

Greetings, Family!

Earth is unique among the planets in our solar system. It is the only planet on which organisms live. Our science class will learn about Earth and other bodies in space in our next unit, "Patterns in the Sky." We'll discover how telescopes can be used to view neighboring planets and distant stars. Children will learn what causes day and night and why the Moon looks different each night—that is; if it can be seen at all.

You can make science come alive for your child by letting him or her be an astronomer at home. Help your child track the Moon's phases, from a full moon to a new moon. Look at the stars in the night sky together to find familiar constellations like the Big Dipper. Tell your child that some of the planets appear brighter than the brightest star. Planets seldom twinkle, whereas stars almost always do.

For this unit, we'll be doing some hands-on activities about how Earth, the Moon, and the Sun move in space, using the materials listed below. Can you donate or loan any of these items? If so, we need to receive your items by_____.

- plastic bowls
- cardboard tubes of different diameters
- toothpicks
- transparent tape
- straws
- metal washers
- masking tape
- craft sticks
- string

Finally, we could also use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have any particular interest or special experience with this topic? Would you be able to help with the activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your child return it to class.

Thank you very much for your help!

Family Newsletter

Unit B, Patterns in the Sky

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____