

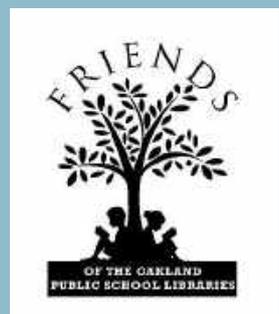
# FINAL GRANT REPORT

MAY 2020

ELAINE WELLS  
BOOKS KIDS WANT  
TO READ

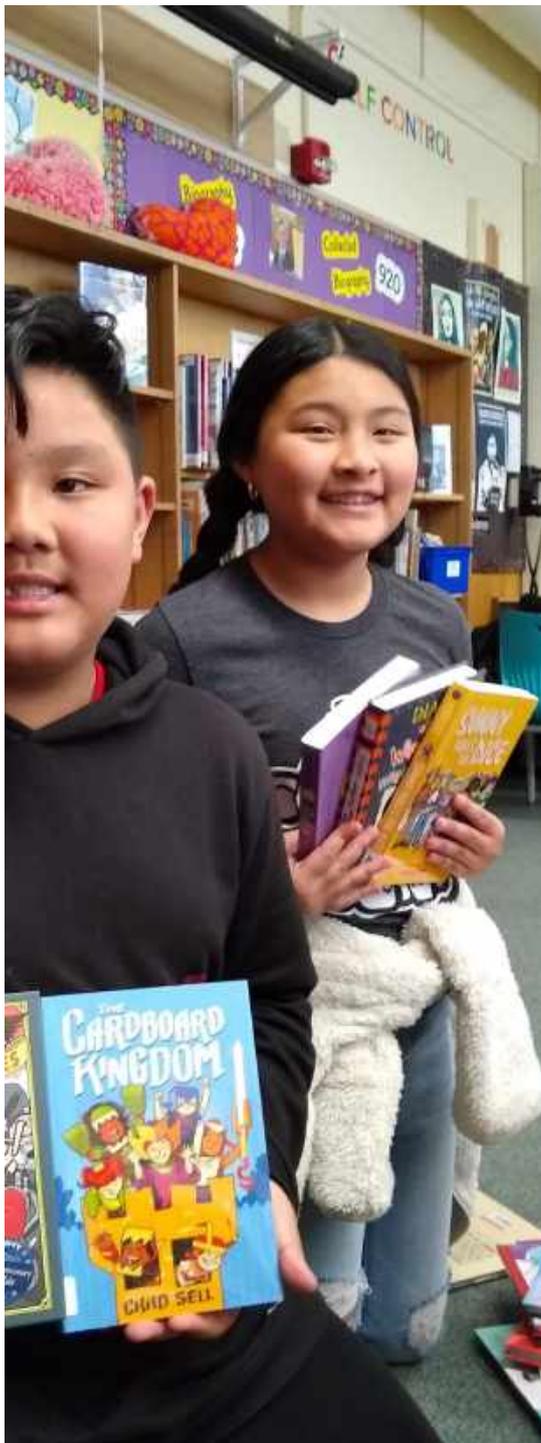


FRIENDS OF THE  
OAKLAND  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LIBRARIES



## Elaine Wells Books Kids Want to Read grant fund

# 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS



We would like to thank you for your generous support of our Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries' (FOPSL's) 2019-2020 Elaine Wells Books Kids Want to Read (BKWTR) grant fund benefiting students attending under-resourced Oakland public schools.

This grant fund was started in 2016 in response to insufficient District funding of OUSD libraries. For years, OUSD has only provided money for library staffing. There has been no funding for books. In many cases, the FOPSL Books Kids Want to Read grant is the only source of money for schools to purchase new library books.

School libraries often provide the only access students have to books. It's essential that libraries have books that entice students and encourage them to read. This grant allows library staff to buy the books students have asked for, replace lost and worn books, buy the latest books in a series and invest in new books they know students will love.



# IMPACT

Thanks to your support and that of our other partners, we were able to make \$20,000 in grants, an increase of \$1,000 from last year. This year, we modified our distribution method to make grants of varying sizes, ranging from \$500-\$1,500, based on each school's number of students, grades served, and the age of students served.

School libraries are a key component in building a love of reading and supporting literacy instruction in a District where more than 48% of students are reading multiple years below their grade level.

FOPSL has been supporting OUSD school libraries since 2012, so we can facilitate these grants through a one page application, making it simple for library staff to get new books to their students quickly. Books purchased with BKWTR funds are sourced from OUSD approved library vendors and are cataloged and ready for the shelves, a feature that reduces the work for library staff and gets books into the hands of students quickly.

\*Originally, grants were made to 20 schools with 9,000 students. One staff person serving two of the schools left the OUSD. FOPSL does not make grants to school libraries without regular staffing, so our grant money was reallocated to other applicants.

\*\* Two schools have not received their full orders, because they closed before book orders were delivered. Schools have received 1,328 books to date.

## OUSD Grant Recipient Information\*:

Students served: 8,200 at 18 schools

Average student poverty rate: 81%

Books purchased: >1,300\*\*

1 High school

3 K-8 schools

1 Middle school

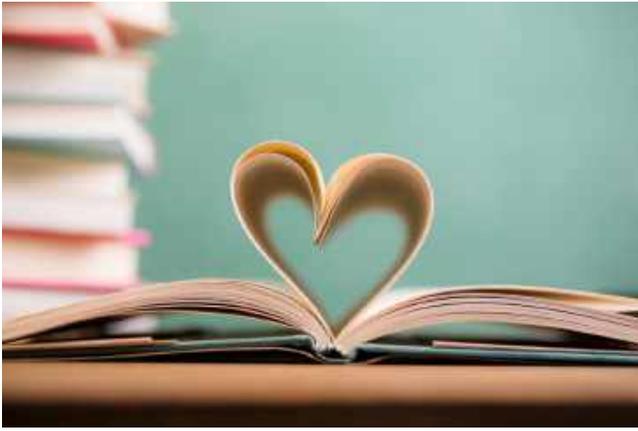
13 Elementary schools



"Generous BKWTR grants from FOPSL have fulfilled every request on our always long student wish list -- from graphic novels to drawing books to the latest book in a favorite series, and everything in between!"

Cindy Pierson

Grass Valley Elementary  
School Library



# THANK YOU

Written shortly after schools closed this spring:

"It is a comfort for me to know almost all the books purchased with the BKWTR grant are home with students."

Kim Flom  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary



"Thanks to the BKWTR grant and FOPSL, my students were able to get some wonderful books that they are so excited about. I don't have many funds to get quality books that my students are looking for without the help of FOPSL. Each year I have to do 3 book fairs to get some new books, and what I don't get through the book fairs, I use my own money and that adds up. So it's so nice not to have to worry so much about how to get these much desired books with the help of FOPSL and the amazing BKWTR grant."

Todd Davis  
Manzanita Library



"I can't wait for the students to see all the books they've been requesting and for the Arabic speaking students to have a larger selection than the same old 8 books. Thanks for making this happen for our students!"

Trish Belenson  
Rise and New Highland  
Elementary Schools

