

Early Learning Center

Where Families Connect to Learn, Grow and Play!

Contact us at: www.bellevuecollege.edu/childcare 425-564-2240

BCC reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran. Please visit www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal.asp



**November
2009**

Winter Calendar Reminder

Closed:

**Thursday, November 26
and Friday, November 27**

**Thursday, December 24
and Friday, December 25**

Thursday, December 31– Close at 5:00

And Closed:

**Friday, January 1
Monday, January 18
Monday, February 15**

Center Updates:

October 27, ELC Parent Advisory Meeting

- Did you know that a Bellevue College student organization, The Aloha Club, is working with other clubs on campus to provide winter support for some of our ELC children and families in need? If you would like to make a donation to support this event, please contact the Aloha Club President, Nitaya Pa'ahana at 206-326-8473.
- ELC Family Activities planned for 2009-2010 will include 2 Kids Quest Museum Nights, BC Planetarium Evening, Summer Picnic, and Preschool family breakfast & Tea. Other ideas for ELC family activities? See Verna or Emily.
- The “new” Bellevue College vision will be posted in our lobby area the week of November 2-5. Materials will be provided for comments and feedback.
- Unsafe parking &/or stopping in the front lot continues to be a problem. BC Public Safety has been notified.

Safety Alert!

Please do not leave purses, laptops, book bags, or any items that might even look to be of value in your car when coming into the Center – even for a short time. We have had incidents of car windows being smashed and items stolen from locked cars.

Illness at School – Be Prepared.

Please be sure you have a plan in place if your child is ill and unable to attend school (ELC). Most likely, at this point in time, you are very aware that everyone, everywhere is preparing for more than just the ‘usual colds &/or viruses’ this year. Here at ELC, we have posted new signs about hand washing, covering coughs, and staying home when ill. We’ve provided parent handouts on H1N1. In our preschool classrooms, we have been focusing even more than usual on how each of us can stay healthy. We do continue, as usual, to serve healthy foods, get the children outside often for fresh air & exercise and remind & “enforce” frequent hand washing. Your ELC Family Handbook lists the symptoms that exclude children from being here at the Center. If you have questions about our

November 2009

Infants and Young Toddlers Classroom Clips~ Bonnie MacGregor, Specialist

Infants: We want to welcome in our new families this month as several of our infants complete their transition and move into T-1. Children who are transitioning have been practicing eating their meals at a small table instead of high chairs and experiencing visits over to their classroom where they have been getting to know their new teachers and friends. We have all enjoyed observing and talking about the beautiful fall colors. As the weather has become chillier, we're also talking about our new coats and hats that are keeping us warm on our strolls outside. During the month of November, we will be exploring fall colors further with finger-paint and leaves. We will also be using a variety of materials and instruments as we focus on and explore the wonder of sound.

Teachers: Linda, Carolyn, Mahboobeh, Parisa and Joy

Young Toddlers – Toddler One : In the month of November, we will continue to bring the outdoors inside including wet leaves, dry leaves, tree bark, 'helicopter' seed pods, pine cones and so on. We will have the children explore these items in a teacher-monitored sensory table. Since we currently have a young toddler group, we will be encouraging the children to practice walking while pushing various toys outside. We will also be offering many new opportunities to cruise inside from base to base, to strengthen those leg muscles. This month's independence skill focus will be sitting in our chairs at the table during meal times. The phrase, 'Sit down to eat, please' will be heard often in our room. We know we are making progress when the children begin to remind each other.

Teachers: Dotty, Annie and Joy

Toddlers Classroom Clips ~ Vanessa VonPapp, Specialist

Toddler 2: Last month in T-2, the children were enjoying the book "*The Little Old Lady Who is Not Afraid of Anything*". When our children are introduced to the magic of favorite books, they develop a love of reading that can last a lifetime. They request this story over and over again. We think many of our children can retell it if asked. We have changed our walking field trip day to the last Friday of each month. Our classroom will be taking walks about campus to places like the soccer field and the college gym. After that, we will see where else their interests will take us.

Teachers: Diane, Rita, Khazal and Esther

Toddler 3: Our children have been gaining a greater enjoyment from peer play each day. They have started to use each other's names during play and social interactions. One of their favorite pretend play together is going shopping. The children each carry a tote bag and say, "Bye! See you later!" They wave to the teachers and pretend that they are going shopping. They like it when the teachers wave back and say, "Have fun shopping. Have fun!" The bags get filled with empty food containers and toys. Their faces are full of smiles! The children come back and pretend over and over again to shop. Another fun and exciting activity the children enjoy is finding insects out on the playground. The spiders, worms and beetles are all over the wet dirt. The children are thrilled every time they find them. They watch them crawl and follow them around. We will continue to bring more new stories, songs and activities about insects to expand upon their growing interest.

