



From the Director

Parents

Here's the latest progress and projected timeline for the new center:

- All new furniture and furnishings meant to supplement and/or replace current furnishings have been ordered through Caltech procurement.
- The area rugs are in place in all classrooms.
- The Kohburg and Community Playthings furniture has arrived and been assembled.
- The new Storage Rack systems have arrived and been assembled (Kitchen area, Pre-school storage rooms & Conference area)
- Office and conference furniture is expected to arrive on March 3rd. The vendor will install the furniture on site.
- Playground areas have been inspected by a consultant. No remedial action is required.
- Sand box covers have been fabricated and installed.
- The shade sail canopy by the infant and toddler yards is installed.
- Additional classroom items from Steffy and Constructive Playthings will arrive by March 10th.
- The STEAM science lab cabinets are being moved, repaired as necessary, and being installed.
- STEAM area will be complete with power and new plumbing fixtures connected by March 7th.
- CCC can begin to outfit the sample rooms (one each in infant, toddler, and pre-school structures) beginning March 17th.
- The Caltech lockshop can issue keys to you and staff on or about March 14th.
- Target date for the State inspector could be as early as March 31st.
- Moving date of rest of CCC to follow in April or May.

Please keep in mind that the dates are subject to revisions based on the visit from Licensing.

Susan

March 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 Continued...

Below is a letter I received after the ECE STEM Conference:

Hi Susan,

Congratulations on the tremendous success of the ECE STEM Conference last week! While I have been to probably hundreds of professional meetings in my career, your first ever STEM conference stands out as one of the best. What a triumph.

The content of the presentations was wide-ranging and highly engaging. Beginning with the panel discussion, two presenters really stood out for me: Doug Clements set the tone for math, research scholarship, and the real world of teaching young children. Oznat Zur was also an outstanding presenter and she represents the Early Learning System in California so well with regard to math and science. I also appreciated the perspectives of Gerald Solomon and Gregory Washington - from two fields outside of the ECE community.

As the Keynote on Friday, Patricia Hunter-McGrath was as inspiring in her innovations as she was creative in her engagement of young children. I took copious notes of her ideas and clever little quotes. On Saturday, I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the research of Oana Tuduscus. The empirical studies of humans and monkeys was fascinating and I have been thinking about her work and its implications for young children. I especially appreciated the scholarship of this Cal Tech researcher because the majority of presentations were geared for classroom teachers (rightly so) thus the inclusion of researchers like Clements and Tuduscus added to the variety of presenters. I am sorry to have missed the keynote on Saturday!

As for our presentation on Friday, we are very pleased that our "group" contained so many interesting people interested in "growing STEM teams" in their programs. In their evaluations back to us (we have our own evaluation that was crafted specifically to see if our objectives were met) the participants indicated that they valued our message about STEM-team building: Relationships! We will be interested to hear more about the feedback that you received from our workshop.

In addition to the rich and varied content of the conference, the hospitality and comfort of the conference were wonderful. Beginning with your personal warm welcome to me in the hallway to your inclusiveness of me into your various conversations, I felt immediately like a member of the family. I cannot thank you enough for this kindness. In addition, the staff associated with the conference were very helpful and well-organized. I especially loved having Faith Polk as my support staff for our presentation.

Finally, the hotel was very easy to maneuver, the food was excellent (especially the reception on Thursday night - that was DELICIOUS) and the hotel rooms were very comfortable.

For all of this and so much more, I thank you and your tremendous staff. Please tell Kheng I regret not meeting her personally but look forward to seeing her when I come to the Conference next year with a great many of my graduate students.

With gratitude,
Carrie Rothstein-Fisch, Ph.D.
Professor and Co-coordinator
Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education
California State University, Northridge



Bunny Hopping

Hi Everyone!!

This last month was a busy one. The stem conference was a success. It was a good inspirational conference and we had a chance to keep current on new developments in the field. We were able to bring back new ideas to incorporate in our curriculum. Thank you for the opportunity to continue our staff development and growth.

Zoey is now transitioning. We want to wish her good luck at the dolphins. We'll miss you Zoey!

Here is the message regarding the new system for the daily sheets:

The infant and toddler program will be implementing a new system for the daily sheets beginning March 3rd. We will continue to document caregiving routines for you, but now it will have a new look. The documentation will be in one place for you to see at the end of the day. We hope this new change will give us the opportunity to have more engaging verbal communication with you at the beginning and end of your child's day. In addition to this, the teachers will continue to observe and document your child's developmental milestones daily. You get to view these photos in our classroom's digital photo frame as well as the digital DRDP (desired results developmental profile) during your parent conferences. I am available to discuss this if you have any questions regarding this transition.

