

You are receiving this newsletter because you have been interested in the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair.

Having trouble reading this? [View it in your browser](#)

Subscribe to the Newsletter: [Subscribe](#).

Not interested anymore? [Unsubscribe](#).



YOUNG ISLAND SCIENTIST

Newsletter of the
Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists

7 MAY 2012

2012 SCIENCE FAIR: Sunday April 15 – Monday April 16

In This Issue

[Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair 2012: The Numbers](#)

[Our Sponsors](#)

[3 Special Sponsors](#)

[The Birthday Cake](#)

[Web Links](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[The President's Lab Bench](#)

[Alex Chlysta](#)

[Vicki Kleu](#)

[Ann Makosinski](#)

[Katherine Evans](#)

[Andrea Chan and Matthew Treble](#)

The President's Lab Bench



Happy 50th Birthday, Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair! 1962 - 2012

Thank-you to all the people that made the VIRSF a booming success. Thank-you to the sponsors and the University of Victoria. Thank-you to the many volunteers and judges. Thank-you to the wonderful participants, and their supporting teachers, parents and mentors.

Below, we introduce our amazing team of finalists who will represent our region the [Canada-Wide Science Fair in Prince Edward Island, May 13 to 20](#). They will join 500 students from 100 regions across Canada. Wish them well!

Randy Enkin

Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair 2012: The Numbers



The Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair is one of the original 12 regions which participated at the 1962 Canada-Wide Science Fair. The 2012 fair was the biggest

VIRSF ever.

There were 219 participants (Grade 4 to 12) from 24 schools plus some home-schoolers, who presented 168 projects (solo or in pairs). We had 10 senior participants (Grades 10, 11, 12), to whom the University of Victoria Faculties of Science and Engineering have awarded a day to shadow a scientist or engineer of their choice.

Judging was expertly accomplished by 125 professional and university level scientists and engineers. The fair was supported by 40 volunteers and committee members (including the 5 in the above photo). About 600 visitors viewed the Science Fair projects.

Through the generosity of our sponsors, we offered \$20000 in prizes, cash and scholarships. That includes a \$3500 UVic Faculty of Science entrance scholarship to the top Senior participant, and all-expense-paid trips to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Prince Edward Island for our 6 finalists! We offered 25 Divisional or Overall trophies and 10 honourable mentions. In all, we offered 191 awards to 81 projects (48%).

According to our student evaluations, the Chemistry Demonstration continues to be the best element of the Fair (63%), and presenting the projects to the judges and the public comes second (39% - some said both!). 68% say they intend to do a Science Fair project next year, and a further 21% say maybe, mostly because the Science Fair is fun and exciting. There are always more things we can do to make it a better experience for the students, so join or sponsor the Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists!

Our Sponsors



SAYS wants to extend a heartfelt thanks to

Alex Chlysta



Grade 11, Claremont Secondary School

Minds & Media: Does Screen Time Affect School Performance?

Video games are known to improve spatial reasoning skills. Spatial skills are associated with success in math & science. Spatial reasoning was tested on paper and with a newly developed 3D video game. Screen time and spatial skills were analyzed and correlated with math and science grades. Passive hours (TV) showed a statistically significant negative correlation with science grades while active hours (gaming) did not.

Vicki Kleu

the people, companies and organizations that support the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair (VIRSF). Their support allows us to hold the fair each year.

Would you like to support the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair? Get more information here:
<http://web.uvic.ca/~virsf/SupportSAYS.html>

3 Special Sponsors



We acknowledge Major Sponsors by naming individual awards to the top students who we send to the Canada-Wide Science Fair. This year we gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of two major donors.

The Donna and Mickey Hajash Foundation sponsors scholarships at several institutions to encourage excellence in academics and athleticism. Starting in 2011, the Hajash Foundation has been sponsoring the Best in Fair student at the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair. This year, the Hajash award goes to Alex Chlysta.

JASCO Applied Sciences (www.jasco.com) has been a long time sponsor of our Science Fair, and this year we welcome them back as a Major Sponsor. See the profile of their Chief Information Officer, Roberto Racca, in our March [newsletter](#). This year's JASCO award goes to Vicki Kleu.

