



Dear Parents,

For the next several weeks, your child will be learning about the sun, moon, and stars. The class will be observing the position and appearance of the sun and moon during the day. Since the moon is generally easier to observe at night, I request your assistance in helping your child complete a *Moon Journal*, which involves a month-long observation period of the moon. As a result of completing the moon observations, students should learn the following concepts.

1. The moon's shape changes throughout a 28-day period.
2. The moon is sometimes visible during the day and sometimes at night.
3. The moon appears to move across the sky.

Through on-going moon observations and class discussions, the students should “discover” the above concepts. Your child will bring home a *Moon Journal* containing a *Night Moon Calendar* for recording a sketch of the shape of the moon. A *Moon/Sky Notes* sheet will also be included for recording observations of the moon and/or sky. Since the moon journal is specifically for making “night” observations, please observe the moon/sky after dusk. Below are some specific directions and tips for completing the moon journal.

1. Before you “moon watch,” write the date and time on the *Night Moon Calendar*.
2. If you see the moon, draw a picture on you calendar of what the moon looks like. You should shade the portion of the moon that is not visible, which was modeled in class. Try to show the exact shape of the moon. If you do not see the moon, either try later or lightly draw an “X” on the calendar and write “no moon.” On the *Moon/Sky Notes* sheet, make sure to write that you could not see the moon and describe the sky (clear, cloudy, etc...). Please be aware that the moon will not always be visible at night—during its four-week cycle, it is in the evening sky approximately 14 days. At other times in its cycle, the moon is either visible very late at night or not in the sky at night. The observational

experiences and class discussions should help your child discover this reality.

3. Suggestions for observations to record on your *Moon/Sky Notes* sheets:
  - a. Shape of the moon
  - b. Overall sky conditions (clear, cloudy, etc...)
  - c. General position of the moon (high in the sky, low in the sky, direction within the sky)  
\*Enclosed is a “Moon’s Sky Position” packet that provides instruction on measuring the position of the moon. If your child is interested, you may try measuring and recording this data.
  - d. Any interesting observations

We hope “moon observing” is an enjoyable experience that allows you and your child to make many discoveries. We deeply appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers