



Craft Lessons

Spring 2005 — \$786

Teachers: Kim Stern, Danielle Boone, Debbie Sioui, Happy Valley, 3rd grade teachers

This writing program matches the reading to the writer and surrounds students with examples of how good authors use specific crafts in their writing. Lessons are created to go with literature used. For example, the third grade teachers at Happy Valley used a mini-lesson "How to Write a Good Story Beginning" and tied it to books that provided examples of good story beginnings. The students' personal narratives, started from leads that captured the reader's attention, were wonderful.

Kim Stern tells us "We are thrilled with the results we are seeing in our students' writing with the Craft Lesson books/lessons. As I was reading, our students made me stop when I came to an incredible description and write it down on chart paper so they could remember it. How cool is that?"

Debbie Sioui continues, "I want to thank LASF for making this project possible. The literature has inspired my students to really want to improve their own writing craft. I am very impressed with the quality of work I am receiving from the students this year. I have noticed that something else is happening too. The students are ASKING to write second and third drafts so they can improve on their writing. Some are on their fourth drafts."

Advanced Video Production

Spring 2002 - - \$6,450

Teachers: Mike Merrick & Kris Rasmussen, Video Production Teachers Stanley Middle School

Often the means to enrich and enhance current curriculum is through the purchase of equipment. This is apparent in the Video Production Class at Stanley that has been awarded several LASF grants. For this grant, video equipment was needed for improved production and quality. Students gained an understanding of the workings of live television broadcasting and expanded their skills in video production.

Technology in the Music Classroom

Spring 2006 - - \$6,973

Teachers: District Choral Music Teachers: Klier, Keer, Ghulam and Comber

Choral music teachers in Lafayette elementary schools are using technology to engage students, enhance time management and better prepare students! Teachers will create and share music in new ways., interfacing with the MIDI keyboard.

Outdoor Science— From Gardens to Classrooms

Burton Valley Nature Area: Spring 2005— \$10,000

Teacher: Mallory Peirce, Science Lab Teacher, Burton Valley

Happy Valley Science Lab Garden: Spring 2002— \$3,225

Teachers: Adrienne Small, Science Lab Teacher, Happy Valley School

Outdoor Classroom: Spring 2006— \$1,900

Teacher: Jonathan Winter, Science Lab Teacher, Lafayette School

Stanley's Kids & Creeks: Spring 2001— \$13,000

Teacher: Jan Winter, 7th grade Science Teacher—Stanley

Acalanes Riparian Classroom: Spring 2000—\$4,584

Teacher: Acalanes Science Dept. 9th to 12th—Contact: Janet Thomas



Burton Valley Nature area is blossoming with an exciting area for classroom instruction. Two LASF grants, one designed to nurture the garden and the other to mentor garden use, have made the BV Garden an exciting and beautiful place to learn science, nutrition and more.

The idea for a science garden at Happy Valley was first brought to LASF in a grant proposal by Science teacher Adrienne Small. Mrs. Small wrote the curriculum for all of the grades participating in science lab garden activities.

"By extending the walls of our laboratory classroom to the real world, I felt I could provide my students with the most authentic, hands-on science experience where they could apply newly acquired concepts," Mrs. Small said. "I have worked with lesson plans and activities, and ways to engage all my 450+ students in this project to teach them about California Natives and garden ecology. "

The garden features California natives, and offers students opportunities to develop skills in observation, measuring, classifying, predicting and testing, creating models, and supports state mandated Science Standards benchmarks at all grade levels.

Another LASF garden grant was awarded last year to Jonathon Winter, Lafayette School. LASF helped to provide needed supplies to create a viable garden. This is an on-going project.

At Stanley, the funding of 30 stereo microscopes and related supplies and materials allows for an action-oriented, interdisciplinary program using hands-on science to investigate environmental issues and study local creeks. The 7th graders investigate and observe worms, insects, minerals and other relatively large items found in the area of local creeks.

At Acalanes, a grant provided an outdoor classroom for environmental science and biology students. The students experience fieldwork via hands-on data collection and enjoy a rich outdoor environmental science experience. They learn about the animals, plants and processes common in Lamorinda. The area includes plants native to California, benches and tables so that class could be held in a beautiful area on the Acalanes campus.

Digital Design

Spring 2004 - - \$2,676

Teacher: Susan Lane, Digital Design Teacher, Acalanes High School

Through LASF support, students are able to produce high level technical and artistic design items on computers that function well and reliably. Susan Lane tells us that "This upgrade has provided me with the means and tools to teach, and my students to learn on equipment that is current and inline with the industry. "



TEACHER ALLOCATION GRANT UPDATE

LASF ANNOUNCES YEARLY GRANT PROGRAM TEACHER ALLOCATION GRANTS MINI GRANTS AND PROJECT GRANTS

The goal of the LASF Teacher Allocation Grant program (TAG) is to provide funds to support teachers in the Lafayette School District and Acalanes High School who want to improve/enrich the educational experience of their students. Grants will be awarded to who want to **create innovative projects and pilot them at their site or classroom** as well as those teachers who want to **adapt successful curriculum projects created within one of our own districts or elsewhere and implement them in their own classroom or lab.** Projects and programs funded by LASF should be aligned with the cur-

riculum goals and benchmarks of the Lafayette School District (LSD) and the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD).

This year, there are two categories of grants to better address the various needs and objectives of the proposed curriculum projects. We will be awarding Mini-Grants (Grants up to \$1000 which will include a shorter application and on-site interviews with School Allocation Rep) and Project Grants (Grants over \$1000 that require more detail and a committee review).

For the 2007-8 school year, LASF will provide a **minimum of \$25,000** from its operating budget

to fund **TAGs**. LASF seeks to achieve the **TAG** goals by supporting projects that:

- ◆ Adapt and implement high-quality instructional materials designed to help students and teachers meet or exceed district curriculum goals.
- ◆ Promote stimulating environments in or outside of the classroom through innovative teachings methods and/or curriculum materials.
- ◆ Incorporate on-going assessment as a component of the instruction
- ◆ Impact (or potentially impact) a large segment of students via an adapted or pilot project aimed at a grade-level or school wide audience. (Mini-Grants may impact a single classroom or school population segment.)
- ◆ Include a plan to evaluate the success of the project and to share details of the project with LASF, other teachers and the school district.

The LASF TAG Program will not fund projects that:
Request only equipment and materials without a curriculum connection to the district goals.. Adapt materials without documentation of the quality and/or successful implementation of the materials at another site.

All funds available July 1,

LOOK AT THE LASF WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Visit the **LASF website at www.lasf.org** for copies of our grant application and other relevant information. Note that there are two separate applications depending on which TAG you plan on applying

for—**Mini Grant** or **Project Grant**. Also included is information on criteria, grants most likely to be funded, grants least likely to be funded, and a complete list of previously awarded grants.

For further information or if you have questions, please call your **LASF Allocations Representative** or the **LASF office at 299-1644**. You can also email the office at **office@lasf.org**.

Copies of applications are available on the LASF website: www.lasf.org (or in the LASF box in your school office)

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

See a list of previously awarded grants on our website or look for info about several successful grants listed below on pages 3 and 4 of this notice.



IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES:

◆ **All grants are due on Thursday, April 12.**

◆ **Interviews will be scheduled in early May**

◆ **Grants will be awarded in late May**

◆ **Funds available starting July 1, 2007**

Who can apply?



Only classroom teachers within LSD or at AHS are eligible. Teachers must consult with **site administrators and/or district curriculum staff** before submission. Include all documentation, i.e. letters of support from previously successful LASF grantees or other grantees within the two districts, copies of articles describing successful use of the materials, web pages, information from manufacturers or other supportive records.

HOW TO TURN IN YOUR GRANT THE WHO, WHERE, WHEN AND HOWS!

Grant applications are available from our website: www.lasf.org or from the LASF box in your school office. If you cannot locate an application, please call the LASF office or your school site representative.

All grants are due at the LASF office by **5pm on Thursday, April 12th**. The LASF office is located at **3450-A Golden Gate Way**. For information or directions, call the

You may make arrangements with your school allocations rep. He or she would be happy to get your application to the office.

Don't forget to make **12 copies of your grant application and include the original**. All applications should be **colored, stapled and hole-punched**. Copies need not be put in binders.

We look forward to receiving your project ideas.



Various tools, i.e. AlphaSmarts and Writer's Workshop allow students to practice writing and language arts.

WHAT IS THE REVIEW PROCESS?

On Site Review of Mini-grants: A member of the LASF Allocation committee or an LASF site representative will conduct an on-site meeting with the applicant(s) and report project details to the allocation committee.

Project Grants: The applicant(s) should plan to give a short presentation and discuss the merits of the project with the LASF Allocation Committee in an informal evening meeting.

