



Pablo Picasso once observed, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.” One of our jobs as educators is to nurture our students’ creativity and knowledge. Whether or not they end up becoming Picassos themselves, education in the visual arts:

- Encourages critical thinking
- Enhances learning strategies
- Builds communication skills

# 40+ years of service to the Los Altos School District

Founded in 1970

Co-founders Nancy  
Marston and Marlene  
Grove were frustrated  
by funding cuts for  
art instruction and were  
determined to keep art  
in the schools.



Sound familiar today?

## Who We Are Today

70 docents

- 19 docents with over 10 years of service
- 30 trainees this year
- many have art background
- many have teaching background



We have grown and morphed over the years but our mission today remains the same: To stimulate, at an early age, a child's awareness of art and to help her or him understand its processes through appreciation and participation.

We currently have approximately 70 docents who teach regularly in the classroom. Many of those docents have stayed with the program long after their child graduated from elementary school. We do have some attrition as some docents go back to work, move or change interests, therefore we train a new group of docents every year. This year 20 new docents completed our training course and are already in the classroom teaching. Overall, this talented group of volunteers is very diverse but many have a background in art and education.

## What We Teach

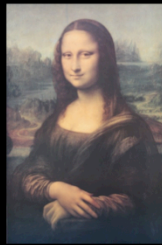
Our sequential, standards based program includes 16 Art Appreciation and 29 Hands-on lessons for K-6



The lessons build on each other in complexity as the children progress through the grades.

## Appreciation Lessons

Docents show reproductions of important pieces of art and offer students the opportunity to take a critical look at and discuss their reactions to these pieces.



Our Art Appreciation lessons are truly unique in that they are designed to develop critical thinking skills. These lessons are either based on a theme the students are covering in their social studies curriculum or on teaching the Art Elements Students.

While being shown reproductions for important pieces of art, students get to

- describe what they see and feel with clarity and analyze why they think that way
- develop an art-related vocabulary
- recognize and decipher elements of visual images and their use by various artists.

(Children at Play writing example)

## Hands-on Lessons

Docents introduce specific techniques via sequential series in each of the following media: drawing, painting, printmaking, clay, and paper.



In our hands-on lessons, we provide the children with the techniques they can use in future art projects and build on the techniques from year to year.

Students learn to:

- Enhance their creative skills
- Experiment, take chances
- Use their imagination
- Discover their own personal style, develop a sense of self
- Problem solve

## Funding & Support

- LASD: provides office and training class space
- LAEF: funds the coordinator & clerk positions
- Elementary School PTAs: \$3.50/ student for supplies and materials
- Teachers: order and prepare for lessons
- Volunteers: teach and train new docents



I have a neighbor who always says it takes a village to raise children and it also takes a village to run Art Docent Program.

The school district supports us by providing our facilities

LAEF funds the salaries of our two part time employees (36 hours/week)

The PTAs at each elementary school provide \$3.50 per student to pay for the operating costs which includes art and office supplies

Teachers help by ordering and preparing for the lessons

Volunteer docents

We couldn't survive without the support of each of these groups.

# Biennial Student Art Show

2012 Shows at Gardner Bullis, Oak, Santa Rita and Springer

2011 Shows at Loyola, Almond and Covington

with art from each student at that school



Last year our change to school site Student Art Shows has been met with very favorable response from principals, teachers and parents. We will host a student art show of decent lead lesson on the evening of February 2 in conjunction with the Book Fair.





Arts education builds self-esteem and helps students develop the confidence and communications skills they need to be successful by developing their creativity, critical thinking and problem solving skills.

We appreciate your continued support to the Los Altos Art Docent Program.