

## **Partners in Education Announces 40th Round of Teacher Grants More than \$45,000 granted to 29 Innovative PAUSD classroom projects**

June 17, 2007 – Palo Alto, California – School may be out for the summer, but a number of innovative Palo Alto teachers are already getting ready for next year with some well-earned educational grants, courtesy of Palo Alto Partners in Education.

Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE), the only non-profit organization dedicated to supporting *all* schools in the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), last week announced its 40th round of teacher grants, awarding \$45,403 to 29 out of 40 projects proposed by PAUSD teachers.

Among the projects that received funding were a multi-disciplinary jazz program for third graders at Barron Park Elementary School, first grade math kits at Hoover Elementary School, a "Spies in Ancient Egypt" technology project at Jordan Middle School, a biotechnology program at Palo Alto High School, and a variety of other curricular and program enhancements in the areas of special education, social studies, literacy, music, technology, art, science, mathematics, and journalism.

This round of awards ranged from \$225 to \$3,000, with a few larger exceptions for especially noteworthy projects. PiE granted ten awards to teachers at the elementary schools, ten to teachers at the middle schools, eight to teachers at the high schools, and one to a district-wide science resource center. In March PiE granted over \$50,000 -- also to 29 projects.

"PIE's Educational grant program continues to meet with great success as well as tremendous student impact," said Al Russell, the PiE board member who heads the teacher grants committee. "While we continue to fund new and innovative adaptations in computer hardware and software including special education programs, we continue to foster creative and successful programs in the arts. Small and large grant amounts characterize a program which provides stimulation and reward for both teacher and student."

The teachers' enthusiasm for their projects came through loud and clear in their grant applications.

Sylvia Sanders, a third grade teacher at Barron Park Elementary School, wrote in her application for the jazz program, "The study of jazz provides a multidisciplinary and multicultural means of engaging our students in many aspects of the third grade curricula. As a uniquely American musical genre developed primarily by African Americans, the subject of jazz has the particular potential to captivate our minority students. Further, the importance of improvisation in jazz should tap into the creativity inherent in all our students."

Allison DeVoe, a fourth grade teacher at Juana Briones Elementary School, wrote in her application for her "Bringing the Rancho Days to Life" Project, "I hope that having the students create and participate in the daily activities of Rancheros and Rancheras will give them a better understanding of past life and that the knowledge will stay with them for years to come."

Leslie Goldman, an art teacher and technology mentor at Jordan Middle School, wrote in her application for her "Next Steps for Technology in the Art Room" project, "I am so excited about the prospect of my students creating digital paintings with the tools and papers that mirror the look and feel of their traditional counterparts. These tools include drawing and painting options such as charcoal, chalk, felt pens, watercolor brushes, extensive gradients, patterns, and textures. I can see that there will be quite a learning curve for me, but one that will be worthwhile for my students."

Established in 1987 by PiE's predecessor organization, Palo Alto Foundation for Education (PAFE), the teacher grants program makes awards to teachers at all levels who propose innovative classroom projects. Since its inception, the teacher grants program has awarded well over \$1 million.

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation dedicated to sustaining extraordinary public education in Palo Alto. For more information, please visit [www.papie.org](http://www.papie.org).

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