



Presidents' Message

Dear Alpha Upsilon Sisters,

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for a newer and richer experience." Eleanor Roosevelt

A delightful afternoon with a salad dinner for 27 attendees (including 5 grant recipients) was provided by Jan Tappan and her committee at the final meeting for 2022-2023. It was wonderful to see many of you trek out to West Covina for this event. Thank you! It was especially nice to see 47-year member, **Trisch Diaz**. **Ana Haskins** had an inspiration which showed what this new world of AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology could produce at a moment's notice. We were in awe. Thanks for enlightening us, **Ana**. We heard from each of the five recruitment grant recipients in attendance. They shared their aspirations to becoming a future teacher. Each thanked Alpha Upsilon for awarding them the BNEF Grants. They have expressed an interest in becoming collegiate members and will be encouraged to become members. We also welcome our four new members and hope they will become an integral part of Alpha Upsilon.

By now, we hope you have sent your membership dues (\$85) to **Rose Gant**, our treasurer, AND signed up on Sign-Up Genius to have chosen where you will actively participate in Alpha Upsilon's committees and donate to a one-time refreshment month.

The Executive Board will be meeting soon to prepare for the 2023-2024 activities. Your input for what you'd like from our meetings is welcome and encouraged. Judi Healey, our first vice president, will be working on the details.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Willy Crouse and Karen Gollhardt,
Co-Presidents

DKG Vision: Leading women educators impacting education worldwide.

A Few Articles in This Issue:

Planning for 2023-2024	2
Membership News	3
Covenant House	4
DKG California convention Pics!	5
DKG International Conferences	5
Making the Most of Summer	7
School on Wheels	11
Mini Grant Recipients Shares	12-19



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

DKG California
Educational, Professional,
Making an Impact



Now's Your Chance!! What are Your Program Ideas?

As ever, our goal has been to provide programs that support the Seven Purposes of DKG. Last year, we invited an author to help us gain insights on how we, as teachers, encourage writing. We expanded our knowledge of community with a speaker attuned to the area history regarding the Civil War and it's direct impact on our area. Again within our area, we expanded our knowledge of the future with a speaker involved in both JPL and the teaching of robotics, STEM, and the International Space Academy. In line with COVID, we heard from a principal adapting to the changing discipline needs of returning students. Within our own group, we shared appreciation of books at Pat's tea, and we honored our Grant in Aid recipients at Willy's enviable home.



Last year, in October, we learned more about our place in DKG history from our own Judy Kearns, Jean Chubb, and Norma Russell. This October, we are already penciled in to learn more about Schools on Wheels in October from Kathy Cockerill and Penny Schofflin.

So here's your chance, ladies: you know the Seven Purposes. I am in planning mode. (I do have one great idea last year from Mary Linda I'd like to pursue.) We are in this together. If you have either a person or even a vague idea, please let me know. Also, we did two extra events this year: one was a hike to Owen Brown's grave that tied in with a speaker, and the other was the Gamble House. If you have an idea for a program, and you can also suggest a field trip that will enhance this, please let me know.

Have You Paid Your 2023-2024 Dues??



Dues Reminder

Date to Remember: NOW!!!!

Please pay your dues to: Alpha Upsilon Chapter

**Amount: Active: \$85.00
Reserve: \$50.00**

Treasurer: Rose Gant, 911 Swiss Trails Rd., Duarte CA 91010

For: Professional honor as a key woman educator

_____ **(Your Name goes here!)**

Happy Birthday to....



June

- 2—Gale Caswell
- 6—Willy Crouse
- 11—Nancy Gunther
- 14—Debbie Bump
- 15—Connie Hanson
- 22—Judith Craemer
- 24—Pat Rabe

July

- 3—Mary Linda Vandavelde
- 4—Kathy Cockerill
- 30—Jill Waters

August

- 8—Mary Lou Rodearmel
- 16—Marcelyn Bible
- 22—Mary Lou Langedyke

Membership News



Well, another DKG year has come to a close. It's hard to believe we're looking forward to September! Wasn't it great to be able to gather in person all year?! I know I really enjoyed seeing each and every one of you every month.

As we look forward to our new year, we need to think of recruiting new members. Where can we look? Schools, obviously. Neighbors? Church? Other organizations? Our children and grandchildren's teachers and friends? Summer camps? Preschools? Our grant recipients? The possibilities are all around us. We should look at every woman we meet as a potential member!

