

2009-2010

### 7TH GRADE EVEREST

Welcome parents! During the Everest “day” your student will participate in advanced lessons in literature, language arts, science, and social studies as well as completing an independent research project each trimester. This year in Everest your student will learn to conduct scientific research on water (using a Shedd Aquarium program); participate in literature circles using the Great Books program; conduct a mock trial after learning about the justice system; and, prepare for our space mission.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Everest program is beginning with a unit on Lake Michigan water and the importance of maintaining the Great Lakes as sources of quality water. Our first field trip of the year will be to the Shedd Aquarium to work on a project concerning Great Lakes water testing. While at the Shedd we will also visit the coral reef exhibit to correlate with our studies concerning the biodiversity of life on and around a reef. The Shedd Aquarium field trip is tentatively scheduled for late September.

During the second trimester we will focus on different literary styles. We will read some selections from Dickens and Shakespeare then compare and contrast the work of these two famous authors. While learning about London in these authors’ lifetimes, we will stage a formal Victorian Tea and do a dramatic reading of the play, *Macbeth*. We will travel to Governor’s State University in March to view a production of Shakespeare’s *Comedy of Errors*, presented by the Chicago Shakespeare Theater Company.

In late spring, we will travel to the Challenger Learning Center at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond to experience their space flight simulator on our mission, *Rendezvous with a Comet*. The mission is a program of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education. The simulation creates a cooperative learning atmosphere focusing on teamwork, communication, problem solving and decision-making. In the weeks leading up to our mission we will study comets and the NASA Stardust mission. We will conduct computer research, creative writing and hands-on experiments to increase our knowledge of comets, their craters, and the type of technology necessary to trap their dust and return it to Earth safely.

I am pleased to be working with your child in this exciting, new program. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at school (469-4474) or [lthompson@fsd157c.org](mailto:lthompson@fsd157c.org) . I will contact you if you leave a message.