Dear Parents,

Millions of years ago, dinosaurs roamed the earth. But it is only within the last hundred years that humankind has known of the existence of these strange, diverse, and wondrous creatures. Our discovery began with learning about their fossilized bones, and teeth, found by paleontologist, and piecing together the facts, their appearances, their habits, their development, and their extinction.

Our first focus book was Edwina, The Dinosaur Who Didn’t Know She Was Extinct by Mo Williams. In this fiction book, everyone in town knows and loves Edwina the dinosaur because she is such a kind friend. One boy, Reginald Von Hoobie – Doobie, does not like her and tries very hard to make her disappear by proving that dinosaurs are extinct. The only one that will listen to Reginald is Edwina herself. She, of course, doesn’t care that she is extinct and goes about doing her good deeds, including making chocolate chip cookies for everyone -even Reginald- who grows to appreciate her! Activities included creating a group painting of Edwina using cra-pas and stickers, decorating paper hats, making music on the autoharp and the xylophone, making delicious chocolate chip pancakes and waffles , and learning lots of dinosaur songs.

Next we read Whatever Happened to the Dinosaurs by Bernard Most. In this humorous book are some possible (and impossible) explanations for what made the dinosaurs disappear. Bold lines and bright colors portray the prehistoric beasts at large in cities, in jungles, underground, and even in disguise. “Theories” about where the dinosaurs went included behind the bookshelves in the library, to another planet, or a magician making all the dinosaurs disappear. We did a science experiment to show one theory; we made a volcano using vinegar, baking soda, and food coloring. We also learned by counting and measuring our bodies in the hallway and comparing them to the size of a tyrannosaurus rex. Friends enjoyed working with bread dough to form dinosaurs to bake and eat. A dinosaur scavenger hunt was played through out the school. Miss Furman showed the friends some magic tricks and amazed everyone!
Dinosaurs are fun to learn about at any age of your life!

In Dazzle the Dinosaur by Marcus Pfister, a young dinosaur with unique glittering spines decides to leave the safety of his home to help his family and friends by finding the feared Dragonsaurus. The Dragonsaurus had taken over the cave where Dazzle's family and relatives had lived so that the herd was now in a place with limited water and food. Dazzle and his sister Maia bravely decide to sneak away to help the herd by taking back the cave that the Dragonsaurus now occupies. In art, we used glitter watercolors to portray Dazzle. An egg hunt, dyeing eggs, and dinosaur dig of bones in plaster of paris were choices for the week.

Mrs. Toggle and the Dinosaur by Robin Pulver ended our unit on Dinosaurs. The teacher in the story gets a phone call informing her that a new student named “Dinosaur” will be joining her class. Despite the worry that Mrs. Toggle feels, she prepares her class for the new student by taking her class to the school library to read information about dinosaurs. As they imagine their new friend, they decide that they need a very large desk and plenty of extra food for her. Alas, when the new student arrives, she is not “Dinosaur, but Dina Sawyer”. We made pop up dinosaur books and played dinosaur bingo. Several friends worked on floor puzzles, and dinosaur dominoes were a big favorite.

We have really enjoyed our days of Dinosaur Discovery in the Extended Day Program.

Miss Furman, Miss McMichael

Miss McMichael buried rib bones in plaster of paris for the friends to find.

Miss Furman taught the friends to sew hats.