

GREAT start to a new week today! Everyone was energetic, well-rested from the long weekend, and eager to explore some dinosaurs this morning!

Highlights: Today we read Dinosaur Bones by Bob Barner and everyone really seemed to enjoy all the "WOOOOOOOOWWWWWW" facts this book had to offer. For example, totally mind-blowing fact (a few of your littles even said they were about to faint or literally just collapsed to the floor) that a T-Rex's skull weighed up to 750 lbs. or that a Brachiosaurus weighed more than ten elephants! Ask your child how scientists are able to determine what a dinosaur's diet was (hint: it's all in the teeth) or why a triceratops is called a triceratops.

We got super lucky this morning and made it to and back from the library before all the rain. When we returned, it was time for snack and math games just before going to the gym for ramps and pathways, followed by Greek. Unfortunately, we had to stay indoors today for recess, BUT we made the best of it! Exactly how long was a brachiosaurus? To better understand this, we decided to measure 82 feet down the hallway and see! Whoa! Everyone was astonished to see just how long they really were, especially in comparison to ourselves! We used a yard stick, so we were adding by three's, but a couple of us wanted to keep tally marks for each yard, too. We started by the preK room and went all the way down to Ms. Alexandra's class by the gym!

Starting tomorrow, February 21, through next Wednesday, February 28, our school will be competing in the Matific Games! Matific is an online K through 6th grade math resource that awards students with stars as they progress through the educational activities. The more our students play, the more stars are collected and the closer we all become to winning the grand prize of \$15,000 cash! It is calculated by percentages. You can choose the games that are just right for your child. They include all foundational math skills needed, thus giving us more opportunities to use all the math we are learning this year! Follow the website for more information. I will email you all separately your child's login info.

<http://www.matific.com/matificgames>

Have a great evening, enjoy playing some math games, and see you tomorrow:)

We have some future archaeologists in our class!

Highlights: I'm going to go ahead and say our biggest highlight today was by far our new excavation table! We talked a little bit more about what exactly archaeologists and paleontologists do, what is excavating, and introduced some new tools like chisels! With sand in our table, and fossils to be dug, we were busy. Everyone was super careful and made sure that if there was something to be excavated, we would do it gently, just like real paleontologists! We played around with replica dinosaur bones and worked together to construct a stegosaurus. I wonder if we'll find other dino bones in the sand tomorrow?! :)

We continued our lego math today and I'm seeing more and more of the class starting to challenge themselves! For example, if last week someone was counting/building by 2's, today they charted by 5's, or 10's, etc. They were so determined that even during math games and some of our recess (we went to the park, but came back early) they chose to work on their buildings/patterns! See if your child can teach you and get creative, you don't need only legos!

Our class chose Antarctica for our culture night decorations and I completely left it up to the kids how they would decorate the country. So far, they've decided we need blue, white, we need to mix blue and white to make ice, sugar cubes for some igloos, cotton for fresh snow, and tomorrow they want to make 3-d Emperor penguins!

Matific has commenced! Parents, please keep in mind this is a contest for your child and you can help them sign-in and choose an activity starting today! We can do this! Let me know if you need help navigating the site and/or signing in.

Highlights: We had a BLAST discovering some new fossils today and trying to guess what kind of dinosaur they belonged to! I put triceratops bones in the sand table and our little paleontologist friends got to work!

Our Antarctica map is complete. Your children are really proud and they should be! Come see the final compilation during Culture Night:)

It's February 22 and that can only mean one (of millions of) thing. It was time to visit our tree! Ms. Alexandra's class joined us once again for our monthly walk on over where we all scanned our tree up and down, side to side, to see if we noticed any changes. Last month, we reported a few buds starting to grow here and there and today we noticed a lot more! When I asked the class why do they think this is happening, they simply answered because it's supposed to be getting warmer (this made me laugh a little inside). We came back to draw our interpretations, have snack, math games, and then head to open gym for a few games of Octopus. Today's special was music with Mr. Oleg and they are so excited about the new song they are learning! Ask them to sing a little for you if they can:)

As you may recall, many of our morning challenges focused on patterns and number sequence. When you log into Matific tonight, click on Brain Teasers and the sub-category of patterns. This will be a great refresher for your child and I'm sure fairly easy! Another fun one is under Games and is called Take Wings.

Reminders:

- Bank deposit day tomorrow.
- Book orders due tomorrow.

Good evening Parents!

Highlights: We started with a couple math problems for our morning challenge because we have some serious Matific fever going on! It was bank deposit day and I am so proud of these little savers. They are counting and filling out their deposit slips completely by themselves! If your child doesn't have an account, that's OK, they are still learning how to count money, becoming familiar with filling out deposit slips, and correctly identifying coins. We did a lot of journaling today and wrote some pretty interesting stories! We're still working on completing our dinosaur skeletons, stay tuned! Our Friday specials are gym with Coach Matt and Spanish with Senora Soraya. We were able to go outside for a little today and used some chalk to write stories, draw shapes, play Hopscotch, and just have fun!

Please submit any box tops by Monday and make sure they haven't expired! Also, book orders are due tonight:)

I will not be at school Monday. Mr. Foti will be our substitute. Please remind your child Monday morning so they don't come in and get confused or surprised!

Have an awesome weekend, play Matific, read some books, and hopefully fit some relaxation in there!