



The Lane School Science Fair

Dear parent:

Has your child ever asked you why salt melts ice? Or how those crystals get inside a rock to make a geode? Or what people mean when they talk about global warming? Or what the difference is between an HDTV and a regular television? Here's the chance to answer those questions—together.

The Lane School is hosting its seventh annual Science Fair on Thursday, January 27. The Fair will be open to all students—and we encourage everyone, from kindergarteners to fifth graders—to give it a try. Projects are done at home, not during school time. This is a non-competitive Science Fair, and projects won't be graded; every student who participates will receive a commemorative item, as well as the pride of displaying his project. The idea is to encourage thoughtful experimentation among our students...expose kids to the fun of science...and offer some great family activities as well!

How it will work

Students will drop off their projects before school on January 27. During the day, classes will have the opportunity to visit the displays and check out the experiments. Then parents and siblings will be invited to view the Fair in the evening, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. During that time, each child will have a chance to explain his project, and classmates, parents & teachers will be able to write down comments on each project.

The \$6 entry fee includes an official Science Fair board to use to organize and display your results. Registration forms are due to school by Monday, January 10. (If you would like to have your display board in order to work on it over winter break, turn in your form by December 13.)

Getting started

If you are a little intimidated by the idea of helping your child plan a science experiment. Please don't be! The project doesn't need to be complicated or fancy. You don't have to make a glitzy display of the results. The point is to explore a question or a topic that interests your child, to have fun and learn something along the way.

So how do you help your child get started? Read through the "How To" guide on the website. We have provided you with some questions we think might be interesting to explore, as well as some resources, safety guidelines and suggestions on how to help your child create his display.

Before you begin, remember that this is not your project—it's your child's project. You are merely the invaluable assistant. Help assemble supplies, help type results—but *resist* the temptation to take over the project!

January 27 may seem a long way off, but because this is an after-school activity, and because the holiday season is approaching, you'll need time to plan, research and experiment, and create a display. Personally, we think winter break will offer a perfect time to work on science projects!

We know this is a commitment of time on your part, but those who have participated in the past Science Fairs agree that it's not only fun and exciting, but an invaluable experience for our children. We hope to see all of you on January 27! Please contact us with any questions.

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