



Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation Rotary Club of Long Beach

Paul Kennard Teacher Literacy Grants

2021-2022 Application

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, January 28, 2022

EMAIL APPLICATIONS TO: Madrid@rotarylongbeach.org

LONG BEACH READING BY NINE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Since 1999, the Rotary Club of Long Beach has held an annual Reading by 9 Fundraiser during which its members and others donate to the Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation to support early education and literacy with the goal of promoting grade level reading by age 9.

Recently, over \$80,000 was raised to support the Long Beach Reading by Nine Program. Since the inception of the program, over \$875,000 has been raised and almost 300,000 books and ebooks have been donated. This program provides funding and children's books to Long Beach area schools, libraries, childcare centers, nonprofits, and other literacy organizations that promote reading and literacy.

This will be the eighth year that the Rotary Teacher Literacy Grants is one of the funded programs.

Last year, we remembered Paul Kennard by naming the Rotary Teacher Literacy Grants in his honor and recognizing his dedication to helping young children experience the life-enriching benefits of the world of reading. He envisioned and oversaw the Rotary Reads program in the Long Beach Unified School District for many years. The Rotary Reads program brings Rotarians and young readers together in a supportive learning environment that leaves lasting reinforcing impressions on students and Rotarians, in turn.

PAUL KENNARD TEACHER LITERACY GRANTS

The Rotary Charitable Foundation will provide funding to the Long Beach Education Foundation to support teacher-driven literacy projects. **Long Beach Unified School District teachers (Pre-school through Third Grade, including Special Education) may apply for grant funding ranging from \$500 - \$2,500 for innovative and creative reading and literacy programs in their classrooms (virtual or in-person).** COVID-19 has called us to be resourceful and innovative in how we provide stimulating reading experiences to our young students, and the need for effective programs is greater than ever.

A maximum aggregated total of **\$15,000 in grants will be awarded** and may be used to purchase books, e-books, teaching aides, training programs, or other educational materials during the current school year or in the 2022-23 school year.

Teachers receiving awards may be invited to present their project at a Rotary Club of Long Beach luncheon (virtual or in-person, if safe and appropriate) and will be required to complete a one-page report at the end of the grant period to be emailed to rotaryclublbteachergrants@yahoo.com no later than **March 31, 2023**, detailing how the grant funds were utilized and what the outcomes or benefits of the awarded programs were.

Applications will be judged on effectiveness, creativity, and uniqueness with the end result of helping children achieve reading at grade level by the age of 9.

2020-2021 PAUL KENNARD TEACHER LITERACY GRANT APPLICATION

Teacher Full Name		Contact Phone Number	
Teacher Email		Classroom Grade	
School Name		Anticipated Number of Students in Class	
School Address		Grant Amount Requested (\$500 - \$2,500 maximum)	

Please briefly describe your literacy project idea, how the funds will be used, and how your project will benefit your students in preparing them to be ready to read at grade level by age 9. Please limit your description to no more than 200 words. As an aid and to provide you with ideas for describing your literacy project, please see the attached descriptions of previously awarded programs.

Completed applications are due to madrid@rotarylongbeach.com by January 28, 2022.

If there is an opportunity for Long Beach Rotarians to be invited to a thank you event to observe or to volunteer with your literacy project, please so indicate.

* Funds will be given to the Long Beach Education Foundation to be distributed to winning projects. Unspent funds will remain with the LBEF.

Rotary Teacher Literacy Grants

Examples of Awardee Descriptions (unedited)

[NOTE: Please use these examples as inspirations for how you may describe your idea for a literacy program grant. Please do not copy.]

"My goal with reading is to not only make them better readers and to grow as much as they can, but I also want them to be excited for and in charge of their learning. My students are nice but very passive. So I do Reader's Workshop. The workshop model is engaging and puts the responsibility of reading on the child. Each student reads at a level. I teach the lesson or standard that each 2nd grader should have. Then the students can practice that standard in their books. The kids go to my library and get 10-12 books at their individual reading level every week. I teach a lesson. After that they go off with their stack of books they 'shopped' for and practice this skill and others. Since the kids are practicing in just right books they begin to own that strategy or skill. They build confidence. So far this year 85% of my class has already made one years growth. I need more books for them. They are in levels for a longer time so I need more books in each level and I would like to have more updated books that are more multicultural as well."

