

Ms. Dionysia's Classroom Connection

Here are some of the activities/projects the children were engaged in this week:

A Peek at the Week

- Willis Tower Skydeck Ledge (Sears Tower) Our exploration trip to the Willis Tower Skydeck was amazing!! The students were able to get a firsthand look of the city of Chicago from the 103rd floor!! The students were encouraged to find the building they are researching from the skydeck. In the next few weeks our class will be collaboratively working with Ms. Bia and Ms. Alexandra's class to recreate the Chicago Skyline. Be on the lookout for our Chicago Skyline Display.
- Des Plaines Historical Center- On Thursday, a representative from the Des Plaines Historical center visited our school for an in house field trip. The students were encouraged to jump back in time to the Pleistocene Epoch-the Ice Ages! When Glaciers covered much of Illinois. The students took part in a Glacier activity that showed how Glaciers modified the landscape, leveling hills, filling valleys and building new moraines. In addition, the students were able to explore how early settlers in Des Plaines would have lived with a few simple artifacts. The students even explored some toys that children played with and even made their own corn husk dolls.
- Dynamath-This week the student read an article titled Outfoxing Extinction. The students read and learned about how scientists save one of the world's rarest foxes from dying out. The students viewed a video "Saving a Rare Fox" and with a partner answered the following questions: How can an animal become endangered? How can scientist protect endangered animals? Do you think the size of an animal affects its chances of survival? Why or why not? After reading and discussion questions the students solved word problems that reinforced multiplication and factor pairs.
- Dynamath-Problem of the Month: World's Largest Telescope- The students continued to work with their STEAM Buddies and designed their own telescopes using tangrams and other geometry manipulatives. In addition, the students answered the following reflective questions: What would your telescope be used to study and how would you build it?

- Super Science-This week the students read an article titled Animal Artist. The students read about how Jim Burt builds life like sculptures of animals, people, and habitats for museums and zoos. His sculptures can be used as scientific models. The students were given a chart with examples of scientific models and were asked to describe the strengths and limitations of different scientific models.
- Philotimo Essay- This week the students typed up their essays using google docs and shared their Philotimo Essays with their classmates. The student were encouraged to peer edit each others essays. Please make sure to ask your child to share their Philotimo Essay with you!

Mindset Mathematics-

- How flexible is a number? In this activity, the students extended their work with number visuals and focused on the importance of factors for making numbers useful and flexible. Making equal groups is a central idea for number flexibility and is a different way of decomposing numbers than students may often use. Students worked together to investigate the following questions: What makes a number so flexible that it can be used in lots of different ways? What makes a number inflexible? Next week the class will make a display of flexible or inflexible they think these numbers are, using evidence about each number.
- What could it be? Students played a game using number visuals to further explore the idea of factors. Pairs of students each tried to claim four square in a row on a number game board, while thinking both visually and numerically.

The Matchstick Castle/Illinois Exploration

- Illinois State-The students continued their collaborative group project of decorating our classroom door with a poster size map of Illinois, the state flower, state bird and state flag.
- The Matchstick Castle-In their book talk groups, students discussed the interesting story elements and wrote discussion questions for certain chapters. In addition, the students continued keeping track of our novel characters by listing characters with characteristics.

News/Reminders

10/8-Columbus Day- NO SCHOOL

10/24 Early Dismissal 1:30 pm

