Revived science fair a hit at North Star

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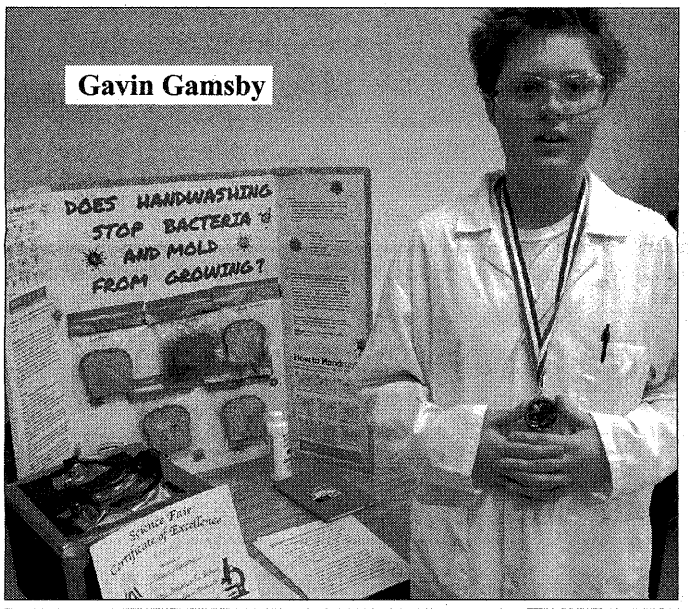
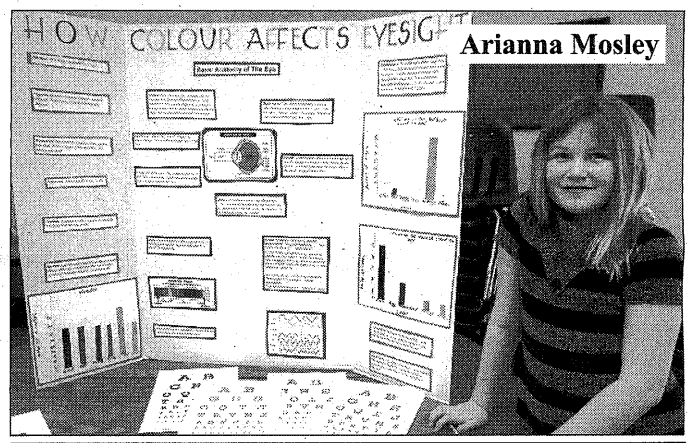
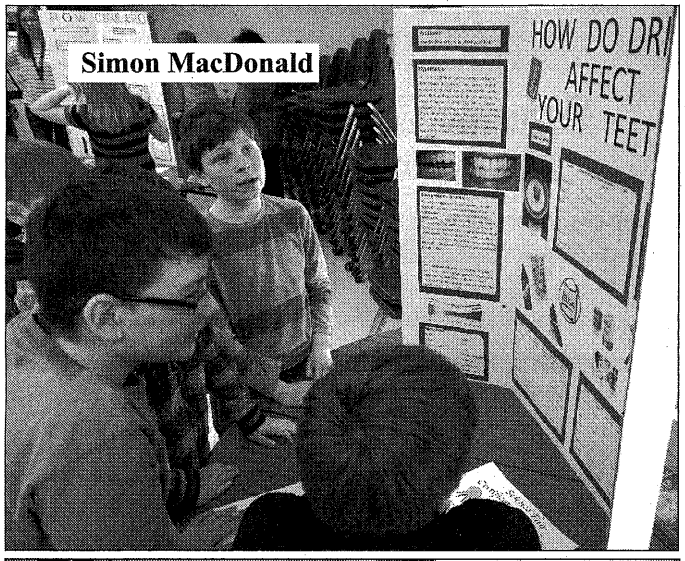
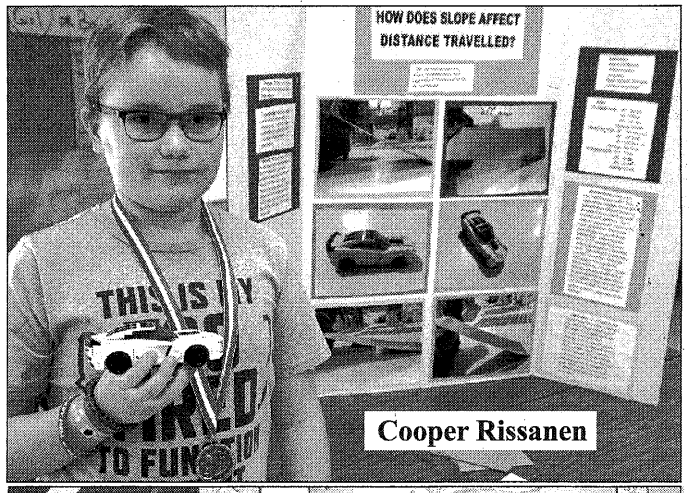
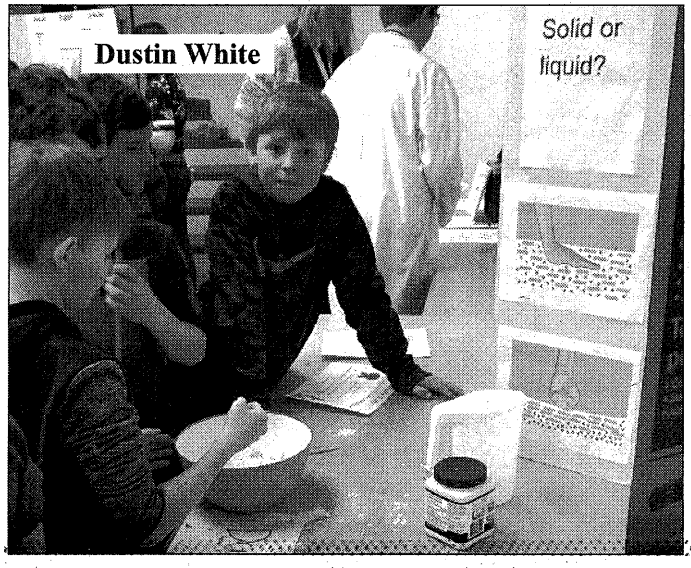
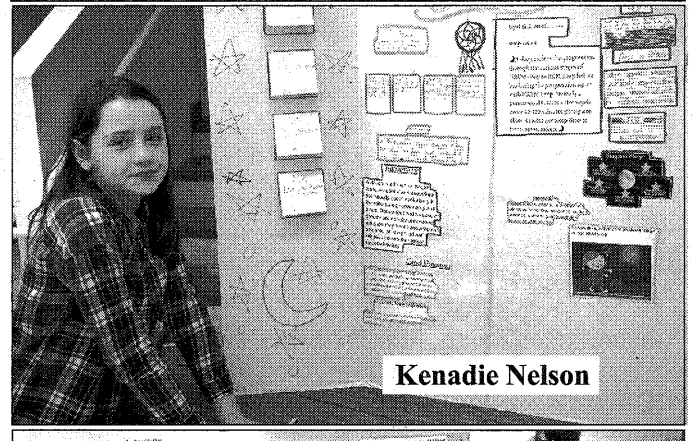
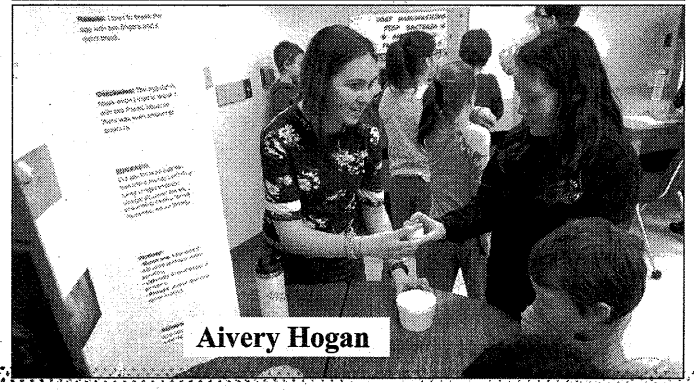
Seven grade five and six students at North Star School accepted the challenge of participating in the school's first science fair in almost twenty years. (The most recent we could find was in 2003.)

