Another Science Fair Season Comes to an End

A 'Sweeping' Science Fair Success!
Team from Contra Costa County wins big with cancer treatment research

"Science fair" headlines over the last few weeks have been brimming with stories of K-12 students who successfully used the scientific method to ask a question, hypothesize an answer, and put it to the test with experimentation. With approximately 10 million students in North America tackling a science fair project each year, the flurry of results as the school year draws to a close has been exciting and inspiring. Top competitors wrapped up the science fair season with a flourish as their best-of-the-best projects were showcased at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

For Blake Marggраff and Matthew Feddersен (left in the photo), the Intel ISEF was a final stop on a domino chain of fairs that began with a "sweep" at the Contra Costa County Science and Engineering Fair (CCCSEF). They went on to the California State Science Fair (CSSF) and then took top honors (and more than $80,000) at the 2011 Intel ISEF for their research on an alternative and lower-cost cancer treatment protocol. Science Buddies is excited that Blake and Matthew will be interning with us this summer!

Do you have students who are interested in pursuing top competition next year? Our Advanced Project Guide can help them get started.

Local Science Fairs Seed the Future
Community support helps county fairs

Growing fairs like CCCSEF are vital for encouraging students to get involved in the science fair scene, and the success of such local fairs depends heavily on support from community sponsors and partners, many of which also contribute special awards. Chevron, a sponsor of Science Buddies’ resources and projects in the area of geology, is a sponsor of CCCSEF. For a recap of Chevron's special awards winners at CCCSEF, see "A CCCSEF Wrap-Up."

Engineering Design Process Guide
Exciting New Resource for Young Inventors

Students who have selected a project to work on and then struggled to "fit" it into the steps of the scientific method may find that their projects are more "engineering" than "science" in concept. Science Buddies’ new Engineering Design Process guide breaks an engineering design project into the following steps:

- Define the Problem
- Do Background Research
- Specify Requirements
- Create Alternative Solutions
- Choose the Best Solution

(Leonardo DaVinci kept numerous design notebooks.)

2010-2011 Outstanding Mentor Award

Congratulations to Nithin Tumma, a junior at Port Huron Northern High School in Port Huron, MI. Nithin won the Science Buddies Craig Sander Outstanding Mentor Award for his community service as an online mentor at Ask an Expert during the 2010-2011 season.
Do Development Work
  • Build a Prototype
  • Test and Redesign

These are the steps an engineer takes to first identify a problem or need and then create and develop a solution that solves the problem or meets the need. Engineering design projects are about creating solutions!

On the Blog

Summer Science
  • Do you know a student who got excited about science because of a summer camp experience? We are gathering stories about students who attended a summer program and left with a newfound interest in science. If you have a story to share, please email us.
  • Still making summer plans? Our Summer Science Camp Resource can help you find an exciting and enriching science-based summer program.

Quick Links
  • Project Ideas
  • Topic Selection Wizard
  • Project Guide
  • Scientific Method
  • Careers in Science
  • Ask an Expert Forums
  • My Science Buddies
  • How to Volunteer

Safer 'Surfing'

Make sure your family's online surfing this summer is as safe as possible. Our Internet Safety for Parents resources, sponsored by Symantec Corporation, encourage you to think about ways to make being online a safer experience for the whole family. Be sure to review the Internet Safety Guide and the Family Online Safety Guide. The Norton Online Family service helps you better understand your family's online activity and enables your family to collaborate on putting "house rules" in place. And, if your family plays online games, don't miss The Good News About Video Games.

(Nymantec Corporation sponsors Science Buddies Project Ideas in computer science and resources designed to increase family awareness about Internet safety)

ISEF celebration photo used courtesy of CCCSEF.
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