My other area of concentration is retaining both continuing and new members. What can we do to make sure they come to meetings? For most of us, it's easy to attend, for others not so much. What can we do to help those members? I receive a blog from DKG and this month the topic was "Will Your Members Continue in Your Chapter?" It was filled with good ideas, most of which I think we already do. Here is the link and a few highlights:

<https://dkgsi.blogspot.com/2023/05/will-your-members-continue-in-your.html?fbclid=IwAR2tO6w2bJspUzIkYllqj7Oxi2Gs5KodzKt8iudY5dFSEMnHcb6vvalp5B4>

Welcome and get to know your members – greet new and long-time members
Programs – programs that appeal to both retired and working educators
Participation – provide a calendar of meeting dates
Meetings – change the meeting date and time to accommodate different schedules; provide childcare for younger members who have children

Have a great summer and see you in September

Marty Unger
Membership

Marty Unger
Second VP, Membership



Treasurer's Report



THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
DKG California State Organization



Treasurer's Report
Alpha Upsilon Chapter
June 1, 2023

BALANCE ON HAND: May 1, 2023

\$ 8,822.51

	Receipts/ Disbursements	Total receipts/ disbursements
RECEIPTS:		
Interest	\$.03	
Share certificate interest	\$ 9.18	
Total receipts for May		\$ 9.21 + 9.21
Total available		\$ 8,831.72
DISBURSEMENTS :		
Postage, cards: Karen Wilcoxon	\$ 26.43	
Gift card—Pat Kalish	50.00	
\$10 gift cards (11), postage	116.93	
Tables, chairs, flowers (tea) (Pat Kalish)	169.47	
Induction Materials (Marty Unger)	68.36	
Total disbursements for May	\$ 421.19	\$431.19 -431.19
BALANCE ON HAND: June 1, 2023		\$ 8,400.53

Covenant House Update



In May, Covenant House broke ground for the 35th Covenant House campus in Hayward, CA! This is a great step in furthering the mission to end youth homelessness in the state of California. The renovations at the Hollywood campus are nearly complete and additional projects will be announced soon.

Continue to save toiletry items as you travel. The donations they have received from us have been greatly needed and deeply appreciated. Thank you so much for remembering them!

Laura Strametz
Covenant House Liaison

2023 DKG California Convention was a Success!!



Co-President Willy Crouse represented Alpha Upsilon at the annual DKG California Convention in May. As you can see, she met old friends and made new ones! One of them, Ariel Yi, is a potential Collegiate Member! Job well done, Willy!!

Phoenix? Detroit? Finland? Which is Your Preference?



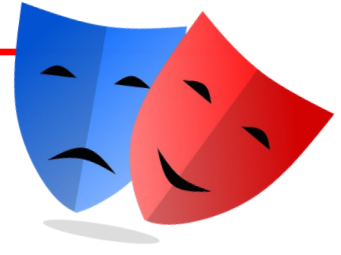
Members can attend one or all of the three DKG International Conferences. It is an amazing opportunity for personal and professional growth for each individual.

[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)

Take Advantage of The Arts Near Us!!



The season is winding down for most of our local theatres, but there are still some excellent shows to be seen. I hope that you were able (as Parry Compeau and I were) to see *The Book of Will* at A Noise Within. A gorgeous play, beautifully acted and brilliantly directed.

I highly recommend *A Transparent Musical* for an evening of fun and laughter paired with a serious look at Jewish and queer history.

Here are some shows that still get tickets available:

***A Transparent Musical*- At the Mark Taper Forum until June 25**

From the creators of the hit Amazon series comes a groundbreaking and timely new musical that's delightfully queer, unapologetically Jewish, and radically joyful.

Welcome to the JCC! Get ready for a remarkable theatrical experience with *A Transparent Musical*—an innovative and irresistible new musical based on the hit Amazon Prime original TV show by Joey Soloway. Follow Ali Pfefferman, brought to life by Only Murders in the Building's Adina Verson, as they navigate the ups and downs of self-discovery. Ali's Los Angeles Jewish family is filled with secrets, but when their parent, Maura, transitions to the transgender matriarch she always knew she was, the family is forced to confront their own identities and navigate their relationships with each other. Through a revelatory story of acceptance and self-expression, *A Transparent Musical* explores the intersection of Jewish and queer history while celebrating the imperfectly human aspects of a universally relatable family.

For more information: <https://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/mark-taper-forum/2021-2/a-transparent-musical/>

***A Soldier's Play* at the Ahmanson Theatre until June 25**

A Soldier's Play, the 1982 Pulitzer Prize-winning thriller by Charles Fuller, has rocketed back into the spotlight, thanks to this 2020 Tony Award®-winning Best Revival from Roundabout Theatre Company. "This is a play that deserves to be staged regularly all over America—though it's hard to imagine that it will ever be done better than this. It keeps you guessing all the way to the final curtain" (*The Wall Street Journal*).

