

## Fall Fun

We will become paleontologists and study dinosaurs for the month of November. This is one of the kids' favorite units. It is so much fun to learn about creatures that seem so different than those that roam today. Our paleontologists will discover what dinosaurs ate, how varied the species was, theories about why they are no longer with us, and how we can learn about them today even though they are extinct.



On Wednesday, November 11 and Thursday, November 12, one of the paleontologists on the museum's staff will be coming to speak to the students. They always do such a good job explaining their jobs in a way that

young children can understand. Afterwards, we will walk over to the Nature Building and observe the paleontologists at work in the lab. We will finish up the day with a visit to the Dino Dig area in the Science Building.

## Teacher's Corner

The featured teacher this time is Doris Prange. She is the teacher in Classroom A and also serves as the School Coordinator. Doris started at The Science Place as a volunteer then was hired on as a teacher and has been at the museum for 13 years.



She was born and raised here in Dallas, Texas and went to school locally, attending Mt. Auburn, J.L. Long and Woodrow Wilson. She received her CDA after attending Eastfield College. Doris has been married for 31 years to Ron and has one son, Jonathan, and a menagerie of animals

Her love of science was sparked by her fifth grade teacher who taught her the wonder of everything around us. She remembers the classroom being filled with wall-to-wall science!

## New Booster Seat Law

Did you know that a new booster seat law in Texas took effect on September 1<sup>st</sup>? Children are now required to be in a booster seat until they are either 8

years old or 4'9" tall. This is a big change from the previous legislation that let children give up their booster seats at 6. A news release from the Texas Department of Public Safety states:



Vehicle manufacturers design their products for adults – not kids – and they support keeping kids in the appropriate safety seat or booster seat until the child can properly wear the adult safety belt...typically when they reach 4'9".

A child in a poorly-fitting adult seat belt usually slumps down, allowing the seat belt to ride up into their abdomen or neck, which can cause severe injuries to the child's neck and internal organs during a car crash.

Booster seats help position the children appropriately for the seat belt to protect and not harm them in a crash. Kids can switch from a car seat to booster when they are over 40 pounds and should remain in that booster until 8 years old or 4'9". All children under the age of 13 should ride in the rear of the vehicle to prevent injuries from front seat air bags.

## QUICK NOTES

- ☺ Remember to bring coats or jackets for chilly days and please label them. (Also hats/gloves if you send those.)
- ☺ The school potluck is Mon., 11/23 at 10:00 in the IMAX® building. This is not a regular school day, but a family event.
- ☺ The make-up day for the Country Critters field trip is Tues., 11/24 at 10:00.
- ☺ Thanksgiving break is 11/24-27 (except for Country Critters).
- ☺ Flu season is in full swing. Please reinforce hand washing skills at home just as we are at school. We encourage the children to slowly count to 10 while making big bubbles before rinsing. We discourage fingers in mouths/noses.