

Co-Presidents: Willy Crouse
Karen Gollhardt
Newsletter Editor: Judy Kearns
judykearns24@gmail.com

ALPHA UPSILON NEWS
Area XIII



DKG Mission Statement:

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Presidents' Message

"Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is." Jessica Harrelson

We hope you all are well and enjoying this rainy weather. We sure need it!

Thanks to all the ladies who joined the Gamble House Tour. Thirteen members enjoyed learning about the architecture, construction methods, and history of the Gamble House. Thanks to Judi Healey for setting this up and for Willy requesting her friend be our guide.

Starting **NOW**, SignUpGenius is open and ready for you to add your names to committees and volunteer to bring refreshments to meetings! Remember, if you want your same committee, sign up ASAP. After April 15, all slots are available to whoever signs up first!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0948A5AF2FA1F58-20232024>

Please do this by the end of this month so we don't have to 'assign' you to the open spots!!! THANK YOU!!! If you do not wish to be on the same committee, bring your committee's **RED FOLDER** with helpful directions for that particular committee to the April Tea they can be distributed them at the May meeting to the new committee chairman.

The annual Friendship Tea takes place on Wednesday, April 12 at Pat Kalish's home! The theme is *A Literary Tea*. Join in on the fun and bring a copy of one of your favorite books! ALSO, remember to return completely stocked **Jared Bags** to be collected at the tea.

It's also that time of year when **annual dues for 2023-2024 are due**. Send/give your \$85 check to Rose Gant **before May 15th** (Rose will also collect checks at the Tea). There are national and state dues to pay by June 1st. We thank you in advance for your on-time payments (Rose especially thanks you).

We hope to see you all at the tea.

RSVP for the tea to Karen Wilcoxon ASAP, wilkare101@aol.com

**Willy Crouse and Karen Gollhardt,
Co-Presidents**

A Few Articles in This Issue:

Annual Friendship Tea	2
Membership News	3
Covenant House	4
DKG International Conferences	5
Gamble House Memories	6
Do You Have a Growth Mindset?	7
LIFE	8
Mini Grant Recipient Shares	9-18

DKG Vision: Leading women educators impacting education worldwide.



**DKG California
2021-2023
Theme:
Invitation
to a New
Beginning**

**DKG California
Educational, Professional,
Making an Impact**

The Time is Here for Our Annual Tea!!



DKG FRIENDSHIP TEA: A LITERARY TEA!



"So many books, so little time." ...



"A room without books is like a body without a soul." ...



"The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel, must be intolerably stupid." ...



"Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life."

Everyone loves a good book and a cup of Tea, of course!



Don't miss this special event! Bring your FAVORITE Children's book and/or Adult book, to share at your table.



We will enjoy cups of tea, sandwiches and delectable treats! Weather permitting, there will be outdoor seating.



Home of Pat Kalish
4420 Shepherds Lane, La Cañada
Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 4:00 PM

Recruitment Grants/Jared Bags



Recruitment Grants: The Recruitment Grant Committee held interviews on March 18th. All went well, and we look forward to presenting our slate of awardees to you at the April meeting.

Jared Bags: Please bring your Jared/Activity Bag for Ronald McDonald House to our April meeting. Remember that bags are for children between the ages of 4-18. Contents should include 5-8 of the following items in a 2-gallon Ziploc bag:

-Crayons or colored pencils, washable markers, sketch pad, small washable paint set, children's scissors, glue stick, puzzle or Sudoku book, coloring book for kids or teens, UNO card game, deck of playing cards, bubble bottle with wand, travel-size Play-Doh, a book to read, a positive note of encouragement. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE GLITTER, STICKERS, OR PERMANENT MARKERS OR PAINT.



Thanks for your help with this project. Ronald McDonald House is so grateful!

Happy Birthday to....



April

- 1—Patty Compeau
- 3—Karen Gollhardt
- 9—Katie Gordon
- 18—Dianah Greenlees
- 23—Kim Frank
- 28—Marty Unger

In Memoriam...