In 1944, on a Louisiana Army base, two shots ring out. A Black sergeant is murdered and a series of interrogations triggers a gripping barrage of questions about sacrifice, service, and identity in America. Broadway's Norm Lewis leads a powerhouse cast in the show *Variety* calls "a knock-your-socks-off-drama," directed by Tony Award winner Kenny Leon.

For more information: <https://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/ahmanson-theatre/2022/a-soldiers-play/>

The Pasadena Playhouse Presents: Bernadette Peters In Concert June 9, 10, & 11. *Bernadette Peters*, Broadway's brightest star and Sondheim's most stunning muse, in an unforgettable evening of song from the Broadway shows she's received accolades for, as well as from all her Grammy Award winning and nominated albums. A glamorous evening as only Bernadette Peters can do.

For more information: <https://www.pasadenaplayhouse.org/event/bernadette-peters-in-concert/>

Gale Caswell, Visual/Performing Arts

Make the Most of Your Summer!!



Making the Most out of the Summer Season

Summer 2023 is just around the corner! Many are already filling their calendars, but if you find yourself with a free day, here are a few suggestions to make the most out of summer.

- Do a decluttering challenge. You can find many decluttering calendars on Pinterest that are free printables. Hang one up and have a clutter-free home come fall.

- Call an old friend to catch up or write a letter on actual stationery.
- Propagate existing plants. Use an online guide or a book to teach yourself how to multiply some of your favorite plants like lavender, spider plants, or tomatoes.
- Explore your closet. Come up with different ways to mix and match some of your favorite tried-and-true clothing items.
- Attend a book reading. Many favorite authors with recently released titles have book tours. Check them out to learn more about your favorite author and their newest masterpiece.
- Upcycle old finds into something fresh. Do you have furniture, art, frames, or other pieces of decor lying around that could use an upgrade? Now is a brilliant time to scavenge for cool found objects around your home and revamp them through DIY projects.

We hope you enjoy a summer filled with relaxation, renewal, and revitalization.

**Laura Castagnari and Dianah Greenlees,
Leadership & Personal Growth Committee**

Schools for Africa Update



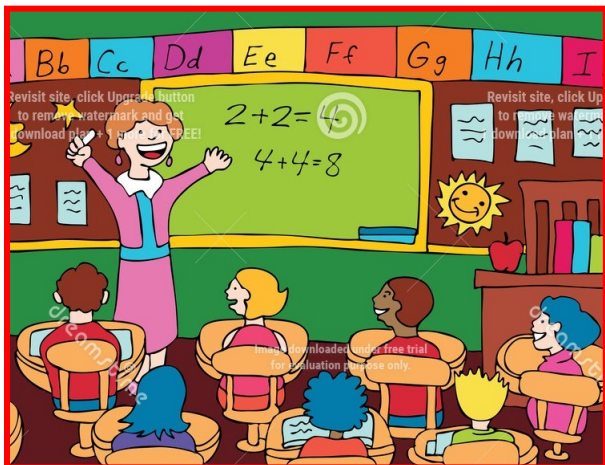
What an excellent response we have had in 2023 to Alpha Upsilon's re-started efforts to "purge" our collective purses! If you will remember, we are joining the long-standing endeavor by DKG International to partner with UNICEF (the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) to help children world-wide access quality education.

The May collection resulted in \$54.48 being collected. This brings our total for three meetings this year to \$179.94. Treasurer Rose Gant will send a check to UNICEF.

*Have a wonderful summer, and keep collecting those coins for our first meeting of the year in September!

Debbie Bump, Global Awareness Committee/SFA

STEP into THAT



Another school year is in the books! I am sure our eleven working educators are counting the days until they have the opportunity to have some well-deserved time to relax, recharge, refresh, and hopefully prepare for the year ahead. A recent article in **Education Week** stated teachers look forward to summer vacation as much as students. I believe it! Teaching has always been challenging, but Covid-19 has intensified the challenges faced by parents, students and teachers. The pandemic has had devastating and long-lasting effects on student learning. Educators have been

faced with unprecedented challenges in all areas, particularly in academics, mental health, discipline and behavior. Current research indicates that implementation of a wide variety of interventions and strategies, including summer school, individual and small group instruction and tutoring, extended school day, and after school programs, are all contributing to academic recovery. The need for THAT (Teachers Helping Another Teacher) assistance has never been greater. Some of the ways our members can (and do) assist our working professionals include:

