

2009

September



GILLEN BREWER SCHOOL

# Quasars

## **“Alone we’re good, pieced together... we’re great!”**

### **WHY “QUASARS”?**

The students were very excited about this year’s theme: “things from outer space”. We really took our time when choosing a name for our class. The students read books and magazine articles, and looked on the internet for information about outer space. Individually they came up with great ideas which they displayed on posters and presented them to the class including an explanation of why their idea was the “best choice.” After all of the ideas were offered, students wrote their favorite on small pieces of paper (one catch: they could not vote for their own.) The name with the highest number of votes was finally chosen: drum roll please...the Quasars!! Two close contenders were the Comets and Meteors, but these didn’t make the cut.

### **STRIVING FOR OUR GOALS...**



Be respectful



Be responsible

Be ready

Be safe

These are the goals that the students will work toward daily. After introducing the list to the class, they brainstormed ways that we could meet these goals in (and out) of the classroom. The class came up with ideas like: “make sure to turn in your work when you’re done”, “listen to directions”, and “leave the classroom quietly during a fire drill”. The students had the opportunity to illustrate these goals that were strung together to make a “goal quilt” and hangs in our room so students can visualize these goals each day. Next time you come to the Quasar’s classroom, check out the quilt hanging by the door!

### **ASPHALT GREEN**

Three times a week, we depart for Asphalt Green to participate in an assortment of sports programs. The Quasars are participating in gymnastics on Mondays and basketball on Wednesdays and Fridays. In gymnastics the students work on their balance, stability, and turn taking skills. They have been really enjoying the beam, bars, floor, and trampoline. In basketball the Quasars have been taking part in dribbling and shooting relays and are becoming star basketball players! The coaches often peak about sportsmanship and what it means to be a “team player.” The Quasars have really taken ownership of these necessary skills and have been great sports! We look forward to watching their skills develop further throughout the year!

# Quasars

## Reminders/

### Mini Calendar

- Check your snack schedule for your family's week to contribute (please remember: we are feeding 10 growing 9-10 year olds for 5 days!)
- School closed on October 8th, 12th and 28th
- Grandparent's day: October 23rd
- Fall Family Fun Day: October 25th

## Our AWESOME volunteers...

- ♦ Since last year was such a success, Gillen Brewer has a new group of Regis High School student volunteers in a few of our classrooms this year! Ray is the newest member of the Quasars and was welcomed with open arms! He will be with us every Tuesday and we look forward to getting to know him.
- ♦ For those of you who haven't had the privilege of meeting Don, he is our retired toy-engineer - volunteer. He's been with Gillen Brewer for 5 years now and adds so much creativity and enthusiasm to our classroom projects and adven-

## In MATH...

We continue to use the Saxon math program for small group instruction. The class as a whole practices using money and making change daily during our snack time routine when we select a student "cashier" to man the cash register. The student cashier will choose a price for snack that day and each student has to come up and pay for his/her snack. We also emphasize other math skills throughout the day so that students can better understand how math works in the "real world."

## SOCIAL STUDIES

This year the Quasars will be studying the Western Hemisphere (USA, Latin America, and Canada.) We have been looking at maps of each of these countries and discussing the things we already know about them and have been surprised to see the students' level of expertise already in place! We will continue to talk about these countries and their different geographies, governments, and cultures. If you have any information or things you would like to share with us please feel free to send something in with your child:)

## READING

In reading group the Quasars have been learning about how to identify the main idea of a picture, sentence, and story. They have also been creating their own mini-stories by choosing a main idea and details to go along with it. We are encouraging the Quasars to look for details (little facts) wherever we go so they can use that as fuel during writer's workshop.

\*When you read with your child at home encourage him/her to tell you the main idea of the story he/she read! Your help at home will definitely reflect back to the classroom! \*



GOOD  
TIMES  
WITH THE  
QUASARS!

