



Praxis: The Science and Technology Hotline



"Education is not filling a bucket, but the lighting a fire" W.B. Yeats

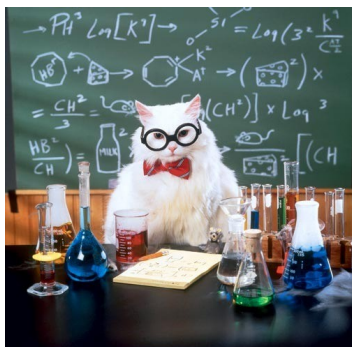
Living Scientist of the Month:

- Brother Guy Consolmagno
- B. Sept. 19, 1952
- Famous research astronomer and planetary scientist
- Graduated from MIT, Ph.D. from University of Arizona.
- Professor at Harvard College Observatory, MIT and Assistant Professor at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.
- Curator of the Vatican Meteorite collection at the Vatican Observatory.
- Largely contributed to the understanding of the connection between meteorites and asteroids.
- He has over 40 refereed scientific papers and has co-authored several books on astronomy for the popular market
- He believes in the need for science and religion to work alongside one another rather than as competing ideologies.
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Consolmagno

Back to School Edition

Welcome back to an exciting new school year!

We have had a couple changes in the Praxis office this summer. My name is Lorne Cooper and I am the newly appointed Regional Executive Director of Praxis. Joining me is Linda Davidchuk, Assistant Regional Executive Director.



I started my teaching career at Alexandra Junior High in 1975 and Linda started in 1977. We both retired from Alexandra Middle School in June 2010. At the time I was Principal and Linda was First Vice-Principal.

We are looking forward to helping young people discover the joy in science education. If you require any science resources, please contact our office at **403-527-5365**, praxis@praxismh.ca, follow us on Twitter @PraxisMedHat or "like" us on Facebook at PraxisMedHat. We would be pleased to help out.

For anyone that isn't sure what

Praxis can offer you and your class, here are just a few of the things we can do:

- Hands-on, curriculum-based learning kits.
- Subject area specialists.
- Job shadowing.
- Yearly science conferences for grade 9 students.
- Science Fair advice.

Please contact our office or check our website (www.praxismh.ca) to book these resources. They do fill up quickly, so book early. And remember, all of these services are completely **free of charge!**

Upcoming Events

- Sept 11 Heritage Trees hosted by the Nature Centre meet in Hargrave Park 3:00 pm
- Sept 14 Special Geocaching Event hosted by Nature Centre, Police Point Park
- Sept 24: Star Party Sunridge Observatory 4:30 pm until late
- Sept 25 Fall Festival in the Park, Police Point 10:00 am—4:00 pm
- Oct 14– 23: Science and Technology Week "Curiosity to Understanding: Past, Present and Future"
- Oct 15 Family Science Olympics

Have you thought about Science Fair??

Although Science Fair isn't until March, 2012, I thought I'd take this opportunity to get you thinking about this special event.

Science Fair can be a lot of work, but the rewards of it are amazing! Students learn not only the scientific process and scientific report writing, but also perseverance, presentation and critical thinking skills. Since students have such a wide variety of interest, it may be difficult to work Science Fair into the curriculum, so

consider starting a Science Fair Club in your school? One or two lunch periods a month is all it takes to ignite the Science Fair bug in students.

Science Fair participants can earn prizes at the regional level as well as on a national level. Every year students from Medicine Hat travel to the Canada Wide Science Fair. In 2008, a project from Medicine Hat took the gold medal at Nationals. This past July Rachel Brown and Katie van der

Sloot travelled to the World Science Fair in Slovakia.



<http://www.medicinehatnews.com/local-news/front-page-brown-van-der-sloot-making-waves-070302011.html>

The Amazing Paper Ball



Materials:



hold in one hand.)

Directions:

1. Roll up a piece of paper into a small ball that will fit easily into the small opening of the drink bottle.
2. Hold the plastic bottle so that it is horizontal and rest the ball of paper just inside the neck/opening of the plastic bottle.

- A piece of paper
 - A plastic drinking bottle (any size but make sure it is a clean and dry recycled plastic bottle that is easy to hold in one hand.)
3. Hold the bottle with the ball up close to your mouth and blow into the opening.
 4. Try it again and again. Did the ball of paper blown into the bottle?

Explanation:

The air that you blew into the bottle hits the back or bottom of the bottle and bounces back out of the opening of the bottle, forcing the paper ball to pop out of the bottle.

Expand:

Try this experiment with different sizes of openings (bottles) and different types of paper (tissue, tin foil, tracing paper) to see if you get different results.

<http://www.kids-science-experiments.com/>

Feature Learning Kit of the Month: Conserving our Environment

This kit combines the principles of the “Waste and Our World” binder with information and activities regarding renewable energy sources.

“Conserving our Environment” kit can help reiterate the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. It can also help explain how light intensity affects solar cells with a solar car race. Or describe the properties of wind power by building a windmill.

This kit can be perfectly integrated for use in the grade 4 science curriculum (Waste and Our World—Unit A), but can also be modified for Science 30 (Energy and the Environment). In the grade 9 electricity unit, this kit would describe sources of electricity as well as responsible energy development.

Please remember that Praxis will also endeavour to find subject area specialists to talk to your class. Likewise if you have had

someone in your class or you may have heard of a candidate for our volunteer pool we would be very interested in this information.



4th Annual WHERE Challenge

The WHERE Challenge asks students aged 9-14 to discover the answers to these questions: “What on Earth is in your stuff?” and “Where on Earth does it come from?” The Challenge runs until March 12, 2012 with \$10 000 in prize money. Students are encouraged to use their imagination and create an educational story about non-renewable Earth resources found in an everyday item. For more details, please visit: www.earthsciencescanada.com/where .



**For all your Science needs
contact Praxis**

Ph: 403-527-5365
Fax: 403-528-6570
praxis@praxismh.ca
www.praxismh.ca

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of the newsletter from our website, or we can
email you the newsletter directly.**

School address label