

Independent Day School “Astronaut” Launch

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Aware of the space launches from the Kennedy Space Center, Independent Day School early primary teachers planned a phenomenal Discovery Space Day where space simulations brought learning closer to reality.

The children, dressed in their individually-decorated astronaut helmets (paper grocery bags) and space suits equipped with rocket boosters (2 liter soda bottles), paraded to the launch site (across the campus to the middle school field), counted down and watched the rocket lift off from Mission Control (courtesy of middle school teacher Tom Bronson).

PreK3 teacher Lauren Bronson said, “The students were amazed to see the rocket being launched into the sky and were thrilled after it was retrieved and returned to the classroom so they could investigate up close.”

Students participated in many space-related activities including eating space “food” (chocolate pudding sucked through a straw out of a Ziploc bag), making star-gazers, moon-dust and their own “rockets” (for the next voyage).



“The unit on the solar system brought a sense of how it would be different to be on the moon or in outer space,” said PreK3 teacher Leah Gucciardi.

After an invigorating day exploring outer space, the students enjoyed a special broadcast, *The Magic School Bus Goes to Space*, on the ceiling of the creatively-constructed planetarium in the school’s gymnasium, Corbett Hall.

Independent Day School early primary teachers continue to create lessons that stimulate a child’s natural curiosity and convey the joy in learning.