



GUMBO LIMBOS



DATE	STAR OF THE WEEK	SOUND OF THE WEEK	WORD OF THE WEEK
Jan 30 - Feb 3	Edward	Rr	Raptor
Feb 6- 10	Harry	Ss	Sauropod
Feb 13- 17	Amalia	Tt	Triassic
Feb 20-24	Jared	Uu	Underdog
Feb 22-Jan 2	Sam	Vv	Volume



The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences.

Maria Montessori

We have left no stone unturned (excuse the pun) with regard to our dinosaur unit. The class has taken a particular interest in the Pterosaurs. The name 'Pterosaur' comes from the Greek words 'Pteron' (wing) and 'Sauros' (lizard). Ironically these marvelous creatures were not

dinosaurs. The term "dinosaur" is restricted to a certain group of reptiles with a unique upright stance, which includes birds.

Ranging from the size of a sparrow to the size of an airplane, the pterosaurs ruled the skies in the Jurassic and Cretaceous, and included the

largest vertebrate ever known to fly: the late Cretaceous **Quetzalcoatlus**. The appearance of flight in pterosaurs was separate from the evolution of flight in birds and bats. Pterosaurs, therefore provide a classic example of *convergent evolution*: the tendency of

Date	Event
Feb 2	Groundhog's Day
Feb 14	Valentines Day
Feb 20	Presidents Day
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday
Feb 29	LEAP DAY



MAKING A PTEROSAUR NEST



BUILDING A PTEROSAUR

dissimilar organisms to adopt the same body shapes and behaviors when they evolve in similar environments.

We have been working closely with our 4th and 5th grade "Study Buddies" from the Montessori Elementary Charter School. After sharing the



"Timeline of Life" at MECS, the students visited our classroom and we discussed the theory of continental drift. Together the children made maps of the super



continent Pangea, which existed 300 million years ago during the Paleozoic and Mesozoic era.

In order to tie in our understanding of the continents we will continue our study of dinosaurs, examining where and when particular species were found. We will also compare and contrast the herbivores and carnivores.

February is Black History month, a celebration of achievements by African Americans and the important milestones that they have achieved throughout U.S. history. As we have discussed Dr Martin Luther King Jr and Rosa Parks and their role in social reformation, we are going to take a lighter look at the impact of African Americans on music. Throughout the month I plan to take the children on a journey from Negro Spirituals through to Gospel, Jazz and Blues.

This year is a leap year. Did you know.....

The Egyptians were the first to come up with the idea of adding a leap day once every four years to keep the calendar in sync with the solar year. Later, the Romans adopted this solution for their calendar, and they became the first to designate February 29th as the leap day.

This will provide the perfect segway into a lesson on the calendar and the number of days in each month. I frequently watch adults grapple with the number of days in any given month. Hopefully, with a little practice, the children learn a song that will reinforce the days of the month, and they will avoid ever having to deal with this issue.

Thirty Days Hath September

30 days hath September,

April, June and November,

All the rest have 31,

Excepting February alone.

Which only has but 28 days clear

And 29 in each leap year



We saved the mango tree!

Valentines day

If you wish to exchange Valentines cards we are happy to send them home in the Thursday folders. I do not invest the time during class as I question its relevance to this age group ;-)
Thank you for understanding.