

Early Learning Center

Where Families Connect to Learn, Grow and Play!

Contact us at: www.bellevuecollege.edu/childcare 425-564-2240

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April 2017

Dates to Remember

Dear ELC Families,

Welcome to Spring Quarter! I hope you were able to experience some form of Spring Break and are starting the season refreshed and ready!

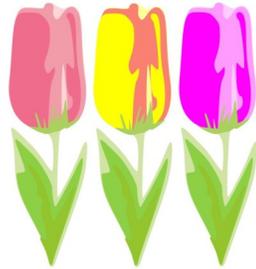
First, a warm, sunny welcome to our new families! We know it can be a lot for you and for your child, as you start new routines and build new relationships. Please let us know how we can help, and remember that your questions and ideas are always welcome.

Please consider helping to advocate for the ELC as we present to the **S&A Fees budget committee** on **Wednesday, April 5. We need families who would be willing to write a letter or come to our 15 minute appointment at 2:00pm in C-225 to share with the committee what the ELC means for your family.**

Water damage was discovered in the library, infant and T1 classrooms. As a result the library was closed, Infants were relocated to T4 and T1 was located to P5. EMB Consulting came out to do an assessment and to write a protocol for the classrooms affected by the water intrusion. They discovered water was coming in from the front of the building under the brick façade. I am waiting for the report from campus operations as to when the repairs will begin. So as soon as I get that information I will inform families of the timeline. As always, we appreciate your support and understanding during this time.

Due to the water damage and scheduled repairs, our Early Achievers rating has been postponed until further notice.

Lisa
Interim Director, ELC



4/3/17
First day of Spring Quarter

4/5/17
S&A Fees Budget Request Meeting
2:00 PM
C-225



4/7/17
Early closure at 4:15pm
Please be in the building by 4:00 to pick up your child.

4/27/17
Preschoolers Night at Bellevue College's Planetarium
Shows at 5:30 and 6:30pm
Pre-registration required



ELC NEWS & UPDATES

What is a Floater?

A floater is an Early Childhood Assistant who isn't assigned a specific classroom but rather goes to a classroom that needs extra support. Sometimes this is because the classroom teacher is out sick or because the class is doing an activity that requires more hands on deck! Being a floater is a vital role and two of them would like to share their thoughts on their role here at the ELC!

-Joy-

"Floaters know children as they develop through learning benchmarks and are able to relay information from one teacher to another as the youngsters grow. Children feel valued and safe during times of changes within the classroom when a floater they know and care about, is present. "Floaters" are particularly beneficial when children transition to a new classroom. We are fortunate to have two "floaters" available at ELC.

-Ghousia-

"I am really enjoying my time as a floater and look at each day as a new opportunity to be my very best. I think it is quite a bit challenging and fun to go in different rooms and adjust and fit in each classroom. It's like a puzzle on varying schedules. But I like it. I always like new and different things. It is exciting for me."

April 2017

What's new in the Infant Rooms?

Infant 1 Teachers: Liliana, Lisa-Ann and Rachel

Infant 2 Teachers: Mahboobeh and Linda

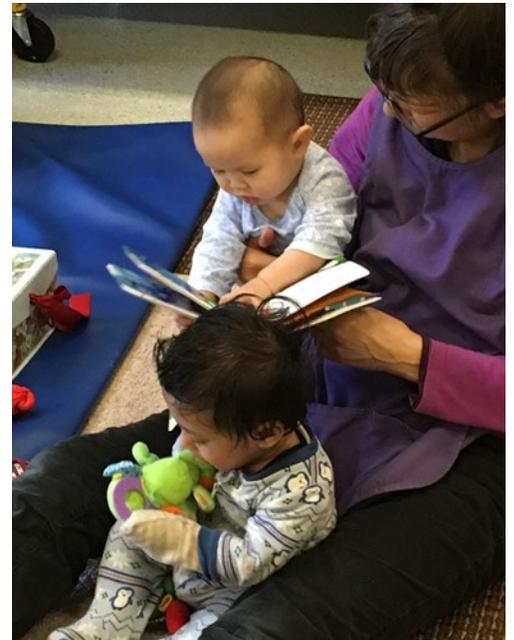
Welcome Spring!

