Hurlock Elementary • 5th Grade Reading Family Letter

Module 3 • Week 2

Between the Glacier and the Sea • Quaking Earth, Racing Waves

Dear Families,

This week, we are learning about earthquakes and giant waves! We will watch a video about a famous Alaska earthquake and read about how the earth shakes and moves. We will also learn Latin roots and draft a persuasive essay. Here is what we are doing and how you can help at home!

⭐ Big Idea

Earthquakes and tsunamis are powerful forces of nature. Learning how they happen helps people prepare and stay safe.

📚 What We Are Reading

- ***Between the Glacier and the Sea: The Alaska Earthquake*** — a video about the huge 1964 earthquake in Alaska.
- ***Quaking Earth, Racing Waves*** — a true text about earthquakes and tsunamis (giant ocean waves).
- **Reading skills:** Summarizing, central idea, author's craft, and how videos use sound, images, and music to share information.

🔤 Word Study

aud	means "hear": audio, audience, audible
vis	means "see": vision, visible, visit
spect	means "look": inspect, spectator, respect
Multiple-meaning words	One word, more than one meaning: fault, plate, wave
Reading with expression	Reading in phrases and letting our voice go up and down

✏️ Writing

- **Persuasive essay:** We draft, add strong reasons, and revise with our group.
- **Conjunctions:** and, but, or, because, although, when. They join ideas into one sentence.
- **Objects:** In "Mom gave me a book," book is the direct object and me is the indirect object.

- **Research project:** We add visuals and revise our drafts.

💬 New Big Words

prior	before; earlier
magnitude	how big or strong something is, like an earthquake
literally	really; exactly as the words say
maintenance	keeping something in good working order
destruction	great damage
triggered	caused something to start
thrust	a strong, hard push
radiate	to spread out from the center
parallel	side by side and never meeting
lateral	sideways
modified	changed a little

🏠 Things to Do at Home

- ☐ **Family safety plan:** Talk about what your family would do in an emergency. Where would you meet?
- ☐ **Root detective:** Find words with aud, vis, or spect. Guess their meaning.
- ☐ **Make waves:** Push water in a pan or tub. Watch the waves spread out (radiate).
- ☐ **Sentence joiner:** Join: "It rained. We stayed inside." (It rained, so we stayed inside.)
- ☐ **Media watch:** Watch a short video. How do the music and pictures make you feel?
- ☐ **Persuade me:** Give 3 reasons why your family should try something new.
- ☐ **Emergency kit:** Make a list of what your family would need in an emergency kit.
- ☐ **Map it:** Find Alaska on a map. Where else in the world do earthquakes happen?
- ☐ **Who gave what?** In "I gave my sister a hug," find the direct and indirect objects.
- ☐ **Read together:** Read for 20 minutes. Then sum it up in 2 or 3 sentences.

Thank you for being our partner in learning. Every minute you spend reading and talking with your child makes a big difference!

With gratitude,
5th Grade Team