



A Family Newsletter

Greetings, Family!

In our class's next science unit, we'll be "Exploring Space." We'll find out just how big the solar system is. We'll observe the effects of an amazing force, gravity, which holds planets in orbit and keeps space shuttles falling toward Earth—but missing it. We'll launch a bottle rocket, observe Newton's laws of motion in action, then find out how life in orbit around Earth is different from life on the surface. We'll even play with toys—in the name of science, of course—and compare how they behave on Earth and in the "weightless" conditions on board the space shuttle. We'll look beyond the solar system as we study constellations and star properties.

You can make science come alive for your child in and around your home. Your child will have homework assignments that ask him or her to go outdoors at night to observe planets and stars in the night sky. Please go outdoors with your child for these assignments, both for safety's sake and so your child has a chance to share what he or she is learning. You can take your child's observations beyond the assignments. Do you have a telescope or a pair of binoculars? You can show your child the planets in greater detail. Do you have a computer? You can access spectacular images of planets, galaxies, and other objects in space on Web sites. Watch for space-related stories in the news, and share them with your child.

Finally, we could use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have a particular interest or special experience with space science that you could share? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to class.

Thank you very much for your help!

Family Newsletter
Exploring Space

Parent: _____

Student: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____