



SUN BEARS EXPLORE SPACE

Space: The Final Frontier

The Sun Bears have boldly gone where not many four and five-year-olds have gone: to space. This theme has helped us explore, (well, at least talk about), planets, the sun and the moon, shooting stars, comets and rockets. The children had a “blast” making all the creations that adorn our bulletin board.

UPCOMING DATES:

- 2/9/17 FAMILY NIGHT AT THE MAGIC HOUSE
- 2/11/17 GALLERY NIGHT, KNIGHT ATRIUM; CHILDREN'S EVENT: 11 am – 1 pm ADULT EVENT: 7 pm
- 2/17 NO SCHOOL: PROF. DEV. DAY AND PRESIDENT'S DAY
2/20



Although this theme was full of science information, we were able to practice important skills across several developmental areas. For example, Sun Bears built fine motor muscles by coloring and cutting out outlines of themselves as astronauts. They counted how many letters were in their names, and then selected the correct number of squares to glue into a rocket shape. They painted moon shapes and moon rocks, then sprinkled them with glitter. Speaking of glitter, it was one of the ingredients for “galaxy goo,” a creation that went home after the children had a chance to stir, knead and shape it. For social/emotional development, nothing beat the chance to work with friends to build a rocket ship out of blocks. (We particularly enjoyed how the “astronauts” communicated with each other, using old computer keyboards.) Math skills were enhanced by building a “rocket” out of Unifix cubes, and also practicing one-to-one correspondence in a dice game. Our prop box for space held several space suits, so imaginative play was front and center. An interesting survey that Miss Katie took revealed that the majority of Sun Bears did not want to fly to the moon. Oh well, Sun Bears can always hop in the pop-up space shuttle and pretend that they are anywhere in the universe.



Note about Valentine's Day: The children will celebrate Valentine's Day in the Sun Bear classroom on Tuesday, February 14. Sun Bears will be decorating bags (we will provide), so that they can collect their Valentines from their classmates. Since our classroom total is 15, we ask that each child bring 14 Valentines with him/her on February 14. The children may sign their own name on each Valentine, if they would like. They do not need to sign their classmate's names on the Valentines, as distribution goes more smoothly without that extra step. We will provide a special snack that day. Parents usually do not attend this event.

Hope to see you at the Gallery Night, February 11. The children's viewing will be from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. The adult party will begin at 7:00 pm. This fundraiser is always a favorite of parents and children in our WUNS community.

*Until next time,
Miss Colleen & Miss Katie*