



Cougar Education Fund Spring 2021 Newsletter

We know this is long, however we ask that you take the extra time to read.

Please and Thank you- CEF



(originally sent out March 8th, 2021 via email)

Coming this Spring...



Baldwin Baskets Online Auction

Volunteer now to be your child's classroom basket organizer!

We have so many great themes to choose from.

This year's auction will be a modified offering compared to previous years.

Please get ready to join the fun and bid for our kids!

Online Auction April 26-30th

Go to the CEF page on the John Baldwin Website to sign up to be your class basket coordinator. Donation request forms also available on the school's CEF webpage.

Message from the Cougar Ed Fund

The Cougar Education Fund (CEF), an affiliate of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation (SRVEF), is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to maintain and enhance the academic excellence at John Baldwin Elementary School. Founded in 1999, CEF is composed of parent volunteers, our school principal, a staff/faculty representative, a PTA and School Site Council liaison. CEF is dedicated to generating money through tax-deductible contributions to pay for programs, technology needs, and the salaries of faculty and staff our parent community and school administration believe are important to the education of our children, **but are not paid for by our school district.**

Despite being the second lowest-funded school district (by comparable size) in California, we've been able to maintain an exceptionally high level of education at John Baldwin. This is due to our incredible teachers and staff and also because of years of family contributions (big and small) to our school's Foundation.

Families that supported CEF for the many years prior to 2020 helped create a fiscally responsible and sound approach to aggressively fund programs for our children's education. Such valued programs/positions have come to be expected for our students. This level of support does not come from the state nor district. Our community raises funds to increase and enhance the programs at John Baldwin. Donations to the Cougar Ed Fund stay at John Baldwin Elementary School. Once the pandemic hit last year many changes in staffing were needed. **Almost half of the operating budget for CEF was cut. The Cougar Education Fund conservatively committed to providing a reduced but essential level of positions/programs for 2020-21.**

(\$243,000 CEF supported for 2019/20 school year vs \$122,000 for 2020/21 school year**)*

Planning forward to the upcoming 2021-22 school year, CEF will be funding the same programs/positions again totaling the conservative \$122,000 salary expense. This is the lowest funded amount for programs/positions the Cougar Ed Fund has provided for our John Baldwin students in over 7 years. However, we anticipate an even greater need for the 2021-22 school year and beyond.

The Cougar Ed Fund exists because of donations. CEF will only be able to provide programs based on what our families contribute. Total funds raised by CEF to date are approximately **\$80,000 of our \$122,000 commitment.** CEF has anticipated such a downturn in participation due to the pandemic and is able to fund all of our programs till the end of this school year. That's why we are kicking off next year's funding now with our online basket auction April 26-30th. **However- next year is a different story. That's why we NEED YOU!**

The Cougar Ed Fund operates on parent power. Without volunteers from our community to help fundraise, market, network, listen, participate, audit, account for funds, organize, enter data, brainstorm, corporate match, communicate with SRVEF, cooperate with our JB teachers and staff listening to their needs and wants *OUR* Ed Fund will not be able to operate and support supplemental programs at John Baldwin. This fact has never been more true. We ask that you keep the focus on our JB school community and remember the importance each one of us has, big or small, to make a difference in our children's education, now and in the future. Our kids need more. Our kids deserve more. And we can help make amazing things happen here at John Baldwin. Please consider how you can make a difference so our Ed Fund can once again thrive.

.....



It means...

Our students **need more** than what the state and district can provide for our public schools with the SRVUSD.

It means...

CEF does **not** receive money from the school district nor state.

It means...

Each school's ed fund in the SRVUSD must solicit **donations** from their parent community in order to provide these supplemental programs and associated positions so greatly needed.

It means...

Without your donations the programs CEF currently provides would **no longer be available**.

It means...

Withholding CEF contributions only **affects our children** at John Baldwin, not the district.

It means...

We need **your** support.

