

Greetings, Family!

Earth is unique among the nine planets in our solar system. It is the only planet on which people can live naturally. Our science class will learn about Earth and other bodies in space in our next unit, "The Earth in Space." We'll discover how telescopes can be used to look at neighboring planets and distant stars. Children will learn what causes day and night and why the Moon looks different each night—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 to find familiar constellations like the Big Dipper. Tell your child that some of the planets are brighter than the brightest star. Planets seldom twinkle, whereas stars almost always do.

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

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|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • plastic bowls | • cardboard tubes | • rain or snow gauges |
| • tape | • straws | • metal washers |
| • foam balls | • craft sticks | • flashlights |

Finally, we could 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 D, The Earth in Space

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____