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Karen Gollhardt
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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

Dear Alpha Upsilon Sisters,

"Sunsets are proof that endings can be beautiful."

Another year for the history books of Alpha Upsilon comes to an end at the next meeting on Thursday, May 18th.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces at the Friendship Tea. A big thank you to **Pat Kalish** for hosting it at her home. Four new members were presented and inducted into Alpha Upsilon in a lovely ceremony by **Marty Unger**, membership chair. We welcome you! Thanks again to **Sue Fuelling** and her committee who vetted applicants for the Recruitment Grants. We will be meeting some of them soon.

Our final meeting is Thursday, May 18th, at **Willy Crouse's** home. Please adventure east to West Covina; think of it as a field trip! Salad dinner will be served as we meet our grant recipients.

We'd like to honor our working teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1st - 5th. We know how hard you work!! The 'school year' will be coming to an end later this month or early June.

Remember to send **Rose Gant** your membership dues for 2023-2024 ASAP. Also, don't forget to add your name to the SignupGenius **BEFORE** May 15th. We are very appreciative of your voluntary participation in Alpha Upsilon.

The Executive Board will be meeting over the summer to plan for next year's meetings. All ideas for next year's meetings are welcome, so share your thoughts because we want to make the meetings enjoyable so everyone will want to attend. Please consider hosting one meeting in your home! If you need seating, we can bring our own folding chairs!

Remember to RSVP for the May meeting to Karen Wilcoxon ASAP, wilkare101@aol.com

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

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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**

Final Meeting of the Year



DATE: Thursday, May 18, 2023

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

PLACE: Home of Willy Crouse
3035 E. Cortez
West Covina

PROGRAM: Meet the 2023 Grant Recipients!
Enjoy Willy's beautiful gardens!
Share an end of the DKG Year meal with other members!

Perfect way to end our strong year! Those of us on the board know what a great treat it is to be at Willy's house. The expanse...the decor...the reflection of Willy and her husband's lives (that includes his cars and her great taste)make it an inviting place to be. A celebration not to be missed!

RSVP TO KAREN WILCOXEN—WILKARE101@AOL.COM

Recruitment Grants/Jared Bags



Recruitment Grants: As reported and voted upon at the April meeting, grants are being awarded to all eight applicants. The awardees are as follows:

The Alice Kenison recipient is Elizabeth Alfaro. She will be awarded \$4,500. Elizabeth is currently a student at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

The three recurring recipients are Candice Bautista (Cal State Northridge), Serena Manjur (Cal Poly Pomona), and Zarazen Reyes (Cal State Northridge). Each will receive \$3,500.

Additional recipients are Emily Rohrbaugh from Cal State Dominguez Hills (\$3,400), Vanessa Cordova from Cal State Northridge (\$3,300), Serena Orosco from Cal Poly Pomona (\$3,300), and Nandani Sinha who is seeking a credential to teach at California School of the Arts (\$1,000).

Thanks to all who served on the Recruitment Grant Committee and conducted interviews: Mary Linda Vandavelde, Betsy Bazarich, Judie Bakly, and Pat Kalish.

We look forward to meeting all recipients who are able to attend the May meeting.

Sue Fuelling, Recruitment Grant Chair

Happy Birthday to....



May

- 9—Rose Gant
- 18—Paige Salardino
- 19—Ardis Bunn
- 20—Robin Williams
- 25—Dorie Canavan

A Special Thank You—

Judi Healey can't be with us at the last meeting. She will be traveling to Ohio for the services for her father there. But she sends the following message:



"Thank the many DKG friends who sent not just cards but also heartfelt, carefully composed notes. I am a bit overwhelmed by the outpouring."

Schools for Africa Update



Thank you for the generous "purging" of purses at our Literary Tea on April 12th. \$75.96 was collected, which added to our February amount, means we now have \$125.46! There will be one more opportunity at the last meeting of the year on May 18th, to add to the amount we send this year to UNICEF's Schools for Africa. Come prepared to **PURGE YOUR PURSE!** Your actions do change the world!

Debbie Bump. Global Awareness Committee/SFA Chair

Membership News



Wasn't April amazing? Our annual Friendship tea was filled with our members who have become our good friends and we inducted four new members into Alpha Upsilon!

Welcome to Candice Bautista who is now a full member instead of collegiate, Lina Khosrovian, Paige Salardino and Linda White. The ceremony was filled with our

traditions and was meaningful to all of us as we not only welcomed our new members but also reflected on our own inductions and time of membership.

We also celebrated Judy Kearns for forty-five (45) and Rose Gant for fifteen (15) years of membership. Five-year members are Liliana Castillo, Sue Fuelling, and Marty Unger. WOW, that's a lot of dedication to our organization! Because of the pandemic and all the uncertainty it created, we were finally able to acknowledge Ana Haskins (15 years/2022) and Nancy Gunther (25 years/2021) in person.

It was wonderful to have three guests at the Tea along with our forty (40) members. What a wonderful time to introduce them to DKG!

I won't be at our final meeting in May, and I am sorry I won't be able to enjoy an outstanding meeting as we introduce this year's grant and scholarship recipients. I know it will be a time of great fun and GREAT food! But as our year winds down, I ask you to think of who we will invite to future meetings with the goal of increasing our membership and inducting more new members in 2023/2024.

See you soon!

Marty Unger
Second VP, Membership



Treasurer's Report



THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
DKG California State Organization



Treasurer's Report
Alpha Upsilon Chapter
April 1, 2023

BALANCE ON HAND: March 1, 2023			\$ 6,284.53
		Receipts/ disbursements	Total receipts/ disbursements
RECEIPTS			
Transfer from Grants/Scholarship Fund	\$3,000.00		
Interest	\$.03		
Share certificate interest	\$ 9.15		
Total receipts for March			+ 3,009.018
Total available			\$ 9,293.71
DISBURSEMENTS			
Total disbursements for March			0.0
BALANCE ON HAND: April 1, 2023			\$ 9,293.71

Covenant House Update



Jared/Activity Bags:

Carol Vargas and I delivered 30 Jared/Activity Bags, along with extras, provided by Ana Haskins, to Ronald McDonald House in Pasadena on April 21st. The staff was very grateful for the donation!



Thanks to all who participated!

Sue Fuelling, Jared Box/Bag Chair

REGISTER 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

YOU CAN STILL REGISTER for this annual event! REMEMBER Alpha Upsilon will pay for your registration (including convention meals) and your lodging. All late fees have been removed!

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)

Thank you, Pat Kalish, for Another Innovative Tea!!



Tips to Sleep Better at Night



Many factors can interfere with a good night's sleep — from work stress and family responsibilities to illnesses. It's no wonder quality sleep is sometimes elusive. A good night's sleep is just as important as regular exercise and a healthy diet. Research shows poor sleep has immediate negative effects on your hormones, exercise performance, and brain function. It can also cause weight gain and increase disease risk in both adults and children. In contrast, good sleep can help you eat less, exercise better, and be healthier. Some evidence-based tips to sleep better at night include:

Increase bright light exposure during the day. Your body has a natural time-keeping clock known as your circadian rhythm. It affects your brain, body, and hormones, helping you stay awake and telling your body when it's time to sleep. A study in older adults found that 2 hours of bright light exposure during the day increased the amount of sleep by 2 hours and sleep efficiency by 80%.

Reduce irregular or long daytime naps. Long daytime naps may impair sleep quality. If you have trouble sleeping at night, stop napping or shorten your naps.

Try to sleep and wake at consistent times. Try to get into a regular sleep/wake cycle — especially on the weekends. If possible, try to wake up naturally at a similar time every day.

Relax and clear your mind in the evening. Many people have a pre-sleep routine that helps them relax. Relaxation techniques before bed have been shown to improve sleep quality and are another common technique used to treat insomnia. Strategies include listening to relaxing music, reading a book, taking a hot bath, meditating, deep breathing, and visualization.

A relaxing bath or shower is another popular way to sleep better. If you don't want to take a full bath at night, simply bathing your feet in hot water can help you relax and improve sleep.

Rule out a sleep disorder. An underlying health condition may be the cause of your sleep problems. One common issue is sleep apnea, which causes inconsistent and interrupted breathing. If you've always struggled with sleep, it may be wise to consult your healthcare provider.

Exercise regularly — but not before bed. Exercise is one of the best science-backed ways to improve your sleep and health. It can enhance all aspects of sleep and has been used to reduce symptoms of insomnia. One study in older adults determined that exercise nearly halved the amount of time it took to fall asleep and provided 41 more minutes of sleep at night. Although daily exercise is key for a good night's sleep, performing it too late in the day may cause sleep problems. Sleep plays a key role in your health. One large review linked insufficient sleep to an increased risk of obesity by 89% in children and 55% in adults. Other studies conclude that getting less than 7–8 hours per night increases your risk of developing heart disease and type 2 diabetes. If you're interested in optimal health and well-being, it's recommended that you make sleep a top priority.

Laura Castagnari and Dianah Greenlees, Leadership & Personal Growth Committee

Minutes: April 12, 2023

Alpha Upsilon Chapter
DKG International, California State Organization
Home of Pat Kalish

4:23 pm Welcome to the tea by Willy Crouse, Co--President.

5:03 pm Meeting called to order. THANK YOU to hostess, Pat Kalish and refreshment committee for the tea (Susie Vernand, Willy Crouse, Kim Frank, Karen Gollhardt, Houry Mandjikian, Christine Werner, & Pat). Celebrated Pat's birthday in song, flowers, gift certificate, and teacup on a pole gift.