- tutoring students who need extra support
- mentoring or providing help in study skills and goal setting
- small group and individual reading assistance
- enrichment activities – art, science, music, and educational games
- special needs support - implementing IEP goals
- field trip and special activities supervision
- grading, bulletin boards, preparation of materials
- providing special motivators for children and adults

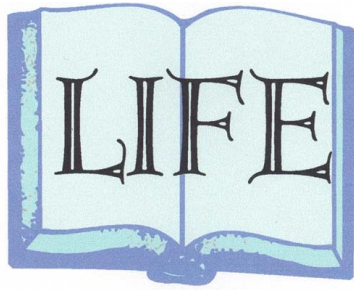
Some of our working educators have reached out to Alpha Upsilon members for assistance, and they have been happy to help. Over the summer, those who are working think of ways our members can support you. And I encourage those of us who have some extra time, to think of more ways to add to the above list. By supporting and empowering our teachers and counselors, we can provide interventions to ensure they are able to continue to inspire, guide, and nurture learners, help them to close the achievement gap, overcome the setbacks caused by the pandemic, and shape a brighter tomorrow for future generations.

This past year, the DKG California STEP (**S**upport **T**eam for **E**merging **P**rofessionals) Committee offered a monthly, free, one hour Zoom opportunity on a variety of relevant educational topics. These Tuesday Teacher Tips have included discussions about Inclusion for Neurodiverse Students, Mindfulness, Small Group Success, and other essential and timely topics. Mark your calendars for the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 6-7 pm. Plan to join some of these valuable presentations during the next school year.

Have a wonderful, relaxing, and rejuvenating summer!

Karen Wilcoxon
THAT/STEP Chair

LIFE



Thank you, Alpha Upsilon, for supporting LIFE this year with your book donations, book purchases and donations. We raised our \$200 goal and sent the donation to the LIFE foundation. Over the past years, it has been a pleasure to watch our Buck a Book program become a chapter institution. We have doubled our donation over the years and we are making a difference in Delta Kappa Gamma literacy projects thanks to your generosity and love of reading.

Harriet and I are pleased to let you know that you will see two new faces at the Buck a Book table in September - Carol Vargas and Joyce Hamden. Carol and Joyce will welcome your donations and "talk books with you" as you select something to take home to read.

It has been our pleasure to be your LIFE liaisons and book ladies for the past year. WE wish you all a summer filled with joy of reading, the warmth of family and friends, travels and new adventures. You have brought us joy, friendship and a few new authors to enjoy!

With our thanks and love,

Harriet Furuya
Mary Lou Langedyke,
LIFE Liaisons

Remembering May!

Thanks to Willy Crouse for hosting the May Salad Dinner and meeting. Congratulations to the recruitment grant recipients: Candice Bautista, Vanessa Cordova, Serena Manjur, Serena Orosco, Emily Rohrbaugh, and Zarazen Reyes.



Minutes: May 18, 2023

Alpha Upsilon Chapter
DKG International, California State Organization
Home of Willy Crouse

4: 35 p.m. Welcome by President Willy Crouse. Thank you to the refreshment committee: Jan Tappan, Betsy Bazdarich, Marcelyn Bible, Ardis Bunn, Judith Craemer, Judy Kearns & Norma Russel

-Inspiration: (Ana Haskins) Expressed gratitude for the teacher appreciation cards, emails, and gift card from Alpha Upsilon members. An inspiration composed by AI (Artificial Intelligence) in less than 30 seconds about DKG was shared by Ana.

-Purposes addressed in today's meeting: (Karen Gollhardt) #1: To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship and #5: To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study.

-Introduction of guests: Trisch Diaz, Reserve member, who has been a member of DKG for 47 years!

4:45 p.m. SALAD DINNER

5:25 p.m. Program: (Mary Linda Vandeveld) Introduced the 2023 recruitment grant recipients (3 were renewals). Candice (also a new collegiate member this year), Vanessa, Emily, Serena, Zarazen, and Serena. Each spoke about their studies and teaching aspirations.

Meeting:

1. April Minutes were approved.

2. Treasurer's report: As of May 1st, the balance was \$8,822. Dues of \$85 for 2023-2024 are due ASAP to Rose Gant (May 31st deadline).

3. Corresponding secretary's report: 22 members and 6 grant recipients are in attendance today. A thank you card was sent to Pat Kalish for the April tea. Get well wishes were sent to Judy Kearns and Betsy Bazdarich A thank you card was received from a chapter member for the Subway gift card for teacher appreciation. Congratulations from DKG California were received informing us that AU's award-winning newsletter was one of the top ten in the state!

4. Schools for Africa: Purging our Purses resulted in \$54.48.

5. California State Convention: Willy reported her goal for the coming year is to add younger new members to our chapter to sustain AU in the years to come. The convention speaker from Guatemala shared that, "We need to work on Maslow before Bloom." In other words, we need to understand the needs of members and get to know them.

6. Members are encouraged to use Sign-Up Genius to join committees. Especially in need of participation: Hillsides, Finance, Visual & Performing Arts.

7. Who's Who in AU: Clues were given by Karen G. about this member: born in the Netherlands, lived in Europe until the age of nine, traveled through Europe in a VW van with her husband, loves the outdoors (fishing & hiking), climbed Mt. Whitney, taught 38 years at Highland Oaks School in Arcadia. Did you guess Willy Crouse?!!

8. Closing & Announcements: Ideas for next year's programming (guest speakers, performances, outings, etc.) were solicited. The following were suggested during the meeting. The ideas will be given to Judi Healey, Program Chair. 6:02 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Bump, Recording Secretary



school on wheels

With summer fast approaching, we would like to take this time to remind you of our annual project with School on Wheels. This non-profit organization provides educational opportunities for homeless children. They survive solely through donations from individuals and organizations like ours.



Kathy Cockerill and Penny Schopflin will continue to co-chair this philanthropic project. Our contributions will help School on Wheels continue their incredible work of providing one on one tutoring to homeless children from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

It has been quite a year of wonderful in person meetings. We are proposing that once again this year we make **monetary** donations to School On Wheels. Funds are needed for technology, something that is always needed. We are hoping to have a School on Wheels representative talk at the October Meeting.

We received this message from Executive Director Charles Evans indicating what is currently needed:

Hi Kathy,

It is great to hear from you. I hope all is well. We are still giving out devices such as tablets and Chromebooks, so accessories such as headphones or earbuds would be great. We could use monetary funds to purchase devices, but gift cards such as Amazon and Target are greatly appreciated. Let me know if you have questions.

Charles Evans
Executive Director

*Money will be collected in the fall at the **OCTOBER** meeting.

*This year's goal is **\$1000**

***Checks** should be made payable to **School On Wheels** (it is a 501 c 3 organization so contributions are tax deductible)

***Gift Cards with** attached **Activation Receipts** are welcomed

* A reminder will be sent in the fall.

*If you cannot make the **OCTOBER** meeting in the Fall, send your checks/gift cards to Kathy by the **END** of September.

*Kathy Cockerill,
3408 Markridge Rd.
La Crescenta, CA 91214*

Thank you for your generosity and caring. If you have any questions, please contact:

School on Wheels Co-Chairs:

Kathy Cockerill katsltr74@aol.com

Penny Schopflin schopflin@aol.com



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Christina Carmona, Mark Keppel High School

Alhambra USD, Grade 9, Honors English

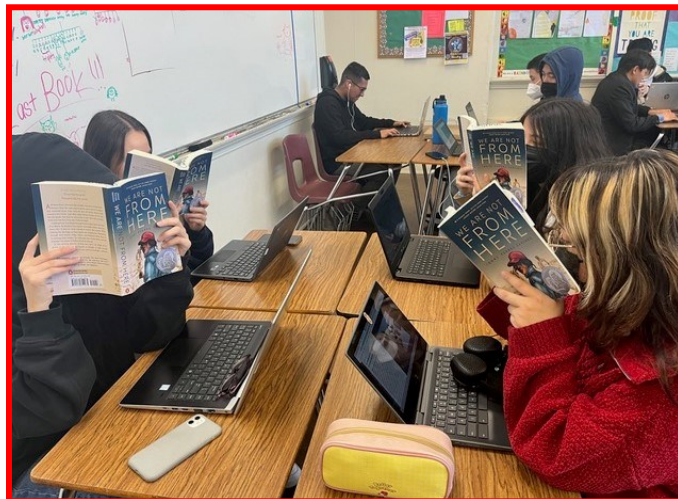
2022 Mini Grant Recipient

My students have absolutely loved the book "We Are Not From Here" by Jenny Torres Sanchez and we are all so appreciative that we could read and discuss this book thanks to the grant. Students have made connections to historical trials and tribulations of past immigrant groups such as the Asian Exclusion Act, the Patriot Act and the rejection of Jewish refugees during World War II. Many students wrote about their own family's experience of immigrating to the US and highlighted the feelings of desperation and hope the characters in the book also demonstrate. Students also examined the American dream as a construct and evaluated whether it still held up in current times. Moreover, the recent news of the migrants who died in the fire at the detention center in Mexico really brought the plight of the characters as human beings to the forefront of current events. Below are some quotes directly from student written work that showcase their interaction with the text.

