**Earth Science Newsletter (10/17/16)**

**(Mr. Williams - Rm. C-423)**

**Volume I, Issue No. 6**

**Exam #1 (mapping) is behind us and in the books (well, it will be in the books by Monday evening). Many students scored very well (the highest grade was a 97). Students who did not perform well on the exam will be encouraged to attend academic advisement with me (or stay after school) for additional support. I want to be sure that all students understand the correlation between strong studying skills and success with regents-style questions at the high school level.**

**Students will be investigating minerals in class this week. They will become very familiar with p. 16 of the Earth Science Reference Tables (Physical Properties of Common Minerals). Students will also complete two laboratory exercises (mineral hardness and identification of minerals).**

**In addition, sixteen students will kick-off this year’s expedition earth science program on Friday with our fall research cruise on Seneca Lake (and visit to Hobart and William Smith Colleges). We are all really looking forward to this trip!**

**Shout-out to Juliana Scott, who totally caught my mistake with the time-zone homework on Edmodo and brought it my attention before too much damage was done. See? Even earth science teachers confuse east with west from time to time!**

**For Honors Classes Only:** **Encourage students to keep plugging away with their first attempt at reading a peer-reviewed scientific journal article. They are reading about the use of LIDAR remote-sensing technology to uncover Mayan ruins in Central America. Ask them how much they understand so far, and push them to dig deeper with the article (the target at his point is for students to understand about 30-40%). Students should be spending significant time looking up the unfamiliar terms.**

**Regards,**

**Jason Williams**

**Earth Science Teacher**