Our thoughts and prayers are with Harriet and Ken Furuya at this very difficult time. May you take comfort in knowing your friends in DKG are

here to support you with our love and caring. Very few of us can understand your pain at losing a child so unexpectedly. But we do understand we want to be of comfort. Do not hesitate to let us know how we can be of help.

Membership News



Marvelous March is ending, and what a March it has been. Who knew it would keep raining so much?! As of this writing, I'm still hoping SDSU makes it into the NCAA basketball championship game to complete their March Madness run.

We had a great time at the Gamble House, there were twelve of us to learn more about this gem in Pasadena. It was a cold, cloudy morning, but we were toasty inside and learned so much. I look forward to next year's outings and hope more people will join us. I just love the time we spend together as members of an outstanding organization and as sisters.

Well, Spring has begun, a time of renewal and growth. Speaking of growth, we will be inducting our new members at the April tea. Thank you to all of you who responded with a "yes" to inviting the following people to join:

1. Candice Bautista (Judie Bakly). She has been a collegiate member and I know she wants to join.
2. Lina Khosrovian (Pat Kalish). She is excited to join us.
3. Paige Saladino (Kathy Cockerill). A welcome addition.
4. Linda White (Marty Unger). She, too, is excited to join us.

Unfortunately, Amy Tran is not able to pursue membership at this time. Next year?!

Please join us at the April meeting, it is always special when we induct new members and recognize those who have served us well for many years.

See you at the Tea – don't forget your favorite book!

Marty Unger
Second VP, Membership



Treasurer's Report



THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL DKG California State Organization



Treasurer's Report Alpha Upsilon Chapter March 1, 2023

BALANCE ON HAND: February 1, 2023			\$ 6,241.25
	Receipts/ disbursements	Total receipts/ disbursements	
RECEIPTS			
Transfer from D.A. Davidson	\$35,000.00		
Interest	\$.03		
Share certificate interest	\$ 8.25		
Area XIII (4 members)	\$ 100.00		
Total receipts for February			+ 35,108.28
Total available			\$ 41,349.53
DISBURSEMENTS			
Transfer to Beebe Nuetzman account	\$35,000.00		
Wire fee (transfer of funds from D.A. Davidson)	15.00		
Gift card for speaker--Dr. Nesper	50.00		
Total disbursements for February		\$ 35,065.00	-- 35,065.00
BALANCE ON HAND: March 1, 2023			\$ 6,284.53

Covenant House Update



Covenant House California

This February, Covenant House California's incredible CEO, Bill Bedrossian, was promoted to CEO of Covenant House International, where he will be overseeing all chapters of Covenant House worldwide. While it's sad for Covenant House CA, luckily Bill will still be living and working from Los Angeles, and so he will still be very closely involved with CHC. CHC will be hiring a new CEO, however in the interim, the COO, Ami Rowland, will be acting as interim CEO. Ami has been with CHC for over 8 years, is a wealth of knowledge and will be a fantastic interim CEO. There will be additional updates soon on new growth, expansion, and volunteer opportunities with Covenant House CA.

Please continue to save your travel toiletries, and I am happy to take them to the Covenant House. There is a great need for these contributions and they are deeply appreciated.

Laura Strametz
Covenant House Liaison

REGISTER NOW for the 2023 DKG California Convention

Save the Date

DKG California Convention 2023

*Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport
Burlingame, May 5-7, 2023*



Contact: Pamela Townsend
2023 Convention Arrangements Committee Chair
pamelatownsenddkgca@gmail.com

Shaping Tomorrow Together

REGISTER NOW for this annual event! REMEMBER Alpha Upsilon will pay for your registration (including convention meals) and your lodging.

NOTE: If the hyperlink takes you to the home page for DKG California, don't panic, just enter the password (sisterhood) where it says "MemberWebsite" and you will be taken to the Convention Resources section. Select Convention Registration and you are on your way!!

Phoenix? Detroit? Finland? Which is Your Preference?



Members can attend one or all of the three DKG International Conferences. It is an amazing opportunity for personal and professional growth for each individual.

