

# Talkin' Science

Finalists' Contributions from the 2016 Randolph College Science Festival Poetry Competition

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#### LUNA

Luna, Luna gives us light,
Through the blackness of the night,
The Sun reflecting on Luna's rocky sides,
The gravity from Luna pulls out the Earth's tides,
She seems close by,
Compared to other things in the sky,
But don't think she's that close,
She's 238,900 miles away at most,
And when she doesn't shine so bright,
A Lunar eclipse is happening tonight,
She's drifting away like when you let go of a balloon,
And you may also know her as the beautiful moon.

### FIRST PLACE Elementary School

Student: Elise Guard

Grade: 5

School: James River Day School

Teacher: Heather Guard

#### **MANTA RAYS**

I discovered that manta rays have gills.

This is a big thrill.

They have flaps,

I did not know that!

It has the largest brain out of all the fish.

Oh, what a delightful dish!

They have peg like teeth on their lower jaw.

They use them like a saw.

They will attack if disturbed.

So if you see them coming, it's best you swerve.

### **SECOND PLACE Elementary School**

Student: Destiny Wynn

Grade: 3

School: Dearington Elementary Teacher: Tawanda Johnson

#### AT ANNE SPENCER'S GARDEN

At Anne Spencer's garden a pretty spider knits a web while I watch and feel a breeze.

A cricket is chirping upon a leaf, why that makes him pleased.

What I touch is berries beside a huge tree, the cars going by as the crickets still chirp in glee.

I like the blooming flowers and the nice comfortable chair I hope I come again to Anne Spencer's garden.

### **THIRD PLACE Elementary School**

Student: Savannah Stetson

Grade: 3

School: R. S. Payne Elementary

Teacher: Lori Smith

#### **EARTH'S LAYERS**

There are four of them, all in a line. Some are small. some are wide.

The top one is the crust, the one were standing on. It's full of rocks and dust, it's the color of rust.

The second layer is the mantle, it is the most substantial. It's big and wide, but we've never been inside.

The third layer is the outer core, it's bigger than the crust. It's smaller than the mantle, but not quite as substantial.

The fourth one is the inner core, I would like to see some more. Since we can not see it, we will just have to believe it.

Student: Kendra Aukland

Grade: 5

School: Sandusky Elementary

#### **ECOSYSTEM SYSTEMS**

Ecosystems are all around

There is even one in a tiny town

Let's start with rainforests

They're hot and humid

Oh yeah they are

What about temperate forests

That's where we are

Rivers and streams

Streams flow really fast

Count the fishes as they swim past

Grasslands have lots of different grasses

Lemon, foxtail and buffalo

You should watch those grasses grow

Don't forget the Savanna

It has giraffes

Long necks, brown spots which are little tiny dots

Let's include a desert

It does not get a lot of rain

The Tundra and the Taigi

It's so cold you'd be in pain

Those are the ecosystems in my brain

Student: Lexi Felmlee

Grade: 3

School: R. S. Payne Elementary

Teacher: Michelle Stevenson

#### **GALAXIES**

Galaxies are bigger than you could imagine,
A million times bigger than the biggest dragon,
What they contain,
Is yet to be explained,
But, someday we will find,
To years, we have been blind,
That galaxies not only contain dust, gas, and stars,
But also, planets just like Earth and Mars,
Finally, one of the biggest mysteries will be revealed,
Life in other galaxies that has been concealed,
But who is to know when this will happen
Far away in a galaxy unimagined.

Student: Nikitha Prabhu

Grade: 5

School: James River Day School

Teacher: Heather Guard

#### **OCEANS**

The sound of the tide splashing on the shore. Crispy sand and cracking shells underneath my bare feet. Oh the sound is just so sweet. Kids talking, adults walking, while the birds are flocking. Ocean is rising, boats are hiding from the bare shore. Watching storms that I could have sworn, tore the trees apart. Science and nature woven into a piece of art.

Student: Meredith Plunkett

Grade: 5

School: James River Day School

Teacher: Heather Guard

#### **ROCKETSHIP**

Rocketship Rocketship burning bright. How you lighten up our sky tonight. How you look like a star and can travel so very far Rocketship Rocketship burning bright please come home safely tonight.

Student: Maya Adams Grade: 5 School: James River Day School Teacher: Heather Guard

#### **SCIENCE & MATH**

Science is awesome.

Math is cool.

Imagine the things you can learn at school!

Food chains, ecosystem and habitats

Experiments at school never involve rabbit hats.

Add, subtract, multiply, divide

Our teachers encourage us to give them a try.

