

# Early Learning Center

Where Families Connect to Learn, Grow and Play!

Contact us at: [www.bellevuecollege.edu/childcare](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/childcare) 425-564-2240

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## September 2014

### Welcome to Fall Quarter at the ELC!

Whether these are your family's first days at the ELC, or a familiar ritual, there is a new energy that goes along with the beginning of Fall Quarter. Some children move to a new classroom, others welcome in new friends to join their community. At home, everyone in the family is likely taking on new roles and responsibilities. So much to learn at every turn! **Transitions like these require courage and time till the world seems familiar again. Remember we are here to help!**

As I joined the ELC on August 1, I also have much to learn, but know I am in good company. I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received at BC, from staff and families— and also the former director, Verna Willis. Verna has been a colleague and friend to me for many years, and while she cares deeply about the ELC staff and families, she also reports much happiness in her new life and home.

I am starting at the beginning with making connections with all of you. My first questions are:

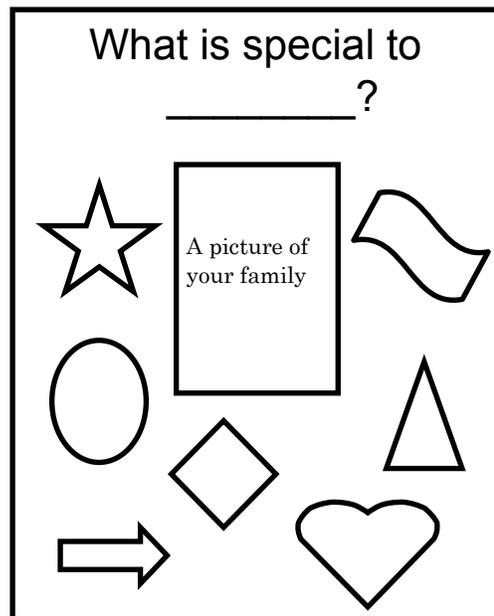
- **What do you most want us to understand about you and your child?**
- **What has been most important to you at the ELC?**
- **How might we enhance you and your child's ELC experience?**

I will be asking you these and other questions, and listening for answers in many ways this quarter, including Family Activities, a Family Survey and a Family Meeting. You are also welcome, always, to meet with me. It is a new learning time for all of us and I am excited to begin this journey with you.

*Kelly Davidson*  
Director, ELC

### September Family Activity

By now, you have received a package from your child teacher. We hope you will share a picture of your family so your child can see the people most important to him all the time.



In addition please add images or words of other things special to your child and family. Have fun!

This page will be posted for your child to share with their friends. It will also help teachers build relationships with you and your child and individualize the curriculum to build on your child's strengths, interests and experiences. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about completing this activity please let us know!

### Coming up in October

**ELC Family Survey** Leave your e-mail at the desk if you would prefer to receive it to electronically!

**ELC Family Meeting** Please join us on **Thursday October 23, 2014 4:45-5:30** to hear initial results of the ELC Family Survey and share your ideas for the future.

## September 2014

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

#### Infant 1:

What a busy and fun summer we had! We spent lots of outside time on a blanket in the grass area, enjoying the sunshine and the fresh air, experiencing the texture of the grass and the sounds of the birds; and also different kind of cars around. We had a new friend join our group too. Some songs were popular for us like :“The wheels on the Bus “ and Row, Row your Boat”.

Our children are growing and getting new accomplishments in all areas of development. We are planning to take our children to the play-ground to enjoy time with T1 children and teachers. It will be a good experience to observe new faces around for our younger babies; good transitioning for the older ones ; and ,in general ,new experiences for all of them. We also want to collect some natural items (rocks, leaves, branches) in our walks and bring them to our classroom

**Teachers: Lisa Ann, Liliana, Ghousia**

#### Infant 2:

In this month, we focused on building relationships with our new families and babies. Our older group of children were mastering their fine and large motor skills using small balls and jars, stacking up small blocks, reaching for and following moving toys and using a big block to hold on and pull themselves to standing. Now some of our babies can pullup to standing, and some scoot around following the little cars and balls.

For the next month we have plan to spread our big blanket in the fenced grassy area in front of Preschool and let our children to lay on it and use their senses to experience the environment. We will talk about the sounds we hear, the feeling of the breeze and grass, the trees and people ...We are going to have a busy interesting month ahead.

**Teachers: Mahboobeh, Parisa, Ghousia**

#### Young Toddlers – Toddler One :

In the month of August we provided lots of chances for our children to explore different activities outside such as water play and drawing with chalk on the ground. Our children had lots of opportunities to learn new words that describe parts of our body. We also used primary colors blue and yellow and red and learned what colors we can make by mixing two colors. Our children are showing lots of interest in books, so for the month of September we will be singing lots of songs and reading lots of stories, and rhymes to help increase our children’s language.

They will have lots of chances to participate in activities that draw their attention to the sounds of language. Our children will explore the materials that are included in the stories “Three Pigs” and “Old McDonald” and will learn new vocabulary.

**Teachers: Yen Chui, Parisa, Ghousia**

### Toddlers and Preschool Classroom Clips ~ Vanessa VonPapp, Specialist

#### Toddler 2:

We have had a busy summer and we have extended our “litter patrol” and now have a “recycle center” in the classroom. This center is helping children learn about what they can do for nature and for people, also provides experience for sorting, matching and classification.

We have also been spending a lot more time outside investigating water and bringing part of the classroom outdoors. Going outdoors gives children an entirely different environment to explore. Even picking up pinecones to put in a bucket involves math when we sort them by size. For the month of September we look forward to welcoming our new children and families and we will be fostering relationships through activities that incorporate playing as a group, cooperating, and entering into play with others. We will also learn about friendships and caring about the feelings of others

We will also be investigating water and sand, both of these are natural materials for learning. When children pour water into measuring cups, they are exploring math concepts. When they drop corks, stones, and feathers into a tub of water, they are scientists exploring which objects float and sink. When they comb and into patterns they learn about math and art.

**Teachers: Diane, Chisaki, Naghmeh**

#### Toddler 3:

For the last few months we have had many warm wonderful days. Everyday has included some sort of water play. Our children have been interested in bugs, looking for insects around the play yard. Another hit was planting seeds and watching our plants grow, even tasting some of the food. We liked the strawberries the best!

For the month of September we will be welcoming new families and making new friends. We will be expanding children vocabulary and expression as we introduce new words, such as “Goodness!” which is a repeated throughout the popular Pete the Cat stories and songs. We will talk about what new words mean and act them out. We will be making a song box that will hold all the children favorite songs so they can learn to recognize and choose them.

**Teachers: Rita, Annie, Naghmeh**

#### Toddler 5:

The wonderful June/July weather was the perfect vehicle for our planting projects. The flowers we planted in the greenhouse sprouted and we are enjoying the beautiful blooms they produced.

Our Eric Carle exploration was a huge success! We delved in to “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”, “The Grouchy Ladybug”, “The Very Busy Spider”, “The Little Cloud” and “The Very Quiet Cricket”. The children learned about the various insects that are depicted in the books as well as the messages about self-awareness that Mr. Carle includes in his books.

August allowed us to spend more time and plan more activities outside. We used paint, chalk, mud and plant dyes to create some beautiful natural organic art. The children discovered where colors come from and how to find those colors in nature. We continue to observe the living things on campus, such as, trees, flowers, insects and birds, and discuss how they change with the weather.

We are looking forward to an equally pleasant September and hoping the weather cooperates so we can continue our relationship with the

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### Toddler 6:

During the summer we have been exploring the BC campus during our weekly walks. We visited the BC Greenhouse and even planted some flowers in our own greenhouse on the preschool playground. The children have demonstrated knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials by observing and predicting how living things grow, change and reproduce. The terminology we have been using while talking about the plants are germination, sprout, and stalk. Other things we have been encouraging the children to do during the summer are to express their feelings and emotions. We have created a new game that we play during circle time which gives the children the opportunity to practice and articulate their feelings and emotions. In the process they will learn to regulate their own emotions and behaviors. Throughout the month of September as we welcome new children into the class, we will encourage the children to continue with building their sense of community by working together, helping each other, and making friends. In doing so they establish and sustain positive relationships that would last them for years to come.

**Teachers: Marlize, Donna, Wendy**

### Preschool 3:

With the beautiful weather we have been having, our class have been enjoying our summer days talking about the different insects outside (ex. dragonflies) in addition to learning more about how the earth rotates and why our seasons and weather changes. We have also been emphasizing on meeting our new friends joining the class in addition to learning their names. We are helping our new friends feel a sense of belonging into the class and building new friendships within our classroom community. We are learning how to attract and hold attention of others in a pleasant way knowing that it will help us to effectively communicate with each other.

Last month we went on numerous field trips onto campus to visit the fountain, our self-proclaimed "Three Billy Goats Gruff" bridge, and the theatre building. While on the field trips we continuously talked about the importance of being safe pedestrians and learning how to use our eyes, ears, and feet when walking to and from the center.

This month we will emphasize mainly on "Getting to Know Each Other." We will learn our friends' and teachers' name, learn what areas in the classroom they enjoy most, and most importantly, build a connection and friendship with each other. We will talk about emotions and why it is so important to recognize how we are feeling, how our friends feel, and how to communicate it to our friends in class. We are extremely excited to welcome our new friends to the classroom and we cannot wait to start this school year off with a bang!

**Teachers: Kim, Page, Margarita**

### Preschool 4:

In Preschool 4 classroom we will be welcoming new children to the group. We will get to know each other and our names. The children will get opportunities to interact with peers in a respectful manner. They will be able to participate cooperatively and constructively in group situations like working together in the block area, taking turns at the easel, and using their negotiating skills in the process.

We will be going on field trips and explore the campus and our surroundings. The children will get to hunt for nature objects (pine cones, branches, leaves) that they can use for art. We will observe the environment during our walks and jot down things we saw on our field trip when we get back to the classroom. This way the children will get to recall/remember what they saw and connect the experience.

The children are working on classifying objects by color and size. We will be exploring this area using other materials for the children to group. In P 4 the children are beginning to identify their name in print. We will keep inventing more ways where the children will get to identify letters and the sounds they make. All our centers will have a letter. The children will get to identify the letters while transition to different work area.

We are so looking forward for our new class year to commence.

**Teachers: Mala, Lindsay, Margarita**

### Pre-K 1:

September is here and it is a wonderment where the time went. Fantastic warm summer weather allowed lots of opportunities for outside learning. Water play, wet sand, bubbles, and time watching the garden grow, has been the focus this summer. With the garden, blueberries became scones with a little baking magic, kale became popsicles a little blender/freezer help, and lettuce became the most delicious salads with lots of chopping by eager students. Our children delighted in discovering new and interesting tastes. Growing and preparing the food is an important opportunity for learning how vitamins help our bodies grow and stay strong. The outdoors became the indoors in our creative dramatics area imagining going to the beach or camping in the woods. With the summer at the end, many P-1 students are leaving and moving on to Kindergarten. Each week, we are saying goodbye to old friends and hello to new friends transitioning from P -3 and P-4.

We have been focusing on math concepts all summer, counting on and taking away as we play with various manipulatives. We will continue to work on math skills for September with sorting and counting learning experiences. Children get opportunities to draw and write their own stories based on books read during group time. Printing words and writing short sentences from the stories, will help further develop their language and literacy skills preparing them for Kindergarten 2015. For fall science, we will continue to look at the changes in the weather and leaves and start to record them in weather journals.

**Teachers: Mary, Linda, Khazal**

### Pre-K 2:

We had a fantastic summer! Our class enjoyed field trips exploring the immediate area around the campus. We went to the soccer field to jog the track, have relay races or to draw our observations. On finger food Friday's we had picnics out on the grassy area outside our back door. On the playground we watched our plants grow, took measurements, compared size/length and harvested pounds of potatoes and zucchini. The zucchini grew in such abundance we were able to bake with it, make a stir-fry with our homegrown potatoes and make juice from them, which was quite delicious! In the classroom, we worked on emergent writing skills as we wrote letters, words and sentences; we worked on meaningful activities with books that employed listening for information, giving an answer or a comment and trying out new vocabulary words. In September, we will explore and encourage children to recognize their unique characteristics as well as the characteristics they share with others. We will create short stories about our families and begin to learn about other people and how they live. Discussions about the similarities and differences in family structures, homes and habits will increase respect for others and cooperation in our school community! We are looking forward to spending a new school year with students new and old as we explore, discover and learn.