We began the New Year with the theme “Outer Space”. Many of us grew up hearing and watching the space shuttle flights, etc… but today young children have not been exposed to this experience.

We introduced the theme by starting with the knowledge and concepts that young children already know. The earth where we live, the full moon that we can see once a month, and the stars that we see at night. Young children can grasp this information because it is tangible.

We discussed the sun and the importance it has in our lives and that it is also a star (the biggest star).

We then moved on to the solar system and the planets that orbit around the sun. Vocabulary words were introduced during Circle Time and used while the children played with the space toys, as well as through fiction and non-fiction stories.

The group helped create a space ship by painting large boxes and decorating them with daubers, markers and stampers. After the space ship was finished the children could go into the ship, dress-up in astronaut costumes and use pretend control centers as mission control.

We created comets, astronaut helmets, painted our own rocket ships, made star galaxies, and orbited in a circle while holding hands around a large blown up sun!

Our books and songs reinforced our learning about outer space, planets, and astronaut Neil Armstrong.

The children discovered how “Gravity” works via dropping bean bags, balls, and even scarves from up high and watching as everything landed on the ground. We floated across the room over to our sit-up-ons and to line up as if in space. We practiced counting backwards as we blasted off rockets from 10 to 0 and then laid on our backs looking up at the ceiling to see the “Dog Constellation”. The children enjoyed gluing red objects and then painting everything red to make the red planet Mars. We discovered that the rings around Saturn are made of small rocks and ice!

Outer Space has such a wealth of learning and experiencing moments for our children. We have all enjoyed this month’s theme!
EXPERIENCING OUTER SPACE

Ryder wondering if this piece goes here.

Jamie-Ann painting a planet.

Ryder and Aras touching ice in the water table because this is how cold Neptune is.

Kipton said, “I need these sunglasses and head set for my mission”.

Kip, Lettie, and Eleonore painting rockets.
I CAN DO THIS!

Jamie-Ann and the Blue Room singing the “Planet” song.

Aras and classmates painting the rocket booters.

Aras and Shreya painting the space ship.

Aras and Ryder are letting gravity pull down the drip paint!

Jamie-Ann and Johnny connecting the space shuttle.
SPACE ADVENTURES

Ian and Matteo calling the space shuttle.

Ian and Lettie exploring moon sand.

Rowan, Johnny and Simon telling a space story.

Rowan and astronaut Eleonore discussing which animal should travel into space!

Outer Space was Great!
Thanks to Lettie’s mom and dad for reading to us.

Thanks to Jami-Ann’s mom for reading to us.

Thanks to Shreya for sharing her Sari.

We want to say thanks for sending your child’s winter gear to school. It’s been a snowy winter already!

Our next theme in February 2018 is “Animals In The Wild!”

The Three’s Team, Mrs. Loomis, Ms. O’Neill, Mr. Salinetro, and Mrs. Tomer