

December 2024

MARJORY KINNON

Newsletter



Important Dates:

20th December
Last day of term

6th January
Return to School

17th-21st February
Half Term

Cultural Day
page 2



The Choir
page 7

Cultural Day



On Friday 6th of December Secondary had its first Cultural Day of the Year! The theme was "Christmas around the world". We all had the chance to share traditions of our own cultures as well as explore new ones. All the students learnt key vocabulary in multiple languages and earned stamps while travelling through the world! Common room turned into a relaxing winter wonderland and we enjoyed Christmas truffles.



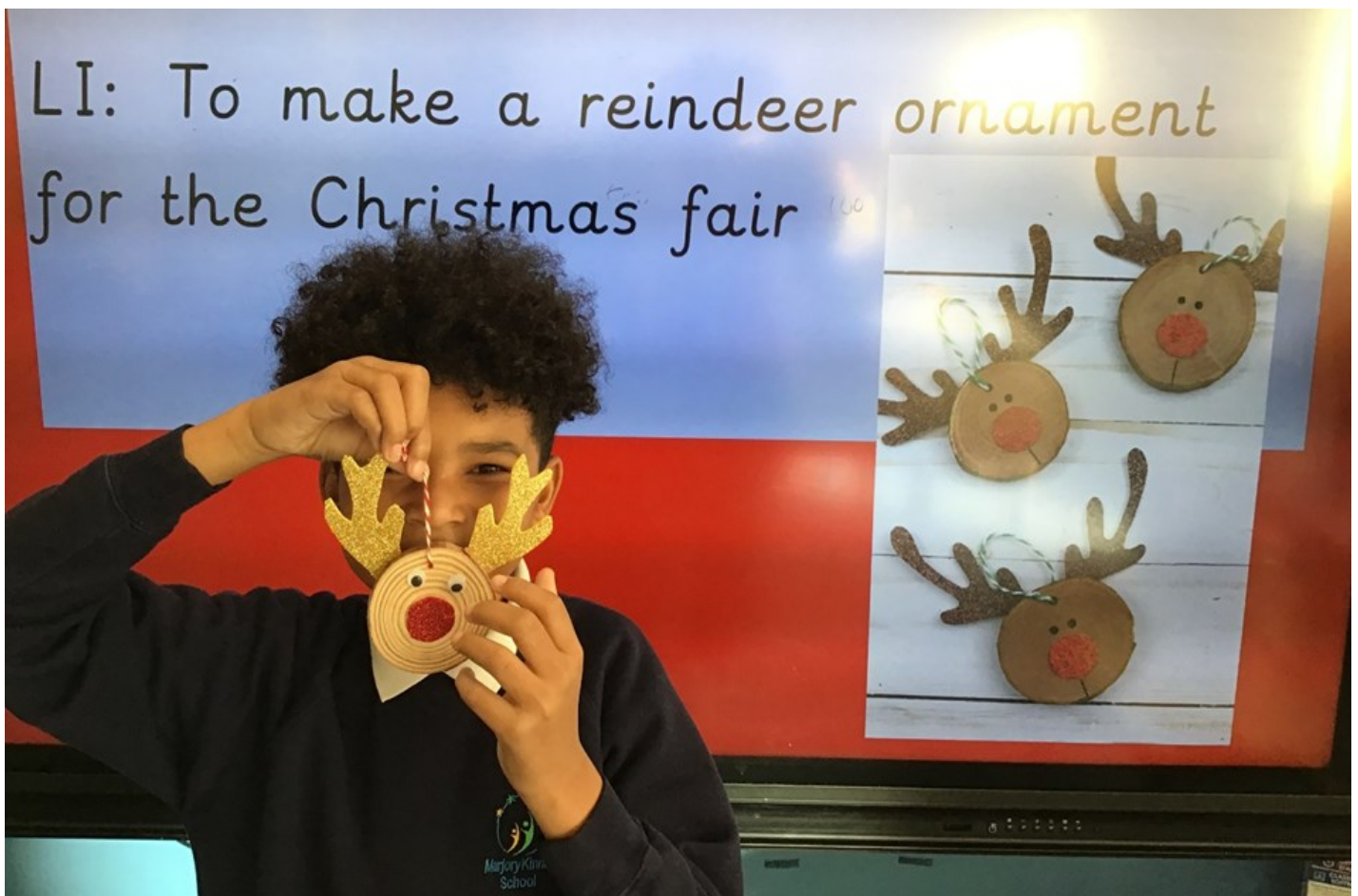


LSI has had a busy term! We have enjoyed reading 'The Great Kapok Tree', by Lynne Cherry and have considered the pros and cons of logging in the rainforest. We have conducted whole-class debates about deforestation and its impact on our planet.



