

Dear Parents,

We hope all of you have had a chance to get out and enjoy the weather today. Looks like rain in the forecast for the rest of the weekend.

**PowerSchool:**

At some point this weekend be sure to check your child's gradebook in PowerSchool. Any missing work can be completed and their grade will be changed. However, be sure to let us know that they completed the work so that we know to go back and update PowerSchool. If your child brought home the report card envelope please sign and return.

**Auction:**

The deadline for the action is this Friday, April 30th. Need ideas? Click [here](#) to visit the auction website, get more info, and access links to the [Amazon WishList](#) and the Special Edition [SCRIP order form](#). Don't forget the wine!

**Free Dress Day:**

On Thursday, April 29 all of the children have free dress.

**SEL:**

For the next few weeks, we will be using our class meeting time to work on **perseverance**. The children will be watching classdojo videos, completing activities and listening to books that focus on the need to not give up, to remember that they may just not understand something YET, but through perseverance they can learn to do many things. We will be sending home links to classdojo that let you know what the children have been learning throughout the week

**IB Unit:**

In our IB unit (Animals and the places they live are NOT constant) the children have learned about how the environment can change over time and have an effect on the animals and habitat of a place. The Mystery 2 topic was/will be on dinosaurs: how do we know what they looked like on the outside, when all we have of them are fossil bones? Why are we always depicting them as scaly lizards? Your child is learning how we can infer what the outside of an animal looks like, by using clues about their skeleton. We are also exploring how the structure of an animal's teeth say something about what kind of food the animal preferred to eat (i.e. meat, plants, or both).

Dinosaurs are very exciting and so are likely to be a topic on your child's mind these next few weeks. You can continue to stoke this interest by choosing to watch an educational program on dinosaurs together, such as *Walking with Dinosaurs* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1762399/>). If you have any toothed pets, such as a cat, dog, or even hamster, you can also invite your child to classify these living animals as herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore by observing their teeth.

In Mystery 3 we continue with the topic of dinosaurs. We ask the question, "Can you outrun a dinosaur?" Your child will see pictures showing how dinosaurs didn't just leave behind bones, they also left footprints, some of which fossilized. By examining our own footprints and those of living animals, we will be able to deduce how quickly some dinosaurs were able to run.

You can reinforce your child's learning at home by pointing out footprints while on a walk. (Getting a shoe slightly wet in a puddle leaves behind visible tracks.) Ask your child, "Is it possible to tell the difference between walking and running just from footprints? How are they different?"

Thank you for your continued support,

Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith