What Does Excellent Elementary Science Look Like?

Ask our 2016 Science Super Star honorees! These 101 teachers brought hands-on lessons, reading and writing about science, collecting and analyzing data, science experts, and much more to their students this year. The Science Super Star program celebrates the accomplishments of educators who successfully provide their students with creative, engaging, and high-quality science learning experiences throughout the year. These educators serve as inspiring role models as California schools transition to new science standards. You can find more information about the program at http://www.crscience.org/educators/SSSprogram

Thanks to generous contributions from partner organizations and publishers, we will be delivering a wide range of recognition prizes to these teachers and schools. We will give every student in every classroom a science-themed book of their very own — that's over 3,000 students this year! Teachers will receive classroom prizes ranging from book sets and science teaching materials, to field trips, museum or zoo admissions, and more. Schools that earned the coveted “whole school” recognition and some that came close will receive science programs from CRS partners such as Rock Steady Juggling, East Bay Regional Park, Aquarium of the Bay, the California Academy of Sciences, or visits from scientist teams from Clorox or Bayer. (see our donor list on page 3)

In recognition of the 5th year of the CRS Science Super Star Challenge, we hosted a celebration luncheon at Chabot Space and Science Center on March 19. Teacher honorees were treated to catered “Lunch with a Scientist,” featuring several of our amazing BASIS volunteers. They shared lively discussions about science in our lives and classrooms.

In addition, author Laurie Wallmark (whose newest book is Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine) was our featured speaker. Via teleconference, she shared her experience as a woman in STEM who has spent her career encouraging STEM education for all.

We are very proud of all of this year’s Science Super Stars and look forward to visiting all of their classrooms before the end of the school year. Congrats to these 2015-16 Science Super Star Honorees!

2016 Whole School Honorees:

Two Oakland schools, Chabot Elementary and the International Community School, both had 100% participation by their classroom teachers to become whole school honorees. Our official threshold for “whole school” participation is 80% or more. These two schools went above and beyond in their pursuit for excellence in elementary science education.

International Community School

Monica Guzman, Principal; Liz Woodward, Raquel Rodriguez Jones, Nicol LaCava, Pamela Long, Timothy Douglas, Paula DeLoach, Alejandro Estrada, Carolina Equihua-Cerda, Carlos Navarro, Micaela Morse, Lindsay Daseler, Mouhamadou Seck, Cynthia Lopez, Jill Guerra

Chabot Elementary

Jessica Cannon, Principal, Juli Ward, Leslie Rychel, Caroline Aszklar, Phoebe Diamond, Doshia Battiest, Laura Shield, Miranda Carrow, Joon Yeider, James Harrison, Pearl Mizrahi, Niesha Johnson, Jennifer Brackett, Anna Forward, Meghan Shaughnessy, Danny Nagatani, Sally Barry, Deborah Flanagan, Anusheh Warda, Brennan Agajan, Darlene Perdisatt, Leslie Olrich, Amy Moscato, Kyle Wong (continued on page 5)
Field Trip for Teachers: Bringing Community Together

We love making connections to enhance science teaching and learning. Connection sparks were flying at our Spring Field Trip for Teachers on March 19 at Chabot Space and Science Center.

Teachers and science organizations from around the Bay gathered for our 2nd annual Science Resource Fair. As they perused lesson plans and field trip offerings, teachers connected with museum and outdoor educators. Participating organizations connected with one another, exploring new partnerships. Educators of all backgrounds discovered connections between life, physical and earth sciences, and across the curriculum.

Many lucky teachers also connected with great raffle prizes – including field trips – donated by Chabot and others!

Thank you to our co-host and partner, Chabot Space and Science Center for opening their doors and sharing their programs with the community. Let's keep making those connections!

Exploring Science Collaboration at Pinole Elementaries

What do marble ramps, ladybugs, and phases of the moon have in common? These are just a few of the science topics we’ve explored with K-6 teachers this school year as part of our ESCAPE (Exploring Science Collaboration at Pinole-family Elementaries) professional development program.

CRS, in partnership with the Lawrence Hall of Science and the UC Berkeley Natural History Museum, has provided support, BASIS presentations, and a series of workshops over the past two years, serving about 115 West Contra Costa Unified teachers. They have been eager to delve into interactive learning experiences on key science concepts.

In addition, about 30 teachers chose to take a deeper dive into science teaching and learning by participating in a week-long summer intensive workshop in June 2015 which included engaging in field research alongside practicing UC Berkeley scientists. Plans for the 2016 Summer Intensive session are taking shape now.

The chance to dig into science investigations, and to learn together with scientists, has had a significant impact on the ESCAPE teachers.