[https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/Events/2023 International Conferences/International Con Detroit.aspx](https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/Events/2023%20International%20Conferences/International%20Con%20Detroit.aspx)

[https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/Events/2023 International Conferences/International Con Phoenix.aspx](https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/Events/2023%20International%20Conferences/International%20Con%20Phoenix.aspx)

[https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/Events/2023 International Conferences/International Con Tampere Finland.](https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/Events/2023%20International%20Conferences/International%20Con%20Tampere%20Finland.aspx)

Another Successful Chapter Outing



March 11 saw thirteen Chapter Members gathering at the historic Gamble House in Pasadena for a special tour. The uniqueness of this architectural gem shone even in the rainy weather! Thank you to Judi and Willy for arranging this wonderful opportunity to experience a part of Pasadena's history.

Do You Have a Growth Mindset? (cont'd from March Newsletter)



Changing one's mindset from a "fixed" perspective to a "growth mindset" may seem daunting, but by taking baby steps, anyone who wants to can build a "growth mindset". As promised in our last article, here are some tips for developing a "Growth Mindset".

- 1. Acknowledge and embrace imperfection in self and others.** We all have our flaws, peculiarities, and weirdness—our imperfections which make us unique.
- 2. Face your challenges bravely.** If you find yourself terrified in the face of a serious challenge, stop and reframe the situation in your mind. Each challenge or opportunity invites us into a new experience that is a sort of adventure.
- 3. Pay attention to your words and thoughts.** Start to pay attention to the words you speak, even the words in your mind. If your words are low or dark, the results may be also. Censor yourself and become your own guide. **Replace negative thoughts with more positive ones** to build a growth mindset.
- 4. Stop seeking approval from others.** Approval from others can often prevent a growth mindset. **Cultivate self-acceptance** and self-approval. **Learn to trust yourself**. You are the only person who will always be there for you in your life so you are the only one you need to impress.
- 5. Take a step deeper into authenticity.** Pretending to be someone who you are not disrespects who you really are. It makes you a fake. It diminishes what you have to offer. **Becoming truly authentic** is a process that takes time and a lot of inner work. Once you do, you'll likely be more driven to pursue your true **goals**, which puts you in a growth mindset.
- 6. Cultivate a sense of purpose.** Does your life feel like it is purpose-driven? If yes, **define for yourself what that purpose encompasses**. If you are drawing a blank, ask that your life's purpose become clear to you. **Meditate or contemplate** on "purpose" and see what tidbits come through until you feel like you know the essence of your purpose, or perhaps part of it. Then pursue it—that's what'll help you build a growth mindset.
- 7. Redefine "genius."** We all have strengths and weaknesses. **Explore and appreciate your strengths, and work to improve your weaknesses**. This effort can help you build a growth mindset.
- 8. Turn criticism around until you find its gift.** The purpose of criticism is to make things better. Someone else can see what you are doing from a slightly different perspective than you, and may have some valuable suggestions for you. If you open up to hearing suggestions, you can more easily develop your growth mindset.
- 9. Value the process over the end result.** Remember, it's the journey that matters, not the destination.
- 10. Learn from the mistakes of others.** If you can learn from the mistakes of others, then you may be able to make fewer mistakes. This can sometimes **calm the fear of trying new things**, a key aspect of building a growth mindset.
- 11. "Not yet" is OK.**
When struggling with a task, remind yourself that you just haven't mastered it "yet." If you stick with it, time and practice will lead to improvement.
- 12. Take risks in the company of others.**
Try not to take yourself too seriously. Be willing to make mistakes in front of others, because if you're growing, this is bound to happen. And making mistakes in front of others will usually get easier with practice.

Laura Castagnari, Leadership & Personal Growth Committee

April is the month we celebrate libraries and librarians. Laura Bush has said, "The most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card." Albert Einstein agrees when he commented, "The only thing you have to know is the location of the library." April 4th is National School Librarians Day. As teachers, we all know the important of the school library and librarian or media specialist in our world. Take a minute and send a note of appreciation to your current or former school librarian. They made a difference! National Librarians Week is April 23 to 29, stop by your local library and share a moment with your favorite librarian expressing your appreciation for all they do.

