

Mary Lin Education Foundation Annual Report 2019-20

Prepared by Heather Lamb, Chair
and Zaid Duwayri, Treasurer
Mary Lin Education Foundation

Chair's Report

The Mary Lin Education Foundation (MLEF) had another very successful school year. Our major annual fundraiser The Rocket Fuel Fund set a record in its fourth year, ultimately raising over \$175,000 to fund our mission to provide additional support for curriculum enrichment, professional development, enhanced technology and special projects not covered by the district budget.

With these funds over \$170,000 of grants were approved to accomplish all of the goals we set out to achieve at the beginning of the year including but not limited to:

- Meeting the Go Team's objective to improve writing instruction across APS by funding Complete Reading Series Training for 75% of Mary Lin teachers, ensuring excellence and continuity in reading instruction across every classroom and grade level
- Nurturing phonics and reading enrichment in grades K-3 with Saxon Phonics, the Phonemic Awareness curriculum, and Scholastic Reading Assessment kits (K-5)
- Continuing to fund popular subscription-based curriculum support resources such as Silicon Valley Math, Greg Tang Math, BrainPOP and Handwriting Without Tears, Freckle and Lexia
- Getting closer to our eventual goal of a one-to-one student to technology ratio by purchasing two additional Chromebook carts
- Upgrading technology in the classroom by replacing smart boards in classrooms where they were no longer functioning
- Providing resources for our Specials classes including Recorders for 3rd grade music and Ukuleles for all music classes, ipads for technology and tumbling mats for PE

For a complete list of grants awarded by the Mary Lin Education Foundation during the 2019-20 school year, turn to the following page. For a breakdown of the percentage of funds spent on each area, see page 5.

We are very proud of the fact that less than 3% of funds raised went to operating and fundraising expenses; the other 97% went to funding our mission to ensure every Mary Lin student (or "Rocket"), regardless of background or ability, can soar to new heights each school year and beyond.

Complete List of Grants Awarded by MLEF in 2019-20

Professional Learning & Resources

Complete Reading Series Training

By the end of the 2019-20 school year, the MLEF will have funded the completion of this series for the following teachers: Dees, Bischof, Okojie, Kelley, Cole, Foxworth, Rafig, Binner, Hanshaw, Collins, Arestead, Howard, Tijerina, Robinson, Seay, Evans, Tolmach, Phalen, Gosha, Bellard, Howard Gabbert, Nail, Bonilla, Ashley, Derrico, Baldwin, Gurthie, Tabor, Rice, Watkins, Pursley, Arillo and Patterson as well as instructional coaches Emily Fuller and Denise Bringslid. It is Ms. Briscoe's goal that any teacher who comes to Lin who is not already trained in the CRS receives the training during their first or second year at Lin.

Greg Tang's Reasoning, Rigor & Results

The following teachers who had not yet attended a Greg tang conference attended this local one day workshop in October 2019 on developing reasoning skills and computational fluency through word problems: Nail, Spaulding, Tabor, Green, Everett, Bringslid

Fountas and Pinnell Classroom Guided Reading Collection for 1st Grade

1st grade teachers each received the complete reading collection instructional materials to use in their classroom to have the guided reading series. This includes over 200 original title books with 6 copies of each plus a comprehensive lesson folder for each book and access to additional online resources. The first grade team utilizes these resources for targeted small group lessons to develop students fluency and comprehension skills using increasingly challenging texts.

Technology Conference

The MLEF was thrilled to send Mr. Rice to this conference so he could engage with his peers and learn best practices from leaders in technology.

Physical Education Resources

A full set of new tumbling mats were purchase for the gymnasium for use during Physical Education classes.

Understanding Dyslexia Workshop

Staff-Wide Professional Learning was done on a Teacher Work Day in February 2020 where all teachers at Mary Lin attended a Workshop on understanding Dyslexia and how to better see signs of dyslexia and to provide specific strategies and interventions to remediate for students who have dyslexia.

Math PLUS Conference

A favorite of Mary Lin staff, Greg Tang's Math Plus conference gives teachers the skills to help all of their students achieve fluency and automaticity, and explore challenging problems that help develop advanced thinking for older and/or gifted students.

Teacher Allotments

As part of the MLEF's commitment to making sure our financial resources is spread throughout the entire school, we were thrilled to grant all teachers a semester stipend to purchase materials for their classroom. The students will benefit from having additional resources at their fingertips.

