

April 2010

New to Praxis!

Let me introduce myself!

My name is Alannah Maurer and I'm the new Regional Executive Director of Praxis.

I was born and raised in Medicine Hat. I graduated from Medicine Hat High School and attended Medicine Hat College. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Calgary in Kinesiology, majoring in exercise and health physiology. For those of you that might not know what kinesiology is: the word means the science of anatomy, physiology and mechanics as they relate to human movement.

That meant that I spent half my time in science class and the other half of my time playing sports! While I was attending Medicine Hat College I had a great time working with kids as I ran various sport camps during the summer.

I then completed my PhD in Nutrition, Metabolism and Genetics, also at the University of Calgary.

I love science and I love Medicine Hat so I'm excited to be here in this position with Praxis.

Please contact me at anytime at alannah.maurer@praxismh.ca or at 403-527-5365.

Education Week

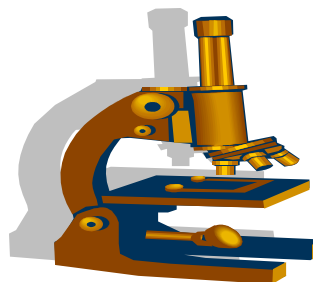
April 25–May 1

"Education: The Heart of Our Communities"

Teachers: do you need new ideas or help planning activities for education week?

Give us a call at 403-527-5365

Or check out our learning kits at www.praxismh.ca



Southeastern Alberta Regional Science Fair

The Southeastern Alberta Regional Science Fair was a great success again this year!

All the students did a wonderful job preparing and presenting their projects.

Congratulations to those students invited to compete at the National Science Fair in Peterborough, ON!

Grade 7 & 8 Individual—Gwen Ough—Notre Dame Academy—"Rock On"

Grade 9 & 10 Individual—Trevor Henders—CHHS—"The Modulation Complication—LED vs Incandescent"

Grade 9 & 10 Pairs—Rachael Brown and Katie van der Sloot—"Climate Change: Fact or Fiction?"

A special thanks to all the judges and volunteers who helped to make this such an amazing day!



Interesting websites:

WORMS!!!! Everyone loves worms!

Worms are vital to healthy soil ecosystems. This site provides a virtual worm tour.

http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/wormwatch/virtual_wom/index.html

April Showers Bring May Flowers!

Now that spring is here and the snow is gone (hopefully!) it might be time for some rain showers.

What exactly is rain?

Rain is water that falls in drops from water vapour that has cooled and condensed in the atmosphere.

One of the reasons why rain falls is that a water droplet becomes too heavy to remain in a cloud and begins to fall.

As this droplet falls, smaller droplets are drawn toward it. This is due to the partial vacuum that forms in a drops' wake.

A droplet will collide with other droplets and grow in size as it falls.

Did you know: the wettest day in Canada was October 6, 1967, when 489.2 mm fell in 24 hours on Ucluelet Brynnoir Mines in BC.

So even if rain keeps you inside sometimes, remember: soon we'll have lots of beautiful flowers!

Source: Weather: Essential facts about Earth's weather.



AWQA (Alberta Water Quality Awareness)



Did you know that we can provide you with Alberta Water Quality Awareness test kits!

These kits allow you to test four basic water quality characteristics: water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH and turbidity. These characteristics provide a general indication of the health of a waterbody.

Give us a call at Praxis at 403-527-5365 to learn more!

Tricks to try at home during the holidays! (using science of course!)

Double Your Money!

MATERIALS

Clear plastic cups
Water
Coins

PROCEDURE

1. Pour 2 cm of water into a clear plastic cup and drop 1 coin into the water.
2. Look at the cup from the side. How many coins do you see? (you should see 1)
3. Now hold the cup about 5 cm above your eye level. Now how many coins do you see? (you should see 2)
4. Try this trick with different kinds and numbers of coins

SCIENCE EXPLANATION

When light hits a mirror or other shiny surface, much of the light is reflected back. Light is also reflected when the medium it is traveling in suddenly changes. Light that is traveling through air will reflect off the surface of water. In this experiment, light that was traveling through water will be reflected at the water-air surface. As a result, the light is then reflected back into the water.



**For all your science needs
contact Praxis**

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Don't forget you can always get an extra copy of the newsletter off our website, or we can email you the newsletter electronically.