



September 2014

From the Director	1
Bunny Hopping	2
Dolphin Splash	3
Dolphin D&A	3
Penguin Parade	4
Koala Korner	5
Raccoon Roundup	6
Beaver Tales	7

Upcoming Activities

[Calendar](#)

[CCC Board of Trustees](#) meetings
3rd Monday of each month, 7 PM, at
the Children's Center.

From the Director

Dear Parents,

We are getting more and more comfortable in our new surroundings. This new space can accommodate an additional 29 children in the infant and toddler rooms so there are many new families, some coming to school for the first time. Last week we said goodbye to the last of the Kindergarten-bound children which was a little sad but mostly exciting. In total there will be about 60 or so new children and 14 new teachers as we venture into the new school year 14/15. Our goal right now is getting to know and trust each other. Making friends is hard work for young children and combined with the excitement of the new site children may be coming home exhausted, I know that it's true for the teachers too. We expect that everyone should be completely settled in by October.

You may have noticed work going on throughout the center. As with any new building there are a few modification and minor repairs. This will continue through the month of September. One such repair was going on one morning and a Raccoon father asked his son, "What is he doing?" and he responded, "He's making the school even cooler!" I couldn't have said better.

Susan Wood





Bunny Hopping

Hello Everyone! We moved!! A special thanks goes out to the CCC Board of Trustees, Susan, Liz, and the entire CCC staff who put countless hours and their personal time into writing the RFP, passing licensing inspections, and preparing the classrooms, children, and parents for the big move! This all goes to show the CCC has a strong community! We are now in our third week at the new center, and the transition has been fairly smooth. We all love our new space!

We recently welcomed new children Raul, Mattan, Beckett, Leanne, Eleanor and their families to the classroom. We also welcomed new teachers Michelle, Giovana, Ling, Ruby, and Mohee. Currently we are working on keeping our schedules and routines consistent and predictable for the children. The next month is a "getting to know you" time, the caregivers will spend time bonding with their primaries and observing the children's interests. This time is essential for the children to establish relationships with the teachers and will help them feel secure in the new environment. Taking time to observe the children will also facilitate our curriculum planning for this upcoming year. Please save the date for Back to School Night: October 17, 2014 from 6p to 7p.

Thank you parents for hosting the lovely lunch for us after our first week here!

Sincerely,

Jasmin Waggoner and Monica Dolan

Bunny Leads





Dolphin Splash

Hello,

Welcome to our new center. I have been working here for over 12 years. I have been hearing about this "new center" since then. It is exciting and wonderful to actually be part of this experience. It is finally a reality. The dolphins have enjoyed our new environment. They have especially enjoyed walking on the Arroyo and climbing our structure.

Until the end of September the entire center will be introducing/re-introducing tools. This will serve to guide us throughout the year. Some of the tools we will be exploring are balance scales, tongs, magnifying glass, spoons, and shovels to name a few. Look out for documentation to be posted soon in our classroom.

Our friends have liked being read the following books:

- ❖ From Head to Toe By Eric Carle
- ❖ Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Marin Jr.
- ❖ The Napping House by Audrey Wood

Finally we would like to introduce our Room Parent for the year, Jamie Do, Madeline's mom. Jamie will be sending the Dolphin email's on my behalf. She will also coordinate playdates.

Save the date, Friday October 17 from 6-7pm. Back To School Night. An adult event. There will be a food list posted closer to the date.

Few gentle reminders...

- ❖ Please bring a hat for your child.
- ❖ Make sure you sign in and out.
- ❖ Please make sure your child has 3 sets of change of clothes.

Goodbye,
Veronica Hendricks
Dolphin Lead

Dolphin D&A

Hello Dolphin Families,

Welcome to the new center and the new D&A Dolphin classroom. It has been a great start with transitions and we look forward to welcoming more families to join us. The dolphins have been continuously exploring and investigating their new environment. We will be beginning our "How to" curriculum. The children will be exploring the form and functions of scientific, cooking, and garden tools.

A friendly reminder to label all clothing and also don't forget to sign in and out daily. Lastly, if you have not updated your family photos, we highly encourage that you do so as soon as possible. Thank you and we look forward to a fantastic year!

Amanda and Diana
Dolphin Co-Leads



Penguin Parade

Dear Penguin Families,

Welcome to the new Center! We have had a wonderful transition to our new space and are really starting to explore all of the spaces in our classrooms and yard. The children have taken particular interest in the "Arroyo" finding insects and arachnids, different types of grasses, rocks, and other fascinating natural discoveries. These organic moments of inquiry are inspiring some of the first topics of curriculum in our classrooms.

For the next few months we will begin to introduce how to use the materials in the classroom and various tools (magnifying glasses, measuring tapes, etc.), learning their form and function, how they work, and how to take care of them. These experiences will lead us to emerging ideas and interests of the children and inform our curriculum for the Fall.

You can support and continue this work at home, too. A very important part of taking care of our tools and materials is learning how to clean up group spaces and make sure they are ready for the next child, or for the next time we use them. This can include cleaning up toys at home. Also, as children begin to learn how to use the toilet, practicing putting on and taking off their own clothes and shoes can support this next step and ensure they are ready to help themselves when the time comes. Finally, help us encourage the children to use their words to express their wants and needs both at home and at school, as language is one of the most powerful and useful tools they will have.

In Other News:

We have several new friends to welcome to the Penguin Block and to the CCC: in Seadra's classroom we have Adi, Arianna, Austin, Charlotte, Kennedy, Makaela, Madeleine, and Max, and in Jackie's classroom we have Oliver and Wyatt. We also welcomed two new teachers to our rooms and to the CCC: Cindy and Ingrid!

Save the Date! Back to School Night is on Friday, October 17 from 6-7pm.

Have a wonderful month!

Jackie Reyes and Seadra Chagolla
Penguin Leads



THE CHILDREN'S CENTER AT CALTECH



Koala Korner

Dear Koala Families,

August has been an exciting month for everyone as we were finally able to move into our new center. In this move Koalas won the lottery, going from a studio to a luxurious penthouse. Our initial transition is going smoothly and the children are comfortable in the new space. This supports our belief that trusting relationships are crucial to helping and allowing children to be able to feel safe to explore. During the first week teachers allowed children to explore and investigate the space freely, during which we observed the children spending most of their time in the dramatic play and the library area. There are also many bonds among the children which are very strong, but as they continue to transition we have noticed them welcoming each other in their play as well as modeling appropriate behavior.

As you look around our room you may have noticed some surveys beginning to be posted. Our curriculum for the next two months will be our "how to" months in which we introduce materials and their purpose as we investigate form and function. So far we have been focusing on art, carpentry and science tools. Look out for sewing, clay and gardening tools in the next few weeks. During this time we are also getting to know all the children in order to develop a curriculum that meets their interests.

Koala's room parent for the upcoming year is Rana Awad. She will be emailing you any reminders or special notices which everyone needs to be aware of. As soon as we finish getting settled she will also be planning playdates. We hope that you can attend these throughout the year.

SAVE THE DATE: October 17 from 6-7p.m.

Back to School Night has been set for October 17 from 6-7p.m. as always this is an adult event only. This allows parents and teachers an opportunity to talk about the upcoming year. It is a fun relaxed time in which get to know the teachers, play games and win prizes.

Teachers would like to once again thank all parents for providing lunch for all teachers on the first Friday.

As always if you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to talk or email me at Olivia.garcia@caltech.edu

Reminders:

- ❖ Kitchen is an adult space only
- ❖ Please be sure your child has a hat
- ❖ Make sure your child has at least two sets of clothes
- ❖ Label all clothes
- ❖ Check your mailboxes daily
- ❖ Check your child's cubby daily for anything to be taken home
- ❖ Rest sitters needed every third Wednesday of the month from 1:15-3:15

Olivia Garcia
Koala Lead





Raccoon Roundup

Greetings to our dear Raccoon families!

This has been a time for new changes, new adjustments, and a whole new classroom! We want to thank everyone who helped get us through the move. We welcome all the new Raccoons into our room with open arms and we also send our older Raccoons off with hugs, both those who have moved on to the Beavers and also to those who have left for kindergarten. Sometimes changes are not easy, but when the Raccoons found out how close we were to the park they were happy! One child said to me when we got here, "Look, they bought us a new climbing structure"!

The Raccoons are starting off with the curriculum of Form and Function, in which it introduces and reintroduces to those that have been here the use of our tools and materials, such as the carpentry tools, art tools, etc...not only how we use them, but the safety, care and storing when we are finished.

We started off by illustrating what we liked best at the center by drawing pictures and recording our words. Here are some of the answers:

- ❖ I like the tire swing and the sandbox.
- ❖ Play structure. I like going on the "cheesy" part because there's somewhere you can put your foot and hold yourself.
- ❖ I like the plants because they're beautiful and they help the earth grow bigger.

Another question given to the Raccoons, What tool would you use if you were an artist? Some answers:

- ❖ I would use a paint brush and blue paint.
- ❖ Paint to paint a maze.
- ❖ Picture frame.

We also read the book, Green Eggs and Ham, by Dr. Seuss, and the children shared their own ideas about making green eggs and choice which kitchen tool they would use. Some of their comments:

- ❖ You use green spinach. It makes green eggs and ham.
- ❖ With the green grapes and I add salt.
- ❖ I would use the spatula like for the pancakes. I would use broccoli, its green.

A graph was also created to sort out the kitchen tool you would like to use, such as an egg beater (11), Spatula (1), and plastic knife (5). It is fun to work in detail because you not only have them learning and talking about the tools in the kitchen, they are also doing math. There's much more going on in the class room and many charts and art work are appearing up on the walls...come and see.

Reminder – please label clothing.

Jannette Norwood
Raccoon Teacher





Beaver Tails

Hello families!

This time of the year is a bittersweet moment for all of us as we say goodbye to our last group of Beaver children and teacher Cynthia Escandon. We wish them the best of luck on their journey. We would like to welcome our new Beavers and their families for the 2014-2015 school year!

With our move to the new center, the month of August was full of excitement, discovery and adventure. In the yard, the children were busy exploring the science lab, hammering and sawing in the woodworking table, climbing up and down the climbing structure, using the tire swing, riding bikes and getting water from the cistern to create sand works. The cistern is a silver vessel in the arroyo area that we use it to hold a reserve of water. The arroyo has become the children's new favorite place to explore and find bugs.

In this outdoor classroom/environment, they not only have fun by nurturing their physical well-being, but also in fostering their curiosity, creativity and social skills. Most importantly, they are developing a sense of wonder and appreciation for the world around them.

Our curriculum begins with a center wide theme of form and function in which we introduce and revisit tools and materials that the children use on a daily basis. While the children refine their skills during cooking, art, clay, sewing, science and gardening tools, teachers observe their interests and look for trends which will help determine the direction of this year's curriculum.

We have a few gentle reminders to start off the year:

- ❖ The gate between the yard and the lobby door should always be opened and closed by parents.
- ❖ Please remember to label your child's name on their belongings such as clothes, lunch box, bed sheet, blanket, etc.
- ❖ Please be sure to apply sunblock in the morning to protect your child's skin.
- ❖ Always keep an extra pair of clothes in your child's cubby.

Thank you!
Shain Yann Hsu
Beaver Teacher

