**Science Fair Timeline (2017)**

Dear Students and Parents,

We are excited about our school-wide Science Fair happening this fall. As we begin preparing I thought it would be helpful to provide you a general time-line of important due dates to ensure meeting deadlines for the fair. Keep this time-line handy (agenda or on the fridge).

Week 1 – October 8 – 14

* Choose a general Science Fair Topic.
	+ You can only choose one general topic, so make sure that your choice is for a topic that you find interesting and exciting and want to learn more about. This will require some research on your part (books, internet, interviews/conversations) to narrow your interests down to one.
* Create one or several big “Why” questions about your topic.
	+ Once you have chosen a topic to study, you need to create one or more big “Why” questions about your topic. It is ok to have several of these questions at this point, but you will eventually need to narrow down your focus to only one.
* Create a single Testable Question from your big “Why” question.
	+ Remember that testable questions are written in the form “How does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ affect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?”
	+ Testable questions must be measurable. They cannot be based on opinion, have a single yes/no answer, cannot be answered by looking it up in a book or on the internet and cannot be too broad. Be specific with a narrow focus. You should have a single independent variable and a single dependent variable in your question.

Week 2 – October 15 – 21

* Create a Hypothesis from your testable question.
	+ Your hypothesis should be in the form of an “if….then…” statement. In other words it is a prediction of what you think is going to happen. Some people refer to a hypothesis as an “educated guess”. If you change one thing (the independent variable), then you expect an outcome (dependent variable) to change.
	+ Your experiment that you design is meant to test your hypothesis. Your results will either support or not support your hypothesis.
* Design a controlled experiment.
	+ Your experiment must be a controlled experiment. That means that you must use replication and controls. The only difference between your test groups should be the one variable that you are testing for.

Weeks 3 – 6 October 22 – November 25

* Conduct your experiment. Depending on your experiment, you may require several weeks. This is especially true if you need to allow time for plants to grow or if you need to conduct several trials.
* Begin analyzing your results (organizing your data and creating graphs).
* Start working on the backdrop for the science fair.

Week 7 – November 26 – Dec 2

* Complete the backdrop and practice presenting your project.

Week 8 – Dec 3 – 9

* Class presentations of projects

Week 9 – School Science Fair (December 12)

Top projects from our class will be participating in our school-wide fair. Judging of projects is conducted by external judges. Top projects from Grades 7 and 8 have the opportunity to attend the Regional Science Fair held in Fredericton in the spring (2018).

**Things to Consider:**

* Be sure to choose a topic that YOU find interesting.
* Partners are permitted but CHOOSE wisely. If you are working with a partner, your project should represent the work of two people. Working with a partner can be fun and a great experience, but it can also be frustrating and lead to conflicts if one partner doesn’t contribute equally.
* Watch the timeline and try to keep on track. Don’t procrastinate and leave things to the last minute. Guaranteed you will not be able to complete your project if you leave things to the last week or two.
* Have fun and learn lots! This is meant to be a great learning experience for you.

Class information, updates and information will be posted to our school web site. Please check it out regularly.

Mr. Liston

(Grade 6, 7, 8 Science)