



Hello families!

We began our week starting over with our paper mâché asteroid. We spent the entire morning in small groups working on covering the entire 3-foot-in-diameter balloon with small strips of newspaper dipped in a flour and water mixture. We patched it in the afternoon to cover any holes that we saw and then left it to dry overnight. On Tuesday, we were sad to find that the janitor had thrown our massive project away the night before☹ We decided that maybe next time we should put a sign on it that says “do not throw away.” Another child suggested that we hide it from the custodians because if they can’t find it, they can’t throw it away.

On Tuesday, we made winter cards for the elderly in order to cheer them up. The reading buddies helped with spelling words and what to say. On Tuesday, we also talked about what we would bring to space with us if we were to go there in a rocket ship. A lot of children said they would bring lunch or candy. Other ideas were a jetpack, Legos, an alien blaster, a rocket blaster, caffeine, and an invisible man. Someone in our class noted that they would definitely not bring their Legos because they would all float away and they would lose them all. This led into an interesting conversation about gravity and how it works. We also thought of ideas about how we could keep our belongings from floating away in space. Some ideas were putting a large lock on them, putting a seat belt on them, putting a blanket over them, or sitting on them.

On Wednesday, we had an INCREDIBLY successful first day of tussling! I will be honest, I was a little nervous to start and wasn’t sure how it was going to go, but I’m so glad we did. I think every single child was laughing and smiling the entire time they were tussling on the mats

(if you don't believe me, just look at the pictures!) and everyone followed the 8 rules we went over at circle time before we started with very few reminders needed. It was so fun to witness and I'm looking forward to tussling again with them next week.

On Thursday, we joined the downstairs class to listen to Gigi's mom talk about Hanukkah. She explained what her family does to celebrate Hanukkah and some of the children made connections to their own family celebrating Hannukkah, while others talked about the similarities and differences between Christmas and Hanukkah. We also talked about the planets on Thursday and what the names of all the planets are. A lot of the children in our class know a lot about space and are eager to share their knowledge with the class. On Friday, we did division!!! Miss Kathy let us borrow her Magnatiles for a while, but it was time to give them back. Our job was to split our Magnatiles collection in half so we could give half to Miss Kathy and we could keep half in our room. The children got with a partner, grabbed a chunk of Magnatiles, and worked together to make two equal piles: one would go in Miss Kathy's bucket and one would go in our bucket. We also spent part of our morning painting as a class and experimenting with different tools for painting. A lot of them enjoyed the feeling of using their hands to paint instead of using the tools.

-Shanyn



*Don't forget to fill out our survey to help make our program even better! <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MBupstairsfall15>

Dates to Remember:

*December 21st-23rd and 28th-30th: Bring a lunch from home days

*December 24th, 25th, 31st, and January 1st: Stepping Stones Closed

*January 29th: Stages Theater field trip (tickets were only purchased for the children. If you would like to join us: please call Stages Theater as soon as possible and purchase a ticket for yourself. We would love to have you there!)