What CEF is funding for this current school year

- **Reading Specialist (TK-5)**
 - **Math Instructional Assistant (TK-5)**
 - **Literacy Instructional Assistant (TK-5)**
 - **Sr. Primary Para(TK-5)**
 - **Library Media Coordinator (partial funding TK-5)**
 - **Education Software and Licensing Fees**
- 



Who benefits?

ALL John Baldwin students benefit!

Students needing math or reading intervention are able to receive the individual support they need while allowing teachers the ability to successfully educate their class as a whole.

Programs have been functioning in both remote and in person learning for all of our students.

Do you know that our CEF funded positions have operated all year during both remote and in person instruction?

Many students do not have direct interaction with all members of staff supported by CEF. However, their support enhances everyone's educational experience at John Baldwin. These supplemental programs provide benefits for each student, each class, our entire school as well as our surrounding community. In providing these services allows for additional help for students and teachers where needed. This enables the entire class to move forward in their learning together. Our John Baldwin test scores have been a direct result of these programs and thus explain the reason for the highly desirable and sought after neighborhoods and schools in the SRVUSD. Education is the building block to a successful community and future for all.

Putting a face to our programs.

Rachel McCutchen, Reading Specialist, Grades Supported: K-5



Rachel is a credentialed teacher that oversees our literacy intervention program. There are many facets to her position, including data analysis of all students, assisting in administering diagnostic assessments for students performing below standard, delivery of intervention in small groups and 1-1 (including Structured Literacy Intervention, Leveled Literacy Instruction, Reading Recovery, and other research based models), staff training, attendance at Student Success Team meetings, coordination of the intervention schedule/master schedule, parent communications, and progress monitoring to staff.

Leigh Chan, Instructional Assistant, Literacy, Grades Supported: K-5



Leigh is a highly trained instructional assistant that delivers a variety of interventions to our students. Similar to Rachel, her position has a lot of responsibilities, including: working with Rachel to analyze student data, assisting with assessments, coordinating a schedule to deliver small group and, on occasion, 1-1 intervention, supporting phonemic awareness, letter sounds & phonics, concepts of print, reading fluency and expression, and reading comprehension, reporting progress to parents and teachers, and participating in ongoing training.

Norma Andres, Instructional Assistant, Math, Grades Supported: 1-5



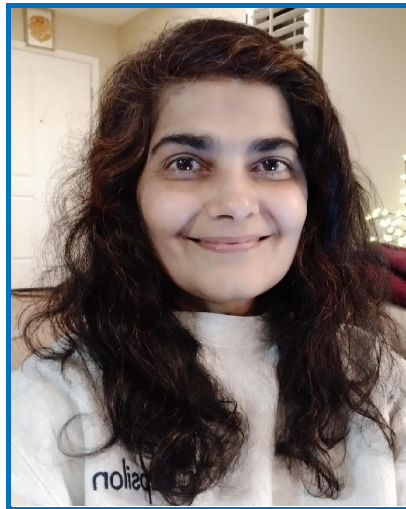
Norma manages our Tier 2 and Tier 3 math intervention program. She supports students in acquiring essential grade level standards, as well as students that may be lacking prerequisite skills needed to access grade level content. Norma uses a variety of strategies to build understanding on foundation of numbers, base 10 place value, composing and decomposing numbers, multiplication and division, and decimals and fractions. Norma works with grade level teachers to build our math intervention schedule and provides detailed updates on student progress.

Lubna Jawaid, Library Media Coordinator, TK-5 (6 hours a week)



Lubna oversees all media at John Baldwin. Lubna catalogs and distributes instructional materials for students and staff, manages online subscriptions, and oversees distribution of library materials. During this past school year, Lubna has further assisted with supplies/materials distribution for remote instruction, hybrid student supervision, online read alouds, online checkout of library materials for remote instruction, and hybrid delivery of library materials to classrooms. Our Cougar Ed Fund supplements her district allocated hours, bringing her on campus for a total 18 hours per week.

**Nivedita Krishnaswami, Senior Primary Para "Rainbow Room"
TK-5 (4.5 hours)**



Nivedita facilitates the Rainbow Room program at John Baldwin. Rainbow Program is a research based early intervention program that helps our students in a variety of areas, including developing social skills, fostering healthy self-concept, developing leadership skills, and assisting with life transitions. These interventions are provided via various models, such as Primary Intervention Program (PIP) where students participate in non-directive play; Small Group Supports such as Second Step, Steps to Respect, PALS, and Get Ready for Middle School. All of these programs have continued to be offered, virtually, during this past school year. In addition to these supports, Nivedita has assisted with supervision and staff training. Our Cougar Ed Fund supplements her district allocated hours, allowing her to support our students for 19.5 hours a week.

How CEF works.

Step 1

Staffing commitments associated with the declared programs are submitted to the district the prior spring for the upcoming school year.

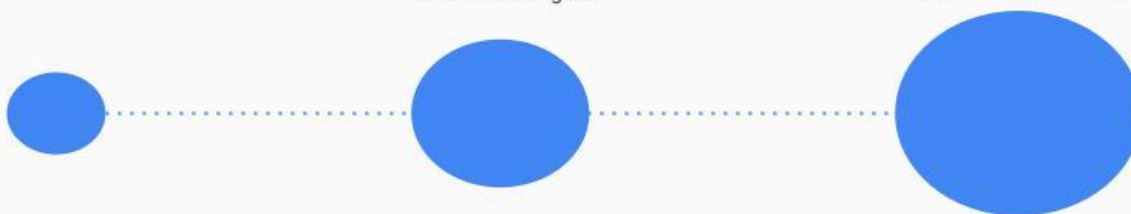
Step 2

Requests for tax-deductible charitable donations during the **Fall Donation Drive** launch at the beginning of every school year

Supplemental fundraisers are often needed throughout the year to meet this financial goal.

Step 3

Our John Baldwin community experiences the benefit of the donation dollars used to fund such valued and needed programs that enhance academic excellence for our students.



“Why do I need to know this now?”

Every year each ed fund in the district submits staffing commitments in the early part of the spring semester for the following year. Due to the pandemic, future planning has become a challenge. We are thankful to have previously had such a fiscally responsible foundation that has operated in the funds best interest to prepare for such possible financial downturns.

Communicating this conservative approach CEF has taken and will continue to take for next year is a responsible decision as the foundation does not have knowledge of what our fundraising efforts will provide or afford. After receiving this communication we ask that you keep this challenge at the forefront of your decision making process for the upcoming year. It is up to our own community to make our Ed Fund thrive for our students.



Looking Forward

.....

Future CEF Funded Staffing Commitments:

CEF has again, for the second year in a row, committed **to only \$122,000** in salaries associated with our valued programs for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

2020-21 School Year

Reading Specialist
Math Instructional Assistant
Literacy Instructional Assistant
Senior Primary Para
Library Media Coordinator

2021-22 School Year

Reading Specialist
Math Instructional Assistant
Literacy Instructional Assistant
Senior Primary Para
Library Media Coordinator

Future CEF Funding Goal:

.....

The immediate future funding goal for CEF is to ***add back more programs***. The opportunity to bring back previously cut programs (ie. Art, Music to lower grades, supervision, paras for more grades, teacher resources, etc.) with possible new ones is our focus. With feedback from our parents and staff as well as contributions from our community this goal can be reached and exceeded.

*Examples of possible additions for future consideration that were previously funded by CEF but are no longer; **Music Instruction(TK-2), Art teacher, social emotional programs ie. Soul Shoppe, campus supervisor, paraprofessionals for more grades, teacher grants for special classroom needs, site enhancements, math & reading specialists and more.***

Action Needed:

.....

