

# Science Fair News

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 5, 2007

## 4 Weeks Until the Science Fair!

Dear Parents,

This is the third issue of our science newsletter. In this issue you will find information about model building, science notebooks and journals, and what students should be doing in this third week of the six-week schedule. If students are doing an experiment for their science fair entry, now is the time for them to begin experimenting! We have also provided a list of websites that students can visit to obtain more information, tutorials, and project ideas related to science. Finally, students should remember to check the "countdown" calendar in each issue or the one posted on the bulletin board outside the main office to insure that they are on track to complete their projects on time.

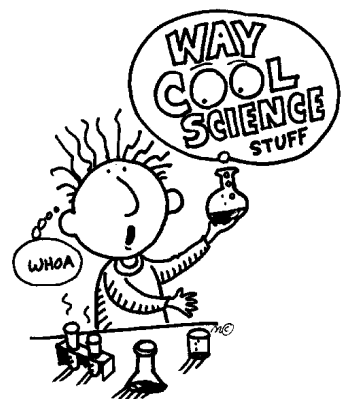
### This Week's Tip: Have projects approved!

Students might want to have their science projects approved by their teacher before they begin. Sometimes, teachers would prefer a specific type of project (experiment) depending upon the students' grade. Check with your child's teacher for clarification.

The Science Fair Committee



**Volunteers needed! Please  
see page 3 for details.**



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### Next issue:

Week 4: Record & Report  
Project: Research Project  
The Project Display Board  
Project Guidelines

### Dates to Remember

Denali Science Fair  
March 5-9

State Science Fair  
March 9-11

### What you should do this week:

#### Outline & Investigate

Complete initial research  
Set up outline for written report  
Start your experiment or demonstration collection  
Record your observations in your science notebook or journal  
Begin collecting or buying materials for your display

#### Project: Model Building

There really is not that much involved in explaining this type of project. Basically, you build a scale model to illustrate a scientific principle. The real work for this type of project is in the display board. Since you will be building a model to recreate and explain a scientific concept you will need to conduct a fair amount of research. After describing what you have made you will need to explain its function and/or significance in detail.

*Examples:* Shadow boxes of land formations, a model of the solar system.

Denali Science Fair Committee

Sonya Davis  
davis\_sonya@asdk12.org

Melissa Mathis  
mathis\_Melissa@asdk12.org

When you begin your project, from your first thought and plans until you finish it, you will have a lot of decisions, thoughts, and information to keep track of. You, like many, many scientists, will find it very useful to keep all your records, notes, and observations in ONE place—either a bound journal or a binder with pockets.

**At first record:** Your questions, lists of what you might try, and information you collect as you think about your project.

**Then record the parts** of your project as you decide on them—**THE** question, the hypothesis, the materials.

**Record the steps** you take as you do your experiment; also record any problems you encounter in the steps you take and the materials you use.

**Record the results** you see through writing and drawing pictures. You can also take pictures of the results. (Remember that certain things can't be shown at the school because of safety issues, and that most material can't be taken into the state science fair either.) You especially want to keep good notes and records of each time you try your experiment. You won't be able to remember it all.

**Record the information** you collect from all sources including books, the Internet, people, and videos. Be sure you keep a record of where you got each piece or set of information. You'll need to cite your sources at the end of your project.

**Will you use all these notes? Yes!** You will be able to use them to write all the parts of your project. You will also use your notes to record and discuss your results. (For example: How high did your plants grow? Was it more on some days? What changed? What worked? What didn't?)

You might want to copy a page from your notes and your drawings to include on your display board so that you can show what a good job you did of keeping records and noticing results. You will certainly use your notes to show some of the information you discovered in your research, but also to thank or give credit to the people or materials that gave you information.

You may even, like many famous scientists, keep your notes to look at another year later. You can use them to try a different experiment based on the one you just did, especially if it turned out very differently than you thought, or to try different variables, or just another way to do the experiment.

Additional Sources:

<http://www.scifair.org/articles/steps.shtml>

<http://www.sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/project-laboratory-notebook.pdf>

This is a schedule of the steps you should follow to complete your project on time. Our science newsletters

### (Many have science and learning links)

<http://www.alaskasciencefair.org/> (Our own Alaska Science Fair site, with info, guidelines, rules and info on the state science fair March 9-11 at East High, and forms for registration. Anyone can go and registration is quick and easy if you do it on-line ahead of time.)

<http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral/> (A standard source)

<http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral/dysc/> Site includes the Young Scientist Challenge for 2007 with several options (Looking at previous winners, science and scientists in action, and DCYSC Extras which includes 'Articles and Activities for Students' with some very interesting science and invention sites. There is also a teacher resource guide that has some pages for parents, clear do's and don'ts pages, and good displays of information and projects.

<http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/projectguide/gettingstarted.html> (Always a great source in how-to's and in links to info and more how-to's)

<http://www.isd77.k12.mn.us/resources/cf/welcome.html> (Kid friendly, an excellent guide through the process, written by a teacher/university professor and by kids)

<http://www.isd77.k12.mn.us/resources/cf/SciProjIntro.html> (Part of the one above; a clear and simple walk through doing a scientific experiment)

<http://www.usc.edu/CSSF/Resources/GettingStarted.html> (The California Science Fair site with many links for the various stages and step by step guidance. Also has past projects and winners for interesting reading and for ideas.)

<http://www.cool-science-projects.com/index.html> (New to me but recommended in other sources.)

<http://physics.usc.edu/ScienceFairs/> (For the smorgasbord of science fairs; includes the major scientific contests, the National American Indian Science Fair, all states with www sites and many nations.)

For information, tutorials, and project ideas:

<http://www.biology4kids.com>

<http://chem4kids.com>

<http://physics4kids.com>

<http://geography4kids.com>

### Volunteers Needed!

Are you interested in helping out with this year's

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**Science Fair Volunteer Form**

**I can volunteer for the science fair**    Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Days I am available to volunteer (please circle)**

Monday, *March 5*    Tuesday, *March 6*    Wednesday, *March 7*    Thursday, *March 8*    Friday, *March 9*

**What I am willing to do**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! Someone will contact you with details and further information.**