

Friday, February 12, 2010

Dear Parents:

We will be finishing our thematic unit on Space the week after vacation. We have been learning about the Sun and the moon. Next, we will study about the planets. Our Teacher Read Aloud Book was Sun Up, Sun Down by Gail Gibbons. The Barbara Saul books were A Stinky Story and Presidents. The Science Link book was Sun and Moon by Marcus Pfister. KinderFriends book (*yellow book*) was To The Moon. Keely Kangaroo was the alphafriend who helped the students learn about the letter of the week, K. Go to Mr. Lentz's web site to hear the song and read the lyrics. He also has the Planet Rap song available under the SONGS tab.

There is no school next week in celebration of Presidents' Week. I am including two reading logs with this week's note and am asking that you continue to read to and with your child and record their reading in their reading log. Please return the reading log for the vacation week on Monday, February 22. The other is due on Friday, February 26.

Research shows that reading books aloud is the single most valuable support that parents can provide in helping children to learn to read. Some tips are:

- *Be a ham! The more enthusiasm you display, the more your child will enjoy the book.*
- *Run your finger underneath the words as you read to signal that the print carries the story.*
- *Leave time for examining the illustrations more closely; encourage your child to find things in the picture.*
- *Invite your youngster to join in whenever there's a repeated phrase in the text.*
- *Link up events in the book with similar events in your child's life.*
- *If your child asks a question, stop and answer it. The book can be a means to learning more about your child's thoughts.*

Let's Start Over

Sometimes a gentle reminder is all that's needed to change a child's behavior. When your little one needs prompting, try using the "let's start over" approach offered by Linda and Richard Eyre in their book, Teach Your Child Values.

Tell your child that when you say, "Let's start over," you're giving him/her a second chance to respond or behave in a better way. Then, use it the next time he/she misbehaves. Example: You ask him to put away his toys. He begins fussing, "I didn't put those toys there," and refuses to pick them up. Say, "Okay, Let's start over. Now I'm going to ask you again to pick up your toys."

This method allows you to correct your child's behavior in a positive way, while giving him the opportunity to correct him/herself.

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