
CLIFF'S NOTES:

SCIENCE EDITION

Science challenges us to think in a way that is different from any other subject. It is something that is always up for modification through the testing of theories. It is a way for us to better understand the natural world and the rules that govern its workings. *“Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.”- Carl Sagan*



Elementary School Science



Our **Kindergarteners** are currently learning about the three states of matter: liquid, solid, and gas. Here are some questions you can ask your child to further assist them in learning this unit: What is a solid? What is a gas? Can you find a liquid at home? Can you find something that produces a gas at home? Can you find something at home that undergoes all three states of matter? Need a hint? You find it in your freezer!

In the **First Grade**, students have been busy learning about the weather and seasons. Take a moment to ask your child if they can tell you what the weather is going to be like tomorrow or even over the weekend. Go online to farmersalmanac.com and see if your little one can tell you why we have more daylight during the spring and summer versus fall and winter.

The **Second Graders** have been “hard” at work learning about rocks. The next time you find yourself walking through Fort Tryon park, stop and look at the rock wall that lines the Heather Garden. Observe how some of the rocks glisten from the minerals inside them. Touch the rocks and have your child tell you what they feel like: Are they smooth? Are they rough? Do they crumble when you touch them? Rocks really play a big role in our communities! Did you know we live near the highest point in Manhattan? Do you know where it is? Here’s a hint: It’s in a place that shares its name with a Jane Austen character.

Our **Third Graders** recently wrapped up their unit on simple machines. They learned how they make our lives easier. The children were able to make pulleys out of rope and weights. They even built levers with erasers and rulers. Over dinner tonight, ask your child to point out which piece of cutlery is a lever (hint- there’s two of them!). If you’re feeling adventurous, make a catapult out of paper towel rolls, rubber bands, and a kitchen spoon with your child. Hold a contest to see who can get the most cotton balls or pom-poms into a container!

The **Fourth Graders** are currently pondering how natural events affect our world as they learn about water, erosion, and natural events. Talk to your student about how the wind carries dirt, leaves, and even seeds from one location to another. Ask your child how this impacts our neighborhood! Go for an early morning walk and look at the condensation forming on the shrubbery. See if your child can tell you what two stages the water is undergoing to make that happen.

Ms. Schranz and Ms. Estrada are thrilled to be guiding your children through the Science curriculum. As always, please feel free to contact them via EngradePro or email at: RSchranz@schools.nyc.gov or IEstrad@schools.nyc.gov with any questions.

Middle School Science

In the **Fifth Grade**, our students are taking a bite out of their food and nutrition unit. Students are learning about cultivating healthy eating habits and how those choices affect our bodies. Students are gaining a better understanding for maintaining a healthy balance of foods that carry essential vitamins and minerals needed to keep them strong versus foods that might not be so great for them. At home, pull out some take-out menus and look to see what's good and bad on them. Then, use the website www.choosemyplate.gov to see what each dish's calorie counts looks like. As a family, challenge yourselves to create healthy and nutritious meals that are high in protein, low fat and still taste **GREAT!**



Our **Sixth Graders** are getting a better sense of how living and non-living things depend on one another as they embark on their ecosystem unit. Sit and talk to your child about how mammals rely on vegetation to live. Then, ask your child how this would change if the populations were to increase. Would a decrease in population change things for the better or for worse? Think about creating in-home terrariums! Visit www.inhabitat.com for more information.

This past fall, the **Seventh Graders** began raising trout from their infancy as alevin to what have now become full grown fish. The students will release their beloved trout back into the wild on May 12th. Feel free to ask your child questions about what he/she has learned about the fish. Ask them about what it takes to take care of a fish tank. Is it as easy as everyone thinks?

The **Eighth Graders** are currently focused on endangered animals. Students will be watching “Born in China”, a documentary which follows the adventures of three endangered animal families. At home, encourage your children to take part in civic-minded activities that promote caring for the environment. Something as simple as signing up to help pick up trash makes a big difference. For ideas on how to make a difference, please visit www.newyorkcares.org.

Ms. Starace and Ms. Luna are dedicated to making Science education fun and insightful. Please feel free to contact them via EngradePro or by email at: AStarace@schools.nyc.gov or SLuna3@schools.nyc.gov with any questions.

