



TITLE: (The firmament at Europa International School)

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Abstract

This project consists of an outreach Astronomy Project. Our school, with over 1800 students has been the stage of our work; we have managed to present interesting aspects of this area of science to students from preschool to high school. We conducted various activities adapted to the level of the students, from an Astronomy Storytelling, to the setting up of a Planetary, about 30 m², which we named Antonio de Ulloa, referring to the astronomer, military, naturalist and writer from Seville, who travelled throughout the world observing the sky, he was known as Platino. This year we have enjoyed unforgettable moments like: The Exhibition of Astronomy for students in preschool, the Astronomy Gymkhana conducted for students of 1st and 2nd Grade, the story contest for students in 3rd and 4th Grade, the screening of films related to this topic.

It has been very satisfying to see how the whole school could see us as "The Astronomers"

ACTIVITIES

In **OCTOBER**, we organized a storytelling session for the preschool children, they were about 400 students, and the stories were about satellites, planets and stars. Before starting with the stories we gave them a brief explanation about basic concepts on Astronomy, and then we started telling them the stories that were chosen previously for each group. We've always tried to give them a message about how to be a better person also to know more about this passionate science. At the end we spent 15 minutes to see if they had understood the stories and if they understood the message.



We had some meetings to agree which story we would be telling each group.



In these pictures two of our friends were reading a story to the 4 year old students. The children were having a great time.

In **NOVEMBER**, we managed to organise an Astronomy Fair for the little ones, in which there were several stands with planets, stars, satellites... and they elaborated something very funny, medals with the shape of planets, like Jupiter, Venus, Earth, etc. They coloured the pictures and then when they got home their parents saw what they had already seen at the Astronomy Fair. There were 400 students again.



In **DECEMBER**, we organised some video sessions for the first graders, they were 250 students, with the projection of a film called Astroboy, and before starting we asked them some questions about this topic. It was very satisfying to see how they answered the questions we asked.



Some minutes before the film started.

In **DECEMBER**, we participated in a contest, organized by ESA, called "Cassini for a day"; it was a very interesting experience. Even if we didn't win it was very nice to receive an award for our work and a personal invitation for an award ceremony.

[http://www.esa.int/esl/ESA_in_your_country/Spain/Arranca_una_nueva_edicion_del_concurso Cientifico Cassini por un Dia](http://www.esa.int/esl/ESA_in_your_country/Spain/Arranca_una_nueva_edicion_del_concurso_Cientifico_Cassini_por_un_Dia)



In **JANUARY**, for this first grade, (about 250 students) we organised an Astronomy Gymkhana, where we helped them find out some interesting facts about planets, satellites, comets, etc. The Gymkhana was organised in Spanish and English. The students were organised in groups and they saw all the stands in the correct

order and in a limited time. It was such a satisfying experience with the students; the teachers gave out a questionnaire to know what they had learned.



One of the stands.

In **FEBRUARY**, we organised a story contest. There were about 250 students, and we asked them to write a story about Astronomy. They did it very wonderfully. One of the highlights was the children's imagination, it was fabulous. Everything was amazing, but we had to choose and we picked three winners from each grade. The prizes were some games related to the topic we were writing about.



Explaining the bases of the contest.

In **MARCH**, we did a PowerPoint Presentation on Astronomy. At the end, we asked a lot of questions and that led to a discussion.

In **APRIL**, some exchange students from all over the world came to visit us. They came from countries like: The United States, Canada, Austria, Germany, Holland, and France. More than 200 visitors from different nationalities came to stay; we made all of them participate in our Astronomy Divulgation Project.



At the end of **APRIL**, we had the opening of our Planetary:

We thought that it would be very amusing to turn this outreach Project into a good one, though we knew it would be very difficult for us, by building a large Planetary. In our school there were many storage rooms so we thought we could use one of them for the Planetary. First we needed the school headmaster's permission. They were all very happy with the idea, and in the second place we needed the school caretakers' permission too. When they told us we could start, we began with the process. We removed everything from the room, we painted the walls, the lights were removed. Then a computer was set up, a carpet was put on the floor and were given shelves to leave the shoes. We also put a black curtain to create two different atmospheres. The first room was decorated with posters of planets, satellites and the Sun. We also decorated the walls with shiny stars stickers, planets balls and starships. Finally, we managed to create the rooms we wanted and the students could lie down to watch the firmament with a machine we bought.

The Planetary had two rooms. The first one is the place where we explained what the children were going to do in the second room. In the first one there was also space to leave the shoes on the shelves. The second room is the main one; inside the children could watch documentaries with the projector. The special thing of this room was the Stars Projector, which simulated the firmament with all the constellations. There we told them about the constellations with the help of a laser.



Decorating the walls.



Secondary students visit the planetary.



The students watching a documentary.

