

Dear Family,

In my class today, we investigated stars and constellations and made our own constellations.

Did You Know?

- On a clear, dark night, you can see between 1,000 and 1,500 stars in the sky.
- We can only see stars at night because our Sun is so bright.
- Scientists who study stars, planets, and other space objects are called “astronomers.”
- Some stars are brighter because they are very large stars or because they are closer to the Earth.
- A long time ago, people thought that certain groups of stars looked like animals and sometimes people.
- These groups of stars are called “constellations.”

Ask Your Child:

- What is a constellation?
- How did you make your constellation?
- Tell me why we can see the stars only at night.
- Why do some stars look brighter than other stars?

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- On a clear night, go outside with your child and look at the stars; what shapes do you see? Help your child to draw a picture of their favorite shape in the stars, and send it to school to share with us.

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:

- **star** – things we usually see as points of light in the night sky.
- **constellation** – a group of stars in the sky that is thought to look like an animal, object, or person; for example, the Big Dipper is a constellation.
- **group** – a collection of things that are in one place.
- **shine** – to give off light.
- **bright** – giving off a lot of light.
- **astronomer** – a scientist who studies the universe beyond Earth.