***Weather Vocabulary***

***Atmosphere***- mixture of gases that surrounds Earth

***Air pressure*** - the force of air molecules pushing on a surface

***Wind*** - movement of air caused by differences in air pressure

***Global winds***- Predictable air mass movement at every 30 degrees of latitude.

***Land breeze***- Breeze flowing from land to the sea (night time)

***Sea breeze***- Breeze flowing from sea to land (day time)

***Coriolis effect***- Curving of the winds and ocean currents due to the Earth’s rotation.

***Air mass***- large body of air where temperature and moisture are similar throughout.

***Continental***- air mass that forms over land, dry.

***Maritime***- Air mass that forms over oceans.

***Tropical***- air mass that forms over the Tropics.

***Polar***- Air mass that forms over the polar regions, cold.

***Warm front***- A warm front forms where warm air moves over cold, denser air.

***Cold front***- A cold front forms where cold air moves under warm air

***Occluded front***- Warm air mass is caught between two colder air masses.

***Stationary front*** – Cold air mass meets a warm air mass and move very little

***Hurricane***- A severe storm formed over tropical oceans and with winds greater than 120 km/h (74mph)

***Thunderstorm***- Intense weather systems that produce strong winds, heavy rain, lightning, and thunder.

***Tornado***- A destructive, rotating column of air that has very high wind speeds and that may be visible as a funnel-shaped cloud.

***Lightning***- An electric discharge that occurs between a positively charged area and a negatively charged area.

***Greenhouse effect***- Process by which gases in the atmosphere, such as water vapor and carbon dioxide, absorb thermal energy and radiate it back to Earth