



# SCIENCE FAIR SURVIVAL GUIDE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mr. Stetz: \_\_\_\_\_

November 29, 2011

Dear Parents,

Yes, it is time to start our Science Fair projects! Attached you will find a timeline to help your child complete the project on time.

There *may* be times when Mrs. Kocak will teach the children how to read information, take notes, write an outline and write the report for the project. All Science Fair grades taken by Mr. Stetz will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter's grade; even those checked during second quarter.

In addition, I will be demonstrating/modeling how to do some of the other parts of the project, which include the scientific method. For example: I will show the children how to plan their display, look at the layout, and determine if any changes need to be made.

Because of the above items, the fourth graders will be doing some of their project at school, but ultimately, there will be things to be done at home also. As always, the amount of homework depends on how much your child is able to complete during the times I give students to work on the project at school.

During week 6, display boards and other necessary items will need to be purchased. These may be purchased ahead of time if you desire, but, please, try to choose a color other than white. Some references suggest that white display boards can seem vacant. Pastel colors are suggested for use; however, I don't know that I've seen pastel colors. Display boards can be purchased at United Arts and Education, Office Depot, or Staples; please be sure to get the correct size board (see below). If you do use white, I suggest covering it with poster-board paper (I can get some from the teacher's workroom) to cover up the white.

***All projects will need to have an abstract which is a short summary of the project.*** This will be done during week 9 of the project and I will demonstrate how to do this.

Any models or pictures should have parts labeled/identified in the display.

***The total display is not be more than 36'; from right***

*to left, 30' from front to back, or 72" in height.*

As you and your child consider how to do the experiment, please keep in mind that a problem must be stated in the form of question before you begin experimentation. **Example:** If oil floats on water, will it float on other liquids? Be creative and come up with your own ideas (go to COSI, the Zoo, or ask questions about how things work)!

Students will also need to write a hypothesis that is an educated guess presuming the outcome of the experiment. Usually, the hypothesis is written after the problem is defined and following at least some of the research. The hypothesis is to be written as a statement that follows the If... then format. Example: If oil floats on water, then it will float on other liquids.

Remember, you need a **control** (condition that does not change during the experiment) and at least one **variable** (condition that does change).

The experiment should be repeated at least once and the results compared/contrasted with the results of the first experiment.

Please consult the ACSI rules for items that cannot be part of the final display as you will need to take pictures of the process of experimentation in those cases.

Student reports should be in a folder or binder. There is a particular order for the pages in the report; first, a title page. The title page is to only have the title which should be centered. No name should appear on any part of the report or on a visible area of the display. Name should be on the back of the display board only.

After the title page should be the abstract page. As I said earlier, I will be showing the children how to do this, but it may need some refining. The abstract should have the title of the project and a 3-5 sentence paragraph. It should tell why your child chose this project. Then, he/she should tell briefly what was discovered during the experimentation. Finally, your child should tell what was learned from this experiment.

**In the Science Fair Report folder, place items in this order:**

1. Title page (no name of student to show)
2. Abstract
3. Table of Contents (suggested)
4. Bible verse and application
5. Hypothesis
6. Research Paper (the research report part) – Must be 200-250 words!
7. Materials
8. Procedures
9. Observations and results
10. Conclusions
11. Bibliography
12. Acknowledgement

The display board should also have the title of the project as well as the abstract. Other information could include the Bible verse (needed for the Science Fair), photographs (if using pictures of others students need a release form; please see me for them), charts and graphs, student-created illustrations, etc.

**The following has to be on your display:**

1. Title
2. Bible Application (a verse that relates to your project)
3. Abstract
4. Procedure
5. Materials
6. Hypothesis
7. Conclusion
8. Data – Can be Graphs/Charts
9. Pictures – Can be printed off a webpage, taken by a camera or created by the student.

## It's time to begin Science Fair Projects!

Well, here we are at the beginning of Science Fair Projects. I'm sure you have a number of questions like...Where do we start? What needs to be done? When do different sections need to be completed?

Hopefully, this packet will answer the questions you have. If not, please feel free to e-mail [fstetz@pcalions.com](mailto:fstetz@pcalions.com) with questions, and I will answer as soon as possible. I will have limited access to e-mail and will be able to answer some questions during Christmas break. If you need to reach me you may email me as I will be checking messages occasionally while away.

### Important things to remember:

- The school Science Fair is on **Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**
- There is no ACSI Science Fair this year.
- All 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be doing an experimental project.
- Students will be using MLA style bibliography. (Will be taught in class.)
- **95%** of the work is to be done by the student.
- Student class presentations will be *during school* from **Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.** Parents are welcome to sit in on the presentation. ☺

**Every item below is worth 5 points, if turned in on time.**

Item Being Checked	DUE Date
Log Book Checks (10 total checks)	Every Monday
Topic	Monday, Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>
Index Cards/Research Materials	Thursday, Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>
Materials	Friday, January 6 <sup>th</sup>
Procedure	Monday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>
Title	Wednesday, January 11 <sup>th</sup>
Bible Verse and Application	Monday, January 13 <sup>th</sup>
Abstract	Friday, January 27 <sup>th</sup>
Research Report Rough Draft	Monday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>
Bibliography	Friday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Total Points from Above = 95 points</b>	

## Science Fair Projects Timeline

*(check off items as you finish them)*

*(Weeks begin on Monday and end on Sunday)*

### Weeks 1 & 2 (November 28<sup>th</sup> –December 11<sup>th</sup>)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Read through this packet for important information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Finalize project topic (**students will need to let me know topic by Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase lined index cards for note taking
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase a notebook to be used for experiment logbook
- \_\_\_\_\_ Collect a variety of research materials  
(Encyclopedias, videos, books, magazines, pamphlets, internet articles). Try not to use all of the same type of materials. Students may even choose to interview some people. **Librarians are a great help; encourage students to ask the librarian if she knows of any resources that would help them (even if they think they know what to do or where to go.) Students will need to bring research materials to school on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.**

### Week 3 (December 12<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Students need to have research materials at school on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Index cards and resources need to be at school on **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will begin to teach students how to take notes as they research their topic. Notes will need to be taken on index cards.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Write possible titles for your project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If your student will be interviewing someone, set up the interview appointment and have the student write questions to ask.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If your student will be watching a video as part of his/her research, begin watching it with him/her and help to take notes.





**The Countdown begins!**

From February 6<sup>th</sup> through February 20<sup>th</sup>, please do the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Catch up on your checklist and finish anything that is not done yet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review report and information learned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have family members check display and report and make corrections as needed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have family members ask you questions and practice answering those questions as if you were speaking to Science Fair Judges.

**Presentation Week:**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2012 through  
Friday, February 24, 2012**

Project should be completed  
and brought to school ready to present.

**Science Fair Day:**

**Monday, February 27, 2012**

Project should be updated and brought to school, by **8:17am** ready for the fair. All projects **MUST** be setup by **8:29am**. Any project not setup by **8:30am** will not be allowed in the fair. Presenting at the fair is worth 15 points, just for presenting! Please make sure you don't plan anything on the date!

*Parents, please make arrangements to pick up your student  
AND their project by 3:45pm on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>!*