

Curious?...It's time to get some answers!

Carpenter Elementary Science Expo 2012

Thursday, March 1st, 5:30-7:00 PM



This is it... it is time to explore all those ideas that keep popping in your head and start experimenting – Can plants grow in the dark? Can I help find a way to eliminate all the garbage we make? Is there a way to make bubble gum flavor last longer? Choose something you really want to know and design an experiment to figure it out. And... don't forget to HAVE FUN!

You can find more details on the Science Expo below. A resource of Internet sites with more ideas is available on the Carpenter Elementary PTA website (<http://carpenteres.wcpss.net/>). If you have questions please contact: Christine Sulym (christine535@nc.rr.com) or Alicia Smith (aliciahsmith@gmail.com).

Registration form is due back to school by Thursday, February 23rd.

Registration forms can be found on Carpenter's website <http://carpenteres.wcpss.net/>

What is the Science Expo:

The Science Expo is an opportunity for students to ask a question and develop a way to find an answer or solution through the design of an experiment using the Scientific Method. Students will also need to determine the best way to present their inquiry, data, and results so others can follow their work. The goal of the Science Expo is to provide the students with a chance to apply the science skills they are learning in school while further investigating an area of interest to them. Students that participate in science projects increase their problem solving skills and independent thinking when they apply those skills to an independent project, a project that is done at the student's own pace and skill level. It is important to mention that the project is to be the work of the student. Parents are encouraged to assist their children in finding resources and supervising all experimentation and work. The best way to encourage children to develop independent thinking and problem solving skills is to refrain from providing answers but answering their questions with questions. A successful science project is not one where everything necessarily goes as planned, but one in which the researcher has learned something new and gained insight into the process.

Guidelines for participating:

Open to all Carpenter Elementary Students (K-5) in all Tracks.

Select a Topic

The best way to pick a topic is to observe the world around you. Start with a question... What if... What would happen if... Is there a difference between... Ideas can come from such things as (i) outside activities (ii) clubs (iii) hobbies (iv) school work, and (v) everyday problems. Ideas can also come from list of projects from other students.

Construct a hypothesis:

A hypothesis is an educated guess about how things work: "If ___[I do this]___, then ___[this]___ will happen." You must state you hypothesis in a way you can easily measure and in a way that helps you answer your original question.

Design an Experiment

Your experiment tests whether your hypothesis is true or false. It is important for your experiment to be a fair test. You conduct a fair test by making sure you only change one factor (a variable) at a time while everything else is the same. That way you can determine which "variables" made a difference in your measurements. Make observations.

Analyze your Data

Collect and study your measurements. Did your experiment go as planned? Why or why not? Are there any other experiments you should try?

Draw Conclusions

Based on your results was your hypothesis true or false?

Student Presentations:

Students will display their projects March 1st at the Science Expo.

5:30 – 6:00 Student set up for Expo

6:00 – 7:00 Science Expo, Open to the community

All projects must include:

- 1) Written description of: Hypothesis, Experiment steps, Observations, Conclusion, References (for help with the scientific method check out www.sciencebuddies.com)
- 2) Displays should be self-standing and must be able to sit on a table. We will have tables available.
- 3) Safe demonstrations will be allowed if the student would like to show some aspect of their project.
- 4) Students need to be on hand during the Expo to answer questions about their work.

Sources:

www.sciencebuddies.org

Salem Elementary Science Fair 2008 Program Guide

Kate Holub

Carpenter Elementary Science Expo 2012

Registration Form

March 1st, 5:30-7:00 PM

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Track: _____ Teacher: _____

Parent email _____

Project Information

Title: _____

Will your presentation include any type of liquid? _____

Brief Description: _____

Note: Students may return their registration forms to their teachers or e-mail their registration information to Christine Sulym (christine535@nc.rr.com) or Alicia Smith (aliciahsmith@gmail.com) by February 23rd.

Once we receive your registration you will be given a number that you will use to find your assigned table at the Science Expo.