



March 2008

Newsletter

Teacher's Convention

- Thank you to those of you who stopped by the Praxis Booth at the Teacher's Convention February 21 and 22. It was nice to see some friendly faces, meet people that use the learning kits regularly and to meet some new people who hopefully will use our services now.
- As well thank you to those who attended the Science Fair session put on by Praxis and the Regional Science Fair.

33rd Annual Kiwanis Regional Science Fair

- This year's fair at the Medicine Hat College was a huge success with 138 projects and 216 students registered from 15 different schools in and around Medicine Hat.
- Watch for an announcement in next month's newsletter to see who will be going to the Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa May 10—18 to represent Medicine Hat.

Learning Opportunities

Field Trips:

With winter almost over (we hope:)) why not start to look for places to take your students to help them learn and have hands on activities for some interesting places to visit check out the following:

Calgary Science Center

Lots of hands of stuff for the kids to try and do. Check out www.calgaryscience.ca for more information

Calgary Zoo

Another great place to take students to show them about animals, the zoo has just opened a brand new ray exhibit. www.calgaryzoo.org has prices and hours.

Royal Tyrell Museum (Drumheller)

If your class likes dinosaurs this is the

place to go!

With this great place just a couple of

hours away it would be a shame to miss out on all they

have to offer. Visit

www.tyrellmuseum.com for more information.

Medicine Hat Interpretive Center

Located in Police Point park, you don't have to go very far

to have a great experience learning about the outdoors natureline.info has more information or call Praxis.

Sunridge Observatory

You don't have to go very far to learn about the stars, just a short drive down Highway 3. To make it even better the big telescope is fixed! Contact Praxis if you want more information.



Load the bus, we're going on a field trip!

Learning Kits:

We still have learning kits available for the last few months of school. Don't forget about our new Senses and Trees & Forests Kits or the seasonal Easter kit.

APEGGA Teacher Awards

Do you know an amazing Math or Science Teacher in Alberta, who makes school fun and exciting, if so APEGGA wants to hear from you. They are currently taking nominations for their annual teacher awards. Deadline for nominations is

March 31. Anyone can nominate a teacher, students, parents, staff, other teachers, school principals. Group nominations are also strongly encouraged.

There will be 14 awards given out and the winners each receive \$2000 to use towards

professional development, school equipment, teaching resources, or anything else that will help them out in the classroom.

For more information contact Praxis or check out the APEGGA website at www.pegga.com.

Come here Dime

Materials:

- Clear drinking glass
- 4 quarters
- 1 dime
- Table with a tablecloth on it

Procedure

1. Stack the quarters into two stacks of two and put them in the table, a little bit closer together than the width of your glass
2. Place the dime in between the stacks of quarters
3. Put the glass on the quarters upside down so that the rim of the glass

rests on the stacked quarters

4. Try to get the Dime out from under the glass without picking up the glass and moving it, you can only use what is on the table.

Solution:

To get the dime out, scratch the tablecloth close to the edge of the glass and keep scratching until the dime is out.

Explanation:

As you scratch the table cloth you pull it towards you, this moves the coin towards you. When you lift your finger the cloth quickly snaps back but

the coin doesn't go with it because of inertia. Inertia causes the coin to resist the quick movement of the cloth under it. With each slow scratch the coin moves a little bit closer to you and is left in place by the fast snap of the cloth back into its original place.



Have fun with coins this month.

For all of your Science needs contact Praxis:

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Web: www.praxismh.ca

Happy Easter to everyone, have a great Easter break this month. See you in April!

Through the Hole

Materials:

- Piece of paper
- 2 coins (1 small and 1 big)
- Pencil
- Scissors

Procedure:

1. Place the smaller coin in the middle of the paper and trace around it with the pencil
2. Carefully cut out the

circle

3. Try to get the big coin through the hole without tearing the hole and making it bigger.

Solution:

Fold the paper in half and put the coin in the paper so that it is sticking out of the hole. Grab the two folded edges of the paper and gently pull them apart, the coin will slide through the enlarged hole.

Explanation:

When you pull the paper gently you are changing the shape of the hole and making it into an oval shape that the bigger coin can fit through. To see this effect in a different way use an elastic and pull it in different ways.



Bumping Coins

Materials:

- 6 coins (all the same)
- Flat smooth surface

Procedure:

1. Line 5 of the coins up in a straight line
2. Slide the 6th coin across the surface so that it hits the first coin and watch what happens.
3. Now try lining up 4 coins and sliding 2 coins into the line, watch what happens.

4. Keep going moving more coins into the sliding pile and less into the lined up coins. Watch what happens each time.
5. It will take practice to get the coins to hit directly on and you want just be patient while you practice.

Explanation:

When you slide 1 coin into the line up the last coin should move away, you had enough energy to be moving 1 coin, so 1 coin bumps away. When you slide 2 coins into the pile, you

had enough energy to move 2 coins, so 2 coins will bump away from the line up. Same as when you slide 3 coins. The surprise happens when you slide 4 coins, 4 coins should have bumped away. But it does make sense, you had enough energy for 4 coins to be moving, so it makes sense that 4 coins will bump away, even though only 2 of them were part of the original line up.

Don't forget you can always get a copy of our newsletter off of our website.

Founding Member of:

