

News and Information

February 28, 2014

District Science Fair on March 4th and 5th, 2014

Kelowna, B.C. –

Have you ever wondered about the secret lives of bacteria, how much DNA can fit into a cell, how gears work or what causes a tornado? These and many other questions will be answered at the District Science Fair on Tuesday, March 4th and Wednesday, March 5th hosted in partnership with UBC Okanagan. A highlight of the year for inquisitive science students, the fair is an opportunity to impress the judges and possibly win a spot in the regional fair at KLO. From there, the top six students in British Columbia will travel to a national fair in Ontario to compete for \$400,000 in prizes and scholarships.

Central Okanagan science teachers Marnie Birkeland, Karla Lockwood, John Prescott, Tanis Maxfield, Dayna Margetts, Pamela Horton, Agnes Gaglioano, Barbara Hofmann have worked alongside UBCO staff to organize the largest District Science Fair to date. This year there will be over 150 projects on display and 300 students in attendance. The event takes place in the Richard S. Hallissey Atrium, Engineering, Management and Education (EME) Building at UBC Okanagan Campus between 4pm and 7pm on Tuesday evening, and 9am to 2:30pm on Wednesday with an awards ceremony to follow. Student projects will be in two different categories: non-competitive (kindergarten to grade 5) will be competing for some great science prizes, and competitive (grade 6-12) will be competing for the "best in fair" prize and a chance to move on to the regional science fair. Teams will also be chosen to win one of four UBCO Inspired Science Award prizes of \$500 which students will bring back to their school.

"Science Fair is such a fabulous opportunity for students to investigate the world around them, to use the scientific method and to practice their presentation skills to judges from our community," says Birkeland. "Students of all grades can choose a topic that they are interested in, and test the boundaries of their knowledge. Students who have participated in past fairs, have not only been given the opportunity to travel, meet other young scientists and earn monetary benefits from scholarships and awards, but they have also found a passion for science. What a great way to help students become better learners, thinkers, innovators, contributors and collaborators."

Participants in this year's fair will be treated to a wonderful university experience with labs and activities to be provided by students and instructors at UBCO on the second day of the fair. "UBC Okanagan is pleased to embark on this new partnership with School District No. 23, which will enable up-and-coming young researchers to showcase their science projects to a diverse and engaged audience, while also being exposed to university and its endless possibilities", said Dr. Gordon Binsted, Acting Vice Principal, Research and Innovation, UBC's Okanagan campus. "The event is an exciting opportunity to support the important relationship between science and youth, and perhaps fuel a passion for education and research in the next generation of decision makers, leaders, and game changers." It promises to be a fun opportunity for students to show off their creative and critical thinking science skills.

Public visitors are welcome to explore the fair on Tuesday, March 4th between 4:30-7pm and on Wednesday, March 5th between 9-11:30am. Please join us to celebrate our young scientists!

If you would like to register to be a judge or a volunteer for our fair, or would like more details, please visit our website at: www.sd23sciencefair.com

Agenda

Tuesday, March 4th

Time	Activity
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Competitive students (Gr 6-12) set up their projects.
4:00 pm	Students meeting and judges workshop
4:30-7:00 pm	Judging and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
6:00-7:00 pm	Pizza dinner is provided for students and judges.

Wednesday, March 5th

Time	Activity
8:00 am	Non-competitive and Competitive students arrive & set up.
9:00 – 11:30 am	Students from around sd23 arrive to tour all science projects, Non-competitive students are judged by grade 12 students and volunteers. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
11:30 am	Clean Up and Lunch provided for students.
12:00 – 2:30 pm	University Activities and Tours
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Awards Ceremony (on front stage)
3:15pm	Final clean-up and departure

For comments, please contact:

Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education, 250-767-6153

Hugh Gloster, Superintendent of Schools, 250-860-8888

Marnie Birkeland, Teacher, George Elliot Secondary School, 250-766-2734