

# Mary Lin Education Foundation Annual Report 2018-19

Prepared by Kat Cooper, Chair  
and Zaid Duwayri, Treasurer  
Mary Lin Education Foundation

## Chair's Report

The Mary Lin Education Foundation (MLEF) had another very successful school year. Our major annual fundraiser The Rocket Fuel Fund set a record in its third year, ultimately raising over \$165,000 to fund our mission to provide additional support for curriculum enrichment, professional development, enhanced technology and special projects not covered by the district budget.

With these funds we were able to accomplish all of the goals we set out to achieve at the beginning of the year including but not limited to:

- Meeting the Go Team's objective to improve writing instruction across APS by funding significant K-5 writing curriculum enrichment such as Lucy Calkins training materials, literary circle texts, mentor texts and WriteScore.
- Training more teachers in the Complete Reading Series, ensuring excellence and continuity in reading instruction across every classroom and grade level
- Nurturing phonics and reading enrichment in grades K-3 with Saxon Phonics, the Phonemic Awareness curriculum and Scholastic Reading Assessment kits (K-5)
- Continuing to fund popular subscription-based curriculum support resources such as Silicon Valley Math, Greg Tang Math, BrainPOP and Handwriting Without Tears
- Getting closer to our eventual goal of a one-to-one student to technology ratio by purchasing three additional Chromebook carts
- Turfing several outdoor areas to both beautify the appearance of our campus and increase outdoor play time in poor weather conditions

For a complete list of grants awarded by the Mary Lin Education Foundation during the 2018-19 school year, turn to the following page. For a breakdown of the percentage of funds spent on each area, see page 5.

We are very proud of the fact that less than 3% of funds raised went to operating and fundraising expenses; the other 97% went to funding our mission to ensure every Mary Lin student (or "Rocket"), regardless of background or ability, can soar to new heights each school year and beyond.

## Complete List of Grants Awarded by MLEF in 2018-19

### Professional Learning

#### *Complete Reading Series Training*

By the end of the 2018-19 school year, the MLEF will have funded the completion of this series for the following teachers: Seay, Evans, Tolmach, Phalen, Gosha, Bellard and Howard as well as instructional coach Denise Bringslid. The following teachers have already completed the series in prior years thanks to the funding of the MLEF: Gabbert, Nail, Bonilla, Ashley, Derrico, Baldwin, Gurthie, Tabor, Rice, Watkins, Pursley, Arillo and Patterson. It is Ms. Briscoe's goal that any teacher who comes to Lin who is not already trained in the CRS receives the training during their first or second year at Lin.

#### *Greg Tang's Reasoning, Rigor & Results*

Four teachers who had not yet attended a Greg tang conference attended this local one day workshop on developing reasoning skills and computational fluency through word problems.

#### *Teach Like a Champion Ratio Conference*

Ms. Bringslid, Ms. Howard, Ms. Shumacher, Ms. Gabbert and Ms. Gosha attended this conference led by renowned educator Doug Lemov who believes that teaching, like any other highly skilled profession, requires rigorous practice and performance standards. This particular conference focused on increasing the "think ratio" of your classroom and aiming to 100% of your students are engaged in every lesson.

#### *National Arts Educators Conference*

The MLEF was thrilled to send Ms. Sullivan to this conference in Boston so she could engage with her peers and learn best practices from leaders in the field of arts education.

#### *The Reading Strategies Webinar*

Tolmach, Armstead, Arillo, Barnhart and others attended this webinar on reading strategies including determining 'just right' goals in reading through formative assessment, using strategies to support goals over time; supporting readers through coaching, prompting and feedback and managing a class with varied reading goals.

### **Get Your Teach On Conference**

Ms. Guthrie, Ms. Graves and Ms. Tolmach attending this conference focused on inspiring educators to "create magic in your classrooms to increase student engagement and change the game of education." Any student in Ms. Graves class knows she was inspired by this conference to create a Superbowl Learning Day they will never forget!

### **Math PLUS Conference**

A favorite of Mary Lin staff, Greg Tang's Math Plus conference gives teachers the skills to help all of their students achieve fluency and automaticity, and explore challenging problems that help develop advanced thinking for older and/or gifted students.

## **Curriculum Enrichment**

### **Saxon Phonics**

This is the 3rd year the MLEF has funded the Saxon Phonics, an incremental approach to phonics instruction, reading, spelling, and writing. Saxon phonics is a complete research based curriculum with solid methodology that is known for quality of instruction, supporting materials and ease of use. Saxon Phonics prepares children to be successful, independent readers and spellers. Supported by research on effective reading instruction, Saxon Phonic's programs are appropriate for all children, including those with learning difficulties.

### **Handwriting Without Tears**

This is the 3rd year the MLEF has funded the use of Handwriting Without Tears which is as popular with the students as it is the teachers. HWT provides developmentally appropriate, multi-sensory handwriting instruction for K-5 students with innovative, easy to use and tear-proof materials and strategies.

### **Write Score (Grades 3-5)**

Write Score has helped us take a big jump in improving our writing in grades 3-5. Teachers are given fun, engaging, colorful lesson plans that they can use to help students understand, analyze, and practice the writing process. Students are given the chance to take practice assessments before on a computer, and receive detailed feedback in less than two weeks. The teachers can easily see individual student's writing and feedback as well as identify areas of strength and weakness for his/her own class.

### **TenMarks Subscription for Grades 3-5.**

Our teachers love this rigorous online practice tool for kids who need to hone certain mathematical skills.

### **Scholastic Reading Assessment Kits**

These kits allow teachers in every grade to assess students individually and dig much deeper than a STAR report can to show exactly where the learning gaps are for struggling students. This precise information can then be used to structure lesson plans, classwork and tutorial sessions to efficiently advance a student's learning in the needed area.

### **Silicon Valley Mathematics Initiative Annual Site License**

With this site-license, teachers have access to hundreds of MARS Performance Tasks, videos and resources outlining how to build classroom climates for mathematical learning, formative re-engagement lessons, problems of the month, and primary performance assessments.

### **Sets of Recommended Novels for 4th and 5th Grade "Literacy Circles"**

Small group literature circles are used to engage students in a deeper love of reading as they are asked not just to read and retell a book but discuss, analyze, write and apply the Common Core standards toward a book with their peers. With the proper texts, these discussions should foster a deeper understanding of characters and their challenges and of each other as kids may interpret these in different ways. A variety of books were purchased to accommodate students at various reading levels and serve as the basis for successful reading workshops in each ELA classroom.

### **Social and Emotional Learning Texts**

Our school counselor Ms. Bailey asked for these texts for use as a resource in her social and emotional learning sessions with students. Learning about a character's struggle through fictional texts is a wonderful way to teach kids lessons about sensitive and hard to talk about topics.

### **Kindergarten Writer's Workshop Mentor Texts**

Mentor texts are used to introduce, provide examples and expand student's knowledge of each writing genre that is taught. The mentor texts model characteristics and attributes of successful writing that students aim to understand by the end of the year.

### **FLOCABULARY**

Flocabulary is an online resource that supports instruction in language arts (tier 2[1] vocabulary/grammar), but the program also has tools to support math, science, social studies, life skills (financial literacy and social/emotional learning), and current events.

### **Phonemic Awareness Curriculum**

The fifteen teachers who attended Orton-Gillingham Training last summer learned about the importance of developing phonemic awareness and phonological awareness skills so students can sound out unknown words as they take on more advanced texts. These books will supplement Saxon Phonics curriculum as an effective tool for teaching phonemic awareness.

### **Ceramics Program Materials**

As part of the MLEF's commitment to making sure our financial resources is spread across the curriculum, we were thrilled to grant Ms. Sullivan the materials to start a ceramics program. The students will benefit greatly from learning this multi-sensory art form.

### **Reading A to Z (Raz-Plus)**

Fortunately the Foundation is able to cover the cost of this popular resource for the 2019-20 school year since the district will no longer fund it. Raz-Plus is a comprehensive blended learning platform that includes the curricular support teachers need and the personalized resources necessary to improve students' reading skills. With more than 50,000 resources that include more than 3,000 leveled books and readers available in multiple formats, Raz-Plus makes it easier than ever before to strengthen the connection between what is being taught and what students are practicing.

### **BrainPOP**

The MLEF will pay for this subscription for the 2019-20 school year since the district will no longer fund it. BrainPOP is a digital learning platform that provides teachers with engaging learning games, animated movies, and activities. They are designed with relevance, depth, and humor to encourage kids on their unique learning paths.

