



SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Education Matters

SPRING 2020

SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS



Students at McKinley Elementary School work with reading instructors as part of The Literacy Project.

TEACHER GRANTS
RADIOTHON
STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS

SBEF AWARDS \$85,000 IN GRANTS TO TEACHERS

On January 8, SBEF awarded 56 teachers with \$84,982 in grants to support the purchase of much-needed supplies, tools, and encourage creative and innovative teaching in the Santa Barbara Unified School District.



Students at McKinley Elementary school show leveled reading books purchased for their classroom with a Teacher Grant.

Funded grant projects ranged from classroom essentials like books and flexible classroom seating to more out-of-the-box projects like solar car kits and a printing press.

"We were tremendously impressed with the quality of the grant requests and the commitment our teachers have in igniting a love for learning with local students," said SBEF Executive Director, Margie Yahyavi.

SBEF celebrated the awarded grants with a reception at the Faulkner Gallery. Last year's grant recipient, Chloe Pueschel from Adams Elementary School shared how the grant



This year's Teacher Grant recipients received a total of almost \$85,000.

reinvented her classroom into a comfortable learning space. After researching how to best serve her young students who struggle to pay attention and sit still in a traditional learning environment, Pueschel saw alternative seating as the solution. With the help of the Teacher Grant program she was able to transform her classroom and create a more focused learning environment.

The reception also showcased student talents, as appetizers and sweets were served by the San Marcos High School Culinary Arts Program, while Dos Pueblos High School String Orchestra provided entertainment.

This year's Teacher Grants were made possible with the support of the Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation and Stone Family Foundation.

For more information on Teacher Grants, visit sbfoundation.org/teacher-grants.

KEEP THE BEAT RADIOTHON



Students from Monroe Elementary School performing during the Keep the Beat Radiothon.

Santa Barbara Education Foundation announced that more than \$16,000 and 70 musical instruments were collected at its annual Keep the Beat Radiothon with 99.9 KTYD on October 10 and 11.

During the two-day radio event, 99.9 KTYD Morning Mojo's Lin Aubuchon and Bill Pessa broadcasted for a total of 25 hours to ask for donations and musical instruments. Even SB Unified music teachers, aspiring student musicians, and local musicians took to the airwaves to rally support for music education in local public schools.



(Left) La Cumbre Junior High School Drumline performs (Right) Franklin Elementary School students performed solos and duets as music teacher Joanna Pascoe provided support

Day two of the Radiothon broadcasted live from Zodo's Bowling and Beyond where school music groups and local acts Will Breman, The Brambles, and OutOfTheBlue performed live for the crowd of music lovers. Volunteers busily worked to take song requests and donations from the crowd.

This year's Keep the Beat Radiothon was made possible with the support of the The Johnson Ohana Foundation, Pacific Premier Bank, and Arroyo Seco Construction.

“We are so pleased with how our local community came together to support music in our schools.”

**Margie Yahyavi, Executive Director
Santa Barbara Education Foundation**

STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS



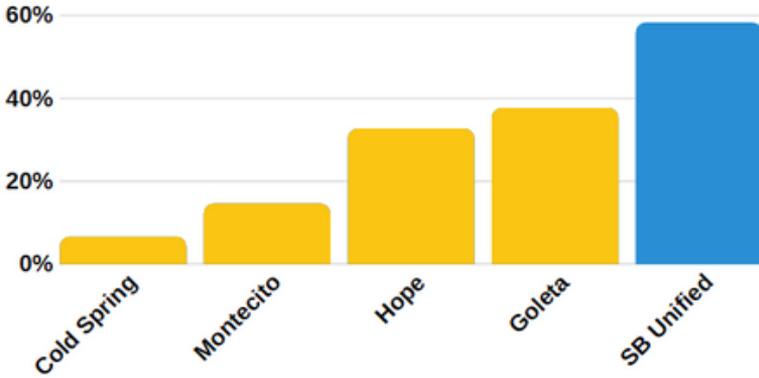
Speaking to a packed house at the New Vic Theater, Santa Barbara Unified School District Superintendent Cary Matsuoka addressed the community during his final State of Our Schools presentation.

Looking to the future, Matsuoka started by explaining the District's mission "to prepare students for a world that has yet to be created." He then delved into student demographics and outlined some of the challenges for students in the SB Unified.