We have developed some keen chefs this term, who love to cook! Food tech has been enjoyed by all, even when Miss Weller and Mrs Shaikh burnt the biscuits! Macaroni cheese proved a firm favourite among the class, which they made from scratch! The adults in LSI would like to say a big well done for all of your hard work and we hope you all enjoy a well-deserved winter break. See you in the New Year!





This half term, LS2 contributed to MKS's Christmas Fair by making some reindeer ornaments. We discussed how community events can bring people together and raise money for charitable causes. Then, we worked in small groups and we practised our arts and crafts skills. Everyone was very enthusiastic and our reindeer were sold out!

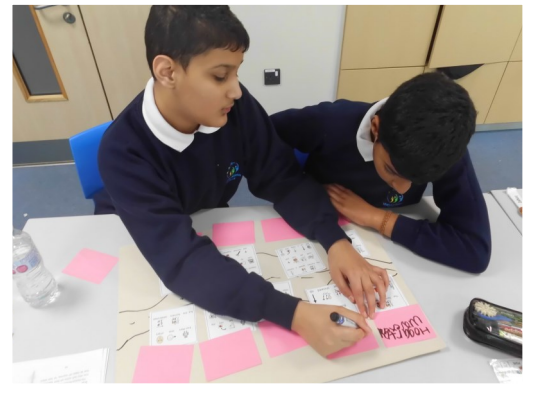
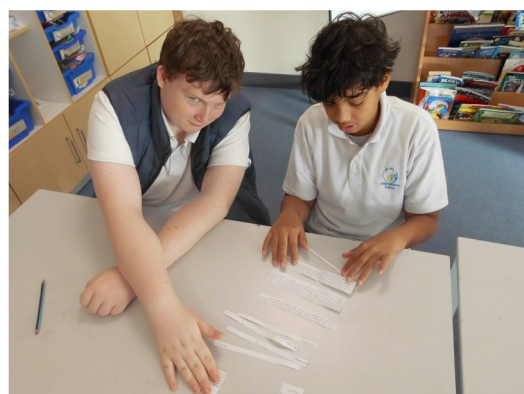


LS3

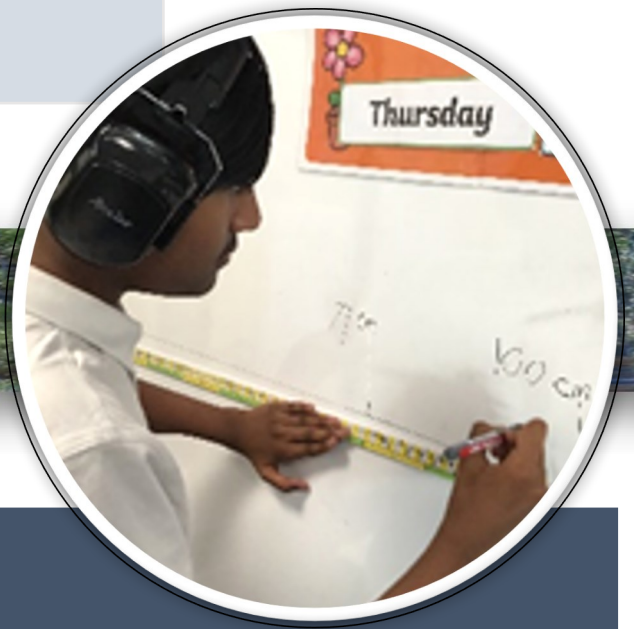
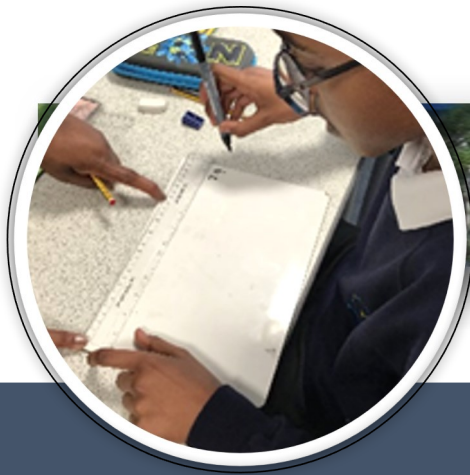
In Humanities, we have been exploring 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes'. Students in LS3 have examined the impact natural disasters have on different aspects of society including social, economic and environmental effects. In their last lesson, LS3 were challenged to build a tower that would withstand an earthquake, using different materials.



