

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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February 2017

Dear ELC Families,

Children 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 these past few months that we have been short on staff 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 several positions open for many months now. They will each add additional support to staff and to you and your children. I am excited to welcome **Elisabeth Bothwell** to join us as our **new Program Manager**. She will be managing the front office and over seeing the operations of the ELC. Elisabeth has been working at Bellevue College for over two years. Starting with Student Affairs in the International Education Office and then promoting to Program Coordinator in the Social Science Department where she ran the front desk and kept track of the dept budget. She not only has fiscal experience she also has a BA in Elementary Ed. She will start on February 13th.

I am also very pleased to have **Marissa Meraz** joining the ELC team. She has her BA in Liberal Studies and just recently obtained her Masters in Early Childhood Education. She comes to us from Hilltop Elementary School, where she was a Lead Preschool Teacher in their Head Start Program. She will start on March 1st as a **co-teacher with Haley in the P2 classroom**.

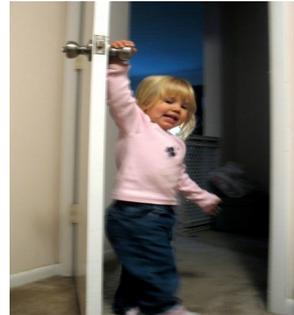
I want to extend a congratulations to **Linda Boyd** as she is promoted to **Specialist 3 in the Infant and Toddler 1 classrooms**. Linda has been with the ELC over 10 years and in the ECE field for over 20 years. She has worked with children from infants to pre-k. She says she enjoys the partnership she creates together with families as they watch the children grow and learn.

In some school districts Kindergarten registration has begun. Come join us on the evening of February 16th from 5:00-6:00pm as we welcome Kindergarten teacher Clare Duffy and learn more about Kindergarten Readiness.

Warmly,
Lisa

Interim Director, ELC

Dates to Remember



2/3/17
Early closure at 4:15pm
Please be in the building by 4:00 to pick up your

2/16/17

Information session with kindergarten teacher Clare Duffy.

At ELC from **5:00-6:00pm**



2/20/17

Classified Professional Development Day

BC and ELC CLOSED

Do you know someone who would be a great Early Childhood teacher?

The Early Learning Center is looking for a creative, compassionate person with a passion for infants!

In addition to joining an experienced team and serving great families, as state employees, ELC staff are eligible for a wide range of benefits, including reduced college tuition.

Learn more here:

<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/jobs/>

ELC News & Updates

Classroom iPads

At the beginning of this year classrooms received iPads, which we believe will improve and expand the classroom curriculum. Listed below are some of the many ways that iPads may be implemented in the classroom. Of course iPad use will vary depending on the age of the classroom children and each educator's comfort level with using technology. iPads are for teacher use and won't be independently accessed by children.



- Taking photos and videos (the quality is so much better than the digital cameras we were using from 2005!): Photos and videos can then be shown to children in order to prompt reflection and planning.
- YouTube: If there is an emerging interest in the classroom educators can look for real life images and videos that might help expand children's understanding of different topics.
- Read-aloud Books: some classrooms enjoy listening to stories before nap. It's nice to have access to so many stories through YouTube! Just the sound is played for children and not the visual.
- Music: we are in the process of uploading music from cds onto the iPads, so eventually we won't ever have to worry about skipping cds! YouTube also provides us with a variety of soft music for nap/rest times, as well as access to music in different languages.

T3's newsletter post shares about an experience the classroom had with using their iPad. Below is some additional information that Annie and Ali has shared about recent changes to screen guidelines for children under the age of 2.

Some parents may be worried about their children's early exposure to the screen. They might know of No screens before age 2, the guideline that was recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1999. But, this guideline for children has been extensively updated and revised due to new research and new habits. The new guideline became effective on 10/21/2016, especially for very young children. It shifts the focus from WHAT is on the screen to WHO else is in the room. And in doing so, they raise some intriguing points about the future of learning from media. The new AAP guideline has changed from "avoid all screens under age 2" to "avoid solo media use in this age group." If you have questions regarding the new AAP guideline, Please go to the following website to get more information:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/10/21/498550475/american-academy-of-pediatrics-lifts-no-screens-under-2-rule>

ELC News & Updates

Scholastic Books

Did you know that you can help us get free books?

