

# 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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## April 2015

Dear ELC Families,

Welcome to Spring Quarter!

**The membership of the Early Learning Center community is beautifully diverse in every season.**

It is also continuously changing, with some families staying for a quarter for a specific class, others to complete a full degree. Others yet, as new or long-time employees of Bellevue College, Costco, or as community members, enroll a first child in their family as an infant and then stay several years and children until the youngest sets off for kindergarten.

**I believe there are a few things however, that are consistent about every family in the ELC community.**

- 1.) You each **know** your children in a way that no one else ever will.
- 2.) You each **care** about your children passionately.
- 3.) You each have questions, perspectives, ideas, skills and resources to **share** that could contribute to the ELC community, benefitting your child as well as many others.

Those three things combine differently for each of you. Some of you may have the energy to create a family vegetable garden, or a collaborative art or science project with the children. Some of you may have questions or answers about anything from toilet training to school readiness that could inspire a parenting group, an article in the newsletter. You may have a hobby, a tradition, a skill or a concern to share that would open a new world for others, adults and children.

**Every child, every family, is beautifully unique. Whatever you bring to the ELC, you are welcome and encouraged to share what you know about your child, and what you want for them and for the community we share.**

Warmly,

*Kelly*  
Director, ELC

## Dates to Remember



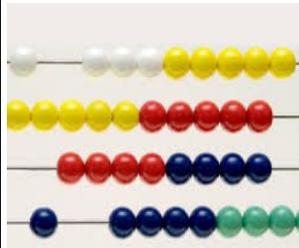
4/6

Spring Quarter Begins



4/7 & 4/14

Family Night at Kids  
Quest Museum  
5:30-7:30



4/9

S&A Fees Budget  
Request Hearing  
12:30-12:45



5/13

Infant and Toddler Room  
Families  
Spring Open House  
6:30-7:30

For a sampling of what your child's class enjoyed most in March, what they are planning to do in April, and how you can be a part of it, read teachers **Classroom Clips** on the following pages!

# April 2015

## [Infants & Young Toddlers Classroom Clips~ Bonnie MacGregor, Specialist 3](#)

### [Infant 1:](#)

March was a busy month in Infant One, full of growth and discovery. The children have blossomed in their motor skills and language acquisition. The infants have shown us all sorts of new ways to move and explore their world. We have seen: rolling, standing, creeping and crawling! They have enjoy using new words or creating and experimenting with different vocalizations. A favorite game is when we repeat the sounds or words back to them. Since the infants have been displaying an interest sounds this month we will incorporate different ways and objects to produce sounds! We will be adding; bells, drums shakers and even some spoons and metal bowls to: produce, compare and contrast sounds. We have also been visited by some very friendly ducks! The ducks enjoy sitting in the flowerbed in front of our classroom and eating the spilled bird seed. We will therefore be incorporating songs and reading books about ducks. We also plan to use the stroller to visit and see the ducks. **We would like more pictures of the children and their families to display—please share! The children enjoy looking at the pictures and talking with us about their family. We are also looking forward to open house and hope to see you and our small friends!**

[Teachers: Lisa Ann, Liliana, Ghousia](#)

### [Infant 2:](#)

In March, the children's interest in birds continued in Infant 2, and then grew to include the difference between birds and ducks, and then cats and dogs! We made additions to our environment to reflect these interests in our room to have lots of opportunities to use language about these engaging creatures—eliciting new sounds and words from some of the older children, and perhaps inspiring some locomotion in our new younger children, who are all growing towards independent movement whether through a roll, scoot or the initial skills of crawling. **We would love to add pictures of your family pets to our classroom walls!**

Also in March, after a series of planned visits, three of our oldest children transitioned to the classroom. Although for teachers, the time with them seemed to go by too quickly, the children have shown that they are eager and ready to have new experiences, while also having the familiarity of each other's company. They are springing forward beautifully!

[Teachers: Mahboobeh, Parisa, Ghousia](#)

### [Young Toddlers – Toddler 1:](#)

The Young Toddlers (and their flexible families) adapted well to the changes in space and routine that came with time spent in a temporary classroom in the Preschool side, as repairs and painting in our usual classroom were done. You could see their ability and understanding grow with practice walking all the way through the preschool wing, past the main lobby, and through the hall to the toddler playground and back twice a day. We used a stroller for our younger, less stable walkers, some riding and some “helping” to push.

