**Mars**

Today in Science class, Mr. Smith taught us about Mars.

Things I learned:

* The Earth’s atmosphere is approximately 70 kilometers thick composed of 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, and a little bit of other things.
* The layers of its atmosphere are the troposphere, the stratosphere, the mesosphere, the thermosphere, the ionosphere, and the exosphere.
* The Earth’s axis is tilted 23.5%.
* This creates our seasons.
* The moon is so large that at one point scientists were considering the moon and the Earth to be a double planet.
* The moon has a crust of granite-like rock 65 miles thick.
* It has a thick dust layer.
* One moon revolution around the Earth lasts 27.3 days.
* Highlands cover more than 70% of the surface of the moon.
* The seas appear dark and are lowlands covering some 20% of the moon’s total surface. Sizes range from 700 to 3000 kilometers.
* From the Earth, Mars is the first outer planet.
* The soil of Mars has iron in it, which makes the planet look red.
* There is a huge canyon on Mars called Valles Marineris in Latin.
* It is Mariner Valley in English.
* It is so long it could stretch from New York to Los Angeles (3000 miles).
* Mars has two moons, Phobos and Diemos.
* There are dust storms on Mars that are more than 120 kilometers per hour.
* One Mars year lasts 687 Earth days.
* There is no oxygen in the atmosphere of Mars.
* Mars has a northern and southern polar ice cap.
* The old dried up river systems on Mars are called arroyos.