Student: Garrison Tuggle

Grade: 3

School: R.S. Payne Elementary Teacher: Michelle Stevenson

#### **SOUND ASLEEP**

Sleeping in my comfy bed A sign of biorhythms in my head Dreaming, dreaming, dreaming On waiting until there is dawn In the morning I will wake Wishing of a pancake Hey there are flowers A sign of life, I heard my father's wife say in my head Ding, ding, ding Goes an alarm telling me it is dawn When I wake, I tell my mom She says, "Me too"

Student: Sera Faria

Grade: 3

School: R.S. Payne Elementary Teacher: Michelle Stevenson

#### STUDYING SPACE

Studying space is pretty easy now with telescopes you can buy downtown

There was an old fellow studying stars and space and suddenely saw something out of place

He looked through his telescope out at Jupiter and saw something very perculiar

He saw three moons and found out there were four He also discovered, Earth revolves around the Sun And many more.

I can't fit all his discoveries In this poem, but I'll tell you his name, It was Galileo

Student: Olivia Tompkins Grade: 5 School: James River Day School Teacher: Heather Guard

#### THE SEASONS

In summer it is hot, in winter it is freezing. In spring it is warm, In fall it is breezy. In the summer you can play ball at the beach, also teachers don't have to teach. In the winter if you have the right clothes on, you can go skating at the pond. In the spring all the flowers start to bloom, so you can pick them and put them in your room. In the fall the leaves change color, so I play in them with my brother. All these seasons happen because the earth tilts. When it tilts towards the sun, it's summer. When it tilts away, it's winter.

Student: Adilee Proffitt Grade: 2

School:T.C. Miller Elementary

### Poetry of science elementary school

#### THE SUN

the ocean shore.

The sun look so big but yet so far away.

It sits high in the sky from day to day.

Have you ever thought about what it was good for?

Other than providing the right temperature to sit on

The sun energy is strong enough to provide us light. It doesn't do it at night!

If you plant a garden to grow food you can eat.

The sun helps it grow so you can have vegetable with your meat.

So the next time you say the sun is hot. Remember if it was gone things you have now you would not have right now.

Student: Damarrius Grant

Grade: 3

School: Dearington Elementary Teacher: Tawanda Johnson

#### **LIGHT**

Solitary blaze
Cascading through blackest night
Watering planet's life

#### FIRST PLACE Middle School

Student: Adam Claire

Grade: 8

School: Nelson County MiddleSchool

Teacher: Lisa Schoener

#### OIL

Dig! Dig! Dig for war.
Dig for sadness washed ashore.
Dig for fuel, so much more!
Dig for liquid black as night!
Only dig if the reward is right.
Drill in the sea! Taint the water!
We'll get rich off the death of fodder.
Kill the fish if it means profit!
Blow up mountains, give us power!
Rise from under, petroleum showers.
Dig! Dig! Rip up the Earth.
She will not have another birth.

#### SECOND PLACE Middle School

Student: Jackson Golden

Grade: 8

School: Nelson County Middle School

Teacher: Lisa Schoener

#### **ANCIENT STAR DUST**

Every atom in My body began its life Within ancient stars.

### THIRD PLACE Middle School (TIE)

Student: Willow Lehrer

Grade: 8

School: World Community Education Center

Teacher: Laura Symons

#### WHAT'S OUT THERE

What's out there in the air?
What's out there beyond the earth?
Could there be another terf?
What's out there under the sea, could there be another me?

Was there ever a philosophy, that could determine our modern technology? What's out there beyond the sun's lights, are there a thousand nights? What's out there beyond the Milky way, could there be a different day?

Is there another flower, that could show me a different power? If we don't explore beyond the shore, would we ever know what we were made for?

### THIRD PLACE Middle School (TIE)

Student: Virginia Blair Trost

Grade: 6

School: James River Day School

Teacher: Mrs. Cole

#### "CELLS"

It's the cell, it's the cell
How can you tell?
The membrane is like the guard at the door
Things taken in while others it will ignore
The nucleus is the center of them all
It controls the whole cell and is always on the ball
The mitochondria produces ATP
So you have enough energy to run and be free
The vacuoles are like the storage centers
Only specified things are allowed to enter
Rough ER and Smooth ER are in here too
And the lysosomes are the cleanup crew
These are a few of many parts of the cell
Although they are small, we know them well

Student: Joshua Tipps

Grade: 7

School: Rustburg Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Rice

#### A STAR'S LIFE

Stars are glimmering About to fade Becoming Black dwarfs In their final stage

The stars that are dead They have no fuel This is their end But at least they are cool

They will soon be forgotten
They lived their lives in outer space
But this is ok
There is a protostar to take their place

Student: Addison Cox

Grade: 8

School: James River Day School

Teacher: Mr. Anderson

#### **FORENSIC PATHOLOGY**

Dissecting victims of death

Post-mortem, after their final breath

Finding all the secrets and clues hiding within

What was the cause of their untimely expiration?

