



Third Grade Science

Force and Interactions

Dear Families,

Here is what your child is learning in Third Grade during the study of force and interactions. Look for additional newsletters for upcoming units.

Force and Interactions

Students will be able to:

- describe a force as a push or a pull.
- explain unbalanced and balanced forces using a force diagram.
- explain how forces of gravity and air resistance work on a falling object.
- provide evidence that a pattern can be used to predict future motion.
- determine cause and effect relationships of electric or magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other.
- define a simple design problem that can be solved by applying scientific ideas about magnets.

Key Vocabulary

Force- a push or pull of an object

Push – a force that can make an object start to move, change direction, speed up, slow down or stop

Pull - a force that can make an object start to move, change direction, speed up, slow down or stop

Balanced Forces – in a state where equal and opposite forces cancel out each other and the object is at rest

Unbalanced Forces – a force that causes a change in motion of an object, the forces are not equal and opposite

Gravity – the force that pulls objects towards the center of Earth or any other object that has mass

Friction – a force that slows down moving objects

Ways FAMILIES Can Help

- Use the Discovery Education links to learn more information.
- Be attentive to force and motion all around you.
- Play a game of tug of war and discuss how the forces are balanced or unbalanced.
- Look for examples of pushes and pulls around your house.
- Use a magnet and see if you can make an object move.