



Issue Thirty Four: June 2016

**"Challenge Day was the most effective workshop for dissolving barriers and building trust among young people and people in general that I have ever experienced. The opportunity that Challenge Day provides is exactly what is needed to help young people see beyond external appearances and realize the pain, struggles, hopes, and dreams they all share."**

**— Berkeley High Parent Volunteer for Shannon Erby's "Challenge Day" Classroom Grant ([read more on the blog](#))**

## **The Schools Fund: A Teacher Resource**

This year we continued to offer a diverse set of grant options for BUSD teachers, from smaller projects to districtwide opportunities.

Classroom Grants have a specific application, review, and reward timeline, which takes place in the fall semester. Each application is reviewed and discussed by our Grants Committee. [See the full list of 2015-16 Classroom Grants awarded here.](#)



### **[Strategic Impact Grants](#)**

Strategic Impact grants encourage teacher collaboration and community partnerships that support excellence and equity across the District. You can see the [full list of Strategic Impact grants](#) from this year.

### **[Friends & Family Grants](#)**

This was the second year the Schools Fund has offered Friends and Family Grants, the crowdfunding site we developed with Cal's software development group, Blueprint. [Explore the site here.](#)

### **[Teacher Summer Fellowships](#)**

Teacher Summer Fellowships encourage BUSD teachers to aspire to the highest levels of professionalism and creativity in their field, providing funds for a significant self-designed summer learning project or professional development opportunity of their choosing. [Read](#) about the 2016 Fellows and their projects.

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**"I'm honored and deeply grateful for your continued support. I am the effective teacher I am because of the access to resources I have through Berkeley Public Schools Fund."**

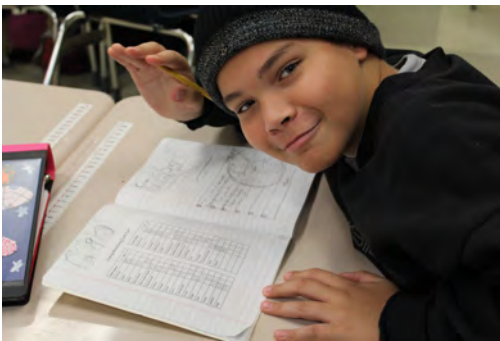
**— Jessica Arroyo-Solís, Malcolm X Teacher**

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Students rehearse in Karen Wells's Berkeley High orchestra. Ms. Wells received a Classroom Grant for the contrabass clarinet (pictured) as well as music mentors to give individual attention to students. [Read more on the blog.](#)

## Schools Fund Blog: A Closer Look



This year we've started something new: [The Schools Fund blog](#). The blog gives us an opportunity to write about grants, events, and partnerships in greater depth. With so many amazing things happening in classrooms

throughout the District, we wanted to thoughtfully share those stories with you.

We have covered everything from [Growing Leaders and the Berkeley Half Marathon](#) to [K-5 Math Professional Learning Communities](#) to partnering with UC Berkeley to bring [Be a Scientist](#) to 7th grade classrooms.

[Please take a look](#), and let us know if you have suggestions for our next post!

"The challenges at camp gave us a different context within which to talk about bringing our 'A' game and the risk that that involves. Now we have a shared understanding of what it actually looks like and feels like that we can apply to our work in school."

— Rick Klein, Jefferson Teacher, "Marin Headlands Camping Trip"  
Classroom Grant ([read more on the blog](#))

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Rick Klein's Jefferson students participating in their Classroom Grant for a Marin Headlands Camping Trip.

**Emerson Librarian Suggests Summer Books**

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Need a place to start? Head over to Emerson librarian Mary Ann Scheuer's fantastic blog, which is packed with suggestions for your young reader. As she explains, "Kids read every day during the school year, sharing books they like with friends. Keep those reading muscles strong over the summer by feeding them a steady diet of fun books to read!"



[Check out her blog here.](#)

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**"Your grant has opened the eyes of our students and given them reason to be excited about the continuation of scientific study and exploration. Thank you very much!"**

**— Anna Stuppi, Emerson Elementary Teacher, "Let's All Moonwalk" Classroom Grant**

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## Family Events at BAMPFA

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The new Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is kicking off summer vacation with several family-friendly programs in their galleries, theater, Art Lab, and Reading Room. Gallery admission is always free for those eighteen and under plus one accompanying adult, so

stop by to discover summer exhibitions focusing on works from the BAMPFA collection. These new presentations open between June 29 and July 27 and include [Berkeley Eye: Perspectives on the Collection](#), [Summer Trees Casting Shade: Chinese Painting at Berkeley](#), and [Sojourner Truth, Photography, and the Fight Against Slavery](#). The full lineup can be found on BAMPFA's [website](#).

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**"I feel this experience allowed some students to be seen and heard in ways that they don't usually get to be heard. Their ability to stand in front of others and deliver whatever content they are dealing with improves with each opportunity to perform in a safe environment."**

**— Andrea Prichett, Willard Middle, "Berkeley Rep Acting Workshops for AVID Students" Classroom Grant**

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Franklin teacher Joni Miller chats with a student when we visited her classroom to observe her "Community Career Costumes" Classroom Grant in action. [Read more on our blog.](#)



We released a new Schools Fund video this year, featuring interviews with teachers, students, and Berkeley Public Schools Fund supporters. Check it out!



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