



PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION 2007-2008
294 Green Valley Rd. Watsonville CA 95076 786-2144 www.pvusdgate.net

★ PVUSD Science Fair Coordinator Opportunity ★

Have you wished you had a Science Fair at your school? Do you wish you had some support to help make it happen? Well here you go: money and support to help you organize a school Science Fair!

The MAIA Foundation (www.maiafoundation.org) is offering stipends of \$500 (plus \$99 for materials) to teachers in up to 10 elementary schools in PVUSD, to serve as school Science Fair Coordinators. This involves coordinating a school site Science Fair, assisting students with their science fair projects, and hopefully helping students participate in the Santa Cruz County Science Fair (March 21, 2009, at the Santa Cruz County Civic Auditorium).

Science fairs can be exciting and inspiring for kids, and in some cases are life-changing events. The PVUSD GATE staff look forward to assisting you with this process!

MAIA's mission is to support students from migrant and immigrant backgrounds, and is especially interested in seeing these students participate in science fairs.

There are lots of resources available to help you! The Santa Cruz County Office of Education has a great many excellent resources available online at www.science.santacruz.k12.ca.us. There are dozens of other websites with outstanding science fair resources; a few are www.scifair.org, www.sciencebuddies.org, www.all-science-fair-projects.com/, and <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/>.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education also offers free informative workshops, helpful to students, teachers and science fair coordinators:

“A General Overview of the Science Fair – Q & A”

Wednesday October 8th and again October 15th, 2008, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, SCCOE Tech Center
New SCCOE Location: 400 Encinal Street, Harvey West area of Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The Santa Cruz County Science Fair Coordinator is also available to meet with teachers, students, and parents at your school site (or perhaps a PVUSD-wide workshop). They can provide support and information to meet the needs of your school. Possible workshop topics might include the following:

- Explore project ideas, science resources, and sample science projects.
- Learn how to design a winning science project and discover the best strategies for success.
- Get organizational tips and secrets from science fair experts.
- Discover the best practices in science writing and reporting.
- Meet the champions! Hear from winners of the CA State Science Fair and the International Science and Engineering Fair.
- Learn interview techniques and strategies for successful project displays.

The PVUSD GATE Services office is facilitating this process on behalf of the MAIA Foundation. There are ten stipends available, on a first come-first served basis. **Signed applications are due in the GATE office (DO, 2nd floor) no later than 4:30 PM, Monday September 29, 2008.**

Questions? Please feel free to contact us in the PVUSD GATE Services Office for more information:

Lyn Olson, GATE Coordinator
786-2144 or 786-2100 x2580
lyn_olson@pvusd.net

Ted Altenberg, GATE Resource Teacher
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★ PVUSD Science Fair Coordinator Description ★

Science Fair Coordinators must commit to the following:

★ School Science Fair:

- Register yourself as a school Science Fair Coordinator with Santa Cruz County Science Fair no later than their **deadline of January 31, 2009**.
- Work with school site administrators and others to schedule a school science fair, to be held no later than **February 6, 2009**. (This deadline is in order to make sure winning students can submit their registration for the County Science Fair before the County deadline of **February 16!**)
- Copy and distribute science fair materials (provided to you by GATE or SCCOE) to teachers and students. Encourage teachers and students to participate in the science fair. Assist students with their individual or group science fair projects.
- Coordinate the science fair itself, which includes the following:
 - Determining which grades will participate, and whether every student will be expected to participate or participation will be voluntary. (The County Science Fair accepts projects K–12, but most elementary schools limit it to grades 3–5 or 4–5.)
 - Determine dates, times, location. (Most schools use their MPR, but some choose to have each teacher “host” their own kids’ projects. Most schools set it up for 1–3 days, have a time for class viewing during school day, an afternoon for judging, followed by an evening of “public viewing” for parents, community, [media!], et al.)
 - Assemble a group of adults to serve as project judges. Arrange for a time when judges will judge student projects. Run copies of judging forms (provided to you by GATE or SCCOE). Give orientation to judges. Tabulate judges’ results to determine winners. (Ribbons are typically awarded to top 3 – 4 projects in each category and grade [or grade range].) Judges and you should attach ribbons to winning projects before public viewing hours.
- Assist “winning” students with their participation in the County Science Fair. (While this is not an absolute requirement, to serve as Science Fair Coordinator and receive the stipend, we sincerely hope that you will encourage and help students to participate in the County Science Fair.)
- Submit a written final evaluation report, summarizing what you did, what worked and what didn’t, how you spent the \$100 materials stipend, and possible plans for *next* year’s science fair. (A more complete set of evaluation guidelines will follow.)

★ Santa Cruz County Science Fair:

- Assist students with completing and submitting registration forms for the County Science Fair, due at the SCCOE no later than **5:00 PM, February 16, 2009**.
- Assist students with changes/improvements to their projects (if they choose to do so), in time for the County Science Fair.
- Help students and their families make arrangements for transporting the project to and from the Fair, and the student to the judging portion of the Fair:
 - Projects need to be delivered to the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium between **2 and 6 PM on Friday, March 20, 2009**.
 - Students need to be at the Civic Auditorium, to discuss their projects with judges, on **Saturday, March 21, 2009, 9:30–10:30 AM**.
 - The Fair is open to the public **5–7 PM on Saturday, March 21, 2009**. (optional)
 - Projects must be removed from the Civic Auditorium that evening, **7–9 PM, Saturday March 21**, or **9 AM–12 PM, Sunday March 22, 2009**.
 - The Awards ceremony will be held at the Civic Auditorium on **Monday, March 30, 7–9 PM**. (optional)

★ **PVUSD Science Fair Coordinator Application** ★

**This application is due to the GATE Services Office (PVUSD DO)
no later than 5:00 PM, Monday September 29, 2008**

Applicant Name

School

- Yes, I want to serve as Science Fair Coordinator for my school site.
- Yes, I agree to all of the commitments listed on the Science Fair Coordinator Description.

Briefly describe your science education interest and/or background, including any science fair experience:

Briefly describe why you want to serve as Science Fair Coordinator:

Applicant Signature

Date

Principal's Portion of this Application

- Yes, I support this applicant as our school Science Fair Coordinator.
- Yes, we will hold a Science Fair at our school this year.

School Principal

Date

For GATE Office Use Only:	
_____ Date received	
Approved _____	Denied _____
_____ Date application approved/denied	