



Science Fair showcases student achievement in science and innovation

Glenmary High and T.A. Norris Middle School were the site of the 2011 Peace River Science Fair. The enthralling daylong event was held February 8, 2011, for grades 7 – 9.

Judge coordinator Katherine Haugan, who is Education Coordinator at novaNAIT Boreal Research Institute (nBRI), was very pleased with the number of judges who volunteered their time, and the caliber of science on display.

“It was a great opportunity for students to interact with people who work in science-related careers,” said Katherine. “The judges enjoyed a chance to see what the next generation of scientists are up to. Their feedback is invaluable to students looking to improve their chances next year.”

Categories at the science fair were experimental, study and innovation.



John Kuran, Principal of Glenmary High School, is shown a catapult built by Tanner Wagner, a grade 8 student in the experimental category of the Science Fair in Peace River.

In the experimental category, students explored subjects from DNA in strawberries to biofuels. In the study section, students researched an array of topics, from eye strain to learning while you sleep. There were some real surprises in the innovation category, said Jonathan Pittman, science teacher at Glenmary who organized the event with Denis Gagnon. One student made an automated can crusher with a computer program that counted the cans. Another group developed a process for colouring yard snow in an environmentally friendly manner.

“Our intent for the science fair is to stimulate excitement in students for science, to foster an appreciation and positive attitude in science and in employment in fields of science,” said Mr. Pittman.

Ten projects are heading to the regional Science Fair in Fairview, March 17, 2011. Top projects at the regional fair have a chance to attend provincials, and from there, nationals.

Winners in the Peace River Science Fair are shown below.

Study category

- 3rd. Alexis Thordarson & Jennifer Soucy (Forensic Science)
- 2nd Megan Bouchard & Melanie Vogel (Can You Learn While You Are Sleeping)
- 1st Jaden Tetz and Tommy Medinger (Eye Toaster)

Experiment category

- 3rd Cameron Lyons (Aerodynamics In a Wind Tunnel)
- 2nd Sara Klem & Amber Smith (Rust Illumination)
- 1st Brendan Samek, Morgan Mitchell, Jeremy Goudreault (Dust Explosion)

Innovation category

- 3rd Emma Drummond & Ethan Spenrath (Water In filtration)
- 2nd Jon Sobchysyn & Tyler Tunke (Easy Pull)
- 1st Jackson Shannon & Kyle Javos (Hydro Processing)

2011 season of class presentations has started

Katherine Haugan has started visiting classrooms in the Peace region for the 2011 spring season. Her first visit since becoming the new Education Coordinator at nBRI was to grade 4 classes at Good Shepherd Elementary in Peace River. She told students about the different products that come from forests, and things people can do to be good stewards of the boreal forest: emphasizing the three R's – reduce, reuse, recycle.

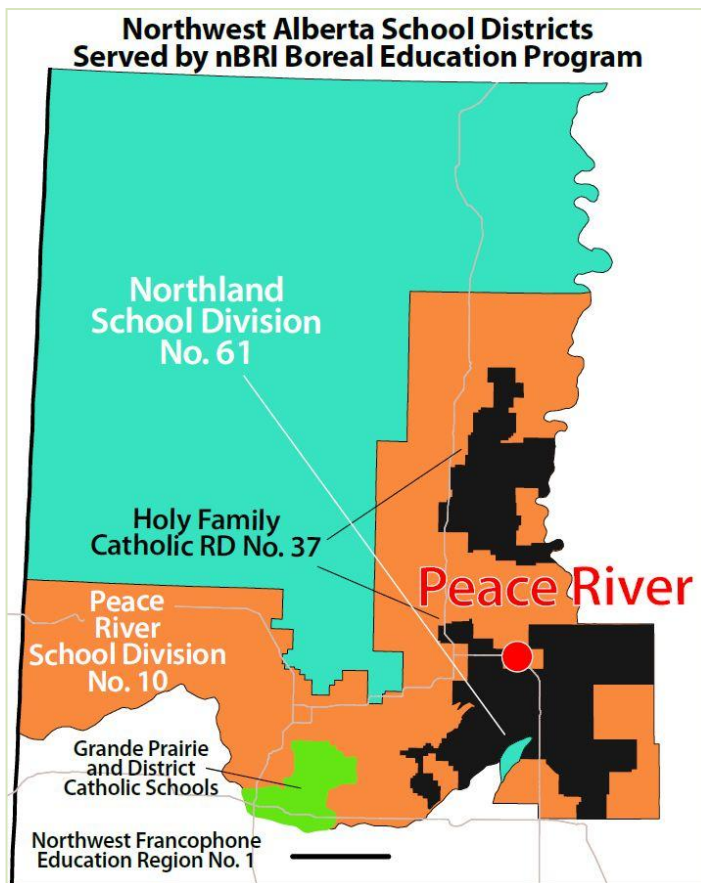
The Boreal Education Program offers classroom visits and tours to schools from Falher north to Manning, and from the British Columbia border to McLennan. This area incorporates two public school divisions and three separate school divisions.

For more information on school visits, contact Katherine Haugan at 780-618-2614, katherih@nait.ca. Or visit our website, shown below.

New website takes centre stage

The Boreal Education Program has a fresh, new website. We've considered the needs of teachers, parents, students and the community at large, providing an interactive site that allows for classroom registration or scholarship applications – and much more.

Katherine Haugan, Education Coordinator, has been adding components of the Mackenzie Forest Education Society's programs to the site, so that now teachers in particular will see information on in-class presentations, field trips and trail etiquette & safety. Teachers will be able to register on the new website sometime in the near future. To visit our new website, go to www.borealeducation.com



This map shows the extent of our Boreal Education Program geographical region, which includes four school divisions.

Some things to do on the new webpage:

- apply for a scholarship
- register for in-class presentation
- read our past e-news
- see what's coming up in community programming

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