

# CULTURAL NEWSLETTER

## March 2018

Dear Parents,

**The weather isn't the only thing that's changing!** Having concluded our Invertebrate studies last month, we are beginning our studies of the other **Phylum in the Animal Kingdom: Vertebrates**.

We will begin our studies with a close examination of the spine which includes exercising, making models of the spine and viewing a spinal x-ray. We will also watch an entertaining movie that will reveal more fascinating facts about our skeletons. Did you ever wonder how our legs are strong enough to support and move our bodies? Ask your child how! By the end of the week he/she will also be able to *show you!*

Our zoology work for the remainder of the year will focus on **the mechanics and benefits of having a spine for fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals**. As with each invertebrate phylum, we will study exactly how each of these very different animals stay alive by:

- Moving
- Breathing
- Eating
- Excreting
- Growing
- Sensing
- Reproducing

*It is truly amazing what members of each phylum do to stay alive!*

To kick off the Fish Unit, we'll have a whole fish in the classroom which the children can touch (a first-time experience for many of them!) Those who are "brave" enough can hold the fish and observe how the spine helps the fish swim. We will also see a movie about fish with their spines, scales and fins and then - of course - we will make models, posters and books. Lots to do!

Sincerely,