Increase in contributions per student/family. Funds raised during the 2021-22 school year must exceed the \$122,000 staffing commitment expense to bring back more programs for our kids. Here are 4 ways to participate:

- Participation in the form of financial contributions in the beginning of each year at registration during the fall donation drive open August- October.
- Participation in ongoing fundraisers throughout the year.
- Participation in corporate matching opportunities.
- Make a tax-deductible donation ANYTIME-ANY AMOUNT at jb.futurefund.com

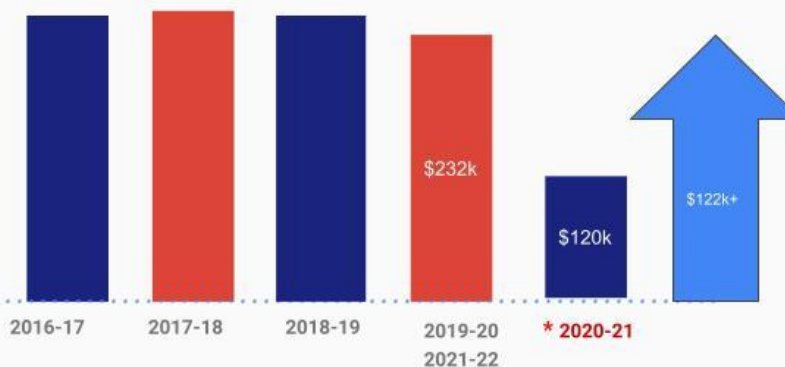
***The suggested yearly CEF donation amount of \$550 per student with full participation would give CEF the required funds to ADD such essential programs back to our school.**

CEF's Commitment to Academic Excellence Over the Years

Our JB parent community has always been proud supporters of the many positions and programs needed for our students to excel.

Unfortunately, our current school year experienced a dramatic cut in CEF funded programs.*

However, we anticipate an even greater need for our students moving forward.





Do you want to become more involved at JB?

The Cougar Ed Fund is a great way to become more involved in your child's school. There are many roles you can play on the Cougar Ed Fund.

The ed fund is similar to the PTA in that it brings families together to have fun and create a sense of community. Only CEF has a financial goal attached to the event. CEF plans events that involve eating, drinking, dancing, shopping, laughing, sometimes friendly competition and of course the best one...adult only time! Who doesn't like that?!? Guaranteed, some of your best memories while your kids are in elementary school will be at a John Baldwin fundraiser. These years go by so fast, don't miss out!

So ask yourself these questions:

- ★ Do you like to plan parties?
- ★ Do you like to go to parties?
- ★ Do you have experience in accounting?
- ★ Do you have social media/marketing experience?
- ★ Do you want to meet more parents or network?
- ★ Do you want to advocate for our students?
- ★ Do you have one free hour once a month to join a meeting?
- ★ Do you have lots of ideas but just need a group of your peers to help make it happen?
- ★ Do you have children at John Baldwin Elementary School?

If you said "YES" to any of the above questions- please consider volunteering for an open position on the Cougar Ed Fund board or join a CEF committee.

**Please consider getting involved and join the
Cougar Ed Fund's Board of Directors for 2021-22 school year.**

President

Vice President

Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer

Secretary

Auditor

Communications Chair

Fundraiser Committee Chair(s)

Corporate Matching Chair(s)

Registration Chair



[Go to the CEF page on the John Baldwin Website to learn more.](#)

No past experience needed, all are welcome!

Contact Britney Fanelli and AJ Estrada at jbes.cef@gmail.com for questions.

Or call or email Principal Joe Romagna to learn more.

***Together as a community we can make
amazing things happen for our children.***



Thank you for supporting John Baldwin Elementary School

Cougar Ed Fund

Co-Presidents, Britney Fanelli & AJ Estrada

Treasurer, Tabitha Middendorf

Secretary, Jeanette Sebree

Corporate Matching Chairs, Landis Ruiz & Kristen Brown

Registration Chair, Eugene Shih

Follow us on Facebook at JohnBaldwin PTA-CEF.

Email jbes.cef@gmail.com with comments or questions

Click to sign up and shop and earn money for John Baldwin below:



Go to the CEF page on the John Baldwin Website to learn more.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)