We are a part of the Scholastic book club which

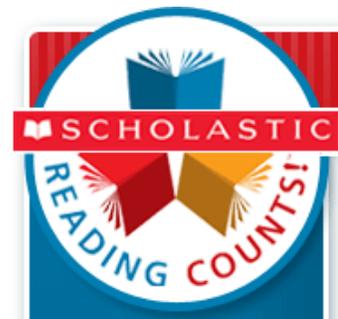
gives families access to quality books at very reasonable prices. Each month we receive book catalogues that are placed on a shelf in the front office. Catalogues mostly feature books for preschool aged children, but the online website offers books for all ages! Catalogues can be used past the month listed, so don't be de-toured if a catalogue is from a previous month.

To access our book club site go to www.scholastic.com/readingclub

Our school code is: QJHV2

When you order books using the above code, our school receives points that will add up to free books! You might also choose to order books for our school. If that's the case we just ask that you not order books based on TV or movie characters.

We believe that reading with children is a very important! Not only does it support language and literacy development, which is essential for school readiness, but the time spent reading together also helps form positive connections and relationships.



What's new in the Infant Rooms?

Infant 1 Teachers: Liliana, Lisa-Ann and Rachel

January has been a busy month in the infant 1 room, new friends (Parker and Arjun) and lots of new experiences and discoveries!

We have seen such an explosion of movement and motor skills this month! We have observed standing, rolling and dancing this month! Another area we have witnessed an explosion of growth is music and language. The infants have started to move or dance along with music and trying to sing along too! We have been spending a lot of time on the floor encouraging and exploration of the infant's independence and developing skills. We are thrilled to see what new stages, dance parties and adventures await us in February!



Left: Look at us! We are enjoying a song and floor time with our teacher. [Porter, Leilani, Ayaz, Alexa, Noah. (The teacher is signing, "Yes" and "Love you", during the song.)



Right: Leilani has pulled herself up on the shelf!

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Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What's new in the Infant Rooms?

Infant 2 Teachers: Mahboobeh, Linda and Rachel

We have been busy exploring all the new in our classroom. New classmates, new skills that have been developing and a new teacher. Infant two welcomes two new families and teacher Rachel!

Here is Walter (below)... he is gazing, studying and cooing at the mobile in his new classroom.



This is Bobby (right) ... he is discovering cause and effect in his new environment ... he kicks his legs on the piano to make sounds!



Reading and looking at books have become a favorite activity in our classroom. Some of the children have mastered the skill of independently flipping through pages of a book as they examine pictures closely. Others enjoy their teacher turning the pages while looking and listening to what it is they see. We all have been enjoying sitting as a group while looking and listening to a story ... and we also like to hear it several times. We are planning a short field trip to the library next door very soon to look and listen to a big book all together!



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Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

February 2017

What have the Young Toddlers been learning?

T1 Teachers: Brian, Yen-Chiu, and Rachel



We were glad to have the children back after the winter break. They spent that first week re-exploring the classroom like everything was brand new again. The climber happens to always be popular and it doesn't take long for the children to practice the skills to navigate it successfully.

We've been noticing lots of pretend phone calls recently. The children have been putting the phone up to their ear and saying "Hello". When children are in a group using similar items in a similar space but not quite playing together, that is called "Parallel Play".



Group activities have also been popular. The children have been dancing and holding hands with adults, now they're trying out holding hands with each other while dancing to music. We look forward to fostering these interests with ongoing group play activities and props that may be familiar to them from their home.

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

Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T2 Room Teachers: Rita, Parisa and Naghmeh

In the month of January our children showed lots of interest toward books. One of their favorite story is “The Wolf is Coming.” They always ask us to read that book to them. We have been providing lots of different books for our children from the Library Bus and rotate them frequently. Some of our children are able to look at each page and retell the stories. We had been providing different science activities for our children to expand their knowledge. We



placed lots of different shapes of ice cubes for our children to explore in the sensory tub. They were really excited to see and touch the ice. They were asked, “What do you see?” They responded “Ice”. Then they were asked, “What shapes are the ice” and they responded “Circle, semicircle”. They started to touch the ice and examine it and they said, “It’s cold, smooth, soft, and slippery”.

We also have experimented with baking soda and vinegar, the children were amazed to see how the vinegar fizzed and bubbled up!!!

In the month of February we will have a few of our children transitioning to preschool. These children are all ready so we anticipate a smooth transition. We will continue working on four main types of self-help skills. Most our children are able to feed themselves. We are encouraging our children to dress by themselves; we will try to



provide minimal assistance but help with challenging steps such as zipping and buttoning. We are looking for signs of readiness for toileting. We encourage children learning to use the toilet to climb on and off the toilet seat, pull clothing up and down, and wash their hands independently. We are ready to provide support and help if our children need it. In our classroom we encourage our children to help with cleaning up toys. Our children are skilled at clearing their own plates and placing their dishes in the right tub. We are going to have another cooking project since our children really enjoyed making their own pizzas.

