

Our Astounding Universe

Monika Mishra

Vikhe Patil Memorial School, Pune, Maharashtra, INDIA (monika.bajpai2009@gmail.com)

The philosophy of my life is to keep encouraging children to think beyond they could achieve easily. I understand children are adaptive to change and take things with an open mind. They are ready to experiment with new things and dare to dream big. I am fortunate to be a teacher by profession and thus I always attempt experimenting, observing, and participating with other children and adults. Children learn through play. From birth, children are active participants in building their own understanding. Teachers prepare the environment to help each child build on what they already know. It is such a great pleasure to observe every young kid that becomes excited and curious to know when we show them the Universe pictures and tell them about the strange objects in our Universe. So my aim is to keep them ignited by doing different activities throughout the year related to Space.

I am always a firm believer of: Creativity is the key to success in the future, and primary education is where teachers can bring creativity in children at that level.

One of my main ways of teaching is to conduct various presentations on The Solar System and beyond and debates on Space explorations. A Planet making project is one of the all-time favorite project for my students where they dare to dream to fly in the universe, and with their imagination, kids make different celestial objects and present them. To inculcate scientific attitude I arrange film screening, simulation exercises and quizzes on various topics of astronomy.

Every year we celebrate World Space Week 4th to 10th of Oct. The motivation among all came through different hands-on activities like-painting, slogan competition, topics related to space, poetry and essay writing on various topics related to astronomy, assembly presentations in school.

I am indeed overwhelmed when I started the very special Space and Astronomy club where young toddlers are involved in different activities like a star gazing program, conducting lectures by eminent scientists, field trips to science parks, museums and the Indian Space Research Organisation to make them aware about different exploration going on in our Solar system and beyond. We all are so much into it that we feel that we are no less than any space scientist and are discussions normally surround the space and its developmental studies or discoveries.

I am a true believer of Science and technology that are leading to a change and India is definitely a part of the change. India has always led the way and we have the capability to absorb new ideas. I definitely want my students to see this dream and live it for the betterment of our country.

“DREAM IS NOT WHAT YOU SEE IN SLEEP, DREAM IS SOMETHING WHICH DOES NOT LET YOU SLEEP” MISSILE MAN OF INDIA (LATE DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM)