

École Bellewood Science Fair 2012 - Itinerary

So, you are interested in participating in your school's Science Fair. Fantastic! Here are all the things you need to know. Just a quick warning, the steps are presented in reverse order, so that you can see what you have to do to get ready.

Windsor Regional Science Technology and Engineering Fair (WRSTEF)

Gold Medal Projects may be invited to participate in the WRSTEF to be held on March 30th and April 1st 2012 at St-Clair College. We will pay the entrance fee, however students must be able to attend this event. In the event that a project is not able to attend the fair, we may offer the spot to another deserving project at our discretion. Students in grades 4-6 qualify for the novice category, the junior category is for students in grades 7 and 8.

The results will be announced no later than Wednesday March 7 th during morning announcements.	THE BELLEWOOD SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR IS TUESDAY MARCH 6TH, 2012	Judging Sessions	
		A 9:10 – 10:00	B 10:00 – 10:50

Clean-up and Results

Projects must be taken down by the end of the day of the Science Fair. Students must make arrangements to have all equipment picked-up or stored temporarily in their classrooms with permission from their teachers. Backboards left behind will be kept and reused.

Results will be announced as soon as possible, but no later than Wednesday morning. All projects will receive scoring rubrics and feedback as soon as possible (this may take a few days). The decision of the judging committee is final.

The day of the Science Fair:

There are two judging sessions, you will be assigned to either session A or B. You are expected to stay by your project at all times, ready to answer questions from visiting judges. If you step away – even for a moment- you might miss your judging session. Bring a book or something to do. Depending on availability of judges and time constraints, you can expect to talk to at least one judge. You might receive a call-back to meet with more judges if there are still some questions.

Visitors will not be permitted during the judging sessions. They may visit from 11:00 onward and must report to the office before proceeding to the display area.

Final set-up:

All projects need to be set up on Monday March 5th, from 6:00 TO 8:00 PM. You must be done by 8:00 pm. Have as much as possible ready ahead of time. Bring extra glue, paper, markers, tape, etc, for last-minute touch up.

NOTE: your parents need to know that they must be there with you. Let them know in advance, and keep reminding them.

It may still be possible to receive project approval and be assigned a project number at this point; we reserve the right to decline a project if our space limit is exceeded.

Project Approval:

To reserve a display space in the Science Fair, all projects must be approved during one of the following sessions: Tuesday Feb 28th, Wednesday Feb 29th, Thursday Mar 1st or Friday Mar 2nd, 3:30-4:45, in the library.

At least one student from each project must attend at least one of these sessions. This is to ensure projects are meeting guidelines and requirements. Students will need to bring all their research notes, photos, project design, results, anything they want to put up, everything they have so far, EXCEPT EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES. In other words **bring papers and binders**, leave at home your plants, animals, crystals, electronics, etc... THIS IS IMPORTANT- this will determine if a project will be participating.

At this point, we will assign you a project number and you can begin your final preparations.

The Display Board

Through the School Board we are able to make a bulk purchase of approved Science Fair Display Boards. A display board costs \$5.00 and can be purchased anytime. A good time would be at one of the project approval sessions. Our display board measures 85" x 50" and is scored to form 3 sections of 23", 39" and 23".

That's a lot of space to fill. Use large letters for your title. Things don't have to be fancy, but they have to be neat and clear. A messy display can make your presentation difficult to understand. And you need to display important information – check pictures of other projects online – flowers and sparkles will not make your project a winner unless you include solid science.

Working on your project

You have 6-7 weeks to get it all done. While this may seem like a long time, don't wait until the last minute to get going. Some experiments don't require a lot of time to do, but others might require that you leave things over a period of time. Plan ahead.

NEW!!! Guidance and Support Meetings:

Students wishing to obtain guidance and support can sign up for any after-school meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays in February, 3:45-4:45, in the library.

Come as often as you wish, but let us know you are coming. You must sign-up ahead of time with the registration package; we must receive a form before the meeting day.

Come prepared to work – bring all your papers, your work so far, pencils, spare paper, USB drive, etc... We suggest you keep a binder for your project. Keep EVERYTHING in it, your rough drafts, your brainstorm; nothing is too trivial for this binder. It will save you a lot of time.

Getting started

Sometimes the hardest part of the project is coming up with a good idea. Start looking early, check on the internet, check at the library, and talk to your parents and teachers. The Windsor

Regional Science Technology and Engineering Fair website is the site you need to visit thoroughly. This is the link to the project guidelines page: http://www.wrstef.ca/proj_guide.php . From there you should check out the project guide pdf <http://www.wrstef.ca/projectguide.pdf> . This will help you understand the differences between the different types of projects.

Your best bet is to download a valuable resource called the *Science Success Student Workbook*. Here is the link <http://www.wrstef.ca/ScienceSuccessStudentWorkbook.pdf>. It has step by step instructions, examples of projects, suggestions and so much more. This is what our judging committee uses as a base to their evaluations.

Don't forget to look at the rubric for your age category. Students in grades 4 to 6 fall into the novice category, while students in grade 7 and 8 are considered juniors.

Oh, and one more thing. Admit it – you probably thought that making a volcano would be a cool project – unfortunately that would just be a demonstration. By definition, your project must be trying to find an answer to a question. Investigating how to make the best type of fake lava could work, as long as you followed the scientific process. Sorry, you still can't bring in the volcano...

Alone or with a partner?

This is the trickiest question to answer. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. You need to talk to your parents because they are the ones who know you best. Consider your families' schedules, how far apart you live, how well you get along. **Partners must be in the same grade but not necessarily in the same class.**

Still excited?

Wonderful! Print out the **consent form** pages, fill them out and return to either Mme DiPonio or Mme Richer as soon as possible. Check in with us often, and have fun!