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***Science Fair***

Dear RES Parents and Guardians,

As you may have seen in this month’s newsletter, we are getting ready for this year’s Science Fair which will be held on Thursday, May 18. Grades 3 to 5 students will be presenting individual or small group projects. Because Science is not part of 5A’s curriculum, it is optional whether students in this class participate or not. All work will need to be done at home. If they choose to participate, their project should be based on one of the following topics: the properties of matter or simple machines.

Students should think of a testable question. For example, “Do airplanes fly?” is not a testable question because we know they do. “How do airplanes fly?” is also not a testable question. However, “If I change the wingspan of an airplane, will it affect the distance of the plane?” is a testable question because students could make a model and try different sizes of wings.

We will be evaluating students on their testable question, how they note their observations, and the conclusions they draw from their data. They will also be assessed on how well they present their project. Students in 5A will be working on their projects at home. The school will provide each student with a Bristol board with which to present their projects. Last, but not least, parents may be required to buy some material for their child’s experiment.

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Sincerely,

Grade 3-5 Teachers



The Scientific Process Method

A.    ***TITLE***: Choose a problem to investigate. Be sure it is something you can ask a question about and investigate through experimenting or observing. (Ex: The relation of seed size to plant size.)

B.    ***QUESTION***: State your problem in the form of a question. What do you want to find out? (Ex: Do bigger seeds make bigger plants?)

C.    ***HYPOTHESIS***: This is a guess of what you think will happen. (Ex: Bigger seeds will turn into bigger plants.)

D.    ***MATERIALS***: List the materials used during the project.

E.    ***PROCEDURE***: Write the step-by-step directions of what you will do.

F.    ***OBSERVATIONS***: Begin the experiment and observation. Gather as much information as possible. Record your observations and date each entry. This may be included on the display board or kept in a log.

G.    ***DATA***: Study the information gathered. Decide what it means. Choose a way to display and explain your findings- such as a table or graph.

H.     ***CONCLUSION***: Draw conclusions about your data. Compare your results with your hypothesis. Write a statement to tell if your data supports or rejects the hypothesis.

I.    ***Design and construct exhibit***: Standard White Display Boards will be provided for the students who wish to participate. Next page is the example of the board you should use.