What a busy month we have had in the Infant rooms!

Family Night was a wonderful success and we enjoyed spending time with everyone. It was a fantastic opportunity to have dinner and connect with you and your children!

As you know, some unexpected but necessary repairs to our infant room required us to relocate to another classroom. Thank you all for your patience, support and understanding. With a bit of work we have set up our new classroom and now are beginning to settle in comfortably.

Speaking of our new classroom, it's been a joy observing how the infants welcomed the new environment. It was amazing how relocating the toys and equipment made everything fresh, novel and exciting. Teachers and the infants alike are enjoying our little adventure getaway!



Reading stories!



Family Night Fun!

Spring is finally here and with its arrival, the promise of nice weather beckons. Please provide a light jacket, hat and shoes for your little one so we can venture out and enjoy the spring weather together. Our "new classrooms' " door opens right to the outside playground area! We plan to spend a lot of time outdoors on an outdoor blanket exploring what the new season brings.

Liliana - lmartell@bellevuecollege.edu * Lisa-Ann - lowens@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T2 Room Teachers: Rita, Parisa and Naghmeh

Block Center

In the month of March our children still showed lots of interest in the Block Area and House-keeping Area. Most of the children spent their free time in those centers. Our children enjoy building with the Unit Blocks. They carry this blocks and place them in the spot that they want. This activity helps the children's large muscle development.

Our children also enjoy the sense of power they feel by moving something large. They are able to construct large structures as ferry boats, an airplane, helicopter or bus. One of the children pretends to be the captain, pilot, or the bus driver and the rest of children pretend to be the passengers.



Children's vocabulary and language will expand by talking about what they have built. We have been displaying books in the Block Area related to our children's interests and constructions. The children are able to use their creativity and imagination during play. Some of the children were holding a piece of Hardwood Unit Block in their hand and pretending they were holding a microphone. They were singing for the other children and the other children were listening to them.

Spring Planting

We have a celery in the small pot in our Science center that is growing which the children are really excited about. For the month of April we will be doing lots of different Science activities such as planting indoor. Our children will learn that life science is about living things. We are teaching life science when we ask our children to care for plants in our classroom. We will be asking lots of questions from them such as "What do plants need to grow?" "What plants do that you have in your house?"

Rita - rruffin@bellevuecollege.edu * Parisa - pmohamad@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

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What have the Toddlers been learning?

T3 Room Teachers: Annie, Ali and Naghmeh

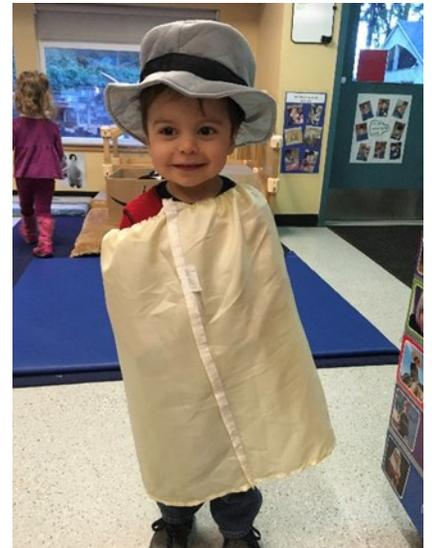


It was a wonderful opportunity for us to share your child's growth and accomplishments during the parent-teacher conferences. The family night with macaroni and cheese went well.

Recently, our children have enjoyed building Legos. They also worked as a team to build a train track and drove the cars on the track, "Woo woo..."

After receiving new dress up clothes and kitchen supplies, the children were getting busier in the housekeeping area. Some of them liked to dress up themselves and walk around the classroom, wearing a fancy colorful hat, carrying a soft hand bag, or wearing a beautiful skirt. They seemed so proud of themselves. "Look at me!" "Wearing a hat!" "Bag" "Hat" "Blue" "Yellow" Some of the children had fun cooking in the kitchen. They said, "I am cooking." They cooked vegetables, fruits, or made bread. One time, I tried to taste the bread that a child cooked for me, that child stopped me and said, "Pretend" .Wow! What a big concept that he has learned after he freely explored the housekeeping area.