Our public libraries are not dusty quiet tombs anymore. Instead, we find vibrant programs meeting the needs of the entire community. Check out what your local library has to offer - you will be amazed. My local library hosts concerts on Saturday, has craft programs, book clubs for any interest, checks out games and computers for family use and is dedicated to becoming the hub of community activity. Celebrate yours this month.

We are all looking forward to our Literary themed tea. What favorite book are you bringing to share at your table? I have chosen The Little Brass Band by Margaret Wise Brown, not her most familiar book but a family favorite. Our family loves music and this story which was first discovered in our public library was read over and over again.

Our Buck A Book goal for the year is \$200 and we are almost there. We need a supply of your donated books to reach this goal. **Bring your books to the April tea** and let's hope we celebrate each other, libraries and meeting our goal.

Mary Lou Langedyke,
LIFE Liaison

SEE FINLAND WITH GO AHEAD TOURS



Through DKG International association with Go Ahead Tours, a trip to Finland is planned for the summer of 2023. You can go for 8 days (July 30-August 6) or 12 days (July 20—August 9). Plan to combine the DKG International Conference with this wonderful trip to see more of Finland. Several other members of DKG California have already signed up!! Join them!!

https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/Events/Go_Ahead_Tours_Trips/Finland_2023.aspx



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

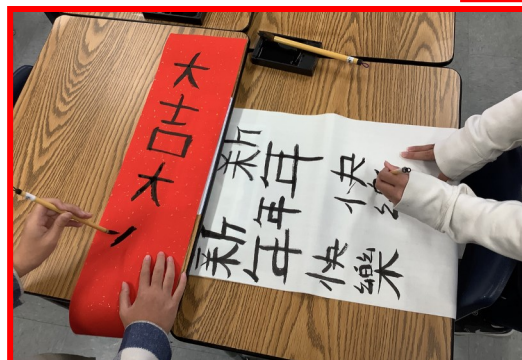
Marine Wei

Northrup Elementary, Alhambra USD 4th grade

Using the Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund mini grant, we were able to purchase red and yellow yarn, gold metallic tape, red cardstock, and red scrapbook paper for the firecrackers, red/white sumi paper and ink for calligraphy, strawberry lucky candy to put in the red envelopes, and red envelopes.

During the months of January and February, in preparation for, and during, the Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival festivities, the students of Ms. Wei, Mrs. Ortiz, and Mrs. Greep's 4th grade classes learned the traditions, stories, and backgrounds relating to that time of year. Students learned that the type of paper the Chinese used to write during ancient times were a type of paper called sumi and brushes made of goat fur. Students also learned the tradition and ancient story of the Nian monster and how red is the color that it is afraid of, which is why the Chinese post red calligraphy paper with blessing phrases. After practicing calligraphy, they wrote their own spring festival couplets to post around the classroom. In addition, the students created their own firecrackers that went with the Nian monster story.

Following, students also learned another story about the Sui monster, which scared children on New Year's Eve, and how a child scared it away with 8 copper coins. In relation to this story, students received their own red envelopes with school money in even amounts. They learned that 4 is an unlucky number and that usually lucky events were to be given even amounts in red envelopes, and at any events like funerals, the family were to be given odd amounts in white envelopes. In addition, for the Lantern Festival, students created their own lanterns and attached a riddle. Then students hung them around the classroom and went around guessing lantern riddles, an event children played during the Lantern Festival. The grant funds provided many materials, learning opportunities, and activities for students to engage in learning about the Lunar New Year.



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund Mini Grant—Thank you for Soft Start games!

I am a second grade teacher. My students experienced kindergarten via zoom due to Covid. Some of them decided to spend part or all of first grade distance learning as well. For so many of these children, social isolation caused them to struggle with their emotions and social interactions. Some students were more withdrawn, while others acted out. This made me realize that I needed to try something different to help my students. I thought that a soft start to the school day would give students a chance to “play” together in small groups. Students would be able to build bonds and work on social interactions.

I proposed using grant funds to purchase various games so students could interact with each other and get to know each other. Soft starts playing games would provide an opportunity for students to practice social skills like being respectful, taking turns, and asking for help when needed. I was able to purchase many games. A Google Form survey of my littles showed that some of their favorite games were “Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza”, “Buildzi”, “Smack It”, and “Crazy 8s”.

My students absolutely love Soft starts. In the survey they said, “I learned to play fairly with my friends”, “To play and not be lonely”, “Take time making friends”, “I learned that I could make new friends with boys and girls I don’t talk with”, and “don’t scream”. I believe that taking the time to play together has helped this group of students create a bond of caring and respect. They are more tolerant of each other and have become better friends and problem solvers. Thank you for the opportunity to try something new with my students. I truly appreciate it. Holly Elementary School Room 22 Second Grade thanks the Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund!

Marie Ushirogata-Lo
Second Grade Teacher
Holly Avenue Elementary
Arcadia Unified School District

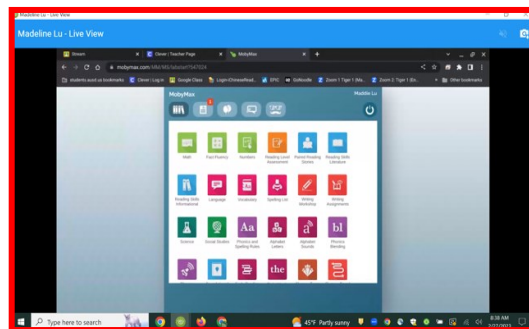
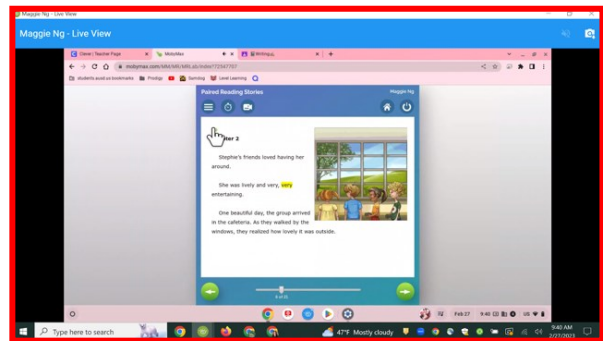
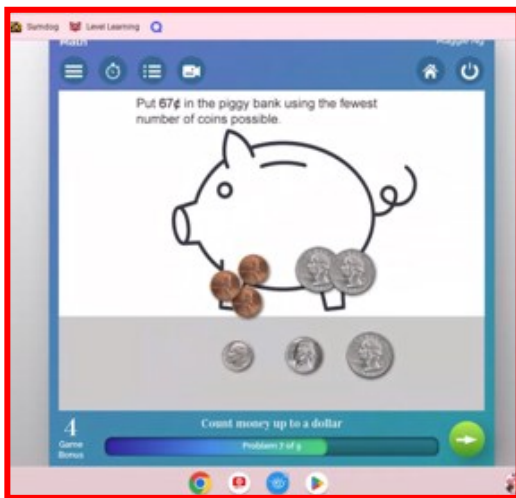


Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

With the Delta Kappa Gamma Society Grant funds a subscription to MobyMax learning website was purchased for the remainder of the school year. MobyMax is a useful tool for classroom and home assignments. It offers independent practice in a variety of subjects and includes engaging activities. The students like the daily fluency drill and enjoy collecting badges for their efforts in completing time. From the teacher's dashboard a list or real-time activity can be viewed showing which activity the students are currently viewing, how many minutes they have been working, and if any of that time was idle. This is very helpful for management in the classroom and also for providing feedback of the students' individual progress and study habits.

MobyMax helps struggling learners quickly catch up to grade level and closes learning gaps for all your students. I am currently working with small groups in the area of phonemic awareness and sound blending. Students can be assigned extra practice, as seen below, to master these skills independently. Many of the students in my class have increased their reading and math skills using this motivation resource. Thank you for the generous donation to our classroom.

Sonia Tovar, 3rd grade teacher, Alhambra Unified School District



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

In January 2023, Mrs. Ng, a third grade teacher at William Northrup Elementary, a Title 1 school in Alhambra Unified School District, received a \$500 grant from the Alpha Upsilon Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. The grant was used to purchase science kits from Lakeshore Learning to use in her classroom. She wanted to find a way to excite and engage her students while they learn NGSS science concepts.

In one of the hands-on science activity kits, Mrs. Ng's students explored force and motion concepts using several different rolling objects, ramps, and books. They worked in small groups to test which rolling object rolled the furthest and fastest, and recorded their data in the interactive force and motion Google slide deck. After they analyzed their data, they discussed possible reasons why one object rolled further or faster than other objects. They learned that when an object is round and smooth, it creates less friction, which allows it to roll further and faster.

Next, the students tested how the height of the ramp effects the distance and speed the rolling objects traveled. After running their experiment, collecting and analyzing their data, and discussing their results, they concluded that when the height of the ramp increases, the energy of the rolling object increases, allowing the objects to roll faster and further.

The students had a blast working with their group and were all fully engaged in their learning. They are excited and looking forward to the next science exploration!



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

My name is Kamerin Imperial and I am the School Counselor at Holly Avenue Elementary School in Arcadia Unified School District. During my years as a counselor I have noticed more and more of a need for emotion regulation skills in our children. This is especially true after the pandemic. Our students experienced traumatic events during the school closures, virtual learning and continue to experience trauma into our post pandemic world.

These traumatic experiences impact our students ability to successfully manage their emotions and therefore function in the classroom. We have seen many extreme behaviors that are linked directly with a student's inability to regulate their emotions. In trying to best meet the needs of our students, I have attended many training sessions and workshops in the area of trauma informed care, anxiety, emotion management, etc. One of the most fascinating things I came across was the idea of biofeedback.

Biofeedback is a technique that uses technology to monitor different body functions (heartbeat, pulse, etc.) and provides visual information that shows us how our bodies work when in an elevated state. It brings awareness to the body during different emotional states. The goal is to use deep breathing, positive thoughts, meditation, etc. to regulate our bodies. Our School Psychologist has already begun implementing a biofeedback device in her office and she has noticed success while using it with our students. Therefore, being granted the funds to purchase another biofeedback device has allowed us to meet more of our students' needs.

We began introducing our students to these devices when they are in a calm state and they are emotionally regulated. Then when they needed the tool in order to help themselves regulate, they were familiar with how to use it and were able to access it to help them regulate. We have noticed that it has tremendously helped our students to regulate their emotions within a few minutes. This has allowed them to rejoin their classroom more quickly.

We are so grateful to the Alpha Upsilon Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society for being awarded the Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund allowing us the opportunity to meet our students' needs in this particular way. Our staff and students have noticed an improvement in how quickly students are able to regulate their emotions. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity!



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Dear Alpha Upsilon,

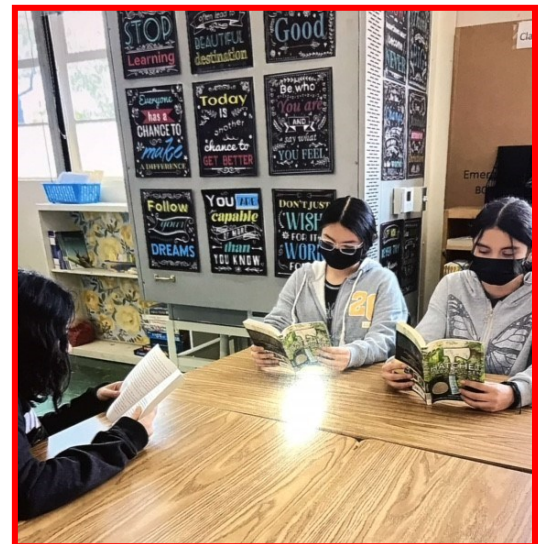
Thank you for accepting my proposal for new classroom books for our library and adding new teaching materials. I transferred to a middle school after teaching 17 years in elementary. I walked into an empty classroom. I am a Resource Specialist teacher for grades 6-7 and I provide services in a pull-out and push-in model. I bought some supplies just to open the classroom but the additional supplies you have provided are awesome.

