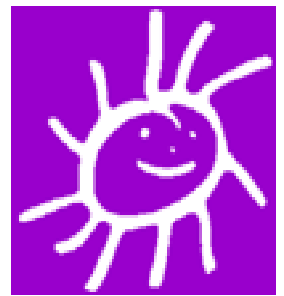


The Children's Center at Caltech



June 2006

From the Director	1-2
Bunnies Hopping	2
Dolphin Splash	2-3
Penguin Parade	3
Koala Korner	3-4
Raccoon Roundup	4
Beaver Tales	5
From the Editors	6
Poetry & Readings	6
From the Board	7
CCC Philosophy	7
Fun Page	8

Upcoming Activities

Board Meeting:

7:00 p.m.
Room 239, Moore Lab
3rd Monday of each Month

Upcoming Holidays

Monday, July 3rd and
Tuesday, July 4th
Independence Day

Monday, September 4th
Labor Day

293 South Chester Avenue
Pasadena, California 91106
626.395.6860
626.793.7308 fax
www.ccc.caltech.edu

From Susan's Desk

As we move into summer it's time for **transitions**. Children will be moving into the next room and new families will be joining the Center. Transitions can be stressful for parents and children alike. We realize the delicate nature of these moves and the importance of good communication. Lead teachers have a pivotal role in this communication. They meet once a week with Liz and me to discuss, among other things, transitions. From the Lead teacher meeting the information is carried to the team meetings. Lead teachers are responsible for informing parents of the upcoming moves and Liz notifies families from our wait list of openings. During these meetings, we look at the schedules of openings, fit children from the wait list into new spots and choose the children who will be moving from younger to older classrooms. There are many things that factor into this decision. We begin by considering the child's:

- maturity level;
- age and developmental readiness;
- emotional/social relationships;
- vacation schedules

Each of which are factors that weigh into the order and timing of each move.

As a parent you may wonder, "Why is our family vacation a factor?" It

can be hard for a child to move to a new room and a week later be gone for a month and then return to the new room. To minimize the number of changes that a child must navigate through the teacher may choose to postpone the move until your family returns.



Sometimes we are able to move friends together. A close friend can offer support in a new environment. Other times a teacher may opt to separate friends for a short duration in order to give one or both some independence. The shy of two friends may need the opportunity to establish their own personal bonds with new teachers before their friend joins the room.

Availability in the next room can pose a problem. Your child might be ready to move but there is simply no spot available at that time. It is important to remember that the waiting period for the next space is generally a short one so please be patient.



Because we have 6 classrooms and we only serve children ranging in age from 6 months to 6 years old it is impossible for each child to spend a year in every room. Some children do what we refer to as a "hop skip" and others might skip a room completely. What we mean by "hop skip" is that some children will spend only the summer months in the room before moving to the



classroom where they will spend the following school year. These children are carefully selected by weighing in the previous mentioned factors.

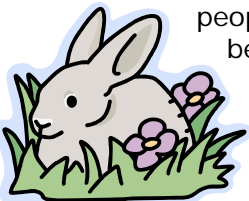
Some ways that you can help are:

- * Make an appointment to talk to your child's Lead teacher.
- * Talk to your child about the transition and remember that child will look to you for cues on how to react to this change so keep it positive.
- * Acknowledge your child's feelings. "I can see that you are a little scared but I am sure that your new teachers will help you."
- * Take a little extra time in the morning to say good-bye.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please don't hesitate to call Susan.

Bunny Hopping

The Bunnies have been studying people and looking at things connected with



people. We have been looking at culture and body parts.

The children enjoyed having their bodies being traced. Then they had fun painting the images of themselves and their friends with the multicultural paint.

They have also enjoyed going on walks around campus to people watch.

This week we are focusing on hands and feet. The children are having fun painting with their hands and feet. We will eventually be moving on to food and talking about the different types of food that people of various cultures eat.

The Bunny Children are growing more and more everyday. The vocabulary of the Bunnies is increasing all the time. Our youngest Bunny just turned a year last month.

