

Science Alternative Program Open House & Expression of Interest

Thursday, February 3, 2011
5:30—7:30 p.m.
Sir Winston Churchill High School
5220 Northland Drive NW

The Calgary Board of Education is seeking public interest in the expansion of the Science Alternative Program to students in Area I.

CBE administration will be available to provide information about the Science Alternative Program and gather input from the community about their interest in the program.



Calgary Board of Education
Educating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

*Department of Community Engagement
and Operational Planning
Office of the Director, Area I
403-777-8710*



Calgary Board of Education
Educating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Expression of Interest Science Alternative Program - Areas I

The Calgary Board of Education is committed to “meet changing student needs through program renewal that includes schools and programs in the right places.” The information you provide will assist us in determining if there is sufficient interest in establishing a Science Alternative Program in Area I for students kindergarten to grade 6. ***The expansion of this program is determined by the Calgary Board of Education’s System Student Accommodation Plan (see Administrative Regulation – 1090).***

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

1. Please indicate the number of children in your family and where your child/children currently attend school.

Age	Grade	CBE School	Other (please indicate)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Would you anticipate that your child/children would register in the Science Alternative Program if it was offered in Area I?

Yes No

Please provide any comments or suggestions that you feel would be valuable:

Parent or Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Community: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone Number: (h) _____ (w) _____ (cell) _____

Fax completed form to the Area I Office at 403-777-8719 OR
Mail to Area I, Parkdale Centre, 728 - 32 Street N.W., Calgary, T2N 2V9
Friday, February 28, 2011

The personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *School Act* and of Alberta's *Freedom of information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the purposes noted above. If you have any questions about this collection, please contact Community Engagement and Operational Planning at 403-294-8726.



Calgary Board of Education

Science Alternative Program Expression of Interest Area I

February 3, 2011

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Where will the program be located?

A. The program would be offered in an Area I elementary school. The specific location has yet to be determined.

Q. How is the Science Alternative Program different from a regular school?

A. The Science Alternative Program engages students in scientific inquiry, environmental education and technology application. Students learn the Alberta Learning Program of Studies through "the lens of science." This means that, when feasible and possible, scientific ideas guide the learning. There are many opportunities for off-campus study and interaction with scientists, scientific organizations and partners.

Q. How many students are needed to start a program?

A. In order to offer a program we need a minimum of 25 students per grade.

Q. What grades will be offered for this program?

The Science Alternative Program could be offered for kindergarten to grade 6 students if there is enough interest.

Q. Will transportation be provided?

A. Yes, transportation would be provided according to the criteria set out for alternative programs. See our website at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/transportation/alternative.asp>

Q. When will the program begin?

A. If there is sufficient interest the program could start in September 2011.

Q. When will the decision be made?

A. We anticipate that a decision to offer a Science Alternative Program in Area I prior to spring break in March 2011.

TIMELINE

February 3 to February 28, 2011

March 1 to March 18, 2011

March 21-24, 2011

April and May, 2011

May 2011

Expression of Interest forms collected

Forms reviewed

Decision Announced to gather registrations

Site Announced and Pre-Registration for September 2011

Decision Announced that program will commence Sept. 2011

Science Alternative Program Mission: (Why do we exist?)

The Science Alternative Program will:

- Encourage inquiry, wonder, creativity and confidence
 - Bring together science interested, inquisitive, creative students with committed teachers, parents and partners.
- Demonstrate excellence in instructional strategies and practice through inquiry in all literacies (scientific, mathematical, linguistic, artistic).
- Engage learners in study within the school as well as outside of the school at various field study locations and through the use of technology
- Engage parents as partners who support students and the program mandate
- Guide children as citizens to continue the life long journey of discovery and wonder, so that they may live their lives as the informed, ethical leaders of tomorrow.

Science Alternative Program Vision: (What do we hope for?)

*We envision that learners (students and teachers)
and the Science School will become:*

- Active inquirers, problem recognizers/creators/solvers and communicators
- Responsible citizens in a complex world
- Positive contributors to scientific and human endeavors
- Contributors to a site of demonstration of excellence in teaching and learning

Quality Control for Program Integrity Science School

A Science Alternative Program will have the following components:

- ✓ An inquiry based program where teachers facilitate inquiry with students
- ✓ Integrated instruction, with a science 'lens', or focus, where reasonable
- ✓ Use of the Alberta Program of Studies as the foundation for program development
- ✓ Intentional facilitation of learning of ethics in science and ethical treatment of the environment
- ✓ Students engage in study of the natural world of their schoolyard and community
- ✓ Students participate in field trips to enhance science topics and inquiries
- ✓ Students interact with scientists and senior students of science in person and virtually
- ✓ Students participate in enriching science opportunities such as Calgary Youth Science Fair, Science Olympics, Science Essay Contests, Virtual Science Fairs, Calgary Science Network 'Science Writers', as fits their particular interests
- ✓ Students develop portfolios in order to assess their growth in learning and their accomplishments
- ✓ Students explore careers in fields which may have a relationship to their interests in science
- ✓ Parents sign a document which demonstrates their commitment to the program
- ✓ Teachers participate in ongoing professional development and learning of science content and pedagogy of science
- ✓ Teachers provide leadership within the CBE and the wider professional community to share teaching and learning strategies
- ✓ Ongoing access to local partnership enrichment opportunities such as petroleum, alternative energy, biotechnologies, environmental initiatives, post-secondary institutions
- ✓ Students apply and are interviewed to ensure a match with the science school approach to learning and the student's interest and ability





Calgary Board of Education

Transportation for Alternative Programs

The Calgary Board of Education offers a wide selection of programming choices for students, however, the CBE receives government transportation funding only for students in the regular, special education and language programs. For students who choose to attend other alternative programs or programs of choice, please note the following limitations on transportation services. Please ensure you consider this factor carefully before choosing to register your child(ren) in one of these programs.

Congregated Stops

Certain CBE programs have limited charter transportation service and parents are responsible to ensure their children travel safely to and from congregated stops. Congregated stops may not be located in each residential district or within walking distance for students. Congregated stops are located based on factors such as ease of access for the bus, public space for students to gather and available parking for parents. Requests to add or move congregated stops will not be considered. Congregated stops apply to students in the following programs:

Alice Jamieson Girls' Academy
Arts-Centred Learning
Montessori Programs

Piitoayis Family School
Science Schools
Traditional Learning Centres

Science Expression of Interest – Area I
Feedback
February 3, 2011

- Need to really encourage girls in Science and Math
- Emphasis program to interest girls in attending Science Alternative
- What about before and after school care at the school?
- Bussing?
- Some of us would be moving our children from one to a Science School. It would be an added advantage if it went to Grade 9.
- Would you consider a pre-school?
- Consider providing a program to Grade 9