



Bidwell Junior High School Foundation

2376 North Avenue ■ Chico, California 95926 ■ (530) 342-2204 ■ March 2023
Website: bjhsfoundation.com ■ friendsofbidwell@gmail.com ■ Vol. 1 Issue 15

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BJHSF IS AFFILIATED WITH



EIN# 68-0161455

Classroom Grants

The Board meets monthly to review requests submitted by staff for instructional materials they may need. Following are just a few of the items granted in 2022: Books, computer hardware and software, headphones, audio systems, writing journals, dry erase whiteboards, Giant Jenga game, carpet squares, sketch books, Williams Legato keyboards for band. In past years, your donations helped

us purchase new sheet music for the band, instruments and instrument repair.



Principal Reports

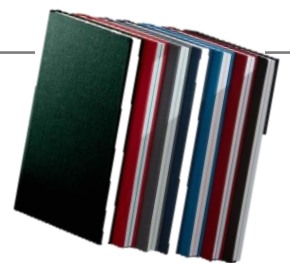
We asked Principal McKay for a report on the progress of student learning at Bidwell:

While the COVID era certainly took its toll on all aspects of society, including interrupting student learning, the Bidwell Staff worked hard to continuously refine our plan to ensure that each and every student had access to as many supports – social-emotional as well as academic -- to be successful under the circumstances. Bidwell Junior was one of only a few schools in our county to actually improve on state test scores over the course of the pandemic, improving by 4% in English Language Arts and 1.8% in Math. We are proud of our students and staff for their hard work under challenging circumstances.

2022 in Review

By any measure, 2022 was the most productive year ever for the Bidwell Junior High School Foundation! As always, the loyal and generous **Friends of Bidwell** provided the Foundation with a record **\$6,050** for the 2022 *General Fund* and *Endowment Fund*. Fundraisers at the *Sin of Cortez* and *Japanese Blossoms* restaurants added **\$1,496.25** to the *General Fund*.

The Foundation Board was pleased to approve 35 funding requests from Bidwell staff members (continued on page 2)

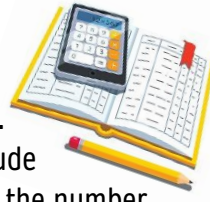


Honor & Memorial Donations

The Foundation often receives donations honoring or recognizing a family member, colleague, friend, or student who had a connection to BJHS. In addition to sending the donor a “thank you” note, we always try to notify the family of the noted individual. These donations are deposited into the *General Fund* unless designated to the *John Schulz and Linda Wilbur Endowment* fund. Some **Friends of Bidwell** direct their donations to a specific department or program. The Music department has been the beneficiary of several monetary and in-kind donations.

Friends of Bidwell donors have recognized BJHS alumni Amy and Stacey Vigallon, retired BJHS teachers Ramona Flynn, Marsha Sanders and John Watson, and BJHS parent and Foundation Board member Carol Watson. The Foundation has also received memorial donations honoring Dorette and Milt Boyer, Chuck Fullmer, Tate Hampton, Betty Johnson, Robert Main, Max Newman, Carol Oxen, Gretchen and Ken Piercy, Cal Rainey, Hazel and Don Schoonover, John Schulz, Dennis Scott, Ruby Soderstrom, Ren Wakefield, and Linda Wilbur.

Foundation Funds



The **GENERAL FUND** receives donations from the Friends of Bidwell. The Board accepts requests from Bidwell staff members which include descriptions of the items to be purchased, how they are to be used, the number of students who will benefit and the cost. The Board will grant partial funding, grant full funding or reject the request seeking more information.

The **OPERATIONS FUND** supports administration expenditures such as printing and mailing costs. For example, this newsletter.

The **PROJECT SUCCESS FUND** was established with a grant from the *North Valley Community Foundation* with funds from an anonymous donor for the purpose of supporting children living in poverty. Bidwell has many such children. Fifty-nine percent of Bidwell students qualify for low-cost or no-cost meals. Some are homeless. Many have no way to purchase basic clothing items or school supplies. These kids are identified by Bidwell Case Worker, Monica Murguia, and Counselors. The **Project Success Fund** has provided us the ability to purchase shoes, clothing, school supplies, PE outfits and other personal items for these students in need.

The *John Schulz & Linda Wilbur Memorial Endowment* was established with a \$2,000 grant from the Foundation General Fund. The long-range goal for the Endowment is to increase its value to the point where dividends and interest can be used to support Foundation work without reducing the principal amount. It will then become a permanent source of funding for the work of the BJHS Foundation.

Welcome!

The New Year welcomed three new families to Bidwell Junior High School. Students from Mexico and Venezuela joined the Pioneer family. Targeted Case Manager and Foundation Board member, Monica Murguia, presented each new enrollee with a new t-shirt donated by Foundation President, Matt Johnson.

2022 REVIEW (continued) totaling over **\$7,800** – a Foundation record!

Our *Project Success* fund supported low-income and homeless students with clothing, shoes, gym clothes and other personal items. *Project Success* is funded by an anonymous donor and administered by the **North Valley Community Foundation**.

The *John Schulz and Linda Wilbur Endowment* fund received donations from FOBs and the BJHS Foundation *General Fund* for a combined **\$2,784** in 2022. The Endowment is currently valued at just under **\$50,000**.

The BJHS Board is pleased to thank all the FOBs and others who helped make 2022 a successful year for the current Bidwell Pioneers!

Darlene Thomasson's **Golden Nugget** staff in 1973. Many aspiring writers got their start in this campus newspaper class. Recognize anyone? Send us an email at friendsofbidwell@gmail.com to win a lifetime subscription to this free newsletter!

