

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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September 2017

Dear ELC Families,

New starting time beginning September 18, 2017

Young children thrive on routine and structure. The ELC classroom's daily routines are set up in a sequence of expected events that, when done consistently everyday, help children to become independent learners. Routines help to provide a framework for their day and help children understand what is happening, when things will happen, and provide a sense of predictability and safety. You can help your child/children adjust to the routines of school by providing a predictable routine for drop off time.

In order for teachers to plan for the day we are putting into place a new policy. Center hours will remain the same. **You need to have your child here at school each day by 9:00am. If you are going to be late please call the center to let us know 425-564-2240. If you show up after 9:00am your child may not be able to attend that day.** This is also very helpful for the cook when preparing meals.

We had a great in service training on Friday, Aug. 18th. Briana Bennitt from Simplicity Learning was here to talk with us on "Children's Challenging Behaviors". Teachers had a lot of questions and we had a great discussion as a group. Later that day, the infant and toddler teachers all came together to get their rooms back in order and ready for the children on Monday morning. I might add it took a lot of sweat and hard work but they managed to get the rooms looking great!

I am happy to announce that we have a **New Preschool Teacher** who joined our team on Aug. 17th. **Nikki Holt** is team teaching with Wendy in the P4 room. Inside this newsletter, read more about her talents as well as the exciting activities that are going on in your child's classroom.

Staff changes for fall quarter: Chisaki will be leaving the ELC after 10 years of dedication she shared with children, families and co-workers. She has decided to seek her passion and interests to work with children with special needs in an integrated/inclusion classroom with the Bellevue School District. Chisaki's last day here at the ELC will be Sept. 8, 2017.

In other news, Margarita will be moving up with the children in Pre-k 1-2, Naghmeh will be moving up with the children in P3-4 and Darrell will be moving over to assisting in T2-3.

Warmly,
Lisa Miller
Director, ELC

Dates to Remember



9/1/17

**Early closure
4:15 pm**

**Please be in the
building by 4:00 to
pick up your child**

9/4/17

Labor Day

*** BC and ELC CLOSED**



9/14/17

**Bellevue College
Opening Day**

*** BC and ELC CLOSED**

9/18/1

**First day of
Fall Quarter**

**Children need to
be here by 9:00am**



**BELLEVUE
COLLEGE**



9/29/17

**ELC Multicultural
Family Night
Pot Luck & dance
performances**

Welcome New ELC Preschool Teacher

*Hello Bellevue College ~
Early Learning Center families,*

**My name is Nikki Holt and
I am so excited to be joining
the ELC team!**

**I am originally from Kirkland, WA
but I have spent the last 6 years in
Pullman, WA where I attended
Washington State University. I
received my BA degree in Human
Development with a focus in Early Childhood
Education. I also began my teaching career
at WSU as a toddler teacher in their
Children's Center.**



**What I love about being a teacher in Early Childhood is introducing new
and exciting skills to children and watching how each of their individual
minds interprets the new concept.**

**In my free time I enjoy fishing and being outdoors. Just this past year I
began a new hobby....Roller Derby!**

**I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and getting to know your
children.**

September 2017

What's new in the Infant Rooms?

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



Parker lowers her head and crawls through the tunnel!

Our infants have been very busy together exploring movement! So many of our children are developing new ways they can move their bodies. It seems that they are all watching each other, and then, trying new techniques they have observed to move their own bodies.

As they move about the classroom they continue to check in with

their teachers and proudly smile, "Look at me!" The teachers complement each child on how they move and describe what they see each child doing. The children beam and their facial expressions show us just how much our reactions as adults encourages behavior.

Sharing our reactions to our infant's behavior is critical information for them. Is it safe, am I /this ok... Infants learn to observe facial and body reaction to help guide them with their exploration of their world. Social skills of interactions are beginning to develop.

Next month we will continue to build on social interaction with the use of scarfs and mirrors!



Briley moves her body as she pushes to crawl position then pushes forward!



Emma reaches for the walker turns it with one hand and cruises to other side of room!

Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What have the Young Toddlers been learning?