Inspiration: Ana read a poem by Jack Prelutsky. Keep sharing the love of books with young people!

Purpose: Karen G. spotlighted Purpose #1: to unite women educators of the world in genuine spiritual fellowship.

Guests: Three guests were introduced: McKenzie, Taylor, and Desiree.

1. No correction to February minutes.

2. Treasurer's report: Dianah Greenlees reported for Rose Gant. Total available last month was \$9, 293.71. Dues of \$85 are due now.

3. Correspondence: Karen Wilcoxon sent four condolence cards. Members in attendance today is 40.

4. Schools for Africa: \$75.96 was purged from purses today and collected by Debbie Bump.

5. Jared Bags were collected by Sue Fuelling and Carol Vargas.

6. Recruitment Grants: Sue Fuelling reported on the 2023 recruitment grant recipients. All were voted on and approved.

7. Sign-up Genius: Reminder to sign up for committees and refreshments. If you will no longer be chairing a committee, return the Red folder to Karen Gollhardt by the next meeting.

8. Induction Ceremony of new members by Marty Unger and her committee. A certificate of membership and a rose were given to the new members: Candice, Leena, Paige, Linda.

-Service pins were distributed: 5 years (Sue Fuelling, Liana Castillo, Marty Unger), 15 years (Rose Gant, Anna Haskins, Mandy Redfern), 25 years (Nancy Gunther), 45 years (Judy Kearns)

9. Who's Who in AU? Karen G. gave clues about this member: a San Jose State University art major, who did interior design, enjoys listening to show tunes & 50-60's music, has been a spectator at many of her grandsons' water polo games, taught 7-8th grade art at Toll School in Glendale for 20 years... It's Judy Bakly!

10. Announcements:

-Willy is attending the DKG convention in San Francisco and welcomes any member to join her (May 5-7, 2023).

- \$85 for dues should be mailed to Rose by May 15th for the 2023-2024 year.

-Next and last meeting of the year (dinner and recognition of grant recipients) is at Willy's home on Thursday, May 18, 2023. You are welcome to arrive early by 3 p.m. and park in the driveway headed out to the street.

5:55 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.

Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Upsilon Chapter,

Thank you for the grant to enrich our new ukulele class at Foothills Middle School. The grant was received in time for our second semester intermediate course. A Lanikai tenor ukulele was purchased with electronic pickup so it can be used with our amplifier to outdoors and for large groups indoors. Students have been playing this ukulele to lead the class for warm-up exercises each day and practicing for mini performances in class, for the office staff, and in the campus quad. We will be performing at Open House this year in April.

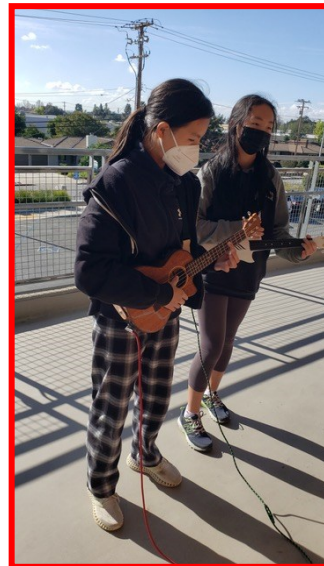
Students are now enjoying the use of the Lanikai ukulele for fingerstyle and picking songs, which is another skill level above strumming in the background. They are getting chances to be the soloist playing the melody in the songs. The pickup allows the students opportunities for leadership with leading warm-ups each day. Our young uke players have all commented on the better quality of sound and feel of the Lanikai tenor. This means they are now seasoned players and can tell the difference in using a quality product. I attached a few photos and videos of their current work.

A pack of Low G string replacement was also purchased but I have not had the chance to replace the string yet due to the set up on the ukulele. I hope to have the current High G string replaced with the Low G soon. We are working on using the maintenance polish to keep the fret boards from cracking and keeping it clean to produce the best quality sound for our set of ukuleles.

I look forward to grow our Foothills student ukulele community in the next few years. Thank you for giving us the chance to make it happen.