Helping to solve their sudden annihilation

What is the cause of their death?

Testing the DNA

Using science to put a killer away

Testing the blood for poisonous toxins

Who committed these horrible sins?

Observing the wounds to see what weapon was used

To find out what ensued

Student:Thomas Jamerson

Grade: 7

School: Rustburg Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Rice

#### **GASSY KINGS**

Noble gasses are in the air, with orbitals full and none to share.

Helium is in my balloon, currently going towards the moon.

Neon is in lots of signs, It tends to be bright and shines.

Argon's use in bulbs of light, helps them keep shining bright.

Krypton, (Not superman's weakness,) Being in Krypton-fluorine lasers gives it a certain uniqueness,

Xenon was the first man-made, discovered a century ago plus a decade,

Radon kills 20,000 a year, one reason it's deadly is because it's all clear,

Ununoctium is accepting names, I think "Bob" is right on aim.

Student: Hugh Selby

Grade: 7

School: James River Day School

Teacher: Mr. Anderson

#### LITHOSPHERE

The lithosphere is made of mantle and crust, Out of the crust magma is thrust, As it cools in an ocean, The floor moves in an outward motion.

Pangea split when its plates broke apart, To have, in a new formation, a fresh start. A new look the Earth dons, That has nothing to do with protons.

The lithosphere moves as heat is added, Without heat, it has had it. Subduction recycles the rock that is made, The floor, across the sea, is conveyed.

To move the land, it adds or subtracts rock, This process goes on around the clock.

Student: Ashutosh Arora

Grade: 8

School: James River Day School

Teacher: Mr. Anderson

#### M.A.T.H.

Mental. Abuse. To. Humans! That's what most people say. If you don't know math, You won't get a job these days.

All this talk about math,
Don't forget about science,
All you have to do is
Learn to apply it.

Now I'll admit, Both can get a bit hard, But if you study and work You'll be extremely smart.

Student: Max Adams

Grade: 8

School: Nelson County Middle School

Teacher: Lisa Schoener

#### MATH:

Solving for X and Y Makes me want to cry Staying up late at night Making sure it's just right Slopes, Variables and Primes, are taking over my life I can't see the light of day When I am done? No one can say Math, it can't be beat As must as we hate it, it makes life complete Taking tests, getting a score Constantly asking "What are we going to use this for?" But in the end We all pretend That we hate it and we get sour Even though it's to the second power

Student: Brittany Hall

Grade: 8

School: Nelson County Middle School

Teacher: Lisa Schoener

#### THE PERIODIC TABLE

There is a table,
Which is quite able,
To help you find all elements,
Although it's still in development!

18 groups and 7 periods, It's a lot to memorize isn't it? There's solids, liquids, and gases, You might learn them as slow as molasses, Or maybe even the fastest!

Mendeleev, we owe our thanks, Even though you left some blanks, You managed to predict many, Unforgivably, you were not given a single penny!

Student: Aaron Kramer

Grade: 7

School: Rustburg Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Rice

#### **WATER**

A strong force awaits me, running in the river A force so strong, it could crack diamonds and help plants not wither.

H2O is the proper way this wonder is called. The studies of this magical substance has been moving roughly along

Dolphins and salmons fish and sharks too all call this element their habitat with all the adventures they've gone through.

But this magnificent marvel is fading, its supply is drying away, we can't survive without without this amazement, there is no logical way.

But we can work together all of us, me and you. we can save this super substance here are some things you can try and do.

Get a filter and insert it in a pitcher so no dirty H2o will get wasted, now you're getting the picture.

Next, take showers instead of long baths.

If you want to see how they waste H2O, I suggest you do the math.

Also, at night, when brushing your teeth, turn off the faucet and make sure you don't cheat.

Only run the washing machine, when the load is completely full this will save a lot of this element, although the bag will be a harder pull.

If we all work together, and start to preserve, the earth can live longer and better with the WATER it deserves.

Student: Gillian Ceballos Kirby

Grade: 6

School: James River Day School

Teacher: Mrs. Cole

#### WORLD BIOMES

Biomes are found all over the Earth,

Different species are found there to make up their worth.

They have different features and temperatures, too.

Some appear as green, yellow, white, or blue.

Deserts are a hot, dry land.
They are filled with miles and miles of sand.
Rattlesnakes slither and scorpions scurry.
In the dry heat, nothing is furry.

