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YOUNG ISLAND SCIENTIST

Newsletter of the
Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists

30 JANUARY 2012

2012 SCIENCE FAIR: Sunday April 15 – Monday April 16

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Science Fair Help for Elementary Students

By Cheryl Nigh

You want to do a Science Fair project. How do you start? What do you do? Here is a great starting point! Click on "[An Introduction to the Scientific Method for Elementary Age Students](#)".

Cheryl Nigh is a teacher at Gordon Head Middle School and Vice President of the Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists. She prepared these worksheets for a presentation to parents of elementary school parents, and to distribute to teachers.

Developing a Science Fair Project

The Need to Knead - Part 3

By Wendy Topic

Milo did his experiment on the formation of gluten in wheat flour, "the need to knead." In this instalment, he writes his report. Science Fair reports go to the

The President's Lab Bench

by Randy Enkin

By January, the reality of this year's Science Fair becomes tangible. Most (not all!) students who are going to participate have chosen their topics and are on their way to setting up the experiment, gathering data, and thinking about how they will present it. The Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists held its winter meeting, and volunteers have signed on for all the necessary jobs to put on the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair. I am particularly pleased that we decided to serve a **huge 50th birthday cake** at the awards ceremony. We have also decided on the 2 delegates who will take our champions to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Prince Edward Island this May: Christine Nichols and me!

How many students we get to send to the CWSF depends on the success of our fundraising. For those in a position to donate, please consider how important it is to these young scientists on the verge of making life-changing decisions. Victoria is betting its future on the high-tech industry. Please help grow the people who will make our local economy thrive!

Randy Enkin is head of the Paleomagnetism and Petrophysics Laboratory at the Geological Survey of Canada – Pacific. He is President of the Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists.

Sponsor Profile: Starfish Medical

judges a couple of weeks before the fair so they can prepare their questions.

Read the full article at web.uvic.ca/~virsf/DevelopingAScienceFairProject3.php.

In the next instalment, Milo will design his display and prepare his presentation

Wendy Topic is a science teacher at Glenlyon Norfolk School. Follow this regular VIRSF Newsletter feature as Wendy describes Milo's journey through the whole process of doing a Science Fair project.

Sponsors



SAYS wants to extend a heartfelt thanks to these 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>

Universities Look For Science Fair Students

The University of Victoria offers the top Senior participant at the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair a **\$3500 entrance scholarship**. Since they know Science Fair students make good university students, they also offer **every Senior participant (grades 10, 11 and 12) an individual day of 'lab shadowing' at the University of**



Scott Phillips, Founder and President - Starfish Medical

By Caitlin Doherty

Tell me about your company.

There are actually two companies: Starfish Medical and ViVidro services. ViVidro specializes in testing products geared towards cardiovascular services. However, Starfish Medical is a company that manufactures and develops products for all fields of medicine. Starfish is contracted by companies to build their products, prove design, set up for audits or do risk analysis. Right now their best selling product is a plastic surgery blood fluorescent scanner for NovaDaq known as "The Spy".

Why was Starfish Medical started?

In Mr. Philips own words he started Starfish Medical, "because [he] wanted to start a great company!" Starfish was started eleven years ago. Originally it was just Mr. Philips in his spare bedroom, working as a contract engineer, and now it is housed in its own building in Victoria with 60 employees.

What is your training or background?

Mr. Philips has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Physics from UBC. He also has a strong medical background through his family. He brings talents from numerous fields, having worked in them before founding Starfish.

What is Valvulotome?

Valvulotome is a tiny valve knife designed to disable the valves in veins to change them into arteries. It is less invasive then the original surgery and doesn't damage the vein wall. It was developed at Starfish Medical and has been for sale for five years.

What do you look for in new employees?

New employees must be talented and smart; they should be engineers with a history of successful "experiments". They must also have an inquiring mind and be a critical thinker. However the most important thing is that they fit in the culture of the workplace and be respectful of everyone's differences.

Why do you think it's important to sponsor Science Fair?

Victoria to experience a working research laboratory.

The University of British Columbia is starting a new broad-based admissions process for undergraduates. [According to the CBC](#), "The university believes examining the full range of an applicants' accomplishments will help it build a more diverse student body, eventually producing stronger graduates ready for leadership roles. Registrar James Ridge says the change will allow the university to include students who might otherwise have missed the cut. 'We have students who have placed at national science fairs and until broad-based admission, there wasn't a mechanism for them to tell us about that.' "

The Science Fair gives students great experience to help fill in successful scholarship applications. Make sure the young people you know are aware of this opportunity!

Important Dates

Registration deadline for VIRSF

Wednesday March 28, 2012

<http://web.uvic.ca/~virsf/>

Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair

Sunday April 15 & Monday April 16, 2012

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Youth aren't as interested in Science as they once were, thus, it is important to build up their interest so they see all of the exciting fields and opportunities science can offer. It's all about inspiration!

Caitlin Doherty is a grade 9 student at Lambrick High School. Last year, she and her partner Vicki Kleu represented Vancouver Island at the Canada-Wide Science Fair with their project "Pumping Plaque; Reducing Arterial Turbulent Flow Through External Stents". They received a Silver Medal!

French Projects at the VIRSF

Pourquoi ne pas présenter votre projet en français à l'Expo-science régionale de l'Île de Vancouver?

Réal Roy

Vous étudiez le français à l'école (francophone, immersion, programme de base) et vous voulez un défis : Présentez votre projet scientifique en français à l'expo-science régionale de l'Île de Vancouver! Depuis 2004, l'expo-science régionale organisée par SAYS a accueilli un nombre grandissant de projets scientifiques présentés en français. Ces projets étaient rédigés en français mais les participants répondaient aux questions en français et en anglais selon les juges. SAYS s'assure de recruter suffisamment de juges qualifiés qui connaissent les sciences et maîtrise le français pour que vous puissiez être visités par des juges qui parlent français. Dans le Victoria métropolitain il y a plusieurs professionnels et étudiants en science qui parlent français et qui acceptent comme juge de vous écouter et de vous parler de votre projet en français. Plusieurs projets en français ont déjà mérité des prix et ont même participé à l'expo-science nationale. Certains de ces projets ont même obtenus des médailles d'or, d'argent et de bronze à l'expo-science pan-canadienne.

Faire un projet en français à l'expo-science régionale de l'Île de Vancouver est une bonne manière de pratiquer le français oral et écrit et d'apprendre des mots spécialisés qui touche au vocabulaire des sciences et de la technologie. Vous pouvez même y gagner de l'argent puisque la Société francophone de Victoria offre depuis 2004 des montants en argent pour les meilleurs projets présenter en français! Pensez-y! Et je vous encourage à tenter l'expérience. Vous en sortirez enrichi de savoir que vous pouvez aussi faire de la science en français ici sur l'Île de Vancouver.

Réal Roy is a biology professor at the University of Victoria and president of the Federation des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique.

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