

Springer PTA

Goals and Programs

2011-2012

Goals

- ✧ **Contribute to Core Academics and Student Enrichment**
- ✧ **Support Staff**
- ✧ **Provide and Maintain Technology & Facilities Needs**
- ✧ **Build Community**
- ✧ **Increase Knowledge of the Funding Structure for Springer And LASD**

Proposed Springer PTA Goals 2011-2012

Contribute to Core Academics and Student Enrichment

Continue to supplement LASD funding to provide Springer students with quality education.
Participate in district- and site-level program planning.
Continue to support and fund student enrichment programs.
Continue to support and fund noontime activities.

Support Staff

Demonstrate sensitivity to the increased demands on school staff and administration.
Continue the open dialog with staff about how to meet their needs.
Continue to provide funding to support teacher training and purchases made for classroom instruction.

Provide and Maintain Technology & Facilities Needs

Maintain, evaluate, and purchase all technology equipment for Springer.
Continue to fund long-term technology plan.
Prioritize facilities needs and develop purchase plan.

Build Community

Create opportunities to promote inclusiveness and strengthen the Springer community.
Continue refining our communication strategy to reach a larger percentage of the Springer population.

Increase Knowledge of the Funding Structure for Springer and the School District

Core Curriculum

- ✧ **Instructional Supplies**
- ✧ **Instructional Materials**
- ✧ **Printing Charges**
- ✧ **Science Support**

LASD Grant — \$74,341

To respond to increasing costs and decreasing expenses, the Los Altos School District has taken a multi-pronged approach to closing the budget gap. One important component of the plan is to accept a grant from each school's PTA to cover the cost of instructional supplies, instructional materials, and printing. Together, these expenses represent the regular, ongoing operating expenses of the school.

Instructional Supplies — \$34,545 (\$55/student plus \$4900 per site for fixed price items)

Covers cost of copy paper, construction paper, office supplies, telephone service, and custodial supplies.

Instructional Materials — \$28,179 (\$52.28/student)

Covers cost of student workbooks for math, spelling, and reading, for example.

Printing — \$10,000

Covers the cost of the workroom copier contract, not including paper.

InfoSnap — \$1617 (\$3/student)

Covers the cost the InfoSnap system the district is using to collect student data.

Springer Curriculum — \$5400

It's a long held tradition for the Springer PTA to fund additional expenses that exceed the district's allocation for the above LASD grant categories. Most or all of the PTAs in the district adhere to this practice. Historically this has been a higher amount, by as much as \$10,000. However, recently, the district has increased the schools' instructional supplies allocation to better match actual spending, so the need to supplement has decreased. The Springer PTA funds contribute additionally to the school in the following ways:

Instructional Supplies — \$2500

Science Supplies — \$1500

Kindergarten Program Materials — \$500

Library Books — \$400

Emergency Preparedness — \$500

Enrichment

✧ Art

- ✧ Arts in Action
- ✧ Art Docent Program
- ✧ Art Supplies

✧ Music

- ✧ Starting Arts

Enrichment — \$48,300

CSMA Arts in Action (Gr 1–6) — \$16,500 — CSMA's professional art teachers guide and encourage learning and creative expression through sequential lessons in drawing, painting, sculpting and more. All art classes teach a concept such as line, shape, color, and develop basic technical skills. Lessons are often inspired by a cultural or historical context that encourages students to explore new worlds and view life from other perspectives. Art lessons also coordinate with students' classroom curriculum to become an integral, enriching part of each child's education. This program, taught by Mrs. Edie Bella in the art room, is partially funded by the City of Mountain View. This year the program has been expanded to include more lessons in the lower grades.

Art Docents — \$1900 (\$3.50/student) — The Los Altos Art Docents are a distinctive group of trained volunteers, who teach art in a manner which expands and motivates the development of creativity and curiosity in the children of the Los Altos School District. The program involves the imagination of the child and increases his and her technical skills in the creation of art. PTA covers cost of supplies. LAEF funds the personnel costs.

