

It is hard to believe another school year is upon us already! As the new year unfolds, there are also some changes happening at Praxis that I wanted to update all of our loyal weekend readers with. We will be saying goodbye to Lorne Cooper. He has done an exceptional job keeping many of our kitchen's messy, sticky and even oozing after reading his experiment of the week very Saturday – thank you very much for this! On a serious note though, he has done an exceptional job; we will miss him and do wish him well in his retirement.

Some of you may remember me...I am extremely pleased to once again have the privilege of sharing my passion for science with all of you each week! It has been a few years now, but I am excited to be working with Praxis as their Senior Science Consultant. There will also be a new friendly voice on the other end of the phone when you call the Praxis office to book your Scientists in the Classroom Presentations, Learning Kits or other science needs as Tracy Warwick is now our Regional Executive Director.

I wanted my “first column” and the new school year to start off with a bang so let's get started!

**\*Remember to always ask an adult before doing any science experiment.\***

### Materials

- film canister
- Alka Seltzer
- empty cardboard roll
- markers
- duct tape
- club soda
- measuring spoons

### Procedure

1. Tape one end of the cardboard tube closed with the duct tape. Completely seal the end. If you have time, decorate with markers. Set aside.
2. Take one Alka Seltzer tablet and divide into four even pieces.
3. Measure 15 mL of club soda into the film canister.
4. Place one of the pieces of Alka Seltzer in the film canister.
5. QUICKLY put the lid on the film canister and slide it **lid first** into the cardboard tube.
6. POINT THE TUBE AWAY FROM your face, the cat/dog/brother/sister and watch what happens.

7. What happens?
8. Try the experiment again, using variations in the amount of club soda and number of Alka Seltzer tablets used.

What is going on?

The film canister should have come shooting out of the cardboard tube across the room just like a rocket. The fizzy bubbles that are produced when you drop the Alka Seltzer tablet into the club soda are actually little bubbles of carbon dioxide gas forming. When you placed the lid on the film canister, you trapped all of this gas inside of the container. Once trapped inside, the gas has nowhere to escape, and in order to get out, it keeps pushing until the lid pops off and the canister is forced with all of that pressure out of the tube and across the room – just like a rocket.

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