



Issue Twenty Three  
July 2015

## New! The Schools Fund Blog

We are excited to announce our newest endeavor: the [Schools Fund Blog](#). There's so much more to tell about the projects we support than can be explained in a newsletter or brochure. With this blog, you'll hear more about how we're impacting the educational experience in Berkeley schools.



You'll hear directly from staff members, teachers, students, volunteers, and our Schools Fund Board. We want to offer a richer, deeper picture of some of the important and innovative work happening in our schools.

Have an idea for a blog post? [Contact us](#) with suggestions any time. We hope you enjoy the new blog!

## Making a Difference with Camp Sudo



A couple of months ago some of the members of Cal Blueprint, the UC student group who developed our [Friends & Family](#) site, approached us about a project. They wanted to take their passion for coding and share it with at-risk

youth in Berkeley. They want to inspire young people to change the world by giving them the practical tools to make those dreams real. Their solution was a 5-week coding summer camp, free of charge: [Camp Sudo](#).

Now in its first few weeks, operating on a \$10,000 Schools Fund Strategic Impact Grant along with donations from Bay Area businesses, Camp Sudo is fulfilling its mission. The camp has 14 BTA and BHS students enrolled, and these students are learning the basics of coding. Lunch is provided every day, and campers take field trips to tech companies (they went to Google last Monday), and are even having a hackathon.

Be sure to watch this [great video](#) explaining Camp Sudo's mission and follow them on [Facebook](#) for continued updates.

## First Strategic Impact Grants for 2015-16 Approved

The Schools Fund Board approved eight Strategic Impact Grants totaling over \$66,000 at their June board meeting. [Strategic Impact](#) grants for each school year are considered in June, August, and January. Below is a list of the first round of approved grants:



**Mouse Squad in Middle Schools** — A project-based curriculum to improve the information and computing technology skills of students at all three Middle Schools & BTA.

**Berkeley Rep Storybuilders** — A Community Partner Grant providing every 3rd grade teacher the opportunity to bring this theater program from Berkeley Rep into their class.

**BHS Math Department** — Funds for a professional development day before

the school year and Common Core implementation starts.

**Building Identify-Safe Literacy** — Expands K-5th grade library collections of representative and diverse children's books.

**Camp Sudo** — A 5-week summer coding camp for at-risk students to learn the basics of web programming.

**Community Resources for Science** — A Community Partner Grant providing support to K-5 teachers for science instruction.

**Handwriting for Literacy** — A training program for LeConte teachers and the literacy coach to teach a handwriting instruction program in Spanish.

**Mill Scholars Professional Learning Communities** — Supporting professional learning communities for teachers at John Muir, Rosa Parks, and LeConte.

Read more about the [Strategic Impact Grants we provided last year](#).

## Free Registration for the 2015 Berkeley Half Marathon for Schools Fund Team Runners



Time to start training for the [Berkeley Half Marathon](#)! The Half Marathon is happening on November 22, and again the Berkeley Public Schools Fund is an official charity. We love this event—it gets better every year! The new course last year was a big hit, and this year there's something for everyone: Half Marathon, Relay, 10k, and 5k (including a youth 5k).

**This year we are able to offer FREE REGISTRATION to team members who commit to fundraising \$500 (but you need to jump in early to get free registration).** Please click [here](#) to join our team or donate, and we'll get in touch with details. We're using EveryDayHero this year rather than Crowdrise as the fundraising platform, and we will only have one Schools Fund team rather than individual school teams.

Feel free to [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

## Donor Spotlight: Carpenters Local 713

---

This month's Donor Spotlight is on [Carpenters Local 713](#), Alameda County's carpenters union. The Carpenters joined us this year for the first time as Spring Luncheon Sponsors, coming in at the Patron level!

Welcoming new Spring Luncheon Sponsors is always exciting, and the union's apprentice program is especially aligned with our passion for education. The support, knowledge, and training provided through apprenticeships is a perfect model for lifelong learning.

Welcome to the Schools Fund family, Carpenters Local 713!



## Julie Lythcott-Haims: *How to Raise an Adult*

---



The Commonwealth Club of California is hosting [an event](#) on July 20th with former Stanford University Dean Julie Lythcott-Haims to talk about her new book, *How to Raise an Adult*. While empathizing with parents' universal worries, Lythcott-Haims offers practical alternative strategies that underline the importance of allowing children to make their own mistakes and develop the resilience, resourcefulness, and inner determination

necessary for success."

The program begins at 6pm, and tickets are available [here](#).