Who is your LASF ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE?

Allocations Chair

Chris McCann

Tel: 933-7280

E-mail: cmccann@ci.danville.ca.us

Programs/Curriculum K-8

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Springhill

Julie Mitchell

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QUESTIONS?

CALL MYRNA KIMMELMAN AT THE LASF OFFICE 299-1644

OR EMAIL

myrna@lasf.org

The following is a partial list of previously awarded and successful grants. Please visit our website at www.lasf.org for a full list. Note that our criteria allows for you to adapt and implement programs that might have previously been used within your district or other districts as well as the new, innovated projects that we have always encouraged.

From Science and Math to Language Arts

Hands-on Enrichment:

Spring 2005—\$1,230

Teachers: Burton Valley 3rd Grade staff/Contact: Anne Fisher

ALEKS Math Program

Spring 2005—\$7,700

Teachers: Stanley Math Teachers

Contact: Bill Ratto

Rocks and Minerals :

Spring 2002 - \$1,329

Leap Frog Project:

Spring 2004—\$4,133

Teachers: Springhill 2nd grade staff/

Contact: Christina Churchill

Sharpening Science Fair Skills: Spring 2004—

\$2,500

Teachers: Springhill 3rd grade staff/

Contact: Debbie Deitch

Science & Literacy:

Spring 2004—\$971

Teachers: Lafayette; Contact Carol Harris and Jonathan Winter

Accelerated Math:

Spring 2004—\$4,849

Teacher: Burton Valley -

Contact: Scott Westphal

Electrical Circuits

Spring 2006—\$1,040

Teacher: Happy Valley -

Contact: Marilyn Metzler

Lafayette School District elementary school students enjoy a variety of programs, supported by LASF grants, that reinforce curricula in both science and language

Students in Burton Valley's 3rd grade classrooms

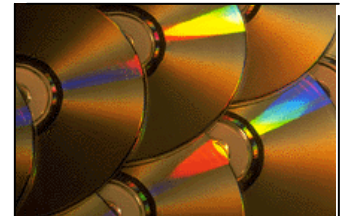
are enjoying math games purchased with LASF grant money. Anne Fisher tells us that "The kids especially like the game BLO-KUS—a game full of strategy. Other games have become staples of math

stations and centers."

Students at Stanley in the Math 7 and Pre-Algebra 8 Programs enrolled in the ALEKS program. They are using the program in class to help increase their math skills.

Second grade students at Springhill School have benefited from the Rocks and Minerals curriculum developed by 2nd grade teachers. With the help of materials purchased through the LASF grant, students can read about the rocks, hold the rock in their hand and then weigh, measure, compare, order, and even paint rocks.

Second grade students at Springhill also have enjoyed LASF funded "Leap Pads." They have become an integral part of the language arts programs. The students are able to work independently on reinforcing skills taught in class.

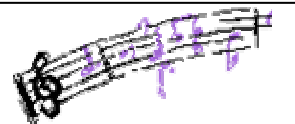


LASF supplies software for various programs, including reading and math programs that promote

Students at Springhill are currently enjoying activities, experiments, books and materials that reinforce the science standards and sharpen their Science Fair skills.

Second and third grade students at Lafayette are using non-fiction and fiction to support early literacy and science instruction. The books contain age appropriate information and provide emerging readers the means to compare and contrast fiction and non-fiction.

First grade students at Happy Valley enjoyed an hour of discovery exploring electricity with the staff of Spectrum of Science. The hands-on experience showed students how a circuit works and how to record their observations.



Big Bands and Jazz at Stanley

Big Bands: Spring 2001 - \$10,000

Jazz Ensemble Music:

Spring 2004—\$1,000

Teacher: Bob Athayde, Stanley, Instrumental Music Teachers, 6th-8th Grades

Sheet music is expensive, but permanent. It serves as the text book of the instrumental music program. The grant provided the Stanley music

tional funding, which gave more variety of music. Through two grants over the last 4 years, Stanley students have enjoyed new sheet music and explored different music.

Another addition made possible by the grant is the video screen and projector, awarded to Stanley's music program in 2001. These are used daily and have proven to be invaluable for

music instruction. In fact, LASF awarded similar equipment for a similar program to the Acalanes Music Department the following year!

LASF dollars also supported the purchase of the new Grand Piano for the Stanley music room.

Bob Athayde tells us, "LASF has provided the classroom of the future now!!!"

**Mini-Grants up to \$1000
Projects grants over \$1000**

