



June 2014

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Upcoming Activities

[Calendar](#)

[CCC Board of Trustees meetings](#)
3rd Monday of each month, 7 PM, in
Moore Laboratory, room 239.

From the Director

The Evening Under the Stars may need a name change since there were only blue skies on Saturday. The star of the event was of course the new center! The food and the entertainment were great and the auction was very successful. A big thank you goes out to the Fundraising committee lead by Mohamed Elghafari. Thank you to the many parent volunteers and the teachers who lead the guided tours. Overall, I think fun was had by all.

The new center move date is still not firm, but we are working on a June date. If you are in need of parent hours stay tuned for ways you can help. We are waiting for the approval from Licensing after some safety concerns are addressed in the playground. Otherwise we are ready to go. As we prepare for the move we are also getting ready for an increase in enrollment which means that we will be hiring additional teachers. We welcome any parent who would be interested in being on the Lead Teacher or the Associate Director hiring committee. There is a time commitment so please check with me to see if it works for you.

Susan Wood





Bunny Hopping

Hello Bunny families!

We continue to follow our curriculum with our current focus: temperature (thermoception) and kinesthetic (proprioception). With the warm weather approaching, the children are enjoying water play. They splash around in puddles and fill cups or containers with water on the water table station.

We talk about the temperature of the water with the children, and ask them of their preference to cold or warm water on their bodies. On really warm days, the children enjoy cold ice cubes and ice chips as a refreshing option.

The children have also shown interest in climbing. The Bunny teachers assembled a climbing structure for the children to use. It starts with a step on one side, and combined with a couple of risers leads to a ramp at the other end where they can slide. The children practice their gross motor development by trying out new ways of crossing the climbing structure throughout the day.

Reminders:

- ❖ Please bring light blankets for your children to use during nap time on warm days.
- ❖ Please make sure your child has weather appropriate clothing in their cubby.
- ❖ Please make sure to close the door behind you at pick up and drop off time.

We all sincerely thank you parents for the generous teacher appreciation lunch and gifts! The personalized cards with the children's photos were very touching ☺

Thank you,
Elida Zavala
Bunny Teacher



Dolphin Splash

Hello Dolphin Families,

When entering the classroom please take the time to look over the yearbook and new documents that are frequently posted. We like to show off what the children have been working on.

We have provided new and familiar materials so the children can continue to explore simple machines. Children explore inclined planes by rolling balls down ramps. The children are using the environment and the Caltech campus to walk up/down inclined planes (hills & ramps). Plus, they are using their gross motor skills. We supervised the Dolphins as they practiced cutting real fruits such cantaloupe, watermelon, and strawberries with a plastic knife. They are utilizing the pulley by using buckets to measure the weight of blocks, dolls, and rocks.

Dolphins enjoyed rolling trucks over paint to make imprints of tires. They explored different kinds of materials and images of wheels & axles. The children are using their fine motor skills to thread caps, plugs, and elbows. They used the bottles to twist off the lids in order to retrieve the paint and placed it onto the paper. They are consistently using the lever to pick up their food and during activities they use the "squeeze and release" method to pick up objects.

We are coming closer to summer, and we will be setting up more water-play. Please apply sunscreen to your child before coming to school and bring a towel for after the water-play. If you could, a bathing suit works too. Also, make sure that your child has 3 extra changing clothes (shirts & shorts) and a pair of footwear.

The teachers would like to give you a huge thank you for sponsoring us to attend the Evening Under the Stars.

Thank you,
Suong Le
Dolphin Teacher



Penguin Parade

Hello Penguin Families,

We would like to thank the CCC families for the yummy luncheon during teacher appreciation week. We had snacks and treats for the rest of the week.

We are still on simple machines. Zippers and C clamps along with large nail screws have been applied to the practical areas.

Did you know "symbolic play" is a common early childhood behavior also called "pretend play," "make-believe" or "fantasy play?" As children approach 36 months of age, they increasingly engage in pretend play in which they reenact familiar events. Make believe play allows the child to better understand social roles, engage in communication with others and revisit and make sense of past experiences.

Research suggests that engaging in pretend play appears to be related to young children's developing understanding of other people's feelings and beliefs.

So stop and listen when your child is playing at home, with friends or their toys. You will be amazed at what they emulate.

Sincerely,
Starla Richardson
Penguin Teacher



Koala Korner

Hello Koala Families,

First of all we would like to thank all the Koala families for all the great treats for teacher appreciation week. We truly appreciate all the thought and love that went into the lunch and gifts. We would also like to thank the parents who donated ribbon for the handmade bags that the koalas made. Now that we have finished the bags, Koalas are able to take them on our nature walks and collect beautiful materials. This month we had filming from West Ed. They filmed the children interacting in their daily activities.

