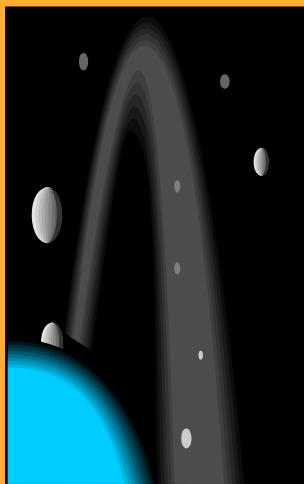


Asteroid Monthly

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER, 2009



Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! The Asteroids are a fabulous group and we are all looking forward to a fun-filled year of learning, exploring, and growing.

The Asteroids will be a very busy bunch this year. In addition to reading, writing, social studies, and math, the Asteroids will have lessons in current events, geography, curative and much, much more!

Current Events will take place once a week for a half hour. The Asteroids will start by learning the different parts of magazine/newspaper article, such as the title, the date

it was written, the date the publication was published etc. As the year goes on, students



will be given short articles of interest to read each week. Each student will answer a few questions about the article and will then present the article to the class. This is a great way for the students to

learn about things that are happening in our country and around the world today. It is also a great opportunity for the students to practice and to become more comfortable with presenting material to the group.

In geography, students will study the differences between countries and continents through a variety of modalities. The Asteroids will participate in a research project on a country of their choosing. The class will also learn some basic map skills.

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Asphalt Green

Our amazing gym program will continue this year at Asphalt Green. The Asteroids will have gymnastics on Mondays, and basketball on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Soccer will replace basketball toward the end of the year.

This year each class has its own time slot for basketball which allows for much more individual attention from the coaches. The Asteroids are paired with the Quasars for gymnastics. However, this year in gymnastics, the chil-

dren are in 3 different groups and will work on only one apparatus each time we have class. This way the children can focus on beam, bars, or floor for the entire class period and will have more time to develop the different skills.

Social Studies



Henry enjoying some Independent Reading time.

The Asteroids will be following a modified version of the New York State 4th Grade Social Studies Standards. The students will be learning about American History with a focus on New York State. We will begin by learning about the Iroquois and the Algonquian tribes. The class will learn through read-aloud, reenactments, direct instruction, and hands-on projects, including building a wigwam right here in our classroom! After learn-

ing about each tribe, the Asteroids will look at the similarities and differences between the two tribes.

After studying the Native Americans, the Asteroids will begin to learn about European explorers, including Christopher Columbus, Giovanni Da Verrazano, and Henry Hudson. The Asteroids will also study Early American Settlers and will look at how life was different from the way in which we live today. The Asteroids will

then begin to study the road to the American Revolution including the Stamp Act, the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and the Declaration of Independence. The children will reenact some of these events which is always a big hit! We will look at some key battles of the Revolutionary War as well, and hope to touch on the branches of government this summer. Get ready for a lot of social studies excitement!



Devanni looks for shapes on a neighborhood math scavenger hunt.

Math

This year the Asteroids will continue to use the Saxon math program. The students will be grouped based on developmental level and skill. The Saxon program uses a variety of teaching methods. Lessons often use math manipulatives to help the students understand the concepts.

In addition to leveled groups, the Asteroids will periodically

have whole group math and will venture out into the community for scavenger hunts.

The students will look for shapes, line segments, numbers, and other math related objects that have been predetermined by teachers. The students will tally the number of objects they find, then plot them on a graph and answer questions like "Which shape

did you see the most of?", "Did you see more vertical lines or horizontal lines?"

Community scavenger hunts are a great way for the class to get outside, be a part of the community, and see that math is everywhere!

GBS Volunteers

Gillen Brewer has the privilege of another great school year with our fabulous community volunteer, Don Pearlstein. Don will work on projects with the Asteroids every Tuesday. Often the

projects will be related to

social studies lessons, but he will also do projects related to other subjects as well.

The Asteroids will have a Regis High School student volunteer as well. Christopher will be working with the class every Tuesday from 8:30 to 11:30. The students enjoy having a cool, high school student to

hang out with !

If anyone is interested in volunteering for the school, please contact Penny.

Sarah and Christopher reading together.

