

Voluntary K – 4th Grade Science Fair

Lake Pointe Elementary Cafeteria

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Each year, the LPE 5th graders are required to participate in the annual Science Fair. That same Science Fair is open to children in grades K – 4th on a voluntary basis. Your family (minus any 5th graders in the family) may submit one project as a whole or each child may submit a project. This voluntary science fair focuses on the love of learning and exploring about science plus the opportunity to work on something together as a family. There will not be classroom time or teacher involvement.

All exhibits will be open for viewing on November 11th from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. The 5th grade science fair will be held in the gym. The Kinder - 4th grade exhibits will be on display in designated hallways. Kinder – 4th grade applicants must set up their exhibit on November 11th between the hours of 3:00pm and 5:30pm prior to the 6:00pm show.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Your family or your child will need to select a topic and narrow it down to a level that is workable. The topic should be a problem that you are able to investigate and should be age appropriate. Several websites can give you suggestions: www.cdli.ca/sciencefairs/ , www.all-science-fair-projects.com and www.scifair.org/.
- Once you select the topic, form a question that you would like to investigate and research. After selecting the question, you can decide on the actual experiment. You may use references such as the internet, encyclopedias, magazines, almanacs, library books, etc.
- Each experiment will need a display board. This may be constructed of materials such as poster board, tag board, particle board, thin plywood, covered cardboard or pegboard covered with felt, paper or burlap. Charts, posters, graphs, pictures, photographs, and other information could be mounted on this board. The following should be titled and presented on the display board: Title, Problem (purpose), Hypothesis, Procedure (brief but precise), Results, and Conclusion.

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD: Your family or child should use this method when solving the problem.

1. PROBLEM – This is the question you want to answer.
2. OBSERVATIONS – Observations are anything you notice about the problem.
3. HYPOTHESIS – What do you think the answer to the question will be?
4. TEST HYPOTHESIS – Experiments are used to test the hypotheses.
5. COLLECT THE DATA – Data are pieces of information from the experiment.
6. STUDY THE DATA – Decide what the information means.
7. CONCLUSION – Decide if your data supports your hypothesis.

THE ABSTRACT: (Report) The abstract is a one-page summary of your work. It should include:

- A statement of purpose.
- A brief description of procedure – materials used and how you conducted the experiment.
- A conclusion based on results collected – you may also provide graphs, charts or a daily log.

RULES AND GUIDELINES:

- You may have a family with K - 4th grade siblings working on a project together or each K – 4th grade student working on an individual project.
- The project and its display must be self-supporting and not exceed 48” H X 48” W. The display should be no more than 15” front to back.
- Measurements may be done using the Metric system. This is the required method of measurement for the Fifth grade and the preferred method for the scientific community.
- NO LIVE ANIMALS, OPEN FLAMES, DANGEROUS CHEMICALS OR ANY POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE FAIR! If you are unsure about your project, please ask.
- Each family or student is responsible for providing all equipment needed to complete, display and or demonstrate the project.
- The abstract (report) may be typed or handwritten.
- Projects are due on November 11th and should be setup in designated hallways between the times of 3:00pm – 5:30pm.
- All participants MUST turn in the application form attached by October 15th. Either send the form in your child’s red folder or drop off in the office.

Have fun with your project! If you choose a project that interests your family or your child and approach it with a positive attitude, this will be a great experience. Please do not think this must be expensive! Just have fun and enjoy learning something new as a family.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Phyllis Parmer or Kim Yancy at programs@lakepointepto.org.

Don't forget to return the application form by October 15th if you are planning to participate!