

P.S. 236  
6302 Avenue U  
Brooklyn, NY 11234  
Mary Barton, Principal  
Joni Southard, Asst. Principal

January 19, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Science boards are available this year at P.S. 236. The cost of each board, including headers, is \$7.00. Boards may be purchased beginning Monday, January 26.

If you intend on purchasing a board, please fill out the tear off below. **Please put the tear off, along with \$7.00, in an envelope with your child's name and class on it.** Your child may give the envelope to his/her classroom teacher, who will then forward it. Please be advised that you may not receive the board on the day the money is submitted. We will work to get the board to you as quickly as possible.

All proceeds from the purchase of the boards will be used to purchase needed science equipment for the school.

Sincerely,

Robin Sitler

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Enclosed please find \_\_\_\_\_ for the purchase of \_\_\_\_ science board(s). I am aware that the price of **each** board is \$7.00.

**Child's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR SCIENCE EXHIBITON BOOK REPORTS

Kindergarten: Parents, please select an appropriate book for your child based on his/ her science interests. You may read to your child, read with your child, or have your child read to you. Once the book is completed, on a paper no smaller than 11 x 14, have your child illustrate what they learned about. At the top of the paper, please write the title and author of the book. Underline the title. Then, have your child dictate at least two sentences about the book, using their own words. If they are going to write the sentences on their own, please allow them to use kindergarten spelling. You may, underneath, write the sentences again, as their teachers do in the classroom. Put your child's name and class in the lower left hand corner.

First Grade: Parents, please guide your child in selecting an appropriate book based on his/her science interests. You may read with your child or have your child read to you. Once the book is completed, on a paper no smaller than 11 x 14, have your child illustrate what they learned about. At the top of the paper, please write the title and author of the book. Underline the title. Then, have your child, in his/her own words: write a paragraph, containing a minimum of three sentences, about what was learned. Attach the paragraph, along with your child's name and class to either the right or bottom of the illustration. Do not attach the paragraph on the back please.

Second Grade: Parents, please guide your child in selecting an appropriate book based on his/her science interests. It must be a book that your child can read independently. Once your child has completed the book, you should reread it together. This will help focus your child and help you ascertain if your child has a grasp on the information read. Once that is accomplished, on a paper no smaller than 11 x 14, have your child illustrate a specific scene (or sequence of scenes) showing what they have learned. At the top of the paper, please write the title and author of the book. Underline the title. Then, have your child, in his/her own words: write a paragraph, containing a minimum of five sentences, about what was learned. Attach the paragraph, along with your child's name and class to either the right or bottom of the illustration. Do not attach the paragraph on the back please.

Third grade through fifth grade: Parents, please guide your child in selecting an appropriate book based on his/her science interests. It must be a book that your child can read independently. Once your child has completed the book, you should reread it together. This will help focus your child and help you ascertain if your child has a grasp on the information read. To complete the report, choose a scientific concept your child

would like to report on. Give a brief explanation, in his/her own words, of the concept. Include a summary of at least three paragraphs which answer the following questions. These questions are a way to both focus and guide your child in the report.

Guide Questions:

1. What made you wonder about the concept you chose?
2. What did you learn?
3. What do you want to teach others?
4. Did you find that although you learned a great deal, you want to learn more?
5. What was the most amazing fact you learned?

If you read a biography, please be sure to answer the following questions:

1. A brief history of the person's childhood.
2. A statement of what makes the person a famous scientist.
3. Your opinion as to how the world is better due to this person's work.
4. How this person's work has affected your life, if applicable.
5. Why you chose this person.

Either type of report must have a cover with the following information on it:

1. Title-underlined
2. Author and illustrator, if applicable
3. Your name and class
4. An illustration that is a reflection of the concept you have learned about or an illustration of the scientist you read about.

**\*\*Please be aware that information taken from the internet is not acceptable. \*\***

Thank you for assisting your child in completing this project.

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

It's that time of year again! It's time to get your scientific juices flowing, as the P.S. 236 Science Exhibition is just around the corner. The exhibition gives your child a chance to experiment, hypothesize, think, and read in a scientific direction while having a good time.

The Science Exhibition is **mandatory** for students in grades two through five. Although it is optional for children in kindergarten and first grade to participate, the Science Exhibition is an exciting event. Children of all ages love seeing their work displayed. Please have your child participate! Along with this letter, you will be receiving a list of suggested projects. These are only suggestions. Your child may think of his/her own project, as long as it is grade appropriate. Children may work alone, with a sibling, or with a friend or a group of friends, with a maximum of four in a group. Please feel free to take pictures and display them as part of the project! When working on your project, please adhere to the following limitations: **No live subjects are permitted. No glass is permitted. No volcanoes are permitted. No exceptions will be made for the safety of the children.**

This year, your child may also explore the option of reading a non-fiction science book and reporting on what was learned. Your child may also read a biography on a famous scientist. Please be sure the book that is picked is on your child's reading level. Books are available in the school library as well as the Brooklyn Public Library. Science fiction is not acceptable. Books reports must be done on an individual basis. No group work is acceptable in this instance. An outline of the requirements for the report is attached.

It is recommended that you begin work on the project as soon as possible. Projects may require data to be compiled over time. Books often take more than a night or two to read. Beginning immediately will allow your child to enjoy this experience while also learning. By not waiting until the last moment, you can achieve this goal.

