



Students Got Creative at Dunbar Elementary

You helped students engage and heal through the arts

“Art is fundamental to sparking creative thinking in young scholars. Thank you for bringing this program to life here at Dunbar.”
 ~ Karen O’Hara, Dunbar teacher

“Is the art studio going to be open today?”

If you were to visit Dunbar Elementary School, that’s a phrase you would hear over and over.

Because, thanks to you, a new art program helps students put their creativity in action!

The art studio is just one small facet of an exciting new initiative called dunbART. With this program (designed and implemented by Kimzin Creative, and in partnership with Creative Bridges) multiple local organizations have coordinated efforts to bring the arts to Dunbar students.

Because of you, students were able to explore everything from ceramics to sewing to instrumental music, and much more. Arts classes have been integrated into the school day, and are also available after school and during the lunch hour.

Dunbar teacher Karen O’Hara, who is also supporting dunbART through a teacher ambassador program, has seen firsthand how important this opportunity is.

“Art is fundamental to sparking creative thinking in young scholars. Thank you for helping make this program come to life here at Dunbar!”

“Art is a fantastic way for all students to feel they can succeed. It is accessible for all learning levels. The lessons are engaging and help bring out the creativity in our scholars.”

After the stress and isolation caused by the pandemic, students urgently need opportunities to engage and heal – and we know the arts are incredibly effective at doing just that. Thank you for helping to provide this for local students.

Above: By giving students opportunities to explore a variety of art mediums, you also helped them engage, create, and heal.



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Your 2022 Annual Report

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Above: our gift is helping local students in many ways, such as providing fully-subsidized preschool for young learners.

Thank You For Supporting Local Students

Your Gift is Already Being Put to Work in Sonoma Valley Schools!

I want to sincerely thank you for supporting Sonoma Valley students and teachers in 2022. In this report, **I am pleased to share with you a few stories of the ways you have made a difference in our community.**

When you made a gift to the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, you made an investment in the future of local students of all ages. **Your impact is profound.**

Because of you, our community’s learners were able to attend fully-subsidized preschool. You gave a child exactly what they needed: a safe, fun, and enriching preschool experience. You also gave their parents tools and books to continue the learning outside the classroom.

Because of you, students at Dunbar Elementary participated in a wide range of hands-on arts classes. Students benefited from the healing power of the

arts, and also exercised their creativity, explored new mediums, and learned in a whole new way.

Because of you, local teachers were awarded Classroom Grants which provided their students with the materials, resources, and field trips, and other experiences they needed to succeed. Teachers used their creativity to think outside the box and give their students a richer learning experience.

None of this would have been possible without your generous support. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!



With gratitude,
 Angela Ryan, Ph.D
 Executive Director

You Made Preschool Possible and Helped Kids Thrive!

A local parent discusses the impact you have made on her child



"I've seen improvements in my son that are near miraculous. He is a more joyous child, and I am a better parent because of this program and its teachers."
~Jenny, preschool parent

When you made a donation to the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, **you made an investment in the future of over 100 local children.**

You provided critical funds for our community's largest, fully-subsidized preschool. Your gift sent a young student, from a family that needs a little help, to a safe and enriching school environment.

Preschool is important because it gives students a head start in school, as well as opportunities to learn critical skills as they play and socialize.

You have already given this gift to local student Alex.

Alex started attending El Verano preschool in the fall. Already his mother, Jenny, has seen how important early education is for her son!

