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Education Foundation Gets PTA Matching Grant

Lookout Staff

May 13, 2016 -- With a month and a half left in its fundraising campaign, the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (SMMEF) announced Thursday that it has received a \$200,000 matching gift from the Franklin Elementary School PTA.

The proceeds will help fund programs at all 16 schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD), Foundation officials said.

The PTA will match all gifts to SMMEF dollar-for-dollar, with \$100,000 directed towards the Foundation's 2015-2016 annual campaign and \$100,000 to its For Academics Endowment.

As of May 4, the Foundation's current annual campaign had raised \$2.9 million of the \$3.6 million operating budget needed to fully fund existing programs next year, officials said. The campaign ends June 30.

"We are excited to launch this matching gift for SMMEF," said the Presidents of the Franklin Elementary School PTA. "Our PTA is proud to be part of a community that gives so generously to support our district's exceptional schools.

"We hope the match inspires parents, community members and businesses to join us in ensuring educational excellence for every child in our school district."

Donations to the Foundation can be made at www.smmef.org/donate, officials said.

Established in 1982 by a group of parents, community leaders and local business owners, the Foundation funds staff and programs that include arts education for the district's 4,900 elementary students, 87 instructional assistants and enrichment grants for all 16 schools in the district, officials said.

Many schools use the grants to provide science, technology, engineering and math programs known as STEM or visual and performing arts programs, officials said.

Some schools also use the funds to hire additional health clerks and counselors or run other programs focused on student wellness.

"On behalf of all 11,300 students in our district, we are very thankful to the Franklin Elementary School PTA for this inspiring match," said Linda Greenberg, SMMEF's Executive Director. "It is a wonderful example of leadership in our community's work to fund important, equitable programs at all SMMUSD schools."



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