

Science Fair News

Dear Parents,

Each Spring our school requires each third and fourth grade student to 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 4, 2011.

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, April 30, 2011.

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 is to 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 fifty five 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 10 through March 3 for your viewing. Support of your child in this experience is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Third and Fourth Grade Teachers

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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 the hallway by the library
Encyclopedias
Classroom teachers
Numerous web sites under the subject "Science Fair Projects"
MN Regional Science & Engineering Fair Website:

The web site address is: www.mnsu.edu/sciencefair

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.

Our own Sacred Heart web site will include the pages of the packet and copies of the letters sent to parents about the 2010-2011 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

*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 _____.**

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GUIDELINES AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 13 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 20 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 17 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 24 Please review checklist with your child to make sure you are ready for the fair on March 4, 2011.

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 4, 2011

Science Fair at Sacred Heart

(Further details will be provided as the time of the fair draws near.)

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Name _____

Teacher _____ Grade _____

Science Fair Project

Due January 13

1. Title _____

2. Question (What do I want to learn) _____

3. Hypothesis (What do I think will happen) _____

Due January 20

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 17 (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?) _____
