

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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July 2017

Dear ELC Families,

The new outdoor materials have arrived and the children are exploring various ways to use them while working together with their friends. Some of the items include toddler and preschool size picnic tables, water tables, a lot of outdoor blocks and crates and a new climber for the toddler yard. I have had some requests for cars to put down the ramps, buckets, scoops and boats for the water table and something to carry in the wheel barrels. Any thoughts? Most of the new materials are open-ended and have provided the children with unlimited play experiences. It's amazing to see and hear what children come up with when given some loose parts!

Preschool— As many of you already know Teacher Marissa's last day at the ELC will be July 6th. In preparation for the graduation of our pre-k classes and our preschool children moving up, P3 Teacher Mala will be moving up to pre-k 2, team teaching with Teacher Haley on July 7th. She knows many of the children and families already, which will provide the children with some continuity. Teacher Karen will continue in P3 working with Margarita and patiently awaiting a new co-teacher.

Mark your calendar— Mikey, Mike the Rad Scientist will be here with his guitar for a fun night of music. We will be serving pizza and watermelon for those of you that are hungry.

Warmly,
Lisa Miller
Director, ELC

Dates to Remember



6/26-8/10
Summer Quarter
ELC OPEN

7/4/17

Independence Day
ELC CLOSED

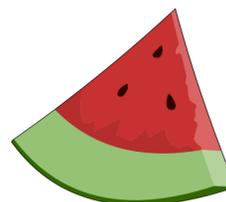


7/7/17

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

7/21/17

Family Night
Mikey, Mike the Rad Scientist
5:30-7:00pm



July 2017

ELC Annual Family Picnic



More than a third of the ELC families came to Robinswood Park on June 2, 2017 to share in our **Annual Family Potluck Picnic**. There was so much delicious food, smiling faces, great conversations- even the weather cooperated.



June 2, 2017 at Robinswood Park

ELC Annual Family Picnic



We appreciate that all families are busy, and yet we also know how important it is to relax, socialize and play together. Your engagement with their school community makes it a better learning environment for everyone!



What's new in the Infant Rooms?

Infant 1 Teachers: Liliana, Lisa-Ann and Rachel * Infant 2 Teachers: Mahboobeh and Giselle

Infant Room Adventures

Since our last infant room update Sofi has officially joined us; welcome Sofi and family! July is just around the corner and we have been welcoming in the sunshine and the warmth of the summer season. With many mornings outside on our blanket and afternoon stroller rides, our children get a nice experience outside in the fresh air.



In the classroom, we have also been experiencing increasing interest in books and songs with hand gestures, such as “Twinkle Twinkle”, “Wheels on the Bus”, and “If you’re happy and you know it”. We have many friendships that have bloomed and will grow together as some of our soon to be one year olds will be transitioning to the T-1 classroom next month.

Our class will be exploring music as teachers will bring in instruments for the children to hear and play with as well as sing new songs to bounce and dance to. And we hope to see you at our up and coming family event in July!



Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What have the Young Toddlers been learning?

T1 Teachers: Brian, Yen-Chiu & Rachel



We have many younger faces in the classroom at the moment. We have seen growth in self-help skills and independence.

The children have been showing interest in helping each other with certain tasks. We see it a lot when it's time to put shoes on. They even try to help feed each other from time to time but we let them know that it's okay to let their friends practice eating themselves.

Even the skills the children were still getting a solid grasp on a month ago, practice with things like drinking from an open cup, are becoming really strong. Being able to feed themselves is a major skill we learn in our classroom as some children coming to us haven't tried it on their own before.

We get to practice with spoons every breakfast and lunch time. We also use some sign language with the children, especially with the words "More" and "Please". If you're interested in what the signs look like or which ones we use we would love to share them with you.



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Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

July 2017

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T2 Room Teachers: Rita, Parisa and Naghmeh

The month of June was a very busy month for us. We transitioned to our temporary new classroom. Our children were very excited to come to their new classroom. Over all the transition happened very smoothly. The children were very excited to be in the new environment and we provided lots of different centers as before but in a different setting.

Last month all of our five butterflies hatched from their cocoon and after a few days we set them free which was an exciting event for our children. The children were asking lots of questions such as “Where will the butterflies go?” We planted our plants outside and all plants are growing well.



Our children were really excited about the new playground materials. They experiment building with the wooden blocks and they are showing a lot of interest. We just got the new water tub outside and as the weather is getting warmer we are going to provide water activities outside. Please bring extra clothes for your child.

