Astronomy Club of Asheville

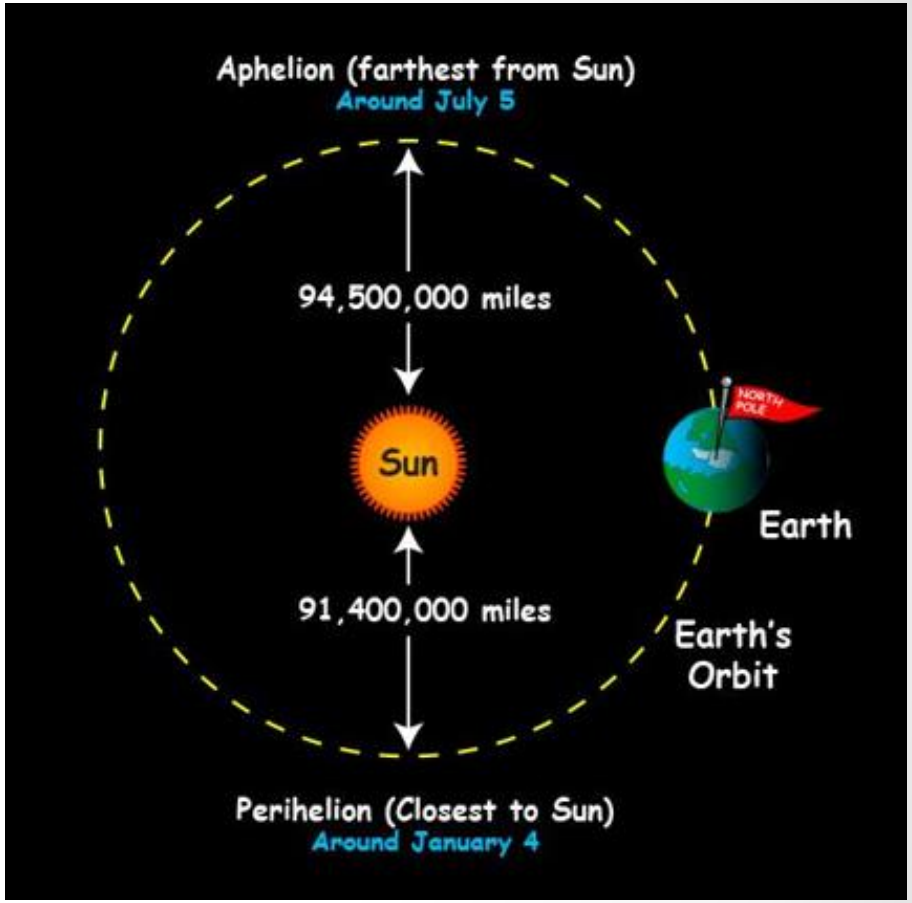
January 2027 Sky Events

★On January 2nd , 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.



★It's the Earth's 23½° 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.