10/19/15

Dear Julia Green 3rd & 4th Grade Encore Parents,

We hope to see you at our **Encore Open House, 5:30 -7PM at the Martin Center (2400 Fairfax Ave.) this Tuesday 10/20/15.**  Our Encore Parent Conferences will be on Tuesday 11/3/15 in the Encore basement classroom #39 (below the café). My K-4 conferences are in 10 min. increments between 8:30 and 12:30. I serve three schools this year. If you’d like a phone conference, please email me the best afternoons to reach you. If you’d like to schedule a conference at JG, please email (nancy.sneed@mnps.org.) the hour range that works best for you and your Encore children.

Welcome back from Fall Break! We started our Encore classes getting to know each other by writing and sharing our favorites. We then began our Space Exploration Unit. We did a Space Prezi where we made people, place, thing and idea connections to space. We brainstormed space and each group created their own space name and logo. We selected and drew models from living and nonliving categories. We wrote characteristics about each and compared similarities and differences. We saw video clips of the Super Moon Lunar Eclipse on 9/27/15. It won’t happen again until 2033. A Super Moon Lunar Eclipse is when the moon is closest to the earth and appears 14% bigger. A lunar eclipse is when the moon appears darkened as it passes into the earth’s shadow. A solar eclipse is when the sun is obscured by the moon for a few minutes. We wrote and drew pictures of the differences between lunar and solar eclipses.

We learned a mnemonic phrase that helps us remember planet order: My Very Educated Mom Just Served Us Nachos. This represents: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn Uranus, Neptune. (Since 2006, Pluto is no longer a planet. Most astronomers consider it a large object in the Kuiper Belt.) We’re doing a formative assessment Kahoot.it Space Game in the computer lab. In the classroom, we’ll be arranging celestial bodies according to size, distance away, and age. We’ll be learning differences between a meteor, asteroid, comet and a star. Look for some new wonderful space links on my JG Portaportal Encore page.

The 11/17 Chattanooga trip info was sent earlier but this is a reminder. I’ll contact car and bus chaperones in a couple of weeks. Our exciting Encore 3rd & 4th grade field trip is to the Challenger STEM Learning Center in Chattanooga,TN on Tuesday 11/17/15. Students will be picked up by a charter bus at Walmart (2421 Powell Ave. across from 100 Oaks). Walmart is in a central location for students from 4 schools. All students need to arrive no later than 5:30 am in order to be checked in (the center is on EST). We have a tight schedule and must leave promptly. We’ll return to Walmart between 3- 3:15 pm. Please be on time. Parents must check out students before they can leave. Each student will need their own clearly labeled disposable sack lunch, snack and drink. Students will need to wear tennis shoes and layered clothing for the weather. The field trip will require a lot of walking and physical activity. In addition to their lunch, snack and drink, students may bring: a book, a quiet game, and a backpack to keep their items together. The cost is $25. each student, and $17. each adult. Since we will not be at school all day, students can wear an Encore or school t-shirt.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me! My Best, Nancy Sneed M.ED K-4 Encore Julia Green, Waverly Belmont, Haywood nancy.sneed@mnps.org.