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

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

February 2017

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T3 Room Teachers: Annie, Ali and Naghmeh

A big thank you to our parents for sending warm coats, hats, and mittens to school. We enjoy going outside even though the weather has become much colder. On these icy days, instead of playing on the playground, we go to the preschool side and explore in P5, our indoor large motor room. Not only have the children practiced walking while holding onto the rope on the way to and coming back from P5, but have also been running, jumping, and climbing in P5 joyfully.



At the beginning of the New Year, we received a new iPad for our classroom. The teachers have been using the iPad for taking high quality pictures, videotaping children's various activities, and playing soft music at nap time. Our children enjoy watching the educational videos on the iPad. Recently, we were studying bears. One day, after the teacher read the book, "Tracks of a Panda", she played a short video of the panda bears on the iPad. The children seemed very interested watching the real pandas on the screen. Some of them pointed to the screen and said, "Panda, Panda."

For information on screen time for children please read the information on page 2.

Questions for our parents:

1. How often is your child exposed to the screen at home?
2. What kind of educational videos would you like your child to watch at school or at home?
3. How can you interact with your child while using technology to make it meaningful?

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Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

February 2017

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T5 Room Teachers: Paula, Iryna and Khazal

In T5 we are talking about environments. We decided to go on a classroom adventure and explore. We incorporated flashlights to enhance our discovery. During this discovery we asked the children what do you see? Can you help me find ____? As we searched, the children began to say things such as “I see a Bear, Let’s go on a Bear Hunt”. Some Children noticed the artwork displayed while others walked along silently with their flashlights amazed by the light shining. This activity opened up many great ideas for us to bring in new materials for the children to explore with. We also discovered how to make shadow puppets with our hands and included story telling. We will continue in this area of discovery as the children are interested.



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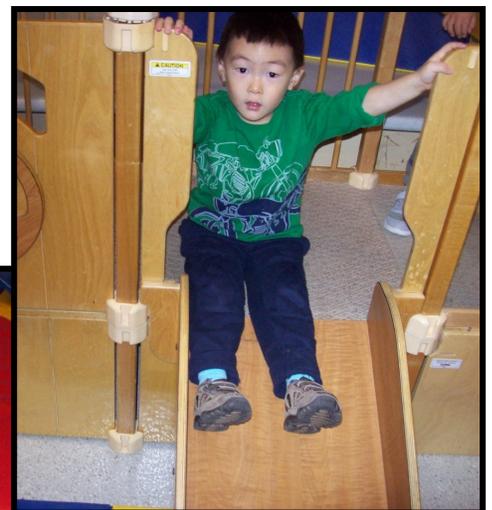
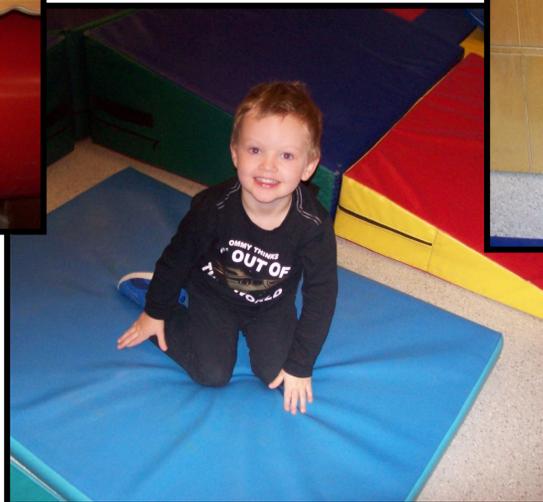
Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

February 2017

What have the Toddlers been learning?

T6 Room Teachers: Donna, Diane and Khazal

With the recent cold snap here at the Early learning Center, making our outside time feel like Amundsen's expedition to the South Pole, we in T6 were enthralled to learn that P5 had been set up to meet our large/gross motor needs that normally occur outside on the playground. We resolved to take advantage of it immediately and every day. The children had a chance to run, climb, throw and kick balls, roll down wedge shaped mats, crawl through tunnels etc. in a warm environment. They loved every minute of it, asking everyday if we were going to "P5". This opportunity for physical development in a warm climate was much appreciated, as the early years are important for the development of fundamental gross motor skills. Children should explore and experiment with balls and similar objects of various sizes and weights and climb on equipment that is proportionate to their size and weights of the children, both of which are critical to develop mature gross motor skills. Children also had an opportunity to learn and practice the concepts of waiting for our turn and taking turns, as it was not always safe nor practical for everyone to be on certain pieces of equipment at the same time. While glad to welcome the warmer weather and to play outside again, we still plan on visiting P5 on occasion in the future.



