

Science News

October 2006

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Dear Parents,

It was great to see you at Back-to-School Night. If you did not make it, I handed out the syllabus and grading scheme for the course. Also, I requested that each parent fill out a contact card with email address and phone number. If you did not fill out a card or did not make it to Back-to-School Night, please be sure to email me with this information at jpaton@nysmith.com. Thank you in advance.

It is hard to believe that we are already in our sixth week into the school year. Over the past month, we finished the watershed ecology unit. We completed the unit with a discussion on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Each and every student made a contribution to our discussion. We are so pleased with the outcome of that discussion that we hope to have many more in the future. (We think the students enjoyed it, too!)

We are currently studying plants and trees. Students have a leaf collection project due in about two weeks. They are also growing radishes and writing a "high school" lab report. We hope that by introducing them to assignments that I would have expected from my high school students, they will be better prepared for the caliber of work they will be expected to complete in less than two years.

Again, as a reminder, students have a homework assignment every single week. Homework assignments are given in the beginning of the week and due by the end of the week. Because these make up the bulk of their grades, we encourage you to be on top of your student's work. It is also each student's responsibility to see us if they have missed work, or do not understand the material. We are always available for help and expect that students will take responsibility for their own learning.

We are looking forward to yet another great month!

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Paton
Stephanie Magin

Upcoming Events

- 10.09 Columbus Day (No School)
- 10.11 High School Fair
- 10.12 7A, 7B Leaf Collections Due
- 10.13 7C Leaf Collections Due
- 10.16 Science Fair Proposals Due



Science Fair:

As a reminder, students are required to present an independent science fair project. Students should not have projects that include anything that could not be brought onto school property. Written project proposals must be submitted by October 16th. Our policy for late work is that students only receive half-credit for work turned in after the due date. This is the same for any Science Fair due dates. Again, students should not purchase any supplies or begin working until their topic has been approved.

Contact Information:

Please feel free to contact either of us if you should have any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Phone: (703) 713-3332 ext. 1137

E-mail: jpaton@nysmith.com or smagin@nysmith.com