

# Science Fair News

Dear Parents,

Each Spring our school has each third and fourth grade student create and present a Science Fair Project. We have found this to be an excellent means of learning about the scientific process of experimentation. Our Science Fair at Sacred Heart School will be on Friday, March 5, 2010.

Each child will be awarded a ribbon for participating in the fair. At this time as many as twenty students will be chosen to exhibit their projects at the South Central Minnesota Regional Science Fair held at Minnesota State University - Mankato on Saturday, May 1, 2010.

**Each third and fourth grade student will be required** to submit a project for the Sacred Heart Science Fair. A science fair project is not intended to be a report on a scientific topic. It should be an experiment. It should involve a question and an experiment that answers that question. We feel that the most important things to be gained from this experience are to learn from others and to enjoy the learning that will take place. Observations made at past years science fairs indicated that beneficial skills were being developed. Students exhibited critical thinking, active participation, and an enhanced self-concept. For many families the project also promoted an increased interest in science and interaction between the child and parent.

To help in the search for an experiment, the school has purchased several science teacher information and experiment suggestion books. They are located in the upstairs hallway at the entrance to the Media Center. In order to keep the books in circulation for the sixty children involved, we ask that they be returned within two school days.

The attached sheets will provide you with the information necessary for developing a science fair project with your child. In order to make this a continuing learning experience, we have set due dates for certain steps. Please refer to these sheets as the project gets underway.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher. A sample science fair project will be set up in Mrs. Lyon's classroom from January 11 through March 4 for your viewing. Support of your child in this experience is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Third and Fourth Grade Teachers

# Science Fair News

## **How do I find an idea for my Science Fair project?**

Places to look for project ideas:

Library Books (Sacred Heart Library or the public library)  
Science project books set up in Room 206  
Encyclopedias  
Classroom teachers  
Numerous web sites under the subject "Science Fair Projects"  
MN Regional Science & Engineering Fair Website:

As a student doing a science fair project you are eligible to use the web site Minnesota State University, Mankato has set up to help students, teachers, and parents with projects. The site provides links to dozens of project ideas from easy to challenging.

The web site address is: [www.mnsu.edu/sciencefair](http://www.mnsu.edu/sciencefair)

Our own Sacred Heart web site will include the pages of the packet and copies of the letters sent to parents about the 2009-2010 Science Fair. If you lose your copy of any of these, you can print a copy from the web site under Science Fair.

The Sacred Heart web site address is:  
[www.sacredheartwaseca.org](http://www.sacredheartwaseca.org)

\*Please note: for elementary fairs it is recommended that students wishing to experiment with living materials choose invertebrate animals or plants. Performing experiments on vertebrate animals (people, mice, dogs, etc.) involves filling out several forms, contacting a physician or veterinarian, and petitioning a committee at Minnesota State University for permission.

Your science fair project should be an experiment. You should be able to finish this statement when deciding what your topic is:

The purpose of my science project is to find out  
what will happen if \_\_\_\_\_.

# Science Fair News

## GUIDELINES AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 14            Step 1 (Title), Step 2 (Question), and Step 3 (Hypothesis) must be filled out on the yellow sheet and brought to school on this date.
- January 21            Step 4 (Materials) and Step 5 (Procedure) must be filled out on the yellow sheet and brought to school on this date.  
Step 6 The **Elementary Project Approval Form** (last page of the packet) must also be handed in on this date.
- February 18           It is recommended that the display board (as pictured on the pink page) should be constructed with Steps 1-5 completed and placed on the board. The board does not need to be brought to school until the day of the Science Fair.
- February 25           Please review checklist with your child to make sure you are ready for the fair on March 5, 2010.

## CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Do I need electricity for my project? If yes, have I told my teacher and located an extension cord? (Tables on which to display projects will be supplied by the school.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Have I made arrangements to transport my project to and from school on the day of or night before the fair if it cannot be brought with me as I usually come?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Are my results ( graphs, tables, charts, data, etc.) completed and placed on my board?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Are my pictures ( if any) ready and placed on my board?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Is my conclusion well-thought out and placed on my board?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Have I practiced presenting my project?

