



Science Aides

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At any given moment, a science experiment is underway in the lab at Camino Pablo. It could be mold growth or a study of evaporation – or a simple examination of the life cycle of a frog.

“When I started as Science Aide, we had our supplies in a shared closet and would travel from class to class with materials piled on a cart,” remembered Bonnie Hazarabedian (known as Mrs. H by her students). Nowadays, CP has a dedicated space filled with all things science: microscopes, tanks, a cage with small rodents, text and workbooks, posters covering the walls, a real animal skeleton head and even a full-sized plastic human skeleton named Mr. Bones.

Bonnie has been the Science Aide at CP for more than 10 years. She has always loved Science and wanted to share her enthusiasm with the kids. Each Moraga elementary school has a Science Aide (Karen Healy at Rheem and Renie Gannett at LP) thanks to donations to MEF, who have all been teaching for about 10 years. The Assistants are able to collaborate and share best practices – and sometimes materials.

“Bonnie is an invaluable resource for Camino Pablo. She is very knowledgeable about the Science Standards and keeps us informed of changes. Even more, she goes above and beyond her role as Science Aide by chairing the annual Science Fair and the Wastebuster program,” offered 3rd grade teacher Barbara Elliot.

Currently, 1st through 3rd grades visit the Science Lab on average every other week, with some units requiring weekly – and sometimes twice weekly – visits. 4th and 5th graders receive most science lessons in their primary class with occasional visits to the lab. And kindergartners participate in special lab visits over the course of the school year. Hopefully, this will change as the Moraga School District looks to adopt Next Generation Science and the entire science program becomes more robust. “We need to get our kids caught up with the rest of the world. An ongoing focus on Science is one of the ways we can achieve that,” shared Bonnie.

When asked what tool Bonnie wishes she had at her disposal, her reply wasn’t in fact a tool. It was more time for Science. “The students’ initial response to science is sometimes not positive. I first get to re-teach them what Science IS and then teach them Science! It’s exploring and answering questions and working in many subjects: math, language and more. I love their curiosity – and the instant when they learn Science is fun.”