We are sad to say that some of our older Bunnies will be moving on to the Dolphins during the summer time when spaces open up. We will miss these children but we know that there will be many more opportunities for them to learn and grow in their new classroom.

We are looking forward to the new babies that will be transitioning in to our room when our older Bunnies move.

The Bunnies would like to say thank you to all of the parents who donated items to our Bunny Basket for The Evening Under the Stars Fundraiser.



We would also like to say a big thank you to all of the parents who sponsored the staff to attend the event. The Bunny Teachers all had a wonderful time; enjoying good food and good company.

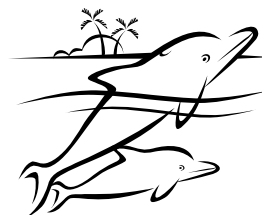
Bunny Parent Information:

1. Rest-sitting Opportunities: Every Tues and Thursday 1:30-2:30

2. Sorry Bunny Parents, The Bunny Work Saturday was canceled for June 3rd.
3. With the warm weather and summer approaching, we will be doing lots of water play so please bring a change of clothing for your children. Also, please bring clothing suitable for the warm weather.
4. As a **reminder**, if you want sunscreen on your child then you will need to apply first. We can only reapply the sunscreen.

Dolphin Splash

The curriculum development of Movement has been one of excitement for the children.



The emergent curriculum with the movement of trucks, cars, caterpillars, ants, ladybugs, and a host of people within the environment has made this particular unit of study one that can continue infinitely.

The children are continuing to develop in language as well as small and large motor skills.

As the summer months approach, you will be seeing more transitions within the classroom. The transitions to a new classroom will usually be one week unless the child attends part-time, which may warrant more time.

Thanks to everyone that participated in the Annual "Evening Under The Stars" fundraising event. Many people helped in the following ways:

- o Donations to the classroom gift basket



- o Volunteered on the planning committee
- o Set up before or cleaned up after the event
- o Wrapping gift baskets
- o And Publicity about the event

Thanks again for your continued support of the CCC.

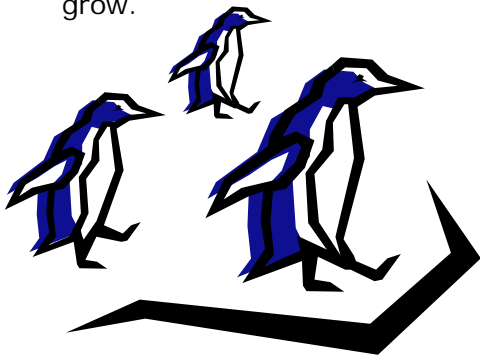
Penguin Parade

Happy Birthday!
Michael:
July 2nd
and
Arianna:
July 12th.



We are continuing our curriculum on change/growth. We continue looking at plants, looking at ourselves, and now we have starting looking at bugs. We have snails and ladybugs in the class. The children have been going to a spider hunt outside. And most of the boys - and a lot of girls - are on the look for different type of bugs that are in our yard.

The children - especially the girls - have shown a great interest in babies. We have been talking about what babies eat, where babies sleep, and what babies need to grow.



It is the time of year again: time for transitions. That means that children will be moving out of the Penguins and Dolphins will be moving in with the Penguins. You may feel a little anxious of when or who will be next to move. Not to worry, all of the children that have been with us for most of the year will be transitioning over, this summer.

We will let you know of the transitions that will be taking place. We will post the transitions up and send an e-mail. Sometimes transitions will occur in small groups or individuals. **Genevieve** kindly agreed to continue to be our room parent. She will be e-mailing you about the transitions. Thank you **Genevieve Sweet!**

Summer is here! We will start having water play outside, so please bring a bathing suit for your child and remember to label it. Also make sure that your child has extra summer clothing that is label in his/her cubby. And if your child is potty training, make sure that they have plenty of underwear and bottoms in their cubbies.



Don't forget to apply sunscreen on your child before coming to school. We ask that you apply a waterproof kind since there will be days that we will have water play. If you bring sun block, we will only reapply as needed, example after water play.

