



Small Planet Montessori

education for a peaceful planet

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Newsletter — February 2019



Are giant pandas bears?

For years scientists have wondered whether pandas are bears, raccoons, or in a group all their own. Through studying the genetic code (DNA) in pandas' cells, scientists have confirmed the panda's relationship with bears. Giant pandas are similar to other bears in their general looks, the way they walk and climb, and their skull characteristics.

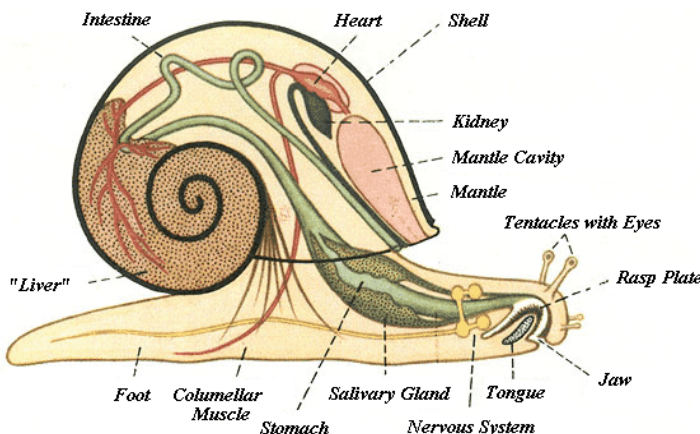
Fun facts

- They seem pretty quiet, but giant pandas can bleat, roar, growl, and honk.
- Giant pandas are technically carnivores, but they have adapted to live mostly on bamboo. They will eat small mammals if they can catch them, though!
- Like other types of bears, giant pandas are curious and playful, especially when they're young.
- Giant pandas have unusually thick and heavy bones for their size, but they are very flexible and like to do somersaults.
- There are as few as 1,600 pandas left in the wild.
- The giant panda has the largest molar teeth of any of the carnivores.
- Pandas stand on their head and forelegs to place scent high up on tree trunks.
- A day-old panda looks rather like a small white rat and weighs about 3.5 ounces, about 1/900 of the mother's body weight.

Dear Parents,

It's a busy month, with Father's Tea and the Mid-winter Break to look forward to. There are lots of exciting works to explore. Happy Valentines Day from everyone at Small Planet! ♥

Asia, Snails & Pandas!



The works for February will be Pandas for the vertebrate and Snails for the invertebrate.

Continent of the Month is Asia, the world's largest and most populous continent. It

covers 8.6% of the Earth's total surface area (or 29.4% of its land area) and, with more than 4.5 billion, it contains 60% of the world's current human population.

Source: www.worldometers

News, Dates and Reminders

- Father's Tea!** February 5th and 6th. Come and enjoy a lovely cup of tea!
- Valentines!** Please write only your own name on card, leave envelope blank! Bring 24, enough for everyone! Party on the 14th
- School closes** after school on the 15th, reopens Feb 25th
- Snow Days!** If the Seattle Public Schools close due to weather Small Planet will also be closed.
- Sickness:** Please see page 3 for our policy.

Small Planet Business

Tuition — A full month's tuition is due on the first of every month. **Please make checks payable to Martha Morgan.**

Morning lessons are from 9.00 - 11.30 and afternoon lessons 1.00 - 3.30. There is 15 minutes before and after class for drop-off/pick-up. Please observe these times.

Tiny Treasures — Any works at home? Bring 'em on back!

Guest Speakers — If you would like to share a special interest, hobby or holiday tradition, please have a word with Martha! The children really love to hear about special ways to celebrate!

Veronique — Every Thursday 1 - 2 p.m. \$15.

Music — Our Music Teacher will be in every Monday at 9:30.

Snack — Is it your snack day? Please swap with someone if you're going to miss your child's day.

Lunch — 11.30 to 12.30. If your child stays for lunch there is an extra fee of \$15 per lunch session. Packed lunch to be brought from home. Lunch not included.

Lunch session	\$15
Extra class	\$45
Extra hour	\$15
French	\$15

Coats! — Please be sure your child's coat is weather appropriate.

Friday pick up! Please collect your child by at 12.45 on Fridays. The school closes for the weekend at 1pm on Friday.

Thank You from
Martha & Donna!

See you at the gate! —Martha



School – When to Stay Home

It is our goal for students to attend classes every day school is in session. However, there are times when students need to stay home for their own health and/or the health and safety of others. Below are some guidelines to help families decide when to keep students at home:

- **Diagnosed Strep Throat or Bacterial Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):** Must stay home 24 hours after first dose of antibiotics.
- **Diarrhea:** Three or more loose or watery stools in a 24-hour period, especially if the student feels ill. Students should stay home for 24 hours after the last watery stool.
- **Eyes:** Draining mucus or pus or that have unusual redness, itchiness or pain not due to injury or allergy.
- **Fatigue:** Students who are unusually tired, pale, lack appetite, or who are difficult to wake, confused, or unusually irritable.
- **Fever:** Temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or over. Students need to stay home for 24 hours after their temperature has returned to normal without the help of fever-reducing medications such as Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen.
- **Live Lice:** Students may return to school once treatment has begun.
- **Persistent Coughing:** Students who are unable to participate in classroom activities due to persistent coughing should stay home.
- **Rash:** Unknown origin or those known to be contagious such as ringworm, impetigo or scabies. Students may return to school as soon as treatment has begun.
- **Vomiting:** Two or more times during the last 24 hours, especially if the student feels ill. Students should stay home for 24 hours after the last time they vomited.

If your student shows any of the above symptoms at school you may be called to pick him/her up. We suggest that you also consult your health care provider.

Please consult your school nurse or health care provider if you are unsure whether or not your student should miss school due to health conditions.

Remember to report the reason for your student's absence to the office staff or school nurse according to your school's official policies/procedures.

Small Planet follows the Seattle Public Schools policy on school closure due to snow.

How do I know if Seattle Public Schools is closed or delayed?

The Seattle Public Schools home page displays messages about closures and delays:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/main/index.dxml>

This website aggregates school closure info:

<http://www.schoolreport.org/>

Listen to KUOW or KING for info:

<http://www.kuow.org/index.php> <http://www.king5.com/>

Or keep up to date with Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/SeaPubSchools>

If the Seattle schools are closed so too Small Planet.