**Earth Science Newsletter (11/14/16)**

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

**Volume I, Issue No. 9**

**Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it’s the “supermoon”, when the full moon occurs at perigee (the point in its oval-shaped orbit where it is closest to Earth). This will be the closest a full moon has been to Earth since 1948! The difference will be noticeable, though not as huge as you might think. Still, it will be worthwhile for you to visit a local high point and look toward the east around 5:30PM tonight (Sunday) or 6:15PM tomorrow (Monday). Furthermore, if you turn toward the southwest you will see Venus as a remarkably bright light in the sky (with Saturn nearby if you look closely).**

**Last week we finished our study of rocks and minerals, and students tended to do well on the unit exam. Now it is time to destroy those rocks. This week students will explore how natural forces break rocks down through the processes of weathering and erosion. In the lab, students will investigate the weathering rates of various rock types (sandstone, limestone, granite).**

**Please take some time to check in with your child about the iron mine lab. Ask them what they learned about estimating the value of iron ore at a proposed mine site and evaluating the potential environmental risks. Also check to be sure that they handed in their letter/results report. The marking period grades need to be submitted on Wednesday, so that is the absolute final deadline for this project.**

**Shout-out to Janae Dewan for a very well-done cameo appearance in a student reflection piece that we teachers had the privilege to watch during our Superintendent's conference day last Tuesday. Janae, thank you for being such a pleasure to have in class (and thanks for bringing your twin brother along, Ryan is awesome too!).**

**Additional shout-out to Nicholas Capogreco for his role in maintaining the fun and productive learning environment in our classroom. He is also a founding member of the LHX chess and board game club. If your student enjoys board games, or is just looking for a way to get more involved at school, please have them reach out to me, or Nicholas for more details. The chess and board game club meets after school on Mondays (2:20-3:20) in room C-423.**

**Regards,**

**Jason Williams**

**Earth Science Teacher**