

09.29.2023

Dear Parents,

The topic of the week was dinosaurs and the letter Dd. Dinosaurs are prehistoric reptiles that have lived on Earth from about 228 million years ago. Non-avian dinosaurs (all dinosaurs besides birds), which are now extinct, varied greatly in shape and size. Some weighed as much as 80 tons and were more than 120 feet long. Others were the size of a chicken and weighed as little as 8 pounds. All non-avian dinosaurs lived on land. Some may have gone into the swamps and lakes for food, but they did not live entirely in water. Meat-eaters (carnivorous) walked on two legs and hunted alone or in groups. Plant-eaters (herbivorous) walked on either two or four legs and grazed on plants.

Some interesting facts we learned about dinosaurs are that Dinosaurs were around millions of years ago! Dinosaurs were around in the Mesozoic Era or "The Age of Dinosaurs".

There were more than 700 species. Dinosaurs lived on all continents including Antarctica. We know that because Dinosaur fossils have been found on all continents on Earth!

We also learned that a paleontologist is a scientist who studies the history of life on Earth through the fossil record. The word dinosaur came from an English paleontologist Richard Owen.

'Dino' comes from the Greek word 'deinos' which means terrible.

'Saurus' comes from the Greek word 'sauros' which means lizard.

Richard Owen came up with this name in 1842 after he had seen lots of dinosaur fossils being uncovered.

The children loved to share how many they already recognized and were excited to learn of all the not so well known dinosaurs. We spoke about all the colors they came in and even how some are thought to have had feathers. When asked which Dinosaurs were their favorite some of the responses were surprising! For example, some children said the Ankylosaurus, the Brachiosaurus, the Velociraptor, and of course our class favorite the Tyrannosaurus Rex. The letter of the week was the letter D and the children had a great time once again sharing a word that began with the letter D with all their friends. For Art we worked on making dinosaurs by using paper plates, paint, scissors, and glue. In their journals, the students drew their favorite dinosaur. We wrote words with the letter D and drew pictures to go along with the words. The children practiced their writing and tracing of the letter D then decorated them beautifully, and last but not least, they used Play-Doh to continue to fine-tune those motor skills by forming the Play-Doh into dinosaurs and the letter D.

As always as part of our academic enrichment, the students love music with Ms Michelle where they sing their favorite songs and listened to a musical story with props. They also look forward to soccer with coach Jackie where they brush off their gross motor skills and play fun games such as sharks and minnows, four corners and grab the tail. And every week on Fridays, we visit the science lab for free exploration.

Graphing topic of the week: Which is your favorite dinosaur?

Books we read this week: When Dinosaurs Came with Everything, Tiny T-Rex, How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon, How Do Dinosaurs Learn to Read, Dinosaurumpus, and How to Catch a Dinosaur.

Student of the week

Brown Door: Anastasia Carniero

Purple Door: Iris Barrios

Please bring a decorated poster on Monday (10/2/23) with family pictures, favorite places to go, food that they like, pets, or anything that you think will make your child happy to share with classmates and teachers. Have them participate while you are putting it together with them.