



2017 Spring Luncheon: The Highlights

The 2017 Spring Luncheon was a great success! The theme was **Be A Scientist**, celebrating two middle school STEM initiatives and the individuals leading them:

Educator of the Year, Longfellow science teacher **Matt Hinckley**, and Distinguished Community



Partner, UC Berkeley professor **Mary Wildermuth**. Introducing Matt, his colleague Mary Patterson said, "I believe the true genius of Matt Hinckley's success has less to do with his well-documented genius and scientific mind, than with his big heart. What I most appreciate about Matt Hinckley is his steadfast belief in the capacity, abilities and potential of our most vulnerable students." Learn about the middle schools STEM initiatives: [Longfellow Maker Space](#) and [Be A Scientist](#).

Berkeley High Senior, Amber Lee, received special Recognition and a standing ovation for her accomplishments throughout her BUSD career, including her UC Berkeley Regents Scholarship.

It was a great celebration and we raised a record amount to support Berkeley's public schools!

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the luncheon! You can check out photos from the event [here](#).



Classroom Grant: Congratulations to BHS Speech and Debate Club

We are proud to have supported the [Berkeley High School Speech and Debate Club](#) which qualified two teams for the 2017 California State Championships last month. Congratulations to **Uma Nagarajan and Talia Wolf-Jacobs** who placed in the Top 15 at the championships and **Cole McCann-Phillips and Kai Burgmann** who placed in the Top 24!



They were able to attend competitions through our [Classroom Grant](#) and we are proud of their hard work and success!

On the Blog: Growing Food and Leaders

Last month on the Schools Fund [blog](#) we featured a Friends & Family grant, [Growing Leaders](#) at Willard Middle School.

The Growing Leaders program is a 7th and 8th grade elective class where students learn about entrepreneurship through the direct experience of planting, harvesting, cooking and selling food. We visited the Growing Leaders elective class on "packing" day where students were busy making



over 250 empanadas. The students worked quickly but mindfully to prepare all of the meals that they would distribute to their hungry clientele that evening. At the end of the class, students rewarded themselves for their hard work by preparing a

communal meal complete with a table set with a centerpiece of flowers from the garden.

Students sell bi-monthly meals to the community through a website called [Josephine](#). Read more about our visit [here](#).

Bay Area Book Festival



Participate in the third annual [Bay Area Book Festival](#) on June 3-4 featuring a full program packed with children's and Young Adult authors, carnival rides, live performances, thousands of free books and more! This two-day indoor/outdoor event welcomes 200 local, national, and international authors and speakers in 100 literary sessions in auditoriums and theaters throughout downtown Berkeley.

Outdoor sessions and activities are free, but indoor sessions require a ticket that you can purchase [here](#).

Donor Spotlight: Wareham Development

This month's Donor Spotlight features [Wareham Development](#) who is generously supporting a [Circle Lab](#) at Longfellow

Middle School next year. The Circle Lab will offer more traditional science programming to build on the "hands-on" learning that will occur at the [Maker](#)

WAREHAM
DEVELOPMENT

[Space](#) also being built this year at Longfellow.

The Circle Lab as well as Maker Space will make Longfellow a "Science Hub" for Berkeley Schools, which we are incredibly excited to support! We thank Wareham for their generosity towards Berkeley students!

Friends & Family: Let's Make Them All Successful!



Our [Friends & Family Grants](#) site has a small batch of meaningful grants looking for funding:

Amy Crawford is spearheading the [CAS Scholarship Fund](#) that seeks to give deserving college-bound seniors at Berkeley High School

scholarships to help with tuition and essentials.

Elizabeth Scarboro is looking to equip each K-5th student from a low income family with 10 books that match the student's interests and reading levels with her ["Books for Summer Reading Kick-off!"](#) project at Washington Elementary.

Let's finish the school year strong and make these all successful projects!

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