## **Technology**

### **Chromebooks**

After purchasing three more Chromebook carts this school year, we are getting closer to our goal of a 1:1 ratio of laptop to student in third through fifth grades. In the upper grades, Chromebooks help students prepare for computer-based testing like the Georgia Milestones, get ready for Inman Middle where a significant amount of schoolwork is completed on Chromebooks, collaborate on projects via Google Classroom and support differentiation goals by allowing teachers to assign students of varying aptitudes level-appropriate practice work and tutorial guides.

## Special Projects

### *Turfing the Playground Phase One*

We are excited to announce that due to raising \$60,000 more than our goal this year, we were able to grant over \$40,000 toward our administration's 2019 "wish list" item: turfing the playground. Currently the playground collects standing water and has significant drainage issues. Turfing the playground will ensure more recess time, as kids will still be able to play outside on rainy days. Some of you may have visited Morningside Elementary's turf playground on rainy weekends now, and if so you understand what an asset it will be to Mary Lin to have a similar all-weather play and event space. The board solicited several bids on this project and since the cost of turfing the entire space will cost upwards of \$150,000, the long-range plan is to turf the playground in stages, starting with the areas that get the heaviest foot traffic during playtime.

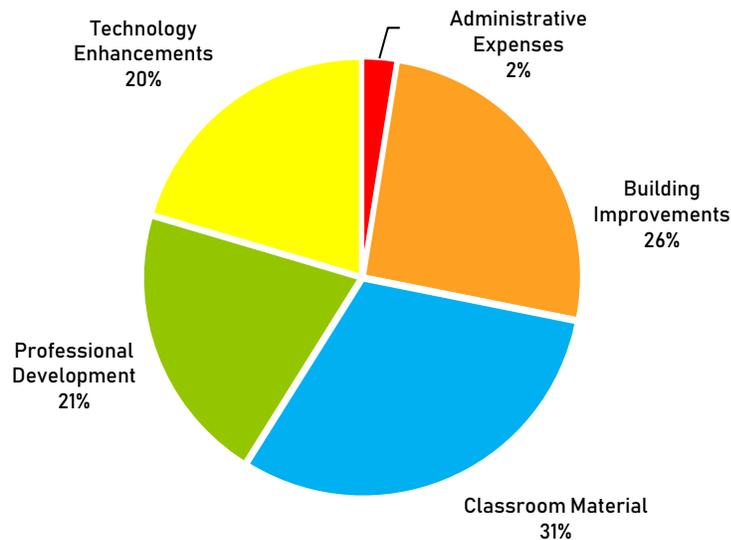
## Fundraising Summary

In 2018-19 the Mary Lin Education Foundation raised money solely from the Rocket Fuel Fund, which ran from August 1<sup>st</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. The goal was set at \$100,000 but we raised significantly more than that!

### Fundraising Sources:

**Rocket Fuel Fund**

**\$160,400**



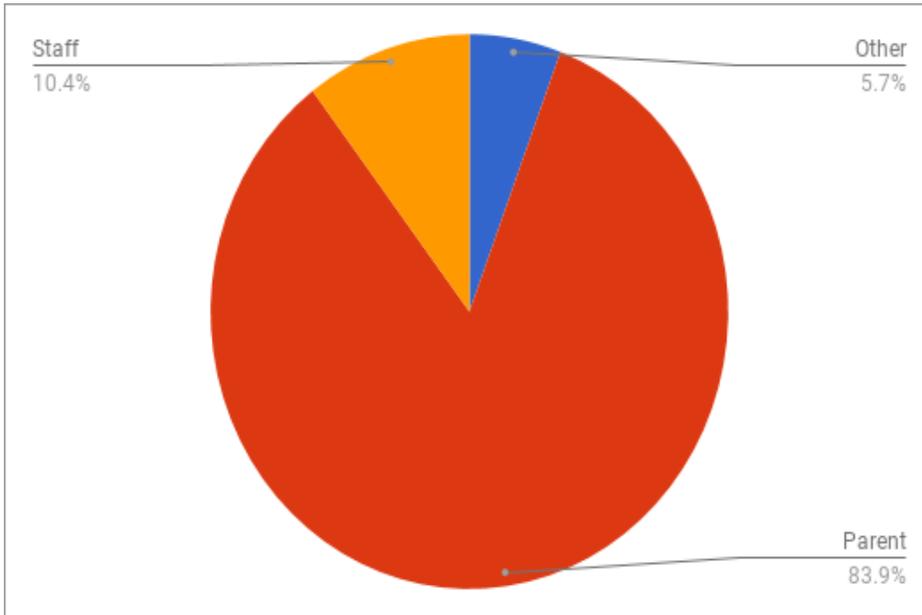
The MLEF will close the year with a balance of approximately \$18,000. The 2019 Rocket Fuel Fund will kick off at Open House for the 2019-20 School Year.

