

East Hills 4-H

January Newsletter 2018



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Harry Potter Project

In the November Harry Potter Project meeting we met at the San Leandro Library, and made miniature potion and book charms. We made the potion charms with miniature glass bottles with corks. We had a regular round bottle, a heart shaped bottle, and a tear drop bottle to resemble "Felix Felicis". We filled our bottles up with hand sanitizer to look like the potion liquid and colored them with food coloring and glitter. After that that we gave our finished potions to our project leader and she glued on the corks with eye screws in them to make them charms. We then started making our book charms with printed out miniature book covers and folded paper to be the pages and glued them in until the spine was full. After that we glued in our eye screws to make them charms. Over all it was a lot of fun and I love the potions I made.

Stitched and Stuffed Project

In the December project meeting we made pandas and robots out of felt. I made a robot. First we sewed on the face, then we sewed on the eyes, then we stitched the mouth, then we started stitching the outside, before you sew up the top you have to put in the antenna and ribbon to hang it, then before you stitch up the bottom you stuff it. It was fun sewing.

The Story of Science and Scientists: The Man Who Stopped the Sun and Moved the Earth

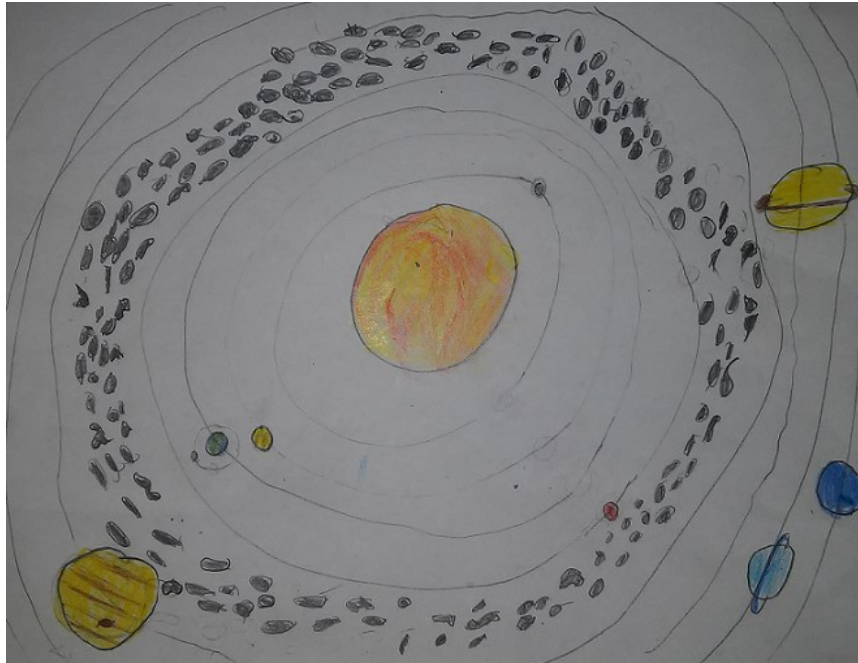
In November we learned about great astronomers who changed our understanding of the Universe. We studied about Ptolemy, Galileo, Kepler, Tycho Brahe, Leonardo da Vinci, and Copernicus.

Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Toruń, Poland in 1473 and died in 1543. In his book *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres), Copernicus argued that the Sun and not the Earth was at the center of the Universe. That is why his model of the Universe is called heliocentric, Helios being the Greek word for sun.

His reasoning was based on the astronomical observations he made. The old Ptolemaic system did not correctly explain movements of the planets that astronomers observed – they had to keep adding corrections to the theory to match observations. Copernicus put the Sun in the center of the Universe, and his theory correctly predicted movements of the planets as seen from Earth.

Copernicus published his theory in 1543. It was against the teachings of both the Protestant and Catholic churches. The Catholic Church kept the book on the Index Librorum Prohibitorum (List of Prohibited Books) from 1616 until 1758. Even though the book was prohibited, all great astronomers of the 16th and 17th centuries read it and found that their observations supported the Heliocentric theory. Copernicus is known as the man who “stopped the Sun and moved the Earth”.

When I go to Poland I am planning to see the Nicolaus Copernicus Science Center in Warsaw (in Polish it's called Centrum Nauki Kopernika). I am also going to visit Toruń (the birthplace of Copernicus) and see the Copernicus Museum and Planetarium.



Succulents Can Grow in Almost Anything

The Succulents Project was a joint project of East Hills and Bay Side 4-H. We met at our project leaders' Mrs. Janine Weston, in Natalie and Madeline's garden. They planted a lot of rare and beautiful succulents in their front yard, in raised bed and containers, and allowed us to collect samples, propagate them and use in our projects.

In the first meeting we learned about the definition of a succulent, and what type of soil to use. We also learned how to propagate cactuses and succulents. It was in October so it was Halloween time! We made pumpkin succulent harvest decorations. We made succulents grow on pumpkins that worked as great fall and Thanksgiving centerpieces. We first got a pumpkin and choose the moss to put on the pumpkin. Then we sprayed glue onto the top of the pumpkin so that the moss wouldn't fall off the pumpkin. Then we chose the succulents we wanted on our pumpkin and hot glued them on to the Moss. One of my pumpkins actually looked like a zombie.

At the second meeting we learned which type of succulents to buy depending on your region, and we planted succulents into pre-made succulent wreath. We got a wreath that had no succulents on it and on a tray next to the wreath we made a composition that we would do on the wreath. We pinned the succulents down by putting the succulents where you wanted them on the wreath and used column pins to pin down the succulents onto the wreath.

On the third meeting our adult project leader Mrs. Elisabeth Vierhunde talked about common diseases of succulents (rot, pests, fungus). We also learned about watering in ground and pots vs containers without drainage. Mrs. Vierhunde also taught us to use drill bits for pottery or wood. Then we made fairy gardens, and planted succulents for gifts in fun containers. We used decorated containers and old toys.

We had some containers that didn't have a hole at the bottom. We drilled holes so that the water could flow out. In some containers, like glass containers, you couldn't drill a hole at the bottom. You had to plant succulents in the container and water really carefully. We filled the containers with succulent/cactus mix, pumice, gravel, bark chips, and moss. Then we made nice composition with plants we wanted to have in our containers. I made a succulent in a decorative container with a frog popping out of the inside of the container, a succulent in a glass container, and a succulent and a metal container. Finally, we put in miniature items, like figurines, marbles, etc.

I really like gardening with succulents because it is easy to propagate them and you do not have to wait for a long time to see the results. Some succulents even grow little ones on their leaves. The best thing about the Succulents Project was that I met friends that I haven't seen for a long time, and I met new friends as well.

