

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 2018

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 our 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 prepared for our Early Achievers rating, 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!**

Bellevue College Student Programs is sponsoring a food drive through the month of February. They brought over a bin for those that would like to contribute to the food drive. It's a great way to show children how to care and share with others in need. It is located in the front lobby, if you are interested.

As you may have noticed we have had on-going construction on campus and in the parking lots. I realize it can be a challenge at times during drop off and pick up but we need your help. Recently Bellevue School District buses have had a hard time getting through to drop off children in the neighborhood so please ***Do Not*** park on the street in front of the center where there are signs that say ***"NO PARKING"***. If you cannot find parking in front of the center, where there are designated slots, please go around to the back of the center where there are additional slots for you to park in while dropping off and picking up your child. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

On Feb. 21st a group of 14 students from Nagoya College, Japan, will be visiting the ELC and BC campus as part of an educational/cultural activity. This is an annual visit that the children & teachers always enjoy interacting with the college students who bring a different perspective to the classroom.

In some school districts Kindergarten registration has begun. Come join us on the evening of Thursday, March 1st from 5:00 - 6:00pm as we welcome Kindergarten teacher Clare Duffy and learn more about Kindergarten Readiness.

Warmly,
Lisa
Director, ELC

Dates to Remember



2/2/18
Early closure
4:15 pm
Please be in the building by 4:00 to pick up your child

2/19/18
Classified Professional Development Day
BC and ELC CLOSED



2/21/18
Nagoya College students visit the ELC

3/1/18
Information session with Kindergarten teacher Clare Duffy.
At ELC from **5:00-6:00pm**



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 working with children!

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/>

What's New in the Infant Room?

Infant 1 Teachers: Liliana, Mahboobeh - Infant 2 Teacher: Giselle, Rachel



Abigail practices a new skill of feeding herself!

Change its ongoing and constant ... our little ones grow and change so fast! They are so amazing to watch! We have infant classmates who are experiencing a big change of scenery and are transitioning to their new T-1 classroom.

Ingrid and Maddie are our one year olds who are moving first then the rest of our infant two classmates will follow soon! We will miss you and know that you're in great hands.

Some of the changes in our classroom are we are eating solid foods! This is a great time for new skill development as well as a wonderful social experience for the children and teachers. As the children sit in their high chairs it gives a new perspective to them on teacher and peer interactions.



Briley masters the skill of self-feeding...



Yara begins to stand!

They are as proud of themselves as we are when they sit up in their chairs and eat! They babble as they watch each other eat, and call out for more as they feel the satisfaction of food in their tummy.

We will continue to foster these new skills by providing many opportunities for the children to build fine motor strength and control. As well as create a new area for the younger infants to move their bodies exploring and mastering their large motor movement.



Sofia masters walking!



Felix stands and balances!

Giselle - giselle.torres@bellevuecollege.edu * Mahboobeh - mnasroll@bellevuecollege.edu
Lilliana - lmartell@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Infant and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What Have the Young Toddlers Been Learning?

T1 Teachers: Brian & Lisa Ann

Movement is an integral part of toddler development. What may seem like just running around and “playing” is actually physical expression, exploration or testing their capabilities and limits. These are all ways in which toddlers learn.

Our group is constantly moving and looking for new and interesting ways in which to be physical. The climber is used all throughout the day. We also include daily dancing, which the children get excited about and join us as soon as the music turns on.



Recently, some have tried jumping! This is a new and challenging skill at this age. Most of them don't get more than one inch off the ground at a time, but they are so enthusiastic about it.

Singing songs that include different movement opportunities and changing the climber shape will provide some new chances to physically express themselves in their own way and in their own time.

We will continue giving the children these opportunities as well as new chances and activities in which to explore.

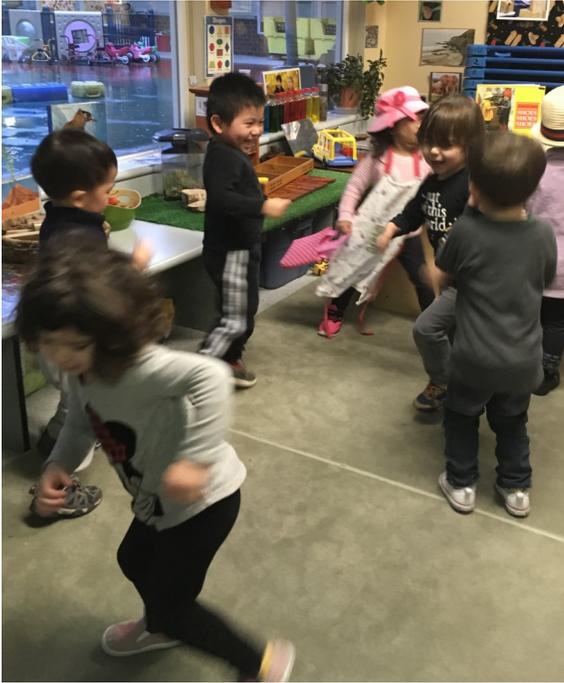


Brian - bcooper@bellevuecollege.edu * Lisa Ann - lowens@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Infant Room and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What have the T2 Toddlers been learning?

