March 2016

Dear ELC Families,

The children, of course, are always the first to notice any and every change, and perhaps most especially those like the first signs of Spring. Along with the daffodils outside, changes coming up for the ELC in March, include:

- **Teacher Lindsay**, has let us know she is preparing to have her life move in a new direction; she is getting married in September! In preparation, she will be leaving her position at the ELC. We will miss her kindness and creativity, and wish her the very best, always. **Preschool Program Manager Karen** has been spending extra time with the group to be ready to step in as teacher during the hiring process.

- We will be welcoming a **new teacher, Paula Bourgeois**, to join our Toddler Program. Paula comes to us with lots of experience and a passion for children! We are advertising to add one more teacher so we can open up T5 again. In the meantime, please read Paula’s lovely introduction letter inside. She will join us on March 24th.

- We will be meeting with the architects from HKP who have planned the repairs of our eaves this summer, and also created a vision of how our **playgrounds could some day become greener places to explore** and play in. We will be looking for ways to make that vision come to life!

More spring news...Look inside to see have had many new **parent volunteers to thank**! **Two more opportunities coming up for families the ELC:**

- Two ELC parents, Claudio Carrasco (aka Aaron’s Dad), and Nathifa Tomb (aka Emory’s Mom), are working on one of 50 short videos to celebrate Bellevue College’s 50th anniversary, one of them featuring the ELC! Thank you to the families who participated in the filming so far. They may need some additional video. **Please let us know if you would be willing to be videoed sharing how the ELC has supported your child and family!**

- There will also be an opportunity to help advocate for the ELC as we present to the **S&A Fees budget committee** in April to thank them for how they have supported the ELC in the past, and to ask for their continued support. **We need families who would be willing to write a letter or come to our 15 minute appointment to share with the committee what the ELC means for your family.**

Along with the coming of spring, I am appreciating all the ways ELC families contribute to support the center and each other!

**Kelly Davidson**
Director, ELC

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3/8/16
Professional Development Day
BC and ELC CLOSED

3/12/16
Healthy Kids/Healthy Families Fair
10:00-2:00
BC Cafeteria
Music! Info! Fun!

3/24/16
Spring Family Night
5:30-6:45 PM
Invitation and details to Follow!

3/24/2016-4/1/2016
BC Spring Break
ELC OPEN

Reminder:
Student families can choose to take the break off. Let Loanne know so she can adjust your tuition!
Infant Room: Teachers Lisa Ann, Mahboobeh and Diane

The infants have really been enjoying looking out the window observing so many aspects of the outdoors; the birds have been actively eating out of the birdfeeder. We even had the opportunity to see some ducks, after we observed the ducks we started reading a few books and singing the song.

“5 Little Ducks went Out to Play” is a favorite - the infants are trying to imitated “quack”!

When we go outside there is so much to explore, the feel of the grass.. The plantings around our school provide opportunities to talk about rough bark and delicate flowers. We have been discussing those flowers that have perfume smells and those that are lovely to look at but don’t have a smell when you sniff.

T1 Room: Teachers Bonnie, Brian and Yen-Chiu

The class has been busy with pushing the small vehicles. This turned into the children rolling the cars back and forth with teachers, and then they began rolling the cars to each other.

We will be introducing cardboard tubes, some of which will be attached to surfaces and some available for children to carry. The children will have the opportunity to engage in item drop activities using the tubes.

The children love being read to, parents are welcome to read not just with their own child but with a group if the interest is there. Just as an informal activity if you ever have the opportunity.

Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Bonnie MacGregor
What’s new in the Toddler Rooms?

T1 Room: Teachers Annie, Parisa and Khazal

Wow! We are so proud of our children on how they responded to the fire drill last Friday! They held onto the rings attached to the rope and walked all the way back to the center. Hurray!

We have been observing our children and using the Early Achiever tools, and so decided to return the big loft so they can fill their need to climb and explore freely and happily in the classroom. The big cardboard boxes are also a popular addition. The children have a great time practicing climbing in and out of the boxes and also enjoyed sitting with friends and having a cozy time together.

The children are learning new skills as they take good care of new opportunities in the environment. They have been enjoying painting at the easel and also learning how to leave the easel without taking paint cups or brushes anywhere else. They are also working on taking one basket of manipulative toys out at a time and putting them away when they are done.

T2 Room: Teachers Liliana, Rita and Khazal

After our cooking experience of the last month, T2 children continued to be interested in cooking and baking. We added some baking materials to our dry sensory tub and they really enjoyed pretending to mix, measure and bake cookies, bread and pancakes. They often talked about what their families meals at home and their favorite dishes. Our lunch time is rich in conversations now about what is good for their bodies.

We invite you to stop in our Story Table. You will find the props for: “The Little Red Hen”. You can play with your child pretending baking bread and enjoy reading the story with your child. Or have them “read” to you!

We will continue to add new cooking experiences to our curriculum. Please suggest if you have favorite recipes from home!

T3 Room: Teachers Annie, Parisa and Khazal

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Play is the answer to how anything new comes about.

-Jean Piaget

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp
February 2016

What’s new in the Toddler Rooms?

