

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

High Tech Science Lab for Elementary and Middle School Students Unveiled at South Valley Carden School: Teachers, School Administrators and Parents give young students a leg up in learning science



San Jose, California—Students need to have access at an early age to the tools and activities that get them excited about learning science. Two years ago the Parent Association for South Valley Carden School, one of three private Carden Schools in the South Bay Area, set a goal to build a state-of-the-art science lab for use by all students to enhance learning of, and excitement for, all aspects of science. The Parent Association raised the money and worked with science teachers, Mr. Haufler (Middle School) and Mr. Kissel and Mrs. DeMarco (grades 2-5), and the Carden School Administration to build and equip the lab. The doors were opened this month, and the students are loving it.

The Lab can accommodate up to 24 students, and is used daily by the teachers and students. Mr. Haufler, who teaches 6th grade Earth Science, 7th grade Physical Science, and 8th grade Life Science, was instrumental in designing and equipping the lab. "Yesterday I used the Lab for the first time, where the 6th grade measured pore space in different size sediments, and today and tomorrow the 8th grade will be dissecting a shark. They are loving the activity and especially the new lab", he enthusiastically noted. Haufler went on to say, "In my classroom I have an excellent computer that the Parent Association bought for the Middle School sciences, plus a projector that allows me to project the computer screen onto the projector screen so all my students can take part in the classroom activities. I plan to integrate the lab work with the classroom via the computer and a video camera." Mr. Haufler has a Master's Degree in Biological Sciences from U.S.C., a B.S. in Biology from St. Mary's College, and has been teaching high school and middle school since 1968.



The science lab features 14 compound microscopes and 6 dissecting scopes; a microslide projector that projects both preserved and live microscope slides on the wall for group/class illustrations'; dissecting equipment; and specimens ranging from several invertebrate species to a frog and shark. There is also a wide variety of lab equipment and sampling tools to fully teach and demonstrate every aspect of the five major sciences (Geology, Astronomy, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry). The Carden School has plans to use this model lab as a learning and sharing environment for other organizations.



In order to minimize the cost of building a new facility to house the science lab, a little creative thinking and ingenuity came into play by all involved. The school kitchen, which was not being fully utilized, was offered up to house the lab by Carden School Principal, Mrs. Peckham. Ralph Flynn, Parent Association President, a number of parents, and of course, Mr. Haufler, went to work to build out the space for the new lab, and reconfigure the kitchen. "One of the reasons I chose to send my young son to South Valley Carden was their special subject teachers - science, language, music, art, physical education, and computers" commented Flynn. "With the new science lab we have leapfrogged our kids' potential to learn and get excited about science by a factor of ten. Since science is such a critical part of everything, it was easy

for parents to see the value in supporting the new lab", Mr. Flynn added. Ralph is owner of a coffee company, and devotes much of his energy in leading the parent association to its goal of providing education enrichment to the students.

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SOUTH VALLEY CARDEN SCHOOL-ADD ONE

South Valley Carden School first opened in 1978 and today has over 250 students from all over the South Bay, enrolled in K-1 through 8th grade. The school is located in San Jose on the Los Gatos border. South Valley Carden embraces the Carden method of teaching developed by Mae Carden over 50 years ago. The Carden method focuses on teaching children to think and develop good judgment. In addition to core subjects such as Math and Reading students also study French, Computers, Science, Art, Music and Physical Education. In the middle school students also study Latin. With South Valley Carden's rigorous academic standards and emphasis on critical thinking, students leave the school with an expanded concept of the world and their place in it. These students go on to attend the Bay Area's leading high schools. The school's Parent Association is committed to enriching students' education through additional activities and enhanced learning opportunities.



For more information on the South Valley Carden School Science Lab and downloadable photos, go to:

<http://www.ScienceMaster.com/features/teachers/sciencelab.php>

To find out more about South Valley Carden School, go to:

<http://pw2.netcom.com/~svcarden/svcs/index.html>

Or call 408.266.1428

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