Sincerely,

Grace Chang and Ukulele students
Foothills Middle School, Arcadia USD
6th Grade Math, Science, PE
Ukulele grades 7-8



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Dana Erlich: Lorne Street Elementary, LAUSD, 2nd grade

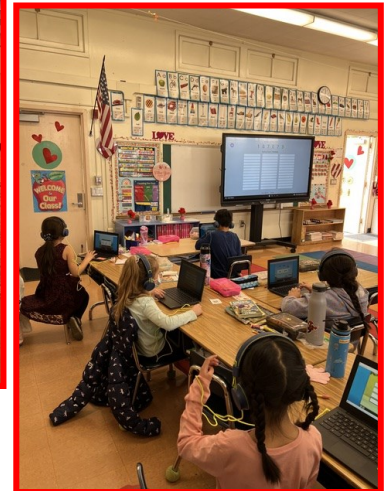
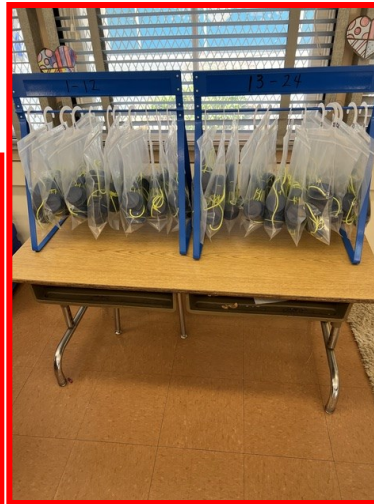
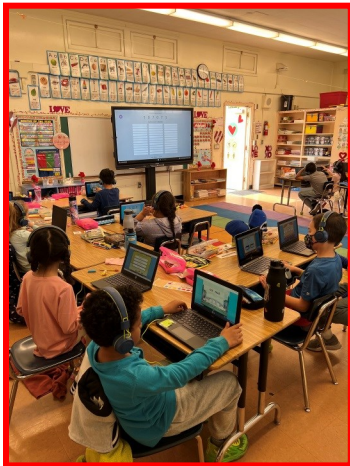
April 5, 2023

My students in second grade have Chromebooks. We use them daily for various programs, such as Zearn Math, Brain-Pop, and Lexia Reading. As the programs have sounds to them or the students have to listen to someone talking, and with over 20 students in the class, the students are required to wear headphones to be able to concentrate on the program. However, many students did not have their own headphones. The school provided us with ear buds, which were easily broken.

Therefore, by purchasing new headphones from your generous endowment, the students are able to use reliable new headphones that help them focus on the program and hear what is being said without any extraneous noises. The headphones are adjustable for different head sizes, and are easy to use with the Chromebooks.

In addition, the headphones were being placed in individual “Ziploc-style” bags to keep them separated and in good condition so they would not break. However, there was no room to store them. Therefore, I also purchased 2 holders with bags that hook on (each one holds 12) to easily store the headphones. Students know how to carefully put the headphones in the bags and hang them up to prevent breakage.

Students love their new headphones and are being very responsible with them. I will be using them again with my future classes. Please see the pictures attached. Thank you for your generous contribution.



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Description of Project

The project proposal was to create a Photo studio working space for the photography classroom. Students can see what a professional shoot what look like and learn how to set it up. They were able to play with professional lighting equipment and backdrops to enhance their photography experience and knowledge. They got the opportunity to exercise their skills they have learned with the camera. This project supplies such as backdrops and studio lighting setups where purchased. The activity included students setting up lights and experimenting with different backgrounds/ Backdrops for their photos. Current projects images were used for where Album covers and headshots.

Benefits of Project

Backdrop and lighting will be available for continued use

Students get to experience what it's like to work in a real photography studio environment

More control of lighting on subjects Expanded experience and knowledge of photoshoots

Increased engagement

Classroom environment enhanced

Annette Fierro, Arcadia High School, Arcadia USD



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Wendi Kruger

Baldwin Stocker School, Arcadia USD

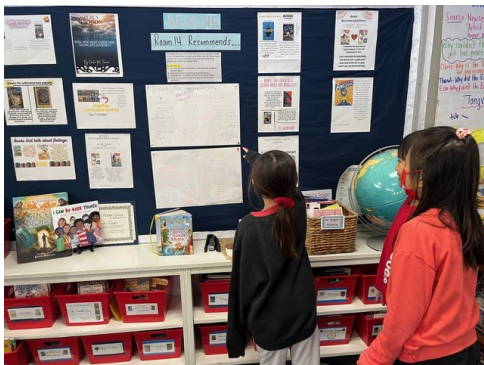
Grade 3

Classroom Library Project

Thank you so much to the Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund for supporting my classroom library project. My goal was to bring diverse literature into the hands of my third grade students. Upon receiving the grant, I was able to purchase a wealth of new titles and authors to my classroom library. Some of these multicultural series such as Jasmin Togouchi and Mindy Kim, connected students to characters they read. One particular student was jumping with joy when she picked up the book, *The World's Loneliest Elephant*, by Ralph Fletcher since there was a connection to her Sri Lankan heritage. It was quite special to see how my students were uplifted from the books they were reading in our classroom.

We recently completed a character study where students worked in reading partnerships to explore themes and important lessons in the books they explored. In this reading study, students read multiple books in various series. Students celebrated the culmination of this unit by creating a poster on Canva highlighting a lesson they learned, such as "be proud of who you are". Students cited specific text evidence from the books they read and shared their posters with their peers. Not only did we share our reading posters with our own class, but we also invited other third grade classes to check out our work.

