Science Fair

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to tell you about our exciting Science Fair Project on which students are now working. Fifth and sixth grade students actually submitted parts of the project in October and November. This letter will hopefully ease some of the confusion parents experience when students participate in Project Based Learning.

As you might know, in our school we use the teaching method of Project Based Learning, or PBL, to help students learn better. A project motivates students to gain knowledge, and they remember it longer. Projects give students the chance to apply the skills they learn in school to personally relevant and real-world situations. Your child also learns skills in PBL such as how to think critically, solve problems, work in teams, and make presentations. These skills will help students succeed in the future, both in school and in today’s work world.

The Science Fair Project Based activities include writing an outline and a research paper (5th and 6th grade only), doing a science experiment and creating a display board describing the experiment. These assignments will meet the primary objective of this project which is to have students approach a problem scientifically. This includes:

1. Asking questions and forming hypotheses
2. Creating experiments to test those hypotheses
3. Organizing and drawing conclusions
4. Writing about scientific research (5th and 6th grade)

At the end of the project students will make oral presentations to the class. These presentations will take place in class and are scheduled during the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade science classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Students will be assessed individually on their content knowledge as displayed in their research paper and/or on their display boards. Their oral presentation skills will be considered on the basis of the rubric which parents signed and which will be used to guide the creation of and assess students’ work. You may find the rubric helpful in understanding what we are asking students to do, and supporting your child during the project. As parents or guardians, you can discuss the project at home, encouraging your child to think hard and ask questions about the topic. You can also support the project by allowing students to create and present their own work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the project!

Sincerely,

Dr. Steinbeck

Science Fair Information:

Materials :

* Materials needed for science experiment
* Science Project display board: This is a trifold board that can be purchased from Staples. The size of the board depends on the amount of written material on each student’s board. Each display must contain the following headings:
* Title
* Purpose
* Hypothesis
* Abstract
* Experimental Procedure

1. Materials
2. Data
3. Graph

* Variables/Results
* Conclusion

Due Dates Remaining :

* January 2-27 Project Research Paper (5th and 6th Grade ouly)
* January 2-February 17 Science Fair Display Board
* February 23 Oral Presentations (4th and 6th Grade)
* February 20 and February 23 Oral Presentations (5th Grade)
* February 22 @ 5:30 P.M. School Science Fair in Multipurpose Rm.

Grading :

The three components of the project, Research paper (5th and 6th ), display board, and oral presentation will be graded individually and represent either two or three grades depending on grade level. Refer to the rubric for scoring guidelines.

Attachments on email:

* Sample Display Board
* Rubric