

# Science News

December 2006

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Dear Parents,

The seventh grade class has just finished dissecting mammalian eyeballs. While some of them were a little hesitant, everyone had a chance to explore the differences between sheep, cow, and pig eyeballs, in an attempt to better understand animal adaptations. Some of them even chose to bring their lenses home! This dissection was good practice for our squid dissection in the Spring. The "Animal Kingdom" unit will end before break and so students should be studying for their upcoming unit test.

Lab reports on their turnip experiments were due this week. While this may have seemed overwhelming for the students, this was good practice in how scientists approach their experiments and publish their results. Exercises in open-ended problems are always good ways to work their brains and challenge them.

Human Growth and Development was on December 5th and 6th. Girls were instructed by myself and Ms. Magin, while boys were instructed by Mr. Phillips and Mr. Minto. While we cover the basic biology of the male and female reproductive systems, and the changes that occur during puberty, we direct them to you for questions they still have unanswered. Also, this unit does not factor into their science grades.

Also, as an update, I am currently working on building a website that will supplement our class by providing online access to materials we will see in class. I hope to have this site up and running by the time we get back from break.

And lastly, we would like to thank you all for your support and thoughtfulness during this week. Since it is our first year at Nysmith, we could never have imagined the support and appreciation we have received this week. Thank you again. We enjoy working with your children and hope that the next half of the year will prove to be just as exciting and fun as the first half of the year.

Have a wonderful winter break!

Jacqueline Paton  
Stephanie Magin

## Upcoming Events

- 12.04 Turnip Lab Reports due
- 12.13 7C Animal Kingdom Test
- 12.14 7A/7B Animal Kingdom Test
- 12.15 Holiday Party

## Even Further Ahead...

- 01.16 Science Fair Background Paper due to Mr. Stephens
- 02.20 Science Fair Projects due



## Science Fair:

Students who have not already started their science fair experiments should begin as soon as possible. Background information papers are due soon after break ends.

Students will turn their final drafts in to Mr. Stephens on 12/16. However, they will be graded for a science grade.

## 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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