

Bonne Ecole Elementary Science Fair 2009

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2009
Committee Members: Mrs. Bruno, Mrs. Lightfoot, Mrs. Uddo, Mrs. Lamy, Mrs. Lore, Mrs. Farrar
Time: 7:30 A.M. - Students begin setting up projects.
8:30 A.M. - Judging will begin.

Ribbons will be awarded on Friday, January 30, 2009. There will be ten Superior Ratings and eight Honorable Mention. The students who receive Superior Ratings will be eligible to go to the Regional Science Fair in Hammond in March.

The Bonne Ecole Elementary Science Fair will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2009. All entry forms must be received by Friday, December 12, 2008. No electrical outlets will be provided. **No glass, chemicals, open flames, plants, food or vertebrate animals can be used.** The project restrictions are 30 inches deep, 48 inches wide, and 108 inches high.

In our society we think of science as a question from a teacher or a subject that you have to take in school. Many express their displeasure with science because they are unable to relate science to everyday life. Such opinions mean missing the importance of science as a thinking and doing+activity. This is where science fair projects begin to bridge the gap to productive and critical thinking skills.

Science Fair projects are meant to be an experimenting and learning activity, which can be related to the real world. Students should select a topic on a subject that interests them and is reality in the life of an elementary student. A project should include a planned and organized investigation. When students use the scientific method to investigate a question or topic they become better critical thinkers. This should be the main goal of parents and educators.

Science Fair projects should follow the scientific method. The steps are:

1. Question or Problem
2. Hypothesis
3. Materials
4. Procedure
5. Results
6. Conclusion

Judging will be based on originality and creativity, use of scientific method, neatness and organization, student knowledge, and oral and visual presentation

☛ Question or Problem

What exactly do you want to find out with your project?

In this step, it is important for you to state a question in specific terms. Be sure that you narrow down the question as much as possible.

To help you formulate an appropriate question you can fill in the following examples.

_____ on _____ ?
fect _____ ?
(erb) _____ ?

☛ Hypothesis

After a definite question is selected, a hypothesis is formulated. It should answer the question that is your belief. You will design your experiment to test your hypothesis.

☛ Materials

It is now time to list all of the materials that you will need to conduct your experiment. It is best to think out completely what you will need so that you will not be missing things once you begin testing your hypothesis. It is strongly recommended that you actually write down and secure all materials before you begin. Many times the items that seem the easiest to find are the hardest to locate when you are beginning your project.

☛ Procedure

Is your hypothesis true or false? That should be the main goal of your procedure - **to test the hypothesis.**

Now is the time for you to test your hypothesis. Follow your planned procedure and record all information as you do each step. Do not rely on your memory. This is a scientific procedure and you must take notes as you proceed so that you can report what actually happened. In addition, you will be assured of accurate data when moving on to the next two steps.

☛ Results

The results tell exactly what you found out by performing the procedure. You should compile your information into charts, graphs (bar, line and/or pie), pictures, measurements, tapes, or anything else that may apply. In this step, you will be giving facts not opinions. Do not use the words more, less, seems, or better. Be specific and be sure to give all of the facts.

☛ Conclusion

This is where you tell what you learned. Was your hypothesis true? If not, why do you think your hypothesis was false? Your hypothesis does not have to be true in order for you to have a good project. Some of the best projects often prove the hypothesis false.