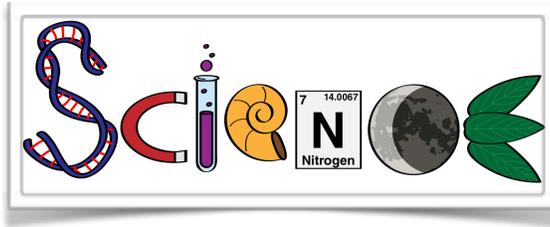


---

# CLIFF'S NOTES

---



As our students prepare for their upcoming Science celebrations, here's a peek at what they'll be working on throughout the year.

*“Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.”* - Carl Sagan

## Elementary School

As our **Kindergartners** enjoy their first year at 187, they will have an opportunity to learn about everything from ocean animals to the three states of matter! Here are some questions you can ask your child to further assist them in learning to love Science: Can you tell the difference between a land and ocean animal? Can you find something at home that undergoes through all three states of matter? Need a hint? You can find it in the freezer.



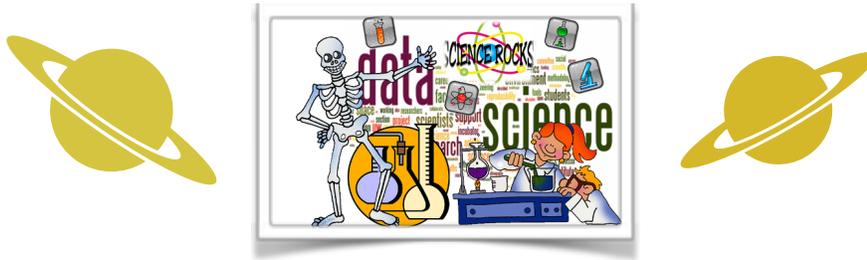
Students in the **First grade** will be busy learning about the weather and the four seasons. See if your child can tell you what the weather is going to be like this weekend? Go online to [farmersalmanac.com](http://farmersalmanac.com) and see if your budding meteorologist can tell you why we have more daylight in the spring/summer than fall/winter.

The **Second grade** is going to have some fun learning about rocks. The next time you find yourself taking a stroll through Fort Tryon Park, stop and look at the rock walls that line the Heather Garden. Touch the rocks and have your child describe how they feel: Are they smooth or are they rough? Does the sunlight cause them to glisten? Rocks play a big role in our community!

Our **Third graders** are going to get some hands-on experience with simple machines! They'll learn how they make our lives easier. The children will be make pulleys out of ropes and weights. They're even going to build levers out of erasers and rulers. If you'd like to get in on the simple machine action, sit with your child and make a catapult out of paper towel rolls, rubber bands, and a kitchen spoon. Hold a contest to see who can get some cotton balls or pom-poms into a container.

**Fourth graders** will be taking on how natural events affect our world. Start talking to your child about how wind carries dirt, leaves, and even seeds from one location to another. Ask them how they think this impacts our neighborhood. Once the weather begins to warm up, go for an early morning walk and look at the condensation forming on the plants. See if your child can tell you what the two stages the water is undergoing in order to make that happen!

## Middle School



The **Fifth graders** will be taking a bite out of their food and nutrition unit. Students will be learning all about healthy eating habits and how their choices affect their growing bodies. At home, pull out some take-out menus and have your child tell you what they think are good and bad menu options. Then, visit [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov) to see what the caloric counts look for each selection. As a family, challenge yourselves to create healthy and nutritious meals that are high in protein, low fat, and still taste great!

Students in the **Sixth grade** will be getting a better sense of how living and nonliving things depend on one another as they learn all about the ecosystem. Take a moment to talk to your child about how mammals rely on vegetation to survive or set some time aside to build an in-home terrarium. Visit [www.inhabitat.com](http://www.inhabitat.com) for more information.

Earlier this fall, our **Seventh grade** students began raising trout from their infancy as alevin. The children are watching them grow into full grown fish which they will ultimately release back into the wild. Feel free to ask your child questions about this process. See if they can share with you what they've learned so far. Ask them how they feel about taking care of the huge fish tank! Is it really as everyone seems to think it is?

Lastly, our **Eighth graders** will be focusing on endangered animals and the affect their species has on our planet. At home, encourage your child to take part in civic-minded activities that promote caring for the environment. Something as simple as signing up to clear brushes and picking up trash can make a big impact on helping animals on endangered species list. For ideas on how to make a difference, please visit [www.newyorkcares.org](http://www.newyorkcares.org).

Ms. Schranz, Ms. Estrada, Ms. Ruiz, and Ms. Luna are committed to making Science education fun and insightful. They look forward to seeing everyone at our Science celebrations throughout the month of February! Please feel free to contact them at: [rschranz@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:rschranz@schools.nyc.gov), [IEstrad@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:IEstrad@schools.nyc.gov), [ERuiz4@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ERuiz4@schools.nyc.gov), and [sluna3@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sluna3@schools.nyc.gov) with any questions and be on the lookout for the Science celebrations flyers heading home this week with dates and times!