

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 Marggraff and Matthew Feddersen (*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

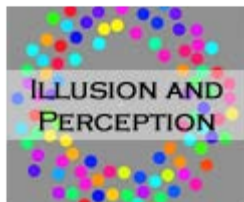
Congratulations to Nithin Tumma, a junior at Port Huron Northern High School in Port Huron, MI. Nithin [won the Science Buddies Craig Sander Outstanding Mentor Award](#) for his community service as an online mentor at [Ask an Expert](#) during the 2010-2011 season.

- [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!

Nithin also won the 2011 Intel ISEF **Best of Cellular and Molecular Biology Category Award** and a **First Place Award** for his research on interactions between Cytochrome-P450 2E1 (a liver enzyme) and medicines used to treat Type-II diabetes.

On the Blog



Follow Us

Stay in touch with us day to day and all summer long by joining our [Facebook community](#). Just click "Like" to add us to your favorites!



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](#).



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