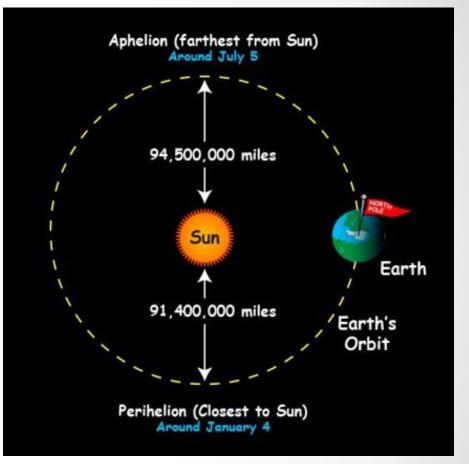
## **Astronomy Club of Asheville**

## ★ On January 4<sup>th</sup> , Saturday, Earth reaches "perihelion" - closest approach to the Sun for the year.

- ★The word *"perihelion"* is from the Greek: *"peri"* meaning *near* and *"helios"* meaning *Sun*.
- ★ Earth is some 3 million miles closer (or one part in 30 closer) at perihelion than at the farthest point (aphelion) in its **elliptical orbit** in early July.
- ★Yet we usually experience our coldest weather in the northern hemisphere during January.



**January 2025 Sky Events** 

 $\star$  It's the Earth's 23<sup>1</sup>/2° axial tilt combined with its orbital motion, not its distance from the Sun, that causes the seasons.

★ In January, the northern hemisphere is pointed away from the warmth of the Sun.