

# Astronomy project garners 1st place

By BLAINE KANEKO  
Some nights Grant Blondell goes home and peers through his telescope at the moon.

During these celestial experiences he wonders what it would be like travelling through space, visiting the moon and dodging black holes.

Such is Grant's fascination with the outer limits it landed him first place in the primary division of the Orchard Park Science Fair.

"I don't usually win these kind of things," admitted Grant. "I can't believe I won."

Okay, his telescope is a Christmas present made by Fisher-Price and he doesn't really look at the moon, rather the six-year-old Grade One student looks at slides of the moon, but at least it has peaked his curiosity towards the universe.

Grant's hours of preparation, with a little help from his parents, taught him not only about the moon but hard work and participation

have their rewards; not necessarily material as much as cerebral.

And according to co-coordinator of the Fair, Ruth Geddes, that is the purpose of the event.

"Each project was judged by the panel of teachers on the participant's knowledge of their topic," said the primary teacher.

Mrs. Geddes along with Elaine Baxter organized the annual Fair involving about 55 primary grade participants.

The emphasis of the voluntary Feb. 15, Fair was not to win but to acquire a better understanding of their topic and to convey the knowledge they learned.

Regardless of students winning as with first place Grant, second place Susan Pritzker, or third place Bruce Stephenson, Mrs. Geddes points out participation was stressed and all students involved with the Fair were awarded a ribbon as an acknowledgement of their efforts.



Grant Blondell isn't an expert on the moon — yet. But the Grade 1 student has a good start taking first place in the primary division of Orchard Park Public School

Science Fair. His project won on the basis of his knowledge of the subject.

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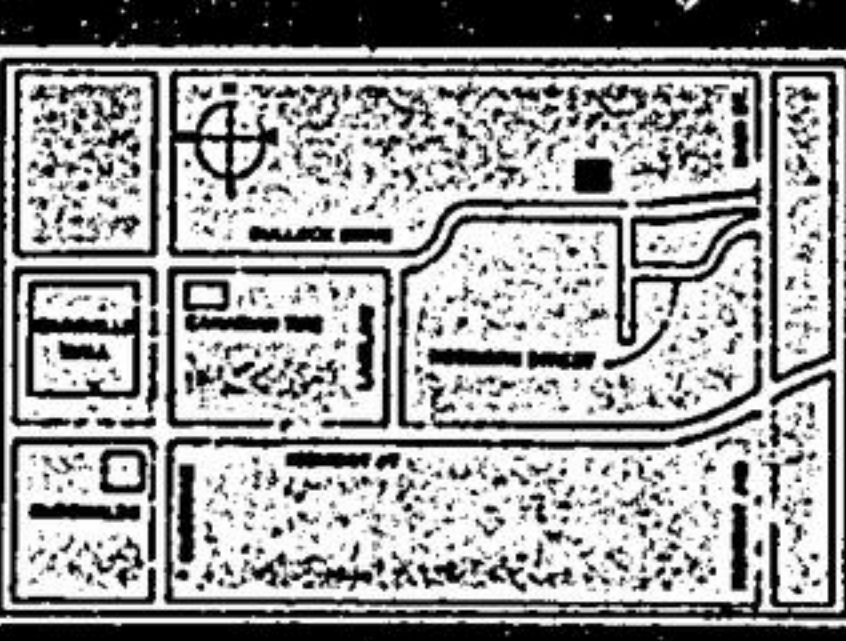
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