

04.26.2024

Dear Parents,

The topic of the week was Our Solar System. Children naturally love learning about the solar system. The sun, moon, stars, and planets are fascinating to both small children who see stars twinkle in the night sky and older ones who begin to ask harder questions such as “Are there other planets with life?”. We used a combination of illustrations, books, short videos, music, and crafts to introduce the children to simple concepts. We found that a good way to start teaching them the planets of our solar system is starting with the planet closest to the sun, Mercury. We teach the children the planets in order because it will help them memorize better just as starting with A when teaching the alphabet. They learned that everything in the solar system revolves around the sun. That the sun is a star, a massive ball of hot gas that gives off light and heat, and that eight planets orbit around the sun. We also wrote the names of the planets, made a solar system headband, a coffee filter earth, and a beautiful solar system on blue paper.

We were very surprised about how much they knew. They even talked about dozens of moons, millions of asteroids, comets, and meteoroids! Oh, and the Milky Way!

Monday, April 22nd was Earth Day and we also talked to the students about how we can take care of the earth. Together we came up with some ways we can help the earth to reduce, reuse, recycle, and use reusable water bottles, conserve water, volunteer with cleanup on the beach and parks, and plant a tree. Some fun facts we learned about the Earth are: Earth is the third closest planet to the Sun.

It is the only planet we have found that contains life.

Earth is 4.543 billion years old.... Earth's surface is 71% water and 29% land. The Earth isn't perfectly round.

Books we read: If You Were an Astronaut, Our Earth, The Sky, ABC Universe, A Book About Planets and Stars, My Picture Book of the Planets, and Zoom, Zoom, Zoom.

Next week we will be talking about community helpers. Please talk to your child about what you do and if possible, you can send a picture of you at your work, so the children can share it with the class.

Reminders:

May 23: Purple Door Teacher Appreciation Lunch

May 30: Brown DTeacher Appreciation Lunch

May 27th: School closed for Labor Day

June 6th: VPK Graduation, NO SCHOOL THAT DAY FOR VPK

June 7th: School closed for summer camp preparation

Parenting Tips:

Show your love.

There is no such thing as loving your child too much. Loving them cannot spoil them.

Only what you choose to do (or give) in the name of love can — things like material indulgence, leniency, low expectation, and over-protection. When these things are given in place of real love, that's when you'll have a spoiled child.

Loving your child can be as simple as giving them hugs, spending quality time with them, having family meals together, and listening to your child's problems seriously.

Showing these acts of love can trigger the release of feel-good hormones such as oxytocin. These neurochemicals can bring us a deep sense of calm, emotional warmth, and contentment; from these, the child, will develop resilience and not to mention a closer relationship with you.

Quote of the week: “The ultimate test of man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.”<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>—Gaylord Nelson

Have a wonderful weekend!

Ms. Ana and Ms. Nadia

Ms. Laura and Ms. Andrea