

October 2005

Newsletter



THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY HOTLINE

PRAXIS

Science & Technology Week

Science & Technology Week in Alberta is fast approaching. October 14th to 23rd is officially the time to celebrate science and technology in our area. Praxis will be hosting and organizing a number of events to coincide with the provincial festivities. Hopefully you will be able to attend these events.

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Science Fair Know How
Medicine Hat Public Library
7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Pre-registration is required.
All students must be accompanied by one adult.
FREE

Saturday, October 22, 2005

Family Science
Olympics
Medicine Hat High School Science Wing
(enter on 5th street)
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
All families must have one adult over the age of 18 in order to participate. Everyone welcome.
Lots of Prizes!
FREE

Visit <http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca/events/index.cfm> for more details on Science & technology Week or call (403) 527-5365.

Praxis will be sending out a "Science Fair How To" in the Innovation and Science package that will be sent to every school in October during Science & Technology Week.



Enjoy the week with one of these exiting activities.

Important Opportunities

ATA Science Council Conference

The deadline to register for the ATA Science Council Conference is October 8th, 2005. This year it will be held in Edmonton from November 10th to November 12th, 2005

There will be no less than eight top-class keynote speakers presenting over the three days.

Visit Odysium (the newly renamed TELUS-World of Science—bussing provided by EPCOR.

For more information:
<http://www.atasc.ab.ca/conference/>

If you attend, I hope that you stop by the Alberta Science Literacy Association (ASLA) members booth and say hello. We would be pleased to tell you about Praxis and how ASLA can help you in the classroom.

It is never too early to begin preparations for your science fairs. Praxis can help by offering support and judges.

This year the Regional Science Fair is scheduled for Saturday April 8th, 2006.

Registration will be due in late March. Watch your mailboxes for forms to register your

FUN WITH FALL LEAVES

Lets have Fun with Fall Colours

WHAT YOU NEED:

- One green leaf
- One coin
- One strip cut from coffee filter paper
- Rubbing alcohol
- Tall glass jar

WHAT TO DO:

1. Place the strip of filter paper on the table
2. Put the leaf on top of one end of the filter paper.
3. Roll the edge of the coin back and forth over the leaf so that a green line of leaf material is left across the

filter paper about 3 cm from the tip.

4. Allow the leaf material to dry on the filter paper.
5. Pour enough rubbing alcohol in your jar to cover the bottom to 2 cm.
6. Suspend the tip of the filter paper into the alcohol so that the green line is about 1 cm above the level of the alcohol.
7. Watch what happens as the alcohol travels up the strip of filter paper past the green line.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Using this chromatography (colour separation) method, you will see

that there are different chemicals in the leaf, each with its own colour. In fall, the green chlorophyll is the first colour to break down in the leaf, leaving time in the autumn for other chemicals in the leaf to show their colour. Each species of plant has different amounts of the differently coloured chemicals in the leaves.

Repeat this with the leaves of various trees. If you already know what colour their leaves change in the fall, compare this knowledge with the colours that turn up on your filter paper.

BE CAREFUL! RUBBING ALCOHOL IS POISONOUS!

THE SCREAMING CUP

You've never heard a sound quite like this coming out of an ordinary cup!

It's the perfect sound effect to carry door-to-door on your Trick-or-Treat adventure.

Materials-

Large plastic cup

60 cm of string

Water

Violin rosin (optional)

- Start by poking a hole in the bottom of the cup just large enough to thread the piece of string.
- Thread the string through the hole and tie a knot or two at the end of the string to hold the string in place.
- Wet the string—or coat with violin rosin.
- Holding the cup in one hand, pinch the string between your thumb and forefinger. Squeeze tight on the string as you slide your thumb and forefinger down the string. With practice and a little patience, the string will "stick and slide" between

your fingers causing a "screaming" sound. Oh, you'll know when you've got it down to a science!

HOW IT WORKS

Sound is transmitted through the air by vibrations. As your fingers slide across the string, vibrations occur in the string's. The vibrations caused by "stick and slide" cause the cup to vibrate, with results in the amplification of sound. In other words, the cup produces and incredibly eerie scream! Try different shaped cups-does it make a difference?

For all of your science questions or needs,
contact **Praxis** :
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e: mhpraxis@telusplanet.net
w: <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/>

