

News and Information

February 25, 2016

District Science Fair on March 1st and 2nd, 2016

Kelowna, B.C. –

Have you ever wondered about the secret lives of bacteria, how much DNA can fit into a cell, how gears work or what causes a tornado? These and many other questions will be answered at the District Science Fair on Tuesday, March 1st and Wednesday, March 2nd hosted in partnership with UBC Okanagan. A highlight of the year for inquisitive science students, the fair is an opportunity to impress the judges and possibly win a spot in the regional fair at KLO Middle School. From there, the top six students in British Columbia will travel to the national fair in Montreal, Quebec to compete for \$400,000 in prizes and scholarships.

Central Okanagan teachers Tobias Blaskovits, Wynter Oakes, Karla Lockwood, Pamela Horton, Agnes Gagliano, John Prescott, Amy Gunn, Larissa Addison, and Barbara Hofmann have worked alongside UBCO staff to organize the yearly District Science Fair. This year there will be over 150 projects on display and over 200 students in attendance. The event takes place at UBC Okanagan in the Engineering, Management and Education Building between 4 pm and 7 pm on Tuesday evening. The fair will be located in the EME Building and the Fipke Building from 9 am to 12 pm on Wednesday. Student learning will be showcased in two different categories: a non-competitive (kindergarten to grade 12) celebration and sharing of learning, and a competitive (grade 6-12) category with a chance to move on to the Regional Science Fair.

"Science Fair is such an amazing opportunity for students to use the process of inquiry to investigate the world around them, and to demonstrate to the community, their skills as 21st century learners," says Blaskovits. "Students of all grades can choose a topic that they are interested in, and test the boundaries of their knowledge. Students who have participated in the past, have not only been given the opportunity to travel, meet other young scientists and earn monetary benefits from scholarships and awards, but they have also found a passion for science and an understanding of what it means to be learners, thinkers, innovators, contributors and collaborators."

Participants in this year's fair will be treated to a wonderful university experience with science demonstrations, presentations, and hands-on activities to be provided by university students and faculty at UBCO on the second day of the fair. "UBC Okanagan is delighted to welcome the Central Okanagan School District and the District Science Fair back to campus," says Dr. Deborah Buszard, UBC Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Okanagan campus. "It is critically important for young students today to have a strong grasp of the fundamentals of science. I hope the District Science Fair will offer girls and boys a window into the endless possibilities of science and inspire them to pursue higher education at an outstanding research university like UBC. Congratulations to all the participants!"

Public visitors are welcome to explore the fair on Tuesday, March 1st between 4:30 pm -7:00 pm and on Wednesday, March 2nd between 9:00 am -12:00 pm. Please join us to celebrate our young scientists!

If you would like more details, or would like to be involved as a judge for our fair, please visit our website at: www.sd23sciencefair.com

Agenda

Tuesday, March 1st

Time	Activity
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Competitive students (Gr 6-12) set up their projects
4:00 pm	Students' meeting and judge's workshop
4:30 - 7:00 pm	Judging begins and science fair is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Pizza dinner is provided for students and judges

Wednesday, March 2nd

Time	Activity
8:30 am	Non-competitive and Competitive students arrive & set up
9:00 - 11:30 am	Non-competitive and Competitive students will take turns showcasing their projects to an audience of other students and community members. Science fair is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
12:00 pm	Wrap up of Science Fair

For comments, please contact:

Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education - 250-767-6153

Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO - 250-470-3256

Jon Rever, Director of Instruction K-12 - 250-470-3288

Tobias Blaskovits, Science Fair Coordinator, Hollywood Road Education Services, 250-860-9729