### Donor Data:

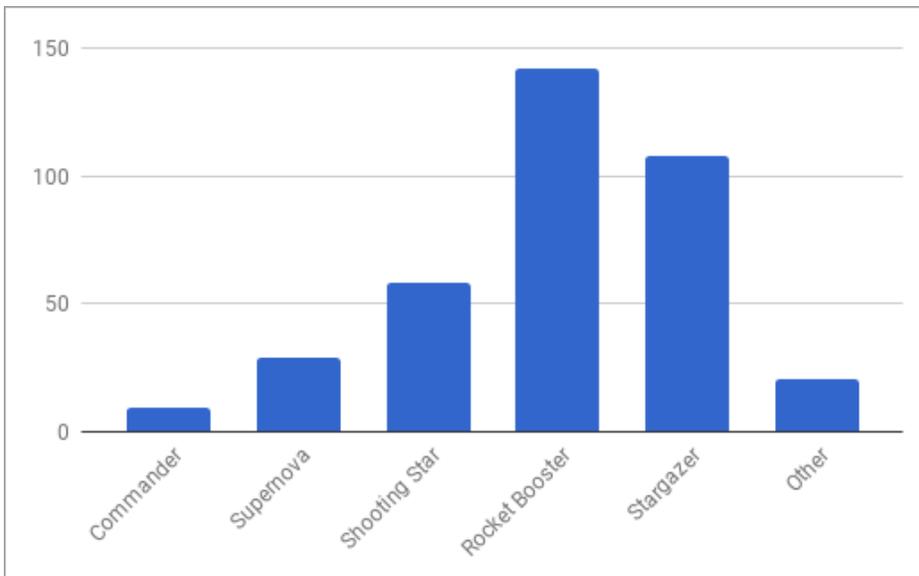
Mary Lin Elementary parents, staff members, neighbors, alumni, grandparents and other family members supported the Rocket Fuel Fund this year. 82% of current Mary Lin parents donated with an average donation of \$350 and 85% of current staff members donated with an average donation of \$50. See the following page for charts showing the breakdown of donors by type and giving level.

Over 120 parents donated \$600 or more to the Rocket Fuel Fund, with ten families donating at the top level "Commander's Circle."

### **Contributions by Donor Category:**



**Donor Giving Level Breakdown:**



Commander Circle: \$2500+, Supernova: \$1000+, Shooting Star: \$600+, Rocket Booster: \$150+, Stargazer: \$25+, Other: Donors who gave less than \$25

For a complete list of donors, please refer to the website:

<https://www.marylinfooundation.org> The full list of 2018-19 donors to the Rocket Fuel Fund organized by giving level is under the Fundraising Tab.



## Mary Lin Education Board Members for 2018-19

Thank you to all of our board members who served this year and to those who have graciously agreed to serve on the board next year.

Chair – Kat Cooper  
Treasurer – Zaid Duwayri  
Grants Coordinator – Merri Neff\*  
Secretary – Emily Kotzan

*Trustees:*

Lindsay Hill\*  
Heather Lamb  
Billy Eiselstein

*Ex-officio Members:*

Principal: Ms. Sharyn Briscoe  
Teacher Rep: Denise Bringslid\*  
Go Team Rep: Kimberley Dick\*  
PTA Rep: Sarah McLean/Lynley Teras

\* Denotes board members rolling off at end of current term (July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019)

## Incoming Board Members for the 2019-20 term

Peter Kruskamp, Trustee  
Alyson Goodwin, Secretary-elect  
Molly Saft, Trustee  
Sarah-Nell Walsh, Trustee  
Go Team Rep: TBD  
Teacher Rep: TBD

**The Mary Lin Education Foundation would like to thank all of the donors and volunteers who made it possible to achieve all of our goals this year.**