

Early Learning Center

Where Families Connect to Learn, Grow and Play!

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

Bellevue College reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability or status as a disable veteran or Vietnam era veteran. Please visit www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal.asp

February 2015

Dear ELC Families,

Children are wired to learn about the world by watching the kind of people we are together, and pay special attention to how we keep safe and connected to each other in community. I want to say thank you for all the words of encouragement you offered to the ELC team after the recent precautionary lockdown, and also for the many ways, when challenges arrive, you reach out to communicate and problem solve with us, offering us your ideas, concern and support. **Your children are watching and learning from us all!**

We have had a position empty, for many months, that will add additional support to staff, and to you and your children. I am excited to welcome [Deb Walrath](#) to join us as our [Preschool Coordinator](#). Initially she will be leading our efforts to meet new standards set by Early Achievers, the Department of Early Learning's quality rating system, and to fulfill all components that are a part of our Head Start grant. Deb comes to us with a BA in Elementary Ed and a P-3 endorsement. She has taught preschool and kindergarten and was most recently a program manager of one of the Volunteers of America ECEAP sites in Snohomish county. In addition to being a skilled educator, she is a passionate advocate for children and families. She will start on February 9, 2015.

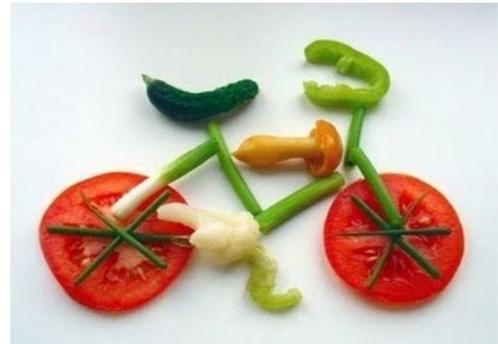
I am also very pleased to have [Elyse Sandoval](#) joining the ELC team for a second time! She was an ELC teacher 2010 to 2011, then took some time to start a family of her own. Elyse has a BA in Social Science, and has worked in a wide range of early learning settings and also with people with disabilities. She believes in nurturing, inclusive environments that welcome all families. She started on February 2, 2015 as a [co-teacher with Linda in the P2 classroom](#).

On February 16th, Classified Professional Development Day, the ELC will be closed and staff will have some rare time to learn and grow together. Teachers will receive training from their Union about [Interpersonal Relations](#), from an outside facilitator for [CPR/First Aid](#) and from me as we build our skills on [scaffolding learning](#), through exploring the book [Powerful Interactions](#) by Dombro, Jablon & Stetson. This text, used by the ECE department here at the college, explores how to maximize learning through creating intentional interactions with children. There is a similar parenting technique called [Emotion Coaching](#) by Dr. John Gottmans at UW, that I hope to offer here in the future as well.

Warmly,
Kelly

You are Invited to an ELC Community Conversation

**What We Want for Children:
Health, Nutrition and Sustainability**
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015 4:30-5:30



The earth is what we all have in common. – Wendell Berry

What values do we share about health, nutrition and sustainability for our children?

What are some ideas we might consider, at the ELC and at home, to put these values into action?

Come learn and share in this follow up conversation to the ELC Fall Family Survey and Meeting.

If you can come, please RSVP at the front desk so we can plan for space and materials. If you aren't able to, be assured we will share out what we can in the next newsletter, and give you more opportunities to give your input!

Dates to Remember

2/6 College Issues Day—NO BC Classes, ELC OPEN
2/11 Preschool Family Night at the Planetarium
2/16 Staff In-service—ELC CLOSED
2/19 Community Conversation 4:30-5:30

Preschoolers Night
at
Bellevue College's Planetarium



Wednesday, February 11, 2015
5:30-6:10PM *or* 6:30-7:10PM

Because space is limited
(at least inside the Planetarium!)
tickets are required.

Sign up for tickets will be for one adult attending with one ELC child
who is currently enrolled in P1, P2, P3 or P4.

There is a cap of 50 tickets per show.
If available, additional tickets will be released, on February 10 for
other family members.

