



Dear Parent/Guardian,
P.S. 181 is getting ready for SCIENCE FAIR. With your encouragement and some input you can help your child develop skills to make the science fair project a very valuable learning experience. All students in grades 2-5 are required to take part in our school science fair. PreK, Kindergarten and First grade students are encouraged to enter our Science Fair. P.S. 181Q winners from grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 will move on to the District Science Fair Competition!!!

Many exciting science fair experiments and projects can be found in books at your local library and science classroom. The following sites provide a sample of excellent sources for science experiments and activities that are on the internet:

- <http://www.tryscience.org/>
- <http://www.education.com/science-fair/>
- http://www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer
- <http://free-science-fair-projects.com/Science-Fair-Projects-Search.aspx>
- <http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/>
- <http://www.freesciencefairprojects.com/>

Following the steps of the Scientific Method, your child will first decide on a question or problem to investigate. This is not a new discovery. After researching the chosen topic, and note-taking is organized, the project or experiment can be set up. The project should be **neat, colorful, and attractive on a tri-fold display board**. It should be obvious that time and effort was invested in the project. Your child will be learning by having fun and understanding more about science and how scientists work.

The project will be due by March 1st. Your assistance and guidance can help your young scientist gain the confidence needed to further involvement and curiosity in science. Please complete the cut-off below and have your child return it. Thank you for your cooperation.

Student-Parent-Teacher Contract

We have reviewed the information in the Science Fair information letter.
My son/daughter, _____, has chosen the following question
Print First & Last Name
to explore and test:

Parent's Signature _____

Student's Class _____

Information for Students About Science Fair Projects

Steps in Making a Science Project:

1. Choose a topic and discuss it with your teacher. Ask your teacher for help and suggestions.
2. Once you have chosen your problem, find out as much about the topic as possible.
3. Keep a project notebook and record all of your thoughts, preparations, and ideas. Keep a record of your readings.
4. Set up a work area somewhere around your house where you can work on your project. Make sure the area is off limits to your pets or younger brothers and sisters.
5. Work on your project a little each day. Don't wait until the last minute.
6. Collect the materials needed for the project.
7. Check with your teacher for suggestions and materials.
8. Construct your exhibit and make letters for your signs.
9. Mount your pictures, graphs, charts, etc.
10. Present your science project at the Science Fair.



SCIENCE FAIR !



A Successful Science Project:

1. Represents your work...not that of an expert or your parents
2. Indicates an understanding of the science area chosen
3. Shows careful planning that would eliminate a rush project
4. Has a notebook showing a complete record of all your work
5. Has a simple, well-stated title and neat lettering
6. Includes photographs, charts, pictures, graphs, etc., that might be necessary to explain your work
7. Has accurate, valid, and correct observations
8. Tells a complete story...Problem.....Conclusion
9. Is original in approach and presentation
10. Is self-explanatory
11. Is attractive and organized
12. Follows the SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Displaying a Science Fair Project

What you thought would happen

Title

What you wanted to find out

What you did

Pictures and drawings

What happened

Charts and tables

What you learned

Do Geranium Plants Need Light?

Purpose
To find out if geranium plants need light

Hypothesis
Geranium plants need light.

My mother grew the geranium plants for me.

Procedure

1. I chose two healthy geranium plants that were the same size.
2. I put plant A near a sunny window.
3. I put plant B in a closet under a box.
4. I watered both equally.
5. I observed and recorded changes in the plants for one week.

Results

| Day | Plant A | Plant B |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | healthy | healthy |
| 4 | healthy | healthy |
| 7 | healthy | leaves beginning to turn yellow |

Conclusions
Geranium plants need light to stay green.

Materials
Geranium Plant

Who helped you
My mother