In English, LS3 has been studying a fictional text titled, 'The Iron Man'. Pupils have explored and practised many different styles of writing, including writing balanced arguments, reports and form paragraphs.



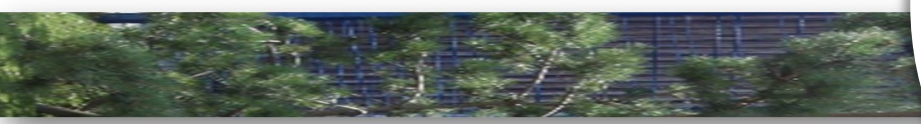
LS4



This term, LS4 students have worked very hard in all aspects of their learning. They have shown great progress in their language, Science and Maths skills. In Maths, the students have learned how to use standard and non-standard units of measurement, identifying 2D shapes in 3D shapes, using positional language in describing shapes. In Geography, students have developed their map reading skills by identifying the seven continents using an atlas map book and globe. In English, they have read "Into the Forest" book by Anthony Browne, expanding their sentence writing skills and grammar knowledge. Well done LS4 students for your great engagement, enthusiasm and effort in your learning. Wishing you and your families a peaceful and enjoyable winter break.



The MKS Choir



The MKS choir has recently celebrated its one year anniversary! - And in that year the pupil's singing ability and confidence has come on heaps and bounds. After several performances at school events throughout the year, this half-term saw the choir's first performances within the wider community.