Art Supplies — \$1000 — Additional classroom art supplies, including brushes, water color paper, clay, and so on.

Starting Arts Music and Dance (Gr K–3) — \$14,800 — Vocal music and dance lessons for each classroom, grades K through 3. Starting Arts is a private vendor, providing trained music and dance specialists who provide instruction.

Enrichment (Continued)

- ✧ **Living Classroom & Gardens**
- ✧ **Physical Education**
- ✧ **Noontime Activities**
- ✧ **Project Cornerstone**
- ✧ **Assemblies**

Enrichment (Continued) — \$48,300

Living Classroom Docent Program — \$1900 (\$3.50/student) — The Living Classroom utilizes school gardens and outdoor areas as it provides children with hands-on learning experiences by teaching them engaging, garden-based lessons. These lessons complement the existing curriculum and provide the opportunity for students to experience concepts taught in the classroom through exploration of the natural world. While challenging, Living Classroom lessons are designed to hold student interest and have proven to be a fun departure from the normal routine for both students and teachers. PTA helps to fund program materials, and LAEF helps to fund the personnel costs.

Classroom Gardens — \$1200 (\$50/classroom) — This money is provided to buy plants, seeds, soil, and gardening supplies for the gardens outside each classroom.

Junior Olympics (Gr 4–6) — \$800 (\$2.00/student plus additional expenses) — Covers cost of supplies. LAEF funds the personnel costs.

P.E. Supplies — \$1500 — Supplies such as balls, jump ropes, and cones.

WoW — \$750 — Walk or Wheel, or WoW for short, is a program to promote walking or “wheeling”—by bike, scooter, or skateboard—to and from Springer School. The benefits include: reducing traffic congestion around school thereby improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists, reducing pollution, and improving and maintaining students’ health and fitness levels.

Project Cornerstone — \$1250 — Project Cornerstone is a Santa Clara County-wide movement based on survey research involving over two million children across the United States. This research, conducted by Search Institute, identified 40 developmental assets that help children thrive. The asset building curriculum ABC program has a three-year champion with different books and lessons each year. Every class in grades K-6 reads the same book and then engages in discussion and activities with their ABC docent (Springer parent volunteers). PTA funds pay for program books and motivational give aways.

Fun Visor Lunchtime Activities — \$5700 — To cover expenses for FunVisor lunchtime activities, including Art Club, Lego Club, Nature Zone, Origami, Run4YourLife, and organized sports and games.

Assemblies — \$1000

Support for Staff



Support for Staff — \$21,050

Teachers' Seminars and Training — \$7,100

PTA funds the expense of substitutes to give the teachers grade-level planning days.

Teachers' Classroom Fund — \$13,450

\$500 for each K-3 classroom and \$550 for each 4-6 classroom to reimburse teachers for classroom supplies and materials. Speech, resource, and the school psychologist may be reimbursed for expenses up to \$225 each. Teachers setting up a classroom (either teachers new to the school or teachers changing grades) are allocated an additional \$100.

Principal's Fund — \$500

Technology and Facilities

- ❖ **Technology Fund**
- ❖ **Facilities Improvements**

Technology and Facilities — \$50,200

Technology Fund — \$44,000

All of the technology equipment at Springer—from iMacs in the computer lab to document cameras and projectors to staff laptops and classroom printers—is financed locally, by the Springer PTA and parent donations, not by the school district or other entities. Even projector bulbs, ink jet cartridges, cables, and other miscellaneous tech supplies are funded by PTA and parent donations. The cost of replacing a set of 30 computers all at once (such as all of the lab's iMacs or the 30 computers in a laptop cart) would be prohibitive for any one-year PTA budget without additional funding. Thus, the Springer Tech Committee modeled the replacement cycle of the various pieces of equipment the school maintains (computer lab, laptop carts, teacher laptops, printers, etc.), and devised a long-term funding plan. By putting money aside in the Technology Fund every year (at funding levels determined by our cost model), we enable the PTA to accumulate sufficient funds over the years to buy new hardware when the time comes. Additionally, the Tech Committee has documented the ongoing costs of technology consumables (print cartridges, projector bulbs, batteries, and so on). The combined annual costs of savings for technology replacement and technology consumables is what PTA contributes annually to the Technology Fund.

Facilities — \$6200

A minimal amount of money (\$1000) is needed to maintain campus landscaping and the teaching garden , and another \$5200 is set aside to make repairs or small improvements around campus.

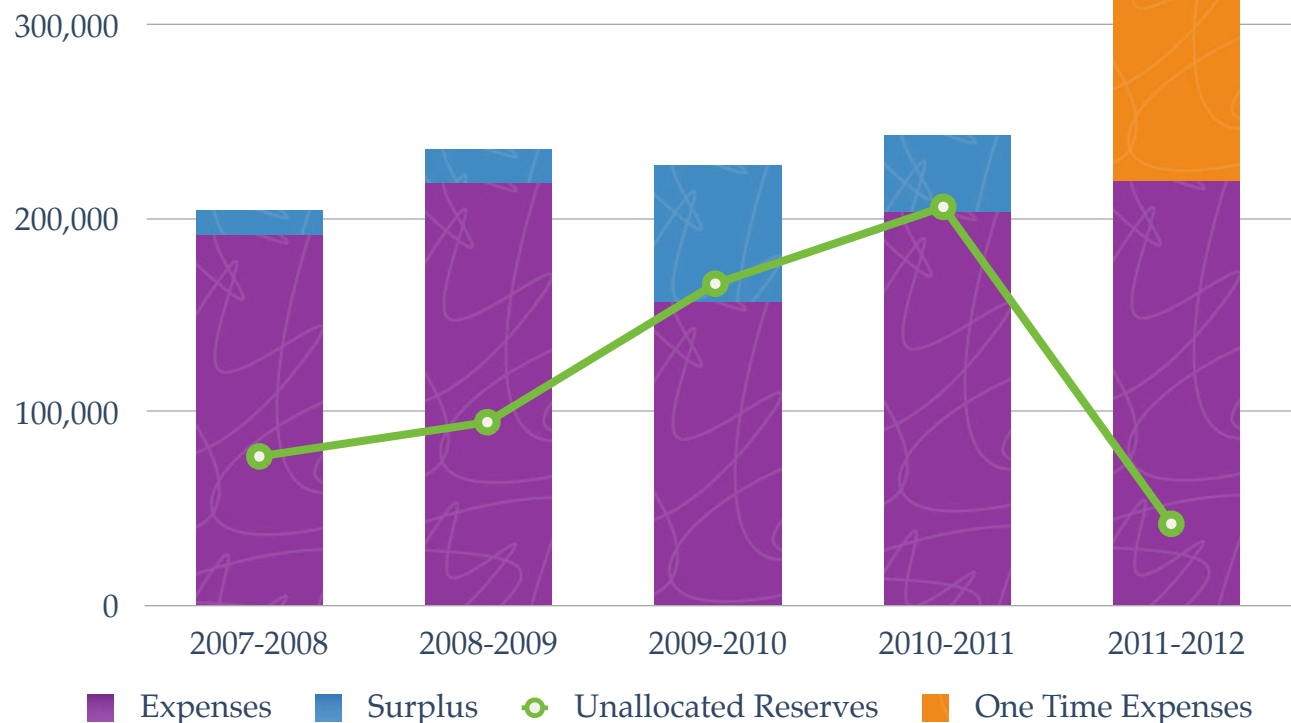
Community Building

- ✧ **Directory**
- ✧ **Ice Cream Socials**
- ✧ **Pop and Stop**
- ✧ **Boys' & Girls' Nights Out**
- ✧ **Spring Event**
- ✧ **Walkathon**
- ✧ **Auction**
- ✧ **Family Dinners Out**

Community Building

Springer has a very tight knit community. Families develop close relationships through school ties, and these relationships have tremendous value even after Springer students matriculate to junior high and high school. PTA events provide many of the opportunities for families and parents to come together to form and strengthen friendships. Even our biggest fundraisers, Walkathon and Auction, emphasize community.