"The generations before became anxious and with a heightened fight-flight response in fear of dying. The psychological effect began to torment them enough even on a genotype level. Overtime, their children have become desensitized to these horrors and threats. This is especially relevant when the main trio runs for a train to La Bestia. They are shown to rely purely on survival instincts after encountering people getting murdered, kidnapped, and taken advantage of. In a way, they are trying to break free of this trauma by escaping to a safer environment."

"This could potentially be a foreshadow that tells the reader the family will suffer a gruesome fate while the protagonists escape. For the readers, their dreams and the character's interpretation of the dreams build suspense and generate a cliff-hanger for the readers. Their dreams keep the story going and excites the reader to continue reading."

*I do believe in the American Dream. However, I think it may mean something different depending on who you ask. Among immigrants, I think the most common interpretation of the American Dream is coming to the US for a better life and future. People believe they'll have more opportunities if they come to the US. If they come to the US, they'll have more employment and educational opportunities. Obviously, this doesn't mean the US is the "best country", but the US seems to be the country more immigrants lean towards."



Second-Third Grade Science

Science education is a crucial component to empower students with critical thinking skills, fosters curiosity, and promotes a deeper understanding of the world around us. As a second-third grade teacher, I am passionate about providing my students with engaging and hands-on learning experiences that align with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) to help them develop a love for science. To further enhance the quality of my science lessons, I am constantly searching for activities that will provide students with opportunities to engage in inquiry-based learning and strengthen their understanding of science concepts. My biggest challenge is spending the time to purchase supplies and maintain an organized storage space for all the activities for two grade levels. Since I teach dual-immersion Mandarin classes, I also have to translate all the lessons, worksheets, and assessments into Mandarin. Needless to say it has become very costly to provide such experiences. I am so appreciative for this generous grant to fund one-year worth of science kits. All of my students have fair access to participate in, investigate, interact, and observe hands-on learning experiences.

With this grant, I purchased 3rd grade “Mystery Supply” kits from Mystery Science (<https://mysteryscience.com/>) which my students enjoy a lot. Each Mystery Science units contains academic vocabulary within mini lessons that build on the previous. The Mystery Science kits enable students to actively engage with science concepts and learn through guided questions that promote critical thinking. Furthermore, the activities are safe to students. While they develop ownership to their work and connect the concepts to the experiments, students often find there is no one right answer or one correct way to solve problems. And they learn collaboratively to respect others as they acquire academic knowledge.

Additionally, I have observed besides the science and social-emotional skills acquired, my students have improved fine-motor skills that were not practiced during online/distance learning during the pandemic. Some students also learned to incorporate the skills to arts and crafts.

Attached are some photos of my students engaged in science activities. Thank you so much for your generous support and the difference you’ve made!

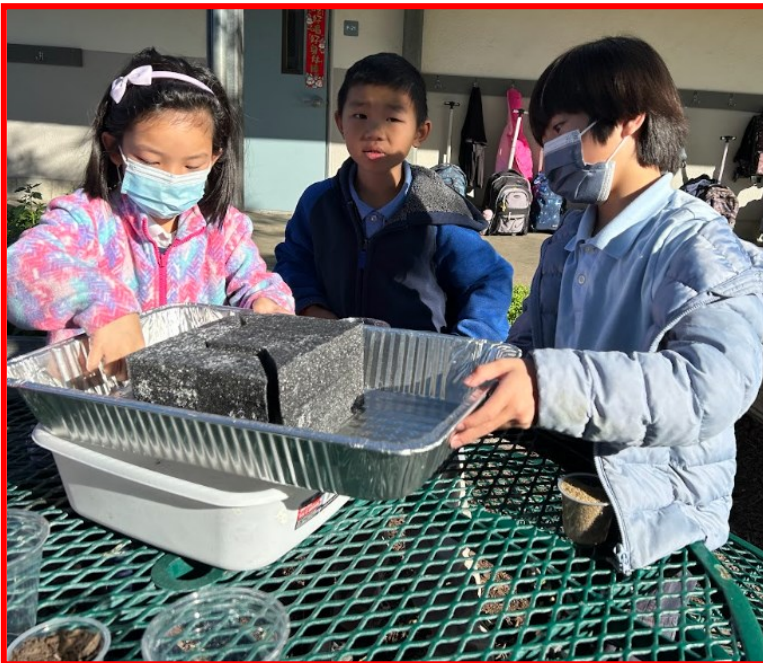
Vikki Chien
Northrup Elementary, Alhambra USD

Mini Grant Recipient Shares!



