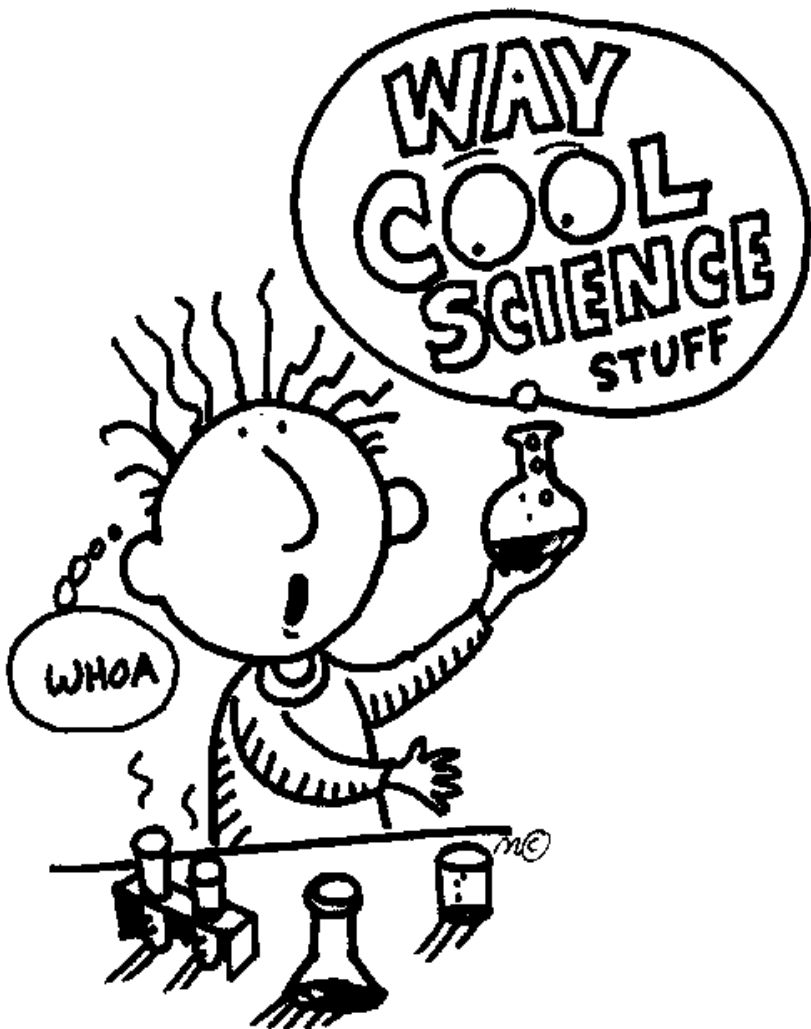


14th Annual Buena Vista Family Science Fair

Wednesday, April 18th
7:00 to 9:00PM

Deadline for entry is Friday, March 30th



**PLEASE
take a few
moments to read
through the
following
important pages!**

If you have questions
PLEASE contact Debórah Walker
944-6423/dwalker@wcsd.k12.ca.us
science@buenavistapta.org



14th Annual Buena Vista Family Science Fair Wednesday, April 18th, 2012

Brought to you by the BVPTA

Thanks for participating in the 14th annual Science Fair! The purpose of the Science Fair is to encourage students to develop a greater interest in science and technology and to develop skills in critical thinking, research, problem solving and the use of the Scientific Method. Students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are welcome to participate and we encourage parents to assist their resident scientist(s). Projects can be a simple **collection** or **model**, a scientific **observation** or **demonstration**, or an **experiment**. This is a non-competitive fair and projects will not be judged but each student participant should be able to explain the project and what was learned. Small group projects are welcome. Here is everything you need to get started on your Science Fair project.

In this packet are:

1. **Entry Form – must be returned to the office by Friday, March 30th – no entries will be accepted after this date!**
2. **Safety Rules** – PLEASE follow them.
3. **Student Checklist** – an outline to help organize your time.
4. **Display Guidelines** – you will receive a **free** display board when you turn in your Entry Form. Display guidelines will be included.

Ways for parents to help with the Science Fair Project:

- Read this packet of material with your child(ren).
- Assist in finding a project that is interesting and challenging but is within his/her ability to carry out in the time available.
- Discuss a plan for the project and explain procedures that need to be followed.
- Assist in collecting supplies and materials needed.
- Help with library and on-line resources.
- Point out the importance of accurate observations and record keeping.
- Supervise use of tools, chemicals, etc.
- Give lots of encouragement along the way.
- Discuss ways to display the project.

- HAVE FUN!

Some DON'TS for parents (please!):

- DON'T select the project for your child – he/she should be excited about it!
- DON'T do the project for him/her but you can join in the fun and help.
- DON'T let your student wait until the last minute to do the project.
- DON'T let your child think the project is a failure if it doesn't turn out as expected. This is part of the scientific process...and is often surprising!
- DON'T take the project TOO seriously – it can be educational AND fun.

