# Weather Instrument Descriptions

#### Barometer

There is air pressure around us all the time. The barometer measures the air pressure around us. Sometimes this air pressure changes because of changes in the atmosphere. When the air pressure changes there is usually a change in the weather. When there is a big change in the air pressure a storm is coming.

## Anemometer

The anemometer measures how fast the air is moving around us. It may be blowing softly telling us that we will enjoy fair weather for a while, or it may be blowing hard telling us that a low pressure is near and a storm may be coming our way. The wind can be very pleasant or it can do a lot of damage.

#### Thermometer

The thermometer measures the temperature of the air around us. The air temperature outside changes constantly. It changes because the sun changes its position in the sky, when the sun goes down at night, when the sun goes behind a cloud, or when warm or cold air moves into our area.

# Weather Vane

The weather vane tells us from which direction the wind is coming from. It is set up so the arrow points in that direction. The wind hits the back tail and turns it so the arrow will point in the direction the wind is coming from. Sometimes we can tell if a storm is coming by knowing which direction the wind is coming from.

## Rain Gauge

The rain gauge measures how much rain we got during a rainstorm. After the rainfall is measured, meteorologists will look at the other weather instruments to see what the conditions were like right before it rained. They will record this data. When they see the other instruments all measuring the same again before another rainstorm, they can predict how much rain we will get with the storm coming in.

### Ruler

The ruler measures the depth of the snow after a snowstorm. After the snow depth is measured, meteorologists will look at the other weather instruments to see what the conditions were like right before it snowed. They will record this data. When they see the other instruments all measuring the same again before another snowstorm, they can predict how much snow we will get with the storm coming in.