



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

Upcoming Activities

Workshop

Groundhog Day

On February 2, we all wait to see what the groundhog will predict, and early spring or 6 more weeks of winter, but can the groundhog really predict this.

- The tradition started in Germany, where farmers would watch the badgers come out of their holes from winter hibernation, if it was sunny the badger would see his shadow and be scared, ducking back into his hole for another 6 week nap. If it was cloudy out the badger would stay out knowing that spring was on its way. When the German farmers emigrated to the US they brought this celebration with them, but there were no badgers so they substituted groundhogs.
- Over a 60 year period that was looked at the groundhog only correctly predicted the weather 28% of the time. However Canada's own Warton Willie is said to have a 90% success rate during his 40 year career

Teacher's Convention

Teacher's Convention is fast approaching, Praxis will once again have a booth set up so come and find us. We will also be giving a presentation to cover two aspects on Friday at the Convention, during our presentation will be giving an over view of what Praxis is exactly and then we want your input we want to set up a round table discussion and find out what you want from us especially if you have certain areas that you need more help in with your science curriculum come we want to hear about it. We are here to help make science fun for you and your students!

Science Fair

There was an error last month in our newsletter the Regional Science Fair is on **Saturday March 21st not Saturday March 1st**. Sorry for any confusion. All schools should have received and email or a fax with information about the online registration process for the science fair, if you have not received this information and would like it please call Praxis at 403-527-5365 or email praxis@praxismh.ca and we will get the information out to you. Please don't wait as registration is only open until March 7th and no late registrations will be accepted.

Waterlution

Water Workshop

This workshop runs March 6-8 in Kananaskis is meant to engage educators in dialogue surrounding current water issues and education in Western Canada. Registration is \$40 and accommodations are provided. The workshops starts Friday at 6:30 and goes until Sunday with lots of speakers and field tours to enhance the experience. For more information contact Praxis.



Win Some Money for your School

WHERE Challenge

We told you about the where challenge before, and the February 28th deadline is fast approaching. Students between 10 and 14 are encouraged to participate, and create a story (in one of many acceptable forms) about a favorite object of theirs and identify at least one non-renewable resource used to

make it and WHERE on Earth the resources come from. For more information contact Praxis.

APEGGA Science Teacher Awards

Do you know a teacher who makes science fun and interesting for their students, then nominate them for the APEGGA Science Teacher

Award. Nominations for the awards are now being accepted, deadline is March 31. Nominations can be made by students, parents or colleagues. Nomination forms are available on the APEGGA website or from Praxis. The winning teachers win \$2000 for their school to put towards supplies. Help get a Medicine Hat teacher nominated this year.