Budget



Budget

Springer PTA has traditionally budgeted very conservatively, especially in the fundraising categories of the budget. In any given year, it's not a bad idea to end in the black. However, over time, Springer has accumulated large cash reserves over the past several years due to better than expected auction and walkathon profits, such that entering the 2011-2012 school year, the PTA's unallocated reserve is nearly equal to our expected net expenses.

This year, we intend to correct this trend. We have created a balanced budget for ongoing expenses based on historical actuals for fundraisers and program expenses.

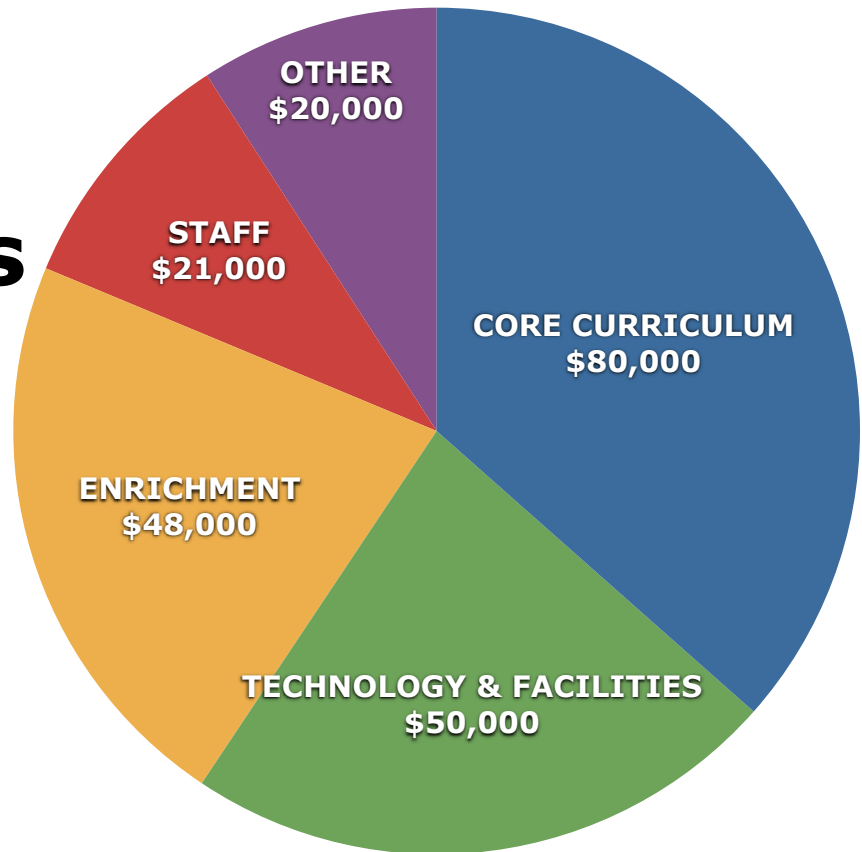
Cash Reserves

This new budgeting strategy does present risk, but we are fortunate to have a cushion in case any of our fundraisers make less than projected. We recommend keeping at least 20% of projected expenses in cash reserves this year, but as PTA becomes more accurate and confident, perhaps the reserves can be lowered further.