Song:

Baby Dance (book)

Hush little baby, don't you cry
Hush little baby, Mama's nearby.

Dance little baby, move to and fro
Coo and crow baby, there you go.

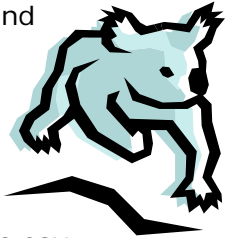
Up to the ceiling, down to the ground
Backward, forward, 'round and 'round.

Dance little baby, dance and sing
Dance along, sing along, ring-a-ding-ding

~ Ann Taylor

Koala Korner

We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Vivien** and **Natalie Sweet!** Welcome to the Koala classroom, we are so happy to have you with us.



Also, we would like to say goodbye to **Sofie McAfee**. We are sad to see her go; she has gone on a wonderful European Vacation and upon her return will attend a new school. We enjoyed our time with her and wish her the best!

This month we have ventured into a new curriculum. We learned so much during Animate vs. Inanimate. We loved every second of it. The Koalas learned a great deal about pretend items and real items.

Now we transition into Systems and Interactions, where we will investigate transportation, people, food, plants, and our community.

When asking the Koalas where they live these were some responses:

- "In Columbia" ~ Daniela
- "In California" ~ Ella
- " In Pasadena" ~ Jane
- "In Monrovia" ~ Sam

The Koala's have great ideas about their surrounding communities.

With summer upon us many transitions will be happening. Remember to help your children keep a consistent routine daily for better adjustment. It is always difficult to venture to a new place, but very exciting once you are there! Remind them that all their friends are still around, and making new friends is a wonderful experience.

We do all that we can to help our children smoothly transition. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help during the time of transitions.

We are continuing to have weekly picnics with the Penguins to get better acquainted with our future Koalas and make new friends. All parents and friends are welcome to join us at 11:45am in the Preschool Yard for a fun



lunch! Each week we alternate the picnic on Thursday or Friday so that all children may experience our picnics! Ask a teacher which day it is to join us and spend time with your child and their peers.

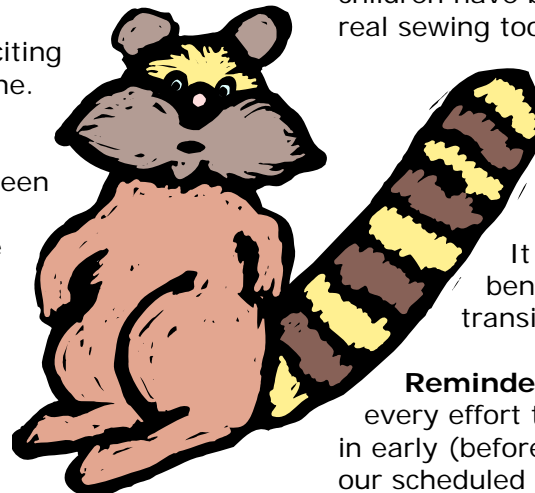
Enjoy the summer, and stay safe! We look forward to sharing all of our vacation stories and experiences throughout the summer.

Reminder: Check the Web for updates and upcoming events! Need parent hours? Ask a Koala Teacher!

Raccoon Roundup

Well, that time of the year is here again where we start our transition of children into the Beaver room as the Koalas join ours. It's an exciting time for everyone.

The Raccoon teachers have been discussing how much they have grown throughout the year and now it is time for them to move on.



We understand that just like not all children are the same . . . all transitions maybe not be the same. Some children transition very easily into a new classroom while others may need extra attention or a longer time to transition. Rest assured, we will - of course - be flexible, and have the child's best interest in mind.

Continuing with the change topic, the raccoons have explored the changes that have been occurring with our silkworms. Our friends recorded their observations of

the transformation in their journals. It has been an experience that has been carried over time.

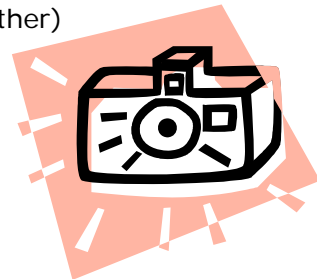
We have also used our journals to observe the changes happening in our garden boxes. It has been rewarding not only seeing our garden boxes flourish but also to tend to them.

