Making Connections!

The 3rd Grade class from Fieldcrest Elementary have been studying the planets of the solar system in Science. In order to visualize the planets, we used sidewalk chalk to draw each orbit.

Mnemonic Devices

The 3rd Grade classrooms are learning about Mnemonic devices to remember the order and placement of planets. The students have also been using mnemonic devices in the music classroom to remember the note names of the Treble Clef staff.

Science + Music = FUN!!!

The students helped Ms. Nannen-Miller create each planet by looking in their science books to determine the size and color of each planet and how many moons each planet have orbiting around them.

Creating the Planets.

Ms. Nannen-Miller and Mrs. Beahan created a plan to incorporate a song called “Ode to Pluto” to learn more about this poor, dwarf planet.

Reclassification

Due to Pluto being “reclassified” as a dwarf planet, the students were able to draw Pluto much smaller than the other planets in the solar system.

The classes arrive!

The 3rd Graders were especially impressed with the size and colors used in the solar system.

Mrs. Beahan teaches the lesson outdoors.

With the rain drizzling on our classes, Mrs. Beahan needed to make quick work of the lesson before it was washed away!

Students find their planets.

Students were then asked to each find a planet and re-create how that planet revolves and rotates within the solar system.

Defining each planet.

As the students stepped on their planet, they were reminded how different each planet is and how large the solar system is as well.

Enthusiastic about the lesson!

The students were all able to engage in the lesson and answer the questions with enthusiastic and appropriate comments.

Fieldcrest has the “brightest” students!

While rotating and orbiting around the solar system, each planet made more or less rotations depending on their placement from the sun.

Still going…

Mercury, Venus and Earth were able to make it quickly around the solar system. Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were taking a bit longer, and finally, Uranus, Neptune and poor little Pluto finally made it around to where they started.

Neptune Vs. Pluto

The students discovered that Pluto was reclassified because it crosses the path of Neptune, which is unlike any other planet.

Let's talk about those Moons.

The students all discussed the moons that orbit each planet and also found out that Charon, Pluto's moon, is just as big as Pluto! Pluto's moon takes 6.4 earth days to orbit around Pluto and Pluto takes 248 earth years to go around the sun.

The End

To end the lesson, we reviewed each planet, the moons and the order in the solar system. The students had a great time and it was fun to be able to be a planet for the day!