

# Science News

December 2006

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Dear Parents,

The eighth grade class has just finished our unit on Kinematics. They have spent the last week working individually and in small groups to understand the mathematics behind kinematics. We have a test at the end of this week. We wish them all the best of luck, as this is the first full in-class test that they have had in Physics this quarter.

A few weeks ago, they finished building their popsicle stick bridges. They spent a week and a half, building the most stable bridges that they could design, using their knowledge of forces. We even had a bridge that could hold the weight of one of your students! We hope these pictures will show up in the yearbook at the end of the year. We really did have fun building, and then breaking, the bridges.

Human Growth and Development was on December 5th and 6th. Girls were instructed by myself and Mrs. Presnetsova, 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 and Luba Presnetsova



"Oh, and I suppose it was me who said 'what harm could it be to give the chickens a book on nuclear physics?'"

## Upcoming Events

- 12.07 8A Kinematics Test
- 12.08 8B Kinematics Test
- 12.11 Science Fair Paper Rough Drafts due
- 12.15 Holiday Party

## Even Further Ahead...

- 01.08 Science Fair Background Paper due
- 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.

Stevens 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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