One teacher told us, “I avoided science all through school, from high school through college. I always felt intimidated. After this training I feel so much more empowered to be a scientist! Thank you so much.”

Another teacher described the Summer Intensive as “the best training I have been to in ages. It was interesting, engaging, and useful. I was never bored the whole week. I loved the interaction with the grad students. Their enthusiasm was contagious which was great to cure the burnt out feeling I had by the end of the school year. I feel like I am going to face my summer travels with new eyes and I feel more energized and prepared to plan different experiences for my students in all subjects for next year.”

To get a glimpse at all the fun professional learning teachers have had dissecting owl pellets, figuring out the reasons for the seasons, and investigating the behavior of isopods, visit: http://tinyurl.com/jdsclfh

As a result of this professional development program, hundreds of West Contra Costa elementary students have had the chance to investigate new topics, to explore schoolyard ecology, and to deepen their understanding through writing, reading, discussing and mathematical thinking all connected to hands-on learning experiences.

UC Astronomer Bryan Mendez discusses the importance of dispelling mis-perceptions in order to build clear understanding in space science.
Thank you to our 2016 Partners & Supporters

Science Super Star In-Kind and Sponsorships:
- 4Terra Investments
- Aquarium of the Bay
- Bayer
- California Academy of Sciences
- Clorox
- East Bay Regional Parks District
- GoldieBlox
- Kids for the Bay
- LaLime’s
- Marine Science Institute
- Oakland Zoo
- Resource Area for Teachers
- (RAFT)
- Rock Steady Juggling
- Stop Waste

Publisher Donations for Science Super Stars:
- ABDO Publishing Company
- Barefoot Books
- Bearport Publishing
- Bellwether Media
- Candlewick Press
- Charlesbridge Publishing
- Chronicle Books
- Crabtree Publishing
- Dawn Publications
- DK Publishing
- Flowerpot Press
- Fulcrum Publishing
- Graphic Arts Books
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Lerner Books
- Macmillan Kids
- National Geographic & Cengage Learning
- Nomad Press
- Peachtree Publishers
- Random House Children’s Books
- Second Story Press
- Simon & Schuster
- Sleeping Bear Press
- Tundra Books
- The Creative Company

Thank you to our:
- 1,700 + teacher members
- 550+ scientist and engineer BASIS volunteers
- 100+ science education partners

Donations from October 2015-April 2016
Family Science Nights are a vital way for the entire community to support students to do more science. These nights help teachers, students, and family members to see science learning as important and attainable for everyone.

CRS regularly assists schools with Family Science Nights and Science Fairs at local elementary schools. These science experiences outside of the classroom are fantastic opportunities to expose and inspire students to do more science. CRS organized over 50 scientist volunteers from UC Berkeley to provide Family Science Night support, giving scientists opportunities to exhibit some of their research and demonstrations. Some of the activities included wind turbines, tower engineering, parachutes, and even a human brain! For the Science Fairs, CRS organized volunteers to judge science activities, sharing their expertise and advice with younger scientists. Students and their families were inspired to see such excellent science role models.

CRS thrives on linking students, teachers, families, and scientists together. Interested in planning a family science night? Check out our web page for information and resources: [http://tinyurl.com/h2wwgga](http://tinyurl.com/h2wwgga)

Another Way to Help as You Shop!
1. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)
2. Login with your Amazon credentials
3. Choose CRS as your beneficiary
4. CRS will receive a portion of your Amazon purchases with no added cost to you.

To make a donation, visit our giving website [www.crscience.org/events/springgiving](http://www.crscience.org/events/springgiving)

Or mail a check and the form below to:

Community Resources for Science
1611 San Pablo Ave. Suite 10 B
Berkeley, CA 94702

Name: __________________________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________
City: _______________________________________  State: ____________  Zip: _______________
Phone: _____________________________ Email: _____________________________________

I/We would like to be acknowledged as follows: ___________________________________________

To honor a specific teacher, please tell us his/her name, school, and address: __________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

[The Impact of Your Gift]

Spring 2016

$500  "Day of Science" for Science Super Star School
$250  Books for a Science Super Star Classroom
$100  Materials for "Be A Scientist" Classroom
$50   Treat a Science Super Star Teacher to Lunch
$25   Snacks at BASIS Volunteer Appreciation

Help Us Reach Our Spring Giving Goal of $10,000

Family works on turbines at Greenleaf’s STEM Night
CRS celebrated another fantastic year of our Bay Area Scientists in Schools (BASIS) and Be A Scientist programs with the annual CRS Volunteer Appreciation Party!

