



Newsletter, February 28.2008

Winter's wicked wrath has kept us out of school much of this month. Despite these conditions, we continue to learn. With this crisp weather, we journeyed through the ice age and are now studying Dynamic dinosaurs. To start this fantastic unit, Steve read us a book called, Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins. This book tells the story of Waterhouse Hawkins, an artist who captured the interest of London when he discovered the iguanodon, the first known dinosaur. Even though his ideas were not always correct, he still inspired many around the world to continue the study of dinosaurs. Mighty Max liked the magnificent pictures in this wonderful book. Extravagant Ethan liked the stupendous story. The book got us all excited to study our own dinosaurs. Dinosaurs lived in the Mesozoic Era, 251 million years ago. There are three periods of the Mesozoic Era, the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods. We are studying which dinosaurs lived during each period. We have also been watching a silly movie called Journey to the Beginning of Time. In this movie, four boys go back in time to visit the dinosaur era. Made in the 1960's this movie is filled with inaccuracies. We are having fun recognizing and discussing them. We will finish this unit by writing a research report on a dinosaur of our choice.

Extravagant Ethan and
Mighty Max

Freaky fractions started taking over our madly mad minutes time in marvelous math. To start this unit, we shared a package of

crazy cookies we craved. Pat gave out fractional units of cookies and we had to identify the fractions in order to munch on these sumptuous sweets. This activity was deliciously fun. Then Pat gave out the wicked work to help us really understand. Magical Megan broke down in agony trying to finish her perky packet. Superiorly super Sarah slumped down in her chair staring at her extra evil packet. We plan to work on fractions for a while longer learning to compare, add and subtract fractions.

Powerful Poetry by Titan Tiarnan and Excellent Ella

This frigid, freezing week, Pat read Poems about wicked winter and its wonders. We read a few poems by joyful Robert Frost, one of our favorite American poets. He wrote "Dust of Snow". In this poem he was having a bad day until a capricious crow knocked a wonderful lump of snow on his head. We liked how Frost used great language and images in even the shortest of his poems.

Ella imagines Robert Frost wearing a white suit with long brown hair and bright blue eyes. Tiarnan thinks Frost wears a sparkly white suit and has spiky hair that looks like lifecycles. (Like Jack Frost) He thinks he has bright purple eyes and a pointy nose.

The poets we heard and the never-ending snow and ice have inspired us to write our own poems about the frozen breath of winter.

The wavy whale rider is still speeding us through stories of the Maori culture. The snow days have made this reading a little slow, so Pat reread the beginning of this book so we could remember what happened. As we continue, the whales are suffering from poisons in the ocean caused by a nuclear blast in the Pacific Ocean. Meanwhile Kahu is still struggling to get love and attention from Kora Apirana (her grandfather) Her uncle has moved to Papua New Guinea. We are anxious to see what happens in this exciting and touching book.

Crazy Kyler

Today, we have a few visitors gracing our super school. Colin the cat is Patrick's younger brother. He likes it here.

"Meeting all the fun people and playing with all the fun toys is extra fun," Colin the Cat said. There will be two more visitors today. Lydia and her sister Sadie will join us before lunch and go to the

library with us. "I can't wait to meet them and make new friends," Lovely Luna the Lion said.

Last Friday, we went to the art museum to see a special show by Robert Wilson. He videotaped different people: artists, movie stars and animals. The show was amazing. Mad Max liked the skunk carpet because he thought it was funny. Energetic Ethan liked the inferno because of the way the man moved his body. He also liked the special effects.

Energetic Ethan and Mad Max

Tomorrow, Fried Friday, we plan to go sledding on the super sledding hill Happy Hallow. Bring bootsies, snow pants, warm gloves, a hat and scarf. If you forget, you will be working on freaky fractions instead of flying through the snow-filled air and landing on your butt. So don't forget.

Two weeks from Wednesday, on March 12 and 13, we plan to go to Chicago. We will have fun touring the Natural History museum, visiting Sue (the dinosaur) and learning from all the wonderful exhibits. We will rock out and have fun. More on this trip next week.

Signing off,
Magical Megan and Super

Sarah

It is still not too late to set up a parent teacher conference with your child. Check with Pat for times if you are interested.