

Friday, December 11, 2009

Dear Parents:

We have been working hard and learning many new things about dinosaurs. Our letter of the week was "Vv". We started new learning centers this week. The students are making dinosaur models, putting together dinosaur puzzles, imagining with plastic dinosaurs, reading stories about dinosaurs, and looking at dinosaur books.

The Shared Book was Dig a Dinosaur, which was set to music. You might want to see if your child remembers how to sing, "Dig a, Dig a, Dig a, Dig a Dinosaur" The Read Aloud book was Patrick's Dinosaurs, about a boy who imagined dinosaurs all around him. Have your child tell you the story of Patrick's Dinosaurs. The Big and Little book was My Dinosaur Counting Book. The Kinder Friends book was Some Dinosaurs. The Phonics Library book was A Vat. Your child also brought home two (2) more Word and Picture Books to add to their personal library.

We added another new word to the Word Wall this week. These words are sight words that students are not able to sound out. So far, the Word Wall words are: I, see, my, like, a, and this week's word, to. We made a major step forward this week in reading. With the introduction of the short a sound (Andy Apple) the kindergarten students should be able to read many consonant-vowel-consonant words (CVC) such as mat, sat, rat, hat, vat and Nat. Your child should also be able to reads the -an words such as man, ran, and van.

Practicing reading skills every day is the best way for your child to become a lifelong learner. To help her continue to build vocabulary and improve comprehension, look for ways to get her reading in her free time. Here are some inspirational ideas:

- Set aside time for quiet pleasure reading as a family. Turn off the TV, radio, computer, and video games, and let everyone read what interests them.
- Keep a variety of books, magazines, or even coloring books on hand so you and your child always have something enjoyable to read.
- Put books in every room. Fill baskets with books, and spread them throughout the house and even outdoors. Besides helping you beat clutter, this reinforces the idea that any time is a good time to read.
- Talk about what you've been reading. Share facts from a newspaper article, read funny parts from a book aloud, or talk about something you browsed for work. Be a role model by showing that you enjoy reading and rely on it in real life.

There will be a Winter Assembly Friday morning, Dec. 18 in our multi-purpose room.