SYNERGISTIC SYSTEMS
A DIVISION OF PITSCO, INC.

PARENT BRIEFING

Module

Natural Disasters

- Demonstrate fault types and locate tectonic plates on a map.
- Use a seismograph to demonstrate seismic waves.
- Use a wave table to demonstrate waves and tsunamis.
- Study tornadoes and hurricanes and track a hurricane.
- Learn scales used to measure earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornadoes.
- Develop a school disaster plan.

Session Focus

1	Constructive Processes; Types of Faults; Plate Boundaries
2	Earthquakes; Seismic Waves; Measuring Earthquakes
3	Volcanoes; Lava Types; Volcanic Materials
4	Waves; Wave Action; Tsunamis
5	Weather Extremes; Flood Simulation
6	Circular Storms; Tornadoes and Hurricanes
7	Probability; Risk Analysis; School Disaster Plan

Dear Parent,

As parents and teachers, we realize it can be hard to get a child to discuss what he or she is learning in school. We hope the information provided on this page will assist you in communicating with your child about what he or she is learning.

For the next few days, your child will be learning about natural disasters. He or she will explore categories of natural disasters, learn scientific concepts underlying the cause and effects of each disaster, and learn locations where each disaster is likely to strike. He or she will do activities to demonstrate concepts, measure and track disasters, and develop a school disaster plan.

Words students will learn in this Module include:

- tectonic plate
- fault
- Ring of Fire
- epicenter
- magma
- lava
- pyroclast
- viscosity
- vortex
- jet stream
- eyewall

Student: _____

Instructor: _____

Questions for discussion

During the course of this Module, your child will be assessed on key concepts and activities. You might want to discuss these concepts with your child.

He or she will be asked to:

- *Show the seismograph reading and explain what it means. (A seismogram is a picture of the vibrations, or seismic waves, caused by an underlying structure. Students created vibrations by hitting the board to which the seismograph was attached. This simulates what happens in a real earthquake.)*

- *Give differences between wind-generated waves and tsunami waves. (Wind-generated waves have short wavelengths, slow speeds, and energy concentrated at the surface. Tsunami waves are generated by undersea earthquakes. They have very long wavelengths and high speeds; their energy extends throughout the ocean's depth.)*