

BioQuest!



PEAK students meet with Carroll College Professor Grant Hokit in the Biology Labs after his presentation on international research projects.

March 9, 2024

Dear PEAK Students, Parents, and Teachers,

Check out students' assessment of our activities and final events from the first two PEAK units on Powerschool. Then, please take a few minutes to respond to the survey about our recently completed unit. This gives PEAK staff data to continue to improve.

PARENTS: This is the link for your survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/qrkUymFyec>

STUDENTS: This is the link for your survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/R6CdnmQep9>

This week students examined scientific data about sea turtles collected by researchers at the Pacuare Reserve. We also began to read a detailed scientific article about the status and distribution of Leatherback Sea Turtles. These incredible creatures can grow up to 2000 pounds and a length of nine feet! In a single nesting season, females can make 5-7 nests that each contain 70-100 eggs—however, only about 1% of the baby turtles survive to adulthood. Protection efforts are critical for the survival of these and other sea turtle species.

Students who travel to Costa Rica will study the sea turtles as well as additional species at the Pacuare Reserve. Students who are not on this trip will choose other subjects for their independent study research projects. These can be individual species or ecosystems in Montana or elsewhere. Some students have chosen their subjects and others should do so soon. Please talk to me next week about your choices.

Many of the 8th grade students missed our Tuesday evening class because of registration meetings at Capital High School, however we met at CR Anderson on Wednesday to catch up.

Upcoming PEAK 8-12 Meetings—Please note the different venues!

6-8 PM, Tuesday, March 12: **Montana Wild**, 2668 Broadwater Avenue. Meet first with Ken McDonald, director of Wildlife at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Next will be a presentation on Swift research in Glacier National Park by Last Chance Audubon. STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP CHAIRS at 5:30 PM—I am counting on several students who said they would come early.

Wednesday, March 13, CR Anderson 8th Grade Lunch and Advisor, Room 123. Bring laptops.

5:00-6 PM, Tuesday, March 19, Bryant Elementary School Library. Required meeting for all Sea Turtle Ecology Course travelers and their parents. Some attendees need to leave the meeting at 6:00 because of school concerts. This will be our final meeting before we depart for Costa Rica. On Wednesday, I sent a very detailed email to everyone involved. Please read it carefully before our meeting.

Week of March 18-22: No PEAK meetings for students not traveling to Costa Rica. No meetings at CR Anderson this week.

BioQuest UNIT ACTIVITIES	RESEARCH— I CAN STATEMENTS
Meet with biology researchers and wildlife managers.	I can listen actively, take effective notes, ask deep questions, and utilize expert information at a professional level in my own work.
Study selected fauna in Montana, Costa Rica, and elsewhere.	I can recognize, understand, and use the 5 Areas system autonomously.
Conduct research or learn about specific studies based on the scientific method. Independent study of specific species or ecosystems.	I can recognize, understand, and use the scientific method autonomously.
Interview research scientists.	I can autonomously generate professional-level interview questions tailored specifically to the interviewee.