

Greetings, Family!

Some towns usually get snow in January, but other towns rarely get snow. Our science class will learn about weather and space in our next unit, "Weather and the Solar System." We will learn how air moves, what causes storms, and how weather forecasts are made. We will also explore what the Sun is like and what orbits it. Finally, we will learn about the other planets in our solar system and what keeps planets in their orbits.

You can help make science come alive for your student by letting him or her be a "weather tracker" at home. Help your student find a three- or five-day weather forecast for your area in a newspaper or on the Internet. Save the forecast and have your student compare the forecast with the actual weather conditions on those days. Also, help your student identify planets that may be visible in the night sky.

For this unit, we will be doing some hands-on activities about climate and space, using the materials listed below. Can you donate or loan any of these items? If so, we need to receive your items by _____.

- graph paper
- small baby food jars
- round balloons
- local newspaper weather maps
- toothpicks
- transparent tape
- string or yarn
- large index cards
- metric tape measures
- large plastic jars

Finally, we could also use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have any particular interest or special experience with this topic? Would you be able to help with the activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to class.

Thank you very much for your help!

Family Newsletter

Unit C, Weather and the Solar System

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____