

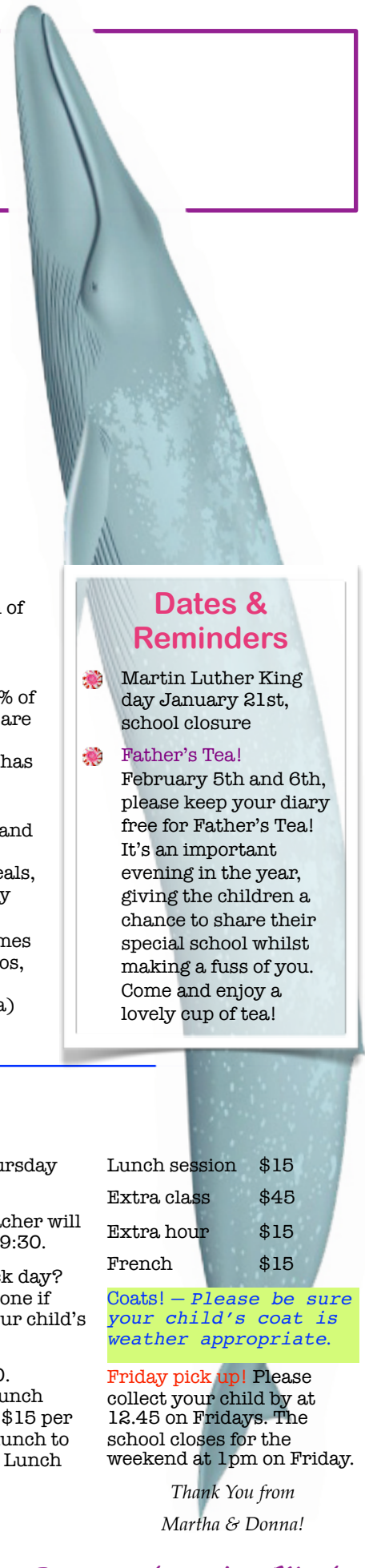


Small Planet Montessori

education for a peaceful planet

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Newsletter — January 2019



The blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is the largest animal that ever lived. An adult can grow nearly as long as three school buses and weigh over 400,000 pounds — as much as 24 African elephants.

Being big has its advantages. Large whales are safe from most predators and their massive bodies retain heat well—a bonus in chilly ocean waters.

But enormous creatures also have to eat enormous quantities. Amazingly, the blue whale maintains its bulk on a diet of mostly shrimp-like krill.

Blue whales are difficult to study because they spend so little time at the surface and migrate to remote waters. So as big as these animals are, we still know remarkably little about how they live.

Blue Whale Fast Facts

- ☀ Size: 7 meters (23 feet) at birth; adults grow to 23–30 m (70–98 ft).
- ☀ Food: mostly krill
- ☀ Life Span: unknown, perhaps 40-80 years
- ☀ Closest Relatives: fin whale
- ☀ The blue whale is one of the loudest animals, with vocalizations that can travel thousands of miles underwater.
- ☀ Hear a blue whale: <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/02fire/background/hydroacoustics/media/blue.html>

Source: American Museum of Natural History www.amnh.org

Dear Parents,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you had a great time over the holidays and your little learners are rested and ready to get back to work! With the cold weather our feathered friends who winter-over will be needing your help. Putting some food out for them can make all the difference. See page two for some tips and recipes.

Whales, Krill, and Antarctica

JANUARY WORKS — This month it's krill (invertebrate of the month) and whales! (vertebrate of the month).



Fittingly, we are studying Antarctica. It is the southernmost and coldest continent and includes the South Pole (brrr). It is divided by the Transantarctic Mountains. On average, it is the coldest, driest, and windiest continent and has the

highest average elevation of all the continents.

Antarctica is the third-smallest continent before Europe and Australia; 98% of it is covered in ice. There are no permanent human residents and Antarctica has never had an indigenous population.

Only cold-adapted plants and animals survive there, including penguins, fur seals, mosses, lichens, and many types of algae.

The name 'Antarctica' comes from the Greek *antarktikos*, meaning 'opposite to the Arctic'. (source-Wikipedia)

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