This month has been an active month for Koalas who are continuing to explore and expand their knowledge about systems and interactions. They have continued exploring various maps and have been investigating symbols on them. Thank you to all the parents who have donated different maps and we would appreciate if you would continue providing us with maps from your weekend trips and vacations. We also explored various street signs on our nature walk. Koalas have been playing the newly invented travel game. The travel game was created by koala teachers that begins at The Children's center at Caltech and has different pathways to get to the new center. On our nature walks we have explored various pathways. We have continued to use clay, make letters, coils, and pinch pots. The children have also continued to write in their journal weekly on different things such as mapping, pill bugs, plants, and gardens.

Koalas will be beginning to start some new and exciting activities. Koalas will begin wire work starting with the basics of coiling. Also, Koalas will be introduced to "mystery box." Mystery box is an activity that allows the children to bring something special from home and have the other children guess what is in the box. The child with the mystery box will give the other children various clues for them to guess. Teachers will introduce their own mystery box so that the children are familiar with how it works.

This month is our Evening under the Stars which will allow you to get a sneak peek of the new center. The move is near. Please stay updated by checking out our website. Remember, it is not too late to buy the Koala year book! The book is a little insight to what the children have been learning throughout the year. Enjoy and have a copy to share with friends and family.

A few Reminders...

- ❖ Please sign in and out on a daily basis
- ❖ Please check your parent file
- ❖ Label all clothing
- ❖ Make sure your child has enough clothing in their cubby
- ❖ Take your child's sheet and blanket home every Friday for a wash
- ❖ Please apply sunscreen on your children in the morning.

Thank you,
Amanda Sandoval
Koala Teacher



Raccoon Roundup

Saying Goodbye to Preschool and Hello to Kindergarten

Many preschoolers feel anxious about moving on to kindergarten. They worry that they won't have friends, won't like the teacher, will get lost, or won't be able to do what the teacher asks.

Here are some tips to guide your child through the move from preschool to kindergarten.

To Help With End-of-the-Year Feelings

- Place a sticker or make a mark on each day of the calendar every day during the last month of school.
- Encourage children to talk about their feelings about preschool ending; talk about your feelings too.
- Draw pictures and/or write good-bye messages for your child's friends or teachers.
- Revisit the events of the past year with your child by looking at drawings, paintings, photos, and writing. Celebrate how much your child has learned this year.
- Offer stress-reducing activities at home such as water play, puppets, or playdough.
- Help the class plan an end-of-the-year family potluck.
- Plan ways to keep in touch with classmates or organize a regular play group.

To Ease the Move to Kindergarten

- Visit the new school before your child's first day. Point out ways the room is similar to his preschool room, but also discuss how it holds new materials to explore.
- Plan play dates with new classmates.
- Read books about starting school, such as *Look Out, Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson; *Will I Have a Friend?* by Miriam Cohen, illustrated by Ronald Himler; and *If You Take a Mouse to School*, by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond.
- Describe the daily routines, including arrival, breakfast, snack, lunch, and bathroom practices.
- After your child is well settled into kindergarten, plan play dates with old friends.

Source: Adapted from the Message in a Backpack for Debora Jones, 2010, "Letting My Butterflies Go. Helping Children Move on to Kindergarten," *Teaching Young Children* 3 (4): 21–22.



Beaver Tails

Hello families! More of our Beaver friends are on to their next adventure in life. With that, we say goodbye to **Tyler Jung, Ian Ycasas, Kieran Cross, and Jacopo Rossi**. We wish these families the best of luck and hope you visit us at the new center.

As the heat is upon us and summer is fast approaching, we thought it would be ideal to give a cool summer recipe for everyone to try at home! Though you can't have ice cream at school, the family can sure enjoy it at home! Here is a fun, simple, sweet recipe for ...

ICE CREAM IN A BAG!

Ingredients:

½ cup milk
1 tablespoon sugar
¼ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
Ice cubes
Salt

Cooking tools:

Measuring cups
Measuring spoons
Gallon size Ziploc freezer bags
Quart size Ziploc freezer bags
Small bowls for serving
Spoons for eating

Process:

1. Place milk, sugar, and vanilla extract into a quart size Ziploc freezer bag, seal it tight!
2. Fill a gallon size Ziploc freezer bag halfway with ice.
3. Put at least six tablespoons of salt on top of the ice.
4. Place the quart size bag inside the gallon size bag and seal it tight!
5. SHAKE AND SHAKE AND SHAKE! A few extra shakes won't hurt!
6. The ice cream will become solid in about four minutes or less.
7. ENJOY and don't forget to use a spoon!

The science of cooking:

You can watch the ice cream-making process through the bag as the liquid becomes a solid. It may not work perfectly each time, but you can always try again! You can add different pure flavorings, such as mint or lemon. Try adding a little chocolate or even some fruit!

Recipe from: *Cooking is Cool Heat-Free recipes for Kids to Cook* by Marianne E. Dambra

Thanks,
Veronica Dayag
Lead Teacher