**Mercury and Venus**

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

Things I learned:

* Mercury has no atmosphere.
* When the terminator passes where you are, it turns from extremely hot to extremely cold in seconds.
* Mercury is only a little bit bigger than our moon.
* Saturn’s moon Titan is as big as mercury.
* One rotation of Mercury lasts 58.65 earth days.
* It has a rocky mantle.
* It has a large metallic core.
* One revolution around the sun lasts 87.97 Earth days.
* Its rotational axis is inclined 83 degrees to the plane of the Ecliptic.
* It has weird terrain.
* It has many cliffs or scarps.
* Intercrater plains are level to gently rolling terrain between and around large craters.
* Craters with light-colored rays resulting from the violent impacts during Mercury’s stormy pas.
* Caloris basin: with a diameter of 1300 kilometers. This is the largest of 15 ancient basins. It is surrounded by concentric rings of mountains.
* Venus is always covered in clouds.
* Its nighttime and daytime temperatures are almost exactly the same, because it has an extremely dense atmosphere.
* The Russians landed the first probe on Venus and took two pictures.
* The atmosphere of Venus is acidic, so the probes corrode very fast.
* The Russian’s probe corroded after two pictures.
* Now they just use a satellite that orbits and takes radar pictures.
* The satellite is called Magellan.
* Venus has no significant magnetic field.
* One year of Venus lasts 224.7 Earth days.
* Venus has a core of molten iron-nickel.
* Its day is 243 Earth days.
* This means that its day is longer than its year.
* It has wind speeds in the upper atmosphere over 100 miles per hour.
* Its surface viewed from Earth shows no structure and has the highest albedo of all planets.
* Albedo is a term that means reflectivity.
* The high albedo means that you cannot see the surface at all.
* Electrical currents in the core of the Earth produces the magnetic field.
* The Earth has a North Polar ice cap.
* It has a rocky upper mantle 640 kilometers thick with convection streams which move the plates.
* It has a rocky inner mantle 2290 kilometers thick with convection streams.
* Its crust is made of about a dozen plates which are moving.

