

# You're Invited!



## Fall Open House for prospective students, parents and grandparents

Sunday, Oct. 23rd  
1:00 – 2:00 pm  
5192 Shady Grove Road  
Memphis, TN 38117

You'll have the opportunity to walk through classrooms, speak with teachers and meet current parents. This is a must-attend event for families of Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade children.

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## WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD LEARN BY THE FOURTH GRADE?

At Westminster Academy, your child will be in a third year of Latin, strengthening an understanding of grammar and the foundations of the English language. Your child begins a fifth year of pre-rhetoric training preparing them to communicate persuasively and confidently. Fourth graders have already met Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Homer, and Cicero and will now study the heroes of the Renaissance and Reformation and others who greatly influenced Western culture. The memorization and study of Scripture continues and with it a deepening understanding of how all of the subjects they study—math, science, art, literature, history, and music—reveal the nature and character of God.

**Imagine what our seniors have learned.**

**OPEN HOUSE Nov. 3rd, 6:30 PM & Nov. 4th, 9 AM. Call to reserve a spot.**



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Kindergarten through Grade Twelve

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## Passport to Antarctica

Pink Palace invites families to join this extreme adventure

Alex Eilers

The Pink Palace Family of Museums is turning its attention to the Earth's southernmost continent this winter:

Antarctica. The museum's manager of education, Alex Eilers, has been chosen to be a PolarTREC (Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating) teacher. In January 2012, Eilers joins a team of researchers who will travel on a six-week expedition to Antarctica. Their aim is to study Weddell seals, a species that lives in the Ross Sea. She'll share her information in activities planned for the upcoming months.



"PolarTREC program is a professional development opportunity that pairs researchers with teachers providing them hands-on field research experience in the Polar Regions," notes Eilers. It is funded by the National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs and is administered by Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS) based in Fairbanks, Alaska.

From now through mid-December, Eilers will blog monthly about what she's doing to prepare for her journey. She encourages families visit the website: [polar trec.com/expeditions/weddell-seals-in-the-ross-sea](http://polar trec.com/expeditions/weddell-seals-in-the-ross-sea) and participate.

Monthly components include:

- Literacy Connection: Antarctica R.A.W. stands for Read, Art, and Write. Read a book, create an art project, or write about the "featured topic of the month." October's topic is Weather/Climate/Seasons.

- Photo Contest: Identify 'close-up' images of polar-related items.

Participants in the challenges earn polar points and prizes. Eilers' team will be based in McMurdo Station on Ross Island, Antarctica. The scientists will study how Weddell seals dive and forage for food during the winter. "There are so many things to learn about the Weddell seals, starting with its blubber, flippers, and nose, to its habitat, family, and temperament," she says.

In the Take a Closer Look program, classes choose from a list of topics they would like for Eilers to investigate while visiting the South Pole. Students should write or draw about the topic, then decorate and laminate. Send the finished item to her by December 16th. She will take each request to Antarctica, do research and post her findings in the PolarTREC journal.

Students can also design self-addressed, stamped postcards and mail them in an envelope to her by January 1st. She will mail them back from the U.S. Post Office at McMurdo Station with an Antarctica postmark. The minimum size of the postcard should be 3 1/2 x 5 inches.

As part of her preparation, Eilers is going to the dentist and doctor, working out at the gym, and shopping for winter clothes. While on expedition, the team will make daily trips to seal haul-outs and briefly capture the animals to conduct research. Eilers says she will be blogging daily during the expedition, which takes place January 7th through February 20th. Eilers encourages everyone to post questions via the PolarTREC website.

In conjunction with this trip, the Pink Palace will be offering Lab and Theater programming on Antarctica animal adaptations, Passport programs on Weddell seals and extreme cold weather gear, and a mini exhibit during the school year. • To participate in the Polar Point Challenges, contact Alex Eilers at [alice.eilers@memphistn.gov](mailto:alice.eilers@memphistn.gov) or visit [PolarTREC.com](http://PolarTREC.com) **MP**

— Meena Viswanathan



Weddell seals