

AFFINITY

Demonstration of Faith through Science

The Catholic Education Office (CE) is implementing a science competition that considers the relationship between Science and Faith.

Traditionally these concepts might be considered in contradiction, but we believe that Science requires a measure of Faith in order to pursue its purpose. As Catholic schools it is important that we contemplate this idea and consider how Faith works with science to help us discover and understand our world.

The competition will highlight schools' Science Week activities each year. We want to capture the work that is being done in science across our classrooms. We ask that schools prepare their entries prior to Science Week to fit in with the timings for Catholic Schools Cultural Festival.

This year's finalists will exhibit their projects at the Catholic Schools Cultural Festival event in August.

The theme for Science Week in 2019:

Destination Moon: more missions, more science

Process

- The projects (e.g. a poster, a video, an experiment, an infographic) should be developed in alignment with the school's existing Science Week plans or existing class work and support the Australian Curriculum and NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum.
- Each participating school will judge student entries internally and submit one overall winner per category for judging in the Affinity competition.
- The winning projects will be displayed on the evening of the Catholic Schools Cultural Festival event at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre in August.
- Students who are able to attend the event will present and demonstrate aspects of their project. Those unable to attend may provide a video supporting their displayed work.
- Winning entries will be formally awarded during the Catholic Schools Cultural Festival at the Recognition Awards ceremony.

Finalists Judging Panel

We recommend that the judging panel be comprised of:

- Vicar of Education, Monsignor John Woods
- CE Deputy Director, Angus Tulley
- A Performance Improvement Leader
- Innovation Officer

The Judging Panel will provide recommendations to the Director.

Categories

ACT and NSW Primary school

ACT and NSW Secondary school

Selection Criteria

1. How well does the project express the 'Demonstration of Faith through Science' element along with the Science Week Theme?

This year's theme looks at past missions to the Moon and space programs that have solved some seemingly unsolvable problems. It includes current and future space programs, operations and missions. The theme looks at how Science uses big picture thinking to solve problems, and technology, engineering and mathematics to design new solutions.

Where science doesn't have the answers, we turn to faith. Often the success of a scientific advancement relies on the Faith of those involved.

If we consider those first missions into space, the pioneers' leap of faith in taking up those expeditions and the prayers of their families seeking their safe return, we can start to understand how Science and Faith work hand in hand.

2. Thought and understanding.

Science Week provides an avenue to showcase schools' learning in science. It works to further engage our students with science through fun projects, experiments and the exploration of an interesting hypothesis or theme.

Science projects submitted for consideration should include not only the project outcome, but the process and scientific thinking involved by the students. This might include the development of the inquiry question, the hypothesis and or the conclusion. We will consider the use of scientific language, explanations and connections.

3. Originality and creativity.

- How unique is the project?
- How creative is the resolution of the theory or experiment?
- How original is the design of the experiment or project?
- How creative is the thinking that explores the relationship between Faith and Science in their project?

4. Communication.

- The project hypothesis.
- The presentation.
- The project report and research.

Reference:

<https://www.scienceweek.net.au/schools/>