T1 Teachers: Brian, Yen-Chiu & Rachel

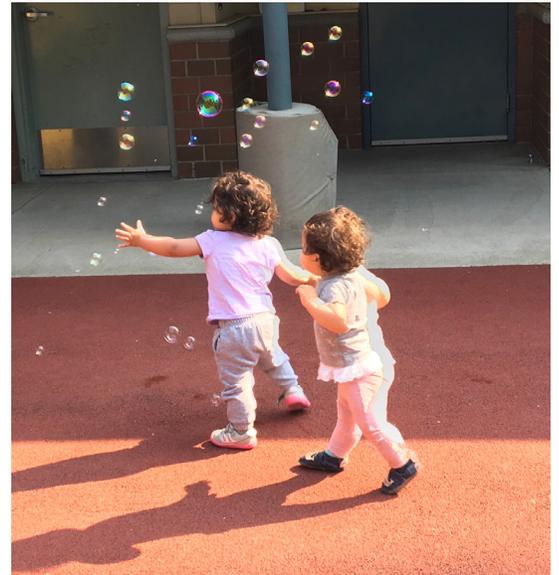


We are finally back in our original T-1 classroom! The children have been getting used to the new room and have been exploring nonstop. We will be making some fine tuning changes in the classroom as new equipment arrives.

We are now back to our two outside times in the morning and afternoon. The children seem excited to get more time to interact outside again.

We will have many children moving to the older class in September and many new children to come and join us. We will miss all the families we've gotten to know over spring and summer and know that your children will be excited for the adventures ahead.

We look forward to meeting and getting to know our new families this fall and are excited to be with you as your children grow and learn with us at school.



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

Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

September 2017

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T2 Room Teachers: Rita, Parisa and Naghmeh

For the month of August we provided lots of fun art activities for our children. We were asking open ended questions and letting the children create their own art. By doing art activities they learn to express their original ideas, feelings, improve their coordination, learn to recognize colors, textures, and develop creativity and pride in their accomplishments. You can help your child appreciate art right in your home, such as when you are looking at books together and talk about the illustrations with your child.



Our children were very excited on Monday. We did some cool art activities with a bar of ivory soap that was placed in the microwave for few minutes. When we asked the children to



describe it, they all came up with some cool responses. One said “It’s a cloud.” We provided water colors and plastic eyedroppers for the children to color the “CLOUD.”

We asked some open ended questions such as “What does that smells like?” One responded “Broccoli” another one said “Smells good.” Over all it was a fun art activity for the children, we will defiantly repeat this activity soon.

The month of August was really busy for us. We moved back to our new classroom and are starting to settle in! It feels good to be back.

In the month of September we will be focusing on transitioning the children in and out of our classroom. We are going to focus on getting to know the new families and new children. We will be reading lots of new books with our children, because they are showing lots of interest.

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

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

September 2017

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T3 Room Teachers: Donna, Diane and Naghmeh



This week we moved into T3. The children have really been enjoying exploring their new classroom. One child even told a teacher “My classroom is so cool!”

This month the King County Library Bus came to our center and we received numerous new books. Reading books is a significant activity in our classroom. Some of the books they enjoy include:

The Potty Train by David Hochman and Ruth Kennison

Sleep Tight Little Bear by Britta Teckentrup

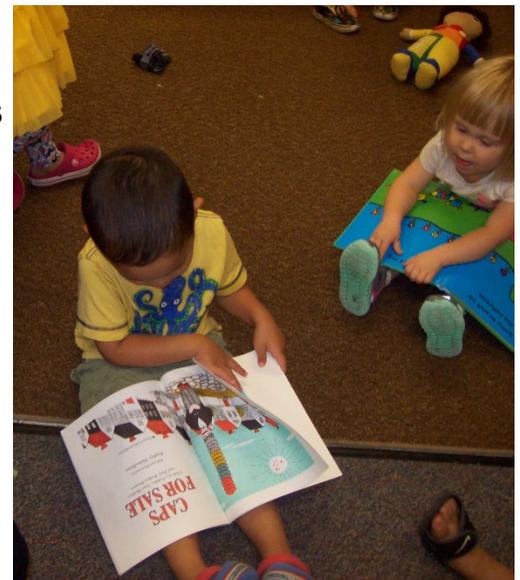
I want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen

So much learning happens when we read to children that include:

- Better communication skills
- Mastery of language
- Even the basics of how to read a book. Children aren't born with an innate knowledge that text is read from left to right, Essential pre-reading skills like these are among the major benefits of early reading.

Although we had to spend some time indoors because of the hazy skies. We still have been exploring outdoors and ways to do everyday things but try them outside, we even have a book area outdoors. You are welcome to come and read a book to your child. Remember when you read to your child, have fun!

Wow, summer is almost over, we are so excited to move into our permanent classroom. We have so many adventures and learning to explore for the month of September.



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

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the Toddlers been learning?

Special Edition: Toddlers Combined!

T5 Room Teachers: Paula, Iryna and Khazal- T6 Room Teachers: Annie, Megan

During summer, vacation and break period, children from T5 and T6 had a great opportunity to stay together, which gave them a chance to make new friends and develop their social skills.

Summer is a fabulous time for outside activities; the outdoors has more to offer than just physical benefits.

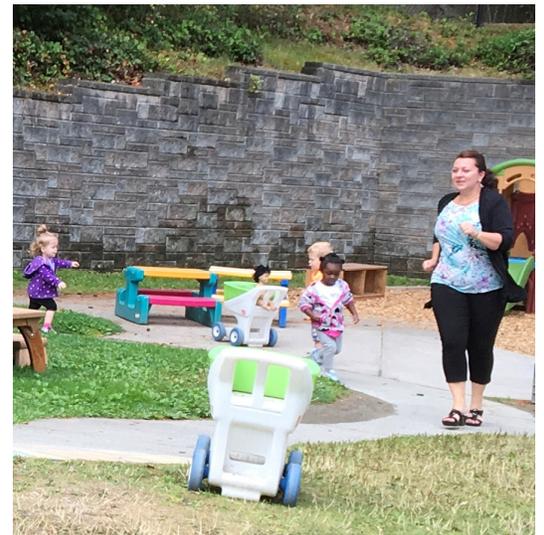
Our toddlers were able to improve their cognitive, social, and language skills with various outside activities, such as washing babies and toys in the water table, drawing with chalks, reading the books, etc.



Jaden looked at Joy painting and chose the same color, and they worked together for extended periods initiating the sharing of materials.



Claire and her friends were taking care of baby dolls washing them with soap water, using sponges, demonstrating the improvement of self-care skills and routines.



Finally, what better place than the outdoors for children to be loud and messy? Outside they can run and jump, and yell, and expend some of the energy that is usually inappropriate indoors.

Annie - ygu@bellevuecollege.edu * Megan - megan.russell@bellevuecollege.edu

Paula - paula.bourgeois@bellevuecollege.edu Irynairyna.antonyuk@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

September 2017

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P4 Room Teachers: Chisaki, Wendy and Margarita



The past month we have been learning about balls and conducting various experiments using balls and recording our results. We have also been exploring our campus when we traveled to the Billy Goat Gruff Bridge to look for the Troll and the Goats (They were on vacation the children concluded.) We finished our artwork masterpiece from the recycled materials the children brought from home, thank you families for making this a fun experience and participating.

The month of September we will focus on the three factors in establishing positive relationships.

First is to make and sustain a positive relationships with adults. Next making and keeping friends, and learning to relate in the appropriate manner to their peers. Lastly is the reading of the emotional cues of others and reacting in an appropriately manner to peers and adults feelings. These are the key ingredients to children forming friendships in which they acquire positive social skills and they learn how to negotiate to work together.



We will be welcoming a lot of new friends and families in this month. We would like to learn about each other and celebrate each other's cultures. We will bring multicultural materials and introduce a variety of languages that we can use for children to learn about respecting and understanding others cultures.

If you have anything you can share with our classroom to enrich it please bring it in or talk to us if you are willing to come into to share about your culture or traditions.

