**Earth Science Newsletter (05/01/17)**

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

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**I hope that all students had a restful and enjoyable spring break with their families. Now we are back for the home stretch, and students spent this week with a series of lab activities as they explored the sun’s apparent path. They used computers to access the University of Nebraska’s “Motions of the Suns” simulator to investigate several different scenarios. Students then used a lamp and thermometers to simulate the various angles at which sunlight strikes Earth’s curved surface at four different latitudes. They also constructed graphs to show changes in the length of daylight throughout the year. You can quiz your child at home by asking him/her why the arctic circle receives 24 hours of daylight on June 21st (and why it is colder there than NYS)!**

**So we are on to our final unit of study, and it tends to be a student favorite: Astronomy! Students will spend the bulk of this week learning about the different types of stars and galaxies in the universe.**

**Also, please be aware that review for the Regents exam will start up very soon. On Tues/Wed. of this week I will distribute to students a list of 136 review concepts. *Students will be required to write these concepts out on flash cards of their own (it does not matter what kind; Staples has plain white index cards at a price of $1.49 per 100)*. The completed flash cards will be due on May 11th/12th, and will count as a double quiz grade. The flash cards are a critical part of the re-teaching/review process, so it is critical that students take their completion seriously.**

**Shout out to Julia Commane for her EXCELLENT score on the meteorology exam!**

**Best,**

**Jason Williams**