

## Claremont Science Fair Student Information

The Claremont Science Fair is held twice a year, once in semester 1 (usually in January) and once in semester 2 (usually in June). The purpose of the Fair is to provide an enrichment activity for students enrolled in enriched science 9 and 10. The Science Fair project counts for 10% of the student's mark. For students who do not wish to participate in the Fair, every effort will be made to reassign the student to a non-enriched Science class. The reassignment should take place within the first few days of class. The Fair is also open to any student at Claremont who wishes to enter. The Science Fair project is an independent research project where students pursue an area of interest. Teachers who are subject specialists are available for help and guidance during non-instructional time throughout the research project. It is up to the student to contact these teachers for help. Students who complete a project have the opportunity to enter the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair held at the University of Victoria in the Spring.

Grade nine students have the option of working in pairs on a project; however grade ten students will work independently.

Working on the Science Fair project is broken down into a five month time frame. During the first month students will spend one block in the school library. In the library session, students will be guided through the topic selection process, how to find information about their topic, and APA reference method. By the end of the library block students should have a list of possible topics for research. Students will continue to refine their topic selection on their own or with the help subject specialists during non-instructional time. By the end of the first month, students should have started background reading (literary review) on their selected topic and formulating a research question. It is recommended students spend at least one evening per week refining their topic.

During the second month students should decide on a research question that truly interests them. The interest in the topic will motivate and sustain students as they progress through the research process. The literary review should be completed by mid month. Students should also start planning the experiment they intend to carry out. Identification of variables, necessary supplies, procedures to follow, and parent/teacher approval should be completed by the end of the second month.

During the third month students are experimenting. If the experiment requires the collection of data over an extended period of time then it is suggested students start experimenting during the first or second month. Students should (not necessary, but will be very helpful and usually results in improved marks) keep an informal laboratory notebook or journal to keep track of their procedures, materials, variables, observations and results. The note book can be part of the final display as well as be very helpful in writing the final report.

At the beginning of the fourth month students are finishing their experimentation and starting their written report. By the end of the fourth month students have finished their report and are preparing their visual material and project for final presentation. Students need to provide their own electronic equipment (laptops) for displaying their projects.

During the fifth month students will present their project at the end of semester Science Fair (January or June).

In addition to the forms, a Moodle web page is set up for students to access. The web page is found on the Claremont web page under departments in the Science section under Mr. Vucko.