

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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May 2018

Dates to Remember:

Dear ELC Families,

I want to publicly thank ELC Student Parents:

Jasmine Edington, Vesna Mammadova, Theresa Onya & Sally Ibrahim, for coming to the S&A Fees Committee Budget Hearing and sharing their **passionate stories**. I also want to thank those of you that wrote letters on our behalf. It really helped our cause.



We have been notified of our award and the S&A Fees Committee has allocated the ELC \$275,000 for the 2018/2019 school year.

You may have noticed there are now **9 additional marked stalls in lot 99** (new lot next door just south of the ELC) that you can use for drop-off and pick-up until lot 9 on the West side of the ELC reopens in August 2018. Thank you all for your patience during this challenging time of drop off and pick up. Please come see me, call me or e-mail me if you have any questions or concerns.

I am happy to announce that we have a **New toddler Teacher** joining our team! **Lilian Wang** will be teaching in one of the toddler classrooms. Inside this newsletter, read more about her talents as well as the exciting activities that are going on in your child's classroom.

Warmly,
Lisa
Director, ELC

5/11/18
Nancy Stewart Sing a long & Pizza Party.
On campus L-100
6:00-7:30pm
(More information to follow)



5/28/18
Memorial Day BC CLOSED
ELC CLOSED



6/1/18
ELC Annual Family Potluck
Robinswood Park
6:00-7:30 pm
(More information to follow)

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/>

Welcome New Staff

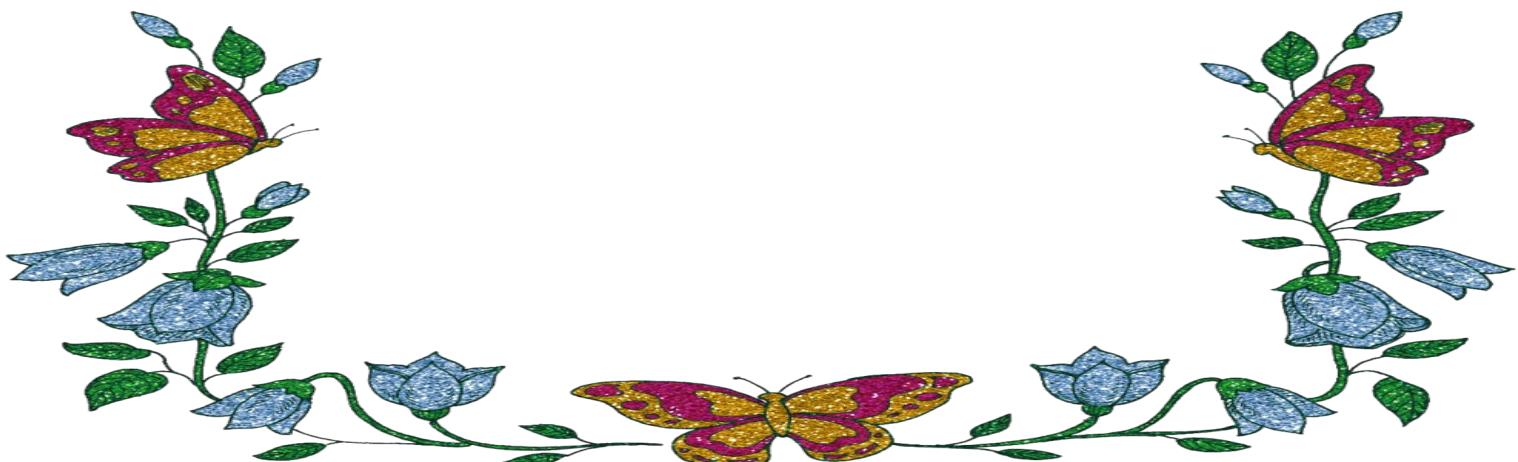
Introducing New Toddler Teacher: Lilian Wang

Hello Bellevue College ~ ELC Families:
My name is Lilian Wang.

After receiving my BA in Psychology from the University of British Columbia, I obtained my credentials in Early Childhood specializing in Infants/Toddlers and Special Needs education.

I have worked with children from ages 6 months to 5 years of age.

I am passionate about early learning and believe that young children should be offered the tools to discover, explore, and experience the excitement of learning. I look forward to meeting everyone and being a part of the ELC community.



What's New in the Infant Room?

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

Spring is here!!



Now that the grass has had some time to dry out after all the rain we've had, we are beginning to utilize our new outdoor infant space. While we attempt to transition toward daily outdoor experiences, parents are welcome to bring in warm weather clothing for children.

As we spend time outside children have had the opportunity to explore a very different classroom environment, while still interacting with familiar manipulatives and fostering positive adult and peer connections.



This time outside has also increased our opportunity for sensory exploration of the world around us.

We've heard crows cawing from the trees as well as cars and people walking by. We've felt the grass on our hands, legs, and feet, and seen eagles flying over-head.



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

We're seeing many of the children getting ready for their move up to the toddler classrooms in T-5 & T-6 and getting ready, ourselves, for the children moving up from infants into the T1 classroom. We're excited for the new experiences for everyone and know that the children moving up will have lots of exciting adventures in the future.



