



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In our current MySci Unit, Our Dynamic Earth, the students are learning to think of the Earth as a dynamic system that is constantly being shaped by wind, water, ice, vegetation, plate movements, earthquakes, volcanoes and humans. Students have several opportunities to explore various types of maps to improve their map-reading skills and find evidence of different landforms. They also explore fossils; what they are, where they are found and what they show. Then students will use hands-on activities and demonstrations to build understanding of weathering, erosion and soil. They are learning about fast changes to the Earth's surface. These include natural disasters like volcanoes and earthquakes. Students will first look for patterns in where these disasters occur. Then they will design, test and refine a structure to resist the destructive power of earthquakes.

School Home Connections

Look around at the landscape where you live. Are there any indications of erosion? Are you near any bodies of water? Ask your child questions such as: What do you think caused that to happen? Where did that come from? If there are any earthquakes or volcano eruptions in the news discuss them with your child.

There are some interesting field trips in the St. Louis area to take to extend the idea of erosion and weathering with your child:

The St. Louis Science Center has a wonderful water table where students can see the effects of erosion: <http://www.slsc.org/discovery-room>

The St. Louis Science Center often offers special classes in paleontology and Earth Science <https://slsc.org/event/scifest-rock-fossil-quake/> <http://www.slsc.org/structures>

Nearby Alton, Illinois, has an amazing museum and tour of the locks and dams on the mighty Mississippi that show how water moves land:

<http://www.greatriverroad.com/cities/eaton/melvinprice.htm>

Also this site shows where earthquakes are occurring and where volcanoes are erupting every day:

<http://earthquaketrack.com/recent>

Thank you for your support in your child's science explorations!

Sincerely,

Brendan Kearney
Your Child's Science Teacher