The Tundra is covered with ice and snow.

This is a place where not many things grow.

A place where the musk ox and white foxes roam, It is a furry animals home.

The Rainforest is green and lush.

The animals on the forest floor are always in a rush.

Rainbow birds in the canopy whistle and sing,

But you have to look close or you won't see a thing.

Cheetahs and zebra run wild and free, Through the Savannah, there's scarcely a tree. In the tall grasses lions will hide, To find their next meal to bring to their pride.

The Oceans are wide and full of salt water, The Arctic is cold and the Indian is hotter. Sharks and fishes and all things that dive, Must live underwater to keep them alive.

The Temperate Forest surrounds my home, It's the most human populated biome. Squirrels and bunnies and bears abound, Through four difference seasons, many animals are found.

Biomes are everywhere, all over the Earth. Plants and animals always giving life a rebirth.

Student: Peyton Lawson

Grade: 7

School: Rustburg Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Rice

#### AN OSCILLATING UNIVERSE?

So, how did the universe begin?
This vastness that we all live in?
Thoughts and theories have crossed the lands
On planet earth, since time began

We will probably never know What happened 14 billion years ago But, one of many theories says...

The universe was packed
So tiny
Dense and dark
Extremely hot
No light
Black
Protons, neutrons, electrons free
No form
No structure
To be seen

Then, there was a BANG!
An explosion hurling outward
Time, space and matter were born.
The new universe expanded and cooled
Protons, neutrons and electrons joined
Forming atoms that now make our everything
And have become so old
And thus was formed our universe

### Poetry of science high school

With Galaxies and stars dispersed Gravity, space with no border Both symmetry and disorder

The universe is still exploding
Slowly stretching, slowly growing
Expanding outward through the ages
Through years too many to write on pages

From this the question then arises What's in the future? What new surprises? Some believe expansion won't decrease Till space and time itself begins to cease

But others say that gravity will take hold
And all that matter in the universe will do as it's told
To stop in place, then face all else and attract
The universe will begin to compact

It would be collapsing ever inward
As if it was being reeled in by a cord
Like a movie of our growing universe
Beings watched in total reverse

Our universe would deflate until...
It would be packed
So tiny
Dense and dark
Extremely hot
No light

### Poetry of science high school

Black
Protons, neutrons, electrons free
No form
No structure
To be seen...

The Big Crunch would extinguish our universe. But some say it would again disperse Re-exploding, re-creating time and space The old universe not having left a trace

If this oscillating universe is true
Perhaps there could be more than one of you
From a universe before or after this one
But we can't know before this universe is done

### FIRST PLACE High School

Student: Hanan Davis

Grade: 9

School: World Community Education Center

Teacher: Laura Symons

### Poetry of science high school

#### **CELESTIAL STARS**

Twinkle, twinkle, shining star A ball of gas is what they are. Hot stars can be white or blue, Cooler stars have reddish hues. A nebulae is where they're from, A protostar they soon become. A pretty celestial body in space, Hydrogen and helium are at its base. Two-hundred billion stars on display, Many are found in our Milky Way. Later in life they're called a main sequence star, Though we can't see these changes from afar. The larger a star, the shorter it lives, We are thankful though, for the beauty it gives. If temperatures rise and helium starts to sink It turns into a white dwarf after it shrinks. Sometimes stars skip that and they explode; Its called a supernova, as you may know. But stars are so much more than just light, They're inspiration, hope, and brighten the night. They carry the wishes of many a little one, The desires and dreams of what they hope to become.

### SECOND PLACE High School

Student: Julianna Cumella

Grade: 10

School: Homeschool Teacher:Victoria Cumella

### **AHHH! GROSS! QUIT BREATHING ON ME!**

Oh, hello, and how do you do?

Well, actually, sir I'm quite confused,

My teacher says all atoms are recycled from me to you.

Well, yes, my friend, that theory is true,

Not an atom in you is remotely new.

There are atoms in your nose

That were once a part of George Washington's toes

And atoms in your feet

Might end up in the next meal you eat.

The next time you breathe

Some of your atoms could end up in me.

You see my friend atoms are as old as

Before computers wrote in bold

Or even before the universe began to unfold.

WAIT! What's that you say?

You're breathing in atoms your odd neighbor Phil scratched off his back yesterday?

Well, maybe we're better off holding our breath.

#### THIRD PLACE High School

Student: Elizabeth Magill

Grade: 10

School: World Community Education Center

Teacher: Laura Symons

### **BALANCING EQUATIONS**

When you're balancing an equation Don't give into temptation You got to make the numbers match and then attach the proper number into its place Then you ace the test and now you're blessed.

