



Science and Technology Hotline

June 2008 Newsletter

Canada Wide Science Fair

Congratulations to the four girls from Medicine Hat who attended the Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa May 10—18. The girls and their chaperones had a great time. The girls who went were Coralie Sheane (CHHS), Alyssa Hickey (CAPE), and Rachel Brown and Katie Van der Sloot (St. Mary's). Their chaperones were Annette Graf (St. Louis) and Peggy O'Sullivan (MHC)

Their projects faired well in Ottawa with Rachel and Katie came back with the Gold Medal in Junior Life Sciences, great job ladies!

Board members

We are looking for people who want to help promote science in southeastern Alberta to join the Praxis board. If you or anyone you know might be interested please call Erin at Praxis at 527-5365 for more information

Summer Time Fun

Festivals

Praxis will be out this month at some the festivals so come by and check us out. We will have booths set up at:

Spectrum

May 31 and June 1
(Downtown, Medicine Hat)

Bow Island Children's Festival

June 15
(Centennial Park,
Bow Island)

Canada Day Celebrations

July 1
(Kin Coulee, Medicine Hat)

Summer Science Camps

Once again this summer Praxis is working with the Medicine Hat College to offer 15 summer science camps for kids. We will be offering the following camps:

Camp CSI (Ages 9+)

July 7-11 & August 11-15

Both camps run 9am - 12 pm

Robolab (Ages 10+)

July 7-11 & Aug 11-15

Both camps run 1pm - 4pm

Blast Off! (Ages 7+)

July 7-11 & August 11-15

Both camps run 1pm - 4pm

Bug's Life (Ages 5-6)

July 14-18 & August 11-15

Both camps run 9am - 12 pm

Gross Out Science (Ages 8+)

July 14-18 & August 11-15

Both camps run 1pm - 4pm

Land Before Time (Ages 5-6)

July 21-25: 9am - 12pm

August 5-8: 1pm - 4pm

Scien'TWISTS (Ages 6-8)

July 28-Aug 1: 9am - 12pm

August 5-8 & August 18-22

Both these camps run 1-4pm

Planning for Next Year

I am sure that most of us aren't ready to think about next year yet, this year isn't even over yet, but when you do start planning keep us in mind. We will start taking requests for all the hands on learning kits and other recourses that we have this month. I will be in the office all summer as well so you can book any time. Make sure that you book early to get what you want when you

want it, and to avoid disappointment. Don't forget about all the **new materials** we have in now, lots of them can be used for senior high courses.

Book in one of three ways:

1. Call the office 527-5365
2. Email us
praxis@praxismh.ca
3. Off the website
www.praxismh.ca

We will be sending out back to school packages at the end of August, watch your school mailboxes for them.



Get help with your Science Curriculum for next year



Warning

These experiments deal with flames and fire so please be careful!

Fruity Flames

Materials:

- Candle
- Candle holder
- Orange peels

Procedure:

1. Put your candle in a holder so that it won't fall over.
2. Peel your fruit, if you can get some bigger

pieces of peel they work better

3. Light your candle
4. Hold the peel so that the outside of it is close to the flame and squeeze it. You should get some interesting bursts of flame

Explanation:

Oranges have glands in their

peels that contain oil of orange. This oil is what gives the fruit its scent, and has many uses. When you bend the peel you release the oil and squirt it into the flame, giving you a nice flash.

You can also use grapefruit or lemon peels as they both have oils in them that will create nice flashes.

Oxygen

Materials:

- Wooden skewer
- Glass
- 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
- Yeast

Procedure:

1. Fill the glass about half full with some hydrogen peroxide
2. Stir in some yeast

3. Light the skewer and let it burn for a few seconds
4. Gently blow out the skewer then quickly lower the glowing end towards the large bubbles in the glass. Your skewer should burst into flame again.

Explanation:

Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂)

is essentially water with an extra oxygen molecule in it. The yeast contains the enzyme catalase which reacts with the hydrogen peroxide to release the extra oxygen. The bubbles on the top of the glass are oxygen so when you bring the skewer close to them the extra oxygen causes the skewer to catch fire and burn again.

Relight those Candles

Materials:

- Birthday candles or other small candles that can be set close together
- Cake or something that can hold candles close together
- Lighter or matches

Procedure:

1. Place the candles close together in the cake or holder
2. Light the candles and let them burn for a little bit

3. Blow the candles out, when you do you will notice a cloud of white smoke above them
4. Place your lighter or match in the cloud and watch, it should relight the candles.

Explanation:

When you blow out the candles you got a white cloud of smoke which is different than the black smoke that you see when the candle is burning. The white smoke has unburned vapor in it from the wax. The melted

wax is so hot that it has formed a flammable gas, that normally burns to make your flame, when you blow out the candle the vapor is no longer hot enough to catch fire, so it rises above the candles. The white smoke containing this vapor is extremely flammable, when you bring the lit lighter into the smoke it burns and if the wax and wick are still hot enough they will relight.

Experiments adapted from www.krampf.com

Have a great summer everyone, we will see you in September!

For all of your science needs contact Praxis

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