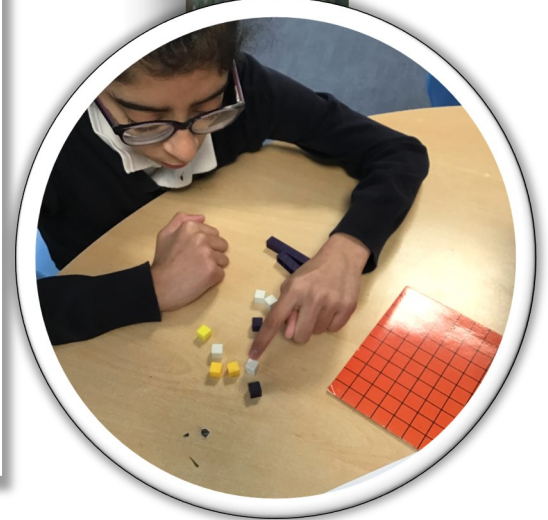
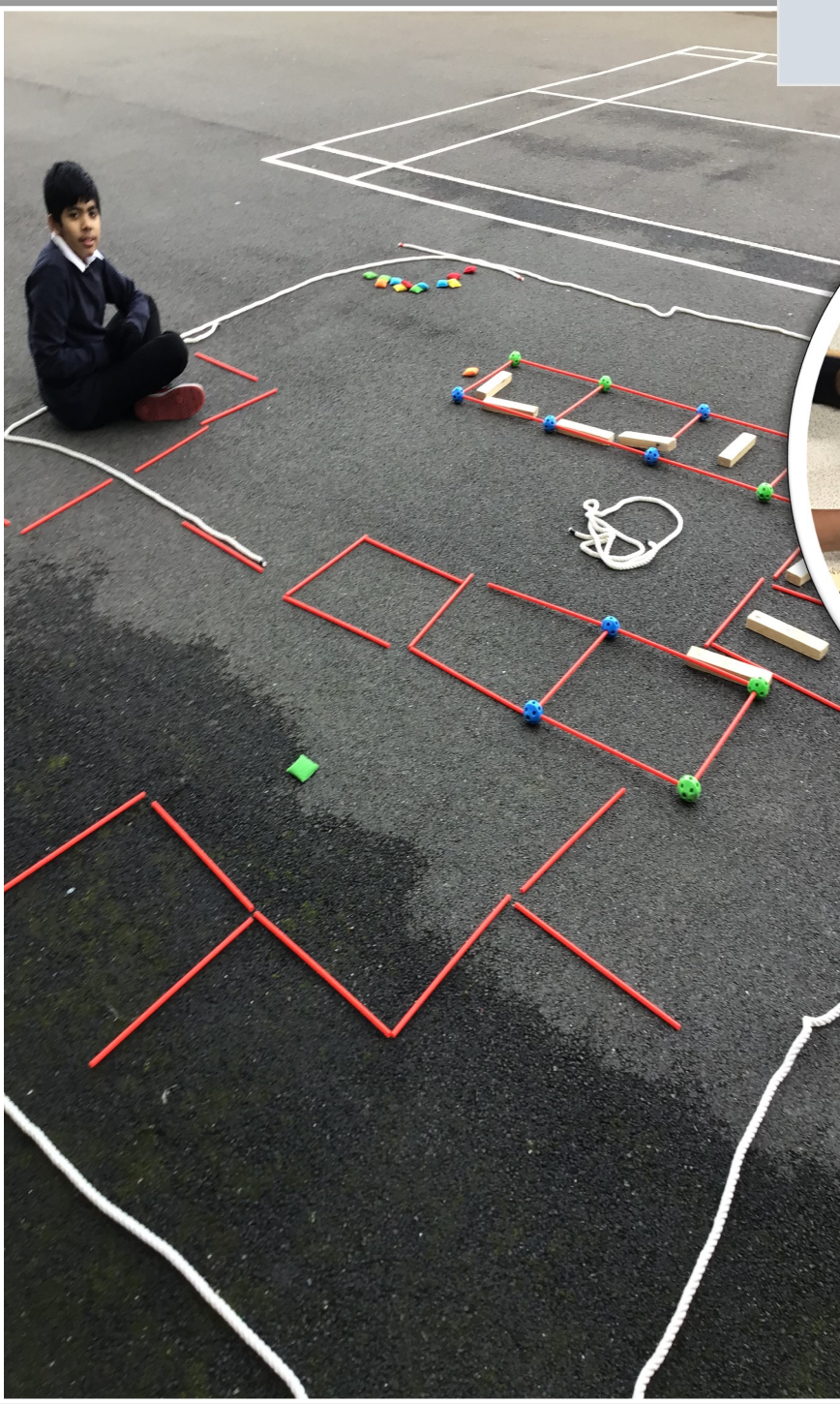
We started December with a festive performance at REACH Academy and also sang alongside the Feltham Community Choir. We then went on to spread Christmas cheer at Sunbury Nursing Homes, a performance that was thoroughly enjoyed by the residents. The month was rounded off by singing at a community carols event held at school.

The pupils have stayed committed to attending rehearsals so I'd like to thank them for turning up every week and having a great time singing! Watch out for more to come in the new year... Merry Christmas Everyone!



LS6 has seen another productive and fun term. In English, we read the book "We're Going To Find The Monster", the adventure of two children across their house. We recreated the scenes that included mountains, jungle, ocean, lake and of course the monster's lair. In Maths, we've been adding and subtracting using a range of strategies and resources. In Science, we have explored something invisible but still so important: sound. We made paper megaphones, cups and string telephones and studied the properties of sound with different instruments. After all that hard work we are ready for the holidays.



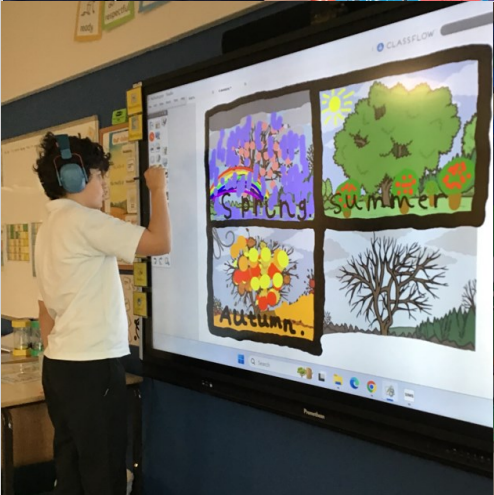


Christmas is here and LS7 couldn't be happier. We have used this term to the fullest to expand our learning. In Maths, we are working consistently on our timetables. With lots of practice, almost all of us know our timetables up to $\times 12$! In English, we have been reading 'The Ice Palace', a story of bravery and family love. Lastly, we have improved our fine and gross motor skills with all our interventions and crafts.

