

BioQuest!



A Praying Mantis rests on a PEAK student's arm. Both are curious and they stare at each other.

April 10, 2024

Dear PEAK Students, Parents, and Teachers,

Next week, April 16, we will meet 6 to 8 at the Bryant Elementary School HUB, the room just inside the front door. Parents, families, and friends, please join us at 7 PM when the Costa Rican travelers will share highlights of their experiences over spring break. Travelers, if you have photos you would like to share, please send them to me via email or send me a link NOT LATER THEN MONDAY, April 16.

We are looking for volunteers to provide snacks- if you can bring something, please let me know.

This week students identified the species they will research for our independent study projects. We also sketched logo ideas for the upcoming PEAK Leadership Conference scheduled for May 28. The theme is Pursuing your Passions: A PEAK into the Future.

We anticipate learning so much more about diverse creatures as well as the human dimensions: the researchers who study them, and the ecologists who protect them. Students will also design their own hypothetical experimental research project to answer an interesting question about the species. See the attached outline for what to include on the PowerPoint about your independent study project.

So far, students have selected these species:

Raine: Black Swifts

Tristan and Reese: Costa Rican monkeys
 Willow (and possibly Dawson): Poison Dart Frog
 Jacob: Eyelash Viper
 Oliver (and possibly Joshua): Jesus Christ Lizard (find out how it got the name)
 Melissa: Chrysaora Melanaster Jellyfish
 Keely: Luna Moth
 Railey and Grey: Homo Sapiens
 Cate and Raine: How can visual art inspire people to care more about endangered species?
 Everyone collaborates to present: Leatherback Sea Turtles

PEAK GT 8-12 Schedule:

April 16 at Bryant Elementary HUB:

6 PM Students research independent study topics and prepare to share about Costa Rica trip.
 7 PM Costa Rica travelers share take-aways and photos for all PEAK students, parents, and families.

April 17: CR Anderson 8th grade advisor and lunch meeting

6-8 PM, April 23 at Helena College, Room 120: Bring laptops for Independent Study work. Create your PowerPoint.

April 24: TBD. Likely we will not meet at CRA because of the SBAC testing schedule.

6-8 PM, April 30 at Helena College Room 120: Send you PowerPoint link to Ms. Knight before we meet. Rehearse presentations for Montana Wild. Record narration soundtrack.

May 1: CR Anderson 8th grade advisor and lunch meeting. Bring laptops.

6-8 PM, May 7 at Helena College Room 120: *Return of the Grizzly*, a new film presented by creator Nick Gevock. Also, present your independent study project to Mr. Slead.

May 8: No meeting at CR Anderson

6:30-8:30 PM, May 14: Montana Wild Presentations. NOTE SLIGHTLY LATER THAN USUAL TIME!

May 21: Last PEAK Meeting for the school year! Details TBA

May 28, All Day: PEAK Leadership Conference

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.
Conduct research into the human dimensions of the species chosen for research. Investigate the species role in a larger ecosystem.	I can investigate and describe the ecological significance of a species, as well as the human dimensions that influence it.
Interview research scientists.	I can autonomously generate professional-level interview questions tailored specifically to the interviewee.