



Issue Twenty Seven
November 2015

Berkeley Half Marathon is this Sunday!

The [Berkeley Half Marathon](#) is this Sunday, November 22! Come down Sunday morning to cheer on our runners and support our community and schools!

Be sure to stop by the Schools Fund booth—we'll have a photo booth, coloring for kids (and adults!), and cheer signs for you to decorate. We'll also be accepting donations and passing out t-shirts to our team members!

Support our 2015 Team Schools Fund directly by donating [here](#).



2015-16 Classroom Grants Announced!



We are thrilled to release our list of 2015-16 Classroom Grants! We had more applications than ever before, with projects coming from all grade levels, schools, and subject areas.

Program Committee Chair, Mary Friedman, is very excited about

this year's batch of grants. "While we always provide many grants supporting the Arts and Literacy in our schools, this year we saw a dramatic increase in science-related grants, particularly at the elementary level. Some of my favorites were experiments with wind turbines, exploring gas as a state of matter, learning about water pollution, and environmental engineering. What fun for kids! The new science standards emphasize hands-on learning and the Schools Fund is happy to be a partner in providing the materials for these exciting projects."

[Check out the full list of 2015-16 Classroom Grants here.](#)

2014-15 Annual Report Available Online!

The [2014-2015 Annual Report](#) is now available online! Our donors can expect to find a copy in their mailboxes soon, and it's also ready to view and share online. We are really proud of this report; we think it does a great job of conveying the excitement of the projects we've supported this past year and the impact we're making on the student experience in our schools.



Thank you to all of our 2014-15 donors!

Support Friends & Family Grants



Support Berkeley teachers by donating to a [Friends & Family](#) grant! Many projects are currently looking for funding, including:

[Bridging Senior Adults with Students](#): Berkeley Arts Magnet teacher Ana Delgado has a project on Friends & Family to allow "students to build relationships with adults across generations and build community, share life experiences, and foster a positive attitude about older adults."

Mary Machens Martin from Malcolm X is crowdfunding for a [Visual Community Rug](#) for her Kindergarten classroom. Mary writes, "For most kindergarten students, especially students with visual-motor integration or sensory processing weaknesses, sharing space on the carpet can be difficult and confusing. We are seeking to use a bright engaging 30 square carpet that will help define personal space for students through visual boundaries. It will make movement into small groups or other activities easier and more concrete for students."

Explore other Friends & Family grant projects [here!](#)

Donor Spotlight: Another Planet Entertainment

This month's Donor Spotlight is [Another Planet Entertainment](#). For the high school music program, purchasing large instruments like the bassoon and tuba would not be possible without the support of Another Planet Entertainment. For over ten years, Another Planet's contribution to



the Schools Fund has made it possible for the Concert Band at Berkeley High to have a fully articulated section of large brass instruments. These instruments are otherwise beyond the budget of the music program, and Another Planet's contribution makes a tremendous difference. Thank you, Another Planet!

Check Out the New Schools Fund Video!

Have you had a chance to watch our new Schools Fund video? We've spent the past year interviewing teachers, staff, and even a few students about their experiences with the Schools Fund. Watch the film, and you'll hear from preschool teacher Niki Castro, King Middle's Kevin Anderson, Glenn Wolkenfeld from Berkeley High, John Fike, BHS band director Karen Wells, a music student, and Mary Wildermuth, Associate Professor of Plant & Microbial Biology at UC Berkeley who started [Be a Scientist](#). Check it out below!