LS8

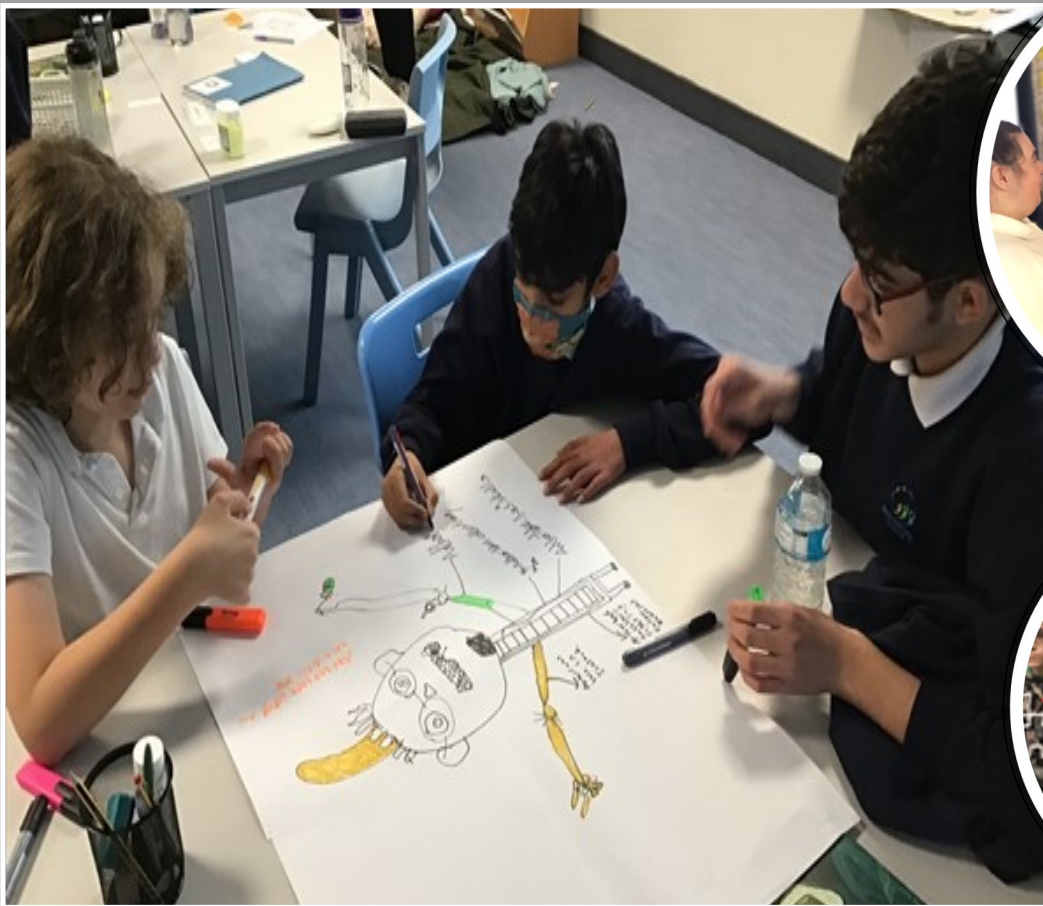


In Autumn term 2 LS8 have done some amazing work. We have read the book 'Into the Forest' by Antony Browne and have written our own little booklets about Christmas around the world. In Maths, we have expanded our knowledge of measuring and shapes. In Science, we have learned about the life cycle of plants, we have explored seasons and animal habitats around the world. In Geography, we have built on our knowledge of continents and compared how people live in Europe, Africa and Antarctica. In these last days of term, we are enjoying all the Christmas activities. LS8 you have done well. The LS8 team hopes you have a lovely holiday. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



LS9 have been exploring the story of Arthur, an unlikely hero and his exciting journey in English lessons this term. Through our lessons, the children have worked on various activities that helped them understand the characters and themes in the book. They worked in small groups to create a large outline of Arthur.

