**Earth Science Newsletter (01/23/17)**

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

**Volume I, Issue No. 16**

**The midterm exam is in the books. The average score was a 73 (84 for honors classes and 62 for academic classes). The earth science department designed this test to be as difficult as a Regents exam, and we collectively decided not to use a grading “curve”. As teachers we will be analyzing the test results to determine the most difficult concepts, and we will encourage our students to bump up their studying efforts.**

**Last week began the Earth’s History unit. Students made scale models of the geologic timeline, including important events that have occurred since the formation of earth and the solar system.**

**This will be a shortened week for students due to January Regents exams. Students will learn how geological and fossil evidence can be used to reconstruct past events. We will then use these concepts to explore the potential reasons for the extinction of dinosaurs. Please note that this is the last week of the 2nd marking period. The final homework assignment (a brief article and set of questions about the Permian extinction) has been posted on Edmodo. We will build on this article in class this week.**

**Regards,**

**Jason Williams**