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Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

February 2017

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P4 Room Teachers: Chisaki, Wendy and Margarita

This month we will be learning about different types of weather. Through this exploration we learn to use our observation skills as well as learning to chart. This will carry over into another area we are focusing on taking care of our own needs appropriately. Lastly we are also focusing on recognizing letters and beginning to write letters from our names.

In our exploration of weather we are learning to use our observation skills to look for signs and clues of what the weather is like. We are using our new knowledge to learn about graphing. Bar graphs and placing stickers on calendars and tallying about how many days of different weather we will have. By taking part in these activities we are also gaining an introduction into math when we practice counting the number of stickers on our calendar. We also are learning about estimating when we guess how many sunny or cloudy days we will have. We will do some scientific exploration in the classroom as we investigate things such as ice crystals and why a solid can change into a liquid.



The children are working on meeting their own needs and listening to their bodies. We are practicing putting on our own gloves, hat, boots and zipping our own jackets. The self-help skills we are practicing encourages their independence and a sense of accomplishment when they can care for their own needs. Encourage them and let them do it at home, you can even make a game who can get gloves on the fastest.



We have been working on recognizing letters in our names and we are encouraging the children to begin to write some letters from their names. We are working on proper grip. At home when you are working on writing have them sit down and write with you. You are the best role model for your child.

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

Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

February 2017

What have the Preschoolers been learning?

P3 Room Teachers: Karen, Mala and Margarita

Collaboration has been a great experience in our preschool classroom. The children have found themselves wanting to work together on projects. And Wow! Can I tell you this has made such an impact in our classroom. So we decided to follow their lead and just see what they will create together. Here are just a few pictures of their creations.



Left: Jasmine says, "You have to wear a seatbelt on the boat".



Left: Ethan said, "This is our town the trains come here"



Left: The children created a house boat. They said "this boat you can live on it", "We all live here"

We will continue to explore collaboration throughout our classroom. During this time of exploration the children demonstrate positive approaches to learning. They show flexibility and inventiveness in thinking. Our next direction of learning will be Science exploration.

Learning through experiments with hands on experiences through cause and effect, such as observing and exploring things in the environment, reactions to changes, predictions, living and nonliving things and much more!

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Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

February 2017

What have the Pre-K classes been learning?

P2 Teachers: Haley, Karen and Darrell

January has been a month filled with discovery and problem solving! Throughout this month we explored the various properties of ice, and how it forms. Our interest in ice began when we discovered that our whole playground was covered in ice. This then brought up many questions such as why did the playground develop ice? One morning a friend discovered that his gloves, which were left outside overnight, were frozen! Our first experiment to determine how ice forms was dipping a tee shirt into water, then setting it outside to discover what would happen. We discovered that the whole t-shirt froze overnight! We also explored what would happen if we added salt to an ice block, and even froze our toy reptiles in plastic cups to explore what would happen!



We have also been practicing our problem solving skills while building and creating unique ramps to use within our classroom. As a small group we used our problem solving skills to determine how to create a ramp, what materials we needed, and what manipulatives to use to test our ramps. This activity of building ramps inspired us to learn more about different types of transportation. From there we mapped and graphed our knowledge and ideas related to transportation. This included identifying different categories of transportation and listing which specific modes go in the different categories (road, water, air, land).

Haley - Haley.clapp@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

February 2017

What have the PreK classes been learning?

P1 Teachers: Page, Erica & Darrell

Now that we have all recovered from family time and holiday cheers, it is time to get in gear for 2017 and focus on making transitions fun and exciting.



Monday mornings have been especially exciting in our classroom because that's when children discover what their weekly jobs will be. Some are thrilled about their jobs, others are more mildly happy. But, no matter what their feelings, all take their responsibilities seriously because they understood that our classroom works best when everyone does his/her job well. Having classroom jobs helps them to feel important and included as well as learn responsibility and independence. We will continue with our weekly jobs so ask your child about it!

Next month, we will focus on counting and connecting numbers to objects. We will be using different manipulatives and ways to show our numbers. To give your child opportunities to count at home, we encourage you to play number games during everyday activities, such as counting the number of steps, the number of days until an upcoming event, or counting the number of items going in the laundry.



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Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta