**Earth Science Newsletter (11/07/16)**

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

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**Daylight savings time has ended, and that means the first marking period is coming to a close.**

**Last week students got VERY creative with their comic strip depictions of the rock cycle. Students also investigated the density of 32 random taconite core samples taken from the site of a proposed iron mine near Mellen, Wisconsin. They then used their data to estimate the value of the iron ore body. We also spent time in class reading about the potential economic and environmental impacts of developing a new iron mine at the site. At this point, students should be working at home to prepare their report letter for William Thomas (County Executive, Iron County, WI). This scientific literacy assignment is due Thursday, 11/10, and will count as the final grade for the first marking period. The details (and rubric) are posted on Edmodo.**

**In addition, we have arrived at the end of unit 2: Rocks and Minerals. Students will complete a unit test in class this week, so they should practice finding rock/mineral information in the Earth Science Reference Tables (ESRT).**

 **On Saturday Mr. Calderwood, Mrs. Barnell, and I accompanied fifteen LHS Earth Science students (along with parent volunteers) on the last expedition of the fall season. The students completed a “paleoblitz” of the Moscow Shale exposure in Tully, NY. They then returned to school in order to compile and analyze the fossil data that had been collected. Shout-outs to all those involved in this expedition! Rosie DenBleyker found a rare crinoid calyx specimen, and it is currently on display in C-423!**

**For Honors Classes Only:** **The first scientific writing assignment proved to be a challenge for students. Essays will be returned to students on Monday, and it will be clear where each section landed on the assessment rubric that was distributed with the original writing assignment. In general, students struggled to explain the methods and results from the peer-reviewed Lidar article. Students also had difficulty with in-text citations.**

**Please consider visiting Moon Library on the ESF campus as students continue to search for peer-reviewed articles relating to their symposium topics. The quantity *and* quality of the articles available from ESF’s “ScienceDirect” database far surpasses those that can be found by simply using the Google Scholar search engine.**

**Regards,**

**Jason Williams**

**Earth Science Teacher**