

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 2012 ELC Family News

Important ELC Dates

Center Closed:

- Monday, February 20, President's Day
- Thursday, March 1, ELC In-Service Day

Family Events:

- February 1 - *Night at Kid's Quest Museum*, 5:30-7:00pm, Sign up required
- February 7 - *Night at Kid's Quest Museum*, 5:30-7:00pm, Sign up Required
- February 29 @ 4:45 pm, ELC parent workshop "Stress & Parenting", speaker Pam Iverson, MSW, PSES .

Winter Weather Reminder

Will February bring more snow or another ice storm? We hope not, but we do want everyone to "be prepared". So, please note the following information regarding closure of the center due to poor, unsafe weather conditions: Please Note - When Bellevue College is closed or has a delayed opening time due to weather, then ELC will also be closed or have a similar delayed start. Without our student staff or College support staff (security, custodians, cook, etc), we cannot provide safe, appropriate care for your children. Updated information regarding Bellevue College weather related status can be found on local radio/TV news reports; on schoolreport.org; and on the college web site www.bellevuecollege.edu. Once our department has been notified by College administration of any college closures, we will then update our ELC phone message as soon as possible to reflect this change. Our main ELC phone number is 425-564-2240.

ELC Family "Night at the Museum"

Our 5th annual ELC Family Nights at the Museum (Kids Quest Museum in Factoria Mall) are scheduled for Wednesday, February 1 and again on Tuesday, February 7th. We schedule two separate nights to allow as many of our families as possible to participate, but as stated in our January Family News, space is very limited and sign up, at our ELC front desk, is required. Enrolled ELC children, ages two & older, and their immediate family can take part in this FREE event. This is a family event, so at least one parent/guardian must attend, stay on site, and be responsible for their child. Since Kids Quest is closed to the general public during our event, this is always a great way for our families to spend time with their children and meet their children's friends. Please see Verna if you need more information. We hope to see you there!

Important Bits & Pieces

- Our Center hiring committee is busy reviewing applications for our Family Advocate position and our open teacher position. We hope to have both positions filled by the end of February.
- Need child care expense 2011 information for federal tax purposes? We usually have a minimum 48 hour turn around time to supply this information, so please don't wait until the last minute to request. See Loanne, our fiscal tech, at the front desk to request or call 425-4564-1117.
- In December, we began working with a BC student on a "Go Green" environmental survey of the whole ELC. Once the survey is completed, we will be setting goals to insure we move the center forward in insuring that we meet the highest standards possible here at ELC.
- Thursday, March 1st, ELC will be closed all day for our spring staff in-service day. During this year's training, we will focus on intentional language, adult communication skills and food related allergies on the rise.

Infants and Young Toddlers Classroom Clips ~ Bonnie MacGregor, Specialist

Infant 1: New friends have joined us and January was a busy month with days away for snow and then moving to temporary quarters. Moving to a new room for a few days brought lots of new exploration and discovery. With the colder weather, we have bundled up with hats and warm coats to enjoy the outdoors. We will be bringing more things in from the outdoors, ice, rocks, etc, for our children to see, touch, and smell. **Teachers: Carolyn, Liliana & Khazal**

Infant 2: In January, we set up new areas for large muscle skills to encourage pulling, moving in & out, and standing. We also added new items for fine motors skills also. Towards the end of the month we experienced a temporary move to a new classroom and found many new things to explore! What fun! In February, we will be doing many name songs to help everyone begin to identify names. We will also continue our explorations, inside and out, to discover what is wet and what is dry; what is cold and what is warm. **Teachers: Mahboobeh, Diane, & Khazal**

Young Toddlers – Toddler One : We are learning about peaceful problem solving by learning the signs for “stop” and “please”. These signs will help our children begin to understand when someone is not finished with a toy and does not want to give it up. The snow was a great hit for our little ones and we even brought some indoors for them to explore. We also brought in various items from outside to add to our classroom exploration. This month we will continue to build our vocabularies as we share and name objects. We also will practice listening skills as we hear, and try to follow, one step directions during our activity times. We will also continue to experiment with balancing and stacking various objects and learning more about primary colors.

Teachers: Karen, Yen-Chiu, & Khazal

Toddlers Classroom Clips ~ Vanessa VonPapp, Specialist

Toddler 2: In January, hardwood blocks were a focus as we added new shapes, longer planks, and hollow blocks. Our children then were involved in decision making and problem solving as they worked together on building structures. These block building activities also extended math concepts related to position, such as up, down, in & on; learning proximity like beside, between, & next to; and weight and balance. We will continue this learning into February. This month, one of the other things we will focus on in T2 is how to resolve conflicts. The steps for resolving conflicts that the T2 teachers will help facilitate include negotiating, learning how to express ideas, explaining how we feel, listening to another’s point of view, and working out solutions to problems. As our children begin to master these strategies, our whole classroom community benefits.

Teachers: Rita, Laura & Wendy

Toddler 3: Our children have been rapidly expanding their language skills! We have heard many new words and phrase as their vocabulary grows. Our song cards help expand our children’s pre-literacy skills, so be listening for your child to sing “Twinkle, Twinkle”, “Bingo”, “ABCD”, and “Old MacDonald”. With the snow days, we have been exploring how the weather effects us. Discussions often center on what we may find when we go outdoors and how to stay warm. We have taken an interest in all the construction vehicles, fire engines, school buses, and garbage trucks we have been seeing outside our window, so we will be taking more walks this month to expand our interests and knowledge of transportation. We will be acting out “The Wheels On the Bus”, adding individual names, and finding out what they would do “on the bus”. Please bring in a family picture or two in to post for the children.

