

Greetings, Family!

Some towns usually get snow in January, but other towns rarely get snow. Our science class will learn about weather, climate, and space in our next unit, "Atmosphere and Solar System." We will learn what things affect climate and how weather is forecast. We will also explore what causes Earth's seasons and why our Moon seems to change shape in the sky. Finally, we will learn about the other planets in our solar system and about stars like our Sun.

You can help science come alive for your student by letting him or her be a "weather tracker" at home. Help your student find a three- or five-day weather forecast for your area in a newspaper or on the Internet. Save the forecast and have your student compare the forecast with the actual weather conditions on those days. Discuss with your student whether the weather observed was typical for your climate zone.

For this unit, we will be doing many hands-on activities about climate and space, using the materials listed below. Can you donate any of these items? If so, we need to receive your donated materials by _____.

- graph paper
- small baby food jars
- round balloons
- toothpicks
- transparent tape
- thick string or yarn
- large index cards
- metric tape measures
- modeling clay

Finally, we could use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have any particular interest or special experience with this topic? Would you be able to help with these activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to class.

Thank you very much for your help!

Family Newsletter

Unit D, Atmosphere and Solar System

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____