

With this article, the Los Gatos Education Foundation (LGEF) begins an ongoing series of profiles on LGEF-funded programs for the current academic year.

Inquiry-based Science

What It Is: A \$100,000 grant to help maintain and improve science instruction in grades K-8. The LGEF grant supports one certificated science curriculum mentor and hands-on science kits at each grade level.

Why It Matters: The science mentor works in partnership with teachers to help plan and teach core curriculum and maintain a classroom environment that builds upon children's curiosity about the natural world and how it operates. Through hands-on lab instruction, experimentation and discussion, students develop critical thinking skills about the world around them.

How It Benefits Your Child(ren): Every child in kindergarten through eighth grade derives benefit from this program. "It's especially gratifying to see how excited students become during a hands-on science lab," says science mentor Mary Fran Archer. "Every positive experience influences students' attitudes and mastery of the subject matter and helps to foster a life-long interest in scientific processes."



Scientists in the making – first grade students learn first-hand about air and how it takes up space and moves objects.

Science – Music – Art – Technology – LGEF! Questions about LGEF Programs or grants, go to www.lgef.org or contact Cynthia James, LGEF Director of Programs: programs@lgef.org, cell: 408.314.9435.