The school I work at is a low socio-economic school. The new student library allows small reading groups to focus on comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. It also provides pleasure reading for the students since most do not have reading books at home. I bought baskets to organize the books in. Students do not have necessary school supplies. I have provided the students with folders to keep their work in, so they are not shoved in the bottom of their backpacks., pencil sharpeners are needed and are most convenient. The games I have purchased are an integral part of the learning process. It encourages students learning and builds social skills in taking turns, being alert, attentive, encourages teamwork, and critical thinking. The teacher material provided help build on concepts from learning loss. These children due to the pandemic are missing basic skills and the materials will have a positive impact to fill in the gaps needed. I am so appreciative of the materials provided. The kids were so happy when I was bringing them in. They helped organize the supplies and library. They now take ownership and are respectful toward the supplies.

Sincerely,

Linda Taylor

Mt. Gleason Middle School



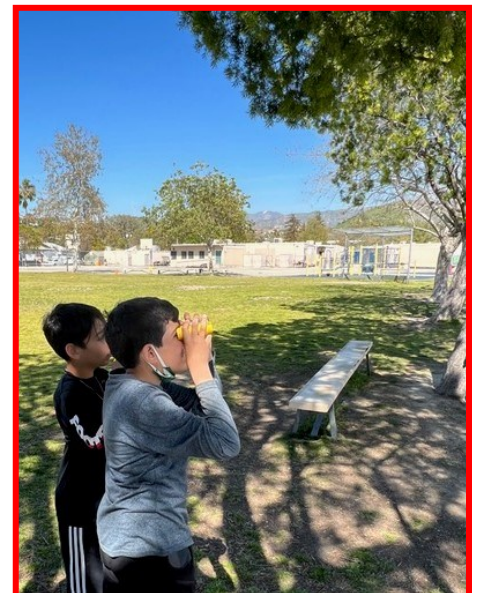
Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Rachel Salmon, 3/11/23, Article on Mini Grant

When I led Stonehurst Elementary STEAM Magnet's 4th graders on their first field trip since 2020, the last thing I expected was to end up with 41 avid bird watchers on my hands. However, that is exactly what happened on that transformative November day at the Audubon Center in Debs Park. We spent the day hiking through the chaparral, learning about the interdependence of the species around us. We peered through the Audubon Center's binoculars and shared quiet moments listening for bird calls. We learned how to identify birds and plants, and how to record our field observations to collect meaningful data.

After that fieldtrip, students were spending their recess time looking at the sky and trees, searching for birds, trying to identify the species they observed and record their data. In order to nurture this new passion, and to develop their fieldwork skills, I applied for the mini-grant to purchase binoculars the students could use during recess. We were able to purchase 15 Obuby kids' binoculars, which are durable enough to use at recess but also very high resolution. Stonehurst's two 4th grade classes take turns using the binoculars, looking for birds and recording which species and behavior they observe. I also purchased a bird guide students can use to help them identify and research the species they observe.

This project supports what they are learning in science class (NGSS Standard 4-LS1-1) and gives them an internally motivated experience of recording observations and data. On top of that, it is a recess activity that brings together students who often would not otherwise spend recess together, helping them grow socially and emotionally. It has been a huge success and the Stonehurst community is grateful to the Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund Committee for granting this unique opportunity to our students.



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Laura Part, Project article:

My project was to help my struggling readers to read better with new reading materials to boost their reading. With the mini grant, I was able to get Hooked on Phonics materials. My students have been using the Hooked on Phonics program daily on iPads after our regular small group time is over, I've been letting them stay extra 15-20 minutes to work on the reading program. My students have been improving their reading skills, and I've been able to exit 8 students out of my reading program so far.