Back in our own room we have been excited to see a duck family taking their own walk by our classroom window in the morning and decided to add an elevated bird feeder outside our window on the parking lot side to encourage their visits to enjoy the spilled seeds. In April we will also incorporate pictures of real ducks into our classroom, in addition to adding duck stories and songs to our curriculum. **We are always excited when new families share “About Me” pictures with the class, and like to share the sign language we use at school with you if you'd like to use it at home as well, such as “more” “please” “help” “all done” and “wait”, feel free to ask us.**



T1



Infant and Toddler Classrooms  
Spring Open House  
Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
6:30-7:30pm

Come celebrate the end of Winter Quarter and the coming of Spring by enjoying some simple family friendly activities with your child's teachers, classmates, and their families.

# April 2015

## Toddlers Classroom Clips ~ Bonnie MacGregor and Vanessa Von Papp, Specialist 3s

### Toddler 2:

April is here! We are so excited to see and feel the arrival of spring. Our children seemed to be powered up with their sense of wonder and curiosity. Their faces shine as they dig for worms, and stomp and splash in the mud. Nature experiences are so simple and yet always fascinating, with much hands on learning taking place. Our spring walking field trips will take advantage of this doorway to science. At the same time, children will learn about their bodies in space, practice important physical skills, and exercise and strengthen muscles in the spring fresh air! They will also learn social skills-cooperation, decision making, and being on a team. We will discuss about the plans of field trip each time to make our trips safe and full of learning experiences. **If you would like to go on any of these walks with us, please let us know. We LOVE having our families be a part of our program.**

For April we started to develop our plan to make our garden both inside and outside. Also, our story based activities have encouraged our children to be enthusiastic singers! One of their many favorites right now is "Five Little Monkeys". Children love to repeat familiar rhymes and songs, so we come back to same songs often enough that they can learn the words, feel the rhythm and rhyme and master the accompanying movements. **If you would like to learn more fingerplays and songs, we'll be happy to share some great ones!**

Teachers: Chisaki, Naghmeh

### Toddler 3:

Last month, building on our children's ongoing interest in vehicles and balls, we used our loft as a ramp. The children experimented rolling different kinds of small soft balls and cars down the ramp and noticing how far and fast they would travel. They also worked as a team to build up a train track and drove the cars on the track, "Wu woo..." Lots of fun!

With the arrival of spring we all have an interest in plants. The children developed many skills and questions as they started planting seeds including beans, chives, parsley, basil, cilantro. Next we not only will learn how to take turns to water the plants, but also will learn how to describe the plants by using the words "big" "small" "green" "wet" "dry". **To expand our children's interest in you can explore nature in your neighborhood parks—or smell some of those delicious herbs as you shop in the grocery store!**

Teachers: Rita, Annie, Naghmeh

### Toddler 5:

We still have been exploring the world around us by taking more walks around the center describing what we see, hear and smell. **We have also been practicing some simple stretches and exercises. Ask your child to show you how to stand like a tree!**

In April we will plant different seeds and watch them grow. Toddlers are often thought of as "too young" to be involved in gardening, but they can be engaged through digging, watering, harvesting and exploring worms, noticing and naming insects and birds, all opportunities to develop the skills of a scientist and the love of nature. The best way to help these ages benefit from a garden experience is through their senses. **Whether you put on your boots and plant a big garden at home, or just get a cup, fill it with dirt and a seed, and wait to see what will happen, you will be growing a warm family memory.**

Teachers: Karen, Diane, Wendy

### Toddler 6:

Among the many popular activities in the month of March that the children in T-6 experienced was a walking field trip to the Bellevue College soccer field. On the walk to and from the field, the children were engaged in numerous conversations about what our senses were experiencing along the way. We talked about the buses we saw and heard traveling along their route on campus, the students finishing their morning classes, the birds in the trees or flying overhead, the plants that are starting to bloom now that it is spring, etc. Once at the soccer field, the children had a chance to run on the track as well as the grass. We were also lucky enough to get there at a time when part of the field was sectioned off for mowing, resulting in a front row view of the grounds maintenance crew as they rode on the lawn mowers to cut the grass in style! It was a great opportunity to get outside on campus and experience the onset of the new season. **Parents can extend the experience away from the classroom by going outside on their own family "field trips" to the park, short urban trails, or just a slow walk in the neighborhood, taking time to notice and talk about whatever draws their interest.** For April, we are most excited about the month affording us more and longer walks on campus to see what the rest of Bellevue College is up to these days. It is a great way to feel connected to, and build relationships with, the rest of the college community.



# April 2015

## Preschool Classroom Clips ~ Vanessa Von Papp, Specialist 3 and Deb Walrath, Preschool Program Manager

**Preschool 3:**  
In March, P3 welcomed the addition of a science center to our classroom. In this area we have provided tools and materials that allow the children to question, predict, observe and experiment. **Take a minute and ask your child to give you a tour of this exciting new space! We'd love to see some of our families playing in this and other classroom centers. The beginning of a new quarter is a good time to get involved in our classroom before your schedule gets too busy!**

In the coming weeks we plan to continue our gardening exploration by plating some yummy fruits and vegetables. We are most excited about our cucumbers, which we hope to turn into pickles! We have also seen a lot of student interest in cats, dogs, and pets in general and plan to extend this conversation and explorations throughout April.

