Introducing Science Projects

Dear Parents:

Your child’s classroom will be working on science fair projects in the months of February, March & April. To facilitate these projects, the classroom will receive three visits from instructors at the Science Program to Inspire Creativity and Excellence (SPICE), a University of Oregon science outreach program. SPICE instructors will introduce the children to science projects and the scientific method, will help children refine a project idea and set a timeline, and teach them how to interpret and present their results.

Your child will select a research question and develop a project that answers that question. These projects will be presented in class. Your student will also have the option to enter his/her experiment into the UO Science Fair, April 21st, 2012. Please see the attached flyer for more information about the science fair.

Through time management and project planning, your child will take on the responsibility of completing a project over at least a five-week period. Your child will discover his or her creativity by brainstorming science project questions and figuring out how to display the process and results. A science project, through its challenge to ask questions and discover is truly a real-world experience in innovation, similar to what scientists do in their careers.

We will provide your child with sufficient support to succeed, so that he or she develops enthusiasm for scientific discovery. First your child will accomplish each step of the project by doing homework assignments. We will review the assignments at key checkpoints along the way, so that you won’t face helping your child do a project the last night before the fair. Second, we have included a basic guide (enclosed) of how to help without getting over-involved. SPICE is also offering project mentor for students with challenging projects. Please contact your classroom teacher if you would like to sign your child up for mentoring.

You will have the opportunity to approve the project your student selects by signing a Science Project Proposal Form.

If you have any questions please email me at btodd@uoreogn.edu or phone at (541) 346-4313.

Sincerely,
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