

"Thanks so much for designing this most amazing Marble Run Kit! ...since we became members, my son has been asking to go to the science center every week!" -  
*Recent email from a new Fleet Member*

Dear Friend:

You can teach kids about gravity, friction and the engineering that goes into getting an object from one place to another, but a better idea is to let them experiment and figure things out for themselves. The trick is to spark their curiosity - just like a new Marble Run Kit from the Fleet's Studio X did for this member's son. Once curious, not only will children learn, but they will often discover something completely different than what an adult may think is intended in the lesson.

The importance of curiosity in children has been studied for decades.

Psychologist Jean Piaget referred to young children as "little scientists" who use the process of trial and error to explore the world around them. Beyond that, curiosity is a skill that contributes to school readiness in young children. In many ways, curiosity can be a gateway for enhanced learning and the opportunity for children to become problem solvers.



Researchers Prachi E. Shah, et al. have posited "Interventions which promote an experience of meaningfulness of an activity might enhance a child's engagement in that activity, and help foster curiosity"\*. In fact, these researchers found that there is a connection between higher levels of curiosity and future academic achievement in school.

The Fleet Science Center - with no required curriculum or exams to distribute - has the opportunity to inspire and foster curiosity outside the walls of the classroom.

## Corporate and Foundation Partners

A huge thank you to The Kiwanis Club of San Diego and the San Diego Kiwanis Club Foundation for their \$20,000 Community Impact Grant to support our newest permanent exhibit, **It's Electric!**



SEE ALL PARTNERSHIP  
HAS TO OFFER

## JANUARY 20 The Sky Tonight: Special - Lunar Eclipse Edition

Free for Luminary  
Members

On Sunday, January 20, come celebrate and view the lunar eclipse, which will feature a beautiful, rare, red moon. Hands-on activities begin at 4:30 p.m., and a special viewing of *Hubble* begins at 6 p.m. Then join astronomer Dr. Lisa Will for an exclusive

Getting kids curious about science, technology, math and engineering is important to their future interest and success in these subjects, and it is something the Fleet strives to do every day.

For the family who emailed about their son and for others who visit Studio X, the fun and learning can continue with the Fleet's new "Make-It Kits" which provide visitors with ready-to-assemble projects that can be done at home. Because curiosity doesn't stop once you leave the Fleet.

Sincerely,



Steve Snyder, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

\*Prachi E. Shah, Heidi M. Weeks, Blair Richards, Niko Kaciroti. **Early childhood curiosity and kindergarten reading and math academic achievement.** Pediatric Research, 2018; DOI: 10.1038/s41390-018-0039-3

presentation of the Fleet's The Sky Tonight planetarium show at 7:30pm. Following the show, the San Diego Astronomy Association invites you to use their telescopes to see the lunar eclipse and the red moon.

Fleet Science Center  
4:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Adult: \$21.95  
Member: \$16.95



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