

Registration

St. Philip Catholic Elementary School Science Fair

Thursday May 10th, 2018 6:00 pm

Rules:

- No more than 3 students per project
- Registrations must be signed by one of the parents/guardians of *each* participant
- Please indicate if the project has any special requirements such as a dark room or electrical outlet. If this is not indicated on the form, it may not be possible to accommodate the request
- **Registration forms with signatures are due by Thursday, April 12th.** Space for late entries is not guaranteed. Please enter only one form per project
- Animals may not be brought to the Science Fair. Also applies to any displays using flames or other ignition sources unless permission is obtained from the Fair organizer (Colleen Piercey cmpiercey@hotmail.com).
- Each project is assigned a space of 90 cm x 90 cm. Please design the display to fit in this space. Office supply stores sell fold-up display boards that can be reused provided non-permanent adhesives (e.g. Blue tack) are used. The display should generally present the hypothesis (the question being asked) or theme of the project, followed by the experimental method (if experiments are done) then the data or information obtained, and is finished with a general conclusion. For a helpful online Science Fair resources, visit Education.com or Discovery Education Canada.
- Set up time is 5:30 - 6:00 pm

Any questions please contact cmpiercey@hotmail.com

Keep top portion for reference

Include all the participant's names on ONE signed form. Please do not submit multiple forms for the same project.

Project Title _____

Name of participant	Grade	Parent/Guardian Signature
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Special Requests:



ST. PHILIP CATHOLIC SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

RULES

1. Projects are limited to three (3) students per project. Please submit only one form for each project. One parent/guardian for each participant must sign the registration form.
2. Projects should not require the use of **live animals** in the display. You may use pets in data collection (e.g. “How many hours per day do cats sleep?”), but the animals should not be harmed in any way and cannot be brought to the science fair for display. Exceptions can be made for invertebrates (animals without bones, such as sea monkeys or ants) that are enclosed in an escape-proof/shatter-proof container. Please contact the science fair organizers well in advance to confirm that your particular animal is suitable for display.
3. **If projects have special requirements, the science fair organizers must be told well in advance.** Special requirements include access to a power outlet, use of a dark room, etc. The available space for dark rooms is limited, so these spaces will be assigned on a first come basis. **Please bring your own extension cord labeled with your name if you need one.**
4. Displays must be **set-up between 3:50 and 5:30 pm on the day of the science fair.** Tables will be set up in the gym with two (2) projects per table. Plan to leave projects in the gym overnight so that other students can view them on Friday. If there are any valuable components to the project, take them home and bring them back the next day if desired.
5. HAVE FUN!

Tips for Getting Started

1. To start your project, think about things you are interested in and write a list down on lined paper (leave a few lines between each topic). Now think about questions you have about each of those topics and write them below each topic. Pick the question you find the most interesting. Figure out where you can learn more about the topic (books, magazines, a museum, etc.) and use these resources to research your topic and either answer the question (descriptive project), or build a model (demonstrative project), or figure out a way you can answer the question yourself (observational or experimental project).
2. Keep a written record of everything related to the project so you can always go back to these notes if you've forgotten something.
3. Set a schedule for things you need to do to complete the project in time. You should aim to be done any pictures, models, observations or experiments two weeks before the science fair. This allows you time to put your display together and make it look good.

4. For project ideas, the school library will be displaying science books. The Ottawa Public library also has a few dozen science fair books, and the internet has many sites and great ideas.
5. Project formats can be descriptive, demonstrative, observational or experimental.

Descriptive projects give information on a topic and should include diagrams. Try to choose topics that might be interesting to a lot of people and that most people probably won't know much about. For example, "how do sewage treatment plants clean up the water?" Go to the library and take a tour of the sewage treatment plant to research the topic and write down what you learned.

Demonstrative projects give information on a topic and have some sort of working model or demonstration on the topic. For example, the project might ask "why do volcanoes erupt?" This project would be accompanied by the "classic" erupting volcano demonstration.

Observational projects give information on a topic and ask a question about that topic that you answer by observing things. For example, the question might be "how often do hares go through my backyard?" You could then look for hare tracks in your backyard and keep a record of how many new tracks you see in a week or a month.

Experimental projects are similar to observational projects, but in this case an experiment is performed to try to answer the question. In both cases you are observing, but in this case you are controlling the subject of your question. The question might be "can hares find food under snow?" The experiment might be to hide a carrot in the snow and see how long it takes the hare to find it.

Hypothesis. In some cases, you might have an idea about how things work. This is called a "hypothesis". A proper hypothesis would make predictions about the outcome of experiments and experiments can be designed to prove/disprove the hypothesis. A good scientist always tries to come up with **alternative hypotheses** that also fit with the observations. You need to have experiments to rule-out these alternate hypotheses. Experiments designed to rule-out trivial explanations for your results are called "**controls**".

6. The **display** should consist of a display board on which the **title of the project, the participant's names** and information/diagrams are posted. The display board is usually a piece of cardboard/Bristol board or other rigid material that is hinged or bent in two places to give three panels. This allows the sides to bend forward and keep the display board standing. You can make these yourself or many office supply stores sell these. The size of the display when set up should be no larger than 1 m wide, 1 m tall and 60 cm deep so that it will fit on a table. Additional items (e.g. Models) can be set up in front of the display board. Make sure the writing is big enough to see from a distance of about 1 m. Put the **question** you are asking in large print at the beginning of the project. Describing the **methods** you used (if you are doing an

observational or experimental project) and the **information** you collected in the middle. The end should be what you **concluded** from your project, i.e. the answer to your question.

The intention of the Science Fair is to provide a fun learning opportunity for our students, please encourage your child, but allow it to be their project.

There will be no prizes awarded for the fair, but students will be given feedback and asked questions by visiting commentators.



Science Fair Project Display Checklist – this is a guide only, to help you out

- Project title
- Student's name

Required categories:

- Problem (or Question)
- Background research (with citations)
- Hypothesis – what do you think the answer to the question will be
- Procedure (or Experiment or Investigation) – use a step-by-step format
- Materials (own category or subcategory of Procedure)

- Data (charts, graphs, tables)
- Results
- Conclusion
- _____
- _____

More categories (sometimes required):

- Abstract
- Acknowledgements
- Bibliography
- “Next Time”

Graphic elements:

- Photographs
- Illustrations
- Chart
- Graph
- Table

Additional items for display table:

- Model(s)
- Photo album
- Journal
- Report (if required)