Please provide a microwave safe dish if you would like Elena to warm your child's lunch. The children will be served from these containers and any leftover food will be returned home.

Suly Corro
Bunny Teacher

Dolphin Splash

Hello Dolphin Families!

We would like to welcome Zoey Cazares and her family to the Dolphin room. For the month of March, the Dolphins will continue to explore simple machines by using levers, pulleys, wheels & axles, inclined planes, and screws. Dolphins have shown a great interest in creating their own inclined planes using tubes, ramps and our new swiss structure which we brought back from the stem conference. The children have learned that in order for an object to roll up or down their tube/ramp, it must be at an incline. We also have been exploring weight with balance scales. We have been comparing light vs. heavy objects. The c-clamps have been fun to learn about. Our friends have been threading the C-clamp in order to grip wood to the table. The dolphins have been practicing their culinary skills by slicing cantaloupe, bananas, and strawberries. We will continue to use a wedge to cut many more foods.

On behalf of the Dolphin teachers, we would like to thank our families for understanding the closure of the center on February 7th for the Early Childhood Stem Conference. It was a huge success! We as teachers enjoyed all the wonderful workshops that were provided which gave us the opportunity to grow and gain more knowledge to help your children flourish. Here are some of the workshops we truly enjoyed: The Building Block of Early Mathematics by Douglas Clements, Introduction to Documentation by Jenne Ring, and Books You Can Count On by Jennifer Montgomery & Michelle Moen. The Stem conference motivated us teachers so much that we have already started implementing some of the information we have learned into our own curriculum.

Parents, with this crazy California weather please make sure your child's cubby is fully stocked with different types of clothing.

Reminders:

- Please label all of your child's clothing including a pair of rain boots.
- Please remember to take home your child's sheet & blanket every Friday for a nice wash.
- Please sign in and out daily.

Diana Gomez-Ramirez
Dolphin Teacher

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER AT CALTECH



Penguin Parade

Hello Family Members,

We would like to thank you for your support during our staff retreat.

As we continue exploring our curriculum of Form and Function, we value the children sharing their experiences relating to their understanding of simple machines such as inclined planes, wheels, and axles in their environments. At drop offs, the children are sharing the simple machines they found on their way to school. On our walks the Penguins are aware and pointing out simple machines on the Caltech campus.

We observed the children's interest in locking and unlocking doors using the keys from the dramatic area. During circle time we introduced real keys and locks to add in the practical life area. The children are gaining new vocabulary such as lock, unlock, insert, and turn. Then we introduced wedges in the form of butter knives. We asked the children "What can you cut with a knife?" There are surveys posted in the classroom with the children's responses. We celebrated Philip, Leo, and Stella's birthdays in this month.

Reminders:

- Penguins work Saturday will be in March 8th
- Check your child's cubby to see if they have extra clothes.
- Remember to sign in and out.

Veronica Espinosa

Penguin Teacher

Koala Korner

Hello Koala Families,

This past month we have continued our exploration on systems and interactions as we continued to discuss closed circuits while creating their train tracks and marble mazes. We have also introduced maps to the children, what they are used for, the type of information needed as well as looking at the various paths we can take to end in the same place. Children were asked to map their own path from the front door to the library and as a whole there were a total of twelve different ways to get there. We have also been reading books which involve maps, roads, pathways and direction. After reading the book *Along A Long Road*, by Frank Viva, we asked the children to illustrate their own road. During this activity the children discussed the distance between places, the direction in which they would be going, and some children even used different colors to identify the different paths they would take. The game "snail's pace race" was introduced not too long ago and now the children are reminding each other about the rules of the game. This game provides children with opportunities for one to one correspondence, teamwork, and turn taking just to name a few. Children were also asked to make a prediction about what would take more force, going up or down the ramp while using their bike. You can find their responses on one of our boards.

We also continued our work with clay by making "snails". We also have been cooking weekly so if you are interested you are always welcome to come in. Painting activities have also continued, and children are now focusing on several concepts at a time such as color mixing, location, size and shape. You should come and check out the painting of the orchid which was donated by Ella's family. Sewing continues as well, we will be working on how to connect two sides together. As we help children prepare for our move to the new site we continue to have regular discussions and visits to the site.

A quick reminder for everyone: Our website is a great source of information. It has a calendar, our curriculum, the daily schedule along with other useful information regarding the classroom as well as the center. We highly encourage you to visit it on a regular basis.

