

February 7, 2011

Dear Homeschool Families and Friends,

As you may know, New Jersey Home Educators (with families generally located in Camden, Burlington and nearby counties), has been hosting an annual local Science Fair for nearly 20 years. Our most recent fair was held on February 4 with an awards ceremony on February 5. This year, we had nearly 35 students participate in the fair with almost 20 judges reviewing the projects and giving feedback to the students. As in prior years, it's been a great opportunity for our students to not only grow in the area of science and application of the scientific method of research, but also to practice public speaking and defending of their project. Grade levels usually range from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

As always, the students are awarded ribbons to commemorate their achievement as well as prizes (either science related gifts or monetary gifts). It's also always exciting to award the top prize of a full 2-year scholarship to Burlington County College to the top 11th grade student, generously donated by the college. This year's recipient of the scholarship was Nathan Wilson.

In addition to the judging under the International Science and Engineering Fair, or ISEF, rules, the U.S. Navy's own science fair program (under the Office of Naval Research) provides us with the opportunity to have our students judged under the Navy's criteria. Students who excel under these criteria are granted awards from the Navy. This year's recipients for the Navy awards were:

Senior high: Matthew McBride and Alex McBride

Junior high: Meredith McBride and Kerri McBride

Almost all our 6th grade through 12th grade students elect to go on to the Coriell Science fair held in March at Camden County College which is the first tier of ISEF competition. From there, winners may go on to the Delaware Valley Science Fair (DVSF) and from there, the ISEF competition usually held on the west coast. Across the years, we've had students perform well at all levels of the competition.

Please take a moment to look at the summary on the next page of the students who participated in this year's local science fair and the awards they received – and if you know the student, congratulate them! If you are not already participating, we hope that you and your students will seriously consider participating in this program next year. If you are interested in doing so, please don't hesitate to reach out to Roy Costa (rxcosta@gmail.com). We would be happy to speak to individual families about the program or to speak to a network or group of homeschool families. Serious work on the projects generally begins in the late summer so it's not too early to think about the science fair now!

Best regards,

Roy Costa

**New Jersey Homeschool Educators
2011 Science Fair Results**

Grade	Student	Project	Award
12th Grade	Matthew McBride *	Breast Cancer Therapy	1st
	Brett Reich	Better Blimps	2nd
	Rachel Collins	Hot Water Comparison	3rd
11th Grade	Nathan Wilson ***	A Flooding Influence	1st
	Amanda Bonsignore	Aluminum Not So Alluring	2nd
	Grace Gilbert	Water Electrolysis	3rd
10th Grade	Alex McBride *	Internal Combustion Fuel Economy	1st
9th Grade	Stephen Costa	Efficient Programming	1st
	Tyler Reich	Sound Advice	2nd
	Holly Torsilieri	Dominant Directional Tendencies	2nd
8th Grade	Jamilyn Donaldson	Up Up and Away	1st
	Meredith McBride *	Effect of Sweeteners on Regeneration	1st
	Joanna Costa	Staining Stainless Steel	2nd
	Gabrielle Sallard	Remember Me?	2nd
7th Grade	Nate Hoffman	Navigator	1st
	Anna Wilson	The Life of Lettuce	2nd
	Verity Cheslo	Colored Light and Radishes	3rd
6th Grade	Kerri McBride *	Preserving Forest Resources	1st
	Marit Edwards-Ronning	Tasting Cinnamon	2nd
	Quyn Ulrich	Parachute Design	2nd
	Charles Birdsong	Spaghetti and Salt	3rd
5th Grade	Laura Boyajian	To C or not to C	1st
	Mark Brenner	Best Insulator	2nd
	Spencer Hoffman	Zap	3rd
4th Grade	Nathanael Costa	Cry Baby Cry	1st
	Grace Bruner	Diaper Secret	2nd
3rd Grade	Rebecca Edwards-Ronning	Dissolving Salt Crystals	1st
	Shannon McBride	Temperature Wars	1st
	Jason Brenner	Amazing Gliders	2nd
2nd Grade	Jonathan Cheslo	Racing Marbles	1st
	Isaiah Edwards-Ronning	Bacteria vs. Spices	1st
	Tai Ulrich	Lego Car Design	2nd
1st Grade	Cody McBride	Red's Chance	1st
	Zachariah Bruner	Down the Ramp	2nd

* Winner of NAVY award

*** Winner of BCC scholarship