

Meadowlark Memo January 27, 2012



Our final afternoon on Kepler this Thursday was a rocketing good time! We shared the afternoon with the Cranes and Egret classrooms and got a chance to play with and learn about their current work with their Engineering units as the “Penny People” climbed their Bridge and Tower projects. In the Meadowlark room, the 2/3 students were all invited on rocket rides to travel an amazing 600 light years per minute to the Kepler planet and visit our community there. It was the first time this year we’ve had a joint open choice time for the rooms and dramatic play was alive and well everywhere we turned. It made me realize that we need to allow more time for children to enter this land of imagination. As a school, they have so much opportunity to do so in the K/1 setting. But it is still important as they grow to explore that creative side.

It was a fun way to end our weeks of space exploration. This construction study was also a hit with the crafters in our room. Many thanks to Amy N. for braving the glue gun construction table and also to Kate Buckmeier and Joe Gransee-Bowman who joined us for a chilly and snowy Castle Rock town tour. We will prepare for an animal study unit next week, which we will work together on with the Cranes and Egrets. The children voted to split the money from the Moon Market between animals in the classroom and animals for a family in need. After several discussions, the destination for our donation was determined to be the Heifer Project in Haiti.

DEAR time: We are beginning new book clubs and reader’s theater groups. Stay tuned for more news on these as they develop!

Math:It’s been a week of measuring....in both big and little ways. We’ve taken yardsticks around the school to measure different spaces as well as used rulers to measure our house creations. We’ve talked about inches, centimeters, feet and yards as units of measurement. It has also been a good introduction to our upcoming multiplication unit both with finding the area of our houses and other construction and with various purchases at the “lumber yard” and store. With all of this activity, the practice of different skills were balanced by what the children were ready to learn. So our “multiplication” practice ranged from counting up by fives to determine the price of a “purchase” to multiple step division problems. At one point during a complicated store exchange, my hidden agenda was broadcasted by a smirking second grader, “You’re just trying to get me to do more math!” How smart they are!

**Please note: A change to our Valentine’s Day tradition!
No CANDY OR COOKIES, Just VALENTINES!**

Classroom lists will go home next week, please look for these in the backpack express.

Have a great weekend! Amy