



CRS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE
practical support for great science teaching

2013 Annual Report



Inspiring science learning!



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Science and engineering use logic and evidence to explore questions and solve challenges. Yet there is something truly magical that takes place when scientists and engineers step out of their labs and into classrooms to share their enthusiasm with young students. Children delight in testing their ideas, thinking critically, collaborating and communicating with their peers as they discover how the natural world works. Talking and laughing with real scientists, students are inspired to consider how their classroom learning connects to the larger world and their own futures.

Through our Bay Area Scientists in Schools (BASIS) program, Community Resources for Science brought these magical moments to life in more than 400 Kindergarten through 8th grade classrooms in 2013. Over 11,000 students interacted directly with more than 500 diverse, enthusiastic scientists and engineers, and hundreds of teachers received free in-class professional development on engaging, standards-based lessons.

Beyond the BASIS program, CRS provided access to personalized planning support, timely information, curated online resources, and professional development events to over 1,300 teachers in 2013. It was a tremendous year of preparation for major shifts that will be coming to science education over the next few years with the adoption of new statewide standards. We are excited to deepen our work with our informal education partner organizations, developing new resources to help teachers build the skills and confidence needed to teach science well to the next generation of thinkers, do-ers, and problem-solvers.



As an organization, CRS completed a new strategic plan aiming to increase our visibility in connecting teachers, scientists and students in a vibrant, ever-evolving web of science (and STEM) learning in the Bay Area. Our Science Super Star Challenge recognized the entire teaching staff at three schools, and 50 additional teachers, for outstanding achievement in science education. Our Advisory Council helped us to identify needs and develop new teacher resources and professional development focused on important practices such as science discourse and the use of evidence to support claims.

In the words of one of our Science Super Star Challenge awardees:

Teaching science is about helping students understand how the world around them works. From what happens when you make pancakes to why you need sunlight to grow a garden, science helps students make sense of their lived experience and exposes them to life beyond their own community. CRS is such a valuable resource - especially their BASIS program which brings real-life scientists into public school classrooms like mine to "do science" with students. The hands-on lessons that they tailor to the needs of each classroom allowed my students to make sense of some difficult science concepts we've been studying this year. Lindsey Smallwood, MLK Jr. Elementary

We look forward to another year of connecting, informing, inspiring, and celebrating science learning!

Susan Kattchee, President

Teresa Barnett, Executive Director

2013 CRS Program Highlights

By the Numbers: CRS Program Accomplishments over the course of 2013:

1,307 teachers served

115 schools reached

30,000 students' science learning impacted

553 diverse, enthusiastic scientist volunteers placed in classrooms

403 exciting, standards-based, hands-on lessons presented

12,500 students experienced hands-on science activities with visiting scientists

We experienced over 20% annual growth in the numbers of teachers, students & scientists engaged!

- CRS provided over 1,000 teachers with timely information, resource guides, online resources, and on-call support, resulting in more science for thousands of students.
- We introduced teachers to regional science support programs at Field Trip for Teachers events, held at The Crucible Industrial Arts Center and Oakland Museum of California.
- CRS recognized, rewarded, and celebrated Science Super Stars – teachers and schools who successfully met our Challenge to incorporate more science learning throughout the year and across the curriculum.
- Advisory Council members helped us develop new professional development and resources addressing new education standards involving the practices of science and engineering.
- CRS convened a workshop for local, regional, state and national environmental organizations to begin to learn about new education standards and how to ensure their programs are aligned and prepared to continue being valuable education partners for teachers.
- Private industry volunteers from Clorox and Bayer, and other firms, continued to volunteer in classrooms and at outreach events such as the Bay Area Science Festival – sharing the joy of science discoveries with enthusiastic students.
- CRS connected hundreds of talented, diverse, dynamic scientists to elementary and middle schools, afterschool programs, science fairs, Family Science nights, and more.
 - As a partner in the 3rd Annual Bay Area Science Festival, we joined with many partners to bring fun experiences to the festival and to unexpected places like farmers markets.
 - CRS continued professional development support for Berkeley Unified School District science specialist teachers.
- Through the Gateways partnership, CRS presented workshops for teachers in afterschool programs. CRS shared best practices in workshops at national convention for science-education partnerships, and at the California State STEM Conference.



CRS is the best friend a teacher can have! This organization has been invaluable to me as a classroom and science lead teacher with lesson planning, field trip planning and site science fair planning. -- Elementary Teacher

Science rocks!