During this time of change we experience the changes of the types of food in season. The raccoons have been enjoying taste-testing surveys, making salads and fruit shakes. In addition to these activities we have been enjoying sewing. Sewing as been our newest addition to our curriculum. The children have been excited using real sewing tools.

In closing, please write down your vacation on our vacation calendar. It may be very beneficial during transition time.

Reminder: please make every effort to bring your child in early (before 9:30) on our scheduled walks.

Thank you Jose **Luis Riechman** (**Daniel's** father) for taking the time to spend a day with us to take pictures!



Beaver Tales

The successful conclusion to our **“End of the Year”** celebration signifies the start of many transitions, figuratively, physically/logistically, and developmentally speaking.

The Beavers are either moving onto Kindergarten, transitioning to other schools, moving to other places, taking vacations, or deciding to stay another year with us. It is therefore appropriate that we explore, discuss, analyze, dissect, compare, contrast, and brainstorm the concept of “changes” in our lives as we ready ourselves for the both the pre-K and kindergarten experiences.

This month, we are reading many stories on Kindergarten, creating self-made books, webbing what Kindergarten or vacation means to us, journaling our experiences, exploring the physical changes of places and faces, and welcoming incoming students and families.

As of writing, we want to welcome **Asa Schiller** (from the Raccoons) and **Lisa Calegari**, while saying good-bye and best of luck to **Matthew, Katie, Yoon-Young, Henrique, Lilo,** and **Carolyn**. As the Beavers depart, we have put together a portfolio package of the child’s work throughout the year to commemorate the growth and development of each child through her or his myriad of work pieces and anecdotal accounts.

The process of transition is not only marked by changes in one’s life, externally or internally, but also manifested through seasonal changes. Henceforth,

the transition to summer changes is witnessed in the weather, water play, and in our curriculum concept of explorations.

On **Friday, July 7th**, we are excited to have the **Cabrillo Beach** “touch tank” and puppetry of sea animals come to our Center via a live “hands-on” presentation and demonstration on the pre-school side. This is a great way to transition and learn about the summer changes through water habitats and water and animal life. We are super excited because we shall get to see, touch, and investigate real specimen, or live creatures. Stay tuned for updated info on our Bulletin Boards.



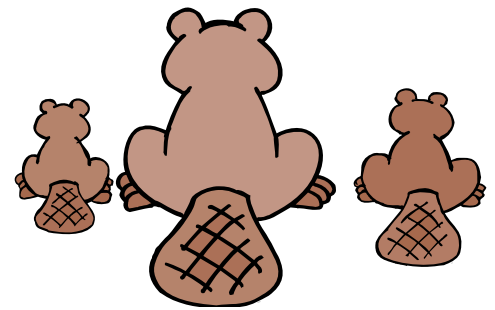
To date, we have booked the following times of on-site presentations as follows:

- Koalas - 9:30-10:30 am
- Raccoons - 10:30-11:30 am
- Beavers - 11:30am-12:30 pm

We plan to have the presentation held in the Beavers’ classroom and front porch due to space configuration.

A final **thank you** goes out to all the parents who attended our successful **“Father’s Day/ Parent Day”** afternoon snack and family event on June 15th. The children were so excited creating the *“I love my dad/parent”* dedication chart, and baking the bread. Further thanks also goes to all the families for their contributions, volunteerism, and time given throughout the year in order to earn their parent work hours.

To date, all 30 of our families, except for approximately 5, have completed their required parent work hours, so



congratulations to everyone’s magnanimous efforts. (Please update/document your work hours in the folder, and please see the teachers if you still need to complete your hours.)

Some suggestions are coming in and sharing your stories or family traditions, doing some “hands-on” developmental exploration (be it science, art, math, motor, music, etc.), helping with fixing or organizing things, filling children’s work in their appropriate places, assisting us on our trips or walks, etc.

