

## **Science Fair Tips for Teachers**

Science Fairs are not just about your students. You are a big part of their success.

1. Start early. If you begin early, you will have the best materials at your disposal, rather than competing with the rest of the school or city for resources.
2. Discover the resources in your school and city.
3. Organize a field trip to a lab at Keyano College or arrange for a scientist to come in and talk to your class.
4. Find out what the regional and national requirements are for your Science Fair projects from the Wood Buffalo Regional Science Fair. (<http://www.wbrsf.ca/>)
5. Invite a representative of the Wood Buffalo Regional Science Fair to come and speak to students.
6. Have books available on Science Fair projects and Science Fair topics.
7. Spend time on the internet checking out "Science Fair" sites; all kinds of sites exist with ideas and "how to" lessons.
8. Spend a period or two brainstorming with your class. Have them think of interesting questions to ask that would make great science fair projects.
9. No volcanoes. No crystal growing. Unless students can think of a unique way of approaching these topics, these mundane projects should be avoided.
10. Have time set aside so that students can work on their science fair projects in class, where they can research, write and ask questions.
11. Have an open discussion with your class about working alone or with a partner. If teamed projects are allowed, examine ways of getting students to work together cooperatively. Many times one student ends up doing all the work, while the other does not contribute significantly. This can be a source of friction and can break up friendships. Consider prohibiting team projects.
12. Keep copies of all the science fair project reports etc to build up a library of science fair projects. You can always black out names of students.
13. Decide how you are going to grade the projects.
14. Set timelines for the completion of the major steps.

## **Science Fair Tips for Parents**

The most difficult part of being a science fair parent can be stated in one sentence: "This is not your project!" This is your child's project. Let your child do it. Now here's where you can help:

1. Talk about the different possibilities, but let your child choose the topic.
2. Set aside time to work with your child and help brainstorm ideas or build a display. There may be sharp tools or materials that your child wants to use. It is best to closely supervise the use of any potentially dangerous items. Work with your child, but let the child make the decisions.
3. Help set a timetable, so that the project does not get left until the last minute.
4. Be supportive. Do not use guilt, nag, or punish a child over a science fair project. It's supposed to be educational and fun. No matter what your child does for the science fair, tell him or her how proud you are of all the effort. It is even more important for a child to win approval from a parent than it is to win at a science fair.

Assist your child in writing the report in their own words.