February 2015

Infants & Young Toddlers Classroom Clips~ Bonnie MacGregor, Specialist 3

Infant 1:

January was a busy month in Infant One! The children have been delighting us with their new found skills and explorations. Everyone is growing and exploring different forms of movement. They also continued to be fascinated with the natural world around them. We all enjoy watching the activity of the birds, squirrels and people visiting the bird feeders. Lately the infants have started experimenting with cause and effect with sound! They have discovered their voices and delight in practicing and producing different sounds. They are also fascinated with percussion and the different sounds objects can produce when hit or touched in different ways. Therefore this month we will incorporate different ways and objects to produce sounds. We will be adding musical toys, instrument and containers to explore the joys of sound and cause and effect. **We would like to create a song book for our classroom! What songs do you sing with your baby at home? We would love to learn and sing/share these songs together!**

Teachers: Lisa Ann, Liliana, Ghousia

Infant 2:

In January we welcomed new babies and families in our class room, and we are super excited to have them. We supported the children making these changes by focusing on their feelings, reading books and singing songs to them to help them experience warmth and safety in this new place. All of the children really enjoyed exploring the big boxes that Mahboobeh brought in the class, especially putting different materials inside and out. We watch to see when they will be able to their bodies inside the box and out. For the next month we will continue providing the boxes in our class, since our children are still showing lots of interest, and also focusing on building relationships with the new babies and their families while we help the older children to have smooth transitions to their new classroom, T1. **Do you have an interesting box to share with us? Big or small, it is an environment change that is fascinating to this age group!**

Teachers: Mahboobeh, Parisa, Ghousia

Young Toddlers – Toddler 1:

Our toddlers especially enjoyed experiencing and exploring balls and bubbles in January. Following the path of the balls and bubbles motivates the children to work on their balance and large motor skills, develops their understanding of the physical properties of these different objects, and also increases their language skills to describe things they see. In February we are so excited to give children materials and experiences to explore the concept of “Big and Small”. We will start with using different ball sizes to hold, throw, and kick. **We invite you to stop in for a ball game!** We will also continue to work on self-help skills such as children holding their own cups to drink with and using spoons to feed themselves.

Teachers: Yen Chiu Brian, Ghousia

Often what is small is even more beautiful close up.

How about an event for infant and toddler families in March?



The trip to the planetarium is both too long and maybe even frightening for children who are not yet preschool aged. Is there an interest in a gathering for infant and toddler families in March? Perhaps a little Spring Open House with time to spend in the classroom getting to know each other? Let us know if you would be interested in attending!

February 2015

Toddlers Classroom Clips ~ Bonnie MacGregor and Vanessa VonPapp, Specialist 3s

Toddler 2:

One of the biggest goals in January was that children become increasingly able to take care of own needs and to persist. They have made significant progress at activities like washing hands, putting a jacket on and off, putting toys away, staying involved in activities and potty training. We often discover that children are very surprised and happy when they are able to finally do something they weren't able to do before or when they become skillful at doing something they were not very good at before. This feeling that "I did it!" and the satisfaction from their achievement is an important part of their growth and development. As parents and teachers, we hope we are able to help them build up their self-confidence and develop strong and stable minds that will enable them to withstand any and all future challenges they may face. **In order to promote the importance of the feeling 'I did it!', we (You and Us) would like to strive to work closely together with our children to understand and accept their feelings and give them the right amount of challenge but not pressure on them.**

In this month, we will continue to provide activities that allow the children to develop their own initiative—their sense of interest in learning and desire to try new things. We will create a curriculum based on books children love. We will start from "Guri and Gura", "Where The Wild Things Are" to inspire another cooking project, dramatic play, and music and movement. **We encourage you to have a story time with your child every day to enjoy the stories and the time together. Please let us know what your child's favorite story is—perhaps we can share it with the rest of the class!**

Teachers: Chisaki, Naghmeh

Toddler 3:

Our children have been rapidly expanding their language skills. We have heard so many new words and phrases this month! We even heard songs like: "Happy New Year", "Down By The Bay", "The Wheels on the Bus", and "Baby Beluga", sung by some of our little friends. We incorporate the use of books and songs as well as drawing and painting to work on our pre-literacy skills. Recently, our children also demonstrated the interests in finding the bugs outside on the playground. So, our focus for February will be exploring the playground to look for signs of new plants and bugs. **At home, you can take time with your child to discover the different plant and insect life there. You will notice that our children very interested in finding signs of anything moving on the ground or in the air!** Our investigations will accomplish our goal of adding new vocabulary associated with these subjects. It's so wonderful to see our children grow and learn each day! In February, we also will be welcoming two new friends from T1, and saying goodbye to two old friends as they transition to the older toddler class in T2.