Finally, **thank you** to all the families for their kind gestures, words, and deeds bestowed on us, the staff, as you all say “good-bye.”

Rather than view this phase as a final chapter in our lives, let us look at this change as one of the inevitable phases in life’s many transitions. So as we wish you all the “best of luck,” please don’t forget all the great memories, the laughter, the experiences, the learning, and the emotions that we all shared with you and your child as being part of the *“totality of the Beaver experience.”*

Again, thank you all, and come visit us when you are around the neighborhood (this brightens our day especially seeing how much your child has grown or changed developmentally). Until next time . . . love and care from the Beavers.



From the Editors

I was born not knowing
and have had only a
little time to change
that here and there.

~Richard Feynman



You've likely noticed the theme of this newsletter: **Transitions.**

Change is often difficult and when it is hard on our children, it's even harder on us as parents. Among us there are the parents who have a hard time when we realize how smoothly our children handle change and growth. An emotion made especially difficult when the children are ready sooner than we are ready.

There is little one can do to immediately alter emotional triggers when change comes along. However, there are things we can try to remember. Take the time to be honest and frank with yourself when facing the trepidation of change. Simply realizing what you are feeling and being aware of your emotions can clear the way to accepting the inevitability of the transitions.

Another suggestion is to be open about the event and the impact on you with others. Tell the caregivers at school about your concerns about transitions from one group to another for your child. Ask questions about what the difference will be for your child. Go forward and introduce yourself to new caregivers and let them know

both your concerns and your expectations.

If nothing ever changed,
there'd be no butterflies.

~Author Unknown



Let your partner and your friends – your support system - know what you are feeling and ask for understanding and care if this is hard on you. And if your partner is struggling with change, be the one to help assuage concerns and assure that it is highly likely that everything will work out well.

Yes, the unknown is always exciting and intimidating. But our children face new and unknown situations daily. They don't live in professional ruts nor are they often victim to the routine. Be joyful for them and know that you are there with them - not just to guide and support them, but to experience life with them, too.

Change always comes
bearing gifts.

~Price Pritchett



-Erin & Sam

Catch a Little Rhyme
~Eve Merriam

Once upon a time
I caught a little rhyme

I set it on the floor
but it ran right out the door

I chased it on my bicycle
but it melted to an icicle

I scooped it up in my hat
but it turned into a cat

I caught it by the tail
but it stretched into a whale

I followed it in a boat
but it changed into a goat

When I fed it tin and paper
it became a tall skyscraper

Then it grew into a kite
and flew far out of sight...

Excerpt from "Working Late"
~Louis Simpson

A light is on in my father's study.
"Still up?" he says, and we are
silent, looking at the harbor
lights, listening to the surf and
the creak of coconut boughs.

He is working late on cases.
No impassioned speech! He
argues from evidence, actually
pacing out and measuring, while
the fans revolving on the ceiling
winnow the true from the false.

All the arguing in the world will
not stay the moon. She has come
all the way from Russia to gaze
for a while in a mango tree and
light the wall of a veranda, before
resuming her interrupted journey
beyond the harbor and the
lighthouse at Port Royal, turning
away from land to the open sea.

Yet, nothing in nature changes,
from that day to this, she is still
the mother of us all.
I can see the drifting offshore
lights, black posts where the
pelicans brood.

And the light that used to shine
at night in my father's study now
shines as late in mine.

Hola Todos
To the tune of London Bridges

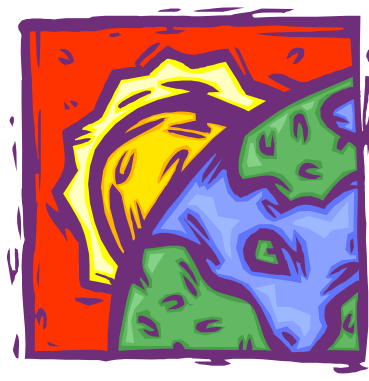
Hola todos, si, si, si,
Si, si, si; si, si, si.
Hola todos, si, si, si,
Si, si, si, amigos.

Hello everybody, yes, yes, yes,
Yes, yes, yes: yes, yes, yes.
Hello everybody, yes, yes, yes,
Yes, yes, yes, friends.



From the Board

The earth's equator is tilting like crazy, and the longest day of the year has arrived - the summer solstice. This "maximum tilting" is particularly applicable to family life at present, with all the transitions summer brings. Vacations, summer activities, new schools on the horizon, mish-mashed schedules . . . the prelude to sea change in the fall.



Times of transition can be exciting, and a form of renewal. The Board is experiencing its own regenerative sea change, with six members having just been elected:

- **Renee Bischoff,**
- **Steve Mayo,**
- **Charles Norton,**
- **Ron Ortiz,**
- **Patrick Pyle,** and
- **Jeffrey Snyder.**

Leaving for beckoning shores are:

- **Ivana Hughes,**
- **Mohana Mageswaran,**
- **Jacqueline Samols,**
- **Dorothy Shubin,** and
- **Tom Sobota.**

So first, I would like to acknowledge the depth and breadth of the generosity of our "graduating" Board members. Each has been very

active in committee work, contributing many, many hours of time over many years (read:

creative ideas, improved processes, work in the trenches).

Each has been involved in multiple modes of fundraising, working and giving with a generosity of spirit that is truly inspiring.

Hats off to our departing members! May you all find new ground in which to sow your seeds of creativity and wisdom.

Next, I would like to **welcome the new members.** I have no doubt that you will be making your own unique and lasting contributions to the Children's Center at Caltech through your work on the Board.

My great wish is that together we continue to add substantially to the vitality of the Center, enriching our own lives, those of the families around us, and those of the families to come.

These long, voluptuous summer days are marked by the barely perceptible tilt of the equator back towards equilibrium. May you and your families enjoy every minute of each day. Unless, of course, your summer travel takes you to the Southern Hemisphere - and then I wish you excellent winter weather!

- Marianne Epalle, Chair

CCC Philosophy

We wish to offer the best possible experience for your family. The philosophy of the Children's Center at Caltech has its basis in a humanistic view of the child as an **independent and individual learner.** The aim of the program is

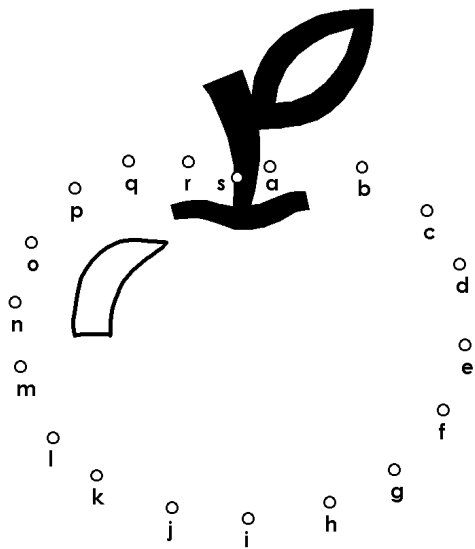
to respond to the needs of each child as s/he develops awareness of the world and readiness for learning. Each group provides developmentally appropriate materials and activities for children in the areas of social/emotional, intellectual and aesthetic growth and psychomotor development, while fostering a positive self-concept.

Through planned activities, children are challenged to explore ideas, solve problems, and develop and expand skills, language, and concepts. Their sense of competence and self-worth is encouraged. The emphasis is on active, hands-on learning, with pre-math activities such as shape identification, shape and quantity of numbers and pre-reading activities such as alphabet bingo, dictation, and storytelling. Computer activities are offered in the older groups.

Our approach is consistent with research based on longitudinal observation of young children, which indicates that they learn best through their senses, needing many opportunities to initiate learning on their own, and needing periods of choice that alternate with periods of guidance. By means of these "age-appropriate academics," a strong foundation is built for the kindergarten experience which will follow the years at the Center.

Reminder: The CCC Parent Handbook can be found on the website: www.its.caltech.edu/~ccenter/handbook2/index.html

Connect-the-Dots Fun



FOLLOW THE DOTS