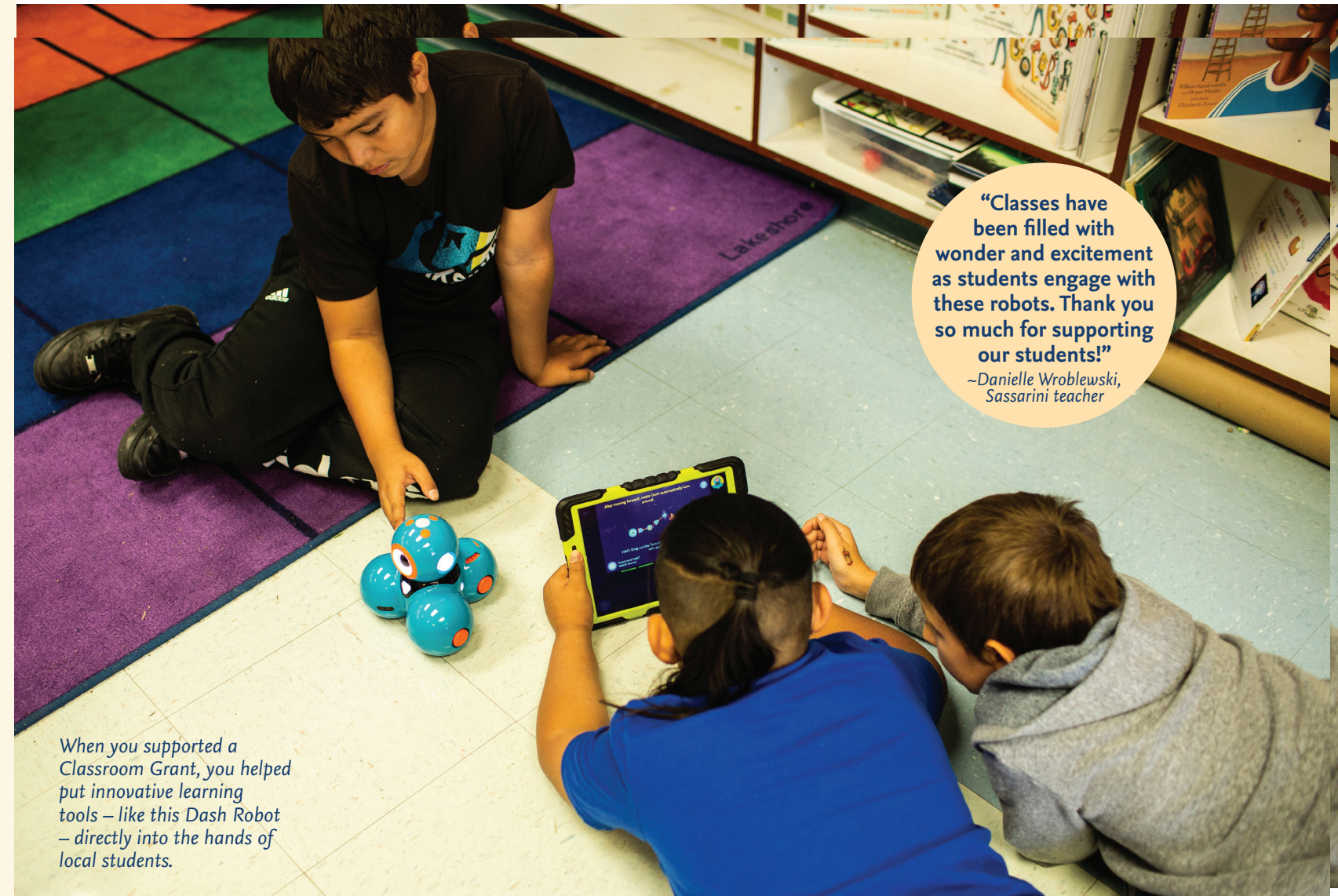
"Preschool has helped my son establish a more consistent pattern and schedule, which in turn has made Alex easier to parent with fewer emotional outbursts. He has also caught up to other children his age in regards to his speech delays.

"This program makes an impact on my son. His speech has greatly improved, and he is better socialized, calmer, and more attentive. It is extremely beneficial to him both socially and educationally."

"I've seen improvements in my son that are near miraculous. He is a more joyous child, and I am a better parent because of this program and its teachers."

No child should have to miss out on critical early learning opportunities – and because of you, they don't have to! Thank you for ensuring that young learners like Alex can attend preschool.

Preschool – made possible by you – makes a big impact on young students!



"Classes have been filled with wonder and excitement as students engage with these robots. Thank you so much for supporting our students!"
~Danielle Wroblewski, Sassarini teacher

When you supported a Classroom Grant, you helped put innovative learning tools – like this Dash Robot – directly into the hands of local students.

New Robots Bring Learning to Life

Students learn 21st Century skills, thanks to you!

On November 2nd, the excitement in the air at the Sassarini Elementary School was palpable. A class of 5th grade students rushed to open the boxes of their new learning tools: small Dash Robots, which students could code to move, spin, talk, and more!

The new Dash Robots were made possible thanks to donors like you, who helped fund a Classroom Grant for Sassarini teacher Danielle Wroblewski.

When you make a Classroom Grant possible for a local teacher, you are ensuring that they can provide their students with the materials, resources, and experiences that their students need to thrive. As Ms. Wroblewski can attest, your support makes all the difference for local students.

Ms. Wroblewski runs the Maker Space, a designated space for students to explore STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) throughout the year. All students at Sassarini, from TK through 5th grade, have the opportunity to visit the Maker Lab once a week to engage in exciting, creative, hands-on classes.

While the Maker Space was already equipped with many resources, the new Dash Robots filled an important gap. Ms. Wroblewski commented, "There are very few opportunities for my students to learn to code. Learning to use block code to give Dash directions and complete tasks provides a tangible and exciting use of code."

Students control the robots through an app on an external tablet. Using the app, they learn the basics of coding and use their new skills to bring the robots to life!

For their final project with the Dash Robots, Ms. Wroblewski will have the students program their robots to participate in a dance challenge. Her long-term goal is to build a Coding Unit for all students to learn and explore the wonders of computer science and programming year after year.

"Classes have been filled with wonder and excitement as students engage with these robots. Thank you so much for supporting our students!"

How We Invested \$986,000 In Student Programs Together



In 2022, you invested in programs that directly impacted student learning and outcomes:

Preschool For All:

You helped provide high quality, fully-subsidized preschool for 104 local children. The program prioritizes students from low-income families or with learning disabilities.

Classroom Grants:

You funded grants for 74 Sonoma Valley teachers, which provided the educational materials, supplies, field trips, and other experiences that they and their students needed.

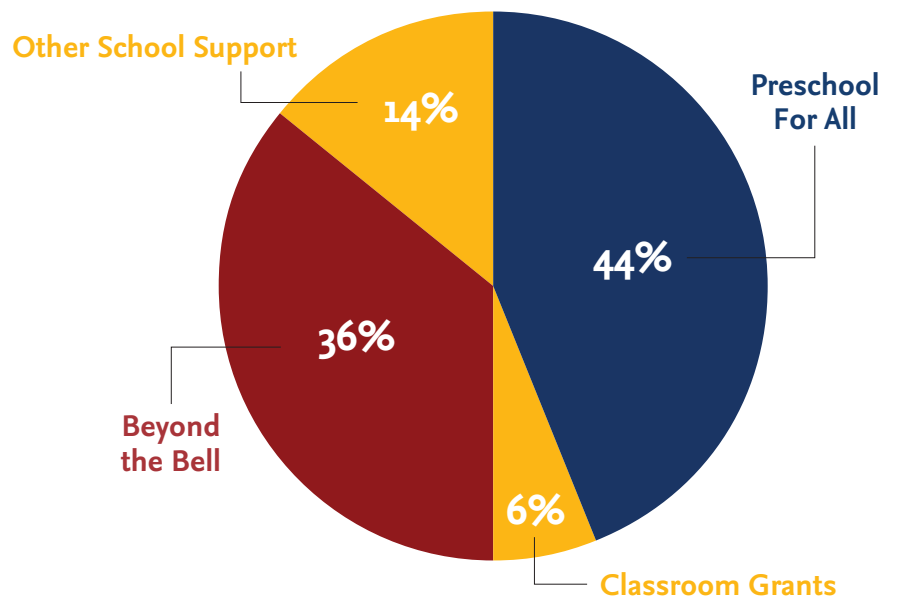
Beyond the Bell:

SVEF partnered with trusted, local organizations to provide students with the support they needed. Your support made possible a range of extended learning, music, arts, and nature programs that gave kids the chance to explore and be creative.