They thought about his character deeply, writing descriptive words about his appearance and interests on the outside of the outline and on the inside, focused on Arthur's personality traits, highlighting his courage, determination and cleverness. This activity encouraged teamwork and a deeper understanding of how a character can be brought to life through descriptive language.



They also stepped into the shoes of Arthur and the townspeople in one of the book's scenes and explored how to express emotions and actions through role play, which built their confidence and speaking skills. In Maths, our focus has been on exploring multiplication in various forms, such as (the Distributive Law and Short Multiplication Procedure) enabling the children to develop both their understanding and confidence in this fundamental area.



Autumn 2- Art and Design



Autumn 2 has been awash with colour in the art department as students have been researching and making work in response to the sculptures of artist, Niki de-Saint Phalle. They have studied and discussed her work, learning new key vocabulary and spent time creating a number of detailed step-by-step drawings of mythological creatures.

LS4, LS6 and LS8 classes have explored a range of materials and techniques, all linking to the theme of animals and bright colours. They've worked hard to produce wrapped wool animals, stained glass window creatures, sponge painted & 3D playdough snakes and finally pattern printing with animal head stamps. Great job everyone!



LS1, LS2, LS3, LS7 and LS9 used their artist research to design, draw and paint these vibrant hybrid creatures, learning how to carefully mix and apply watercolour paints. Students have started developing and refining their 3D skills, moulding Niki de-Saint Phalle's firebird out of playdough. Next term they will sculpt their own hybrid designs using clay. It will be quite a challenge but I have every faith in this creative bunch!



PE



This half-term the pupils have been focusing on playing target games, working to increase their accuracy and throwing skills. This has involved playing multiple different games including Boccia, Bowling, Cricket and Curling. These games have helped the pupils learn teamwork skills, improve their coordination and increase their level of control, all within a fun environment playing with other pupils in their class.

Music

Introduction to GarageBand

Year 7s have been exploring music technology and using a digital audio workstation for the first time. They have been making remixes of popular Christmas tunes, becoming familiar with recording midi data, importing and editing loops and creating drummer tracks.

Orchestra

Year 8 classes have completed a unit about the Orchestra. They have studied the 4 sections of the Orchestra and the instruments contained in each section. They have also been replicating a well-known piece of orchestral music, the Theme from Tchaikovsky's ballet Swan Lake, on GarageBand. This has included recording midi data, editing midi data, programming an arpeggiator and importing audio samples.

Rock vs Pop vs Rap—Christmas No. 1

Year 9s have been taking part in the traditional Christmas No. 1 competition. Pupils have chosen a genre to work in, then decided whether they will perform as a solo act or group. They have then written lyrics, recorded and produced a track that will be released to the whole school. The school community will then vote for their favourite track.

Science



LS6 has been learning about sound. We have explored the properties of sound such as volume and pitch. We sounded all the instruments in our class and made a basic string instrument using a paper box and elastic bands. We have made paper megaphones to make our voices louder. We have also discovered how sound can travel through a string and get amplified with a paper

LS5 began exploring the concept of food waste, learning why it is important to reduce it. They then introduced the children to microbes, where they observed how mould grew on bread under different conditions, such as varying temperatures. We also explored the role bacteria play in breaking down dead plants, animals, and food--making them essential for decomposition and recycling nutrients in nature.



LS1 and LS2 have been exploring the tiny particles that make up everything around us—atoms! Pupils have learnt that each element has its own special atom (made of protons, neutrons, and electrons) and that they are all organised into the Period Table of Elements. They've been able to crack codes with their knowledge of the periodic table and identify the elements!

LS3, LS7 and LS9 have moved from learning about the Earth to learning about space! Students were able to identify the 8 planets in our Solar System as well as what made a planet a planet (and why Pluto got demoted to dwarf planet). They observed how the Earth, Moon, and Sun interact with each other with their orbits and the special relationship between the Earth and Moon; causing the tides, solar and lunar eclipses, and night