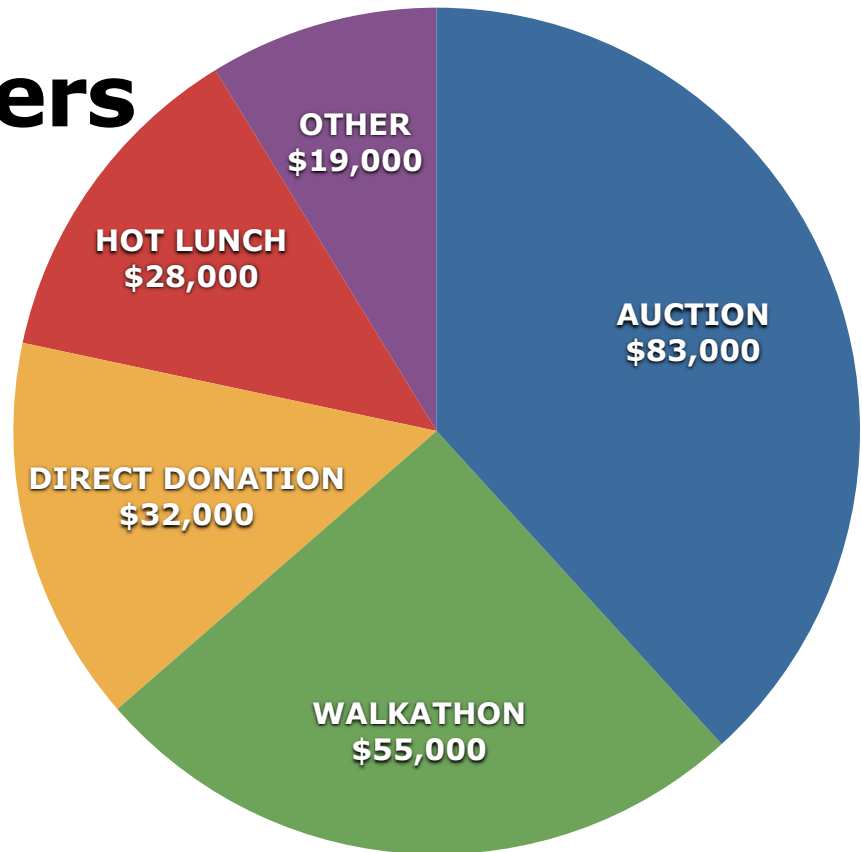
That still leaves a sizable sum—over \$150,000—to put to work for our students. However, PTA is limited in how we can put our dollars to work within the district and at Springer. For example, we can't spend our PTA reserves to pay for class size reduction or instructional aides. Instead, we propose that we spend the cash reserves on technology and facilities improvements, to be discussed, evaluated, and approved over the next school year. Some are in the works already, having been approved as one-time summer expenditures. Another will be proposed tonight.

Ongoing Program Expenses

Total Expenses:
\$219,000



Fundraisers



Total Income:

\$217,000

Technology and Facilities

- ❖ **Wireless Improvements**
- ❖ **Kiln**
- ❖ **Third Laptop Cart**



Approved Summer Expenditures — \$17,800

Wireless Infrastructure Improvements — \$13,800

This project was approved in May as a summer expense under the 2011-2012 budget to improve the wireless signal to areas of campus that have poor reception. Work is in progress.

Kiln — \$4000

The purchase of a replacement kiln was approved as a summer expense under the 2011-2012 budget, but the old kiln might be able to be repaired. This is on hold until the condition of the kiln is determined.

New Proposal — \$38,000

Third Laptop Cart — \$38,000

Springer has two laptop carts—sturdy, secure, rolling, metal cabinets that store and charge included sets of 30 laptop computers each. The laptop carts are used in class in 5th and 6th grades for writing and projects in English, social studies, and science. New this year, the laptop carts will also be used in 5th and 6th grade for Kahn Academy, a self-paced, supplementary math program. With three classes of 5th graders and three classes of 6th graders, a third cart will solve logistical problems. Our first laptop cart is entering its 6th year of service and is scheduled for replacing next year. Having a third cart reduces our exposure if the older laptops fail sooner than expected. Additionally, a third cart allows us to deploy laptops into 4th grade classrooms.

Other Ideas

- ✧ **Support in Primary Grades**
- ✧ **Facilities Improvements**
 - ✧ **Lunch Tables**
 - ✧ **Shade**
 - ✧ **Multi Renovation**



Other Ideas for Improvements

A priority for the remaining \$100,000 is to support the primary grades. Mr. Spenader and the staff are working up new ideas for implementing differentiation in the primary classrooms. If any solutions involve a purchase, PTA would propose allocating some of the carryover toward that.

Other ideas that have been proposed are mostly for facilities improvements. We hope to have a dialog about the possibilities, and we need your input! Please let us know your ideas.