Teachers: Chisaki, Lisa-Ann, Khazal and Esther

Toddler 5: Come take a look at our many new and interesting learning centers in T5. Our children are currently very fascinated with transportation. To accompany our train station and airport, we will be painting large boxes and transform them into trains and cars! It never ceases to amaze us when all of a sudden the children take the initiative to line chairs up to make their own train. The book *Freight Train* has been a nice focus for us. The weather is changing and it is getting colder outside. Please take a moment to see if the coat your child wears to school is warm enough. We play outside each day and if the weather is wet and soggy a nice pair of dry socks to change into is a welcomed item. Nature walks on dry days are on the calendar. Venturing out on walks, taking time to look at the colors of fall and bring back specimens to study with our magnifying glasses, will be fun adventures. We will be studying pumpkins by exploring-both the outside and inside of the pumpkins. We will be weighing, measuring and cutting open pumpkins. What a surprise it will be to touch the slippery center of our pumpkins! Welcome autumn.

Teachers: Page, Yen -Chiu, Wendy and Esther

Toddler 6: During October, our children were involved in developing new classroom learning areas. They helped to build a tree for the story table using ideas from "*Chicka, Chicka, Boom Boom*". The children also helped find magazine pictures with different shapes to use in our math center. They also collected some leaves for our sensory tub. Working together, we created some new areas to explore! We experimented using our senses with materials like Jell-O, baking soda and vinegar. These were wonderful cause and effect activities. Dancing to different rhythms and listening music on CD and cassette, continue be another favorite activity in our classroom. This month we will continue implementing more activities that permit children to experiment with their senses and participate in the creation of our classroom learning center. Check out our lesson plans!

Teachers: Liliana, Brian, Wendy and Esther

November 2009

Preschool Classroom Clips ~Pam England, Specialist

Preschool 1:

There is so much change around us to explore! P1 has been busy observing and investigating all the transformation that the new season has brought. We took nature walks and experienced hands-on a variety of colors, textures and sizes. Leaves, pine cones, branches, and pumpkins were some of the fall treasures we compared. We brought them inside our classroom to further inspect. The children noted the many facets of the pinecones and discovered pumpkin seeds and the “slimy” pulp inside the pumpkins. This turned into a fun hands-on activity in the science center! Making our own pumpkin patch by tracing and cutting decorations was a fun activity in our writing center. “The Gingerbread Boy” was a big part of our language development as the children used their imaginations to reenact the ginger bread story with felt board characters and puppets. We also made and baked our own gingerbread people “from scratch”, which was enjoyed by all. Yum! **Teachers: Desiree, Roberta, Margarita and Naghmeh**

Preschool 2:

The month of October was a month of observation and exploration in P-2. We have been observing and discussing the changes that occur in the fall season. We took a nature walk around campus earlier in the month to see the beautiful colors that are popping up in the trees, shrubs and bushes. We noticed that leaves are not the only thing falling from the trees in abundance this time of year, as we came upon a fir tree with what seemed like hundreds of cones beneath by it's trunk. Luckily, we had brought along a shopping bag for such a serendipitous occasion. The fir cones are now in our dry sensory table and the children are “collecting” them all over again in plastic buckets. We have also been exploring the wonders of pumpkins and apples. Mala brought a pumpkin to the room so the children could see the inside and the seeds, some of which became part of a math center while the other parts are waiting to be baked and consumed. The children really enjoyed the sensory aspect of the pumpkin, all those slippery, slimy seeds! As for the apples, they became delicious home made apple sauce, complete with cinnamon topping. Their aroma while cooking was as wonderful as their taste. November is here and we will continue enjoying and learning about the season and how a new season is just around the corner with all its wonders. **Teachers: Mala, Donna, Margarita and Naghmeh**

Preschool 3:

For the month of October we explored the fall changes. We talked about the weather, collected leaves, and then used magnifying glasses to study our pumpkins, squash, and corn. The children noticed that some of the pumpkins are bumpy, some of them smooth and some of them rough. We also made home-made bread! We mixed, poured, and stirred the ingredients until it turned into dough. We then cooked it and ate it! Another day our class had a dentist come visit and talk to us about our dental health. Why do we need to brush our teeth and how do we brush were some of the questions addressed. She demonstrated brushing with a moose puppet who had giant teeth. Everyone was so excited to see the giant toothbrush she used to demonstrate! In the month of November we will go on a treasure hunt walk and see what fall objects we can find. Maybe some leaves or pinecones, sticks or twigs? We will bring these back to our classroom; then paint and create with what we find! We will also be cooking. The children will practice how to measure ingredients and read instructions when we make and bake pumpkin bread muffins. It is parent-teacher conference time this month, so please see us for the form to sign up to hear about the wonderful things your child is learning & doing here in P3! **Teachers: Enrique, Sarah, Ghousia and Naghmeh**

Preschool 4:

We have had a great beginning to the school year here in P-4. We made applesauce and cooked flat bread. The children counted and charted the color of eyes in our classroom, the people in our family and the differences in leaves. Our children are busy at work practicing name recognition, following a recipe and matching alphabet letters. In November, we will change our focus to earth science. We'll talk about taking care of ourselves, exploring similarities in people and differences, and we will compare quantities and weights in the natural materials we collect on our walks. Some of our outside activities will include drumming on drums, spray bottle painting, building with different kinds of blocks and watching which way the wind is blowing. Your kids are making P-4 a great place to be! If you haven't yet signed up for Fall Conferences, please take a moment to do so—we are looking forward to this special one on one time to share information with each of our children's families. **Teachers: Karen, Robin, Ghousia and Naghmeh**