Teachers: Rita, Parisa and Darrell



We did a lot of singing and creative movement in our classroom this month.

We listened to all different kinds of music and we played real instruments to make our own music. During music time we provide props; scarves & streamers to use as the children move to the music. Now many of our children have a favorite song that they enjoy listening to or shaking a leg...dancing.

This month we will be working on creating an environment for baking in our dramatic play center. Some of the props will include recipe cards, eggbeaters, cooling racks and mixing bowls. Then we plan to let the children choose two of the

recipes that we can all make together in the classroom.

Children learn many different subjects while cooking. Here are a few:

- Math, by measuring how many teaspoons or cups a recipe might take.
- Literacy, going over a recipe to expand their vocabulary and language.
- Science, the children can test an egg for freshness by seeing whether it sinks or floats in a bowl full of water.



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

What have the T3 Toddlers been learning?

Teachers: Donna, Diane and Darrell



The children in T3 have recently been embracing their inner artists. In addition to using the writing and art area supplies such as paper, crayons, dabber bottles, and markers for their own, self-directed art experiences, they have been very active at the paint easel as well.

At the easel, they have the use of three different types of paint and a variety of painting instruments.

The children have also been busy creating three dimensional art with playdough at the playdough table.

Some of the things they have been observed doing are, cutting the playdough into smaller pieces and stacking them one on top of the other or making balls and putting them into various playdough toys.

After observing and following the children's lead we have been adding more art opportunities in various forms into the classroom environment. We've provided an activity that we refer to as "stick-ems" or "poke-ems" where the children stick or poke various art materials, such as feathers, cut up straws, craft sticks, pipe cleaners and more, into the playdough that has been pressed onto a plate. We have also been doing more three dimensional teacher lead art experiences as well.



We have some pretty creative kiddos in our classroom!

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

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the T5 Toddlers Been Learning?

Teachers: Iryna, Paula and Khazal

Welcoming New Friends



T5 is a naturally welcoming environment but when we welcome new children to our room, we greet them with great excitement! We sing a welcome song in the morning and throughout the day to help the children feel like a part of the classroom.

We feel it's helpful to have materials ready and available for the children to engage in as they enter the room.

During drop off transitions from a family member to a teacher, the child can give the family member a window wave, a hug or a little push out the door. This has been noted to help the children during transitions because they have a choice in how they see their family member depart.

We also feel that having a familiar object such as a soft toy or a book that the child can explore helps them feel safe and secure in their new environment.



During transition times, such as from inside to outside, having a transition song helps the children to know what they can expect to come next. This has also proven to be a nice conforming tool.



Lastly, posting a family photo for the child to look at when needed throughout the day has provided a sense of ease for the child. Implementing these strategies and more have helped with the new children who have entered into our classroom.

Welcome Ian, Ayaz and Faith

Iryna - iryna.antonyuk@bellevuecollege.edu *Paula- paula.bourgeois@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the T6 Toddlers been learning?

Teachers: Annie, Megan and Khazal



Our large motor room, P5, is an awesome place for us to explore on these rainy and cold winter days. Besides climbing in and out of the little houses, walking up and down and jumping off the big ramp, our children have also enjoyed tapping with drum sticks and dancing with scarves to music.

We've provided markers for them to draw with and have created opportunities for them to do science experiments during the play. When the ball was rolling down the ramp, Jakob said, "Gone."

Our children have also read their favorite stories in P-5. It's so wonderful to see our children grow and learn each day!



Recently, our children have been rapidly expanding their language skills. We have heard so many new words and phrases this month. We've heard songs like: "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep", "ABC's", and "The Wheels on the Bus", sung by some of our older friends.

The children are also fascinated with learning about their own names as well as the others in our classroom.

In February, we will continue using books and CDs to work on our pre-literacy skills. We are learning a "Hello" song in different languages. If you speak a language other than English and Chinese, we would like your help with translating this song into your native language.

Thank you!

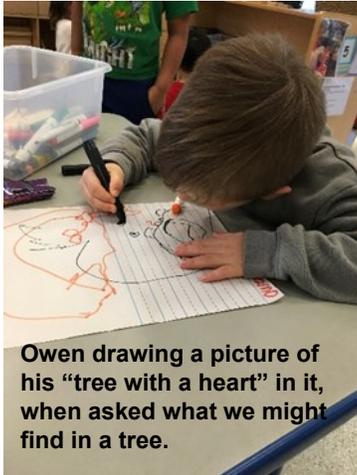


Annie - ygu@bellevuecollege.edu * Megan - meganl.russell@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the P4 Preschoolers been learning?

Teachers: Nikki, Wendy and Naghmeh



Owen drawing a picture of his "tree with a heart" in it, when asked what we might find in a tree.

January has been busy for P4! After a wonderful break we welcomed 4 new friends into our classroom. We are so happy to have Annabelle, Lloyd, Opal, and Pristina with us.

January has been all about our tree study! We talked about the parts of trees, different types of trees, who lives in trees, and what food comes from trees. The children have loved talking about all the animals they see in the trees around their homes.



Momo spreading sun butter and seeds onto a pinecone for us to hang outside for our little tree friends!

This month we will be talking about how each of us has our own traits that make us unique. This could be anything from physical traits, to the language we speak, or the clothes that we wear.



Pristina and Retaj working together to get ready to deliver some mail from our post office.

The children have been expressing a lot of interest in writing so we decided to turn our dramatic play area into a post office! We have been writing and drawing pictures for our friends and families and putting the mail into the large mailbox we have.

We will soon incorporate some math into our post office and working on sorting the mail, just like the mail workers do!

Wendy - wendy.cote@bellevuecollege.edu * Nikki- nikki.holt@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton

What have the P3 Preschoolers been learning?

Teachers: Karen, Ali and Naghmeh

Hello P3 families,



We've had a wonderful start to the New Year in January and look forward to all that February has to offer.

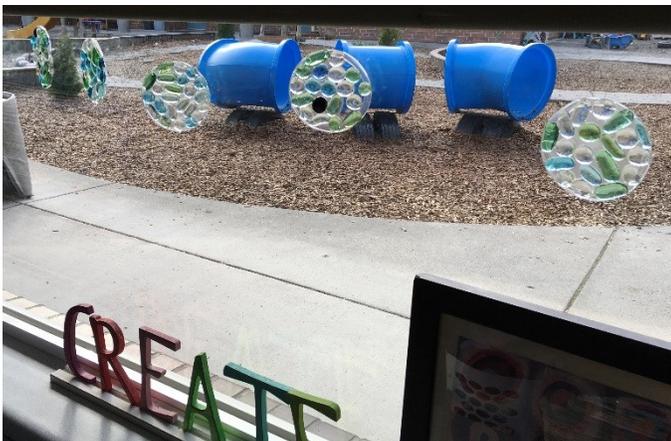
The children have been very engaged in the creative process, specifically 3D art. These activities provide creative expression, fine motor development, social interactions, 1:1 correspondence and cognitive development.

We created sun catchers for the windows using glue and glass marble rocks. The children arranged their marbles on a plastic lid then poured glue on top. After several days they were dry and we hung them up in the window.

We also made 3D sculptures using playdough and various collage objects. The children had the opportunity to choose which materials to place on their sculpture. They persisted and engaged in creating their masterpieces.



We made a fresh batch of Teacher Naghmeh's special playdough and the children helped knead and manipulate it.



We are planning to introduce a new medium to the children- natural clay. This is similar to playdough but much harder to work with and has a natural quality to it. We look forward to seeing what the children create with it.

Thanks for your support in all we do,
P3 teaching team

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

What have the Pre-K classes been learning?

Teachers: Mala, Margarita and Ghousia



January has been a busy month. All the children have been excited to be at school. They worked at getting to know each other again and enjoyed reconnecting after the winter break.

Building with blocks in the classroom and outside has been a huge part of reconnecting. The children are communicating with each other in the process, trying out new ideas and incorporating some old ones.

We have Yoga cards in the classroom that the children like to use and try out different poses. Here Iyana and Blakely are doing the “tree pose”.



The week of Jan. 22nd was extra fun! We made pizzas! The P2 children loved measuring and mixing to make the dough. Then they got to pound and shape the dough to make a pizza.



In February the children in P2 classroom will be doing lots of movement and stretching activities which will include going on field trips.

We are currently enjoying all the puddles the downpour of rain has been providing on our playground. Please make sure your child has extra clothes.

Thanks,
Mala and Margarita

Mala - mkrishna@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton

What have the Pre-K classes been learning?

Teachers: Page, Brianne and Margarita

In P1 we have been working hard on letter recognition and sounds. The children have fun naming all the words they can think of that start with the same letter. Several children have enjoyed making books and enjoy writing and illustrating stories.



Science at the water table has been another great activity. Several kids have enjoyed experimenting in the water table by making boats of Legos and seeing if they can make them float.



We have a BC practicum student named, Yuka ,who has been working in our room this quarter. She will be inviting the children to try different types of art projects. Last week, the children tried their hands at gluing salt to paper then painted it the next day helping the children to try “extended” art. They enjoyed it very much.

The children have been very helpful around the classroom demonstrating different social-emotional skills. They work together to clean up when it is time and have taken the lead in showing our new students around and helping him learn the classroom routine. They also are very quick to comfort each other when some gets hurt.

We have been talking about staying safe at school. Reminding students to walk in the classroom, clean up toys when they are done, and watch the height of structures they build. Along with that we had a fire drill on 1/22/18 and we have been talking and practicing what to do in an earthquake.



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Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton