



Thomas Hart Academy

"A Superior Education in a Nurturing Environment"

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Friday, February 15, 2008

SUBJECT: INVENTION FAIR UPDATES

TO: 4th thru 8th Grade Parents and Students

Dear Parents and students,

I am sending this letter to give you some news and updates about Thomas Hart's first Invention Fair. Things are going well and I am very pleased with the progress of the students. The students have been asking great questions over the past couple of weeks and I am excited about the type of questions they are asking. Each day at the beginning of class I ask if anyone has any questions. Most days there are none, but that is to be expected. Most questions come when a deadline is approaching.

As you know, our first deadline was last Monday. Every student turned in their invention forms on time (this never happened during the Science Fair) and I was surprised. I have compiled a list of keywords that describe the students' ideas and placed this list on our Invention Fair webpage so you may view them if you so choose. Overall, I am very pleased with the ideas generated by our students. Of course, some topic ideas may have to be changed for various reasons. Most topics were very age appropriate, but of course some were below the students' ability level and of course some may be above the students' ability level.

I urge parents to supervise, offer advice & expertise, and monitor the students work, but please make sure the student is doing the work. Parents should not do the project for the student. If a project requires motors or electricity, then the student should know about these things. Safety should be the most important aspect of the process. If it is necessary to use power tools, electricity, or other dangerous things to construct the project, I do ask that parents please help in these situations. Take advantage of the opportunity to teach the student safety in these areas.

Date Changes

Due to the annual class trip, the 8th grade logbook check will be moved from 3/3/08 to 3/14/08. After discussing patent searches with the 7th & 8th grades, I have postponed that due date to 2/25/08 for these grades. I have also postponed the date to change topics to 2/25/08 instead of 2/18/08 for all grades. I hope this will help the student as they continue researching their ideas.

Invention Fair Electronic Questionnaire

I have placed a questionnaire on the THA website and it can be found on the THA Homepage and the Invention Fair page. I ask that parents please take this survey. It is only a couple of questions. I would really appreciate some feedback. This will allow me to evaluate any concerns that parents may have regarding the Invention Fair Judging Date or the process itself. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this survey. You may also contact me at any time with questions or concerns. I am the next person to answer any questions that you may have, and that is why I am here.

Thank you,

Lee Waldron
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