

ANNOUNCING

THE GREEN GABLES 2010 SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Thursday, March 11th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

It's that time of year again – time to get excited about science! This year's fair will be a lot like last year's, with posters on display in the evening, no judging, and opportunities for the audience to give feedback on the projects. Changes this year include two new formats – the Engineering format (for building things) and the Observational format (for astronomy, taxonomy, and other projects where it doesn't make sense to manipulate variables). We're also opening the fair to grown-ups who have research, scientific collections, or engineering projects they want to share. Adults should sign up for the science fair and pick up the entry guidelines at the PTA room.

The PTA has made a bulk purchase of tri-fold posterboards this year. They will be for sale in the PTA room starting February 8th. We're offering them at a bargain price of \$2 each, but supplies are limited and it's entirely possible we'll sell out. Get yours early! One posterboard per project, please.

Presenting a great science fair project requires time and foresight. Plan ahead and leave yourself ample time to complete all phases of the project. Some classrooms may allow some class time for work on science fair projects, but this is at the discretion of the teacher. Most of the work, including creating the display, will be done at home. The following overview and checklist will help you stay on track:

- Pick a topic or scientific field and do some background reading to get ideas.
- Sign up for the science fair in your classroom
- Think of a project you'd like to do
- Prepare a project proposal with a summary of your action plan, budget, and materials
- Get your proposal approved by your teacher
- Get your proposal approved by your parents
- Write your Action Plan
- Assemble your materials
- Do your project
- Graph and/or analyze your results
- Create your poster

The science fair is a great opportunity for students to identify themselves as scientists and gain a richer understanding of the physical world. All students, primary and intermediate, are encouraged to participate.

SELECTING A SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT

Start by doing some reading in an area of science you are interested in. Learning and thinking about science topics will often inspire project ideas.

There are three books of experiments available in the PTA room:

- Hands-On Life Science for Elementary Grades
- Flash! Bang! Pop! Fizz! Exciting Science for Curious Minds
- Rising to the Challenge of the National Science Education Standards: The Process of Science Inquiry

These books will be available for 1 hour checkout by teachers and parents. This should give everyone time to browse the books and photocopy projects of interest.

Many other excellent books of science fair projects have been published. Check the King County Library nearest you – if you want a book that is housed in another branch, they will be happy to put a hold on it and have it available for pick up at your local branch.

Websites with Science Fair projects are also abundant.

BE SAFE

Adult supervision and good judgment is required for all Science Fair activities. The project itself should be safe, and tools should be used safely as well.

The following is only a partial list of hazards.

Never allowed:

- poisonous, carcinogenic, mutagenic or corrosive chemicals
- strong oxidizing or reducing agents
- medicines
- flammables or explosives
- lasers
- gases under high pressure
- devices that launch projectiles with enough force to harm a person

These items may be used for projects, but should not be brought to the Science Fair:

- unsealed liquids / things that may spill
- food
- bacteria or fungi
- things that smell bad
- dry ice
- dyes, inks, or other things that may cause stains