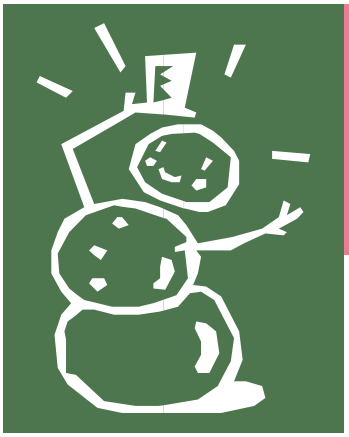

Praxis Newsletter

December 2007

Praxis Science and Technology Hotline

Upcoming Events

Operation Minerva

A reminder to all schools with grade nine girls that Operation Minerva is coming up. Registration packages were sent out at the beginning of November and are due back to us by December 14th. Please get them in on time. The conference is January 30, 2008. If your school didn't receive any packages and you feel like you have girls that would benefit from it, please call Praxis @ (403) 527-5365.

Regional Science Fair

A reminder that the regional science fair is coming up quickly. This year the science fair will be held on Saturday March 1, 2008 at Medicine Hat College. Registration forms have been sent out if you have not received the form and would like one, please call Praxis.

Learning Opportunities

Learning Kits

Don't forget to book any learning kits that you may want to use in the new year. We still have openings, but book early to avoid being disappointed. We have over 20 different kits available. And don't forget our seasonal kits for **Christmas**, Easter, Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Guest Speakers

If you want to have an "expert" come in and talk to your class about what they are learning in science, call us, we have a large database of volunteers. We have "experts" on light and shadows, alternative energy forms, nurses, flight and air and aerodynamics, and engineering just to name a few.

If you know of anyone that would be interesting in becoming a Praxis volunteer please have them contact Erin or Darcee at the Praxis office.

Winter Quiz

1. How many times does the sun rise and set in the artic in a year? A. 0 b. 1 c. 2 d. 12
2. What is "hoar"? A. a type of frost formed by flat frozen crystals b. the sound ice makes when it is shifting c. a type of icicle d. an Inuit name for a snowstorm
3. Which of the following conditions would help sound travel further and sound clearer? a. just before it snows b. when the snow is fresh and fluffy c. when the snow is actually falling d. when the snow surface becomes smooth and hard from time or strong winds
4. What ratio of people buried in avalanches survive? A. 1/2 b. 1/4 c. 1/20 d. 1/70
5. On what side of the building do icicles most often form? A. south b. north c. west d. east
6. What percentage of fresh snow is composed of air? A. 30% b. 50% c. 80% d. 90%
7. What is the world record for the most snowfall in a 24-hour period? a. 30 inches in Prince George, BC. b. 54 inches in Waterville, Maine c. 76 inches in Silver Lake, Colorado d. 110 inches in Rimouski, Quebec
8. The largest iceberg ever recorded worldwide was 207 miles long and 62 miles wide. Where was it found? A. off the coast of Greenland b. in the Arctic c. in the Antarctica d. off the coast of Baffin Island

Praxis Science and Technology Hotline

Super Strong Ice

Did you know that water expands as it freezes? It is stronger than you think, read on to find out.

Materials:

Glass jar (a baby food jar works well)

Plastic bag

Water

Freezer

Procedure:

1. Fill the jar with water all the way to the top and put the lid on tightly
2. Place the jar in the plastic bag and seal the bag
3. Set the container in the freezer over night (if you have a larger container it might take longer)
4. Check the jar the next day.
5. Observe what has happened?

Explanation:

You should see that the jar has broken. As water freezes it expands. Because the lid was on the jar tightly and the jar was filled up to the top the expanding water had no where to go. This is why the jar broke. As the water froze and expanded it needed somewhere to go, so it pushed on the sides of the jar until the jar finally broke.

Have a great holiday season everyone and we will see you in 2008!

Grow a pretty crystal for the holidays

Materials:

250 mL water, small empty jar, 3 tablespoons alum, plastic wrap

Procedure:

1. Boil the water and then fill the jar approximately 3/4 full.
2. Dissolve the alum in the water, don't worry if it doesn't all dissolve, you are making a supersaturated solution. Loosely cover with plastic wrap.
3. Check every day but be patient it may take a few days to see everything. After a few days you will start to see a crystal forming. Leave the crystal form for a week or two and you will get a nice big crystal for the holidays.

Explanation:

The crystals are formed by dissolving enough alum in the water to make a saturated solution. The cooled solution allows the alum molecules to build on own another and form different shaped crystals.

For all of your Science needs contact us

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Quiz Answers:

1. B 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. A 6. C 7. C 8. B

Quiz source: www.queendom.com/tests

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