We've noticed the children getting more creative with various materials in the classroom that they have available to them. They have started to engage in pretend play, especially with pretending to wash hands and dishes in the play sink.



We did some science exploration as well with our pumpkin that was still good from last October. Lisa Ann split it open and the children all came over to investigate. They got to see and touch the inside of the pumpkin. We planned on sprouting the seeds so we had the children put the seeds into plastic bags with water and hung them in the window.



Unfortunately they didn't sprout as planned, but that's all part of science! We will keep a lookout for more opportunities to explore nature and the world around us.

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

Specialist for Infant and T1 Rooms: Linda Boyd

What have the T2 Toddlers been learning?

Teachers: Rita, Parisa and Darrell



In the month of April, we have done a lot of different science activities, such as cutting open the small white pumpkins and exploring what was inside. The children were guessing what could possibly be inside the pumpkins. When they saw there were seeds they picked them out of the pumpkin and placed them inside the cups that were filled with soil. They practiced counting the seeds while they were planting them and predicting what will grow out of the seeds. One of the children said, "plant" another said, "pumpkin." The children have been helping to water the seeds every day and checking on them to see if there are anything new discoveries.



We have also been observing and talking about our classroom fish. We asked the children "What do our fish need to live?" The children responded "water and food."



We made a new quiet area for the children in our classroom. They were really excited to have the opportunity to have some alone time in the house while they look at books or play with soft toys. One of the children woke up from her nap after we placed contact paper inside the house and said "Wow, that's beautiful I love this house."



For the Month of May we are going to do some more science activities since our children are showing a lot of interest in plants and animals. We are going to do an experiment with white carnation flowers and celery to show how water color is absorbed through the stems. It's a great way to introduce basic science concepts through visual experiments. It requires just a few items and is a fun way for the children to learn about science.



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

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the T3 Toddlers been learning?

Teachers: Diane, Mercy and Darrell



For the month of April the children in T3 were fascinated by participating in a variety of different types of art activities. We decided to try some artist inspired art such as "In the Garden" by VanGogh and "Water Lilies" by Monet, where we finger painted using similar colors as VanGogh and Monet.

We have acquired some new reading books that have introduced us to some other artists. We invite you to come take a look in our room and admire our artist inspired paintings!

In addition to our art work, we have added a light table to our science center. Toys look different with the light beneath them and often times the colors are much more vibrant. It's incredible to watch all the creations the children produce.

As some of you may have noticed, we have had the privilege of welcoming a new teacher, Mercy. We are so delighted to have her with us for two days a week.



A few of the children have moved on to preschool so a few more from the younger toddler room will be moving into our classroom. We would like to welcome Chloe and soon we will be welcoming Abhiram, Elizaveta and Charlotte.



For the month of May we will be observing the green beans that we planted in our outside garden and we will be adding a veterinarian office inside to our dramatic play area. Plus we will be learning many other exciting new things!

Diane—desparza@bellevuecollege.edu

Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the T5 Toddlers Been Learning?

Teachers: Iryna, Paula and Khazal



This month in T5 we worked on a group project called, "My cozy home." We realized that sometimes our toddlers need a private, quiet, cozy place to sit down and read books. We decided to involve the children in a group activity. We used a huge box to make our little cozy home. We first decorated the box with paints chosen by the children. They are real artists.

As well as having a lot of fun with painting, the children worked on their social skills. They had to make sure there was enough space for someone else to work on the box. They practiced sharing the materials and ideas in a way toddlers do. They each took a turn to dip their brushes into the paint and waited patiently for a vacant space. They communicated by sharing positive toddler interactions with their friends so they could work together for an extended period of time.



Emma and Alexa shared one paint container and waited patiently taking turns. Robert used successful strategies for entering the group by waiting his turn and talking with his friends.

Next we will cut out windows and a door then make a roof so the children can enjoy their "Cozy Home" that they so proudly made in this group project.

What have the T6 Toddlers been learning?

Teachers: Annie, Megan and Khazal



During the month of April, we continued to learn about nature by planting flower seeds and watching caterpillars form into a chrysalis. We are using our observation skills to see what happens next to our flowers and caterpillars and have noticed our seeds have started to sprout!

We also focused on strengthening our problem-solving skills by playing with manipulative toys.

Manipulatives include toys such as magnet tiles, connector toys, and bristle blocks.

Bailey is playing with the screws and bolts and is working on matching them together based on their colors. Taevy is building a 3-D object with the magnet tiles and Noah is using the puzzle connectors to make a straight line. Jakob is working on putting the half circles together and pulling them apart.



When playing with these toys they repeat their actions several times to obtain similar results as well as reacting to any changes that might occur. As toddlers get older they will start to observe and imitate how other people solve problems and may start to ask for a solution.

To facilitate this growth, we encourage the children to say "help" when they feel stuck as well as talking to them about how they can finish their task. Manipulatives can also increase their attention span if it is just challenging enough that they can complete the task without being too frustrating.

Next month we will continue to work on our problem-solving skills as well as our language skills.



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Specialist for Toddler Rooms: Vanessa Von Papp

What have the P4 Preschoolers been learning?