We are extending our food activity until July since we had been really busy and didn't have a chance to make fruit salad. We are going to be providing a signup sheet for parents to sign up for different kinds of summer fruits. Our children will experience making a salad together and tasting different fruits. We will discuss the different textures and tastes of fruits.



A few of our children are transitioning into preschool and a few children from the younger toddler room will be transitioning to our classroom. We will be busy helping the children feel comfortable in their new classroom and help the older children transitioning to preschool have a smooth transition into their new classroom. We are going to provide lots of fun art activities and focusing on teaching the new children our classroom routine.

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Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the Toddlers been learning?

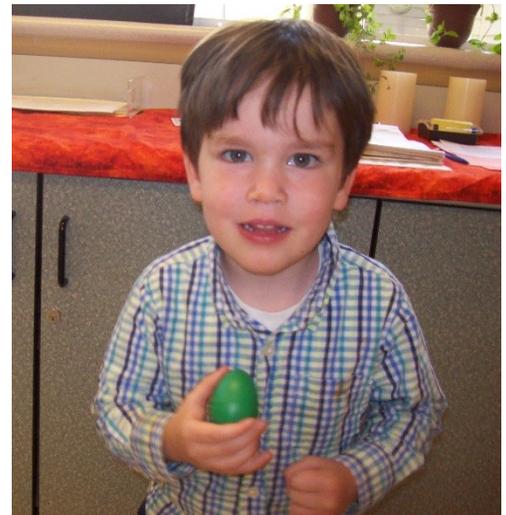
T3 Room Teachers: Donna, Diane and Naghmeh

We are now T3! We have been getting use to our new temporary classroom and are helping the children become familiar with school routines.

As your child participates in activities that help him/her learn about the value of having and following directions he/she will become more comfortable with being part of a community of learners at school. One of the techniques we have been doing is singing familiar songs, we do a lot of singing and creative movement in our room.

Singing and moving to music give the children a chance to move freely, practice new skills, and feel good about what their bodies can do. The children love our daily time for singing together, and it helps them develop the ability to cooperate in a group. Here are some of the things we do to encourage a love for music and movement.

- ◆ We are planning on taking some music outside and play jazz or folk music, and the children dance and act out the songs
- ◆ We give the children colored scarves and paper streamers to use as they move to the music
- ◆ We play musical instruments, some of which are homemade
- ◆ We use chants to help us get through the daily routines, such as clean up time.
- ◆ We have a comfortable listening center with a wide variety of tapes for children to listen to on their own.



Cody adds to the beat of the music with his shaker!



Adrian joyfully dances to some music

What You Can Do at Home?

You don't have to be musical to enjoy music with your child. Taking a few minutes to sit together and listen to music can provide a welcome break for both of you.

Also the music you share with your child doesn't have to be only "kid's music". It can be rap, reggae, country, jazz, classical or any music you like.

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Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

July 2017

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T5 Room Teachers: Paula, Iryna and Khazal

We have been working on the following skills: self-regulation, empathy, waiting for a friend and building positive relationships with peers and adults.

Toddlers learn through play. As we go through our day we are learning different ways of solving problems with our peers. If a friend has a toy we are learning to ask questions such as, “Are you done yet?” Or “Can I join you?”



Waiting is not always easy for a toddler. We have been learning to take a different approach such as: What can I do while I wait? Also learning how to show frustration in a healthy way. Talking through the emotion so we can get a positive result. Like any skill, toddlers learn in small steps. We will continue to grow in this area as our toddlers grow.

Pictured here is Lisa and Joy playing together taking turns to pour the sand, Saliyah joins the small group, but she is on her own task to scoop the sand. McKenna is busy and engaged with scooping and pouring the sand too. They can work on tasks with others towards a common goal and they are able to play for extended periods of time.



Pictured on the right, David and Anton are playing together, and Aeris enters easily into ongoing group play, and they play cooperatively.

We encourage parents to spend time at the park in order to enhance more social-emotional skills.

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Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T6 Room Teachers: Annie, Ali and Khazal

Hello Families,

We want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we get situated in our new classroom. The children are settling into their old routines well despite the change in location. We are amazed at their level of flexibility and believe this is a direct result of their social emotional development.



Some exciting materials recently arrived and the children have loved exploring them on the playground. We have new blocks, crates, tables with benches, storage sheds, a climber, and a water table. The children enjoy balancing on the crates and sitting inside them as well as stacking the large wooden blocks and carrying them around.

