



Tasmanian Science Talent Search (an initiative of the Science Teachers' Association of Tasmania)



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This year the deadline for entries in the sections relating to the 2009 theme “Astronomy: science without limits” is Wednesday June 24, considerably later than in the past, to allow more lead-in time for teachers. It does fall shortly after the term holiday though, so teachers interested in involving their students should be starting NOW at the latest, with the holiday time a bonus for keen students. **The ASTA Resource Book** should now be in schools which are members of STAT or can be ordered through their website; www.asta.edu.au

See TSTS webpage www.key.org.au/stat/html/talent.htm for full dates, criteria for entries, entry form, delivery details etc.

Please remind students to check out the Judges' Comments on the website to learn from past experiences and best practice. It is a pity if schools entering for the first time have to “reinvent the wheel and learn from their mistakes” rather than building on others' experiences.

Please ensure that students adhere to the maximum A2 size for posters. Larger ones are too bulky for safe postage and handling, and limit display options.

For teachers interested in student-directed inquiry (research investigations) you might:

1. contact/register with the **CSIRO Education CREST** program* which can provide initial email mentoring of students to ensure that they “start off on the right foot”. This preliminary 1:1 discussion to ensure understanding of variables, best method etc is vital for good outcomes, and teachers don't always have time with large classes.
2. contact/register with the **CSIRO Scientists in Schools** program, and enquire about the availability of a local scientist who could also assist discussing with individual students about their projects.
3. Come to CONASTA, the national conference of Aust Science Teachers, held this July in Launceston! Great PD!

*These ideas and more are outlined in various articles in the **Research link** on the TSTS website: well worth a read; http://www.key.org.au/stat/html/talent_research.htm

Scroll down to the articles from STATIC, the journal of the Sci Teachers Assoc of Tas

Some important details worth restating :

1. Entry fee is still \$5 per entry, unless the school is a current financial member (prior to May 20) of STAT (Science Teachers Association Of Tasmania), in which case the fee is \$4. Members get many other useful advantages, publications, and reductions at conferences and PD sessions, so consider joining up yourself or through your school if you aren't already a member.
2. For groups of 3 or fewer, individual Participation Certificates will be printed. For larger groups, individual names will not be listed, although blank certificates will be provided for schools to print and issue.
3. There is no longer a “class entry” category. Large groups(.3) will be processed as in 2. above.
4. This year is no longer a limit of 10 entries per school per age division and section, although obviously all entries must be accompanied by the necessary form and fee.

For further queries contact me: stsearch@bigpond.net.au

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