



Jumpstart their future

Issue Twenty Five
September 2015

New Schools Fund Video!

We are excited to announce the debut of 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!



Team Schools Fund 2015 at the Berkeley Half Marathon: Events this Weekend!

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! [Join our team here](#) to fundraise for schools and participate in this great event. 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).



There are two Berkeley Half events happening this weekend:

[East Bay Kickoff Training Launch](#): Saturday September 19, Sports Basement Berkeley, 8 – 10am.

[Love Our Lake Day](#): Sunday September 20, Lake Merritt, 11am – 4pm.

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

New 2015-16 Strategic Impact Grants



Two rounds of Strategic Impact Grants have been approved so far for the 2015-2016 school year.

[You can view the full list here.](#) A few highlights from the August round of grants include \$13,250 for the Be a Scientist program at King and Willard; a grant to strengthen BUSD Dance for Elementary and

High Schools; Every Kid in a Park author visit for every 4th grader; and a \$9,900 grant for a preschool Professional Learning Community (PLC) for ELD and Special Ed Instruction.

Applications for the next round of Strategic Impact Grants are due during the first week of December. [Learn more here.](#)

2015-2016 Classroom Grant Application Deadline

Teachers: All Classroom Grant applications must be submitted by 5pm on September 28. You can [read more](#) about applications and [apply here](#).



Please note: we are using a new platform for Classroom Grants this year so please let us know if you experience any issues with the application.

Friends & Family Grants



Support Berkeley teachers this back-to-school season by donating to a Friends & Family grant! Many projects are currently looking for funding; here are a few:

[The Personal Narrative Novel](#): Chloe Smith from Willard is looking to purchase 70 copies of the novel "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" for her 7th grade English class. She and a colleague wish to begin the school year with this engaging narrative for their students.

[Organization, Key to Academic Success](#): Hopkins Preschool teacher Teri Adams-Carmichael wishes to reorganize her classroom space to promote organization and information analysis.

[Inquiry Based Science Equipment](#): Berkeley High Science & Ecology teacher Russell Campisi and several colleagues wish to purchase new equipment for

more open-ended scientific experimentation.

The deadlines for all three of these grants are fast approaching! Be sure to donate to these great projects today!

The Schools Fund Blog: More to Explore

The [Schools Fund Blog](#) has now been up and running for a couple months, and we've posted several articles. Check it out! Below are some of the new stories you can find on the blog:



—[Camp Sudo Final Presentations](#):

Cal's software development group, Blueprint, hosted the first year of five-week coding camp for Berkeley high school students, Camp Sudo. Read all about their amazing work from this summer.

—[K-5 Math Professional Learning Communities: Year Two Review](#): We've provided Strategic Impact Grants to two math PLCs. Read about how these groups have developed and progressed over the past two years.

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

Donor Spotlight: Madan Kumar



This month's Donor Spotlight is Madan Kumar, our top Half Marathon fundraiser for the past two years! We [interviewed Madan](#) last year about his dedication to running and public education. Madan—a Washington parent who began his involvement with the Schools Fund as a BSV volunteer—fundraised around \$2,000 each year for Team Schools Fund and

Washington Elementary.

Madan writes, "I want all our kids to have a sense that learning is an ongoing joyful process." He has seen the benefits of a Berkeley public education for his two children, including "drama lessons, movement classes, science classes taught by Cal students, and field trips." When we spoke with him last year about running for Team Schools Fund, he explained "in some way I think running a marathon is a bit like education... it's not just a single test or a single year, it's sum total of the entire effort."

You can donate to Madan's Team Schools Fund 2015 page [here!](#)

#Donate on Facebook

We are now set up to use #donate on our [Facebook!](#) When you see we've posted something using #donate, you can comment with "#donate + \$ (amount)," and that money will automatically be donated to the Schools Fund! You'll be prompted to create an account your first time around, but this step is only required your first time. And don't worry—you will always receive email verification of any transactions.



Now, let's get #donating!