"As a teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, I am always looking for new and innovative ways to help my students learn to read and improve comprehension. For the past two years, we have had the honor of five BARK Therapy Dogs visiting our classroom each week. My students read to the dogs (using their voice, Sign Language or both). Each Wednesday, my students look forward to the arrival of the BARK dogs. It is very common for students with hearing loss to be several years behind in reading and lose interest quickly. It is vital to have high interest books for our students in the Deaf/HH Program. Prior to the BARK program, my classroom aide and I would have to split ourselves between all students and try to teach reading and signing to students with totally different interests and totally different reading levels. When it was time for them to read independently, students were slow to choose a book and did not really look forward to reading. With the BARK program, the students now return from recess, immediately choose a book, and sit down with the dog they would like to read with. Their interest in reading, their ability and comprehension, and their confidence as readers have all improved greatly. In addition, their self-confidence in signing to other than family members and teachers has grown tremendously. Because I was previously a high school teacher, my selection of books for elementary school age children is quite bleak. The BARK dogs try to bring new books each week and the readers are always drawn to the books they have not read before. With this grant, I would be able to increase my classroom library and keep my students interested in reading and learning new topics. Through Scholastic, First Book and other fabulous literary resources, the grant money would be used to maximum benefit. Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this Teacher Literacy Grant through Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation."

"My literacy project is to have ELA circles where students can sit in small groups and read. The funds will be used to purchase books, a magazine subscription, comprehension games, and Sound Phones for the ELA circles. For example, one group will be fiction books (fairy tales, fables). Another group will be nonfiction books (biographies, occupations). The last group will be a magazine group (Kids National Geographic, Ask Magazine).

In each group, students will read together and dissect the reading materials by discussing the theme, main idea, author's purpose, details, cause/effect, and predictions. I will use comprehension activities and games that accompany the texts so that students can comprehend what they read. As students are reading, they will benefit from using Sound Phones so they can listen to themselves read aloud, which can help with fluency and prosody. The funds will greatly support my vision of having ELA circles in my classroom. Thank you for your consideration."

"Thank you Rotary club for making literacy a priority. As a kid, I was one of those kids that was below grade level in reading, so I've made it a priority in my classroom to teach a love of reading! I am currently implementing the Daily 5 program, a literacy program with a focus on giving students constant opportunities for reading. The program requires students to have access to 5-10 books of interest to them. These books should also be at their reading level. If you can imagine, that is 125-250 books just for my student's book boxes. That doesn't include the class library. I've supplemented using \$1-2 books that I've purchased with my own money and books that come with our Wonders curriculum, but I hope to provide them with more interesting texts. I've got a great group of eager readers and I would love to give them higher interest books to read. I'm requesting \$600 for quality books and \$200 for a comfier reading space (bean bags and such). Thank you for supporting the gift of reading. My students love getting the chance to curl up with books while I work with small groups."

"The Madison Elementary Library relies primarily on donations to purchase new books. Because of this, we are always in need of current books that capture interest in young readers. I have a solution that can help replenish our library with new books on a regular basis. I am planning to launch an ongoing book fundraiser for our school library called the "Birthday Book Club". Students donate \$10 to be a member of the Birthday Book Club. During the week of their birthday, students who have donated \$10 will have the honor of being the first to check out a brand new uncirculated library book. A bookplate is added to the book with the student's name and their birthday and they also receive a birthday bookmark. Once the student has finished reading their birthday book, the book goes into regular circulation in the library. The Rotary Literacy Grant would allow the library to kick-start this program by allowing me to purchase books used as "Birthday Books". Once this program gets started it should be self-sustaining, with the \$10 donations going to purchase new birthday books each year. Thank you for your consideration!"

"We would like to have National Geographic Kids as a form of Informational text for our students as well as Scholastic Current Events so we can have an actual text magazine. This will give us the opportunity to do activities with both classes Excel with a regular third grade class. As a buddy up and read and extend activities to do projects. Another activity is so the children understand different types of media as a magazine. We would like to receive a subscription for 2 years of both magazines so we can expand our students' knowledge of the basic informational text. These magazines bring current events and information so they can understand at that level and be able to share the information at home for the family connection. Some of our students don't even know what a magazine is or even a newspaper. We would like to have them experience a field trip afterwards of a zoo or the natural history museum they can understand that they have learned the magazine. Prices for a subscription is: Another area that would like is Brain Pop so we can test their knowledge. Brain Pop \$220.00 per classroom Scholastic News \$5.75 per student National Geographic \$5.00 per student."

"The LA Times article entitled "The Importance of School Libraries" (8/19/19) states "Research shows that the time children spend reading a book instead of a tablet result in higher levels of literacy and the greater likelihood that children will read more." At Roosevelt Elementary, our school library provides students with an opportunity to engage in reading at school with their peers and at home with their parents. This is particularly important for our first graders who are building the foundation of literacy skills that will carry them throughout their academic lives and beyond. For many of our students access to books at home is limited. It is vitally important that our school library do what it can to fill that void. We are in need of new fiction and non-fiction books for our 180 first graders. Many of our first grade level texts are more than twenty years old. This is particularly important when thinking about non-fiction texts as so much in the world has changed in the last 20 years. We are requesting a grant of \$2,000 which would allow us to put at least one new book for every first grader into circulation."