Dear Parents,

This year, CIS will be holding its third, annual science fair! We are very excited to offer this to our students. It is a great way for them to participate in an educational event and showcase what skills they are learning. The science fair will take place on the following dates:

\***Wednesday, AM, March 6: Grades 1-3** (This is **OPTIONAL**. We had a great response from parents/students wanting to participate, so we have added this to our schedule. There will be **NO** class time given for these projects. Since not all students will be participating, all work must be done at home.)

\***Thursday, AM, March 7: Grades 4-6** (This is **MANDATORY**. Some class time may be given. This will be up to the discretion of the individual class teacher. This project may be used as a science mark. Again, this is up to the discretion of the individual teacher.)

**Students may work individually or in groups of two (NO MORE THAN 2 IN A GROUP!) Any students working in a group of two must be in the same class, unless it is one of the optional projects for Gr. 1-3. The reason for this is, if time is given during school hours, all classes have science at a different time, so the partners could not work together.**

For those of you who have never been to or seen a science fair, here is a quick rundown of how it will work.Students choose a project/experiment to do. The students may choose anything they want, and their project does not have to correspond with what they are learning in science at school. However, in following with many other school science fairs, unfortunately, there can be **NO VOLCANOES**! The reason for this is that children love to make the volcano explode, but don’t do any actual research or gather information. We would like the students to be more creative in their thinking.

When choosing a project, students must keep in mind that they will **NOT** have access to power or water. They may use batteries or fill things with water, but they cannot plug anything in or hook up to a water source. Also no animals or living organisms may be harmed. It is best to talk to your teacher before doing a project involving something living, and get the ok.

**Examples of projects are:**

\*Comparing two or more products

\*Scientifically showing how something works

\*Inventing something new

\*Scientifically show how one thing affects another

Once a student has chosen a project, they will need to pick **ONE** of the following categories to enter it in.

**1. Biological Sciences:**

* includes projects that involve living things or once living things
* examples of projects in this category are studies of plant growth, cell structure, molds, preservatives, growth and development.

**2. Environmental Sciences/Ecology:**

* includes projects that involve the environment and the relationships of living things to each other and/or to the environment
* examples of projects in this category are studies of organisms in their habitat, relationships between various organisms, and studies on how people’s actions affect the environment.

**3. Physical Sciences:**

* includes projects involving non-living things
* math, computer, and engineering projects are included in this category
* other topics in this category are aerodynamics, probability, crystal growth, evaporation, solar power, electrical circuits, chemistry

**4. Earth Sciences:**

* includes projects involving the earth and physical phenomena
* examples for projects in this category are weather, astronomy, rocks/minerals, and water

**5. Behavioral/Social/Health Sciences:**

* includes projects related to health, psychology, or consumer/product testing
* examples would be perception studies, aptitude and attitude surveys, product comparisons, and various exercise studies

After a project has been chosen, the student must get approval from their teacher, and be sure that their project is being entered in the proper category. Then they can start gathering information and materials. After that they can follow the attached sheet on what needs to be displayed on your science fair board. There will be an example of what a science fair board should look like in the school foyer, starting next week. On the assigned day, the students will bring their projects to school and set up, first thing in the morning. Parents will be allowed to help their child get set up and get everything in place. Judging will then commence and **ALL PARENTS MUST LEAVE THE AREA**. Judges for each category will walk around and look at the projects and ask the students questions regarding their work. When the judges are finished, parents and students will be allowed to walk around and look at all the work. Prizes will then be awarded in each category.

All students (and those gr. 1-3 students who choose to participate) must let their teacher know what their project is, and what category it will be entered in, by **Thursday, Feb**. **7**. This will give us time to find the appropriate judges for each category, and decide how many we need, depending on the amount of entries.

Please keep in mind that these are **STUDENTS’S PROJECTS** and therefore should be done **BY THE STUDENT**! Parents are of course encouraged to help and support, but this should be the child’s work! Part of the judging sheet actually looks at how much parent involvement there was. If it appears it’s been done by a parent, the child will lose marks. Also, please be conscious of how much space the project takes up. They will be sharing a table with someone else, which means we can’t have HUGE, GIANT projects or we won’t have enough room.

There are many good websites that give ideas on science fair projects and how to do a project; just google “science fairs.” There will also be books on display in the library to get ideas from. Keep in mind that “plagiarism” will **NOT** be allowed. All work must be the students! If students are taking information from somewhere, they must put it into their own words. They must also do a bibliography of where their information was taken from, including websites.

We hope that this will be a fun week for everyone!

Ms.Erin, Ms.Laura, Ms.Amanda

Gr. 1-6 Science Fair Co-ordinators