

CWSF 2014 - Windsor, Ontario



Ellena Schuffert

Who knew being 'dense' could be better! The Mystery of what the brain 'hears'

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Intermediate

Region: Pacific Northwest

City: Smithers, BC

School: Smithers Secondary

Abstract: Lots of research states that musicians have better auditory processing. Parents and educators have only recently started seeing that bilingual children may have an advantage in auditory attention. For my pilot study I created a noisy environment on a recording which Non-Musicians/Musicians and Monolinguals/Bilinguals listened to and then answered questions. I found that the Musician Bilinguals heard the most information. I am continuing next year.

Biography

I love music, science, and languages. I have done science fair projects since grade 3, and I also play violin in the Valley Youth Fiddlers. I participate in Concours d'Art Oratoire, which is a French speaking competition. Besides French and English I also speak German. My favourite subject in school is Aviation. I live on a small farm with four goats and a few other small animals close to Hudson Bay Mountain where I love to go skiing. When I grow up I would like to work for NASA as an astronaut. I was always interested in the brain and I read about a dead salmon whose brain showed neural activity in a brain scanner. This got me started to think about if being bilingual and/or being a musician gives your brain advantages to hearing "better". If I would have the opportunity I would follow up on my project with a working memory test. I do science fair projects because every year I learn things that I never expected. Selecting a topic that interests me encourages me to learn more.

Awards

Value

Excellence Award - Intermediate - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Nuclear Waste Management Organization	\$100
Western University Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$1 000
Total	\$1 100