

2/1/12

Parents of child scientists!

The science fair is **four weeks from today**, so I just wanted to send out a quick email to you all. Once again, we have a great turnout with even more projects than last year. Your children's efforts from last year were infectious. This year, over 570 elementary students across Melrose are presenting projects!



At Winthrop, children will bring their project boards and any parts of their experiment they would like to display to school on the morning of **Wednesday, Feb 29th**. They will present their projects to other children during school hours. Most of the judging will take place during school after lunch. **THAT EVENING**, children will return to their projects in the All Purpose room (or Music Room if they are a Kindergartner) between 5:15-5:30. The fair will be open to families and the general public from 5:30-7:30pm. Pizza and drinks will be sold that evening, so no need to worry about dinner!

As a reminder from the registration form, this year all of the science fair information is on the Melrose Elementary Science Fair website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/melrosciencefair2012/>. Just Google Melrose Elementary Science Fair and you will find it! If you have not already been to the site, please do go through it. It includes the following information:

(The easiest to print from is the planning guide on the Forms link: <https://sites.google.com/site/melrosciencefair2012/forms>. The judging rubric is located on the Judging page- see below.)

1. Project Planning timeline

<https://sites.google.com/site/melrosciencefair2012/timeline>

2. A reminder of what are good project ideas. Please read through this quickly and make sure your child is asking a question, forming a hypothesis, performing an experiment, etc. Projects that are just demonstrations at the fair are not a science fair project.

<https://sites.google.com/site/melrosciencefair2012/project-ideas>

3. Steps of the Scientific Method

<https://sites.google.com/site/melrosciencefair2012/scientific-method>

4. A Project Worksheet to help your child think through all of the steps of the Scientific Method as it pertains to their project. This is extremely helpful in organizing their thought process.

<https://sites.google.com/site/melrosciencefair2012/project-worksheet>

5. A sample of a project board.

<https://sites.google.com/site/melrosciencefair2012/communicate-your-results>

Besides a title, the following headings (or something similar) should be the following headings on your child's board showing how they walked through the Scientific Method:

For an individual's project:

- My Question
- My Guess (or My Hypothesis)
- Materials
- My Experiment
- My Results
- My Conclusion

For a team project:

- Our Question
- Our Guess (or Our Hypothesis)
- Materials
- Our Experiment
- Our Results
- Our Conclusion

These can be typed, printed, purchased, etc. The most important information is what is AFTER each of those headings.

6. The judging rubric. On the Judges page

(<https://sites.google.com/site/melrosesciencefair2012/judges>), click 2012 Scoring Rubric right under "Judges." Please read through this sooner than later so your child knows what to expect. Please remember, these projects are the children's projects. Yes, parents may ask questions, teach some concepts, etc, but the work should be that of the kids and on their level of understanding. The projects will be broken into the K-2 and 3-5 divisions as they were last year. If we can manage it this year, all of the judging will be done during school time, so the evening will be less stressful and will move along more smoothly!

Lastly, if I do not have a project title from you, please do email it back to me.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to ask! I can't wait to see everyone at the fair. All of the projects sound fabulous!

Kelly Sikkema