



Dear Parents,

The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an overview of what your child will be learning during our current unit of study in science. Please take a moment to look over the different sections of this newsletter. You will see example questions, important terms to know, and some extension activities you can do at home.

**Parent Background:**

Weather is one of our units that we will be working on all year as our seasons change. Weather affects our lives in many ways. We decide what to wear and where to go based on weather. Weather can be rainy, cold, hot, sunny, windy, or a combination of things. We will be using a variety of simple weather instruments such as a rain gauge, thermometer, and wind vane.

Certain weather conditions tend to occur during each of the four seasons. We'll be keeping track of weather all year to watch for these patterns.

*Students will know...*

- **how to use simple weather instruments**
- **some events in nature have a repeating pattern. The weather changes some from day to day, but things such as temperature and rain (snow) tend to be high, low, or medium in the same months every year**
- **different types of weather**

*Students will be able to...*

- **identify different types of weather and the characteristics of each**
- **describe weather**
- **observe weather**
- **measure using simple weather instruments**
- **correlate weather to seasonal changes**

MAKE THUNDER

MATERIALS:

- brown paper lunch bag



PROCESS:

Fill the brown paper lunch bag by blowing into it

Twist the open end and close with your hand

Quickly hit the bag with your free hand



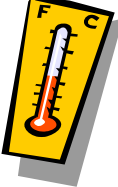


EXPLANATION:

Hitting the bag causes the air inside the bag to compress so quickly that the pressure breaks the bag. The air rushes out and pushes the air outside away from the bag. The air continues to move forward in a wave. When the moving air reaches your ear, you hear a sound. Thunder is produced in a similar way. As lightning strikes, energy is given off that heats the air through which it passes. This heated air quickly expands producing energetic waves of air resulting in a sound called thunder.

4 Great Books to Read!



# Important Words to Know

word	picture	description
precipitation		Precipitation is any form of water, either solid or liquid, that falls from the atmosphere and reaches the ground. There are several types of precipitation, including rain, snow, sleet, and hail.
Rain gauge		The rain gauge measures the amount of liquid precipitation that falls
thermometer		an instrument for measuring temperature
Wind vane		An instrument used for indicating the direction of the wind
Temperature	 70°	Temperature is a degree of hotness or coldness that can be measured using a thermometer.

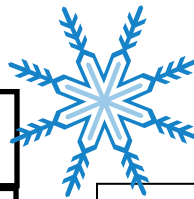
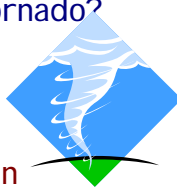
## Twisted Humor



What did one tornado  
say to the other tornado?



"Let's twist again  
like we did last summer!"



## Weather Websites

There's tons of information on weather at  
<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/>

Fun stories & games  
<http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/>

Play Weather memory, word scramble &  
more  
<http://www.accuweather.com/kids/kids-games.asp>

