YOUR PARENTS CAN HELP

Your parents can encourage you and direct you, but you need to do the work yourself. Your parents can help you to choose a good topic, to get the materials that you might need, watch over your work, and advise you, but you need to do the work yourself.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Talk with your parents about what you plan on doing for your Science Project. Decide if you will be doing research or if you will be doing an experiment. Make a timeline to get your work done by Monday, March 22, 2010.

Complete this section and return this entire booklet by Monday, February 8th. When approved, this booklet will be returned to you.

Student's Name: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

My Science Project will be: _____

_____

_____

I will be doing a: [ ] Research Paper or [ ] Experiment

[ ] My child is doing an experiment, so I am enclosing $4.00 for a backboard, cash or check to Dr. Brown.

I understand that 4th and 5th grade students are **required** to prepare a Science Project as part of their grade in Science class.

Parent's Signature _____

Parents: A Science Project is required for Science Class, however, the Science Fair is a contest. Let Mr. Belle know, in writing, if you choose to opt out of the contest.

Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School

Science Fair Information - 2010

Projects Due at School

Monday, March 22, 2010

- Open House - Winners Announced

Wednesday, March 24
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Marvin Jones, Principal · Mr. Jack Belle, Elementary Science Teacher

WHY DO A SCIENCE PROJECT?

Student interest in Science grows out of wonder and investigation, with the encouragement of teachers, parents and other adults. The Science Project should be seen as a valuable learning experience! The assignment of a Science Project is not meant to be an expense or burden. It is not meant to be a stressor. Remember, this is an ELEMENTARY Science Project. **Keep it simple!** You will have many more chances in middle school and high school to do really fancy projects.

Students in Grades 4 and 5 are **required** to prepare a Science Project. It is optional for students in other grades. Students in the lower grades, and their parents, can learn from taking a close look at the projects on display during the Science Fair.

WHAT IS A SCIENCE PROJECT?

Science Projects fall into two categories. The project can be either a **research report** or an **experiment**. Both types of project start out the same way, with a scientific question to be answered.

In a **research report**, the student wants to find out more about a scientific topic, but one which cannot easily be researched through an experiment. For example, a question for a student investigation might be, "What causes an earthquake?" or "When will we see another eclipse of the Moon?" or "When will Mt. St. Helens erupt again?" Research projects may include pictures or a model to enhance the research that was done. For example, a project about the Titanic might have a model of an iceberg.

In an **experiment**, the student wants to find out more about a concept that can be tested. For example, the student might ask, "Are there more red or green or blue M&M's in a package?" or "Does the water temperature matter when Mom washes the dishes?" or "Will seeds grow if I water them with Coca-Cola?"

WHAT'S NOT ALLOWED

No animal testing. No human testing. No controlled substances, including tobacco, firearms, alcohol, explosives, or drugs. No erupting volcanoes. No exploding soda bottles. No burning candles. No stinky rubber eggs. If it could potentially burn down, or blow up your house, take your eye out, or make someone sick, then it's **not** the type of project that Mr. Belle would find acceptable. Do your own work. Do not try to hand in someone else's old project.

THE RESEARCH REPORT

This report can be prepared on a computer or it can be hand written. It should include the following three sections:

- **What I Want to Find Out.** This should start out: "I want to find out about _____ because _____. Tell what you already know about the subject that you have selected.
- **How I Did My Research.** This section will tell where you got your information. At least one of your sources should be a book that you read.
- **What I Found Out.** In this section you will tell what you found out about the topic that you researched. Do not simply copy and paste from the Internet. Read the information, Think about it, then write about it in your own words.

Students have received an "A" for research papers that were as short as 3 pages, including a cover page. It's not the length that counts, it's what you show that **you** learned from the research.

THE SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

If you choose to prepare a **Science Experiment,** you will need a backboard. Mr. Belle has backboards for sale for $4.00 each, which is less than you'll pay at any store. Mr. Belle's backboards come with all of the labels and instructions necessary for preparing your Science Project to be displayed in the school Science Fair. Boards are also available in stores like Staples and Office Depot, but they cost more, and do not come with the instructions for the Dr. Brown Science Fair.

YOU WILL BE GRADED FOR YOUR PROJECT

Each student will be given up to 3 minutes to explain their finished project to the teacher and their classmates. You are expected to be able to explain what you did, how you did it, and what you found out. The written report or experiment will be handed in after the oral presentation. Science Projects count toward a large portion of your grade for the 3rd Quarter. Science Experiments will be exhibited in the school Science Fair, where you might win a ribbon or certificate for your work.

Science Experiment Backboard

Follow this guide to set up the display for your Science Experiment.

Title of Your Project

INTRODUCTION

Your INTRODUCTION tells what you are doing and why you are doing it. For example: "Chips Ahoy advertises that there are over 1000 chocolate chips in every bag. I am going to count to see if there really are 1000 chocolate chips in every bag."

MATERIALS

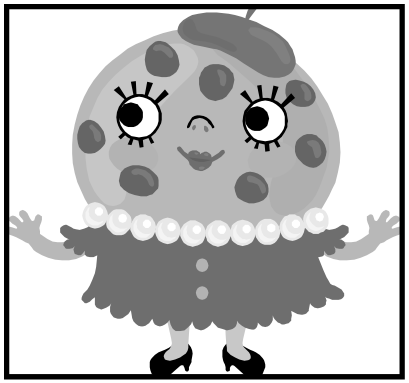
This is a list of the things you used to do your experiment.
Example:

- 5 bags of Chips Ahoy cookies
- Paper and pencil
- Calculator

PROCEDURE

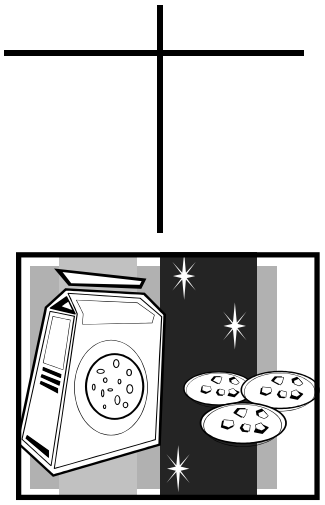
This is where you tell what you did, in a step-by step listing.

If you have photographs or drawings, put them at the bottom.



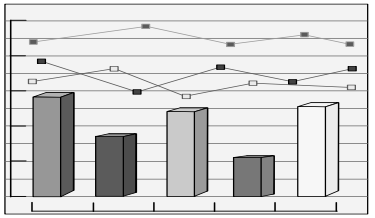
DATA COLLECTED

This is the information that you collected while you did the experiment. You might put your data in a T Chart.



RESULTS

Make a graph using the DATA|. Any kind of graph will do, like a bar graph, line graph, or a pictograph.



CONCLUSION

This is where you tell if your experiment worked, and what you found out.

Remember: Keep it simple ! It will get complicated in middle school.

Suggestion: Don't write directly on your board. Write on paper instead, then attach the paper to your board. Then it's easy to fix any mistakes, and you can use the board over and over again..!

MATERIALS

INTRODUCTION

PROCEDURE

DATA COLLECTED

RESULTS

CONCLUSION