On Thursday, the students unveiled their projects, showing them off to the judges and their fellow students. The students each found a topic that interested them, and then went to town. We were impressed with the care and attention to detail the students brought to the work, their efforts to stick to a rigorous scientific method, their careful recording of results, and their willingness to acknowledge that their results often weren't what they were expecting.

It was most gratifying to see the students explaining what they found, and how they got there, to their classmates. Everyone of them was able to explain clearly and concisely what their project was about and was able to spark a discussion about the work. Imagine that: elementary students getting keen about science.

Gavin Gamsby, Aivery Hogan, and Dustin White included hands-on components with their displays that allowed their classmates to learn by doing, a very nice touch.

Gavin Gamsby won the gold medal for his study of hand-washing and its effectiveness on stopping bread mould. The silver medal went to Arianna Mosley, who had ran eye tests with a dozen subjects in an attempt to determine the impact of print colour on readability. Two bronze medals were awarded, to Simon MacDonald, who researched the effect on teeth of various drinks, and Cooper Rissanen, who tested the effect of slopes on distance travelled using a Lego car he built himself.

Teachers Doug Dunnet and Martha Fotheringham confessed they had their hands full to try to pick winners, and it wasn't hard to understand why. Kenadie Nelson's detailed look at sleep and dreaming, Dustin White's 'Oobleck - Is it a solid or a liquid', and Aivery Hogan's look at the structural characteristics of eggs were also excellent entries.

Every participant got a prize courtesy of the Town (swim passes) and the Northwestern Health Unit.