

# WE ARE SPACE EXPLORERS!

Grade 3 takes their learning out of this world!



## EARTH IS PART OF AN INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM THAT AFFECTS OUR DAILY LIVES

**How the world Works:** An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.

It has been an exciting couple of weeks here in grade 3! The students have been deeply immersed in their exploration of space. We kicked off the unit with a very exciting journey into deep space, complete with activities to help us understand the life of an astronaut. With the help of Jacob's mom, Cathy Bolwell, we had the opportunity to stare at the stars (in the MPR!) and play games to help build listening, observing, and cooperation skills. We have been watching videos, reading books, building and painting planets, following NASA on twitter, reading articles, and researching online to build our understanding of how the universe works. We even wrote to NASA to ask for an interview with an astronaut; hopefully, we will be able to learn about space from an expert in the field!

We are excited to expand our knowledge and share our learning with our parents and friends! If you have any interesting articles about space to share, or are a space expert, please come by to share your space knowledge with us!



**Tuning in:**

Blaise built understanding of how difficult it is for astronauts in their suits when she tried to open a space vitamin with gloves on. It wasn't easy!

**Central Idea:** Earth is part of an interconnected system that affects our daily lives.

**Lines of Inquiry:**

- The structure of the universe and the Earth's place in it
- How space exploration informs our understanding of the universe
- How our place within the universe affects our daily lives

**Guiding Questions:**

- What is the structure of the universe and our solar system?
- How are the Earth, the Solar System, and the Universe interconnected?
- How has space exploration informed, and continue to inform, our understanding of the Universe?
- How do these interconnected systems (Sun, Moon and Earth) affect our daily lives?

**Key Concepts:**

- **Connection:** How is it connected to other things?
- **Function:** How does it work?
- **Causation:** Why is it like it is?

**Related Concepts:**

Seasons, Gravity, Solar System, Space

**Learner's Profile and Attitudes in Focus:**

- **Knowledgeable:** I know about many things and I remember what I have learnt
- **Inquirer:** I am curious and enjoy learning. I try to find out new things.
- **Curiosity:** I wonder about the world around
- **Cooperation:** I work well with others to achieve a goal

**Transdisciplinary Skills:**

Thinking Skills, Social Skills, Communication Skills

**Vocabulary:**

Axis, Asteroids, Atmosphere, Gravity, Hemisphere, Comets, Meteorites, Satellites, Meteors, Star, Rotation, Mass, Revolution, Mass, Orbit, Terrestrial

**Student Questions:**

- What is the Milky Way?
- Why do the planets keep on turning around?
- What are black holes?
- How was space made?
- What does space look like?
- How do we know about planets?
- Are there other galaxies?
- Is there more than one sun?
- What is the sun?
- What would happen if the sun went away?

**Fast Facts:**

☾ Pluto is no longer a planet; it is a dwarf planet, and we have many more in our galaxy!

☾ Scientists are finding new planets outside of our galaxy every day!

To learn more about space, visit: [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

**TUNING IN:**



**GOING FURTHER:**



# BUILDING THE GALAXY

One planet at a time...



## Classroom Subject Integration:

### MATH: It's a Matter of Time!

**Central Idea:** *We can use a variety of tools to measure that help us to understand the relationships between units of time.*

In this unit, students are learning about time, and how much of it is controlled by the Earth's orbit and rotation around the sun.

We are learning to read clocks to the minute, read schedules and data, determine elapsed time, and we are examining calendars. We are building an understanding of how Earth's relationship to the sun and moon impact our sense of time and seasons.

#### An inquiry into:

- The different tools and methods used to measure time.
- Different ways to express the measurement of time.
- The relationship between different units of time measurement.

### ART!

We are learning about color and texture in painting while we build the galaxy from paper mache', we are using stimulus to help us visualize and then create images, and we are learning about perspective and different ways to show this in a work of art.

### LITERACY

While reading books about the solar system, we continue to develop our reading strategies and skills. We are specifically focusing on strategies for comprehension that include using text features (titles, headings, captions, and graphic features) and summarizing text, including the sequencing of events to help us understand what we have read. We are using non-fiction text, biography, and science fiction text types to build our understanding of our central idea.

In writing, we are using outside stimuli to inspire creative writing, and learning how to use a source of information to write reports of information. We have been focusing on stretching our writing and being more descriptive to help engage our readers.

### SEL

In Term 2 SEL lessons we will have two main focus areas. We have continued to discuss building strong friendships and have just begun to explore what makes a good apology. You can help your child to use good apologies by discussing how apologies can sometimes be difficult but that they are necessary to repair relationships. Children love to hear stories about their parents and modeling apologies is also very important. You can help to remind children of the 4 parts of a good apology, which are: Acknowledge the problem, Offer an explanation, Express shame or remorse and Offer help. The focus for the end of term 2 will be on cyber safety.

## LEARNING AND GROWING



### Support the Unit at Home:

- Look at the stars each evening. If you have an IPAD, you can use STARGAZER or other similar apps to see where the constellations are in the night sky.
- Follow NASA on Twitter
- Take note of the phases of the moon
- Have your child tell you the time when events such as dinner or bedtime happen in your home.

### LANGUAGE B

In conjunction with the classroom UOI on planets, in Language B class the lessons will be integrated through 2 lines of inquiry:

- The structure of the universe and the Earth's place in it (causation) (function) (connection) *Learn the names of the planets in the TL, describe them and give their location*
- How our place within the universe affects our daily lives (causation/gravity, seasons)

### INDO STUDIES

Students will learn how seasons and climate affect the daily life of people in Bali and Indonesia (fishing, farming, full moon, rainy and dry seasons)

### ICT

In ICT, students are learning to use Iwork to build a brochure about the planets. They are also learning skills in creating graphs, and different ways to represent information.

### PE

This term the children will play volleyball and begin to move towards positions on the court and how their different skills and abilities can support their team and influence how the game is played. Children will learn to score and officiate games and run basic tournaments.

This also ties in with the BSSA focus of volleyball for the 9-10 and 11-12 year olds. Half way through the term Gymnastics will start and children will work on basic floor exercises, tumbling, jumping and beam work. They will begin to develop their own routines and explore adding them to music- a direct tie in with Dance in Term 3. In the pool they will continue to work on their freestyle technique and streamlining and also look at breaststroke and backstroke. Don't forget aerobics on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7.45. A great way to start the day and Mums and Dads are welcome to join in. Drop your bags off to the class beforehand and come along.

### MUSIC

In music, students are listening to and responding to music. They will examine the different ways that musicians can interpret a theme and convey a message. To support their current UOI on space, the students will be listening and responding to *The Planets*, by Holst.

### Important Dates to Remember:

- Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2012: Holiday Fair
- Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, 2:00 p.m.: Unit Share Time
- Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012: Last day of term