

# FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER

## 2021-2022



I cannot believe that we are about to start the 4th quarter! The last 3 months flew by! Our 3rd quarter was once again very busy!

Let's start with **5th grade**. This quarter we wrapped up the life science standards and learned about invasive species, cycles in ecosystems such the water cycle, the oxygen/carbon dioxide cycle and the nitrogen cycle.

We then switched from Life Science to Earth and Space Science and began our unit on interactions of Earth's major systems. Our lessons brought us to the study of the geosphere and its effects on Earth. We also took a closer look into the other systems such as the hydrosphere, the biosphere, and the atmosphere.

We will finish the year with a study of Earth's place in the universe and see how the sun, moon, and Earth interact.

In **6th grade**, we wrapped up our unit on the impact of plastics in the oceans, and moved on to physical science where we learned about chemical bonds. In the 4th quarter we will become chemists and learn about chemical reactions. We will be able to conduct some cool experiments and learn how to read chemical equations.

We will spend the last quarter on energy and will look into potential and kinetic energy.

**7th graders** were very busy as well. We switched from life science to Earth and Space Science and learned about the nitrogen cycle. We took a week off our regular curriculum in February to work on a Black History Month project. Students researched a famous African American scientist or mathematician and created an informational poster. Everyone did a great job! We got back on track with a new unit called Save the Andes, where we are trying to answer the question: How can we sustain biodiversity in a modern, changing world?. After this unit, we will spend some time on exploring extreme weather.

**In 8th grade**, we worked on a unit that took us into Earth and Space Science where we learned more about the history of Earth. Students worked on a timeline project and everyone did a great job! We then moved onto another unit about the impact of global warming on organisms. We analyzed a variety of graphs, and students researched a specific organism to create a poster that explained the impact of climate change on their organism.

We are working now on a unit on a natural hazard. We used a variety of materials to identify where tsunamis occur, how they form, how they move and what happens as they approach shore. Next we will look at engineering design solutions and technologies to lessen the effects of tsunamis. Finally students will apply their understanding to consider how to communicate about another natural hazard to stakeholders in a community.

**Finally, all 4 grades are participating in this year's science fair! Everyone chose a different topic and students have the task of creating a poster board and attempting to answer a scientific question by following the scientific method. We are looking forward to discovering everyone's project!**

### **Friendly Reminders**

- Please visit Powerschool regularly to check on your child's progress and missing assignments.
- Parents will be contacted once by email if an assignment is missing. If an assignment is still missing 2 days after the due date, a 0 will be recorded in the gradebook.
- Once an assignment has been graded and returned, the grade is final unless the student is asked to redo the assignment.