March 5, 2010  
Science Fair at Sacred Heart  
(Further details will be provided as the time of the fair draws near.)

# Science Fair News

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

## Science Fair Project

### **Due January 14**

1. Title \_\_\_\_\_

2. Question (What do I want to learn) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Hypothesis (What do I think will happen) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Due January 21**

4. Materials needed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Procedure (list, step by step, how you will do your project)

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

E. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Bring in the **Elementary Project Approval Form** completed and signed.

### **Due February 18** (no need to bring into school until the Science Fair)

7. Results (any graphs, tables, charts, data, pictures, etc.)

8. Conclusions (What did you learn from this project? How will it help you in the future? Was my hypothesis correct?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Science Fair News

February 11, 2010

Dear Parents,

The Sacred Heart Science Fair is fast approaching! **Setup time for the projects will be from 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. on Thursday evening, March 4, or 7:30 - 8:15 A.M. on Friday morning, March 5.** A table will be set up with your child's assigned number on it in the Treanor Campion Gym. If your child cannot bring the project in on his or her own, please make arrangements for it to be dropped off at one of the times listed above. Judging will begin promptly at 8:45 A.M. and continue until approximately 11:00 A.M. on Friday, March 5. Parents and visitors are not to be present during this time.

Open house for viewing the projects will be from 1:30 - 2:15 P.M. on Friday, March 5 with cleanup from 2:15 - 2:30 P.M. It is very important that no projects are removed until 2:15 because people will be viewing them until that time.

We are also in need of a few parents to help us with getting the gym ready on Thursday, March 4 from about 3:00 P.M. until no later than 3:30 P.M., and then also with cleaning up after the Science Fair on Friday, March 5, at about 2:15 P.M. This would involve lifting some heavy tables so we would especially appreciate the help of any fathers for this task.

To assist us in our preparation, **please detach the bottom of this sheet and return it to us no later than Wednesday, February 24.** We will make a copy of the bottom portion of this sheet for you, and we'll send the copy home with your child as a reminder for you so please put it in a very visible place.

In case school is cancelled due to bad weather, the Science Fair date will be rescheduled for Monday, March 8.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your child's teacher at 835-2780.

Thank you,

Third and Fourth Grade Teachers

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**Please check the following and return this portion to school by Wednesday, Feb. 24:**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ The project will arrive Thurs., Mar. 4, between 6:30 & 7:30 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_ The project will arrive Fri., Mar.5, between 7:30 & 8:15 A.M.

**\*\* The project will be picked up no later than 2:30 P.M. on Fri. afternoon. My child will go home by:**

**(circle one)                  bus                  car                  walk**

**Please check below if you are able to help at school:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be able to help with setting up the gym on Thurs., Mar. 4, from 3:00- 3:30 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be able to help with cleaning up the gym on Fri., Mar. 5, at 2:15 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be able to help on both Thurs., Mar. 4, and Fri., Mar. 5.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

# Science Fair News

January 8, 2010

Dear Parents,

This year we will again be offering display boards for sale to be used for your child's Science Fair Project. There is a company that makes display boards for \$3.25 or \$3.75 each, depending on the color. This includes postage and handling. If you would be interested in ordering one please return the bottom part of this note by **Thursday, January 14**. Include with the note cash or a check written out to Sacred Heart School. Please keep the payment for the board separate from other money being sent to the school (i.e. lunch money, scrip). Of course you may make your own board out of wood, cardboard, etc. as was suggested in the information packet that was sent home.

Sincerely,

Third and Fourth Grade Teachers

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\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would be interested in purchasing a Science Fair display board. I have circled my color choice and price below, and I have enclosed my payment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's name and Room number

white - \$3.25

green - \$3.75

red - \$3.75

yellow - \$3.75

blue - \$3.75

black - \$3.75

lt. blue - \$3.75

fuchsia - \$3.75

orange - \$3.75