***Astronomy Vocabulary***

***Moon Phases***- caused by the changing positions of the Earth, the sun, and the moon.

***First quarter***- about one week after a new moon, when right half of the moon is illuminated by the sun.

***Full moon***- The entire half of the moon facing the Earth is illuminated by the sun. The earth is between the moon and the sun

***New moon***-The entire half of the moon facing the Earth is unlit by the sun. The moon is between the earth and the sun

***Third quarter moon***- When half of the left side of the moon is lit***.***

***High tide***- the tide at its highest level

***Low tide***- the tide at its lowest level

***Spring tide***- Occurs when the Sun, Earth, and Moon are in straight alignment. Causes the highest and the lowest tides

***Neap tide***- Occurs when the Sun, Earth, and Moon are at right angles to each other.

***Tilt of the Earth***- 23.5 degrees. Reason for the seasons.

***Solar eclipse***- the passing of the moon between Earth and the sun; during a solar eclipse, the shadow of the moon falls on Earth.

***Lunar eclipse***- the passing of the moon through the Earth's shadow at full moon

***Earth’s axis***-The imaginary line on which the Earth spins. Tilted 23.5 degrees.

***Heliocentric***- Copernicus theory that Sun is the center of the universe.

***Geocentric***-Ptolemy theory that Earth is the center of the universe.

***Solar system***- The Sun and the planets orbiting the Sun

***Universe***-All the seen and unseen material in space.

***Galaxy***-Large groups of stars, dust, and gas.

***Big Bang Theory***-The theory that the universe began with a tremendous explosion.

***Milky Way galaxy***-The galaxy in which our solar system is located, spiral galaxy.

***Comet***-small body of ice, rock, and cosmic dust that follows an elliptical orbit around the sun and that gives off gas and dust in the form of a tail as it passes close to the sun

***Meteor***-a bright streak of light that results when a meteoroid burns up in Earth's atmosphere.

***Meteoroid***- a relatively small, rocky body that travels through space

***Asteroid***-small, rocky object that orbits the sun

***Gravity***- Force that holds the planets in orbit. The force that holds the universe together