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Subject: November 2008 Newsletter: Maximizing Science Fair Benefits for Your Students
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Free Science Fair Project Ideas, Answers,
& Tools for Serious Students



Science Buddies Newsletter
Issue 3
November 2008

Dear Reader,

Science fair season is ramping up and Science Buddies wants you and your students to be ready! We have dozens of new Project Ideas and resources that we are excited to share with you. Our new Interest Areas—including Cooking & Food Science, Music, and Video & Computer Games—are up and running, we've made new partnerships that will benefit you and your students, and we've got many new advanced science competition resources for your advanced science students. Take a look at the highlights below and visit us online anytime at www.sciencebuddies.org to find out more about any of the articles you see here.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Hess

Science Buddies Founder and President
www.sciencebuddies.org

News and Announcements

Parents' Choice Award

Science Buddies was recently honored with a 2008 Parents' Choice Recommended Award in the website category. The Parents' Choice Awards program received many strong entries this season; Science Buddies was among the small percentage selected to receive the honor. Parents' Choice is the nation's oldest nonprofit guide to quality children's media and toys. The Foundation's mission is to provide parents with information to participate wisely in their children's learning outside the classroom.

New Science Projects Focus on Real-world Applications

Science Buddies recently unveiled several enticing new Project Ideas to appeal to students' desires to see science at work in the real world. Encourage your students to experience science in the world around them with these Project Ideas in these areas of science:

- [Cooking & Food Science](#)
- [Energy & Power](#)
- [Human Biology & Health](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Video & Computer Games](#)

Do You Like Our Scientific Method Poster? What Do You Think About Our Chemistry Resources?

Science Buddies' resources are free, thanks to generous support from our donors, like Seagate Technology (who pays to print and mail our Scientific Method posters) and the Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation (which paid for the development of chemistry-related Project Ideas). If you've used either of these resources, both organizations are

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Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to scibuddy@sciencebuddies.org

curious to know what kind of impact these resources are having on real people, like you. Please help Science Buddies by sharing your experiences with us. Take [this very quick survey](#) and send us your comments about our poster, "The Scientific Method," and/or our chemistry Project Ideas.

[Symantec Awards Generous Grant to Science Buddies](#)

The Symantec Foundation recently awarded a generous \$100,000 grant to Science Buddies. How does this affect you? The grant will be used to further develop the Science Buddies Computer Science Interest Area, as well as fund an effort to incorporate information and resources about Internet safety throughout the Science Buddies website.

Children's online safety is a key focus area for Symantec, the Symantec Foundation, and Science Buddies. You can visit Symantec's [Family Resource Website](#) for more insights about Internet safety issues, some of which are specifically geared toward educators.

[Science Buddies Teams with Northrop Grumman to Develop New Project Ideas](#)

With the input of team members at Northrop Grumman, Science Buddies recently developed three new Aerodynamics & Hydrodynamics Project Ideas. [Northrop Grumman](#) is a global defense and technology company whose 120,000 employees provide innovative systems, products, and solutions in information and services, electronics, aerospace and shipbuilding to government and commercial customers worldwide.

Share these simple and engaging Project Ideas with your students:

- [Rocking the Boat](#)
- [A Change in the Winds](#)
- [Make the Wind Work for You](#)

Tips and Tricks for Teachers

[Check Out the Science Buddies Ask an Expert Feature](#)

With science fair season approaching, your students will be knee-deep in research and you may be bombarded with their questions! The Science Buddies Ask an Expert forums are a great resource to help students get answers to their project questions. Ask an Expert is staffed by top high school science students and volunteer scientists from a wide array of backgrounds and businesses. We screen and train all of our Experts before assigning them positions as Experts. In addition, activity on the Ask an Expert forums is monitored by Science Buddies staff, and the program strictly complies with COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act). Here are just a few of the Experts who have been available to answer questions:

- A doctoral student in mechanical engineering at the Stanford Aerospace Robotics Lab who specializes in underwater robotics
- A wildlife researcher and curator of birds and mammals at the New York State Museum
- A theoretical and computational physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, whose recent work deals with the design and use of high-power lasers
- A forensics expert who works for a state crime lab
- An expert in tropical ecology and conservation who studies, among other things, the effects of oil spills on tropical birds

Encourage your students to use the Ask an Expert forums to get answers from Experts in their science area of interest!

[Science Project Enrichment Tools](#)

Science Buddies wants to help you and your students get the most out of the science fair project experience, which is why we want to pass along some great ideas from the experts...teachers like you! Featured in this issue is the In-class Science Project. Visit our website to see a [complete list](#).

- [In-class Science Project](#) Employ scientific inquiry in your classroom by guiding students through a hands-on trial run of a single classroom science project before they tackle their own.

Tips and Tricks for Students

Prepare Your Students for Advanced Science Fair Competitions with These Helpful Resources

Advanced science competitions can be intimidating for students. The time devoted to research, competition rules and guidelines, and travel might all be new territory for them *and* for you. Science Buddies offers a series of new resources to guide students through the advanced competition process, including:

- [Blogs About Advanced Competitions](#) Real blogs from real students who entered competitions such as the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.
- [Advanced Project Guide](#) Covers important key topics, such as how to select a Project Idea and how to find a mentor.
- [Finding an Idea for an Advanced Science Fair Project](#) A roundtable discussion with several successful advanced science fair competition participants highlights important issues, such as the pros and cons of working with a mentor and their experiences working in laboratories.

Science Fair Project Plant Growth Tips

Here's a helpful tip for your students. Be sure to remind them that if they are growing a plant for their science fair project, they should allow plenty of time for the plant to grow. Science Buddies offers an online [Measuring Plant Growth](#) tutorial, which includes quantitative techniques for measuring growth, in addition to qualitative observation suggestions.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Events

- [2008 Siemens Competition National Finals](#): The 2008 Siemens Science & Technology Competition National Finals will be held at New York University on December 4-8, 2008. Watch a webcast of the finalists' presentations and the awards ceremony.
- [TopCoder High School](#): The worldwide TopCoder High School tournament will begin in December 2008 and will culminate in a large onsite final event at Purdue University on March 15, 2009.
- [Year of Science 2009](#): Science Buddies is a partner organization in the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS) Year of Science 2009 effort. COPUS is a growing grassroots network of those interested in science and science literacy, including universities, scientific societies, government agencies, and educators, to name a few. Each month in 2009 will focus on a scientific theme. [Register online](#) to receive notification about upcoming events and activities for Year of Science 2009. In November 2008, the COPUS website will boast theme-related resources, activities, video clips, pod casts, student challenges, citizen science opportunities, and much more.

Deadlines

- Remember to look out for your regional science fair application deadlines, fair dates, etc.
- [2009 Intel Science Talent Search](#): Deadline for receipt of STS entries is 8:00 p.m. (ET) Wednesday, November 19, 2008. This is not a postmark deadline.
- [Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge](#): This new competition for U.S.

middle school students challenges students to become Agents of Change, and provides tools to help them develop green solutions for their communities. Submissions from middle school students will be accepted through March 15, 2009.

Science Buddies gratefully acknowledges its Presenting Sponsor



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