Thank you for visiting our class and teaching us about plants!
Elementary student

Highlights of CRS 2013 Impact & Outcomes

Sometimes the reason not to teach something is lack of support (which stems from confidence in teaching that concept). CRS gives teachers the support they need to bring more science into the classroom in a way that engages students and invites students to ask the questions. -- Jenna Krier, Teacher



CRS does a wonderful job at supporting teachers in schools. The well-researched and highly accessible resources they offer are indispensable to overburdened teachers. The BASIS program is superb on every level. The programs are grade level standards-based, concise, entertaining, and fun! Presenters represent diversity on every level and this is essential to how my students view their own potential as scientists.-- Kristine Fowler, BUSD Teacher BUSD

I love sharing my passion for science with younger scientists, seeing them light up about the world around them invigorates me to do the same--its a mutually reinforcing experience, they show me a science driven by curiosity and I hope to show them where that curiosity can take them. -- Natasha Naidoo, BASIS Volunteer



CRS is the best friend a teacher can have! This organization has been invaluable to me as a classroom and science lead teacher. -- Janet Lau, OUSD Teacher



Survey Shows CRS Strengthens Teacher Practice, Confidence

On program evaluations, the vast majority of teachers indicated that CRS support and services helped them to improve their science teaching and motivated them to add new lessons or other learning experiences for their students.

90% of teachers say CRS helped them feel more informed about science resources

81% of teachers say they added a science lesson, field trip, or other content as a result of CRS services and support

81% saw how science effectively engages all types of learners, and 80% became “more enthusiastic” about science teaching

75% or more of teachers say CRS support increased the amount of science they teach

83% of teachers say CRS support helped them learn where to find the information they need and where to turn for planning support

Celebrating Science SuperStars!

Following our successful pilot of the Science Super Star Challenge in the 2011-12 school year, CRS rolled the program out for all our teacher members in 2012-13. Teachers were challenged to complete a series of best-practice elements (hands on investigations, reading and writing activities connected with science, field trips or in-school presentations, professional development). Those who successfully met the challenge were awarded prizes that included museum passes and class field trips, on-site assemblies, books, and more. Every student – over 2,000 in all – received a small science tool such as a magnifying glass and their very own science related book to keep.

The science Super Star challenge was a great way for me to motivate and encourage some of the teachers at our school who are not as “into” science. Getting to 14 hands-on activities was a real challenge for some teachers and this motivated them to push ahead and do more investigations. JP, Lead Science Teacher, OUSD

Three entire schools and more than 50 teachers at a dozen schools were successful in meeting the challenge and earning recognition for outstanding achievement in science education!

Winning teachers sent us evidence in the form of photos, video, journal entries, and reports — proving there was a lot of great science investigation and learning going on in local classrooms keep the science learning going!

Thank you to our Science SuperStar Challenge prize partners, including: East Bay Regional Park District, California Academy of Sciences, Exploratorium, Rock Steady Juggling (in partnership with StopWaste.org), Treehouse Green Gifts, Five Little Monkeys.,



OUSD students enjoy a visit from the East Bay Regional Parks “Fishmobile” as part of their schoolwide prize.



Students were delighted to get their very own science book!

We also thank the following generous publishers who donated books so that EVERY participating student received a science related book of their very own:

Dawn Publications
Fulcrum Publishing
Highlights
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Kingfisher Books
Lisa Gamboa
Macmillan Children's Publishing Group
National Geographic Learning
Nomad Press
University Science Books

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CRS is pleased to acknowledge the generous support of the following funding partners who awarded grants in 2013 in support of our work:

RGK Foundation	\$55,000
S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation	\$35,000
Joseph and Vera Long Foundation	\$20,000
Bayer Foundation	\$18,800
Dean Witter Foundation Grant	\$15,000
Thomas J Long Foundation	\$15,000
East Bay Community Foundation	\$15,000
Clif Bar Family Foundation	\$10,000
Berkeley Public Schools Fund	\$10,000
Panta Rhea Foundation	\$10,000
Callison Foundation	\$10,000
Gerald E. Branch Chair, UCB, Dept. of Chem.	\$7,500
Clorox Foundation	\$5,000
Goggio Family Foundation	\$4,000
Lowell Berry Foundation	\$3,000
Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Fndn.	\$2,500
Wells Fargo Foundation	\$2,000
Associated Students of UC Berkeley	\$1,412
Seyfarth Shaw Charitable Foundation	\$1,000
In Dulci Jubilo	\$1,000
LBNL Retirees Association	\$1,000
Red Oak Opportunity Fund	\$1,000
Mechanics Bank Sponsorship	\$500
Rainbow Grocery Cooperative	\$250

*Business in-kind donors are listed on our website, at:
www.crscience.org/about/funderspartners*



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Jan Robertson
Science Specialist, ACOE

Statement of Financial Position, December 31, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	\$134,065
Accounts Receivable	\$5,500
Other current assets	\$2,287

TOTAL ASSETS \$141,852

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$7,700
Other Current Liabilities	\$13,302

Total Equity \$128,550

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$141,852



CRS 2013 Income by Source

Total income: \$297,608



CRS 2013 Expenses

Total: \$295,455

- Program \$268,331
- Management & Admin. \$17,065
- Fundraising \$10,058

