### An Important Discovery Made By Local Student

Alex Luo Fri,March 26, 2021

Mississauga,Lorne Park Secondary School - In this week student in 12 grade made an important discovery in the experiment of her science fair project accidentally .

Half month ago, the science teacher in LPSS asked their student to choose a project as their science exhibition. A student called Leanne Wilkinson decided to compare slime mold cultures and their growth pattern to fungus and bacteria. “I’ve got a microscope as a gift last year ,but it hasn’t been used very much,so I chose this topic as my science project.”

*The process of the experiment*

During her first experiment, after she had put the slime mold and the food in the petri dish,she found that the slime seemed know where the food was ,it just grew straight toward it.“ I thought it was a mistake .” said Leanne Wilkinson. And she told her science teacher the behavior of the slime mold ,but the teacher didn’t understand it’s action too. The scientific name of slime mold is Physarum Polycephalum. It is a kind of protist. As a very simple organism,Slime mold has no vision and auditory sense .

After the first experiment ,she did three more experiments.She put different food beside the slime mold ,to see what it went first; she put salt,pepper and antibiotic around the slime mold ,to check whether it would avoid it;and she also put food in different distance from the mold, tried to find out how far could slime mold feel the food .

Her science teacher introduced her discovery to the professors in the University of Toronto.The professor was impressed by her experiment ,and he is going to do the experiment again with several collage student.

Wilkinson said that her project had no difficulty,it just took a bit of time. The discovery was totally unanticipated.“ I think I’m very lucky .”she said. But the young girl didn’t satisfied with the experiment. “We still don’t know how could the slime mold find the food so quickly.”Now , She is expecting the result and the conclusion from the University of Toronto .

“I think science is interesting, ”said Wilkinson, “but my favorite subjects are art and geography.I want to travel over the world ,and then to be a geography teacher. But maybe I will go to study biology ,who knows.”