In our classroom, children's free and creative play is well supported by the teachers. As teachers, we believe that free play is very important for the children's development. Below are some of the benefits of free play or unstructured play, we would like to share with you:



According to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Clinical Report on "The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds," in addition to being important to healthy brain development, the benefits of free play include:

- allowing kids to use their creativity and develop their imagination, dexterity, and other strengths
- encouraging kids to interact with the world around them
- helping kids conquer their fears and build their confidence
- teaching kids to work in groups, so they learn to share and resolve conflicts
- helping kids practice decision-making skills

Free play is so important to our children. Spring is here; let's take our children out to play

Annie - ygu@bellevuecollege.edu * Ali - allison.beckvold@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

April 2017

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T5 Room Teachers: Paula, Iryna and Khazal



Playing with babies helps us remember how to use gentle hands and caring hearts

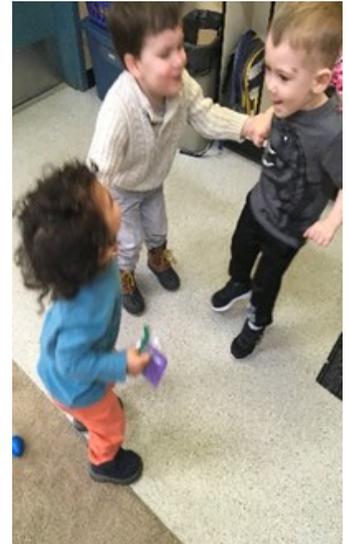
are sad, happy, excited or curious we discuss what that emotion looks like. The baby corner has been helpful to practice this skill. The children love taking care of their babies and we can talk about how we need to help and be kind to babies.

We have also been using an emotions chart, so when a friend is expressing an emotion we can label it on the emotion chart. We will continue to work in this area, as the children are interested. We are also learning how to ask questions properly and respond when a question is being asked.

In T5, we are learning how to understand our own emotions and the emotions of others. We are also learning to be aware of the needs of our friends. This is a work in progress, because the nature of toddlers is keep things to themselves.

By working together as a team, we are learning how to establish and sustain positive relationships. In recent days, the children have been excited to work and play together.

We have been discussing how we can demonstrate concern's about our friend's feelings. When one of our friends



Playing with my friends makes us all feel happy!

Paula - paula.bourgeois@bellevuecollege.edu Iryna - iryna.antonyuk@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T6 Room Teachers: Donna, Diane and Khazal

The Children in T6 have been very interested in the new science center items that we brought into the room from outside: rocks, pinecones, wood, etc. “Bringing the outside inside” is an important component in providing children an opportunity to explore like scientists throughout the entire day.



Young children are born scientists. Toddlers and twos experiment, trying to discover how things work, what things do, and what they can make happen. Like scientists, young children are curious about and want to investigate, the physical and natural worlds around them. Physical science involves exploring the physical properties of objects and materials. Children gather information about the physical world by using all of the senses to explore and investigate. What does this rock feel like? How can I make this pinecone move? Life science involves exploring the natural world of living things, including both plants and animals. What will happen if I pull this pinecone off the tree? Where did all this wood come from? These and other open-ended questions asked in T6 about the outside items that were brought inside have availed the children to much scientific exploration.

Donna - dflanner@bellevuecollege.edu * Diane—desparza@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

April 2017

What have the Young Toddlers been learning?

T1 Teachers: Brian, Yen-Chiu

We enjoyed having our families join us for last month's family night. We had macaroni dinner together while being able to meet with other families they may not have met before and got to talk and share information.



We introduced some new puppets to the children and have been letting the children explore and experiment with them. We have been using the puppets during songs and reading books as well all while talking with the children.



We are temporarily located in the P-5 classroom and the children have been able to explore the large new space. We get to take advantage of the large mat space for tumbling activities and the large carpet space is great for dancing and music experiences.

Brian - bcooper@bellevuecollege.edu * Yen-Chiu - yong@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P4 Room Teachers: Chisaki, Wendy and Margarita



A tree hugger is born!

