

# *District 158 news & information*

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **Chemical Reactions Create Student Scientists at Leggee Elementary**

Chemist Tim Torkelson recently visited with first grade students in Mrs. Dyer's classroom at Leggee Elementary School to talk with students about chemistry.

During his visit, Torkelson conducted experiments and taught the young student scientists about combining ingredients to cause a chemical reaction. Using a simple mixture of flour, salt, and water, students made salt dough and learned how bricks are made and the chemical reaction that takes place during the baking process. After modeling their salt dough, students then made paint using a mixture of colored sidewalk chalk, water, and craft glue to paint their objects.

Students also learned how chemistry is used to make everyday items such as those found in your home – pipes, vinyl, metals, fibers, etc., and the important role chemistry plays in keeping people safe – fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detectors, and the development of materials and fabrics that are less likely to burn in a fire.

Mr. Torkelson is a Senior Chemist at LA-CO Industries in Elk Grove Village and father to Ellie in Mrs. Dyer's class.

Leggee Elementary School is located at 13723 Harmony Road in Huntley, Illinois. For more information, contact Mrs. Jennifer Dyer at [jdyer@district158.org](mailto:jdyer@district158.org) or 847-659-6200.

## Chemical Reactions Create Student Scientists



Mr. Tim Torkelson, Senior Chemist at LA-CO Industries in Elk Grove Village and father to Ellie (standing) speaks to students in Mrs. Dyer's first grade class about the important role chemistry plays in keeping people safe.



Natalie Serratto paints a purple flower with the paint she made by combining sidewalk chalk, water, and craft glue.



Alyssa Scheper forms her salt dough into a ball and then smashes it flat using the palm of her hand.



Sean Eagan seems surprised to learn that his salt dough heart made of flour, salt, and water will dry almost as hard as a brick during the baking process.