



## **WHERE IS MY 'GARDNER GIVE' MONEY GOING?** (And other Frequently Asked Questions...)

At Gardner Street Elementary, we believe it's more than just reading, writing and math that create a well-rounded education. The programs below help to keep Gardner Street students moving, creating, imagining, and expressing themselves. However, **LAUSD does NOT provide funding for these programs. They are only made possible with your generous donations to Friends of Gardner (FoG).**

**MUSIC PROGRAM** – In weekly lessons, students build musical knowledge by learning traditional skills like note reading, rhythm, and beat while engaging in instrumentation, movement, and self-expression. Kids develop not only an appreciation for and an understanding of music, but social skills like self-discipline, concentration, and perseverance as well. Our music teacher's salary is paid by FoG alone.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM** – Nope, the district doesn't pay for this either. FoG pays for P.E. coaches to lead our students through sports, drills, and games every week. These activities, which vary by grade level, help develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination while teaching teamwork and building confidence.

**VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM** – Our dedicated art studio space provides an innovative environment where students explore and grow. Classes focus on a blend of creative expression and technical skill building. Students are exposed to a variety of techniques and media, and are encouraged to discuss the ideas and inspirations for their own work, which is created using their personal kit of materials paid for only by FoG.

**EDIBLE GARDEN** – The Gardner Garden is open to students year-round for exploration and education. Green-thumbed parent volunteers grow, maintain, and harvest the garden so that teachers can use it to complement classroom lessons – especially those in science and nutrition. FoG pays for all plants, maintenance, and materials that the garden requires.

**YOGA PROGRAM** – FoG has proudly funded a seasonal yoga program for our students since 2016. Beyond strength and flexibility training, yoga helps children to develop body awareness, confidence, and a positive self image while being part of a non-competitive group. Yoga also enhances mindfulness, concentration and focus, as well as the ability to manage stress.

**CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION** – As a Magnet school with emphasis in the Arts, what would our school be without color? This summer, FoG funded a beautiful new mural by renowned artist BumbleBeeLovesYou. We expect many new upgrades this coming year to help Gardner showcase its warm and creative spirit. Our goals include planting new trees for our playground to garner shade, growing vines and putting up slats to give the playground more privacy. New items for the playground, including a volleyball net, and a marquee are also anticipated.



## **WHERE IS MY 'GARDNER GIVE' MONEY GOING? (cont.)**

**SCIENCE LAB** – Gardner Street and Friends of Gardner are proud to announce our new science lab! It is thanks to YOU and all your generous donations that we were able to envision and build this space for every student to create, experiment and discover while getting the hands-on learning they need and deserve. Students will study physical science, life science, earth science and engineering. Your donations will continue to fund this lab and all its necessary materials.

### **WHY SHOULD I DONATE? PUBLIC SCHOOL IS SUPPOSED TO BE FREE.**

Unfortunately, public education in California has changed considerably since many of us attended school and the funding provided by the state does not cover what we believe is necessary for children to succeed. Schools are faced with a significant reduction in the resources needed to provide a quality, well-rounded curriculum, leaving it up to us as parents to help fill in the gaps. The more you give, the more opportunities we can provide for our students.

### **IS IT LIKE THIS AT OTHER SCHOOLS?**

All California public schools have been affected by the budget crisis. Arts and music education are often the first programs to be cut. Only 1 in 5 California public schools has a dedicated arts or music teacher. To maintain a quality education for their students, schools and school districts are relying on sources other than the state. Many high-performing public schools and charter schools in our immediate area ask for a \$1000-\$2000 per year per student donation. Our ask is \$350 per student per year, but our goal is for everyone to give SOMETHING if possible.

### **WHY IS THIS BURDEN BEING PUT ON OUR PARENTS – AREN'T THERE OTHER WAYS TO RAISE MONEY?**

We will have many fundraising opportunities throughout the year. However, we cannot raise the necessary amount of money through fundraisers alone. We hope to have a group of parents who will work at reaching out to the community for donations and grants, and we'd love to be able to gain funding from community members as well. Still, with budgets being what they are and with busy families having limited time to give to the cause, we are forced to rely on financial donations from parents. We hate to do it. However, cutting these amazing programs from our curriculum would be an incredible loss for our students.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE, BUT I CAN'T PAY THE FULL DONATION ALL AT ONCE?**

We are completely flexible and can accommodate your financial situation. If you can't make your donation in one lump sum, we are able to set up a payment schedule for the remaining months of the school year. Only have five bucks to give right now? We will take it! Scared to commit to monthly payments? Don't worry, you can cancel anytime if you're in a bind. We appreciate each and every effort to participate in Gardner Give!