Introducing: New Toddler Teacher Paula Bourgeois

Dear ELC Families,

I am so excited to meet all of you and your wonderful children. I will be coming to you from Bright Horizon’s at Renton, where I have worked for the past eight years. I am very passionate about early childhood education. I am a firm believer that the development of a child during the early stages of life are vital to how the child will develop both academically and socially. Although, my most recent venture has been with Bright Horizon’s, I have a wealth of life experience that I bring to the table. My mother and grandmother owned and operated their own facility for more than 30 years, so child care, in many ways, has always been a part of my life. Rest assured that my interactions with your children will be conducted in the most informed and compassionate way.

One of the things I pride myself on is being an effective communicator. Communication is essential to the success of any partnership, so please know that I am available and willing to communicate to you about any need you may see fit to discuss.

Please know that I look forward to meeting you all very soon!

Respectfully,

Paula Bourgeois

T6 Room: Teachers Donna, Jackey and Wendy

The children in T6 had dinosaur and dragon fever during the month of February. It began innocently enough, with children wearing dinosaur T Shirts etc., and the resulting conversations/comments about them, but it quickly spread with the introduction of dinosaur cookie cutters to the playdough tools. We eventually had dinosaur sightings in the sand table, which became a paleontologist dig site, the book center, where books such as The Dinosaur Who Lived in My Backyard and Puff the Magic Dragon were big hits, as well as various other areas of the room. Outside, the children are still making dragon caves, (watch out as you pass by T4’s emergency exit door!) and roaring dragon roars. Whoever said dinosaurs are extinct, and dragons aren’t real, should come pay T6 a visit! February also saw a makeover of our water table, which was actually moved out to make way for our new water play station, which allows the children more independence and freedom of choice than ever before in their quest to experience all things wet!

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp
February 2016

What’s new in the Preschool Rooms?

P3 Room: Teachers Karen, Page and Joy

The children in P-3 have been enjoying the change in the weather, the warm sunshine has brought about fragrant smells from the blossoms around our center. We planted grass seeds in our classroom and the seeds have grown. The next step was for us to “mow” our grass with scissors. This was fun and also gave them the opportunity to practice important fine motor skills.

Earlier this month, Damian’s father Ethan came and graced us with playing his guitar. He played a wonderful song that he wrote called “Hello”. The song was interactive and the children were encouraged to sing the word Hello back to Ethan as he sang it to the class. Each child was given the opportunity to strum the guitar with a guitar pick. The children were so excited to have a chance to make some music on a real instrument.

We will be exploring the BC campus during our field trip walks. The children will be able to explore and map where we have been. Parents are welcome to join us on our exploration of the world around us.

P4 Room: Teachers Chisaki, Margarita and Joy

“What kind of weather condition did we have most often in February?” Our children predicted it and each child put the color sticker on the chart while collecting the data throughout this month by using the weather calendar and 3D bar graphs. Then we drew a conclusion. IT WAS “SUNNY”! Children developed their skills of observing, classifying, communicating and predicting. Our experiment of “Fog Notions” was an additional opportunity to experience science firsthand.

“We The Shape Song” became our children’s favorite song this past month. They grasped the knowledge of basic shapes with the song. It was very surprising for us that children not only learned the song quickly, but also started to apply to their real experiences as the math moment moved from the math center to snack time! One child showed the graham cracker, saying, “It’s square!” The other child broke it in half and said, “It’s rectangle!” Then last child nibbled the cracker, saying, “I made a triangle!” We encourage you to find the math moments at home, for example searching for numbers and shapes in your junk mail.

We will focus on expanding their knowledge by using more songs and rhythms, especially learning letters, sounds and vocabulary this month. Of course, because children learn best through play, we keep it all in fun!

Preschool Program Manager: Karen Virta

Thanks, Ethan (aka Damian’s Dad) for sharing your music with us!
Are there other families willing to share their music, hobby, collections or interests with us?
Please let us know!
What’s new in the PreK Rooms?

P1 Room: Teachers Mala, Iryna, Ghousia
It has been exciting in February. The children really enjoyed their trip to and tour of the fire station. They met both fire men and women. One of the women demonstrated how they wear their gear. The most exciting part of the trip was being able to sit in the driver’s seat of the fire truck.

With all the rain this month, the children have really been noticing worms! They collected them in the playground and after examining and even drawing them they put them back in the ground so the worms could “go back to their families”.

In March, we will be doing some cooking activities. The children will have a chance to break an egg, mix it, add food coloring if they wish and then predict and observe what happens to the liquid form as it heats up - and then of course they get to eat it! The P1 class will continue to go on field trips every Wednesday. We would like to extend our invitation to our parents.

Special thanks to fire station field trip parent volunteers:
Ellie’s Mom  Heidi,
Gavin and Juliana’s Mom and Dad, Kelsey and Emilio, and Maya’s Mom, Gina.

P2 Room: Teachers Linda, Lindsay and Ghousia
In February, we explored what it means to be leaders! We got to see some of our community leaders in action when we went to the fire station for a field trip. There, we got a close look at what it means to be a firefighter, how they help others, and what tools they use to accomplish this. As we prepared ourselves for the field trip, we thought through what it would be like at a fire station and what the firefighter would do. The children felt powerful helping each other to put out pretend fires in the classroom and worked as a team to get first aid to their “patients.” After the field trip, we wrote thank you notes to the firefighters and created drawings to show the things that we knew about their work. This is a picture of a few of the thank you notes/drawings of what we know.
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