

Dear Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten Families,

Happy New Year! We start 2024 looking toward the sky! Goals of our theme "Space Explorers" are to foster curiosity, spark imagination and discovery, nurture interest in science and hopefully inspire future scientists, engineers, or even astronauts!

We will introduce basic concepts in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) laying the foundation for future scientific understanding and critical thinking skills; reinforce knowledge of shapes, sizes, colors, and patterns, and develop early scientific inquiry skills by observing, predicting, and experimenting through a host of activities.

Problem-Solving skills will be utilized as the children decide where and how to construct a rocket ship and command center. Language and vocabulary will expand as they incorporate terminology learned, ask questions and communicate with one another.

Educational activities range from observing pictures of and reading many stories about outer space, stimulating imaginative play by incorporating space travel via a rocket ship they construct, creating shooting stars/comets, and measuring and combining ingredients to manufacture moon sand!

You can partake in similar activities at home like building a rocket from boxes or constructing a command center! Bundle up and explore the night sky together! There is an amazing free app called Skyview Lite that will identify the moon, stars, planets, constellations, space station in the sky, day or night, visible or not to the human eye. You can add the use of binoculars or telescopes to get a magnified, closer look! , borrow space themed books from any library, or make plans to visit the Discovery Museum!

** If you have keyboards, cd's, small monitors that you no longer need and would like to bring in for the children to incorporate into their planning please do so! Thank you!

We will also focus on the important message of the brave and kind Martin Luther King Jr. who believed everyone should be treated fairly and respectfully. We will continue to practice using the power of our words to stand up for and help others and demonstrate kindness. We will create a kindness jar to begin filling with pompoms when acts of kindness are demonstrated. This ties into next month when we continue to highlight friendship and kindness

One Early Literacy focus is on the sounds and formation of letters T, F, & E and identifying them in our everyday life; the colors black and white will be explored and applied in a multitude of ways; scientific Inquiry will be explored as we transform liquids into solids and vise-versa, and the properties of magnets (repel/attract) will be explored and determine what objects have metal in them will be discovered.

Additional special days include The New Year, Russian Christmas, Celebrating our 100th Day of Learning, and Black & White Day!

January's Highlights include:

1/1 Happy New Year!


1/7 Russian Christmas! Celebrate by making Russian Teacake cookies

1/10  with Ms. Cherine! 1099

1/13 **Black** and White Day! Dress in black and white clothes!

1/15 Closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday!

1/22  with Ms. Debbie Ross!

1/26  - Soccer with Coach Don! Sneakers must be worn to participate.