



## INSPIRING A SENSE OF WONDER IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL CLASSROOM WITH SCIENCE

Children are fascinated by the world God has created and enjoy opportunities to explore and discover it. From caterpillars turning into butterflies to magnificent lightning storms, how can we best practice creating a sense of wonder in the grammar school classroom as we discover the mysteries of the world God created?

Three ways to inspire wonder:

### **I. Make an impact! Focus their attention.**

We first need to catch the eye of the student...get their attention and spark their natural curiosity. For example, when introducing lightning to third graders, I pull out a balloon and begin to inflate it. As I am walking around the classroom, I rub it on my hair and then stick it onto the wall. They are completely amazed and I have their undivided attention. I have them curious!

### **II. Don't give away the ending!**

Always ask questions first before telling the students the answers. So, after the balloon is sticking to the wall and my hair looks like medusas – thankfully minus the snakes, I simply ask, what do you think caused this to happen? I allow the students time to wonder about the how's and why's of the balloon and my hair. If the student's do not come up with static electricity - and many times they do not in third grade – I ask them if they have ever been shocked. This always leads to lots of stories about trampoline shocks and bed sheet sparks. The stories, however, are a great segue into my explanation on what causes lightning. After I teach the students about lightning, I then return to the inflated balloon and pop it. We discuss why the balloon made the 'pop' sound as I then relate that to thunder.

### **III. Set up a station with science models**

Hands-on models are always a great way to elicit wonder. Following our discussion about static electricity and lightning, I show them a plasma ball and allow them to generate a small spark using pennies. I also have a thunder maker set out for them to tug on.

Although there are different methods to reach students, the one method that can always motivate a student's love and joy for learning is sparking their natural curiosity and inspiring wonder.