

# SCIENCE NEWS

P.S. 186Q CASTLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SEPT - NOV 2010 VOLUME 1

## Welcome Back!

Dear Families,

Welcome back to an exciting year of Science at the Castlewood Elementary school. This year we will investigate many interesting topics in science. Some of these explorations will involve looking at how animals survive in their ecosystems, what causes mountains to form and how energy is transformed on our Earth. So let's sit back and enjoy the ride as we venture into another exciting year of science at Castlewood.

Sincerely,

Ms. Moya



## Science Strategies

**3rd Grade** explore different tools for measurement in the home - measuring cup, ruler, measuring spoons to name a few.

**4th Grade** explore predator and prey relationships by reading "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" by Jon Scieszka

**5th Grade** practice using the scientific method at home to ask questions, make hypothesis and design experiments.

## Looking Ahead.....

### THIRD GRADE

The first unit of study that will be covered by third grade during **September** involves matter and measurement. Please help your children practice measuring at home. Measuring the volume of liquids and solids or exploring the mass of objects will help your child grasp the concepts covered within this unit of study.

For the months of **October** and **November**, our student scientists will begin studying energy. Within this unit we will explore different types of energy and explore how energy can be transformed from one type to another. Begin introducing your child to the energy of the Sun, the energy it takes them to move or even the energy that makes a bulb light up.

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experiments. They will also attempt to manipulate variables to observe if it changes the results of their experiment.

During the month of **November** we will begin our study of Earth Science. Student scientist will ask and answer question such as “how do rocks form?” and “What is the difference between a rock and a mineral?” Additionally, students will begin to see the world as a three dimensional body.

## FOCUS SKILLS

- Observing
- Drawing Conclusions
- Identifying Cause and Effect
- Comparing and Contrasting
- Classifying
- Measuring

## FOURTH GRADE

Over the months of **September, October** and **November**, student scientists in fourth grade will begin our study of ecosystems. This is a very long and intensive unit, please help your children by exploring different ecosystems around the world and taking a closer look at how animals survive within their habitats.

## FIFTH GRADE

During the months of **September** and **October** we will begin our exploration by studying the scientific method and variables. Our student scientists will begin planning and conducting their own scientific

## Science Resources

[www.portaportal.com](http://www.portaportal.com) Guest Access: Smoya

[www.hspscience.com](http://www.hspscience.com)

[www.fossweb.com](http://www.fossweb.com)

### THINGS TO NOTE:

Please make sure that students come to school prepared with the supplies for science class: **A science note book and folder.**

The scoring rubric that your child's grade will be based on this year, is attached to this newsletter. If you have any questions please email me at [SMoya@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:SMoya@schools.nyc.gov)!

## PROJECTS AND ASSESSMENTS

### Third Grade - September

- Pre-assessment on scientific tools.
- “How-To” writing on using tools.
- “Comic Strip” non fiction. writing that explains how matter changes states.

### October

- Create a musical instrument and a science song to accompany the instrument.
- Energy Poem
- Quiz on Content
- End of Unit Assessment

### Fourth Grade

- Pre-assessment on 2010 science exam.
- Graphic Organizer Comparing and Contrasting needs and wants.
- Animal Index Card that researches characteristics of animals.
- Quiz on Content
- Ecosystem Food Chain Diagram
- Oil Spill – Human Effect on the Ecosystem Research Letter.
- End of Unit Assessment.

### Fifth Grade

Portfolio Assessment and End of Unit Assessment.