The 2011 Killearn Lakes Science Fair

Congratulations on deciding to do a science project for our Science Fair. **You, as a participating student, and your parent should read this information and save it as a reference.** It will be a helpful guideline during the science project process. Remember, you can't do a good job in only one weekend. You may use your parent to help you, but you should carry out as much of the project as possible yourself. You may work with a partner. **Additional information is found on the Killearn Lakes homepage along with this information.** If you do not have access to the Internet, call the school office and a full packet will be sent to you. Good luck and have fun!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday September 22, 2011	Science Fair packets (including log) will be sent home. Red, white, green, black, and yellow backboards are on sale in the front office for $6.00.
Thursday October 6, 2011	Completed proposals accepted by your teacher. (Proposal is the last page of this packet) **No late proposals will be accepted.**
Monday November 7, 2011	SET-UP DAY, 3:30 P.M.—6:00 P.M. in the school cafeteria.
Tuesday November 8, 2011	JUDGING DAY, 8:35 A.M.—1:45 P.M. All students will discuss their projects with the judges. PARENT VIEWING, 5:00—6:30 P.M. Awards ceremony at 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday November 9, 2011	STUDENT VIEWING, 8:35 A.M.—1:45 P.M. PROJECT PICK-UP—2:50 P.M. *Projects may be taken home on the bus by students*

A few points which you should note (**Failure to follow these guidelines may eliminate the project from judging.):**

1. You are allowed to change the topic of your project from that outlined in your proposal, but you will need to submit a revised proposal so that we can be sure the Scientific Method is followed, and the project is not dangerous.
2. **We will not accept any projects on the morning of judging unless prior arrangements have been made.**
3. You must complete the **handwritten** log of your science project as you carry it out. **This log must be included with the project display. The log follows the format of the Scientific Method. <u>Your teacher is giving you the green log you should use.</u>**
4. We will **not** accept plans for projects that harmfully use animals as subjects, require the use of firearms, or the growing of mold.
5. **The name of the child and teacher are to be written on the <u>back</u> of the presentation board only.**

GETTING YOUR PROJECT READY FOR THE FAIR

START WORKING NOW: Try to work on your project a little each day. A true experiment cannot be completed in a weekend!

HANDWRITTEN NOTEBOOK/LOG: This is **a written summary of everything you do** during your project. It should be **neatly handwritten**! Check your grammar and spelling. It is from this log that you will develop your backboard.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD: You will need to follow the "Scientific Method" for your project:

QUESTION: What is your question? What is the purpose of your project? What will you try to discover about your topic?

RESEARCH: Find out what is already known about your topic. You can check books, magazines, videos, Internet, and interview people.

HYPOTHESIS: Form a hypothesis **before** you plan your experiment. A hypothesis is a statement that can be tested and will explain what can happen in an experiment. You need to write it down before you start to experiment. It doesn't matter whether your hypothesis turns out right or wrong. The purpose of the experiment is to learn!

EXPERIMENT: What will you do to test your hypothesis? Write down what you will do step by step and list all materials you will use. **Repeat your experiment several times to get consistent results.**

DATA COLLECTION: You need to collect data through observations and measurements to answer your question.

