

Annual Report 2023-2024

Dear AEA Community,

Thank you to all our families, teachers, staff, administrators, and supporters for helping make the 2023-2024 school year a success. We are excited to share this annual report, summarizing the progress toward our goals.

At Friends of Albert Einstein Academies (FoAEA), we focus not just on fundraising but also on fostering a strong sense of community and supporting our educators. During the past school year, we introduced a new FoAEA Newsletter, funded school supplies for every student, and raised funds for an interactive PE activity board that will be installed in the new Elementary School gym during the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year.

While we raised more than \$140,000, this unfortunately did not fully cover our planned initiatives, and the PTO is currently operating at a deficit. Your continued support is vital as we strive to enhance the educational experience for all students and support the hard work of our dedicated teachers and staff.

Thank you for making these achievements possible, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Cirannek
President, FoAEA

2024-2025 FoAEA Board of Directors

President – Vanessa Cirannek

Treasurer – Rosalie Henke

Communications – Christine Roche

Vice President – Vanessa Klein

Secretary – Lisa Walter-Thomas

Events Coordinator – Amanda Rowe

What is Friends of Albert Einstein Academies (FoAEA)?

FoAEA is our school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). All AEA parents/caregivers, teachers, and staff are automatically members of FoAEA. As volunteers, we work together to engage our families, enhance our students' educational experience at school, support our teachers and staff, and provide enriching events and programs for our children outside of school.

FoAEA Mission Statement

Friends of Albert Einstein Academies (FoAEA) is an all-volunteer non-profit (501c3) organization committed to cultivating a positive community for the enrichment of all students who attend our AEA Charter Schools. We are families of current students, along with teachers and staff, who work together to promote student enrichment, support teachers and staff, and strengthen our larger AEA community. FoAEA engages all families of our rich and robust school community to help our children grow into well-rounded and global citizens. It is our belief that modelling a strong and diverse community is fundamental to supporting and inspiring our children to become respectful, responsible, and caring leaders of the 21st century.

Our mission as members of FoAEA is to enhance our school's capacity to provide the best possible education for our students. We strive to do this through:

- Focused support of enrichment programs (including Art, Music, Physical Education, and Science) within the set curriculum, as well as overall support for assemblies and field trips.
- Athletic, academic, and cultural experiences (including both German and Spanish) for our entire student body that are both social and educational, and consistent with our International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.
- Teacher and staff appreciation and support throughout the entire school year (including our teacher grant and Friendsgiving programs and Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week).
- Meaningful family engagement (including meetings and events that promote an open discourse between families, our teachers and staff, school administrators, and our larger community).
- Special events which create lifelong memories and help to cultivate a sense of community (both on campus and in the world in which we live).
- Facilitating and promoting communication between our families and with AEA (facilitated by volunteer room parents as well as through social media).

Since its formation in 2007, FoAEA has provided important financial assistance to AEA. Our efforts have been instrumental throughout the growth of our schools, including helping to start many of the Specials at the Elementary School and the Music Program at the Middle School. The highly anticipated AEA High School will surely benefit from our continued efforts and support. As AEA continues to grow and evolve, so too will FoAEA - as we work together as members of our larger AEA community, all for the benefit of our children.

2023-2024 Financial Year in Review

Our PTO is funded through the generosity of our donors – primarily AEA families. In addition to our live and silent auction at the Gala, we also coordinate a handful of community-oriented fundraisers each year. When you support the FoAEA PTO, you support initiatives that enrich our children's learning. Consistent with past years, the PTO focuses on three key community impact areas:

- Students: Ensuring our children are ready to succeed when they enter high school.
- Teachers: Helping teachers engage and empower our children, so they graduate with options for the future.
- Families: Helping families build an inclusive community, so our children can thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

How We Raised Our Money in 2023-2024:

Gala	\$51,713
Rock n Run-a-Thon	\$35,201
Dollar-a-day	\$31,748
Events	\$8,132
Food Sales (donuts, pretzels, churros)	\$7,140
Wintermarkt	\$6,601
Community Donations	\$3,969
Farm Fresh	\$744
Misc. donations	\$102
TOTAL RAISED:	<hr/> \$145,350

How We Spent Our Money in 2023-2024:

Academic and Educational Support = \$62,393

- **Back to School Supplies** – Rather than have parents purchase back to school supplies, FoAEA purchased all the supplies in bulk for both campuses and distributed them to all the teachers.
- **Science, Music, Art, and Physical Education** – Consistent with previous years, FoAEA continued to support the “specials” (Art, Science, Music, and Physical Education) to help fund supplies.
- **Teacher Grants** – Twice a year, teachers and faculty can apply for grants to help fund their classroom needs. Some of the items funded this school year included: sensory regulation bins at the elementary school, AfterStein cooking class supplies at the elementary school, 3rd grade and 5th grade classroom improvements, a keyboard for the middle school, and a t-shirt design printer for the middle school. The grants typically fund higher ticket items.
- **Friendsgiving** – Through a less formal funding process than the teacher grants, FoAEA funded items for teachers throughout the year for lower budget times. This year some of the Friendsgiving included German books for the elementary school library, cubbies, lap desks and eclipse viewing glasses at the elementary school, and a shake table for the middle school science classes.
- **German Intern Support** – FoAEA supports the German interns at the ES, as they are a critical part of the student learning. FoAEA also helped financially support the host families that graciously opened their homes to the German interns.
- **Audio Books for the Library** – With the proceeds from the fall Read-a-Thon and matching funds, FoAEA purchased new audio books for the library at the ES.

Teacher Support = \$40,644

- **Staff and Teacher Appreciation** – Throughout the school year, we showed our appreciation through various activities (welcome back to school t-shirts and breakfasts, lunches, coffee trucks, gift cards for supplies, bagels, and coffee in teachers’ lounge, holiday party, and pies before Thanksgiving).

Student Giveback = \$27,257

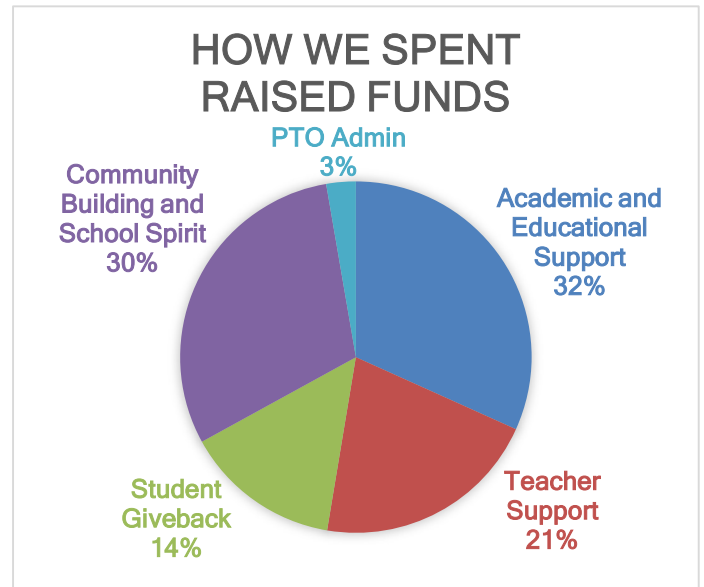
- **Yearbooks at the Elementary School** – Every elementary school student received a free yearbook at the end of the school year.
- **Book Fair** – All students at both campuses were able to receive a free book up to a \$10 value at the Scholastic Book Fair.

Community Building and School Spirit = \$58,306

- **Park Picnics:** Trunk or Treat, De Anza Cove family picnics, and last day of school party at 28th Street park
- **Festivals:** Wintermarkt, Lanternfest, Multi-Cultural Festival, and STEM by Friends
- **Back to School Pizza Party**
- **Cultural:** Kindergarten tea/Schultüten, Lunar New Year Cookies, and Fasching/Karnival
- **Gala and Auction**
- **Run-a-thon**
- **Misc. Events:** Glow Party, Star Party and Movie Night

PTO Administration = \$5,419

- Greater Giving and Giving Fuel processing fees, bank accounts, insurance, taxes and tax filings, and professional services



2024-2025 Looking Ahead

As we anticipate the upcoming school year, we hold a positive outlook for the continuation and expansion of the enjoyable programs and initiatives that were successfully implemented during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Support FoAEA and Become More Involved

1. Volunteer for FoAEA-organized initiatives. Contributing your time and effort to create memorable experiences for our children and supporting our teachers is essential. Any time you can spare will help make AEA the best it can be! To sign up and explore volunteer opportunities, please visit www.foaea.org:

- Become a Room Parent
- Committees: Welcome, Grants, Fundraising, Events, STEM, Gala, Middle School
- Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week

2. Participate in our board meetings which are held every other month to share your thoughts and ideas (you can find our calendar with meetings and other engagements on our website).

3. Stay informed about upcoming activities and the latest developments within our AEA Community through our social media channels:

- Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/foaea> or scan QR code below)
- Instagram (@friends_of_aea)
- Check out our FoAEA Newsletter at <https://secure.smores.com/12508>

4. Fundraise and/or donate to support our students and school with special enrichment programs, experiences, and teacher and staff appreciation.

- Enroll in our Dollar-A-Day program (scan the QR code)
- Register at Farm Fresh to You and enter promo code Friends of AEA and 10% of your purchases come back to the school.
- Visit our website for additional ways to support FoAEA

Dollar-A-Day Program



Facebook Group

