



LES Science Fair

August 10, 2016

Parents and students,

Our Students have the opportunity to participate in a science fair, an exciting event that encourages students to think like young scientists. During the next few months, students will be designing a science project that uses the scientific method to solve a problem. We hope you agree that the educational benefits are numerous, as students develop skills in writing, oral presentation, creative thinking, and problem solving. Each student will be given instructions and handouts during class for the various steps of his or her project. For suggestions on helping your child through this process — from choosing a topic to the final report-see the Web site "Parents — Get involved" at:

<http://discoveryschool.com/sciencefaircentral/scifairstudio/parents.html>

I ask that you encourage your child and monitor his or her progress along the way. Your support is key to a successful project, but please do not allow your involvement to extend any further in order to assure equity and promote student learning! Guide your child whenever and wherever you can, but let the final project reflect your child's individual effort and design.

Several class periods will be used to prepare students to create quality science fair projects. Attached to this letter, you will find useful information and resources to assist in designing a quality science fair project and a timeline, with due dates for each section of the project. Each individual assignment, indicated on the timeline are also assessment grades. **Our first due date is Friday, August 19. All students should have submitted a contract of intent that commits them to completing a science fair project on a tentative topic.** There are several websites that can assist them with this task. We have dedicated a page on our school website to our science fair projects. Please check there often, as we will place information and activities that we have used in class to prepare for the science fair projects. We have also attached a list of these websites to this letter. Parents, please encourage students not to procrastinate. A **quality** science fair project CANNOT be completed over a weekend. It is meant to take place over a long period of time to incorporate the scientific method. We will have several opportunities to model and assist with the science fair steps in class.

This year, we have decided to enhance our science fair by incorporating technology. **Instead of each child purchasing a trifold board, they will prepare a presentation** (PPT, Prezi, Emaze, website etc.) along with the usual research paper and log book. **Each class will have students to present their science fair project in class to their peers during the week of December 5, 2016.** Winners will be chosen from each team on Friday, December 9, 2016 to represent their grade level in the Luella Elementary School Science Fair in January, 2017. In order to participate in the school's science fair, students must present to a panel of judges. All winners of the Luella Elementary School Science Fair will have to create a tri-fold board for their project to compete in the Henry County District Science Fair at Heritage Park. The Henry County District Science Fair date will be announced.

Finally, please do not feel overwhelmed by the idea of completing this project. We are always available to assist you. Let us know if there is anything that we can do to help. If you follow the timeline, the project will be complete before you know it. We are looking forward to seeing the awesome creativity and scientific thinking that we KNOW you are capable of.

Respectfully,

5th Grade Science/PBL Teachers

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