Student:Victoria Bell

Grade: 10

School: Altavista Combined School

Teacher: Justina Malehorn

#### **CHEMICAL CHANGES**

#### Chemistry Rap

Substances are found in so many places
Also known as acids or bases.
I put 'em in their places By measuring their pH of water
if I didn't do that it would be out of orda'
Electronegativity increases as you go right
When I get hungry, I take a bite.
Careful, careful in chemistry
Or maybe it'll be a misery.
Miss Malehorn is a really good teacher
Just keep on and you could be a preacher.

Student: Devonte Mendez

Grade: 11

School: Altavista Combined School

Teacher: Justina Malehorn

#### **GALAXY**

A galaxy of bright and stars of night zoom by faster than cars

off to the Milky Way, Jupiter, and Mars.

As night falls and the sky turns gray one is reminded that tomorrow is a brand new day.

Holes and scars from Asteroids decay.

Gravity pulls down as the world goes round.

Ever see a meteor shower...

One so pretty and bright that one could compare to that of a diamond.

A setting sun, a sunrise, a sun's ray shining bright as a Galaxy so far out of sight.

Student: Regann Agnew

Grade: 9

School: E. C. Glass High School

Teacher: Cat Phillips

### **MÖBIUS STRIP**

Dark

Silent

Where to start is where to end Time and space, thin strip Half twisted, taped by my dire hope How can I catch you

When there is no place to begin

And no orientation

Student: William Liang

Grade: 11

School:Virginia Episcopal School

Teacher: Jason Knebel

#### **MY VERY EDUCATED MOTHER**

One orb, Two orbs, Red orb, Blue orb,
Green orb, Blue orb, Small orb, Big orb.
That one has a deep deep scar.
This one has a giant star.
Say! How beautiful the orbs are.
Yes. One is red, and one is blue.
Some are ringed and some have a view.
Some are solid, and some are gas,
And one has lots and lots of grass.
Why are they sad and glad and bad?
I do not know, go ask your dad.
Some are uninhabitable, to some you can go.
There's one with giant volcanoes.
From Mercury to Neptune,
From Neptune to Mercury,

Funny things are everywhere.

All the planets must constantly run.

They run for fun in the hot, hot sun.

Oh me! Oh my! Oh me! oh my!

What a lot of planets go by.

Some have two moons and some have three.

Some have fourteen and some have over sixty.

Where do they come from? I can't say.

But I bet they have come a long, long way.

we see them come, we see them go (rip Pluto).

Not one of them is like another.

Student: Caroline Taylor

Grade: 11

School:Virginia Episcopal School

Don't ask me why, go ask your mother.

Teacher: Jason Knebel

#### **SCIENCE**

New discoveries, Extraordinary species, A new world for me.

Student: Jaleel Brooks

Grade: 10

School: E. C. Glass High School

Teacher: Cat Phillips

#### **TALKIN' SCIENCE**

Science, what is science, what do you think.
Science is everything, nature, object, and our drinks.
Science is in you, your body is like a temple.
I'm just talkin' science, let me explain, and make it simple.

We learn a lot about science, and I know much.

Like planets and galaxies, and rocks and minerals and such.

Planets, stars, and galaxies a lot to say.

Just like a candy bar, our galaxy is called the milky way.

Some believe me, and some think I'm lyin'.

Say what you want, I'm just talkin' science.

I can tell you a little something about rocks and minerals. You can learn a lot if you have the right materials. That all I can say right now, you think I'm lyin'. Like I said earlier I'm just talkin' science.

Student: Keegan Paige Grade: 9 School: E. C. Glass High School

Teacher: Cat Phillips

#### THE COMMON SEA FLEA

For I am a simple invertebrate
Living in fresh-water for all my life,
Which has a very high mortality rate,
Predators causes me in to be in strife
While I eat algae to my heart's delight.
The humans conduct experiments
To study environmental site
To determine if there are pollutants
Or to test their medicine on our hearts
Since our cardiovascular system
Are so similar to each other's parts.
We like to eat in our ecosystem
As filter feeders when algae comes about
In a massive blooms or in a small sprout

Student: Eric Taylor

Grade: 12

School: Heritage High School

#### **WORLD OF COLORS**

A plant's frond absorbs all color,
But it reflects out green.
Red is the longest wavelength we've seen.
If we didn't have color, our world would be duller.

Colors you see in a bubble
Are caused by light interference
A chameleon changes color causing its disappearance;
This way it stays out of trouble.

Student: Kiara Cumella

Grade: 9

School: Homeschool

Teacher:Victoria Cumella



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