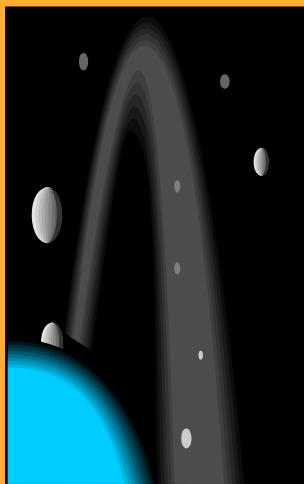


# Asteroid Monthly

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER, 2009



## Classroom Changes

The Asteroids were saddened to say goodbye to Ivy Schneider this month. It was a difficult decision, but Ivy decided it was best for her to take a job closer to her Westchester home. The children were very sad to see her go, but have been handling the changes in a mature way. We wish Ivy all the best in her new endeavors.

The Asteroids were thrilled to hear that Jackie Glazer will be the new head teacher in the classroom. Jackie is in her fourth year at Gillen Brewer and has worked as both a paraprofessional and Assis-

tant Teacher. Many of the Asteroids have been in class



with Jackie in the past and are very excited to be in class with her again.

Janet is expecting her first baby very soon and is working closely with Shannie

Easterby to help ensure a smooth transition. Janet and Shannie have been speaking with the students on their turns about the upcoming changes. Janet will begin working part time in November.



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## Grandparents' Day

Gillen Brewer's annual "Grandparents' Day" took place on October 23. Grandparents were invited to attend a workshop addressing some of the needs of the students at Gillen Brewer. After the workshop, Asteroid

grandparents joined the class for a light lunch with the children. After lunch the children and grandparents made a collective totem pole. Each child decorated a box with pictures representing things he/she likes to do with grand-

parents and other family members. The boxes were then put together to create a totem pole. Many thanks to all Asteroid parents, grandparents and family members who helped make this day special!

## Reading Groups



*Kristin and her grandfather on Grandparents' Day.*

This year Reading Groups are divided into two parts. During the first part of reading each day, children will work with PAF, which is a phonics based, multi-sensory reading program that helps build decoding and spelling skills. PAF is used school-wide. In "Reading the Sequel" (as it is called on our schedule), students will work on comprehension skills. The As-

teroids will learn different strategies for answering comprehension questions such as; underlining key question words, reading the questions before reading a paragraph, etc. The Asteroids will work on skills including identifying main idea, supporting details, cause and effect, fact vs. opinion, sequencing and inferencing. Reading the Sequel will be taught in

both whole group and in smaller groups, depending on the activity.

Weekly spelling words will be based on PAF lessons for the week, but will also include words that are relevant to other subjects and current events.



*Henry with his grandparents on Grandparents' Day.*

## Writers' Workshop

The Asteroids started off the year in Writers' Workshop with lessons on parts of speech. The class reviewed common nouns, proper nouns, adjectives and verbs.

The class has moved on to letter writing. The Asteroids are learning the parts of a letter such as; the

greeting, the body, the closing, signature and post script. The Asteroids are eagerly awaiting letters from their new pen-pals. The Asteroids will be exchanging letters throughout the school-year with a class in Canyon Country, California. This is a fun way to practice writing letters.

Each student will also learn how to address an envelope.

Next month the Asteroids will begin learning about the structure of a paragraph.

## Marble Madness!

The Asteroids are very excited about this year's "marble jar". The class is rewarded with marbles for engaging in kind acts, following directions the first time, working together to accomplish something, being respectful, etc. Marbles

can be earned by the class as a whole and by individual students. When the jar is filled with all the marbles, the Asteroids will vote on how they want to celebrate their accomplishment. Celebrations may include pizza, movies, park trips or

pajama parties, which was how the class chose to celebrate their first filled marble jar. The class had a blast wearing their pajamas in school!

*Devonni, Nichelle, Jaquan and Jonathan on "Pajama Day".*

