

# Why Should I Participate in the JLS Science Fair?

Science is a part of our lives in the modern world regardless of what profession or path we choose. Richard Feynman, the physicist, talks about the importance of encouraging children to explore "the pleasure of finding things out", not only a joy in and of itself, but also an important skill which will help them throughout their lives.

The JLS Science Fair aims to:

- Encourage all students to pursue a more active interest in the study of science
- Encourage students to explore their natural curiosity about the world and apply a creative, systematic and scientific approach to solving real world problems
- Develop students' scientific thinking and ability to use scientific process and methodology
- Encourage parents, teachers and the community to get involved and provide support in developing our students' scientific pursuits.

Although the Science Fair is voluntary, JLS has had very active participation from its students in the past. JLS science teachers encourage participation in the fair. Science Fair projects are not typically expensive or elaborate models, but sound explorations of good questions and ideas targeted toward the middle school curriculum. Science teachers can provide excellent advice with respect to selecting and pursuing a Science Fair project. Information about project guidelines, including safety and ethics, can be found in the **JLS Science Fair Handbook**.

The JLS Science Fair is hosted and organized each year by parent volunteers working with a staff representative. Other supporting parent and community volunteers assist with the event and reviewing the projects. **If you are a parent, please consider getting involved as a general volunteer, or especially, as an interviewer.** To get involved contact any of the organizing team or sign up here: **Call for Volunteers**.

There are a variety of other science events and fairs at the county, state, country and international level beyond the JLS Science Fair that some of students may wish to participate in or simply attend. We encourage you to attend some of these fairs to open the doors of science a little wider for your children by giving them some exposure to science explorations conducted by their peers. See the section on **Resources** for more information.

The 2016-2017 JLS Science Fair organizing team is :

**Parent Volunteer Chair:**

- Maria Derrick - [wesderrick@mindspring.com](mailto:wesderrick@mindspring.com)

**Staff Representative :**

- Greg Rice - JLS Science Fair Liaison - [grice@pausd.org](mailto:grice@pausd.org)