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YOUNG ISLAND SCIENTIST

Newsletter of the
Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists

12 JANUARY 2014

2014 SCIENCE FAIR: Sunday April 13 – Monday April 14

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Getting Started

For many students, January marks the start of Science Fair season. The first thing is choosing a topic. Our advice is to start by considering what you find interesting. If you are passionate and know something about the subject around your project, you will have more fun and do a better job. If you spend your time doing music, sports, computers, or whatever, there should be something that can inspire an experiment. You can start with some "common knowledge" you find interesting and then test it, like they do on Myth Busters.

There are some great web resources to help you. For a start, look at www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_ideas.shtml, www.1000sciencefairprojects.com/, www.all-science-fair-projects.com/, www.sciencefairadventure.com/, apps.ysf-fsj.ca/virtualcwsf/. Also, check out our old newsletters

The President's Lab Bench

People ask me who is the target audience of this newsletter. Well, it takes a whole village to do a science fair project! Our hope is that this newsletter links the different segments of this community.

Students: We are here to encourage kids to plan and carry out their projects. It's fun and it's rewarding. You will find ideas, resources and information in these newsletters.

Teachers and Parents: You are the coaches. Students have so many things to do, and supporting them through preparing a science fair project can appear like one thing too many. But we want you to know that for many the science fair is a highlight of their year. They learn so much, and they get such great experience in science, project management, and public presentation. They need your encouragement and support.

Sponsors: Thank you! We want you to see that your contributions are useful and valued. These wonderful kids are your future!

Volunteers: The Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists is completely volunteer-run. We would love more to join. This newsletter is one organ of our communication.

The Whole Wide World! We are pleased to have you as part of our village.

Randy Enkin, President of the Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists, Organizer of the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair.

Science Fair at Discover Tectoria

(web.uvic.ca/~virsf/newsletter.php), where we have lots of guides and information. Talk to somebody, a teacher, a parent, or contact us, to help you focus in on something that is feasible with your time and capability. If this is your first science fair project, think of an experiment that you can do in one or two weekends.

Have fun!

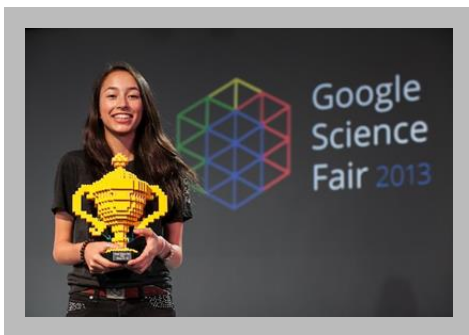
Ethics

Some of the best science fair projects need animals or people as subjects. Usually that's fine, but you do have to pay attention that the project is done safely and ethically. The Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair operates under the rules of Youth Science Canada.

It is fine to observe animals, but do check on the rules if you are going to experiment with them. (cwsf.youthscience.ca/projects-ethics).

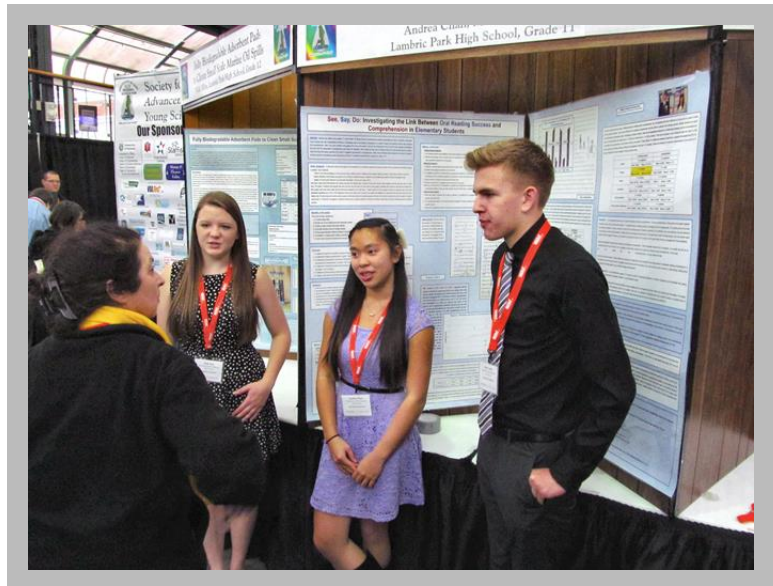
All projects with your fellow humans need to start with an information and consent form. You have to explain the purpose of your experiment, the risks of participating (usually very little!), the confidentiality of the data, and that they can withdraw from the experiment at any time. If your participants are under 18, then the parents or guardians must sign. It sounds difficult, but it really isn't. Make sure you talk this over with a teacher, or contact us.

Ann Makosinski



Ann Makosinski did not just jump into Science Fair success. She has entered the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair five times, and she has been one of our finalists her last two times. Last spring, she entered her project, the Hollow Flashlight, into the Google Science Fair, which was selected as the only Canadian entry in their 15 project short list, and this September, Ann came home with this stunning Lego trophy as top prize for 15-16 year olds.

Congratulations, Ann!



VIATeC invited the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair to Discover Tectoria, and 4500 enthusiastic people came by and talked with us! Every two years, VIATeC, the Victoria Advanced Technology Council, provides this showcase for the local science and tech community. We had four of our top participants display their projects (hundreds of times!), and we set up lots of science activities to get the attention of everybody walking by. There were students from everywhere from Sooke to Port Alberni. One of our participants, Ann Makosinski, was invited to make a centre stage presentation about her experience at the Google Science Fair with her award-winning "Hollow Flashlight". Many thanks to Cuong He Le, Rossi Marx, Gordon Greeniaus, Randy Enkin, and our students Vicki Kleu, Andrea Chan, Matt Treble and Ann Makosinski.

Sponsors

Web Resources

Local:

Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair:
web.uvic.ca/~virsf

Provincial:

Science Fair Foundation BC:
www.sciencefairs.ca/Resources/Students.aspx

National:

Youth Science Canada: sf.youthscience.ca/
Canada-Wide Science Fair:
cwsf.youthscience.ca/fairs/current

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We are very grateful to our donors, including:



How can you help?

Join SAYS, help run the Fair or be a Judge;

Donate to send students to Canada-Wide Science Fair; and,

Sponsor a cash prize or donate merchandise.

Tax receipts are available. All sponsorship is acknowledged on the web site, on all programs and advertising material, and at the award ceremonies. Donations above \$1500 are recognized as a named sponsorship for one of the top students sent to the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

For more information, please read web.uvic.ca/~virsf/VIRSFbrochure2013.pdf

You received this email because you have been a supporter or a participant of the [Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair](http://web.uvic.ca/~virsf).

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Website: web.uvic.ca/~virsf/