

December 12, 2012

Dear Parents,

During the winter, Fort Bend elementary schools will conduct their annual science fairs. The most outstanding projects will be showcased and honored at the district Elementary Science Exposition.

Fourth and fifth grade students will be participating in their school's fair. Best of Division winners from the schools will be invited to display their projects at the district Elementary Science Exposition.

Please read and discuss this information carefully with your child. It is important that students meet and follow all criteria and guidelines. The science projects should show the student's interest and workmanship. Parents are encouraged to support but not participate in their student's project.

Students are strongly encouraged to purchase project boards ASAP because these will become scarce as students across the district will be working on projects at the same time.

A completed science fair project must include a lab report. Once you have decided on a question or problem to investigate, have identified the variables to be tested, and have formulated a hypothesis, the next step is to design an investigation. The information that describes your investigation and the results of the investigation are recorded in a lab report. A lab report should include the following information:

- A **title** that tells what the investigation is about
- The **question** that you are trying to answer
- The **hypothesis** of the investigation
- The **experimental procedure** is step-by-step directions telling how to perform the experiment. The procedure should identify the manipulated, controlled, and responding variables. Materials used in the investigation should be listed, and how many times the test will be repeated, or how long it will last should be specified.
- The **results** are the data (measurements or observations) that you collect during the investigation. Sometimes it is best to display the information in a graph.
- A **conclusion** should state whether or not the hypothesis was supported.
- The investigation may lead to questions for further study. Maybe the hypothesis was confirmed, but the investigation raises a set of new questions. If the hypothesis was not confirmed, maybe the experiment could be changed in some way.

As previously stated, the Best of Division project winners will have the opportunity to display their projects in the district Elementary Science Exposition. Should your child's project qualify for this exposition, you will be contacted in writing.

The Science Fair Committee