Teachers: Wendy and Naghmeh

April was a busy, busy month!

We welcomed some new friends transitioning into our room, while also saying goodbye to a few friends who transitioned up to Pre-K. We also said goodbye to Teacher Nikki and wished her all the best as she embarks on her new adventures in Montana.

The children have been focused on learning all about bugs. We have been learning about the different parts of bugs: head, thorax, abdomen, antennas and what the bugs use their body for when they are out in nature. We even made our own bugs using bananas and pretzels! When you are outside enjoying the nice weather, look around for different bugs and see if

your child can identify them.



With spring finally here, we have started up our weekly field trips exploring around the Bellevue College Campus. We will be going every Friday. **Your child must be signed in by 9:15am**, or they risk missing the field trip and will have to stay behind with another classroom. We look forward to all the fun learning experiences we will have. If you work on campus and would like us to come check out your office, please let us know!

Marilyn making bugs using bananas and pretzels.

Please check your child's extra clothing bins and make sure they have extra clothing that is appropriate for the changing weather. We are also asking parents to start bringing in sunscreen for us to keep on hand through the upcoming seasons!



Our first field trip of the season! Story time at the Bellevue College library

Wendy - wendy.cote@bellevuecollege.edu

Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton

What have the P3 Preschoolers been learning?

Teachers: Karen, Ali and Naghmeh

The children have been enthralled by the life cycle of butterflies. We had the opportunity to observe this metamorphosis from caterpillar, to chrysalis, to butterfly right in our classroom.

The children observed the caterpillars daily, recorded changes, and made predictions. We created some art that was inspired by observing the daily changes. We started a class book report on caterpillars. The children took home forms to fill out and enjoyed coming back to school with the forms filled out and sharing what they read in the class book report at home. Early literacy is crucial to building school readiness skills and we greatly appreciate your collaboration in this area.

Just as we watched the caterpillars grow and develop into beautiful butterflies we have also had the privilege of watching your children go through a stage of metamorphosis in our care into strong, caring, eager learners.

We were able to release the butterflies outside on one of our beautiful sunny spring days.

Several of the children have moved on to the pre-k classrooms and new friends have joined us from the toddler side.

Our next project area of study will be a unit on "Exercise." We will be learning all about healthy bodies including nutrition and personal care habits. Stay tuned for some exciting activities to do with your child at home.



As always, thank you for your support in all we do to help the children to become excited about learning.

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

Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton

What have the Pre-K classes been learning?

Teachers: Mala, Donna, and Margarita



The children in pre-k 2 have been gaining knowledge of the characteristics of living things through a number of recent experiences, not the least of which has been the opportunity to observe the life cycle of the butterfly.

Through the process of metamorphosis, the children saw how our caterpillars formed chrysalises, from which they emerged as butterflies.

Vocabulary and scientific terminology children have learned and have been heard using are: egg, pupa, chrysalis, caterpillar, adult, antennae, and life cycle, among others. They have also learned about how the insect moves, and what it eats as a caterpillar as opposed to a butterfly.

Similarities and differences have been noted by the children, such as "A caterpillar can walk, butterflies can walk and fly;" and "Caterpillars eat leaves, butterflies don't," as well as pointed out by teachers: caterpillars have jaws and a mouth for chewing leaves, butterflies have a mouth for drinking nectar from flowers.



Then, as much as we would have liked to keep them forever, we released our butterflies out on the playground allowing them to one day lay eggs and start the life cycle of the butterfly all over again!

What have the Pre-K classes been learning?

Teachers: Page, Brianne and Margarita



This past month we have been learning about insects and their lifecycles as we watched the progression of caterpillars turning into butterflies in our classroom.

We enjoyed the daily observation of how the caterpillars turned into a cocoon and then hatch into butterflies. When we released the butterflies, it was so sweet and caring to hear the children all begin to clap.

The children have bugs on their minds as they observe and collect them on the playground. We have collected worms, pill bugs, spiders and slugs. We were able to make close observations when we brought them into the classroom.

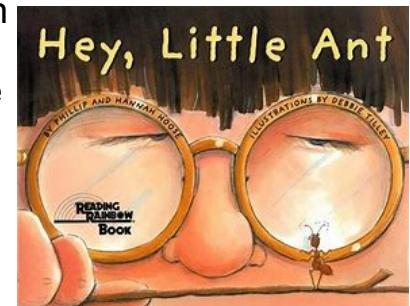


One of the many books we have read took bug collecting to a new level, asking the children to put themselves in the position of being a bug. The story, "Hey, Little Ant" makes us think about how ants live in families, have jobs and work together. It poses the question of not squashing an ant unnecessarily.

"Look, I've created a giant insect" Devansh exclaims as he builds a bug from large shapes. "It has legs and a body. I hope it doesn't get loose!"



The next time you visit the public library with your child, take a look at the many interesting science books available for children. When reading with your child you are not only spending valuable time with them but you are also helping to increase their vocabulary.



Please bring in cooler extra clothes for your child to change into, in case they get wet playing in the water outside. Also send sunscreen.

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Preschool Program Manager: Susannah Halliburton