



January Newsletter

JANUARY 2009

Welcome Back!

We hope that everyone had a nice holiday. We know the two weeks sure helped to relax and rejuvenate us, as it likely did everyone else, now it's time to get back into the swing of things. We have some great stuff coming up and some new materials we are still adding to the learning kits. To remind everyone of the hands on learning kits that we have available to loan out to all the schools we are including our brochures in with this newsletter please look through them, we still have some great kits available during the year.



New Material

- We have just expanded our Astronomy Kit to include some **French** material.
- We have also added some other great new materials to a couple of other kits

Upcoming Events

Operation Minerva

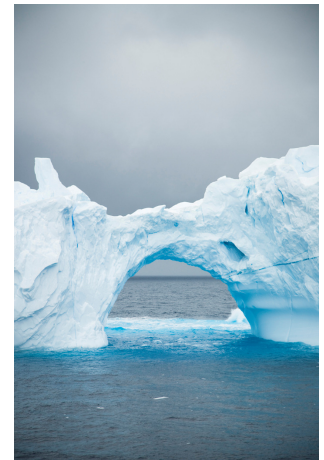
Medicine Hat High School will be over whelmed with Grade 9 girls Thursday January 22, as roughly 40 grade 9 girls will attend the 17th Annual Operation Minerva Conference. There morning will be spent out in the community with female professionals in a math, science or technology career and the their afternoon will be filled with great hands on workshops.

Robotics Club

If you missed out on the first Robotics Club in November and December, here is your chance to join again. The winter session of the Robotics Club will be held from January 12 to February 9th at Medicine Hat High School. For more information please see the posters that were sent to your school in December, or that are included with this newsletter, or call Praxis at 403-527-5365

Regional Science Fair

The Regional Science Fair will be held on Saturday March 1st. Please watch your schools mail for information from the science fair committee about what should be included in a science fair project, what should be displayed on a backboard, and online registration which opens on February 1. Registration for the science fair closes on Monday March 2, please remember no late registrations will be accepted.



Cybermentor

- Online mentoring program for girls age 11– 18.
- New website and **secure** online database and forums for girls to comminute with mentor using
- Official launch of the new site January 23, 2009
- For more information check out www.cybermentor.ca or contact Praxis, we have some brochure in the office that we can send out to anyone wanting to look through them.

Junior and Senior High School Workshops

Praxis is looking at getting the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research to come to Medicine Hat, in the next couple of months to run a day or two of workshops for students. The workshops are hands on and cover material from the cell to DNA to

Epidemiology and blood typing. For more information or if you are interested in having AHFMR do a workshop or two at your school contact Praxis at 403-527-5365. Some of the AHFMR volunteers will also be at Operation Minerva Thursday

January 22 and will be running one of their workshops for teachers in the morning at Medicine Hat High School and they will be able to give you some great information. Please let us know if you would like to come to this.

Sticky Situation

Investigate the stickiness of different types of tape

Materials:

- Different types of tape, some examples are:
 - * Scotch tape
 - * Packing tape
 - * Electrical tape
 - * Duct tape
 - * Masking tape
 - * Double sided tape
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Rocks
- Coins (all the same)
- Stopwatch (optional)
- Table

- Science Notebook

Procedure:

1. Think about what you are going to investigate with this experiment, and write down your problem in your notebook.
2. Think about what is going to happen and write down your hypothesis.
3. You need to control your variables in the experiment so you need to cut 10 cm of each tape that you want to test.
4. Attach one end of the tape to the edge of the table, so that the tape hangs down.
5. Stick a coin to the lose
6. Watch to see which piece of tape is the weakest and falls of first. Or you can time it. Keep track of your findings in your notebook.
7. Repeat the experiment with heavier of lighter objects.
8. Which tape was the strongest? The weakest?
9. Explain your results in your notebook so that others can try the experiment too and know what to expect. Write down anything else you think might affect the results.
10. The key to any good experiment is repetition,

With the Regional Science Fair coming up in just a couple of months I thought that I would put a couple of experiments in the newsletter that will help to explain the Scientific Method to your students.

The five steps to the Scientific Method:

1. Ask a question
2. Gather information about the question
3. Form a hypothesis
4. Test the hypothesis
5. Tell others what you have found.

Use the scientific method to find out what happens to a sponge as it dries out.

Materials:

- Sponge
- Glass of water
- Meter stick (or a broom stick)
- String
- Tape
- Pencil
- 2 Chairs
- Towel
- Science notebook

Investigate

Procedure:

1. Write down what you think will happen to the sponge as it dries, this is your hypothesis.
2. Rest the meter stick in between the two chairs
3. Tie a piece of string around the middle of the meter stick so that it hangs down
4. Put the towel on the floor under the meter stick
5. Tie the sponge to the lose end of the string
6. Wet the sponge in the glass of water
7. Let the sponge hang to dry.
8. Check on the sponge every couple of hours and write down your observations, it may take a day or two for the sponge to be completely dry.
9. You may want to draw a diagram of your set-up so that people know exactly how you set it up, if they want to try it too.

For all of your science needs contact Praxis:

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