Jim and Eveline Geminiano established prizes, named after their children, for students who are chosen to represent the Vancouver Island Region at the Canada-Wide Science Fair for two or more years. Since 1996, these awards have been offered 33 times to 19 remarkable students. This year, we were honoured to have Jim Geminiano at the awards ceremony to offer the Nathan Geminiano award to Alex Chlysta and Vicki Kleu.

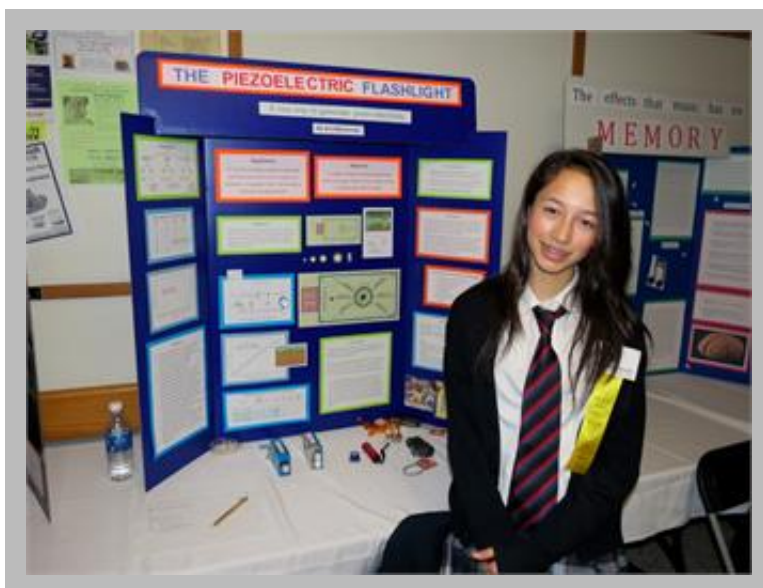


Grade 10, Lambrick Park High School

SA-SHA: Reducing Arterial Turbulence Through External Stents

Pig arteries were injected with a resin to simulate plaque in human arteries. Arteries were measured for decreased flow rate. Stents were either inserted or applied externally. Flow rate was re-measured. More resin was injected. Stent effectiveness was reassessed. Loss in flow rate was significantly smaller in external stents than those with internal stents. External stenting might delay additional bypass surgery or angioplasty.

Ann Makosinski



Grade 9, St. Michael's University School

The Birthday Cake



Normally, our logo has Vancouver Island and the orca inside the Erlenmeyer flask. But they were so excited about our 50th birthday party that they jumped out! Thanks to Daniel Vokey of the Patisserie Daniel for creating this amazing 300 person 5-layer chocolate cake.

Web Links

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:
smarts.youthscience.ca

Contact Information

See back-issues and subscribe to the Young Island Scientist newsletter at

The Piezoelectric Flashlight

Creating a flashlight that does not use batteries, chemicals, magnets and minimum of moving parts is quite a challenge. Using a rotating gear, several piezoelectric discs, and an electronic circuit, a continuous 3.3 mW was generated at 2 turns per second, producing a bright, 2.8 ft-candles of light from 9 LED's. The flashlight requires little effort and has only 1 moving part.

Katherine Evans



Grade 9, St. Margaret's School

From Tank to Tap: Are Carcinogens Being Introduced into Piers Island Water?

This project was an investigation into drinking water quality on Piers Island, BC. Samples were taken to determine whether the decaying, wooden equalization tank and extra chlorine treatments were producing increased levels of carcinogens. Results showed that in certain locations, the water contained more than six times the carcinogens found in water entering the island, although all results were within the drinking water regulations.

Andrea Chan and Matthew Treble

web.uvic.ca/~virsf/newsletter.php

SAYS President: Randy Enkin
RandyEnkinScienceFair@gmail.com

SAYS WebMaster: Gordon Greeniaus
GordonGreeniausScienceFair@gmail.com

Share this email



Grade 9, Lambrick Park High School

Big or Small; Narrow or Wide: Text Presentation for Early Readers

Grade one and three stories were written in increasing level of difficulty. Each story was modified so that font size and column width were altered. Student performance was monitored for insertions, missed lines, omissions, substitutions, and told words. Narrow columns of text show greater reading success. Font size appeared to be less important. Response varied with age.

You received this email because you have been a supporter or a participant of the [Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair](#).

If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter you can [unsubscribe](#)

SAYS – The Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists
Website: web.uvic.ca/~virsf/index.html