AT A GLANCE:

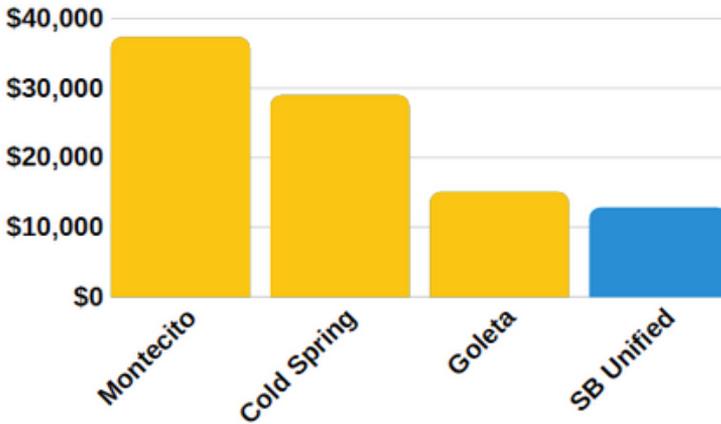
- One out of two students is an English language learner.
- Two out of three elementary school students are socioeconomically disadvantaged or have life circumstances that are considered challenging.
- One out of seven SB Unified students is homeless or living in a distressed housing situation. That means that for every elementary school classroom on average four of those students would be considered homeless!

PERCENTAGE OF SOCIOECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS BY DISTRICT



Matsuoka went on to explain how per-pupil spending for SB Unified differs from high-wealth districts that are perceived to be comparable. SB Unified receives \$12,747 annually per student, which is only 1% above the state average.

PER PUPIL FUNDING IN LOCAL DISTRICTS



“If we got that same amount of money per student, it would add \$27 million to our budget.” Matsuoka exclaimed, “Oh my gosh! What we would do with \$27 million more.”

See how YOU impacted Santa Barbara students in 2019!

We've had a busy 2019 thanks to the kindness of education advocates like you! Here are highlights of what your support has accomplished for Santa Barbara's students!

Contributed \$400,000 to The Literacy Project!



We are continuing to raise funds for intervention for struggling readers in SB Unified elementary schools. Students who were once unable to read the most basic text are not only decoding words but are developing a true love of reading. Student confidence and self-worth are rising as quickly as their word count. In just a few short years, the

program has expanded to four elementary schools and a pilot program using larger groups to service more students is currently in place at one additional school site.

Raised \$398,500 in Support of PEAC Students!



Program for Effective Access to College, or PEAC, increases high school graduation and four-year college entry rates of low-income, historically underrepresented, first-generation college students. SBEF helps secure funds to provide students with mentors, tutors, and study spaces to prepare students for their college-bound pathways.

Helped Keep the Beat with a New Drumline Camp!



This summer we held our first ever Drumline Camp! For two weeks, these young musicians drummed and played to their heart's content, learning and building a solid foundation for their music education that will last a lifetime. Campers learned to play as a large percussion ensemble and explored instruments, such as marimba, conga, and djembe.

Helped Students Build STEAM during the Summer!



Our newest camp offerings were designed to beat the summer learning slump and help students pick up STEAM—science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, that is! In addition to our popular Virtual Reality and 3D Gamemaking class, we added two new robotics classes, where students learned

the fundamentals of building and programming robots and drones!

Celebrated 30 Years of Nick Rail Summer Band Camp!



This season marked the 30th anniversary of the Nick Rail Summer Band Camp! Every summer, the camp gives young musicians the opportunity to continue their musical pursuits. To celebrate this 30-year milestone, the camp's first two directors returned to conduct pieces for the final concert. This

year's group of aspiring musicians performed to a packed house and received a standing ovation!

HIGHLIGHTS: THE LÉNI FUND



The Léni Fé Bland Performing Arts Partnership was created in honor of the late Léni Fé Bland, a champion philanthropist in the performing arts community of Santa Barbara.

Léni believed that all children, regardless of their socioeconomic class, race or gender deserve the chance to experience the performing arts, and all its benefits. In honor of Léni, Sara Miller McCune created The Léni Fund to ensure that equitable access to the performing arts would continue, and prosper.

AT A GLANCE:

- The Léni Fund provides Santa Barbara Unified students from Pre-K to 12th-grade access to in-theatre performing arts performances and in-class workshops.
- Students attend performances in four of Santa Barbara's historic theaters; Granada, Lobero, Arlington, and The New Vic.
- The Léni Fund is in partnership with 16 performing arts organizations to provide curriculum relevant performing arts outreach across performing arts disciplines in dance, music, theatre, and film.