

Highlights of the Week

Dear Maple families,

We are off to a great adventure: We are exploring the SOLAR SYSTEM!

With the help of new activities and new books the children are learning about the eight planets that orbit the Sun: Mercury is the closest to the Sun, it is hot in the daytime but freezing at night; Venus, where the weather is always the same and where it never rains; Earth, our beautiful planet; Mars, all covered with dust; Jupiter, bigger than all the other planets combined; Saturn, very light and with many rings; Uranus, with all its satellites; Neptune, the blue planet. It is always a fascinating topic for the children. It requires a lot of imagination as it is something that they can not really see or touch or hear. So, we are going through many non-fiction books to give the children the possibility to see as many real pictures as possible. We are also singing a song everyday that helps them to remember the names of the planets.

These are the new works that went on the shelves this week:

Language area: matching planets card game.

Sensorial area: knobles cylinders. With this Montessori work the children refine the differences in similar shapes, they develop eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills.

Art: painting with watercolors.

Science: the planets matching game made with a felt control chart for the solar system and Styrofoam balls for the planets; how planets orbit the sun experiment; another matching game this time with a picture of the solar system and cards for the planets.

Sign language: sun.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Dr. Maria Montessori Words:

“Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which the child engages and try to understand them.” Maria Montessori

Home/School Connection

The **Cranbrook Institute of Science** is a great place to spend some time with the children during these cold days. It offers public exhibitions, a planetarium and an observatory.

At the planetarium you can watch Elmo and his friends in *“One world, one sky: Big Bird’s Adventure”*, a short movie about the Sun, Moon and Stars. It is recommended for children 3 and up but a 2 years old might enjoy it as well. Check the website for more information:
www.cranbrook.edu

Reminder:

- February 12th Curriculum night phase 2
- February 16th Family Ball at Troy Community center 6pm to 7:30pm
- February 19th & 20th Mid-Winter Break NO SCHOOL