During the month of February, the entire school embarked on a learning adventure to discover things about the wonderful place we live: Planet Earth! As always, we drew inspiration from books such as “Mousetronaut” by Mark Kelly, “Earth!” by Stacy McAnulty, “Rhoda’s Rock Hunt” by Molly Beth Griffin, “Ming Lo Loves the Mountain” by Arnold Lobel, “Ten Little Dinosaurs” by Pattie Schnetzler, and “A Dark, Dark Cave” by Eric Hoffman. We supported the friends’ learning by creating opportunities for them to engage with the information, both individually and socially, through dramatic play, artistic expression, observation, investigation, music and movement.
Our journey began in outer space, learning that Earth is a planet and there are other planets, too. We saw that Earth is a giant rock, it is made up of many different types of rocks, and it orbits around the sun. People known as astronauts have traveled to outer space, and we enjoyed pretending to do the same thing in our Red Room space station.

For the next two weeks, we investigated rocks and the events that happen on earth that form and break down rocks, such as volcanos and earthquakes. The children engaged in experiments that showed how these earth events work. The friends built with and observed stones, described them, drew them, and looked closely at them with a digital microscope.

Our month of learning wrapped up with thinking about how old our planet is and how we can take care of it as we get older with it! The friends learned about fossils and how they are actually rocks in the shape of bones, shells, and other things that were once alive.
LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Addy and Rowan pointing out the different planets and moons we discussed at circle time.

Alice K. proudly posing by the completed earth puzzle.

Ava drawing the sun and other features of the Earth.

James telling a tale with our set of story stones.

Isabelle and Drake drawing with chalk on real slate shingles.

Silas and Malina holding things down at mission control.
Lexi leading us in a sing-along.

Lev creating an imprint fossil with model magic and a plastic dinosaur.

Sammy excavating fossils at the sand table.

Levi creating an imprint fossil with model magic and a plastic dinosaur.

Sammy excavating fossils at the sand table.

Liv jumping on dinosaur footprints in our obstacle course.

Jason and Elliot taking a closer look at some rock samples.

Jacob working on a rock scavenger hunt.

Fitz practicing tracing circles to make his own planet.
OUR NEXT THEME IS ART AND ARTISTS!

Mollie stirring the ingredients to make our homemade geodes.

Elena looking at gem stones before and after they are mined and polished.

Thanks to Mrs. Myers for sharing her fossil collection with us!

Thank you to the gemologist from Henne Jewelers for teaching us about gems.

Thank you to Dr. Carver for sharing her experiences with us!

Mrs. Armbruster    Mrs. Loomis    Ms. O’Neill    Mr. Salinetro