

"Zoom, zoom, zoom! We're going to the moon," BUDS sang around the classroom. It was an incredible month filled with astronauts and aliens! **Evie's** favorite spot to be was the spaceship in adventure center. She would look through the window and say "Hey I see stars!" **Jaxon** loved walking over the bubble wrap and pretending to be in Mars. **Noah** and **Zaccai** enjoyed the jet backpacks they made out of recycled soda bottles. They wore them all the time.

The Buds made fantastic astronauts at circle time! They sat in their space seats (upside down chairs) and they counted from ten all the way down to one and then, "BLASTOFF!!!!" We made it to the moon and Saturn. Then **Grey** suggested, "We should go to Jupiter". After landing on Jupiter, we finally made it back to Earth safely. We talked about the eight planets we have in our solar system. The Buds didn't know that the sun was actually a star! **Scarlet** said, "We can't go to the sun, it's too hot. We will get burnt".

At the art table the kids painted planets by shaking a marble in a bucket. They turned out beautiful. They also made moons by placing sticky paper over their paper to give it a bumpy texture. **Noah** loved seeing his shooting star with sprinkles hanging in the door! It was fun to watch him try to reach it! Our telescopes were a big hit! The Buds even brought them outside to look for planets and stars.

We read Aliens Love Dinopants by Claire Freedmen and Ben Cort. **Ida** thought it was the silliest thing to hang undies in our classroom. Our sensory table was filled with tiny gravel rocks and astronauts. **Jackson** said, "This astronaut lives in the moon". We also had green sensory beads and aliens one week. Nick pretended to hide the aliens under the beads. "Peek a boo!" he would yell.

In August we will read Way Down Deep In the Deep Blue Sea by Jan Peck. We will learn about the ocean and its animals. The Buds will enjoy pretend to scuba or even go to the beach.

As this is their last month in the classroom, we are sad to see the Buds move on. We have truly had an amazing year teaching these little ones to be "BIG" as they say. It is incredible how much they grew in one year. It seemed like it was yesterday we had them all in diapers! But now they are so independent. They will do great things in the Branch Room.

The Buds will have two new teachers to love on them. Miss Heather Beane and Miss Mckenzie Kihls. They are both new to Growing Tree. Miss Heather will join our GT family in mid August, while Miss Mckenzie is already here part time. She spends some time in here with the Buds. Heather will have time to get to know the Buds before they transition in September.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank you, the parents. Thank you for all the support and friendliness. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding as we teach these little ones. Well it is not a goodbye, but a see you soon, because we will still see each other from time to time. And of course we will still love on the new Branchers!!

Miss Deborah and Miss Letty