MS. CHIEN'S CLASS

MYSTERY SCIENCE



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

For the past 10 or more years, at Northrup Elementary School in Alhambra, the fourth grade teachers have put on a program called California Days. It is one very full day based around the California History teachings of fourth grade. We originally put it into play when field trips became a little too expensive. To give the students a similar experience, we brought what we considered a living field trip to Northrup School.

Students start out the day by creating a Boomtown name for their group. Each student in that boom town wears the same color bandanna. This allows teachers as well as students to know which group they are with and where they should be. They follow a schedule going from one period of time to another partaking in a variety of different activities. The students make corn husk dolls and weave paper cloth similar to the way the Native Americans did in early California. Since California was part of the mission program through Spain, we include two activities having to do with the mission. One activity is creating a replica stained glass window of a mission.

Our newest activity is making small adobe bricks which were used to build the missions. Another period of time covered in California history is the Rancho Period. Ranchos took over after the mission period, so in this station, students make homemade tortillas and butter from scratch. As newcomers moved across the United States to California, pioneers took their covered wagons to get farmland or to stake a claim for gold. They had to travel across very rugged terrain in covered wagons. This station makes covered wagons and creates candles. In the Gold Rush period students pans for gold and strike it rich with gold BB's. Students love all these activities and feel like they are part of the past when doing them.

We very much appreciate the Delta Kappa Gamma Grant for supporting our California Days by helping us purchase bandanas to distinguish different Boom towns, kiddie pools, plastic gold pans and gold BB's for our Gold Rush Period, candle wax and wicks to make candles for Pioneer Period and Adobe brick kits for making Adobe bricks.

Lynn Nevin-Greep

Northrup Elementary, Alhambra USD



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

****NOTE:** Rania didn't send pictures but there is a link to student work as a result of Rania's attendance at a conference on teaching. She was able to attend this valuable session, thanks to the BNEF Grant.

Improving Learning Outcomes: Science (6-12) Seminar Improving Learning Outcomes: Science Seminar provided a wealth of information about incorporating best practices in middle school science. Educators came to a consensus that gathering evidence, making inferences, and forming conclusions are life skills and not just in science.

In the beginning of a lesson, show a phenomenon. I have broken down the components of how to scaffold a unit:

1. Gather student observations (what do you notice?) and just not answering the why.
2. Next, have students draw models about the concept at hand.
 - Students share models: explain your model, ask clarifying questions, look for similarities and differences, justify with evidence -Discuss as a class -Store the models to refer back to later.
3. Brainstorm and prioritize questions (use Padlet to organize the questions)
4. Review cross-cutting concepts (i.e.cause and effect)
5. Use CER (claim, evidence, and reasoning), background on the scientific concept (video, reading, etc.). Students used this model in the lab documentation below.
6. 5 E's: Engage (ask questions), Explore (lab, phet-virtual lab), Explain (video, text to read), Elaborate (CER or research project), Evaluate (summative assessment)
7. Use formative assessment like Innerorbit and [Wonder of Science](#) to monitor student progress.
8. Being provided with a wide tool belt gives students and educators the flexibility to access the curriculum. After the pandemic, we are more in need of these resources. I am grateful for this grant because of the opportunity to discover these wonderful resources for my students.

[Lab of student work](#) on genetics

Rania Ibrahim
6-7 Integrated Science
Dana Middle School
Arcadia USD

Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

U.S. History City Design STEAM Project

Objective: As part of the California History Social Science State Standards, students will analyze the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced, with emphasis on the Northeast, specifically in regards to the human modification of the landscape and how physical geography shaped human actions (e.g., growth of cities, deforestation, farming, mineral extraction).

The Project.

Students first learned how cities grew in the mid 1800s due to labor changes associated with the Industrial Revolution. The students read about the creation of the first factories such as the Lowell Mills. They also studied the influx of new immigrant groups, especially the Irish, and how they gravitated towards big cities like New York and Boston.

