Praxis

March 2007
Newsletter

Just a reminder:

BASIC HIGH SCHOOL DROP-IN

Attention junior high and senior high school students and parents! Medicine Hat College can help students who want to improve their grades. Get homework help from qualified teachers at Medicine Hat College in these core subjects:

MATH
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
SOCIAL STUDIES
SCIENCE/CHEMISTRY/BIOLOGY/PHYSICS
STUDY SKILLS

Date: Mondays and Wednesdays
Time: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Place: Room B307, located on the 3rd floor of the library building

This valuable service is offered **free of charge**.

For more information contact:
Nikki Stadnyk
Tel: 502-8431
Email: nstadnyk@mhc.ab.ca

Science Reporter Submissions Needed

Praxis – The Science & Technology Hotline and the Medicine Hat NEWS are proud to be able to present a brand new contest for the remainder of the 2007 school year. All Junior and Senior High Students in Medicine Hat and surrounding area are invited to try their hand at being a Science Reporter for a day. Student submissions can be in the form of a written essay, report or a pod cast. Let's get creative! The submission should be done to inform, explain, teach or express an opinion about an issue in the field of science and technology. When researching and writing your submission, think about the impact it may have on society, the environment or even yourself. If possible, your submission should also emphasize your topic's importance or connection to Canada, Alberta, and southeastern Alberta in particular. Suggestions for topics can be viewed on the Praxis website: www.praxismh.ca.

1. Suggested Length

Written submissions:

- Are to be a maximum of 350 words in length, typed and preferably submitted in electronic format (on disk or e-mail). A list of all references and resources must also be provided.

Podcasts (audio programme suitable for web posting):

- Should not exceed 10 minutes in length.
- Must include "show notes".
- Can be in the form of an interview, mini radio show or an informative piece.
- There must be evidence of research.

Submissions should also include a contact phone number, school currently attending and mailing address.

2. Deadline(s)

Submissions will be accepted throughout the remainder of the 2007 school year. All submissions must be received no later than May 31, 2007 to be considered. Enter as often as you wish, but winning submissions will be limited to two per person for the year.

3. Judging criteria:

Submissions will be selected for publication based on the following criteria

- accuracy of information presented
- originality/creativity
- spelling, structure, grammar etc.
- judges' decisions will be final

Please note: All submissions must meet a minimum criteria for publication in the Medicine Hat NEWS.

4. Awards

Your efforts will not go without fame and fortune…

- The winning submission(s) will be published in the youth section of the Saturday edition of the Medicine Hat NEWS. The winning podcasts will also be published through a link on the Praxis website @ www.praxismh.ca.
- Each published submission will receive a $100 prize. A maximum of 20 submissions will be published this academic year.
- At the end of the academic year, all winning submissions have a chance to win a grand prize of an Apple iPod. One iPod will be awarded to a Junior High student and one iPod at the Senior High level.

The grand prize winner's science teacher will receive a $200 science gift certificate for use in their classroom.*

Fieldtrip Opportunities

It is that time of year once again—time for a fieldtrip. If you need assistance planning or ideas on where to go, please call and ask for assistance. Praxis has access and information about places you would have never even imagined existed in Medicine Hat! Some ideas for the Elementary School Teachers Include:

Telus World of Science

Creative Kids Museum. Telus World of Science is a great facility to visit, for Science enrichments, but they also have programs and exhibits that are linked to other areas of the Alberta Learning Curriculum. There are choices from ECS to grade 6. You can do one fieldtrip and include not only science, but social studies, drama and even math. For more info call Praxis today.

St. Patrick's Day Carnations

Materials

white carnations

RIT dye (green)

water

glass

stirring rod

scissors

vase (jar)

sugar

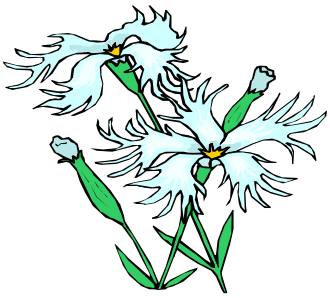
teaspoon

Procedure

1. Mix the dye according to instructions (or until you have a very dark solution).
2. Fill the vase with the dyed water.
3. Measure one teaspoon of sugar.
4. Add the sugar to the coloured water and stir well.
5. Cut one centimeter off of the stem of the carnation.
6. Place the carnation in the water.
7. Be patient, it may take several hours before you see any results.

What is going on?

As you may already know, plants obtain their water and nutrients through their roots in the ground. The water travels up the stem into the main part of the flower and then to the leaves and petals. When you cut the flower, it is not longer to absorb water through its roots, but it can absorb through its stem. The petals of the flower turn green because of the coloured water the flower is absorbing.



Electric Potato

Is it possible to produce electricity with a potato?

Material

copper strip

zinc strip

two wires

galvanometer/multimeter

light bulb (optional)

potato

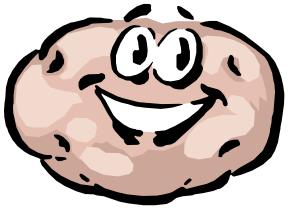
assortment of various other fruits and vegetables (optional)

Procedure

1. Insert the copper and zinc strips vertically into the lemon approximately two centimeters apart. These are now the electrodes.
2. Connect one wire to each electrode.
3. Connect one wire to the bulb holder or galvanometer (whichever you are using).
4. Get ready to touch the other side of the bulb with the remaining wire. Pay close attention!
5. Do not worry, the current is so weak, you will not get electrocuted.

What is going on?

Current electricity is a flow of electrons through a completed circuit of conductors. The source of the electron flow in this case is the combination of copper and zinc strips in the potato. Zinc has more of a tendency to loose electrons compared to copper, and thus connected through the wires and light bulb, the electrons flow from the zinc to the copper strip.



Have some fun experimenting with potatoes on St. Patrick's Day!

For all of your science questions or needs, contact Praxis :

p: (403) 527-5365

f: (403) 528-6570

e: praxis@praxismh.ca

w: www.praxismh.ca