



## **SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER**

### **2020-2021**

We have had a busy first quarter!

Fifth graders focused on matter and its properties. We explored physical and chemical properties of matter and conducted cool experiments.

In 6th grade, we worked on space systems and created a scale model of the solar system. We also studied the effects the moon had on tides and utilized actual data to analyze the patterns in the times and heights of tides. We also took a journey through the water cycle and wrote about it from the perspective of a water droplet. We became meteorologists for a few days and explored weather and weather forecasting. We even had a live zoom session with a meteorologist! We wrapped up our Earth and Space science learning with the study of the rock cycle.

In 7th grade we started the year with studying analog and digital waves. We then moved on to life science and studied plant and animal cells. Students worked on the Organelle Trail project and created great wanted posters about cell parts! We also studied body systems and discovered that the body is a system of interacting subsystems. We wrapped up the first quarter with a look at photosynthesis by working on an interactive lab.

In 8th grade, we focused on life science during this first quarter. We began with the exploration of sensory receptors and stimuli. We took a look at all the parts of the brain and their functions. Students created an informational poster about a disorder related to senses. Next we studied competition in ecosystems and engaged in an investigation to figure out and explain ecosystem interactions. We also explored biodiversity and took a look at the effects of human impact on ecosystem dynamics by studying a variety of maps and graphs. We just started a unit on animal migration and are learning why and how animals migrate, methods used to track and map migrations, and how humans are impacting animal migration.

## **Second quarter overview:**

5th grade: We are starting life science and will be studying plant and animal needs: we will look into what plants need to survive. We also will learn about how animals get energy from food, and how plants use energy. We will also explore energy flow in ecosystems and how changes affect an ecosystem.

6th grade: We will explore some life science topics like ecosystems and food chains. We will then move on to physical science with structures and properties of matter and chemical reactions.

7th grade: We will start the second quarter with life science and the study of matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems. We will also explore growth, development and reproduction of organisms.

8th grade: We are continuing with our unit on animal migration. Next, we will explore natural selection and adaptations.

### **Important dates:**

*November 3; no school*

*November 13: no school/staff development*

*November 25,26,27: Thanksgiving break*

*December 3: 2nd quarter progress reports*

*December 21-January 3: Christmas vacation*

*January 4-January 18: whole school remote learning*

### **Friendly Reminders**

- *Please visit Powerschool regularly to check on your child's progress and missing assignments.*
- *Parents of e-learners: I would strongly suggest visiting your child's Google classroom regularly to review what work is missing.*
- *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.*