**Projects are to be brought in according to the following schedule:**

Monday, March 8, 2010: Grade 1 and Grade 2

Tuesday, March 9, 2010: Grade 3 ONLY

Wednesday, March 10, 2010: Grade 5 ONLY

Thursday, March 11, 2010: Grade 4 ONLY

Friday, March 12, 2010: Kindergarten and any absentees

**\*\*If children in more than one grade work together, the project must be sent in with the older child on that due date above.\*\***

All projects must be submitted on the dates detailed above unless there are extenuating circumstances. These circumstances will be reviewed by Ms. Barton and me on an individual basis. **All requests for an extension must be made in writing by Friday, March 5, 2010/ to be considered.**

I am looking forward to a Science Exhibition filled with imaginative, creative and child made projects. A letter will be sent home under separate cover inviting you to come see your child's work on display. See you then!

Sincerely,

Robin Sitler  
Science Teacher

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please be advised that the Science Exhibition is mandatory for students in grades two, three, four and five. Classes that have Mrs. Sitler for science will have their second marking period grade impacted if they do not turn in a project or a report as per the attached schedule. Late projects will also impact the science grade.

Please sign and return the tear-off below which states that you are aware and acknowledge your receipt of this letter, as well as the accompanying packet. The packet gives you all of the information necessary to assist your child in completing his/her project or report.

Should you have any questions, please send in a note with your child. I will respond as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Robin Sitler  
Science Teacher

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Mary Barton, Principal

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I acknowledge my child's participation in the Science Exhibition is mandatory.  
I am aware that non-participation, as well as late projects or reports, will impact my child's science grade with Mrs. Sitler.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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TO ALL SCIENCE EXHIBITION PARTICIPANTS:

Have you checked out your projects for the following points?

1. Is everything clearly labeled?
  - a. The Topic
  - b. The Aim: a one-line sentence stating the PURPOSE of your experiment, demonstration, or display.
2. If you are doing an experiment (whether on your own, or rechecking another scientist's work), have you followed proper scientific discovery procedure and kept a record?
  - a. Question (Aim): What do you want the person reading your project to focus on?
  - b. Hypothesis: When you chose your project, **before you did any work**, how did you THINK it would turn out? Make your hypothesis based on your previous knowledge. Your prediction may actually turn out to be different than your actual results.
  - c. Materials: What equipment did you use for your experiment? List them.
  - d. Testing the hypothesis: How did you do your experiment? What were the steps you took to complete your work? List in sequential order.
  - e. Observations: What did you observe? For example, did your plants grow? Did the magnet attract all of the items you chose? Tell what you observed using your senses.
  - f. Organizing observations: A table, a graph, a chart, a paragraph, and sequential photographs to give the person learning from your project in an organized manner.
  - g. Results: Explain, briefly, what you accomplished.
  - h. Drawing Conclusions: What did you learn?
3. If you are presenting a display or a collection showing a scientific classification of materials (such as a rock collection), please be sure to include scientific names as well as the common names we use in daily lives. Be sure you can pronounce these names in the event you are asked to discuss your work.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SCIENCE EXHIBITION ENTRIES:

1. Experiments of own design.
2. Rechecking another scientist's work.
3. A working model illustrating any principle or system of science, along with a written explanation.

4. Three-dimensional model illustrating any principle or system of science, along with a written explanation.
5. Collection: This is acceptable in grades K through two with a brief explanation. In grades three through five, if a collection is submitted, a detailed explanation must be included.
6. Plants: Growing from seeds, grafting, changing the environment, changing sunlight exposure, changing the temperature, changing the liquid used to water.
7. Book based experiments. The responsibility of the presentation is still, however, on the child who should be conversant about every detail of the project based on a scientific principle.
8. Group cooperative projects.

There are numerous web sites that are available .Listed below are just a few to start you on your search.

#### A FEW SUGGESTED WEB SITES:

1. [www.yahooligans.com](http://www.yahooligans.com)
2. [www.askjeeves.com](http://www.askjeeves.com)
3. [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
4. [www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org)
5. [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)
6. [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
7. [www.worldbookonline.com](http://www.worldbookonline.com) (or any encyclopedia)
8. [www.discoverykids.com](http://www.discoverykids.com)

The question that supplied the greatest number of links was “Where can I find science fair projects?”

#### SAMPLE PROJECTS/GUIDE TO SETTING UP THE BOARD MAY BE FOUND AT:

1. <http://super-science-fair-projects.com/display-boards.html>
2. [http://sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/project\\_display\\_board.shtml](http://sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/project_display_board.shtml)
3. <http://yoursciencefairprojects.com/scinece-fair-display-board.html>

The science exhibition is mandatory for all students in grade two through grade five. Of course, we would love to have kindergarten and first graders also participate on a voluntary basis. Please be sure, in that instance, to choose a project that is appropriate to your child’s grade and interests. Doing a project should be a fun, educational experience. Feel free to assist and guide your child. Let them lead and direct you. Remember! This is their science experience. Let the work reflect their ideas and hard work. **Please remember, no volcanoes, live subjects and glass is permitted!**

**Finally, please be certain to label all parts of your child’s work with his/her name and class so that everything can be returned the rightful owner.**