With the rest of the grant money, I was able to get digital alphabet & phonics Boom cards and sight word Boom cards from Teachers Pay Teachers website. These Boom cards are awesome, because students can practice all levels of phonics skills, sight words, letters, and sounds on my chromebooks. There are letter recognition cards, beginning sounds, long vowel cards, from basic to advanced level phonics skills that students need to learn in order to become fluent readers.

I'm grateful for being able to provide these awesome resources to my struggling readers. They are showing growth, and compared to the students who haven't been able to join my program, they're doing so much better. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity. It not only helped my students to become better readers but made me a better teacher as well.

Valerio Street Elementary, LAUSD. K-2 Literacy intervention / Prevention Teacher



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

To the Beebe Nuetzman Grant Committee,

I wanted to thank you all for the generous funds used to bring Cricket into the LCHS 7/8 PE curriculum. With this money, we bought two full sets of cricket supplies, both for indoor play and outdoor. For those that are unfamiliar, cricket is a bat and ball game similar in some ways to baseball. Although it is very popular internationally, it's obscure and rarely played or even seen in the USA. The reason that I wanted to introduce it to our PE students is that I want our students to be more worldly and exposed to the activities and cultures of other places.

In the build up to this unit, we watched several videos and completed Edpuzzles on the rules and gameplay of cricket. I am one who picks up rules relatively fast but I have to admit that I had a really tough time learning cricket! When we were ready, we tried to play for so long but the rain thwarted our plans. Finally, yesterday, 3/15, we were able to play our first game indoors. The attached pictures will show you some of our attempts. I was aided by two students (brother and sister) who actually had experience playing cricket and the game went off great! There was a bit of a learning curve but eventually all the students were playing and doing well.

One of the things that I really appreciate about Cricket is that since it is new to everyone, the "playing field" is more level. I found that some students who don't normally excel in sports, did quite well since all students started at the same place in terms of skills. Some of the more athletically gifted students also struggled so I can say with confidence that everyone was challenged but had fun. Our 1st period class even went into extra innings with the final score being 14-13! The kids were hooting and hollering and having a great time, all in a game they learned 30 minutes prior. I am very appreciative of your group for providing us with the funds to make this experience possible. It was fun, a new challenge and a great way for us to pilot this to see if we want to make it permanent. Thanks again!

--Coach Luthey, LCHS 7/8 PE Teacher



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Hi Beebe Nuetzman Committee,

I want to start by saying thank you for choosing me as one of recipients of this grant. We (teachers) spend so much money out of own paycheck that having math medic as an assessment program has been a blessing. Not only for me but for teachers in the math department at my school (more on this below).

Second, I want to briefly explain why an assessment platform such as the math medic is necessary for teachers. We spent a lot of time planning as part of our profession. We create discovery lessons for students to truly understand math concepts, along with practice problems, and finally the assessment. The assessment piece has become a challenge due to applications such as photomath. The application takes a picture of a problem and shows the steps to solve the problem. While this is great to check answers while working on classwork, it does not help teachers during assessments. Students are quick to copy and not really understand the concepts because they rely on it so much. Due to this, our assessments have had to change (in a very good way). Instead of only giving students procedural problem in where they just solve for the answers, we assess their relational knowledge of the concepts. Students have to explain why the answer is and what it means. Creating these type of assessments takes a lot of time. Not to mention creating different versions or variations of the problems. Which is why the math medic platform is an awesome resource. The assessment questions they provide are not just procedural, they ask students to explain concepts. In addition, they have a button that if you click on it swaps the question (same level but different problem). The platform also provides different difficulty levels and types of questions (free-response and multiple choice). This makes creating assessments extremely easy and what used to take two hours (minimum) now takes about 20 minutes (including multiple versions).

This has helped me, my students, and my coworkers. I have saved so much time letting me focus on relational discovery activities for my students. My students get challenging questions that they cannot look online for the answer. They have to know the math in order to solve the problems given. My coworkers are also enjoying the resource. I've shared with them the resource and they get to use it whenever they pleased (not sure if this is allowed) but with the \$240 we are saving time and our energy is focused on other things (lesson planning and grading).

Again, thank you so much for this amazing resource. Cinthia Vega
Alhambra High School Math Teacher