This grant truly impacted my school community and we are extremely grateful for your gift!



Book Recommendations

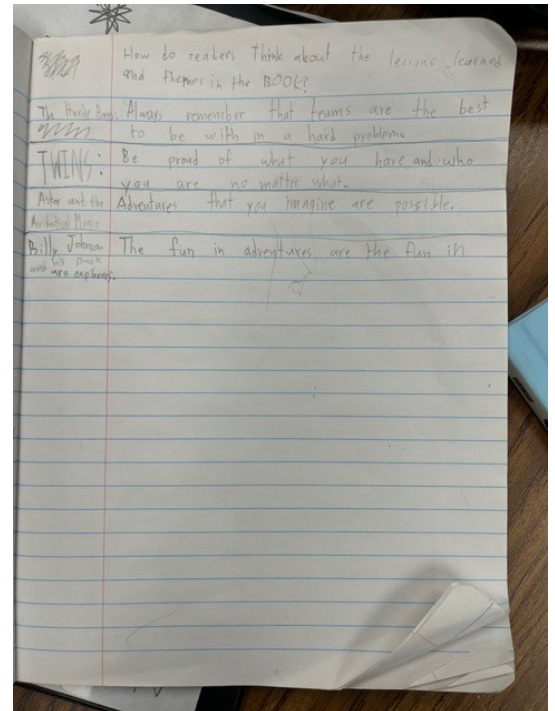
- JASMINE TOGUCHI
- MINDY KIM



I recommend the book Jasmine Toguchi because it is fun and adventurous for kids.

I also recommend the book Mindy Kim because she is a good sport and a kind friend and is a good book if you are bored some days.

By: Feira



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Shapiro, Leila, Lorne Elementary/STEM Magnet, LAUSD, grade 5

These supplies have done wonders to support our Artists Unit where we explore different artists from around the world. We study different styles of art through the work of these artists. Students create their own art piece inspired by each artist which will culminate in an “Artist Pallet Book.” This collection of art is a true treasure that will be enjoyed and cherished for years to come.

With the grant, we were able to purchase a variety of art supplies. Some of the supplies we purchased include extra wide sulfite drawing paper, 14 different colors of acrylic paint, metallic Sharpies, gel press brayers for print making, liquid water colors with spray bottles, and fine point black markers for drawing. These materials have been used to create art inspired by Frida Kahlo, Piet Mondrian, Wassily Kandinsky, and Alma Thomas. We will continue to create works inspired by Joan Miro, Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, and more.

The Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund Art Grant has enabled my students to think and act like artists. They have created their own unique masterpieces while being inspired by the many styles of art we have studied. Their creativity and individual expression continue to shine through each piece of art they create. When visiting the Getty on our recent field trip, they were able to identify different art genres and styles used in the famous works they saw throughout the museum. This grant has helped them to develop a deeper appreciation for the arts that will stay with them for a lifetime.



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Thank you for awarding me the Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund mini grant in the amount of \$500. I used the funds to purchase sensory bins for my TK classroom. I purchased several bins which relate to units of study. The bins contain small toys, tools such as sifters, tongs, and containers. Each bin is filled with a different sensory material such as water beads, pebbles, kinetic sand and much more.

The bins are set up in my classroom for students to explore. It is an independent center and they are free to interact with the material as they choose. The students enjoy using the sensory bins. They experiment with filling up containers, picking out items with tweezers, making up stories as they play with the manipulatives. The best part of the bins is that the students are able to stick their hands into the sensory material and manipulate it. I change the bins out every two weeks. These bins provide opportunities for students to promote creativity, cooperation, and exploration. It helps strengthen small motor skills, mathematical skills and oral language. It gives them opportunity to explore, try something out and revise their thinking. The sensory bins are a great addition to my TK classroom.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Mendoza, Northrup Elementary, Alhambra USD, TK teacher



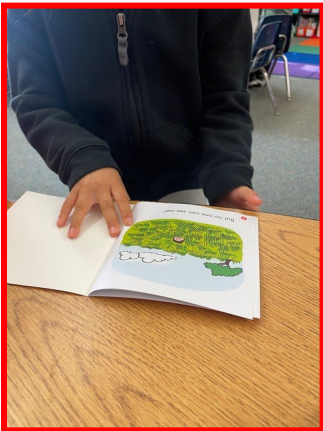
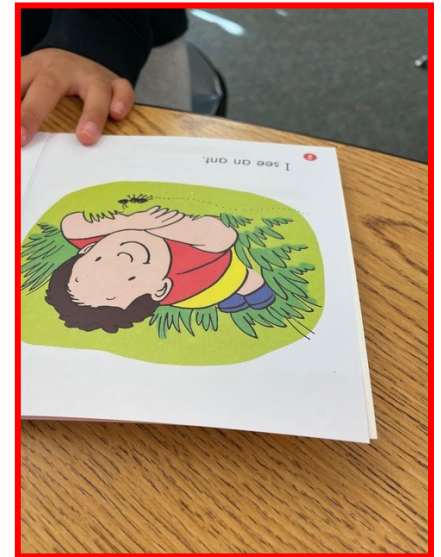
Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

