Monsoon Science ***Cells & Genetics*** **Report Card** (11/19)

Parent Conferences and Classroom Visits:

It was good to meet so many of you during parent conferences. Even though there are no more conference days set aside this year, please let me know if you ever have questions or concerns. In addition, if you are ever curious about observing a science class, please let me know.

In particular (short notice), a geneticist will be in all day on Tuesday, November 26. She will be conducting cool activities with all classes, including removing DNA from strawberries. Any interested parent may join us! Then, on Tuesday, December 3, Mr. Sutherland will be speaking to all classes about a genetic disorder in his family. His presentation puts a human face to the abstract ideas we've learned this unit. The Monsoons are so fortunate to have these amazing presenters each year.

Making Sense of Aspen:

I sent a follow-up email after the Properties of Matter Report Card explaining how to make sense of science tasks in Aspen.

Here's what to do: Go to **Science**, and then click on **"Assignments"** (the first science screen doesn't give you useful information). Near the upper right are two drop-down menus. One is for **trimester.** Keep trimesters on **"All"**. Like many units, scores from Cells & Genetics will be added during different trimesters. You want to see all tasks in a given standard at once.

The other drop-down is for **standard.** Self Direction (SD) is the work habits (non-academic) standard. The academic standards, in the order we are working on them, are Science Process Skills, Properties of Matter, Cells & Genetics, Properties of Energy, and Forces and Motion.

Here is a description of the tasks you will see in Aspen for ***Cells & Genetics.***

SD:

C&G SD Week 1, 2, 3...: These weekly scores describe how well students do their jobs in class (follow directions, handle equipment properly, bring materials to class, remain on task)

during our unit. These SD scores will be recorded all year. (As of this writing, five students have had ***perfect SD scores*** for the last two two months!)

Pop-Up Greeting: This was the final engineering assignment of first trimester. Last time I reported only 4 students failed to bring their engineering in on time. This time, **17 were unprepared.** I expect far better results next trimester! The good news is, once again, there were many **ingenious designs** created. (You may view small photos of these on the homepage of my website.)

C & G Socrative Assessment on time: (This unit's assessment is due Tuesday 12/03, so will be reported after that.) Each unit the Socrative Assessment serves as one summative assessment for the unit. Assessments are activated near the end of the unit, and students have two weeks to answer the 10-questions. This SD score indicates whether your child completed it on time, and also if they signed in properly. **[I want the following format:** Period Last Name First Initial. Mrs. McKeen would sign in as H McKeen D if she was in H period science.].

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Academic Standards:

Here were the four product goals for Cells & Genetics:

1. Name a **single-celled** organism and describe how they make more of themselves.

2. Name a **multi-celled** organism and describe how they make more of themselves.

3. Draw or make a model of a cell. (Include the following parts: **nucleus, genes, chromosomes**.)

4. Explain the following:
    a. Which part of your cell is basically your traits.

    b. Where ***your*** traits come from.

For each goal, there is a score in Aspen for the ***product*** your child made and for the ***interview*** that was associated with the product. [This means you will see **eight different scores.]** Why do I require both? Students can create products (written narratives, Google Slides, labeled diagrams, videos) that are very accurate without truly understanding the material. How? They

use their resources (notes, outlines, Google, friends, parents…) to help them. It is during interviews that I can probe, evaluate, and guide students. Although interviews are summative assessments, there is still teaching and learning taking place!

Cells & Genetics Socrative Quiz: [See Socrative Assessment info above under SD.] This will be the final academic task in Aspen for Cells & Genetics.

Properties of Energy:

This unit has three content goals. The ***first*** and ***third*** will only be performed orally ***(no product).*** Students will make an energy transfer flow chart for the ***second goal*.** Here are the three goals:

1. *Define* energy and demonstrate *what energy is* with a variety of objects.
2. *Create* and *explain* an energy transfer flow chart.
3. *State* the Law of Conservation of Energy and explain what happens to a device's energy as the device stops moving.

Family Science:

17 Monsoons participated in our first Family Science Project--Diving Submarines. We demonstrated these during Storm Time last week. I felt bad, because we were rushed. I need to set aside two Storm Times next time. Here is a video of all 17 subs. Great job by all who participated!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08_scCh4OFI

The next Family Science project will be assigned in January.

Monsoon Family Science Evening:

I was pleased with the turnout for our Monsoon Parent and Student Evening back in October. I plan to host a Family Science Evening in January. I've done this in the past and it's gone well. Unlike the last evening, it will all be about having fun--not informational. I will keep you posted when I select the date.

Happy holidays to you and your family.