



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In our current MySci Unit, Our Place in the Universe, students explore our solar system and discover how various parts work together to create patterns we can observe on Earth. They also discover how gravity affects Earth and other objects in our solar system. Then, students explore how movements of the Earth make day and night, a year, and changes in length and direction of shadows. Students create sundials to show these patterns. Next, students explore moon phases and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky. Students make several models of these observations in order to learn all about our place in the universe.

School Home Connections

Have your child notice where the sun is at different times during the day and where it is during different seasons. If possible, take your child out in the evening to observe the stars and moon. Notice how they move in the sky throughout the evening. You may want to show your child how to find different constellations and follow the changing pattern of the moon phases. Find out when the International Space Station is visible - it is often the brightest object in the sky! Here's a website to help you:

<https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/>

Other astronomy based resources to explore with your child include:

- The St. Louis Science Center has telescope viewings once a month (<http://www.slsc.org/planetarium>)
- Challenger Learning Center - St. Louis is a wonderful place for the budding astronaut. (<http://www.challengerstl.org/>)

Thank you for your support in your child's science explorations!

Sincerely,

Your Child's Teacher



inspiring the next
generation of scientists

