



November 2, 2009

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce that Great Oaks' fifth-graders will have the opportunity to participate in a science fair this school year.

Background Information

This science project can be considered an independent study assignment involving experimentation on a topic of individual or small group (2-3 students from the same class) interest. The science fair, which will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2010, will be the culmination of a science project that your child will start soon. The educational benefits for your child include a broader understanding of the scientific method and the development of written and oral presentations, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Students will receive a process grade for meeting various deadlines and a grade for the completed project. We are encouraging students to be creative when planning their project, thus it is not necessary to spend a lot of money in its completion. Projects will be judged according to the criteria listed on the attached page. Twenty of the projects from Great Oaks will advance to the Austin Area Science Fair, which will be held at Palmer Events Center exhibit area.

Requirements and Guidelines

Requirements and guidelines will be thoroughly discussed with students in class.

Your child will need a presentation board to display information. You can find them at teacher/parent supply stores, office supply stores, and sometimes at grocery or drug stores. Poster boards are not recommended because it is difficult to make them freestanding.

In the attached pages you will find:

- rules
- information about what should be included in the project
- student deadlines

Thank you for your time in reading this information and in supporting this project. Do not hesitate to call us if you have a question.

Sincerely,

The Fifth Grade Teachers

I have read the enclosed materials and understand the expectations for the Great Oaks Science Fair _____ (Parent Signature)

_____ (Student Name)