



Volume 4, Issue 1

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The greatest influence in a child's life is his or her parents/family. For this reason, the EPATT staff spends a large part of their day coaching families on how to create the EPATT culture at home. Each academic quarter, EPATT hosts a variety of parent workshops to help our families help their children.

During a recent workshop, Academic Director Kesha Weekes presented research findings that identified the rewards of active (vs. passive) parent engagement on student achievement. One study found that "the way children spent their time at home, not the family's income or education level, predicted their success in school." Her talk was followed by a robust discussion. Parents suggested ways to actively parent:

- Volunteer to help in their child's classroom
- Be knowledgeable about their child's homework assignments
- Join the PTA and take a leadership role
- Communicate with their child's teachers or college counselor
- Exercise with their child
- Take a college tour with the entire family



Dave Higaki, Executive Director

As always, thank you for believing in EPATT. We're so grateful for your support.

Best,  
Dave



**Save the Date!**  
**May 7, 2014**  
**EPATT's Annual Dinner**

*"Team Up for Success"*

EPATT teams up with Bank of the West, our presenting sponsor, for this year's Annual Dinner. Please join us for an evening of inspiration and celebration. Steve Young, former 49ers quarterback and NFL Hall-of-Famer, will be the guest speaker. EPATT students will also share their personal stories of challenge and triumph.

For information about the Annual Dinner, please email Anne Gould at [anne.gould@epatt.org](mailto:anne.gould@epatt.org) or call 650.854.6656.

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**EPATT  
Board of Directors**

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Community Volunteer

Secretary: Dick Gould  
Director of Tennis, Stanford  
University

## After-school Tennis at Cesar Chavez Academy

EPATT is in its second year of providing free tennis lessons to 50 K-5th grade youth at our birthplace, Cesar Chavez Academy, in East Palo Alto. Run in conjunction with the Ravenswood City School District, EPATT brings its tennis, life skills, and culture back to EPA. Coach Julio Herмосillo, head of our EPA tennis program, learned tennis on the very same courts on which he is now teaching a new generation. Julio says, "It gives me great pride to give back to my community and give the gift of tennis - a gift that I was so lucky to receive as a young child."



## Elementary School Group Integrates Technology into the Tutoring Curriculum

EPATT's 2nd through 5th grade students are enjoying learning and gaining skills utilizing technology. They use Khan Academy for math practice and Kidblog to blog about books and articles that they are reading. Through Khan Academy, ESG staff and tutors can see what math skills students have mastered and which areas they need to practice. Kidblog gives tutors a quick and objective understanding of their student's reading comprehension. ESG Coordinator Christina Erwin explains, "Since the state is about to

implement computer adaptive standardized testing in math, reading, and writing for 3rd through 11th graders, I want our students to be comfortable interacting with math on a computer, and to practice their writing skills by learning how to type their thoughts. Even knowing how to log in is helping them to gain computer skills." Parents are reporting that their children really enjoy both programs and are excited to use them at home.



## Tutor Retention Rockets

Every year at EPATT we recruit Stanford University students to tutor our participants. There's always sufficient interest, which allows us to be very selective. We ask tutors to commit to tutoring the entire academic year. This year, 89% of tutors stayed on for the second half of the year, up from 60% last year. In fact, for the first

time, we have a waiting list of volunteers who want to tutor. As a result, we plan to enlist these volunteers and make Fridays an extra tutoring day for those kids who need additional help.

Treasurer: Andy Chase  
Managing Director, Morgan  
Stanley Smith Barney

Christine Alloo  
Community Volunteer

Cameron Bianchi  
Community Volunteer

Grady Burnett  
COO, Flurry

Sue Diekman  
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Ted Robinson,  
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Karen Sonneborn  
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Ellie Victor  
CEO, Zoom Marketing

## EPATT President's Council

Susan Ford Dorsey  
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Jeff Pickard  
Sven-Erik Simonsen  
Tad Taube

## Did you know...

55% of EPATT students have been in the program between 2-5 years.

18% have been at EPATT for 6 or more years.

## Tennis News

We have 12 kids on our tournament team and 8 tennis tournaments between now and May.

## **Touchdowns for Kids Scores!**

The on-field success of the 49ers this season helped generate over a quarter of a million dollars by the Taube Family, Koret and 49ers Foundations. Thanks to matching grants secured by Tad Taube, the total contribution was \$300,000 -- or \$50,000 per beneficiary. EPATT is honored to be included in this year's fundraiser. Heartfelt thanks to the *Touchdowns* sponsors!!! Go 9ers!



### **Shop on Amazon, Donate to EPATT**

The next time you order something from Amazon.com, please consider signing up for their AmazonSmile program, which donates 0.5% of your purchase to the cause of your choice. Simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3316879> and, when it asks which organization you would like to donate to, type "EPATT" in the search box. Don't forget to bookmark your new AmazonSmile page so you can find it easily.

### **A Letter from Jail**

EPATT regularly receives visits and phone calls from former students and families. One former student, "Wayne," is unable to do so, as he is currently incarcerated. In a recent letter, however, Wayne fondly remembered his days on the old Ravenswood High School Tennis courts. He was one of the first to join EPATT over 24 years ago. Wayne did a web search of "EPATT" and was amazed to see from our web site the progress and growth of the program. Wayne recently sent a check equal to his monthly wages to EPATT with a note. He said, "I want to help other youth become anything but a prisoner."

### **EPATT in Social Media**

Subscribe to our educational videos on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5X0i6jfoxfZINcjND08UeA>

Please join our FaceBook group!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EPATT/>

"Like" our FaceBook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/goepatt>

Former tutors, check out this page just for you!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EPATTTutorAlumni/>

### **About EPATT**

East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring (EPATT) is entering its third decade transforming the lives of students from East Palo Alto and east Menlo Park by helping them develop the academic, physical, and personal skills necessary for high school graduation and success in college. Through a comprehensive after-school program of one-on-one academic tutoring, tennis instruction, and family coaching for students in grades K through 12th, EPATT provides a supportive environment that values respect, responsibility, and teamwork, creating opportunities for success otherwise difficult to imagine.

Come see EPATT in action. To arrange a tour, please email Amy Kohrman, Development/Communications Coordinator, at [amy@epatt.org](mailto:amy@epatt.org) or call 650.799.0446.

Learn more about EPATT by visiting [www.epatt.org](http://www.epatt.org).