**Earth Science Newsletter (12/19/16)**

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

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**Season’s Greetings! This will be the last newsletter of the 2016 calendar year. Please note that Wednesday, December 21st is the winter solstice. This is the point in earth’s orbit when the northern hemisphere is tilted its maximum amount (23.5 degrees) away from the sun. For us that means the shortest amount of daylight and the first “official” day of winter.**

**Last week, we kicked off our study of the earth’s interior. Students made scale models of the earth and it layers, and the classroom walls are now decorated with those models.**

**This week students will evaluate two types of candy (milky ways and peanut M&Ms) as potential models to represent the earth. Then they will design their own idealized models to represent the earth’s layers. Students will also examine the history, mechanics, and impacts of plate tectonics on our planet.**

**Shout-outs to Abby Brancato, Kendall Jenkins, Tino Merulla, Hanna McCloskey, Angel Guindy, and Josh Foley for excellent achievement on the most recent unit exam! Keep up the hard work everyone!**

**Regards,**

**Jason Williams**