Teachers: Rita, Annie, Naghmeh

Toddler 5:

This last month, the children have been exploring various art media such as adding textured mixtures to paint and watercolors. We have been using our walks around the center as a time for observation and for inspiration of what colors or textures we might want to try to recreate. We also created a place for the children to create a train and some tracks, we will have some books available about trains and cars.

For the month of February our classroom will have a new block center. Children learn so much from blocks! Socially -- Blocks encourage children to make friends and cooperate. Large block play may be a young child's first experience playing in a group, while small block play may encourage an older child to work with others in solving problems. Physically -- When children reach for, pick up, stack, or fit blocks together, they build strength in their fingers and hands, and increase eye-hand coordination. Intellectually -- Blocks help children learn across many academic subjects. Young children develop their vocabularies as they learn to describe sizes, shapes, and positions. Creatively -- Blocks offer children the chance to make their own designs, and the satisfaction of creating structures that did not exist before. **We invite you to spend time building with your child in the classroom or at home and share what you see your child learning!**

Teachers: Karen, Diane, Wendy

Toddler 6:

In January, we continued to explore ice and its properties, doing ice art, putting ice in the wet sensory table, and investigating as to where ice would most likely appear outside and why. We discussed and asked open ended questions about ice, and made predictions about what would happen to it once it was out of the freezer and got warm. We also collected any ice we found on the playground and put it in the outdoor wet sensory table, where we were able to compare sizes of the various "ice cubes," as the children called them. One of the indoor activities the children really enjoyed was actually an entire center in the T6 room. Everyone became a "handyman" when we put construction props out in the dramatic play area, using toy saws, screw drivers, goggles, wrenches, and various other tools. **Families can extend the learning at home by involving them (safely of course!) in a minor repair or handyman project such as hanging a picture. Explain aloud the problem, your hypotheses and steps of how you will fix it, and the names of the tools you will use. Let us know, and perhaps we can recreate the opportunity here so they can act as the expert and teach us!** We are also asking at this time if parents can start save plastic shopping bags for us. We have a number of children who are potty training and are in need of them for wet clothes. Thank you!

Teachers: Marlize, Donna, Wendy

February 2015

Preschool Classroom Clips ~ Vanessa Von Papp, Specialist 3

Preschool 3:

Hi everyone! The P3 class is excited to have Teacher Megan join our classroom. She has brought so many inviting ideas and activities to us and we are thrilled to have her part of our lives! It's been so much fun to learn some of her songs and games. **Ask your child about the chant "icky bicky soda crackers icky bicky boo" and just try going throughout your day without saying it in your head over and over.....it is really cute and promotes turn-taking and imagination!**

1. What was the one or two activity/subject/event that turned out to be the most engaging to the children in your class in January?

The creation of a writing center with personal writing journals has been a big hit in our class. Journaling helps to extend and expand the children's language and early literacy skills. The children are learning name recognition by finding their own journal to write in, they are drawing and then with our help we write what they dictate, teaching emergent writing and the importance of the written word.

2. What are you most excited about exploring with or presenting to the children in February and why?

We are just beginning to investigate an emergent interest in music and sounds. We have built a stage for performing and look forward to exploring new and diverse instruments and even creating some of our own! Look for us to expand on our enthusiasm for sound in math, science, and literacy experiences as well!

Teachers: Page, Megan, Margarita

Preschool 4:

Last month the children greatly enjoyed our little slice of Outer Space. They pretended to be astronauts, building space ships, observing images of planets, and making plans for the different things they could do. **It was great preparation for the Preschool Family Night at the planetarium—or just a walk outside on a clear night with you!**

This month we are excited to explore further the big world of letters. The children are noticing letters important to their lives and wanting to write them! At home they might enjoy looking at the names of their family members, typically first focusing on the first letter of each name. They might also be interested in creating artwork for others, and writing a name (or part of name) of the person they want to give it to.

Teachers: Mala, Lindsay, Margarita

Pre-K 1:

First a big welcome to our new teacher, Elyse! She and Linda are excited to be working together again, collaborating and creating great experiences for the children!

