

CWSF 2015 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



Janet Dawson

Goodnight Sun!

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Junior

Region: Vancouver Island

City: Victoria, BC

School: Gordon Head Elementary

Abstract: I photographed sunsets over thirteen months and recorded sunset direction and time. During that time, I built formulae to predict sunset direction and time from the top of PKOLS, a park on Vancouver Island. My formulae are accurate within plus or minus five degrees and plus or minus five minutes. In comparison, computer algorithms predict sunset time within plus or minus one minute.

Biography

Ever since grade three I have been fascinated by astronomy, and wanted to be an astronaut. Everything about the unknown, and how everything started is just so interesting to me. People look at the stars and say it tells us about the past, so I wanted to look at the sunsets and see what they tell me. As for my further investigation, I would really like to eliminate all time errors in my formula, and look at the sunrises as well as the sunsets. My advice to other students doing a project would be to have determination. Keep at it, and don't stop until you are 100% satisfied with the results, because in the end it pays off to go the extra mile in science fair.

Awards

Value

Excellence in Astronomy Award - Junior Sponsor: Royal Astronomical Society of Canada	\$500
Excellence Award - Junior - Silver Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
Challenge Award - Discovery - Junior Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
Western University Scholarship Silver Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$2 000
Total	\$2 500