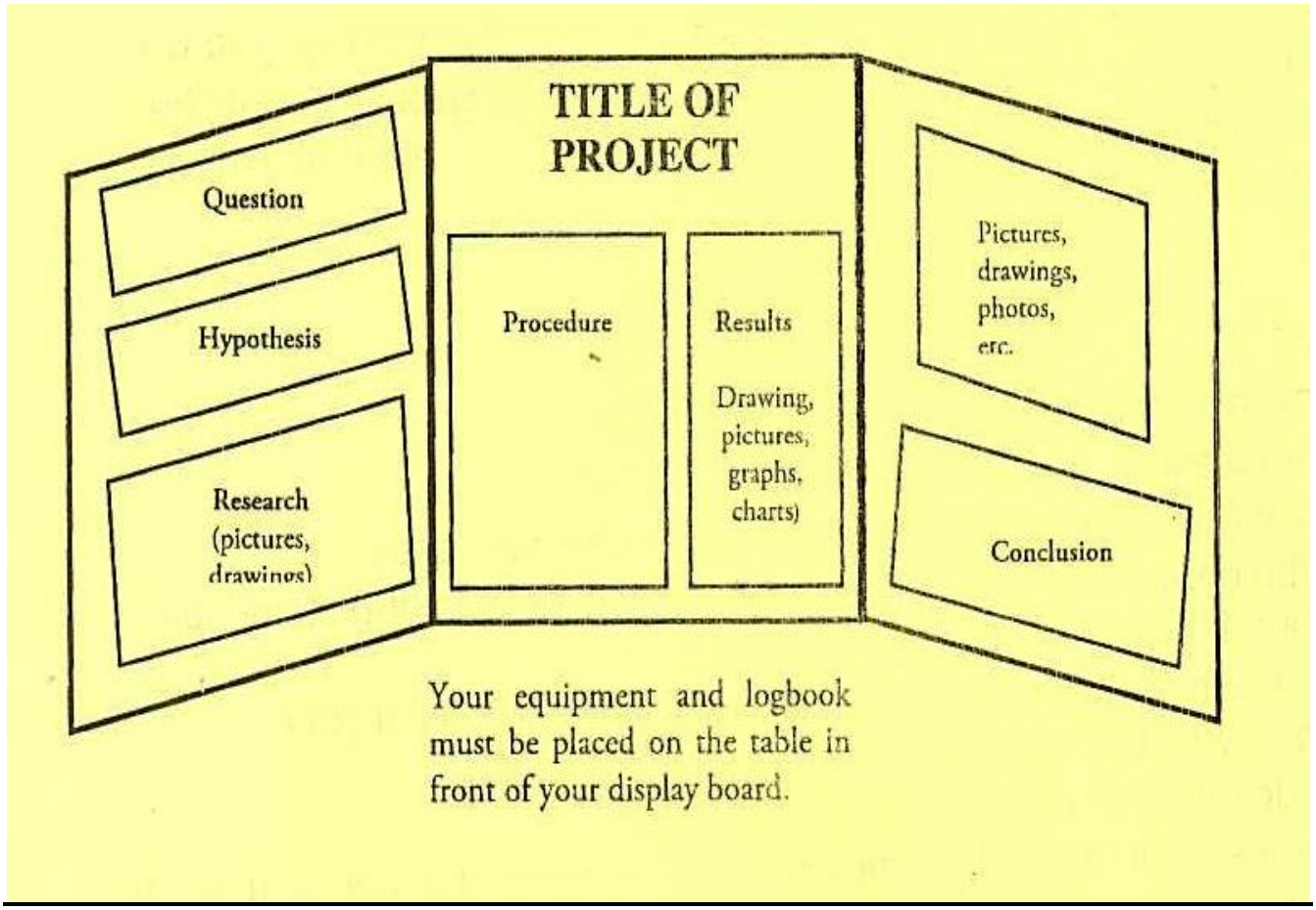
RESULTS: Organize and analyze your results and display them in charts, graphs, tables, or pictures. Write a clear explanation of your results.

CONCLUSION: Draw a conclusion based on the data. Do your results support your hypothesis? If not it does not mean your project failed. Remember, in science, the questions are more important than the answers! Write a short paragraph explaining what you found out.

PRESENTATION: You will be asked to talk to the judges about your project. Presentation is the area that most children have difficulty completing successfully. **Many children are not awarded a blue ribbon because the judges do not believe the project was adequately explained.** Remember to:

- Tell the judges how you got interested in the purpose of your project.
- Explain your procedure, briefly, without reading it!
- Show and explain your results, charts, graphs, logbook, materials, etc.
- Explain your conclusion and what you have (or have not) proven.
- If you had errors, admit them. Tell the judges what you would have done different or how you would change the project to correct problems.
- Ask the judges if they have any questions and what they liked best about your project.

