

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

MEDIA ADVISORY

Young science enthusiasts compete at uWaterloo's All Science Challenge

WATERLOO, Ont. (Thursday, April 14, 2011) - More than 180 students from across Waterloo Region and Woodstock will test their scientific knowledge in a competition at the University of Waterloo next week.

The All Science Challenge features a stimulating question and answer period and fun, hands-on design activities that inspire Grades 6, 7 and 8 students to acquire science knowledge beyond their curriculum. Designed by post-secondary science students, the All Science Challenge is a unique, team-based event that is part of the nationwide Let's Talk Science Outreach program.

"This day-long enrichment competition helps kids get excited about science," said event co-ordinator Erin Bresser. "We are looking forward to welcoming 45 teams of young science enthusiasts to our campus this year."

Following the opening ceremonies at 10 a.m., the teams will participate in two rounds of individual and group questions, with professors, post-doctoral fellows, staff, and university students serving as judges to gauge the correctness of their answers. Students will test their knowledge in a range of disciplines, such as earth sciences, biology, chemistry and physics.

In the final preliminary round, teams will compete in a design activity, where they are challenged to build an object with the materials supplied to them. In past design challenges, students have constructed objects like a rudimentary Morse code machine using only a nail, copper wire, paper clips and battery. Students will be judged on their problem-solving skills, teamwork and their design demonstration.

Following lunch, the top teams with the highest score will face off in two final rounds of competition.

The event will be held in the Arts Lecture Hall. It is organized by Let's Talk Science at the University of Waterloo.

"We are pleased the University of Waterloo continues to support this wonderful initiative," said Bonnie Schmidt, founder and president of Let's Talk Science. "We hope the All Science Challenge will keep youth engaged in science and develop their potential to become future innovators and leaders."

About Let's Talk Science

Let's Talk Science is an award-winning, national, charitable, science outreach organization. We deliver science learning programs and services that turn kids on to science, keep them engaged in learning and develop their potential to become 21st century stewards, innovators and citizens. Through Let's Talk Science Outreach, we engage more than 2,600 enthusiastic post-secondary student volunteers at 33 universities and colleges across Canada to turn more than

120,000 kids on to science, engineering and technology each year. For more information about Let's Talk Science, visit letstalkscience.ca.

About the University of Waterloo

From its beginning, the University of Waterloo has been an outward-looking university, aware of and responsive to the needs of society. Located at the heart of Canada's Technology Triangle, it is one of Canada's leading comprehensive universities, and home to 30,000 full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students who are dedicated to making the future better. Waterloo, known for the largest post-secondary co-operative education program in the world, supports enterprising partnerships in learning, research and discovery, is recognized as the most innovative university in Canada and is a national leader in the transfer of ideas and technology to Canada and the world. For more information about Waterloo, visit www.uwaterloo.ca.

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