**Teachers: Page, Megan, Margarita**

### Preschool 4:

In March we engaged often in opportunities for caretaking: we bathed our baby dolls and dressed them; we played families with puppies and kitties who needed a lot of help from their owners. This month, we are most excited to discover new ways of taking care of our classroom family! We will learn how to help each other feel good and how that helps us feel good, too. **At home, your children might be interested in drawing pictures about how your family takes care of each other to give to the classroom. Please add their words too. We will hang these in the classroom for everyone to share!**

**Teachers: Mala, Lindsay, Margarita**

### Pre-K 1:

Spring is here and we are ready to explore! This month we started taking field trips to campus. We first visited the Bellevue college gymnasium and recreation room to see all the athletic trophies and team photo displays. We also ventured to the International student housing department where we toured the offices and watched nature all around us and brought back items to observe and discuss. We read a story about Bees and their significance to nature and how other insects and arachnids will play a role in our upcoming gardening plans. This month the children are looking forward to gardening and planting their own shrubs, herbs and vegetables. **Families—if you have any plants, flowers or herbs you would like to share with us please feel free to let Elyse and Linda know—or come plant with us!**

**Teachers: Linda, Elyse, Khazal**

### Pre-K 2:

In March, P2 children excitedly invited the rest of preschool to celebrate the Spring Equinox with drums, bells, triangles and then recited poem about spring. It was by far the best experience we had all month! We also began to plan our garden and plant seeds. We can't wait to see them sprout and plant them in the ground. **On April 14th, we looking forward to a visit and tour of the college library where the librarian will read us a story. If you are a parent who has some time that day, be sure and join us!**

**Teachers: Robin, Sarah, Khazal**



*"Wonder is the beginning of wisdom" - Socrates*

You are invited to an ELC Family Night at



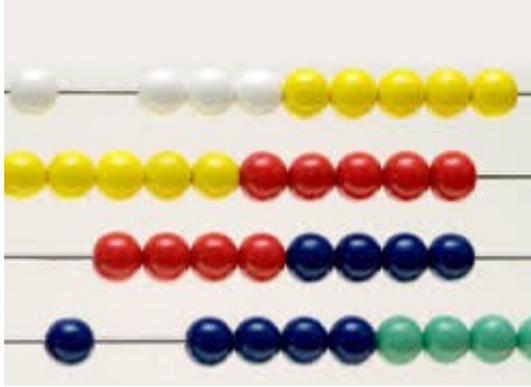
**Tuesday, April 7th and Tuesday, April 14th**  
**5:30 to 7:30pm**

Please sign up at the front desk for this FREE fun way  
learn through play with your child while you  
connect with other ELC families!

**Here are the details:**

- ⇒ Due to limited space, we will offer this opportunity for a limited number of ELC families on two separate nights, but ask that each family attend on only one night.
- ⇒ Families will provide their own transportation to meet at the museum in Factoria Mall.
- ⇒ Families will remain with their child at all times during the event.
- ⇒ Children must be currently ELC enrolled and at least 2 years old.
- ⇒ Older siblings may attend with the family, but must be signed up.

How it All Adds Up  
S&A Fees Request for 2015/2016  
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015  
12:30—12:45 IN C-225



*You are invited to participate in a presentation to the S&A Fees Budget Committee.*

Has the ELC made a difference in your ability to attend and complete classes at Bellevue College?

*After tuition, our largest source of revenue comes from S&A Fees that are paid by and voted on by BC students.*

Would you be willing to provide written or spoken testimony to support continuing this essential funding?

Please sign up in the front office or stop by, call or e-mail Kelly to participate!

kelly.davidson@bellevuecollege.edu  
(425) 564 -2226

**Can we ask you a few questions?**  
*Spring Survey coming up*

We would like to get some more specific feedback from families in a few specific areas as we plan for our programming, budget and operations next year.

For example, at the Health, Nutrition and Sustainability meeting we heard interest in gardening. Is there enough interest to carry this forward?

Other areas we plan to ask about:

- Family volunteer opportunities
- Program additions and tuition options
- Types of Family Events offered
- Transitions between classrooms and to kindergarten
- Integrating photo and video into parent communication



Do you have other suggestions? Questions?

Areas you would like to be more involved in, or you would like to know more about?

Please let any staff member know as we put the survey together.