THE DISPLAY: Your display will be one way of sharing what you did and what happened in your project. **Make your display interesting and attractive**. You can make your display out of cardboard, plywood, or paneling, but NOT posterboard. Your display must be freestanding. You may purchase a display board at school. There are several colors available. **All boards are $6.** Your project may be a **maximum** of 30" deep, 24"wide and 60" high.



Example of display board

SELF CHECK: Use the criteria as you plan your experiment, record in your **handwritten log,** and then again when you are preparing your backboard and your presentation.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Judging is based on these criteria solely. No attempt will be made to judge the entries with respect to one another. The science fair judges will be giving you points based on the criteria below. They will be looking to make sure that you…

1. Followed the SCIENTIFIC METHOD.
2. Completed your handwritten log neatly and showed attention to grammar and spelling.
3. Can adequately explain your project and verbalize what was learned.
4. Completed a neat, visually appealing, self-standing backboard.
5. Gave a good effort and obviously spent a lot of time on the project.

40-50 points - Blue Ribbon

30-39 points - Red Ribbon

20-29 points - White Ribbon

Less than 20 points - Participation Ribbon

Killearn Lakes 2011 Science Fair Rules

1. Proposal forms with student and parent signatures must be turned in by October 6, 2011. **No project will be accepted if a proposal was not submitted.**
2. Each participant **must** use the scientific method.
3. Each project will:
    a. Display the information gathered on a backboard that can stand by itself.
    b. Maximum size for the display board is 30" deep x 24" wide x 60" high.
    c. **Student's name, teacher's name, and grade level are to be placed on back of backboard only.**
4. Each participant will complete the project at home. All work will be that of the participant. He/ She may use as many resources as necessary to prove his/her hypothesis, but the actual work needs to be done by the child.
5. Cost of the project should be minimal**. No kits or volcanoes will be accepted. We are looking for the students to follow the Scientific Method by conducting an experiment.**
6. **Ribbons will be sent home with judging sheets and will not be displayed on backboard during Parent Viewing night.** 4th and 5th grade students only will compete for first, second and third place medals for their grade levels. Only these students will be mentioned on the KLES webpage and will be invited to the LCS Science Expo in May.
7. **NEW THIS YEAR:** One student each from kindergarten, first, second, and third grade will be invited to the LCS Science Expo in May. Judges will decide which students based on what they feel to be the most organized and well thought out project and presentation.
7. Each participant may enter only one project. The project may be completed by an individual or with a partner. **(5th grade students MAY NOT work with a partner.)**

Science Fair Websites

http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral

http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/fair.html

http://sciencefairproject.virtualave.net

http://www.ipl.org/youth/projectguide

http://www.sciencevideos.com/Your_Science_Project_K-6.html

http://ScienceBuddies.org

http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/

http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/scifair/index.html

If your child's teacher is unable to answer a science fair question, please contact science fair chair Mrs. Hagan at hagann@leonschools.net

KLES Science Fair Proposal

Proposal deadline: October 6, 2011

Make a copy of this form before returning it to school.

PROJECT TITLE: _____

QUESTION: (What I want to find out.) _____

_____

HYPOTHESIS: (A statement that can be tested.)

_____

_____

CONDITIONS/MATERIALS:

_____

_____ _____

_____

Does your project contain a control group? (The setup you are comparing all your trials to). If so what is it? _____

PROCEDURE (The steps I will take to test my hypothesis):
Use back or extra paper if necessary.

1._____

_____

2._____

_____

3._____

_____

4._____

_____

This is the investigation I would like to do for my SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT.

_____ _____

Student's Printed Name Teacher's Printed Name

I give my permission and will support my child's efforts in doing this SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT.

_____ _____

Parent's Signature Date

_____ (Check here if you are doing a project **with another student**. List his/her name, teacher, and grade level on the line below.) **5th grade student MAY NOT work with a partner.**

Partner's name_____Teacher_____Grade _____