The science of reading is changing the way educators look at literacy instruction. Reading research shows that reading comprehension is the product of decoding and language comprehension. There is now a movement to align more closely to what science is telling us. Teaching the foundation of literacy in kindergarten I am looking to teach decoding skills more systematically to support my students reading development.

To build upon my explicit phonics instruction, I would like to build a decodable book library for students to access developmentally appropriate texts. Decodable text is a type of text used in beginning reading instruction. Decodable texts are carefully sequenced to progressively incorporate words that are consistent with the letter-sound relationships that have been taught to the new reader. Having these texts available in my library and for my small group instruction will support my developing readers.

My students have thrived with our new decodable reader library. The decodable library has allowed my students to have access to engaging, colorful, and age appropriate books right in our classroom. These readers have been the center of my teacher reading center and have allowed my students to become more confident and independent readers. I look forward to continuing to build my library in the future. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to provide these texts to my students.

Barri Messersmith
Sierra Madre Elementary
Pasadena Unified SD



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

I am so very grateful for the mini fund that helped me become certified as a Trauma and Stress Practitioner. This course of study has helped me nurture and understand my students who are, struggling, many on the brink of depression and fatigue. My private studio work helped me be ahead of the curve in meeting the needs of my students and using music as a way to cope with the trauma of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I recently enrolled in a program by the foremost trauma expert, Dr. Bessel von der Kolk and have learned skills to bring back to the classroom to help my students.

This semester I have been able to use my music classroom as a place for kids to develop their social and emotional intelligence through music. Many of these skills were stunted during the pandemic because there was no place to process big emotions and the window of tolerance for these children has been shortened. Using the tools I learned in class at the Trauma Institute I was able to be more attune to the needs of my students in the classroom and have their music experience with me allow them to explore emotional intelligence through music, thus reducing acting out, classroom violence, and bullying.

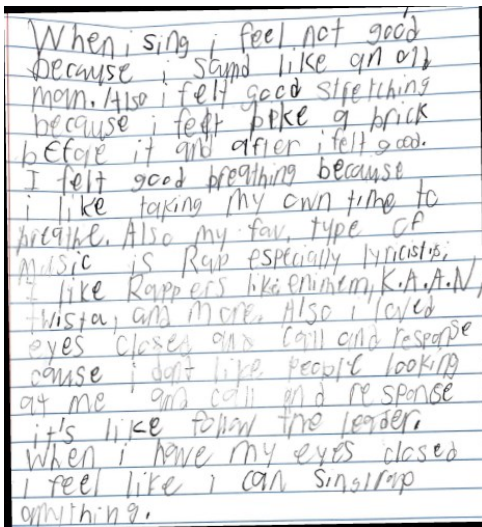
I have attached a few samples of writing from the kids who have been working on a project I call Unity. It is a project I have created that uses songs from civil rights movements to showcase how we can raise our voices together, peacefully for change. This program shows how non-violence, music and art can combat hatred and bring hope and inspiration. We also use writings, collages and a final performance for the school community to culminate the semester long project. Attached are the letters we wrote at the beginning of the semester after discovering our voice as an instrument and what that means and can do.

Thank you again!

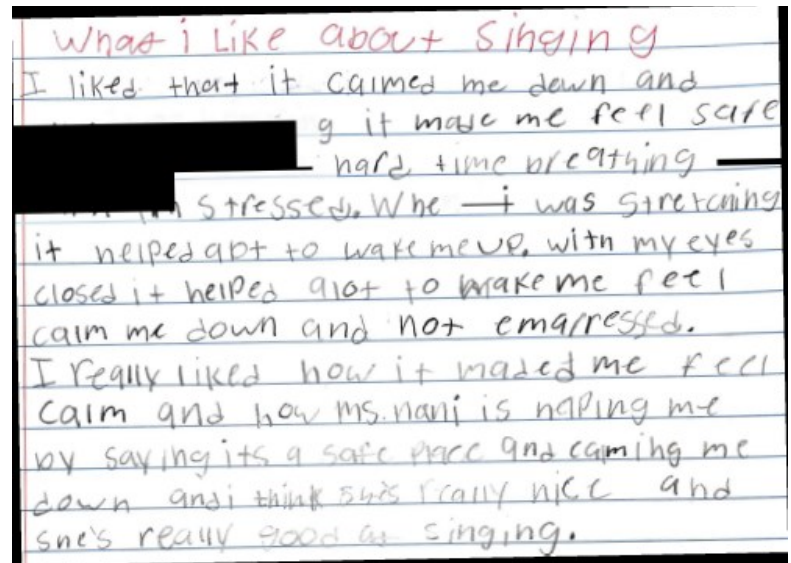
Nandani Sinha

California School
for the Arts
Duarte USD

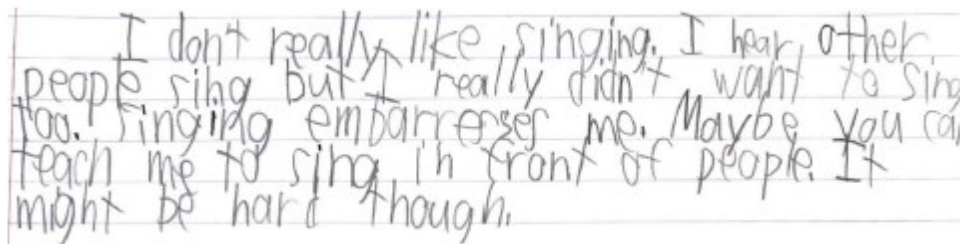
Grades 10-11,
Voice



When i sing i feel not good
because i sound like an old
man. Also i felt good stretching
because i felt like a brick
before it and after i felt good.
I felt good breathing because
i like taking my own time to
breathe. Also my fav. type of
music is Rap especially Nipastis,
I like Rappers like Eminem, K.A.A.M,
Husta, and more. Also i loved
eyes closed and can't see people
cause i don't like people looking
at me and call and response
it's like follow the leader.
When i have my eyes closed
i feel like i can sing up
anything.



What i Like about Singing
I liked that it calmed me down and
it made me feel safe
hard time breathing
stressed. When i was stretching
it helped not to wake me up. with my eyes
closed it helped not to wake me feel
calm me down and not embarrassed.
I really liked how it made me feel
Calm and how Ms. Nani is helping me
by saying its a safe place and calming me
down and i think she's really nice and
she's really good at singing.



I don't really like singing. I hear other
people sing but i really didn't want to sing
too. Singing embarrasses me. Maybe you can
teach me to sing in front of people. It
might be hard though.

Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

I would like to thank the Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund for awarding me this worthwhile grant. The grant has funded a special kit called The Next Step in Guided Reading. This kit has three components that allow me to assess my students and their reading abilities, decide what steps to take next, and provide personalized instruction for them.

For the past couple of weeks, I have been working on the first component of the kit resource which is assessing each student so that I can correctly gauge their instructional reading levels. To my surprise, they have enjoyed the process and they understand that I am using the stories provided in the kit to help them find just-right books for them to read. Once they know what their personal reading is, they can easily find books in the classroom library to fit their independent reading needs.

Since I have finished assessing my students, I have been working on using the data gathered to provide better instructional strategies to help them reach their personal reading goals. One of those goals of course is graduating to the next reading level. My students love reaching their goals, especially when they get to move up to the next letter of the alphabet which is the next reading level up!

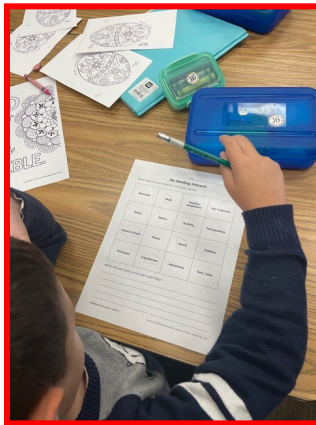
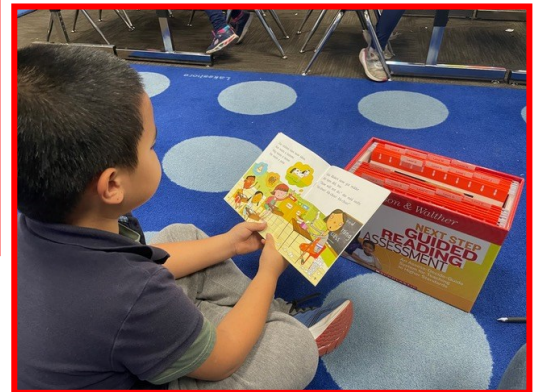
The next step I will be working on with my students is providing differentiated instruction in small groups provided by the assessment data I collect. The Next Step in Guided Reading kit provides instructional strategies that work together with the data results in providing the best instruction.

Attached, you will find two separate reading inventories. These student surveys allow students the opportunity to share what types of books they like to read and the things they like to do. This data can be collected, and the Next Step in Guided Reading Kit offers suggestions on how to use the information to find books most suitable for whole-group and small-group readings as well as times when students read to themselves.

I am most grateful to be a recipient of The Beebe Nuetzman Endowment Fund award because it truly offers precise results that provide detailed information to help my students, and my students appreciate being able to see results with their individual reading goals.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Adriana Smith
Holly Avenue Elementary, Arcadia USD



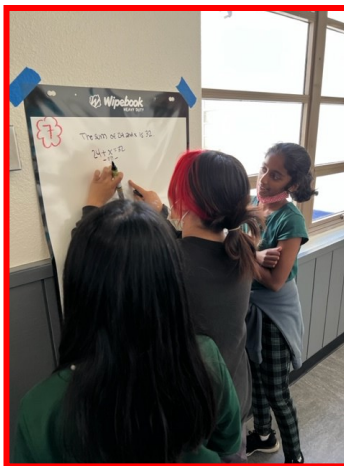
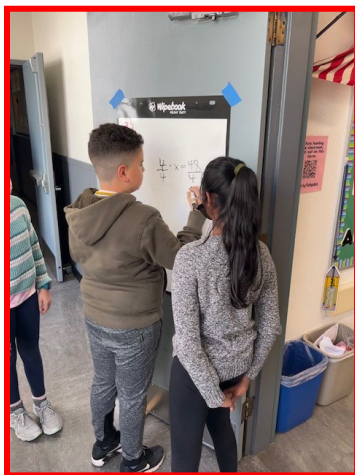
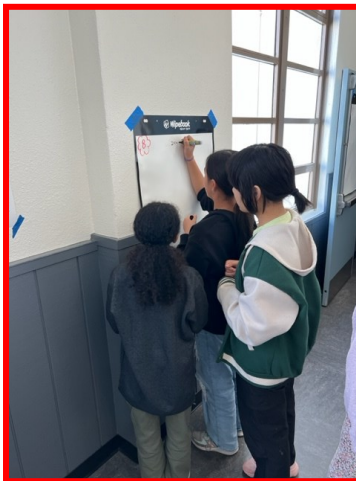
Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Tiffany Young, First Avenue Middle School, Arcadia USD teaching grades 6-8 (Math 6, Math 8, Algebra 1)

As teachers, we are always looking for ways to better our lessons for our students every year. At the beginning of this school year I learned about a mathematical practice called Building Thinking Classrooms and started hearing a very positive buzz in the math world about this way of teaching. One of the main ideas is getting the entire class out of their seats, working in random groups of three around the classroom at each group's individual erasable vertical surface. I attended a math conference in November where I saw the Building Thinking Classrooms group work in action and was hooked. I couldn't wait to try to figure out how to make this work in my own classroom.

With your generous grant, I was able to purchase two packages of reusable Wipebook flipcharts, brand new refillable dry erase markers with refills, and painters tape to safely place the Wipebooks around my classroom and in the hallway. My students love the opportunity this gives them to be out of their seats and working with one another on various math tasks. This has helped to provide my students a fun, safe environment to learn and practice skills together and become more comfortable taking chances.

Thank you so much to the Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma for your help in making this happen!



Mini Grant Recipient Shares!

Farm to Table: First Avenue Middle School's Garden

Suzanne Zaima

This fall, I received a generous grant of \$300 from the Alpha Upsilon Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and it is with sincere gratitude that I write and share what was purchased with those funds. I've put them to good use. I am First Avenue's Middle School's home economics teacher and this is my third year in the position. I have a number of classes, including the topics of cooking, handicrafts, financial literacy and gardening. I am working to build and strengthen my program as students need these hands-on experiences now more than ever. With your grant I was able to purchase some gardening tools, including a wheelbarrow, a rake, a pair of loppers and five pruning shears. The rake, loppers and shears have already been put to use. The wheelbarrow was purchased in anticipation of a major garden overhaul, which I'm still currently working on securing funding for, so it's dutifully sitting in its shipping box, waiting to one day be assembled! I made sure to purchase good quality tools/equipment, so that they will continue to serve the First Avenue garden even after I've retired. Again, I thank you for your kindness! You ladies do good work!



Some of the produce we grow is used in recipes that the students prepare. Other times, we have "taste tests." Here students are plating our garden greens and beets with a light vinaigrette.

Kids are using our new garden shears to cut up old plants that will be added to our compost bins. Cutting them into small pieces helps to speed up decomposition.



We're taking out some of our winter plants, that with the warm weather have bolted and we're in the process of planting our spring and summer crops. Here, students are using our new rake to prep one of our beds for planting.



My goal is to pull out part of the blacktop in our garden and create an orchard. Right now, with the raised beds, we don't have room for fruit trees and plants that attract pollinators. We'll eventually need our wheelbarrow to move a tremendous amount of soil as some beds will need to be removed and rebuilt in other locations in the garden.