



# Preschool Newsletter

## 1/22/18~1/26/18



### **A Whale of a Time**

The children have been learning all about whales in anticipation of our upcoming whale watch. We conducted a couple of hands on experiments to demonstrate certain characteristics of whales. We learned that humpback whales move between Hawai'i, where the water is warm, to Alaska, where the water is cold. We asked Keziah how she stays warm when she goes to Alaska. She responded by saying, "I wear six jackets!" The others also had ideas of how we stay warm. Ms. Gemma drew a person and as the children shared their warm clothing items, she drew it on the person. The person ended up with boots, pants, a hat, a scarf and gloves. Then, Ms. Gemma drew a whale and began to draw a hat, scarf and gloves on it. Everyone laughed and said that that is not how whales stay warm. Madelyn shared her thoughts, "Since whales are mammals, they have hair. Their hair keeps them warm!" We all agreed this was a logical idea but unlike some mammals, whales only have a small amount

of hair. We found a book that showed how the whale has thick layers of fat called blubber.

## **Our Turn!**

Outside, the children participated in an activity to demonstrate how blubber helps keep whales warm. The children covered one hand in Crisco and put on a glove to represent the whale's skin. The other hand was left bare. They predicted which hand would get cold first if they plunged it into ice.



## **It Really Works!**

Although they had different thoughts about what might happen, when we tested their predictions every child pulled out their bare hand first. The hand that was covered in "blubber" stayed warm longer. This activity was very sticky and messy. Some children did not want to try it but still participated as active observers.



## Who's taller?

We began talking about how big a whale is. It is hard to conceptualize such a large animal. We began by measuring ourselves and standing in height order. Then, we looked at a book that shows how a whale's flukes are as long as 2.5 people lying down. We asked Madex's Mom to help . She and Ms Sarah lay down and then Ku'i joined them. We drew a whale fluke around them and the children walked around and up and down it. Next week, we will continue this activity to see how many people it would take to create the length of a whole whale. I wonder if we can find enough people!



## Push Pin Creations

The children worked on their concentration and fine motor using recycled cardboard and pushpins. Some children chose to make patterns, others enjoyed the fish outlines. Later in the week, they requested letter outlines...their names, of course!

**JAN**  
**29**  
Mon

Pacific Whale Foundation visitor, Robyn

**JAN**  
**30**  
Tue

Whale Watch

Be in school by 8am if your child is riding the bus. Let Ms. Gemma know on Monday if you are meeting us there.

**JAN**  
**31**  
Wed

POG meeting at 330pm

**FEB**  
**1**  
Thu

Ms. Lyn returns for the afternoons!

**FEB**  
**9**

Learning trip to the library for African Folktales. Leaving at 10:30am.

Fri

FEB

14

Wed

Preschool bake sale! Please bring in something to sell.

FEB

19

Mon

President's Day-NO SCHOOL