

Science News

November 2006

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Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that the first marking period is already over! We had a wonderful time at our first Halloween party here at Nysmith. Thank you so much to all the parents who helped to organize and run the 7th-grade Halloween party. The students seemed to really enjoy themselves.

As with every new marking period, students start with a clean slate. Their first grade this marking period comes from our current unit: Kingdom Animalia. Students are becoming “teachers” for our introduction to this unit. They have 15-minute “class periods” where they will have to teach their “students” about a particular animal phylum. They don’t just have to present material, though. They have to come up with worksheets, which they will grade (to determine how much their students have learned!); and, they must build a three-dimensional model. We are excited to see what our students have come up with. They continue to amaze us with their questions and curiosity. We know that their presentations will demonstrate the amount of pride they put into their work.

Looking ahead, students should begin fine-tuning their science fair projects. Supplies should be purchased by the end of the month. Those students who are growing things should begin growing now!

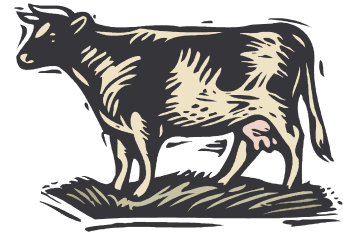
Planning for the 7th-grade camping trip to the Chesapeake Bay is under-way. We will keep you posted as soon as we determine dates and details. Again, we hope to have yet another exciting and productive month. Thank you all for your continued support in enforcing due dates and preparedness for class.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Paton
Stephanie Magin

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11.01 Marking Period 2 Begins
- 11.08 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11.09 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11.10 No School



Dissections:

This year, students will have the opportunity to have both a Fall dissection and a Spring dissection. In the Spring, students will dissect an animal relating to our Oceanography unit: the squid. This month, however, we are studying animal adaptations. To illustrate this concept, students will be dissecting eyeballs from sheep, cows, and pigs. We hope that they are as excited about this lab as we are!



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.

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