

## AAUW-OML COMMUNITY PROJECT

### BURCKHALTER 2017-2018

In 1992 Carol Messinger brought a proposal to the AAUW Board. An underserved elementary school in East Oakland needed tutors and a library. While our suburban schools are filled with adult volunteers and parents clubs raising funds for the “extras,” Burckhalter Elementary, just a short drive down Highway 13, had neither of these. The Board agreed to make Burckhalter our Community Project, and a branch “priority.” Since then, our AAUW members have continued their generous support. There is a wonderful library open and staffed three days a week, and tutors helping in the classroom and the computer lab. Financial donations from members allow us to purchase books and supplies during times of Oakland District cuts. Last year, the District froze all school spending, and this year, AAUW was able to purchase new books from our own funds. As a result of member donations at two of our events, we were also able to distribute paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues and pencils, all items teachers must purchase themselves.

Earlier this year we purchased three sets of the California Young Readers’ Medal nominated books and established a book club. Students who read all three of the novels, were able to discuss the novels with the librarians, and then voted for their favorite, received a \$5 Starbucks card. The winner was Pax by Sara Pennypacker.

We were also able to purchase a large wall map of the world for the second grade teacher, Ms. Allen, who was teaching geography (the continents).

The Burckhalter budget for this year is \$1400. We are currently ordering the California Young Medal nominees for 2018-2019, along with some badly needed science books. We will probably come in under budget for the year, and are holding back funds for next year, given the unpredictable nature of Oakland School District Library funding.

We don’t know yet what the next school year will look like, but we know that AAUW will continue to be there for this school, its students and teachers.

**2017-2018 LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS:** Marilyn Evans, Diane Bell-Rettger, Pat Beckner, Jill Fernald, Mary Olowin, Mary Levey, Alison MacKinzie, Linda Bochte, Janette Maher and non-OML members Kanan Shah and Joanie Jump.

**TUTORS:** Therese Tamaro, Jan Coe, Carol Foxall and Sheila Apte.

If you are interested in volunteering at Burckhalter for the 2018-2019 school year, please contact Pat Beckner at [patbeckner@yahoo.com](mailto:patbeckner@yahoo.com). For library volunteers we request a four hour a week commitment on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings from 9 to noon. Tutors work out their schedule with the classroom teacher. We would particularly like to find someone who is bilingual in English/Spanish as we have several new Hispanic students who arrived in the middle of the year with no English at all.