

Science Fair News

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Dear Parents,

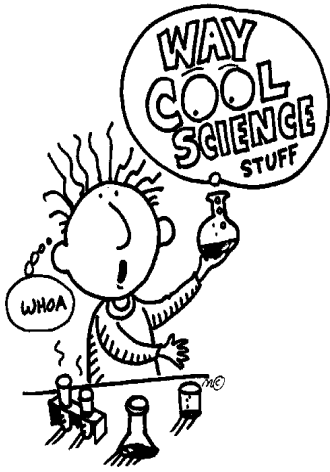
Your child is invited to take part in the **Denali Science Fair**, March 5-9, an exciting event that encourages students to think like young scientists. We hope you agree that the educational benefits are numerous, as students develop skills in writing, oral presentation, creative thinking, and problem solving.

There will be a special table and "timeline" located in the hallway by the front entrance for students to pick up weekly newsletters with a calendar noting dates for completing the project, suggestions and tips, as well as organizers and various information to help them with the project. Each week we will also explain in detail the types of projects that can be entered in the fair. For tips on helping your child through this process — from choosing a topic to the final report- we also invite you to visit the table to collect information about helping your student stay organized in order to complete the project on time.

We ask that you encourage your child and monitor his or her progress along the way, as your support is key to a successful project, but please do not allow your involvement to extend any further in order to promote student learning! It is important that if your child encounters problems, that they try to solve them. Guide your child whenever and wherever you can, but let the final project reflect your child's individual effort and design. Also, keep in mind that a successful project can be completed for very little money.

Please pick up a copy of the weekly newsletter if you'd like more information on creating a successful science fair project. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us, or your child's teacher. We look forward to watching your child enjoy this unique opportunity for scientific discovery. See you at the fair!

Science Fair Committee



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Dates to Remember

Denali Science Fair
March 5-9

State Science Fair
March 9-11

This Issue:

Week 1: Start up! (The Six-Week Schedule to Success)

Choosing a Project

Types of Projects

Next Issue:

Week 2: Research & Revise (The Six-Week Schedule to Success)

Types of Projects: The Experiment, Demonstration or Model Building

The Scientific Method

Start up!

- *Choose a topic or problem to investigate
- *Start a journal to keep all your notes and research along the way
- *Begin primary research: Write information from experts, set up interview if necessary
- *Begin secondary research: Search printed sources (books, journals, magazines, and newspapers) and electronic sources (Internet)





Science Fair News

Choosing a Project

Choose a topic you like and are interested in learning more about. You are interested in a topic if it's something you think about. If it's an experiment, make sure you can design a test to find an answer to the question.

Choose a topic both your parents and teacher will approve. Make sure it's a project you can do with only a little help from parents, teachers, and friends. Your project doesn't have to be perfect. Just be neat and follow the scientific method if you are conducting an experiment.

Types of Projects to Enter

Investigation or Experiment

Run an experiment that includes a question, hypothesis, experiment, and conclusion.

Demonstration or Model Building

Repeat an existing experiment and retest the hypothesis and results

Build a model to demonstrate a science principle or phenomenon.

Build a model (gears, the heart) to demonstrate how something works.

Research and Poster

Research a project in depth (how a rocket works) and report with a written paper, journal, photos, drawings, or diagrams.

Hobby or Collection

Display a collection of objects or artifacts (groups of dinosaurs, sea shells, rocks) and provide labels and information in an organized fashion.

Inventions

Design something based on science that will solve a current problem.

*Janice VanCleave at <http://discoveryschool.com/sciencefaircentral/scifairstudio/handbook/projecttypes.html> gives a very clear description of the 3 main types of projects - **Investigation**, Construction of a Kit or **Model**, and **Demonstration**

Calendar: Keeping Your Project on Track

This is a schedule of the steps you should follow to complete your project on time. Our science newsletters will also present each step in depth over the next coming weeks. Remember, if you fall behind, or start late, don't worry, just keep working to meet the deadline!

(Week 1) Jan. 23 – Jan. 28

Start up! Choose a topic or problem to investigate

(Week 2) Jan. 29 – Feb. 4

Research and Revise

(Week 3) Feb. 5 – 11

Outline and Investigate

(Week 4) Feb. 12 – 18

Record and Report

(Week 5) Feb. 19 – 25

Define and Refine

(Week 6) Feb. 26 – March 4

Finish up!

March 5

Pre-Registration

March 6-7

Registration, Project Drop-off



*Wednesday March 7th is the absolute last day for projects to be registered for judging! Projects brought in after this date may be put on display, but will not be judged or scored.

Denali Science Fair Committee

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