**Earth Science Newsletter (05/08/17)**

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

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**It has been a very productive week in the classroom. Students learned a lot about star composition and formation, and we had a very engaging class discussions about the topic. Each student also constructed a model of the solar system to show relative scale. I have asked students to keep this model “in their pocket”, so check to see if they have it on them at home.**

**We will continue with our study of astronomy this week, and will start looking closely at the mechanics of planetary orbits within the solar system. Also, my review classes start up after school this week on Tuesdays and Thursdays (2:20PM – 3:20PM). Students should also be working on the flash cards that are due May 11th/12th.**

**Students will be assigned their 4th quarter literacy project this week. It will be due Monday, 5/22, and the assignment is a bit unusual. I am asking students to *attempt* to take a week off from social media AND their smart phones. That might sound crazy, but I would like for students to take some time observing their actual surroundings on the earth (and sky), rather than constantly looking down at their devices. Look for more details to come home with your child on Monday or Tuesday, but the literacy assignment will ask them to reflect on their experiences each day. I am not requiring them to abstain from smart phone use, but I am asking them to try. If they can’t do it, part of their reflection must be an analysis of what caused them to “break”. Much of the rationale for this project can be found here:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6CBb3yX9Zs**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6CBb3yX9Zs)

**Shout out to Ian Wojcikowski for getting out of his leg cast and on the path to recovery, and for being a trooper throughout the whole process, AND for being a positive contributor to the classroom environment each day!**

**Regards,**

**Jason Williams**