



# The Galaxy Gazette

## Welcome Galaxies!

The Galaxies are off to a busy start this year. Some of our most important—and challenging!—work is establishing a set of positive classroom behavior goals and a common language that makes sense to both the children and the adults as we work together toward meeting these goals. Our goals are “the 4 B’s”—Be Safe, Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. The children brainstormed what actual, concrete behaviors belong to each goal. We have decided that, while we talk about and model

all 4 B’s daily, we need to begin the year by focusing on Be Ready. To be ready means to be ready to learn, because that is WHY we come to school. By the way, not one child could tell us *why* he was in school at the beginning of the year!

To be ready, a child is sitting up in his seat, facing front, feet on the floor, with a quiet mouth and body. Obviously, this does not guarantee a child is engaged, and there are children who attend better sometimes when they stand or do not directly face the

teacher. However, this physical posture is almost always a very good “outer” place to start, and as they know in the movies and the military, the outer informs the inner as much as the other way around. So, we are drilling a “Be Ready” position periodically throughout the day, and you may wish to ask your child to show you “ready” before homework if he seems tired or disorganized.



The Galaxies took a field trip to State News to pick out journals.

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### September/October Birthdays



Troy — September 5  
Rafi — October 2  
Kye — October 23

## Social Studies

In Social Studies, the Galaxies have been learning about world geography. We've talked about the cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) and we've also been studying maps of the world—ask your child to sing you the continent song! Now, we're learning the terms for different landforms and bodies of water.

We'll use this knowledge to construct a large-scale three-dimensional map of North America with the help of our fabulous volunteer, Don. Each student is in charge of his own section of the map, including building topography like mountains and valleys out

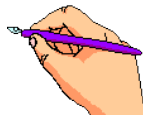


of Model Magic.

Throughout October, the Galaxies will continue to learn how to read and interpret different kinds of maps. We'll also begin the Penny Harvest. This is a social service learning project the whole school takes part in, and this year the Galaxy class is in charge of organizing it. Stay tuned for more details!

## Language Arts and Math

The Galaxies begin most mornings by writing in their journals. They are learning how to expand upon their ideas using the 5 W's: *who, what, where, when and why*. Each Galaxy created his own "question wheel" that he now uses to help him add more details to his topic. We are also working on the conventions of writing (such as capitalization and punctuation) and we've been reviewing the different parts of speech. In October, we will continue to use the 5 W's to enrich and expand our journal entries and other longer writing projects.



In Reading, we use the Prevent-

ing Academic Failure program to teach phonics-based reading and spelling skills. The children also use an interactive on-line library program called *Raz-Kids* one to two times per week. This program allows them to read and listen to illustrated stories slightly above their independent reading level. It makes high-interest reading more accessible to children with reading delays, and of course, almost all children love a chance to do *anything* on the computer! We also meet as a whole group several times a week for read-alouds and other literacy activities and lessons such as comparing stories or learning about fables.



In October, we will begin using

the Open Court Reading series from SRA/McGraw Hill, as well as their Reading Lab program for independent reading.

In Math, the Galaxies are using the Saxon Math Curriculum. This curriculum should be familiar to those of you who were at Gillen Brewer last year—it has a spiral approach, so in addition to teaching new skills, it will build on skills your child has already learned. The class has been divided into leveled groups for Saxon math instruction based on their skill and developmental level. We also supplement the Saxon materials with math games and other hands-on activities.



## Specials

In Art, the Galaxies have been working with Kate to try out different collage techniques. They've had the chance to experiment with lots of different materials, and they've also learned about artists like Henri Matisse.



In Science, the Galaxies have been learning all about their own galaxy in space. They've learned

about the moon's orbit of the Earth and the Earth's orbit of the sun, which has helped them to understand why we have seasons and day and night.



In Music, Robert has been introducing the boys to jazz, as well as giving them lots of chances to move around, sing and play with instru-



ments.

Gillen Brewer is continuing our partnership with Asphalt Green for gym this year. The Galaxies have gymnastics one day a week and basketball two days a week at the fitness complex. They get lots of exercise tumbling, doing drills and shooting hoops!



# The Galaxy Gallery

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The Galaxies on the way to State News to pick out journals



The class learns about the Earth's orbit of the sun with Andrea, the science teacher



Playing chess during the Friday morning game period



The class built a block structure for a writing activity about perspective



Playing a geography board game



The class warms up for basketball at Asphalt Green