Teachers: Annie, Desiree, & Wendy

Toddler 5: In January we explored different types of musical instruments in the classroom and began to distinguish between loud, soft, and quiet sounds. We also enjoyed the snow! Learning how to put on coats, hats and then finding our own cubbies when we take them off, moves us to more independence. We’ve also been working hard learning how to clean up and put classroom items away by sorting and organizing our toys. In February we will continue to provide activities to encourage fine-motor strength and coordination as we draw with chalks, crayons, and markers. Our drawing skills continue to evolve! We will also be doing different stringing activities that will support our eye– hand coordination and then adding other new challenges through puzzles and various manipulatives.

Teachers: Parisa, Vanessa and Ghousia

Toddler 6: In January, the children in T6 experimented with and learned about the laws and physics of motion. With the aid of chutes and balls of varying weights and sizes, we were able to discuss and make predictions as to what would be the fastest, slowest, and the reasons why. With the snowfall in January we also had opportunities to bring the outside inside. We used the snow in creative art and science experiments as we learned about primary and secondary colors. This month we will be learning more about our five senses. We explored smell last month, and now taste will be a classroom focus through various planned cooking and taste comparison activities. With a great interest in our daily creative art experiences, we will further explore visual arts with various art media, tools, and processes as we draw, paint, print, sculpt and make collages. The children’s creations will be displayed at their eye level, which will, along with open-ended questions, invite them to think more about their creations and why they made particular choices. These activities will help increase vocabulary and literacy awareness. **Teachers: Donna, Lisa-Ann & Ghousia**

February 2012

Preschool Classroom Clips ~ Pam England, Specialist

Pre-Kindergarten 1:

Our children have been experimenting with measuring height and length using tools such as measuring tapes, rulers, blocks, and counting cubes. The wonderful snow in January not only encouraged new outdoor experiences, but brought about many interesting discussions around temperature and thermometers. This month we will experiment with weights and volumes using a variety of scales and items of varying weights & size. We will also explore time using analog & digital clocks and sand timers. We will “get our wheels turning” with discussions and questions like “Are bigger things always heavier?” and “How long does it take you to get to school; to wash your hands?” We will also be exploring light and dark this month as incorporate our learning into our new shadow puppet theater! Our children will design and create their own shapes to use in their productions and eventually work toward acting out favorite songs and stories. Our PreK 1 grocery store is back and the children have been deciding how much each item costs, as well as creating their own money. If you have empty food boxes or containers, please bring them to school to help stock our store. The children would thoroughly enjoy expanding their inventory with more “real” products for their store.

Teachers: Roberta, Brian, & Margarita

Pre-Kindergarten 2:

In January, we really enjoyed working together and making interesting discoveries. Going to P5 to practice physical movement and participate in group games that require specialized motor skills is still a favorite priority for our children and will continue into February. Recognizing and writing numerals and letters, then getting words down on paper that describe our drawings, has grown as an interest in our classroom. Our P2 children are not only eager & ready to learn, they are absorbing new information at an incredible level! The unexpected closed days, due to snow and ice in January, created lots of discussion about the weather and winter. In February, we will continue to explore the environmental changes winter has brought to our campus and experiment with temperatures and things that freeze. We also will be learning about ways to take care of animals and birds in the winter cold weather. We’ve been making lists of our favorite books for reading times and lists of new projects, like a classroom space ship, that we plan to design and build this month to further guide our learning. This month, Second Step, an important part of our curriculum, will help us learn how to better identify how anger feels in our body and to practice way to calm ourselves when upset.

Teachers: Robin, Mala, & Margarita

Preschool 3:

We have started our new year with a lot of excitement! We enjoyed the snowfall on the playgrounds and made interesting discoveries about snow and ice. You might have heard from your child, “Firefighters came to our school!” A real fire engine visited our parking lot and we all went outside to see what firefighters need to take along on their jobs to keep people safe. This event moved us into more discussions and activities on the roles of a variety of community helpers. This month we will focus on the responsibilities of the mail carriers, delivery folks and the post office. We’ve been wrapping recycled boxes to make packages, writing and drawing letters for friends and next will set up a post office. Language and literacy activities will include making mailboxes and postcards, weighting packages, and delivering mail around the center. We will be learning how mail and boxes get from one place to another, as we also become more aware of letters and numerals in our addresses and in our names. We also will be taking walks onto campus to see who else helps us take care of our community. We have recently welcomed new friends from the toddler wing to our classroom and are all working on having everyone feel welcome and comfortable in our P3 classroom community.

Teachers: Page, Chisaki, and Joy

Preschool 4:

During January we enjoyed plenty of snow exploration as we studied the concepts of hot & cold, freezing & melting. We brought snow inside to observe throughout the day as it melted and compared the properties of solids and liquids. Talking about how we all spent the snow days, when school was closed, created lots of discussion. We also studied wheels last month and investigated color wheels, gears, transportation wheels and discovered how wheels help us. This month, we will be building on our knowledge of wheels by incorporating more objects such as suitcases with wheels and airplanes in to the classroom. We also will explore imagination, pretend play and storytelling. A stage has been added to our classroom for the children to engage in signing, dancing, drama, and creating & retelling their own stories. We will incorporate various props, use interesting fabrics for costumes, create masks & puppets and play instruments. We will also be conducting studies of sounds; identifying loud, soft, high and low sounds. Activities to facilitate these investigations include charting the sounds we hear outside and inside, using microphones, recording (and listening to) our voices, comparing instrument tones, making instruments and creating string and cup “telephones”.

Teachers: Linda, Sarah, and Joy