The past few weeks in the classroom we have been rediscovering old materials in a new space. The puzzles, babies, dinosaurs, and books have been especially popular.



Several older children from our classroom are moving on to T2 and we have some new friends joining us from T1. We look forward to some summer fun with the children in the coming month.

Please double check that your child has sunscreen and a dry change of clothes for when they get wet outside.

Ali and Annie

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Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

July 2017

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P4 Room Teachers: Chisaki, Wendy and Margarita

The sunshine is here and it is that time of year when we must say goodbye to old friends and we welcome new ones to our classroom. We are wrapping up our building unit and will move onto Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We are also focusing on becoming good listeners and respecting others when they are talking.

Change is a part of life, our children will grow and



learn new coping skills by forming new friendships and adapting to new classrooms and routines. Help them embark on this new adventure as you talk about the changes at home.

The building unit taught the children about how buildings are constructed and what people do inside of them. We are lucky in that we have our very own construction site next to our center and the

children are able to watch the progress.

Trash and garbage are all around our community and the children are able to become part of the solution. Since children are naturally curious they are eager to help clean up and reuse things in a different way. The children will also learn how to help our community and environment around us. Help us by contributing to our recycling box which the children can explore ways we can turn them into something new.

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July 2017

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P3 Room Teachers: Karen, Mala and Margarita

We would like to take the time to say goodbye to our friends that have moved up to Pre-K and welcome to our new friends that are transitioning into Preschool from the Toddler classrooms. We are so glad to have you here with us!

Just to share what we have been doing last month with our building exploration. The children really enjoyed learning about buildings. We used many open-ended questions and prompts to stimulate discussions about buildings. Such as what do buildings in our neighborhood and in other places look like? Who builds buildings?



What tools do they use? The children had some amazing answers!



The P-3 children got the opportunity to visit the construction site. They got to see building materials, cement being mixed and poured through the pipe to create a foundation. They were very curious and fascinated to see how the construction site came alive. We also had a guest speaker Jason Straight (Hazel's dad) come in and share with us about his job as a contractor. He brought in pictures of his house that he expanded, he also brought in tools for the children to see and touch. This was very exciting!



Our next topic of study will be Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. As we study trash and garbage and how we can reduce, reuse and recycle, we will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts and technology. We will also be developing thinking skills to observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas. So stay tuned for what is to come!

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July 2017

What have the Pre-K classes been learning?

P2 Teachers: Haley, Marissa and Darrell

News from P 2



We have been learning about buildings! The children have enhanced their vocabulary by learning words such as architect, engineer, inspector, and quarry. The children understand that the architect is the person who determines how many windows, doors, length, and what material to create the building. P2 students created their very own blue print!

They were very creative because some students drew the Seahawks Stadium, apartment buildings and houses. They also enjoyed going outside and drawing the buildings around them. Some students would draw the school while other students drew the apartments across the street.



Also, this month, we walked to QFC and purchased some goodies for our friendship celebration tea party.



Not only did the children purchased the fruit and crackers, but they also prepared the food for the celebration tea party. The children enjoyed walking to the store and kept pointing out the different buildings they saw and the different plants. While on our walk, we noticed several cement trucks and one student mentioned they were going to our school because there was construction site behind our school.

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July 2017

What have the PreK classes been learning?

P1 Teachers: Page, Erica & Darrell



Summer is a great time of year to talk about things we could see and feel when going to the ocean. So many of our friends pretended that they are going to the beach and shared their experiences of seeing things that are in and around the ocean, that we decided to delve more into learning about the ocean and life under the sea.

We began our study by reading books about shells and explored different kinds of things we could find on

the sea shore. Then we questioned ourselves, “Who lives in a shell and where does beach sand come from?” From hermit crabs to sea turtles, we explored many different kinds of animals that make their home in a shell and discovered that sand is made up of crushed rocks and shells. We also made our own snails and hermit crabs by adding real shells to play-dough bodies. They looked very life-like.



Also this month, the children were very curious about tornadoes. So we extended our curiosity to learning by talking about what do tornadoes look like and how they form. We were lucky enough to borrow our teacher’s tornado machine to explore more, which allowed us to watch how a tornado spins and what a real tornado might sound like, with the sound effects.

Next month, we will take our learning to under the sea! We will discuss what we already know about water, oceans, and sea animals first then explore differences between mammals and sea creatures.

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