

Gunn boosters award grants to forward-thinking students

Four community service projects created by Gunn High School students have won “Gunn Grants,” micro-grant seed funding for their social entrepreneurship efforts, given by Gunn@Your Service, a parents’ boosters club for community service.

“We’ve created Gunn Grants to start students on the path to becoming lifelong volunteers, and are exceptionally proud this year to be able to help seven students who want to make the world a better place,” said Lauren Janov, president of the organization.

The seven students behind the four winning projects are:

- Helen Carefoot, Emily Redfield and Anne Zeng (10th-graders), who will work with members of their Gunn Surfrider Club to raise funds to save oceans.
- Sisters Stephanie (12th-grader) and Lily Tsai (10th-grader), who will use their grant to bring music books to the lessons they teach at Costano Elementary School in East Palo Alto.
- Roxanne Rahnama (12th-grader), who will use her funding to beautify a local school.
- Tatiana Grossman (10th-grader), who will buy children’s books for new libraries she’s creating in Ghana and Malawi, Africa.



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Janov encourages other Gunn students to design their own service projects over the summer, and to come to her group for help.

“All Gunn students, watch for the Gunn Grants 2012 announcement when you return to school in the fall,” she said.

Gunn@Your Service gives as many as 20 grants a year, and partners a member of its executive board with each project to be a mentor, providing advice and support as needed.

The executive board of Gunn@Your Service includes Janov, secretary Dorothy Ginsberg and treasurer Diane Downend. They work with Kim Cowell in Gunn’s guidance department.

Each member has a wide variety of experience with community service, and they wish to share their skills with the students.

“‘Gunn@Your Service’ is truly more of a brand name,” Downend said. “The actual 501(c)(3) legal entity is Gunn Parents’ Community Service Boosters.”

For more information, visit <http://gunnatyourservice.org/>

School Matters is happy to hear your feedback. Please email comments to schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org to reach Preeva Tramiel.