This month we will use our observation and investigation skills to learn about trees. We will also be working on naming our feelings when we are experiencing them, and techniques to deal with our strong emotions. Lastly we will be exploring our community through field trips.

Through the study of trees the children will come to understand the characteristics of trees and their role in our world. This will help them learn science and social studies and how to become natural investigators and to become good caretakers of our environment.

The children have been doing well stating their feelings so we are taking the next step by naming the feeling. This strategy of naming the feeling can help make the feeling less strong, because it engages the brain to think and then they are more able to calm down.

With the spring weather we will be exploring the campus on field trips and we invite you to join us as we explore the community. If you have a job or talent you would be willing to come in and share with the children we would welcome you.



The kids were so excited to watch all the bull dozers and big equipment work right outside our center!

Wendy - wendy.cote@bellevuecollege.edu * Chisaki - cniiyama@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

April 2017

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P3 Room Teachers: Karen, Mala and Margarita

Well here we are! Spring has sprung upon us. The children have really been enjoying our cooking experiences. We made our special apple cinnamon pancakes with delicious strawberries drizzled on top. The children had the opportunity to cut the apples, measure and count the ingredients and mix the batter. This was such a fun cooking project. The classroom filled with such a sweet aroma!



We will be exploring with Trees this month. The children have already begun planting their own seeds.



In our first investigation about trees we will be learning about the characteristics of the trees in our community. The children will be able to go on walking fieldtrips around our BC campus to explore the various trees. They also have their own tree books to draw what they see. We will collect different parts of a tree. Parents, we will need your help bringing in a collection of tree parts. A letter will be going home with suggestions of what you can bring in. So stay tuned for what is to come next!

Karen, Mala and Margarita

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Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

April 2017

What have the Pre-K classes been learning?

P2 Teachers: Haley, Marissa and Darrell

Dear P2 Families,

March has been a month filled with exploration of our natural world! We began this month with a seed experiment. The children helped plant three separate seed varieties including rosemary, thyme, and spearmint. Throughout the month the children have helped water the seeds, and have made great observations/predictions about what is happening.

"These seeds are so small."

"What is the white stuff in the soil?"

"Why is it so hard to pick up these tiny seeds?"



Throughout the month of March we have also begun to study all about insects. We have made many different observations about the different insects and even learned that to be considered an insect, a bug must have six legs! We have really enjoyed searching for different insects around our playground to compare them and determine whether or not it is an insect. As we compared the insects found (beetle and stink bug) we used comparison words such as larger than, smaller than, more than, and less than. We will continue to support this learning interest of our natural world in these upcoming weeks!



This month we also welcomed our new P2 teacher, Marissa!

"Hello, I am excited to be here!

A little bit about me, I grew up in the small town of Los Banos California. It is 5 hours north of Los Angeles. I received my bachelor's in arts from California State University Stanislaus. I have worked with children for many years. My favorite subject to teach children is Language Arts. I also enjoy hiking, listening to music and dance."

Haley - Haley.clapp@bellevuecollege.edu * Marissa- Marissa.merez@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

April 2017

What have the PreK classes been learning?

P1 Teachers: Page, Erica & Darrell

During the month of March, we learned about birds, their homes, their foods, and their behaviors. As we made some discoveries along the way, children were interested in making their own individual bird feeders. It is a great way for kids to get up close with nature and make some observations, so we decided to make pine cone bird feeders.

After making them with seeds and vegetable shortening, we tied some yarn around the top and hung them from a tree nearby our cozy area window. We observed different birds visiting our bird feeders and everyone had fun time watching the birds trying to balance on the moving pine cones.



Working hard to get the pine cones coated in yummy bird food!

Spring is here! Days are getting longer and the weather is slowly getting warmer. Now is a great time for children to explore these environmental changes happening in the world around them.

We will explore trees and plants next month. We will go on several field trips to provide children opportunities to observe the changes to trees and plants during springtime. As children learn more about them, we will also delve into the life cycle of an ant, oak tree, etc. with educational puzzles, games, and books.



Hanging our pine cone bird feeders for our local birds

Page - pknapp@bellevuecollege.edu * Erica—boh.park@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta