

Mount Sinai Elementary School
Mount Sinai, New York 11766

January 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians of Elementary School Students:

It is "Science Fair time!" As in the past, Elementary students will have an opportunity to display their talents at the 2017 Mount Sinai Elementary School Science Fair on Tuesday May 16th at 7:30 p.m. in the Elementary School cafetorium.

We have just received word that Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) will also be hosting an Elementary School Science Fair on Saturday May 6th. This would be an excellent opportunity to showcase some of Mount Sinai's best science minds and they have allowed Mount Sinai Elementary School to enter one project per grade level.

Attached you will find information sheets which will help the children prepare for one or both of the science fairs. Due to the fact that the BNL Science Fair is Suffolk County wide event, requirements are slightly different than those for the Mount Sinai Science Fair. Please note due dates for each Fair. Please return the bottom portion of this letter no later than **February 15, 2017**

Note: For those students who would like to participate in the Brookhaven National Lab Science Fair will receive additional information that will be sent home with that child.

Students participating in either science fair will be entered in a raffle to win science prizes, including a family membership to the new Long Island Science Center opening in Rocky Point!

Happy Experimenting!

Sincerely,

Mr. A. Matthews, Director of Math, Science and Technology
Ms. K. Conard, Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher
Mr. J. Costa, Elementary School AIS Mathematics Teacher



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Please check the appropriate box (below) to indicate which fair(s) you are interested in participating in.

Print Student Name: _____ Teacher _____ Grade: _____

_____ BNL Elementary Science Fair (project due date April 3, 2017)

_____ Mount Sinai Elementary Science Fair (project due date May 9, 2017)

_____ Both BNL and Mount Sinai Elementary Science Fairs (project due date April 3, 2017)

**General Outline for Participation in the
2017 Mount Sinai Elementary School Science Fair (MAY 16th)**

1. The Mount Sinai Elementary School Science Fair is open to all students in grades K-4.
2. All projects must be durable and safe. Moveable parts must be firmly attached. The school will **NOT** provide electrical outlets for electricity, running water, drainage, gas or compressed air. Live animals, dangerous chemicals, open flames and explosives may not be exhibited. Any project that is deemed to be unsafe or inhumane will **NOT** be displayed at the science fair.
3. Projects should demonstrate scientific investigation of a question/hypothesis. Please note it would be preferable if the investigation focused on an avenue of inquiry pertinent to the child. That is, demonstrations or models are not considered appropriate activities. **Tabletop projects** must be no longer than 12 inches deep (front to back) by 24 inches wide (side to side) and no higher than 3 ft. above the top surface of the table.

Please encourage your child to investigate the physical surroundings. Encourage them to keep journals detailing the discoveries they are making. The use of scientific tools such as hand lens, rulers, balance, gram weights thermometer, measuring cups and timepieces is encouraged. Some physical science topics that can be investigated are chemical and physical changes in states of matter. Explore how energy exists in various forms such as heat, electric, sound, mechanical and light. Natural cycle patterns of the stars, Earth or moon are also appropriate. Please contact your child's teacher regarding suitable topics. Children are encouraged to work in cooperative groups and with parental guidance.

4. Projects must include the following information:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| a) Purpose: | -What is the question/hypothesis you wish to answer? |
| b) Prediction: | -What did you think would happen before you did your project? |
| c) Procedure: | -What steps did you follow to do your experiment? |
| d) Results: | -What happened when you did your experiment? |
| e) Conclusion: | -What did you learn by doing the project?
Did you get the answers you expected?
What would you do differently next time? |

5. Projects may be the result of efforts of individual students or teams of students. Adult supervision is encouraged. However, **the projects must clearly reflect the student's own efforts.**
6. Any project having moving parts, must either run continuously or have a "start" mechanism which can easily be activated. All pieces that accompany a project must be clearly labeled with grade level and title of project.
7. No information that identifies the student(s) submitting the project may appear on the visible surfaces of the project (this includes photographs of the student(s) at work.) Be sure the following information is written on a label attached to the **BACK** of the project:

Student's Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Grade: _____

8. **DUE date for the Mount Sinai Fair is MAY 9, 2017**

Congratulations for participating in the
Elementary School Science Fair.

Comments are provided below to guide you further in the future.

SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT	Yes	No	N/A
Is the purpose/question/hypotheses stated on the display?			
Has the procedure used in developing and obtaining the solution of the results been explained?			
Is it easy to follow the sequence of the scientific method?			
Does the data logically support the conclusion?			
PRESENTATION			
Is the presentation clear, concise? (i.e. well organized, data easily understood)			
There is no information that identifies the student(s), including pictures.			
Is the presentation itself age/grade level appropriate?			
Is the work neatly written, correct spelling and neatly presented?			
CREATIVITY			
Does this project display originality?			
Does this project investigate an interesting question?			
THOROUGHNESS			
Was the investigation performed the appropriate number of times?			
Are materials listed specifying accurate amounts?			
Is there thought for what would be done differently if this experiment was performed again?			
Comments:			