This year’s party was held at the Oakland Museum of California during their April 22nd Friday Nights @ OMCA event. Over 120 of our wonderful volunteers mixed, mingled, and enjoyed fun CRS-themed activities with exclusive access to the OMCA Cafe.

Morgan shared the impressive volunteer impact statistics at the annual appreciation event

In the address to volunteers, BASIS Program Manager Morgan Seag reflected on the year, sharing heartfelt thanks and meaningful quotes from teachers. Professor Robert Bergman shared about the origins of CRS and the importance of STEM education.

Meanwhile volunteers were invited to share their reflections on the year, noting that they love seeing the excitement on kid’s faces and that they were excited for future scientists.

CRS was thrilled to be able to offer our volunteers access to the exciting offerings of Friday Nights @ OMCA, including its special Earth Day activities. Volunteers enjoyed a DJ music, a live dissection of an albatross bolus, short films from the San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival, bites and beverages, access to the brand new groundbreaking exhibit, Altered State: Marijuana in California, and more! Thank you to our generous donors, including the Oakland Museum of California, for helping to support and sponsor this event.

“"My students and I loved the lesson. We do a lot of hands on science, but having experts come in really reinforces our work and builds up our commitment to doing science.”

--3rd Grade Teacher

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2016 Individual Teacher Honorees
West Contra Costa Unified School District
Bayview Elementary: Elizabeth Kuchar
Ellerhorst Elementary: Denise Abersold
Montalvin Manor Elementary: Jessie Welcome, Shaunra Miller
Shannon Elementary: Tresa Smith

Oakland Unified School District
Allendale Elementary: Meaghan Matsuoka
Bridges Academy at Melrose: Gloria Garcia
Burckhalter Elementary: Lillie Hayes-Staples, Lisa Capuano Oler, Candace Balbuena
Cleveland Elementary: Taralynn Kantor, Ioanna Kollias, Kathleen Byrnes, Janet Lau, Mary Loeser, Rosemary Robinson
EnCompass Academy: Liz Cruger, Trina Jones, Kampala Taiz-Rancifer, Steven Valadez
Franklin Elementary: Virginia Wong, Lisa Lam
Greenleaf Elementary: Ann Park
Joaquin Miller Elementary: Kira Gleghorn, Denise Palmer
Laurel Elementary: Lena Why, Melissa Gale-Cox

Learning Without Limits: Tess O’Brien, Duffy Ross
Lincoln Elementary: Allison McGuirk, Maria Motonaga, Rob Fong
Markham Elementary: Nikita Gibbs
New Highland Academy: Kimberly Aguilar, Tracy Dordell, Melissa Frost, Kimm Ward, Carrie Anderson, Melissa Schilling, Joanna Davis
PLACE @ Prescott: Constance Cobb-Zunino, Lisa Parola, Lorraine Mann
Think College Now: Sarah Golden
Thornhill Elementary: Bonnie Forbes

Emery Unified School District
Anna Yates Elementary: Connie Bi

Castro Valley Unified School District
Palomares Elementary: Gigi Catrina

Berkeley Unified School District
Berkeley Arts Magnet: Carrie Peters, Kristine Fowler
Cragmont Elementary: Cherene Fillingim-Selk, Meredith Aki, Michelle Johnson, Bobbye Smith, Eleanor Tiglao, Pamela Deibel, Jill Tique-Montgomery, Mollie Dutton-Starbuck, Nicholas Williams, Sara Ellberg, Kellie McElhaney
Jefferson Elementary: Bethany Lourie
Malcolm X Elementary: Debra Hill
Oxford Elementary: Noelle Sedor
Rosa Parks Elementary: Suzanne Ingle

Students excited to get their Science Super Star award and prizes including science-themed books of their own!

2016 Individual Science Super Star Honorees

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--3rd Grade Teacher
CRS Team

Staff
Teresa Barnett, Executive Director
Elise Zolczynski, Manager, Volunteer Coordination
Morgan Seag, Manager, Volunteer Recruitment & Education Outreach
Tyler Chuck, Communications Manager

Program Support
Corinn Brown, Teacher Services Manager
Traci Grzymala, Project Coordinator
Michelle Fabros, Project Coordinator
Meredith Triplet, BASIS Campus Coordinator

Board Members
Phoebe White, President
Susan Kattchee, Vice President
Maureen Dunne, Secretary
Justin Curley, Treasurer
Robert Bergman
Anne Jennings
Kristen Ratan
Rodney Turner
Diana Velez

“It was wonderful to work one on one with students, and I felt that I was able to understand what their individual strengths, weaknesses, and scientific misconceptions were, so that I could work with them to help make them strong researchers”
--Be A Scientist Volunteer

Mentor advises in the “Be A Scientist” program, now at King and Willard in Berkeley