

REACH Foundation



Message from the President

Dear REACH Students and Families,

In times of uncertainty, our shared commitment to education in our community shines as a beacon of hope. Every day, I witness the extraordinary impact of our programs: high school students mentoring elementary children in robotics, physics/ chemistry or literary writing, young entrepreneurs sharing their first business ideas, and teachers bringing innovative projects to life through our annual \$20,000 REACH Educator Grants.

These moments remind us that positive change starts locally, through small acts that create ripples of transformation. Your continued support of the REACH Foundation isn't just an investment in programs – it's an investment in optimism, in possibility, and in the belief that together, we can build a brighter future for our families and our community.

As we move forward in 2025, let's celebrate the power of community and education to light the way forward.

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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For those celebrating the Lunar holidays, may your New Year bring peace, joy, and prosperity to you, your neighbors and our entire community.

Gisele T. Nguyen,
President

Spotlight on Success



From the Inside #12

The From the Inside Speaker Series event with our 12th panel was a huge success! Featuring experienced leadership experts, the event provided PYLUSD students and community members with inspiring stories and discussions. Keynote Speaker Mrs. Valerie Coulombe kicked off the evening with a heartfelt speech about the power of community, and Mr. Yarib Dheming continued with his passion for environmental literacy. Ms. Amber Raemer's joy radiated through her story of working with autistic children, and Dr. Mike Ahn shared his vulnerability and resilience. Finally, Mrs. Kim Rhodes opened up about overcoming challenges in starting her own business, and Paulina Dole finished by sharing the true definition of a leader. REACH Foundation grant recipients and President Volunteer Service Award recipients were also honored at the event. Audience members enjoyed complementary cookies provided generously by the Cookie Element and thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful event. Keep an eye out for our next FTI event in May honoring PYLUSD seniors!

Communicating with Confidence Learning Labs



Finding Their Voice: Young Leaders Emerge in Innovative STEAM Program

In an era where soft skills are as crucial as technical knowledge, the LifOpps Communicating with Confidence Learning Labs are revolutionizing how students develop leadership abilities from 4th grade through high school. This student-led program uniquely merges STEAM education with essential communication skills, creating a dynamic laboratory where young minds flourish. "We're not just teaching public speaking," explains Program Facilitator William Freeman.

"We're cultivating future leaders who can articulate complex ideas, collaborate effectively, and think critically." Through mock business scenarios and hands-on projects, students transform from hesitant speakers into confident communicators. The program's success aligns with the National Science Teachers Association's emphasis on active, real-world learning experiences. Students have opportunities to actively learn, teach others, gain self-knowledge and retain more information.

Mini Money Management Learning Labs Update



Young Entrepreneurs Take Root at Golden Elementary

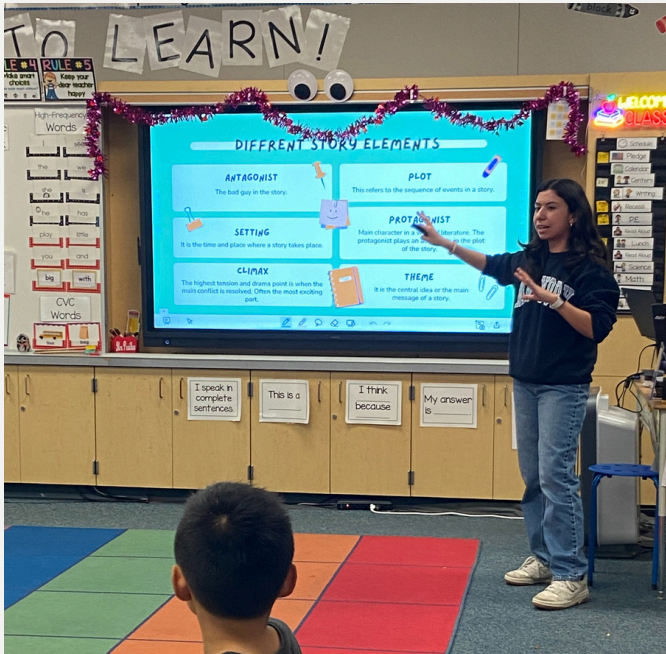
In a groundbreaking initiative that's turning elementary students into savvy business minds, the REACH Foundation has launched the Mini Money Management (M3) Learning Labs at Golden Elementary. The program, targeting grades 4-6, transforms traditional after-school hours into dynamic entrepreneurship workshops.

Over ten sessions, students dive into real-world financial literacy – from product ideation to budget management. The highlight? A Mini Market Product Launch Showcase where young innovators present their business ventures to families.

"We're not just teaching finance; we're cultivating future leaders," says Gisele Nguyen, the REACH Foundation's President. "When you see a fifth-grader confidently explaining their profit margins, you know you're witnessing something special."

This financial literacy program promises to revolutionize how children understand money and business.

Upcoming Events and Programs



IMAGINATION TEAM

Imagination Team had their first meeting at Tynes Elementary on Monday, January 27th! The first session was a big success with around 15 students in attendance from Tynes Elementary. Their first lesson was about elements of a story's plot, and this was their first of 6 total sessions geared towards sparking creativity and imagination in students. We look forward to much more similar success and growth in the students over the 6 weeks as they learn more about writing genres and techniques through the program.

INTERN APPLICATIONS

The REACH Foundation has opened up its doors to new and returning interns! REACH's internship program is a great way to develop communication and leadership skills as interns learn how to run a non-profit organization. Interns are expected to commit 1 - 3 hours a week and regularly attend intern meetings, depending on the amount of projects active. Applications will be due February 15th, 2025 at reach4pylusd.org.



Volunteer Opportunities



STEM SATURDAY

Golden Elementary is hosting a STEM Saturday on February 1st from 7:45- 12:00 pm. They are looking for 10-20 high school volunteers to help out with the STEM experiments. They will have KG - 6th grade students present that the high school students would be assisting to allow more hands on for the younger students if needed.



CHARITY'S CLOSET

Charity's Coset is a volunteer run thrift store. All of the shop's proceeds are used to fund H.I.S. House, a homeless intervention shelter that is dedicated to assisting the homeless regain self-sufficiency. They are looking for volunteers of all ages to run all aspects of the shop! More information can be found at charityscloset.org/volunteer.

Get Involved

Stay connected and informed by following us on social media and visiting our website regularly. Here's how you can stay engaged:

- Instagram: @REACH4pylUSD.org
- Facebook: REACH4pylUSD.org
- Website: www.reach4pylUSD.org

We are excited to see what this school year holds and look forward to working together to create meaningful and impactful experiences for our students. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the REACH Foundation.

Warm regards,

The REACH Foundation Team

P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Together, we can make this year extraordinary!



Powered By

REACH Interns 2024-2025

Communications VP & Publisher: Emily Pasillas

Intern President: Natalie Tang

Executive Team: Elizabeth Chan, Aly Baranick,
Carolyn Suh, Evelyn Yao, Lauren Gei, Ashley Gee

Interns: Brendon Nguyen



Our Intern program is a transformative opportunity designed to empower students with real-world experience and leadership skills. The Foundation supports selected highly engaged Interns to foster "innovation, imagination and intrapreneurship."

