

# REACH Foundation

*HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!*

## Message from the President

The REACH Foundation is committed to enriching the educational experiences of students in PYLUSD. Our mission is to inspire, engage, and support students through collaboration with PYLUSD and community partners. We focus on Academics, Arts, and Athletics by providing programs that help students develop critical thinking, communication, creativity, and leadership skills.

Programs like First Lego League Robotics, Communicating with Confidence Learning Labs, and the High School Internship Program nurture communications, collaboration, and innovation. Since 2020, the Communicating with Confidence Learning Labs have empowered hundreds of students across 12 schools, building skills in public speaking, leadership, self-knowledge, and empathy. By offering real-world learning, we prepare students to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

With the support of professionals, volunteers, educators, and community partners, the REACH Foundation works to ensure that our students have the tools and opportunities needed to reach their highest potential.

Warm regards,  
Gisele T. Nguyen,  
President

## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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## Spotlight on Success

### First Lego League Director

Jolie Yang is an IB and Val Tech dual diploma senior at Valencia high school. She enjoys sharing her passion and knowledge of coding and innovation with students in the FLL program. Each Wednesday she helps our Kraemer teams prepare for their competition.

Jolie gives the students tips from her previous experiences to help them reach their full potentials. With the competition nearing, she is confident all of the teams will be successful as they have each been diligently preparing every week.

## New Program Approved!



One of our interns, Emily Pasillas, presented at our last REACH Board meeting for her program proposal Imagination Team. She will be in conversation with Tynes Elementary to get the program up and running as soon as possible to start helping our PYLUSD students with their creative writing skills. She hopes that her new program will inspire our students to think outside the box and have a good relationship with writing.

## Communicating with Confidence Wrap Up!



The Communicating with Confidence Learning Lab at Tynes Elementary was a remarkable success, with 21 students demonstrating commitment to growth. Every student actively engaged in each session, resulting in 130 presentations in 5 weeks (10 sessions) —a 109% increase from our 9th Lab. Students delivered an impressive 36 in-person presentations and recorded 94 videos, totaling 43.3 hours of discussion. On average, each student gave 6.2 presentations, and 100% earned a Gold Star by delivering at least 2 speeches, while 60% went above and beyond with 5+. These achievements highlight the Learning Lab's impact on communication skills and student confidence.

# Good News Notice



## HEROES AND HELPERS

We are excited to announce we are partnering with Target to put on Heroes and Helpers, an event where local students in need can shop with our first responders at Target during the holidays. We will be providing support by finding students who are perfect for this opportunity and helping donate so these students get to enjoy their shopping experience with our first responders on their special day.

## EDUCATOR GRANTS ARE NOW OPEN!

Educator Grants are now open for PYLUSD teachers until November 30th. Applications should reflect the clearly defined goals and objectives that directly benefit PYLUSD students, innovative and unique approaches to teaching and learning, evidence of collaboration with other educators or community partners, and measurable outcomes to assess the impact of the project on student achievement. [Find out more on our website!](#)





# Upcoming Events and Programs



## FROM THE INSIDE

This year's theme, Leadership and Impact: Driving Social Change, will feature influential leaders from diverse fields sharing their journeys and strategies for making a positive impact, even when faced with challenges or unexpected change. One of our honored guests will be Ms. Amber Raemer, the Clinical Director of The Autism Collaborative Group! Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired, connect with change-makers, and learn how you can make a difference. The event will be on Friday, November 15th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the PYLUSD School Board Room. Mark your calendar!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY MEET

This year, we will have two middle school cross country meets. The first event, The Amy Madrigal Invitational, will be on November 20, 2024 at Yorba Regional Park. The second event, the PYLUSD Middle School Cross Country Championship, will be on December 6, 2024 at Craig Regional Park. Both of these events will include boys and girls in 6/7th grade and 8th grade and will be 2 miles long.



## Upcoming Events and Programs



### STEAM CLUB

We are excited to declare our ignition of the STEAM Club! Our club is dedicated to assisting young minds in finding their passion and deep connection with a profession, possibly becoming their future career. This club revolves around Science, Technology, Engineering, And Mathematics. We will be hosting field trips and visits to various facilities to familiarize students with a specific field of study or occupation and expand their knowledge of amazing careers!

# Volunteer Opportunities



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SERVICE DAY

The Youth Empowerment Service Day will be on November 9th and will start at 10 am at the Thomas Lasorda Jr. Field House. This event is for 6th-12th graders who want to donate their time sorting, date-checking, bagging, and distributing donated food items. Breakfast will be provided for volunteers as well!



## Citizens' Climate Lobby

## CITIZEN CLIMATE LOBBY

Citizens' Climate Lobby is seeking youth volunteers to help with national and local climate action. Sample activities might include: helping with a Sustainability Fair, participating in a Beach Cleanup, hosting an Educational Film Screening, and many more. Students will also be able to learn public speaking, professional writing, and advocacy skills, empowering them to become more effective and engaged citizens. Find more information here: [Join CCL](#)

# 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](http://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."

