student library proctors learned to troubleshoot and help with school technology, create presentations on cyber citizenship, learned to code, and designed 3D objects. Willard has two 3D printers and MOUSE Squad students managed the printers and taught others how to use the design software.

Donor Spotlight: Bayer HealthCare

This month's Donor Spotlight focuses on [Bayer HealthCare](#), a significant long-term community partner and Spring Luncheon sponsor.



Our partnership with Bayer began in 1992, when Bayer signed a 30-year Development Agreement with the City of Berkeley that included annual support to the Schools Fund for K-8 Science funding. Over the life of the agreement, with the addition of their annual support as luncheon sponsors, Bayer has contributed

almost \$687,000 to the Schools Fund. These contributions allow us to annually fund Science Curriculum Support for K-5 Teachers, Elementary Science Fairs, and the 5th Grade Trip to LBNL.

This past year, Bayer's contributions also funded the [Be A Scientist](#) Program at King, which will expand to Willard next year. Be A Scientist brings UC faculty and graduate students into 7th grade sciences classes to develop and explore individual student scientific questions and experiments.

Friends & Family Grants: Our Goals

The Schools Fund, along with student group [Cal Blueprint](#), launched [Friends & Family Grants](#) in fall of 2014. Our year-long collaboration, testing, and ultimate development of Friends & Family, were based on these goals:



1. Provide Teachers with On-Going Opportunities for Funding

The Schools Fund [Classroom Grants](#) process provides over \$230,000 in grants to teachers every November. We're proud of these grants and projects, but we also know that funding needs pop up all year long. Friends & Family gives teachers a pathway to fund projects that might otherwise not happen or be paid for out-of-pocket by teachers.

2. Allow Parents, Friends, and Other Family to Easily Contribute to Their Child's Classroom

Parents support many classroom activities and events: field trips, supplies, special projects, etc. When teachers post their projects on Friends & Family, donors can set up an account that securely stores payment information for future use and links to projects can be easily shared with other family members who may wish to help out.

3. Encourage Community Donors to Directly Support Teacher Projects

Friends & Family Grants are searchable by teacher, school, and subject area. Have a favorite teacher or fond memories of a certain Berkeley school? Maybe you're passionate about science and wish to help a [STEM teacher](#) fund a project. Search our site, and you can contribute directly to the projects that most excite you.

New projects are added to Friends & Family every week! Search, explore, and donate to [Friends & Family](#) today!

Volunteer After-School Tutors Needed!



Returning Volunteers: We have a high need for after-school tutors in our high schools and middle schools to help prepare our students for finals. If you have already completed a BSV orientation, feel free to [contact the BSV office](#) to be placed in an after-school program.

New Volunteers: Berkeley Schools Volunteers has scheduled the final orientations for the school year, which you can view on our [volunteer page](#). All new volunteers need to complete an hour-long orientation before being placed in a classroom or program.

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

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