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Exploring the Super Solar System



On Thursday, October 8th, Charlotte Upper Elementary held a 5th grade Super Solar System Showcase. In class the students spent many days learning about the solar system and were given a task of extending their learning by building a model of a component of the solar system. Students and their families created exceptional representations out of Styrofoam, pipes, Legos, and many other creative materials to show off their learning. There were three different models on display in the cafeteria Thursday evening. Some students made models of the solar system, others showed the phases of the moons, and still others showed the reason we have seasons.

During the evening's events, teachers led extension activities to further their students understanding of the super solar system. Students were able to create an example of gravity to show how and why the Earth stays in orbit around the sun and how the moon stays in orbit around the Earth. Students also used different sized pieces of candy to show a size comparison of the planets to the sun. Finally, they created a moon phase project to further their understanding of the phases of the moon.

The last event of the evening was a walk through the solar system that was set up at the farthest end of Charlotte Upper Elementary and allowed students to walk from the sun over all the planets showing relational distances from the sun. Along the walls were posters made by the students including facts about each planet allowing parents and students the opportunity to read their work as they walked through the solar system.

This event will be repeated for the other half of the fifth grade in January when they complete their solar system unit.