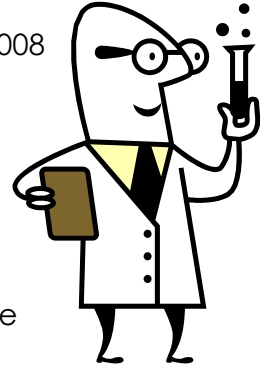


February 14, 2008



Dear Parent or Guardian and Science Student,

Next week, your son or daughter will begin an invention project in their science classes. The objective of the project is to give every student a hands-on experience using the scientific method. In addition, each student will have the opportunity to independently research a topic of his or her own interest. The invention fair project grade will be a part of both the third and fourth quarter grades. You can help motivate your son or daughter by taking an interest in the project.

Your child will have the opportunity to present his/her project in the invention fair, which takes place at the Invention Fair family night in May.

Every student is required to enter a project either individually or with a partner. Students who chose to work with a partner on their project will be required to complete a project that demonstrates the need for two students working together. All partner teams will have to sign a partner contract. Team projects are limited to two members.

The emphasis on the project is about learning and being an active participant in the scientific process. There are some simple regulations that all students must follow while preparing their project.

- Students must use a controlled experimental procedure to answer a "cause and effect" question about the natural world in their invention.
- The topic should/must be of interest to the student.
- Student may work in a group of **TWO**.
  - If students choose this option they must sign a partner contract along with their parents.
  - Students working as partners must collect at least two different data sets, and the project and data collected must justify two students working together. (It is required to be more in depth and "harder")
- Any type of testing on vertebrate animals, including humans, must be approved!
- Students must include a journal/notebook/log that shows effort, research, mistakes, first drafts, and frustrations that the students encountered as the project developed. (*Keep everything, especially original data- even if you do recopy it so that it is neat!*)
- The scientific concept that is manipulated must be extensively researched.
- The experiment itself must involve data collection from 7-14 days. (Cannot be done in one afternoon)
- Data collected must be quantitative. (Numbers that can be graphed.)
- Must be attractively displayed at the invention fair.



I will work with your student along the way during the entire process. We encourage students to stay on top of the assignment deadlines. If a



student does encounter a problem with one part of the assignment they, the student, must ask for an extension in writing **before the due date**, and get their teacher to initial the extension. Students will have access to productive links, timeline handouts and procedural handouts throughout the process. These will always be available in our classroom. Please encourage your student to choose a topic that they enjoy or are very interested or curious about. They will be working with this topic/idea for over two months! If you have any questions along the way please email.

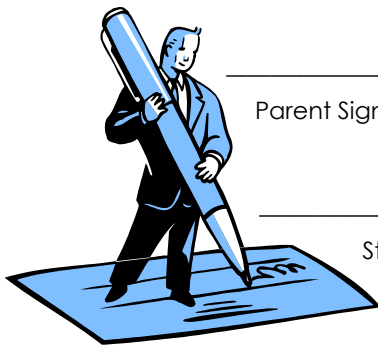
*Mr. Al Mindock*

Stpaulsnh8@hotmail.com

763-2892 extention #208

Please sign and return this paper. Once it is noted that there is a signature the paper will be returned to the student so that it can be kept in their notebook. (This is a homework assignment worth points!)

We have read and understand the guidelines above for the Invention Fair and we are aware that assignments will be given in small steps and that there will be support. I also understand that dates and long-range goals will be my responsibility to put into my binder reminder and I will be notified of these in advance with time to adequately meet the deadlines.



\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date