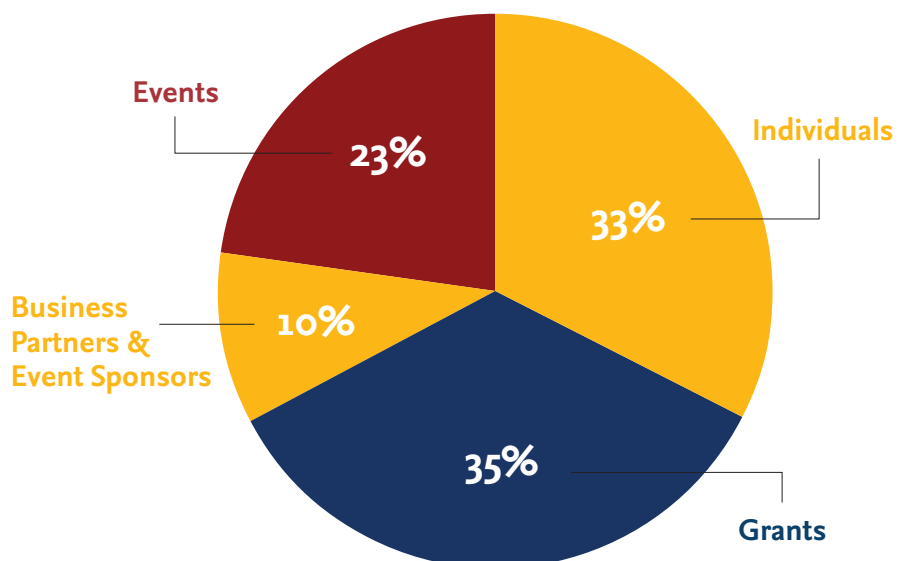
Other School Support:

You supported grants to our schools' PTOs, scholarships, school supplies, and other programs to support students and teachers.

Program Investments: What You Made Possible



Revenue: How You Gave



2022 Red & White Ball: A Community Celebration of Gratitude



Sharon Neues Photography

It was a day of immense gratitude. Of celebration alongside friends, family, and community. Of reflection on past challenges and future promises.

On August 27, 2022, after a two-year hiatus, we were thrilled to bring the Red & White Ball back to the Sonoma Plaza. We welcomed over 1,200 supporters and community members to this special evening in honor of our local schools.

The event looked a bit different from years past. Before the SVEF team began planning the Red & White Ball, we paused to reflect on everything our community has been through since the start of the global pandemic – especially our local schools and their dedicated teachers.

Throughout the pandemic, teachers and school staff have been the essential workers on behalf of our children. To thank them and give the entire community a chance to honor their dedication, we flipped the script on the Red & White Ball.

On that special night in August, we gathered our Sonoma Valley community to celebrate and thank the many people who are essential to our public schools and the well-being

of our local students: teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, and donors who give to the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation

Throughout the evening, together we learned about the amazing things happening at local schools. We enjoyed a live program complete with performances by students, while picnicking and sipping a glass of wine. We danced the night away under the stars.

Most importantly, we showed our support for our schools and demonstrated that we are UNIFIED on behalf of our students. And it was such a successful reimagining of the event, we're going to do it all again on August 26, 2023 – so **SAVE THE DATE** and see you there!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE RED & WHITE BALL!**

AUGUST 26, 2023