The class has created a wonderful new environment for our work. After moving the furniture around and redesigning many of our work areas in our classroom, our children have become very interested in building. Great structures of been created with much organizing and cooperation between the children. You can look at pictures of some of our buildings in our block area. **Please feel free to bring in any pictures of buildings you and your child find in magazines or maybe one your family has visited. We will post them with our collection.** As we move into February we will work on building in a different way...a project of making a city out of small cardboard boxes. **Please bring in a few small boxes for our children to plan, invent and construct with.**

Teachers: Linda, Elyse, Khazal

Pre-K 2:

In January, our class studied what animals do to survive in the winter. We talked about how some animals adapt, migrate or hibernate to survive the winter with limited food sources. We also explored our five senses with tasting, hearing, touching, seeing and smelling experiments. In February, we will investigate multiple ways to build using different types of material that we can find inside the classroom and out. Children will be able to record their observations using drawings, taking pictures of their building and/or writing something about their structure. **Parents can help by asking their children to point out and describe common shapes of their house or other buildings as you read together, walk your neighborhood or travel to school.**

Teachers: Robin, Sarah, Khazal

Will your child be moving on to kindergarten next year? Time to start thinking about where they will be headed...



If you are in the Bellevue School district it is time for families to register you Kindergarteners for next school year.

All children who will be 5 years old by August 31 should be registered.

Lake Hills Elementary provides all day Kindergarten for all of their students. At other elementary schools, half-day Kindergarten is free and Bellevue has a sliding scale for tuition for full-day K. Bellevue School District uses a standard Kindergarten registration packet. However some schools include additional items such as a checklist.

Early Kindergarten registration is important for both the school and the family

When the family registers their child for Kindergarten, the school can notify them of events such as school tours and family nights that help the child learn about school. These events help children get excited about Kindergarten and also reduce the family's anxiety about starting school. Early registration also helps the school because they know the number of children in Kindergarten which means the principal can hire the right amount of teachers.

Kindergarten Information Nights are underway – click on this link to find the date & time for these nights: <http://www.bsd405.org/news-events/information-nights/kindergarten.aspx>

Find more information and links to find your child's neighborhood school, Kindergarten readiness, full-day tuition and registration. <https://www.bsd405.org/schools/kindergarten.aspx>

The Bellevue School District also offers **early learning programs and after school programs** including free programs for qualified families. Click on this link to learn more: <http://www.bsd405.org/about-us/departments/student-services/early-learning-preschool.aspx>

More information for Bellevue and other school districts:

- ⇒ Bellevue School District www.bsd405.org/schools/kindergarten
- ⇒ Issaquah School District www.issaquah.web.net.edu
- ⇒ Lake Washington School District www.lwsd.org
- ⇒ Northshore School District www.nsd.org/kindergarten
- ⇒ Renton School District www.rentonschools.us
- ⇒ Riverview School District www.riverview.wednet.edu
- ⇒ Seattle School District www.seattleschools.org
- ⇒ Snoqualmie Valley School District www.svsd410.org

Also, please visit our display in the ELC lobby!

February 2015

Safety Communications

It is important that the ELC has current information on how to contact you. Please make sure we know your latest phone numbers and e-mail addresses, and review the names and contact numbers you have listed as people with Permission to Pick up.

If you received this newsletter by e-mail, you have a current e-mail address in the ProCare system. This is also the source that was used to send out the notice of the precautionary lockdown the ELC took on Monday, February 2, 2015. In the months ahead, we hope to be updating this system to add additional features that will increase our ability to serve children and families.

The ELC functions under a higher level of precaution than the rest of the campus, so for example on Monday, the rest of the campus was not alerted.

In order to receive Campus-wide alerts, we ask you also to sign up for the RAVE system, which can send you both e-mails, and, if you elect, text messages. www.bellevue.college.edu/alerts/ The most common use of Rave Alert will be to communicate when the college is closed due to inclement weather. Types of emergencies may include unexpected occurrences such as earthquakes or power outages, or other events that could put your safety at risk.



Sign Up For Campus Alerts

RAVE
MOBILE SAFETY

Get Instant:

- > Emergency Information & Updates
- > Campus Closure Alerts
- > Class Cancellations

Don't be the last to know!

via Text Message!

We learned last month that if you do not have a Bellevue College address, you are unable to complete this process. There has been a sign up at the ELC front desk so that we can submit this list to Campus Security and they can add your information manually into the RAVE system.

Please help us by taking this step and providing this information.

