

Dear Parents,

Your child has been invited to take part in a science fair, an exciting event that encourages students to think like young scientists. During the next few weeks your child will be designing a science project that uses the scientific method to solve a problem. We hope you agree that the educational benefits are numerous, as students develop skills in math, reading, writing, oral presentation, creative thinking, and problem solving. Most of the work will be completed at home. For suggestions on helping your child through this process — from choosing a topic to the final report—see the Web site "Parents — Get Involved" at

<http://discoveryschool.com/sciencefaircentral/scifirstudio/parents.html> or consult the local library.

I ask that you encourage your child and monitor his or her progress along the way. Your support is key to a successful project, but please do not allow your involvement to extend any further in order to assure equity and promote student learning! It is important that your child wrestle with problems and try to solve them. Guide your child whenever and wherever you can, but let the final project reflect your child's individual effort and design. Also, keep in mind that a successful project can be completed for under \$10.

The final product is due the morning of 10 March 2008. Projects in the 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> grades will be judged for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place. Winners will be announced at the **Science Fair on 12 March 2008 (6-8 pm at PLES)**. This year the Science Fair presentation will be made by Groovy Marc Clayton from the Applied Physics Lab at 7pm. This event is free and open to all PLES family members.

New this year (in lieu of the past Ask-A-Scientist Program) PLES PTA is offering after-school workshops designed for students new to the scientific process. On 16 January is **Workshop: Fizz and Foam** for grades K-2. On 23 January is **Workshop: Early Scientists** for grades 3-5. On 4 February is **Workshop: ESOL with Fizz** for students in the ESOL program. These workshops will provide an opportunity for each student to conduct a scientific experiment that can be used as the Science Fair Project. These Workshops are by ticket only due to space limitations and material requirements. Tickets are based on a child/parent team and are free and available on a first come, first serve basis via the attached Interest Form. Participants at the workshop are expected to use appropriate school behavior, listen and follow directions, and leave their workspace clean and tidy. An adult must attend the workshop with the child.

Please let me know if you'd like more information on creating a successful science fair project. If you have any questions or would like to help in anyway, do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to watching your child enjoy this unique opportunity for scientific discovery!

Sincerely,

Lisa Strutz, PLES PTA Science Committee Chair, 410-730-5627