We cannot have dinosaurs as pets. They do not live today--- they are extinct. But it was fun to learn and imagine what it was like in the days of the dinosaurs!

WHAT IS A DINOSAUR? During the first week of our dinosaur theme, the teachers asked the children what they knew about dinosaurs. In our circle time discussions, the children were eager to share their previous knowledge and present their own theories about the dinosaurs. The Green Room friends learned that scientists do not know all the answers. We discussed the dinosaur habitats, the differences between the meat eaters and the plant eaters, and the specific characteristics of some dinosaurs. Exploring the Educational Loan Dinosaur Boxes from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History was very exciting for everyone. Inside we found models of a Tyrannosaur Rex tooth, a Stegosaurus spike, many different kinds of fossils, and a mystery dinosaur footprint.

The children also enjoyed singing songs and reading books about dinosaurs, as well as playing dinosaur games such as bingo, dominoes, lotto, and Dinosaur Land. During the Herbivore week, the children worked in the kitchen slicing fruits and vegetables, and tearing lettuce and spinach to make a salad for snack. For Carnivore week, the children dissected a smoked white fish. First we compared ourselves to the fish. Next we deboned the fish and examined the bones. After all the exploration, many of the children enjoyed eating the fish while discovering they liked something new!
Our art and writing center included making a life size baby Brontosaurus with Unifix Cubes going up a wall showing the real estimated height of its leg. The children made new locker pictures by using dinosaur rubber stamps with ink, while being encouraged to identify the letters and try to write the word dinosaur. Other dinosaur activities included making fossil prints with Model Magic and Plaster of Paris (using small plastic dinosaurs, feathers and shells), mixing colors of paint for dinosaurs, and rubbing dinosaur plates with crayons. The Dramatic Play Center transformed into a paleontologist laboratory and dig center. Until you dig, you do not know what you are going to find! By using chisels and brushes for excavating fossils and dinosaur pieces, children then assembled pieces into a small dinosaur. At the end of the unit, the dramatic play center became a Dinosaur Museum and Library.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we read and discussed stories about the things that make us different from one another as well as the things we have in common. We read *THE CRAYON* by Shane DeRolf and *Shades Of People* by M. Kelly. We had a wonderful friendship sing-a-long led by Mrs. Bird. The Green Room friends collaboratively made box sculptures by decorating them with a variety of fabrics and a paper chain with the friends’ thoughts of peace. We displayed the projects at the rotunda entrance of Margaret Morrison.
This month we were fortunate to have Early Childhood Students from Duksung Women’s University, Seoul, South Korea. The students were here for two weeks and immersed themselves into our program, as well as events outside the classroom. Eun Seo Ko interned in the Green Room. The Green Room Team would like to extend a special thank you to the Landau-Comings and Aronson families for hosting the students. The students engaged in many activities with our children, as well as discussions with the staff. It was sad to see the future educators leave, but overall it was a rewarding experience for all involved.
Birthdays and Half Birthdays

Judah’s mom and dad help celebrate Judah’s half birthday!

Ryan’s mom came to school to celebrate his half birthday!

Avery celebrated her half birthday with her parents!

Charlotte celebrated her birthday with her sister and father.

Finn enjoyed his half birthday with his mom and dad!
SPECIAL VISITORS

We enjoyed our first monthly music class by keeping the beat with Lauren Hraber. The January Dinosaur theme was enhanced by singing, dancing and playing a variety of drums.

Ms. Debbie from the Carnegie Library read dinosaur themed stories and led us in singing The Dinosaur Hokey Pokey.

Jayne Overtt (Hudson AM) taught us about Australia Day, the official national day of Australia on January 26th. Mrs. Overtt taught us that when you are born in Australia you are called an Aussie; when you are born in America you are called an American. We celebrated by making traditional Anzac Biscuits for snack.
Brylie found the first month of the new year, January, on our month chart.

Judah, Mira, Sahil, Asher, and Jack used their imaginations with blocks and dinosaurs to build a prehistoric vehicle surrounded by dinosaurs.

Jemma and Nola made patterns with pictures of dinosaurs.

Mira, Tyler, and Nola built in a frozen environment with Insta-Snow and our replica dinosaurs.

Beau wrote and drew illustrations in his book, If I Were A Dinosaur.

Camrym used tools to disassemble electronic parts.

Roxie used magnifying glasses in the sandbox pretending to be a paleontologist finding bones.

Marley and Charlotte pretend to be a paleontologist excavating a fossil.

Jemma learned to practice hockey skills in January.
Asher recorded the number of chocolate chips in his cookie fossil.

Rhys and Sardor chiseled chocolate chips from their cookie fossils.

Owen manipulated clay from our Earth.

Brylie, Judah, and Jillian excavated frozen dinosaurs in the water table.

Miyako and Campbell cut circles to make their snow people.

Rhys, Roxolana, and Maeve used tools to disassemble an electronic CD player.

Judah made a volcano with playdoh, baking soda and vinegar.

Roxie poured vinegar into the volcano to make it erupt.

David looked for the clues to complete the Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt.
Jemma and Rhys painted their dinosaur fossils.

Max poured Plaster of Paris to make a dinosaur fossil.

Sammy and David removed the bones from a smoked white fish.

Jack and Judah pulled to remove a sunflower stalk from the garden.

Emma and Mattias climbed to the top of the snow covered climbing tunnel.

Marley shoveled snow while Sammy watched.

Down the snow covered sliding board came Nick!

Tyler and Ryan constructed Kapla Blocks and wood cubes to display a parade of dinosaurs.