Curriculum Enrichment

Freckle Subscription for 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders

Foundation provided subscriptions to every 3rd, 4th and 5th grade student to use Freckle, an online computer program to help provide differentiated assignments to students in math in order to meet the level of each student. The website's unique features are challenging, engaging and relevant. As students practice mathematics on an online platform, they are better prepared for the spring milestones.

Saxon Phonics

This is the 4th year the MLEF has funded the Saxon Phonics, an incremental approach to phonics instruction, reading, spelling, and writing. Saxon phonics is a complete research based curriculum with solid methodology that is known for quality of instruction, supporting materials and ease of use. Saxon Phonics prepares children to be successful, independent readers and spellers. Supported by research on effective reading instruction, Saxon Phonic's programs are appropriate for all children, including those with learning difficulties.

Handwriting Without Tears

This is the 4th year the MLEF has funded the use of Handwriting Without Tears which is as popular with the students as it is the teachers. HWT provides developmentally appropriate, multi-sensory handwriting instruction for K–5 students with innovative, easy to use and tear-proof materials and strategies.

Write Score (Grades 3-5)

Write Score has helped us take a big jump in improving our writing in grades 3-5. Teachers are given fun, engaging, colorful lesson plans that they can use to help students understand, analyze, and practice the writing process. Students are given the chance to take practice assessments before on a computer, and receive detailed feedback in less than two weeks. The teachers can easily see individual student's writing and feedback as well as identify areas of strength and weakness for his/her own class.

Sets of Recommended Novels for 4th and 5th Grade "Literacy Circles"

Small group literature circles are used to engage students in a deeper love of reading as they are asked not just to read and retell a book but discuss, analyze, write and apply the Common Core standards toward a book with their peers. With the proper texts, these discussions should foster a deeper understanding of characters and their challenges and of each other as kids may interpret these in different ways. A variety of books were purchased to accommodate students at various reading levels and serve as the basis for successful reading workshops in each ELA classroom.

Social and Emotional Learning Texts

Our school counselor Ms. Bailey asked for these texts for use as a resource in her social and emotional learning sessions with students. Learning about a character's struggle through fictional texts is a wonderful way to teach kids lessons about sensitive and hard to talk about topics.

Kindergarten Writer's Workshop Mentor Texts

Mentor texts are used to introduce, provide examples and expand student's knowledge of each writing genre that is taught. The mentor texts model characteristics and attributes of successful writing that students aim to understand by the end of the year.

FLOCABULARY

Flocabulary is an online resource that supports instruction in language arts (tier 2[1] vocabulary/grammar), but the program also has tools to support math, science, social studies, life skills (financial literacy and social/emotional learning), and current events.

Phonemic Awareness Curriculum

The fifteen teachers who attended Orton-Gillingham Training last summer learned about the importance of developing phonemic awareness and phonological awareness skills so students can sound out unknown words as they take on more advanced texts. These books will supplement Saxon Phonics curriculum as an effective tool for teaching phonemic awareness.

Reading A to Z (Raz-Plus)

Fortunately the Foundation is able to cover the cost of this popular resource for the 2019-20 school year since the district will no longer fund it. Raz-Plus is a comprehensive blended learning platform that includes the curricular support teachers need and the personalized resources necessary to improve students' reading skills. With more than 50,000 resources that include more than 3,000 leveled books and readers available in multiple formats, Raz-Plus makes it easier than ever before to strengthen the connection between what is being taught and what students are practicing.

BrainPOP

The MLEF will pay for this subscription for the 2019-20 school year since the district will no longer fund it. BrainPOP is a digital learning platform that provides teachers with engaging learning games, animated movies, and activities. They are designed with relevance, depth, and humor to encourage kids on their unique learning paths.

Technology

Chromebooks

After purchasing two more Chromebook carts this school year, we are getting closer to our goal of a 1:1 ratio of laptop to student in third through fifth grades. In the upper grades, Chromebooks help students prepare for computer-based testing like the Georgia Milestones, get ready for Inman Middle where a significant amount of schoolwork is completed on Chromebooks, collaborate on projects via Google Classroom and support differentiation goals by allowing teachers to assign students of varying aptitudes level-appropriate practice work and tutorial guides.

Recordex Panel

Ms. Guthrie, Ms. Graves and Ms. Tolmach attending this conference focused on inspiring educators to "create magic in your classrooms to increase student engagement and change the game of education." Any student in Ms. Graves class knows she was inspired by this conference to create a Superbowl Learning Day they will never forget!

Specials IPAD set

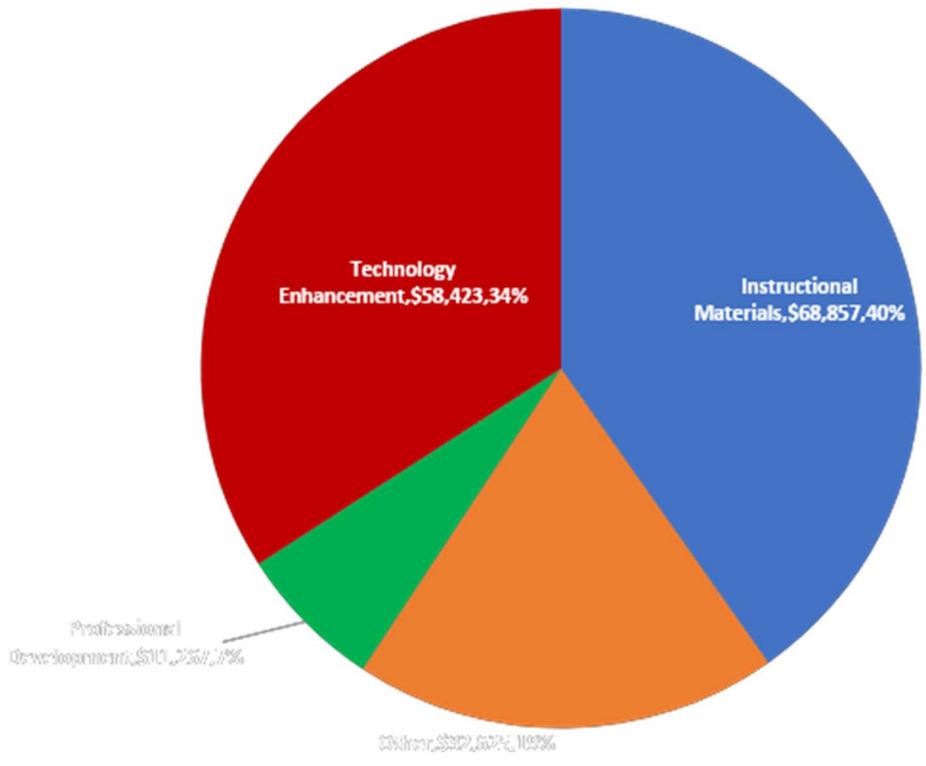
All of our specials teachers now have access to a group set of IPADS that can be used in their respective classrooms to provide additional enrichment opportunities and to work in small groups.

Media Center Chromebook Set

The Media Center is now fully stocked with a handful of chromebooks for students to use to work on projects, additional enrichment and to research classroom project topics.

Fundraising Summary

At the time of the publication of this report, MLEF has a balance of \$13,609.65 of uncommitted funds. In the 2019-2020 school years, approximately \$172,000 of Foundation funds were allocated to grants to support the mission of the Foundation. The chart below represents the allocation of these funds.



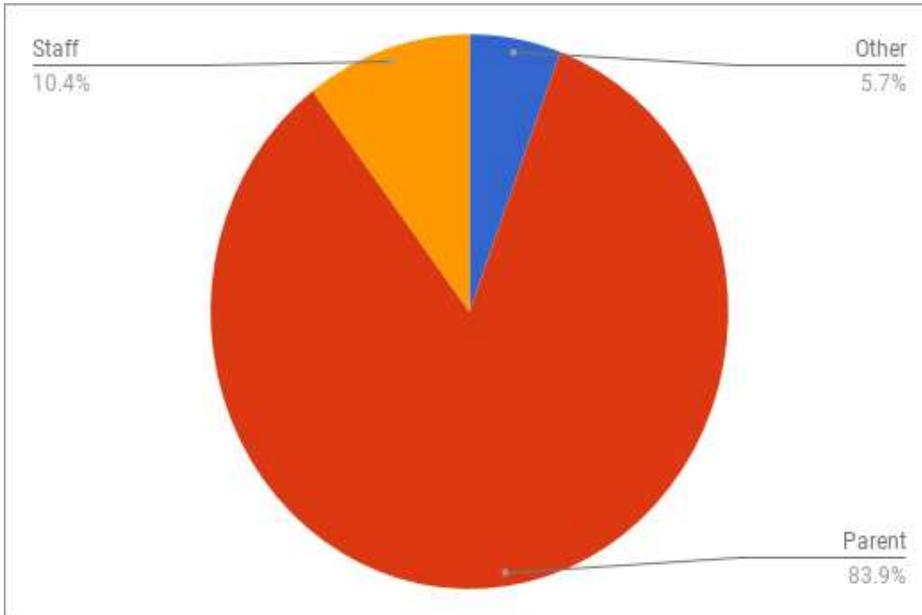
Donor Data:

Mary Lin Elementary parents, staff members, neighbors, alumni, grandparents and other family members supported the Rocket Fuel Fund this year. 82% of current Mary Lin parents donated with an average donation of \$350 and 85% of current staff members donated with an average donation of \$50. See the following page for charts showing the breakdown of donors by type and giving level.

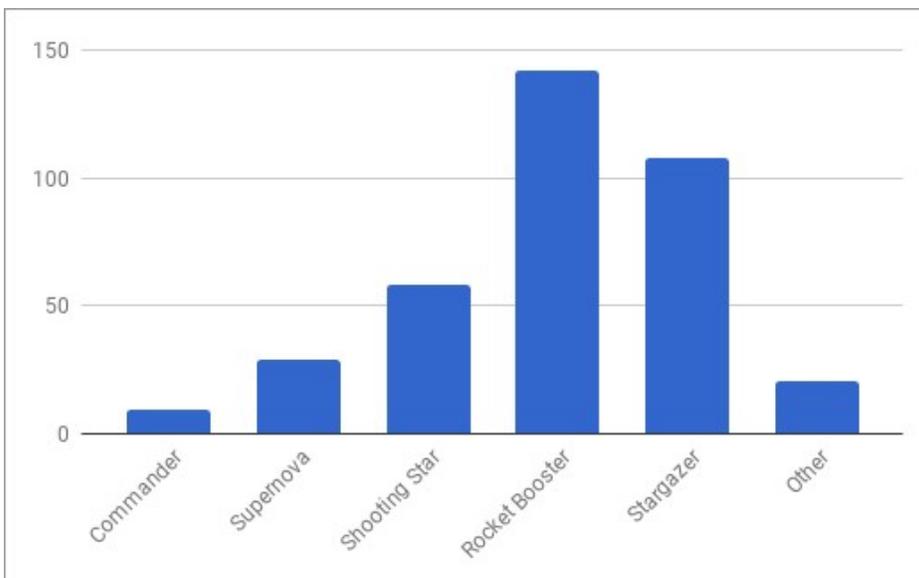
Over 120 parents donated \$600 or more to the Rocket Fuel Fund, with ten families donating at the top level "Commander's Circle."

Contributions by Donor Category:





Donor Giving Level Breakdown:



Commander Circle: \$2500+, Supernova: \$1000+, Shooting Star: \$600+, Rocket Booster: \$150+, Stargazer: \$25+, Other: Donors who gave less than \$25

For a complete list of donors, please refer to the website:

<https://www.marylinfooundation.org> The full list of 2019-20 donors to the Rocket Fuel Fund organized by giving level is under the Fundraising Tab.

Mary Lin Education Board Members for 2019-20

Thank you to all of our board members who served this year and to those who have graciously agreed to serve on the board next year.

Chair – Heather Lamb
Chair-Elect – Molly Saft
Treasurer – Zaid Duwayri*
Grants Coordinator – Emily Kotzan*
Secretary – Alyson Godwin

Trustees:

Kat Cooper*
Billy Eiselstein*
Peter Kruskamp
Sarah-Nell Walsh

Ex-officio Members:

Principal: Ms. Sharyn Briscoe
Teacher Rep: Emily Fuller*
Go Team Rep: Stacey Stewart*
PTA Rep: Sarah McLean/Lynley Teras

* Denotes board members rolling off at end of current term (July 31st, 2020)

Incoming Board Members for the 2020-21 term

Rob Hancharick, Trustee
Kristy Rachal, Secretary
Amanda Rhein – Chair Elect
Andy Deutsch, Trustee
Go Team Rep: TBD
Teacher Rep: TBD
PTA Rep: TBD

The Mary Lin Education Foundation would like to thank all of the donors and volunteers who made it possible to achieve all of our goals this year.