After learning about how cities developed, students were placed in groups to plan and design their own cities, taking into account the diverse needs of a city and its people. The students began by completing a Land Use Plan. The Land Use Plan asked the students questions to consider for the use of the land before they began their design. Students needed to consider topics such as housing, transportation, commercial centers, ideal physical geographic elements, entertainment, education, health & safety, and waste & energy. Students researched, discussed, and came up with answers for all these areas. Once the students had figured out how they wanted to use the land, they moved on to their blueprints.

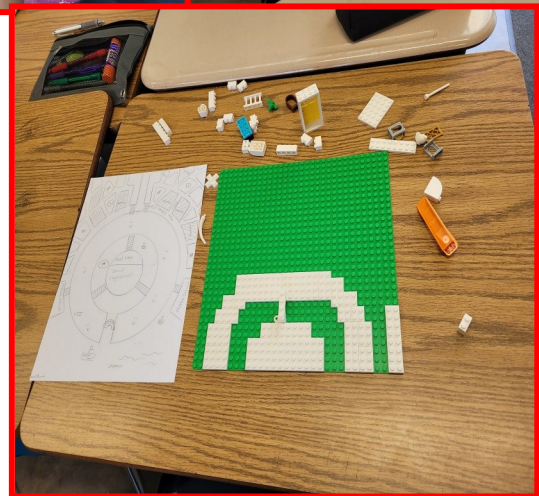
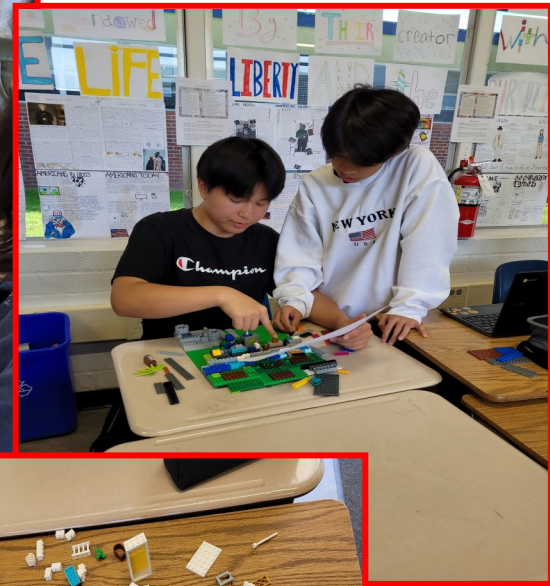
Each group was required to create a drawing or blueprint for their city. The blueprints needed to include details such as where the commercial and residential centers would be located, where the police, fire, and hospitals would be located, etc. The blueprints also include what type of transportation would be used and how it would connect the city. Students were also asked to show where entertainment venues and green spaces would be located. The blueprint served as their guide once they began their build.

Finally, once the Land Use Plan and Blueprint were complete, the groups were given a blank green lego board base upon which to build their cities. The students had fun finding all sorts of colorful bricks to bring their city designs to life. Not only did the students build their cities, they built mountains, rivers, beaches, parks, and waterways. Some students kept their builds small, using single bricks to represent buildings, while others built on a grander scale and tried to make each school or firehouse distinct and recognizable. The students incorporated roads, bike lanes, or canals as well.

Overall, the project was a huge success. Every student, even my most reticent students became engaged in the project. Students were able to bring forth their creative side, while also learning about what goes into urban planning and development. I will be doing this project again next year for sure!

Jennifer O'Brien
Dana Middle School, Arcadia USD

Mini Grant Recipient Shares!



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Pam Weissnar, Lorne Elementary, grades 2/3, LAUSD

Hello, I'm a teacher at Lorne Street Elementary, and I teach a combination class with 10 second graders and 12 third grade students. My name is Pamela Weissnar. My activity proposal was to receive quality headsets. My students were using earbuds that would break easily, and I needed something more substantial for them to use. With the nature of my split, I have students working in small groups throughout the day. They depend on these headsets in order to access the curriculum and allow the small group working with me to have minimal distractions.

With this grant I was able to purchase a class set of 25 headsets, one for each student. I also received sticker labels so students would know which headsets to use. I purchased two racks to hang the headsets, and plastic bags to keep them organized. I was very fortunate to find a way to keep the headsets organized, so I can use this for my future students.

I'm so grateful to receive this generous donation. In a combination class it's essential to have working headsets. Students access a lot of differentiated activities on their computer and they often need to listen to instructions or online books. It can be quite disruptive when all students are listening to different tasks, especially when one group is working with me, and need to hear my instructions. Therefore, it has been a much better experience for my students to have sturdy headsets to reduce noise and help all students thrive and focus.