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

Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton

September 2017

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P3 Room Teachers: Karen, Ali and Margarita

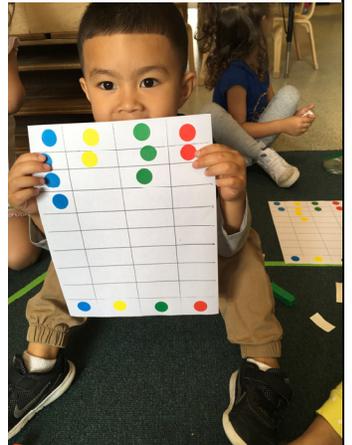
Hello P3 Families,



We wrapped up our study of recycling and have begun the study of balls. The children are very engaged in exploring concepts such as “do all balls roll?” and “what makes balls move?” We will continue this August and into September.

As part of our curriculum we have been working on the math activity, tallying, which is a way to count and keep track of information. This activity has been repeated several times and there is documentation displayed in the classroom. It builds on the math skill of using number concepts and operations but also highlights other areas such as fine motor, cognitive and language development.

We have a class letter box that is making its way through the class. Please look for this coming home with your child. They will go on a search at home to find items that begin with the assigned letter and bring them back to school in the box.



We have created a Look Book that is kept near the parent mailboxes. Please take a moment at pickup or drop-off with your child to look at the book and see what exciting activities we have been up to.

As an addition to our classroom environment and an enriching learning experience for the children we are collecting multicultural items. If you have anything you would like to donate we would greatly appreciate it. Examples include pictures, clothing, décor, fabrics, baskets, musical instruments, books, cd's, art, etc.

Thank you for your support in all we do,
The P3 Teaching Team

Karen - kcarpent@bellevuecollege.edu * Ali - allison.beckvold@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton

September 2017

What have the Pre-K classes been learning?

PreK-2 Teachers: Haley, Mala, and Darrell

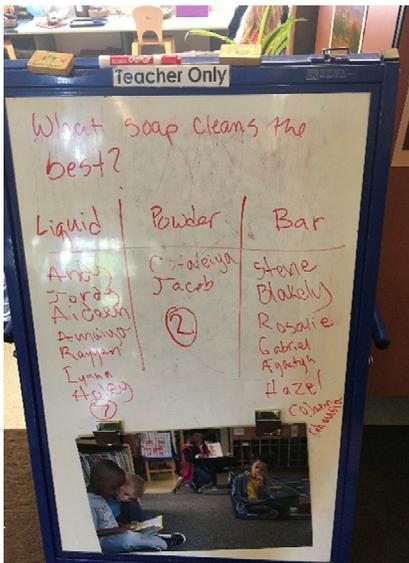


Hello P2 Families!

This month we have enjoyed participating in clothing study! Throughout this month we have explored different fabrics, types of clothing we wear and when we wear it, and learning about how people actually create fabric.



Besides learning about fabrics we have also been exploring different types of soap, and how to care for our clothing. We also enjoyed creating our very own paper hats after reading one of our favorite books, "Caps for Sale" by Esphyr Slobodkina.



As August comes to an end we are sad to say goodbye to our older classmates as they embark on a new journey, entering kindergarten. Even though saying goodbye isn't always easy, we are very excited for these friends!

We are very happy to also officially welcome teacher Mala into P2! Throughout the month of September we will also be welcoming many new friends moving up from P3 and P4!

Haley - Haley.clapp@bellevuecollege.edu * mkrishna@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton

September 2017

What have the PreK classes been learning?

PreK-1 Teachers: Page & Darrell



As our social skills of turn taking and following rules have developed the children have found much enjoyment playing games, both store bought and homemade games.

Your child learns a lot from playing games! Give it a try at home. They learn how to take turns and wait patiently. They learn math skills of counting, reading and fine motor skills.

One attribute you will most likely give a big thumbs up to is that they learn how to be a good sport, how to be a gracious winner and loser. So the next time you want something fun to do with your child, give playing games a try.

Last week we talked about the solar eclipse. What exactly it was and how special it is. We stayed indoors during that time and some of the children watched it on our classroom iPad.



Having iPads in our rooms this year has been an awesome teaching tool. Just like the eclipse, we also look up information about animals, planets, food and music. Now when we want to hear what a hippo sounds like, we can find it on the iPad.

Page Knapp
PreK1



Page - pknapp@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton