



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Lafarge Plant Takes Innovative Science Curriculum to Stone Canyon**

*Lafarge-Tulsa Cement Plant explains Oklahoma's geology with hands-on learning*

Owasso, Okla. – Stone Canyon Elementary joined the Lafarge-Tulsa Cement Plant this October to learn about Oklahoma's geology in an exciting new way. Seventy-five fifth-grade students graduated with a Junior Miner Certificate after completing the three-part curriculum known as the Oklahoma Rocks & Minerals Program. The course is provided free of charge to each class.

Lafarge employee ambassadors donate their time to lead each of the sessions, both at the schools and the cement plant. The program is designed to expose fifth grade students to Oklahoma's native rock and mineral deposits, careers in mining and the cement-making process.

"We are so impressed with the Oklahoma Rocks & Minerals Program," said Aislyn Parcell, fifth-grade teacher at Stone Canyon Elementary. "Our school is extremely grateful for everything Lafarge has done for us!"

During the first of three sessions, students learn to think like a scientist through "jelly bean geology," rock and mineral identification exercises and discussion of the various materials that surround them every day. The second session leads students through the cement process by allowing them to make no-bake cookies and learning about our region's large minable deposits. In the final session, the students take a field

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trip to Lafarge's cement plant in northeast Tulsa. The students act as plant foremen when they "mine" a cookie to uncover chunks of "limestone" chocolate chips in the cookie. Finally, a quarry manager leads the students on a fossil hunt through the plant's quarry.

"The Rocks & Minerals Program allows us to be a part of the community," said Jim Bachmann, Lafarge-Tulsa plant manager. "The program has been extremely well received by the teachers and the kids. It gives us the opportunity to share a little bit about us and Oklahoma's geology with the schools in our community."

### **About Lafarge**

The Lafarge-Tulsa Cement Plant has produced materials for the construction industry since 1961 and employs approximately 100 people. Located at 2609 N. 145th East Ave., the plant produces 700,000 tons of cement a year and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Projects that have used cement from this plant include the I-40 emergency bridge replacement, the Creek and Cherokee turnpikes, the Saint Francis and St. John medical complexes, Oklahoma State University's Boone Pickens Stadium, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, the Bud Walton Arena, the Razorback Stadium addition, and the BOK Center.

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