Several (2 or 3) students can join their brainpower and work together on the same project. Each student will need to submit a separate entry form.

The initiative and responsibility to do a project belong to the young scientist. Science Fair projects are not to be last-minute-hurry-up-and-finish assignments. We want it to be an enjoyable learning experience for all participants.

Messages for students:

1. Give yourself plenty of time to work on the project. **Remember, the deadline for submitting an entry form is Friday, March 30th** but you should be working on your project **long** before that date! You and your parents will receive an up-date the first week of April with details regarding set-up for the Science Fair, the evening schedule and take-down.

2. Please pay special attention to the Display Guidelines. Take care to include your name, grade and room number on the front of your display board. Avoid writing or drawing directly on the board – it's there to HOLD what you've written and/or drawn, photos and other "stuff". Mount these various things on poster board and then attach it to the display board.

3. Bring your project to school between **2:00 and 6:00 PM Wednesday, April 18th**. **IMPORTANT:** Official Science Fair Interviewers will meet with each participant right after a project is set up in the Multi-use Room from 2:00 and 6:00. This will eliminate the questioning time at the beginning of the Science Fair at 7:00. Please plan for some extra time so your young scientist can talk about his/her project. This is when ribbons, certificates and other goodies will be awarded.

This is a lot of information...so if you and/or your student have questions please feel free to contact Debórah Walker at school (in person) during the day, at dwalker@wcsd.k12.ca.us or at 944-6423 in the evening.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

2012 Buena Vista Annual Family Science Fair

Please turn this form in to the BV Office any time, but no later than Friday, March 30th.

Student Name (first and last)

Grade _____ **Room #** _____ **Teacher** _____

Project Title:

Brief Description:

Special Needs:

Access to an electrical outlet? _____ (You will need to provide your own extension cord.)

Other? (explain: extra table space, floor space, etc.)

Parent's Signature:

Parent's email address: (please print carefully so can receive up-dated info.)

Office use only:

Board received? _____ YES _____ NO Initial: _____ Date: _____

Safety Rules

- All experiments using vertebrate animals or humans as subjects should cause no harm or undue stress to the subject. These projects should have written approval from the teacher and/or a veterinarian before beginning the experiment.
- **No LIVE vertebrate animals** should be exhibited at the fair (models, stuffed animals or photographs should be used instead). Exceptions may be granted with special permission.
- No human body parts should be displayed. Exceptions are teeth, hair and nails.
- Students should avoid doing experiments involving bacteria cultures.
- No controlled substances should be exhibited.
- No dangerous or combustible chemicals should be displayed at the fair. Rockets or engines must not contain fuel. All chemicals displayed should have the contents clearly marked on the container.
- **No open flames will be permitted.**
- Student experimenters should wear safety goggles (eye protection) and follow standard safety practices when working with fire, hot liquids or caustic chemicals. Parent approval and supervision may be required for these projects.
- All projects using household electricity must conform to standard wiring practices and safety.
- Expensive or fragile items should not be displayed. Valuable items essential to the project should be simulated or photographed.
- Collections (i.e. minerals, shells, feathers, etc.) can be protected with a covering or plastic wrap.
- Items to be displayed in front of backboard should be adequately secured (i.e. batteries, wire, switch and motor - secure to a piece of plywood and place in front of backboard).
- Carefully pack all materials when transporting to and from the fair.
- Just in case you missed it the first time: **NO LIVE ANIMALS** – no birds, no silk worms, no spiders, no snakes, no buffalo, no whales, no llamas, etc.



Student Checklist

- Choose a topic that you are interested in doing (one that is not too hard nor too easy).
- Fill out the project entry form and turn it into the office no later than **Friday, March 30th**.
- Begin work on your project as soon as possible. If you are growing plants or doing some other activity that requires weeks of time you need to count back from Wednesday, April 18th to allow for a successful project.
- For a suggested timeline, project ideas, and everything else “science fair” check out www.sciencebuddies.org
 - ✓ Organize everything you plan to do.
 - ✓ Write out your procedure.
 - ✓ If you are doing an experiment, make a guess (hypothesis) about what you think will be the result.
 - ✓ Gather your materials.
 - ✓ Perform your experiment.
 - ✓ Record your observations.
 - ✓ What did you learn or find out by doing this experiment?
 - ✓ See if your original hypothesis was right.
- Begin work on your display.
 - ✓ Present the information you collected in easy to read graphs or tables.
 - ✓ If you did an experiment, reserve special areas of your display for your Problem, Hypothesis, Procedure, Results and Conclusion.
 - ✓ Please follow the display guidelines
- **Bring your project to school between 2:00 and 6:00 PM Wednesday, April 18th.**



Several web sites to check out:

www.sciencebuddies.com

<http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral/jvc/>

<http://all-science-fair-projects.com/>