Friendly Reminders:

- Please make sure you sign in and out daily.
- Make sure to label all clothes.
- Make sure the gate between the Koala classroom and the bathroom is always CLOSED.
- Please remember to take home both sheet and blanket home every Friday and bring them back on Monday.

Sose Bekmezian

Koala Teacher



Raccoon Roundup

Hello Raccoon families and friends. February has been an eventful month! Many things have been changing and the children have taken notice. As you all know, we have been moving our equipment to the new center the past few months, and it was the science lab's turn to make the move. Since many of the children were concerned about where things were going and had many questions, we took a mini field trip to the new center and Tournament Park. It was a wonderful opportunity to have the children more accustomed to the new surroundings and see some of the furniture moved first-hand. To add to their experiences we showed the children a slideshow of some photos that were taken during a staff tour. They were able to see familiar things like the little green house, tire swing, gas station, and climbing structure. This month we are planning to have a tour of the inside of the center; the kids are looking forward to it. We would also like to take this moment to congratulate Ariana and Claire on becoming big sisters! If you haven't already, please check the photos posted near the sign-in sheet. Anahita and Julia make wonderful additions to their families.

Not all changes in our room have to do with the new center! Thank you for understanding that the CCC was closed on the 7th. All staff was attending the STEM conference we hosted in Costa Mesa. For those of you who attended, it was a pleasure to see you there! We are working to incorporate what we learned from the conference. The many great workshops and speakers have influenced some changes that have taken place in the classroom. Presenters came from all sorts of various backgrounds. To name a few, we heard from Kenneth Wesson who is an educational consultant in neuroscience, Maria Bartolini who came all the way from Italy to present her theories on number and spatial reasoning, and Regina and Chantal Lamourelle who presented on brain-appropriate practices for early child development. These workshops have reinforced our use of language, such as using terms like compare, predict, classify, and analyze with the children.

We have also rearranged some furniture in the book area and dramatic area to emphasize some of our gardening. Our teachers have been influenced to emphasize it more in our classroom after seeing presentations from Evergreen and Branches Atelier. In addition we are working to show a greater influence of Froebel related activities in our classroom. Froebel is considered the father of the original Kindergarten and focused on mathematical concepts along with experiential learning. It is for those reasons that we feel activities related to his philosophies would fit in well with our type of curriculum. Cathy Topal was a great presenter in our conference to support just that. She did two great presentations on creating with line and how art techniques can be connected to mathematics and science. In addition, Cathy Topal was also the author of *Beautiful Stuff*, which we will also be implementing in our classroom fairly soon.

In regards to our curriculum on water, we have done various things like making oil and water paintings, observing cohesion and adhesion of water on string, observing capillary action with celery stalks, and did experiments with tea in hot and cold water. In addition we have taken campus walks to observe water there. The turtle pond has been popular choice, especially since it is easiest the flow of water with the children. We will be continuing to talk about water properties, but we will be transitioning to talk about force. Recently Raccoons have made mini rivers on the table with sand on trays and explored with water on ramps. We look forward to the new month!

Angelica Magno
Raccoon Teacher

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER AT CALTECH



Beaver Tails

Hello Families!

Thank you to the parents who participated in our Work Saturday on February 22. It was a success as we had 14 volunteers! The classroom was cleaned and organized, materials replaced and changed, areas were repainted, and furniture was moved around. We hope you like the changes.

As you have noticed, the Science Lab was moved to the new center. Although the yard may look scarce, we are making the proper arrangements to ensure that a science lab is still present for the children. Materials and tables will be set out to continue the investigation, exploration, and discovery that the children enjoy so much. Thank you for your patience and time during this move.

The Early Childhood Science Technology Engineering and Math (ECSTEM) in Costa Mesa was a complete success for the CCC! With over 400 attendees, educators from San Diego to Los Angeles were able to select from 70 workshops. In addition, an exhibit hall was available for teachers to gain resources such as materials, activities, and more for their classroom environment. The ECSTEM conference for next year is set for February 5-7 in which we hope to have another successful event.

The Beaver Classroom curriculum is going strong as we continue to learn about Ecosystems and Habitats. The children are in the process of creating an aquarium from the pond water on campus, plant terrariums, rock insectariums, and build on their knowledge of what lives in our trees. The extra-curricular activities are much favored as the children get excited to cook, work with clay, sew, and create bridges. Feel free to look around the classrooms as activities are posted weekly.

Veronica Dayag
Beaver Lead