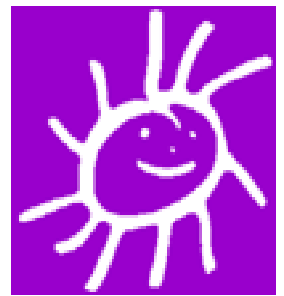


The Children's Center at Caltech



March-April 2006

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| From the Director's Desk | 1 |
| Bunnies Hopping | 1 |
| Dolphin Splash | 1-2 |
| Penguin Parade | 2 |
| Koala Korner | 2-3 |
| Raccoon Roundup | 3-4 |
| Beaver Tales | 4-5 |
| From the Editors | 5 |
| From the Board | 5 |
| Fun Page | 6 |

Upcoming Activities

Board Meeting:

7:00 p.m.

Room 239, Moore Lab

3rd Monday of each Month

Upcoming Holiday

Monday, May 1st

Memorial Day

Center Event

Saturday, May 20th

Evening Under the Stars

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

From Susan's Desk

April is the "Month of the Young Child." For the first week we have planned many wonderful activities to celebrate the family, the teacher and the child.

We also feel that it important to increase the awareness of the importance of on-site, high quality child care. We will have a display set up at the Caltech bookstore, you may want to stop by and see it.

Also, as part of our commitment to quality child care and education, it is our goal is to form a partnership with you: the parent. We believe that good communication is the hallmark of a good program. To that end we ask that each family fill out the questionnaire that was recently distributed to you in your mailbox.

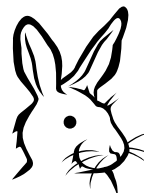
The surveys provide us with valuable information about what is working in our program and also areas that may need improvement. Please take the time to fill one out and return it to your classroom Lead teacher or drop it by the office.

If you have any questions feel free to call; or better yet drop by the office!

Reminder: Add to your calendar on May 20th at Avery: the 4th Annual "Evening Under the Stars!"

Bunny Hopping

Bela Zielinski & Christina Feng are our latest additions to the Bunny Room whom we really enjoy having. We are



already building a great report with them and their parents. Welcome!

Scholastic Book Orders for March were due March 15th. Please keep an eye out in future months should you miss this month's order deadline.

We are currently updating our web page. If parents have any suggestions, want to post information regarding child development related issues, or want to participate in our media services project for parent hours. Please contact Audreonna (x8493).

The staff would like to say "Thank you!" to all our parents who continually support and participate in our classroom. We really enjoy our parents and are very fond of them, like family.

Dolphin Splash

With the central concentration being "How Things Move," we are looking at "Our Bodies." We have focused on how toes and fingers grip, grasp, hold, crunch, and smash. The children are showing great interest in this area of planned possibilities.

Some of the various activities have been:

- ✓ painting with sponges, brushes, and fingers
- ✓ making goop,
- ✓ dancing around the classroom to the sound of hokey pokey
- ✓ "Where is Thumbkin?"
- ✓ show me your feet/hands/toes/fingers
- ✓ "Open, Shut Them"

Accredited by NAEYC's
National Academy
of Early Childhood
Programs



We want to welcome our new friends **Alison**, **Samantha**, and **Hanu** all of whom transitioned from the Bunny class. We say "see you later" to **Douglas**, and **Araya** who transitioned to the Penguin class, and to **Sridhar** who was at the center temporarily.

We hope that many of you as possible can participate in the "Week of the Young Child" activities that we will be having on Monday morning April 3rd, and don't forget to bring many pictures to complete a scrap book for your child.

Reminders:

- Please take blankets home for washing on Friday evenings
- Parent work hours are available for rest sitting

Thanks to everyone on the web team that are updating the website for the Dolphin classroom!

will be a new Penguin teacher starting April 3rd.

These last few weeks we have been looking at Energy focusing on things that turn for part of our curriculum. The children have been observing different simple machines, furniture, cars, etc. to see if they have any gears, axels, pulleys, and observing how things turn and rotate.

The children loved the pin wheel and enjoyed observing an old record player and the toy record player, too.

The children also used everyday kitchen equipment for part of the curriculum. They assisted making orange juice with an electrical juicer and observed how it turned. We also looked at a hand egg beater and will be making scramble eggs. The children are practicing rolling balls out of playdough and Maza. We are



in the process of making hand made tortillas.

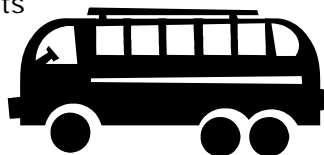
As promised, we include lyrics to the songs that the children have been singing:

"The Wheels on the Bus"

The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round. The wheels on the bus go round and round all through the town.

The door on the bus opens and shuts, opens and shuts, opens and shuts. The door on the bus opens and shuts all through the town.

The wipers



on the bus move side to side, side to side, side to side. The wipers on the bus move side to side, all through the town.

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep. The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep all through the town.



We have also been changing the words to the Wheels on the Bus to the Wheels on the car, train, truck, van, and fire truck. Have fun with your child and come up with different verses of the Wheel on the Bus.

Don't forget that April 3rd-7th is Week of the Young Child.

On April 4th we will be having a Penguin Room picnic in honor of the children. We hope to see everyone there! We will have some music and activities. See you there!

Penguin Parade

Welcome back **Jackie!**

Happy Birthday **Federico** (March 12), **Dominik** (April 27), and **Otto** (April 29).

Federico transitioned to the Koala's best wishes, we'll miss you Fede! And we want to welcome **Araya Britton** to the Penguin room.

We also want to welcome **Dolores Gonzalez** to CCC she



Koala Korner

I would like to begin by saying farewell to **Sophie Phinney** as she moved into the Raccoons.

February started off with a week full of pretend! As we are still investigating *Animate vs. Inanimate*, we have ventured into new territories each day.



We all dressed up like super heroes and our own heroes. The children loved to see the teachers dressed up as well.



If you did not get a chance to see them all dressed-up, ask a Koala teacher to bring out the pictures!



The Koalas also enjoyed learning more about machines. They discovered new information about cars, fire truck's, wheels, and much more.

To further the Koala's knowledge about the machines of a fire truck we took a trip to the station. The children loved it!!! They learned about the hose, the sirens, the engine, the wheels, and the ladder.

Check out the visuals in the classroom of Pretend Fire trucks vs. Real Fire trucks, we have lots of pictures!

The Koala classroom has also begun redecorating the Dramatic Play area; take a look if you have not seen it yet!

As we step into March the Koalas will continue to learn about *animate vs. inanimate*. They will be discovering more about various machines, looking at new fairy tales, and learning more about movement.

The Koala's have been very eager to learn more. We are still focusing on *Animate vs. Inanimate*. We began March by walking to the post office to mail our "friendship letters". The children loved sliding each envelope into the slot that drops down to a basket.

We have also been exploring the mixing of various liquids and solids. The Koala's learned about machines that help us mix, and how we can use our own hands to mix. They enjoyed the texture of mixing corn starch with water (a "gak" like substance that forms and melts.)

The Koalas have been discussing their dreams and nightmares with each other. We ventured into sharing our dreams with each other. The koala's discussed whether dreams and nightmares are real or pretend. Many Koalas feel that their dreams are real, but the things that happen in them are not real. After discussing and investigating our dreams, we painted them and hung them all throughout the classroom. The Koalas can look up and see their representations of their dreams or nightmares.

We are still continuing to discover new parts of the Fire truck. The Koalas just love them!

On our walk to the library the children noticed many various items with wheels; including cars, bicycles, trucks, dump trucks, and strollers. During our visit to the library we watched Dr. Seuss' "The Sneetches" and "Green Eggs and Ham."

As the season transitions from winter to spring we will begin to look at many changes in our environment.



Reminders: As spring is creeping up on us, we are beginning to plan our annual fundraiser "An Evening under the Stars." Soon the Koala's will have an "entertainment" basket in our room to fill with donations for an auction that will take place the evening of the fundraiser. Please bring all receipts for the donations, for every \$25 dollars you spend you will receive parent hours.

- Check the calendar (either in your parent box or on the Koala board) See upcoming trips, and curriculum ideas.
- Parent Hours: ask a Koala teacher how you can earn hours outside of the classroom.

Koala parent-teacher conferences will be held in May 2006. There will be a sign-up posted as it gets closer.

Raccoon Roundup

We have to say that we have had the best parent participation and support of our classroom. Parents have overwhelmingly wanted to come in and conduct activities or join us on our walks. We appreciate your enthusiasm and support.

It has been wonderful to have families share their favorite recipes or read their favorite stories. It has been equally exciting for our children have their families come in and be part of our raccoon family.

Thank you to the **Schiller Family**. It was a magical moment to have Asa's Grandfather, **Gerry Schiller**, share his Magician talents. The children were mesmerized with his tricks.

We also give a warm thank you to **Hyungju's** mother **Junghi** for making Kimbab (Korean California roll) with the class. It was delightful to see the children create their own rolls. They were absolutely delicious.

Sharing a favorite family recipe or reading a story for circle is also a meaningful way to earn parent hours.



The Raccoons concentrated on investigating the systems and interactions of the post office (mail carriers) and a fire station (firefighters). We compared and contrasted both occupations. We give had a grand tour of our neighborhood fire station. It was such an eye opening experience.

The children also role played the job of a mail carrier. The Raccoons also liked writing and exchanging letters.

The class has learned to really understand that signs have meaning. We went hunting for signs and took pictures. We created a classroom book. It was fun to find environmental print on our walk.

You may have already seen a change in our classroom environment. The teachers are working hard to make the environment more welcoming not only for the children but also for the families. You may have notice more real elements in the classroom like glass, tools, and nature items.

We are firm believers in continuing education and we

are currently taking many workshops ranging from learning about welcoming environments, gardening, to art. In the future we will be working with wire and clay.

Beaver Tales

The onslaught of Spring signifies changes in our lives and in our environment.

Hence, the concept we are exploring this month is *Changes in Spring*, with respect to "Nature, Plants, and Insects/Bugs."

The Beavers have enjoyed planting and testing out different seeds or kernels in various conditions, such as beans, grass, kernels, etc. both indoors versus outdoors.

We have used our inquiry skills of hypothesizing, experimenting, comparing, contrasting, and analyzing as we continuously refine our predictions and analysis.

In addition, we have experimented with various forms of media, such as creating mobiles and 3-D expressions using natural materials, wiring, clay, and sand/soil, as we explore things in our Nature and the environment.

These concepts are promoted through these mediums and explorations:

- ✓ spatial acuity,
- ✓ geometry,
- ✓ abstractions,
- ✓ motor,
- ✓ texture,
- ✓ quantity,
- ✓ dimensions, and
- ✓ visual appreciation



Come visit our room, and you shall envision the experiences and replications seen through the *eyes of the Beavers!*

The beauty of exploration is that cognition, science, aesthetic, math, motor, language and literacy, are all intertwined in our daily experiences and learning is captured in a motivational and sensorial fashion.

Another major connection of *change* is witnessed in our symbolic representations. Through our natural observations of the outside environment and alongside the specimens and plants used during indoor inquiry, we noticed that the following:

- Beavers have progressed from scribbling patterns (of the past) to more defined pictorial representations of their observations.
- The shapes, the patterns, the lines and figures, the symmetry – or lack thereof – the connections, the shades, the placement of details, are more pronounced in their drawings, seen in their journaling, science documentation, and even in representations of Block play.

Again, come visit our room and witness the pictorial and symbolic forms of drawings drawn by the Beavers.

Change in life is also manifested with respect to human experiences. Herein, we have witnessed the recent change in our staffing, as **Nancy Rocha** has begun her road to maternity leave and **Christine Kleinschmidt** will follow the



same voyage of birth as she returns back to Germany. We wish them all the *love and peace* as they undertake these exciting chapters in their lives.

In their stead, we are equally embracing the replacement of **Randi Heller** as our *new* staff (who have worked in both the Raccoons and Beavers), and who I have personally worked with 9 years ago when we were both Raccoons. So while this may be new to some, this change is more like an extension or a *refreshing* addition to many, like me.

We are also acquiring another temporary staff (as of printing).



Ending on a beautiful note, *changes* like Spring, inevitably exist within our human and environmental interactions, and it is how we undertake these changes in a positive light is the ingredient to making life and learning meaningful in the lives of the children and as adults.

Thank you all for everything and till next time, the Beavers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Save the Dates, Beavers!
(stay tuned for flyers/invites)

April 7, 2006 (Friday), 8-10 am
Beavers' Breakfast
Week of the Young Child.
All families are invited.

June 2, 2006 (Friday), 11:30-1
End of the Year Celebration
All families and friends invited as we sing and eat and wish our Beavers the best of luck as they transition to Kindergarten, stay, or start new beginnings!

From the Editors

Spring is clearly here on campus. The Liquid Amber trees are showing buds of green and the rain is falling. The children are enjoying walks on campus on clear, sunny, sparkling days and are working on many arts and craft activities and reading stories during those cold, rainy, overcast days.

In our home, the tooth fairy made a first visit. We discussed with our Kindergartener that there are many tooth fairies and they don't all pay the same. (Our tooth fairy left a dollar to save and a dollar to spend – which was spent on candy, of course!)

The balancing act continues . . . Our youngest is feeling constrained at times. We recognize that, in our family, she has so little power. She clearly notices it, too. We are trying to give her the opportunity to feel she can take part in the decision-making and responsibilities in our home: such as what we are thankful for when we light the candle at the dinner table.

It is hard as busy people to remember to make that extra time so that our children may experience life at their own pace. We want them to feel empowered and capable – to not do everything for them. We must craft opportunities for each to not only find a new skill but we must also create the chance to witness how far they have already come.

We see the artwork from school, and the homework, and the journals, and the signs around the classroom . . . all the documented proof of those opportunities our children get every day at school and at the Center. We are grateful for the teachers and caregivers who help us in that pursuit of supporting our children as they find and define, "Myself!"

May springtime remind you of the splendor of growth.

-Erin & Sam

From the Board

Dear CCC Community,

Being that we are all either directly immersed in the scientific milieu of Caltech (or at least have our feet wet), I thought I would share a passage from James Gleick's biography of Richard Feynman with you this month, the month that includes "The Week of the Young Child."

It had already occurred to psychologists that children are innate scientists, probing, puttering, experimenting with the possible and the impossible in a confused local universe. Children and scientists share an outlook on life. '*If I do this, what will happen?*' is both the motto of the child at play and the defining refrain of the physical scientist. Every child is an observer, analyst, and taxonomist, building a mental life through a sequence of intellectual revolutions, constructing theories and promptly shedding them when they no longer fit. The unfamiliar and the strange – these are the domain of all children and scientists.

So to all of our young scientists, older scientists, and everyone else in this local confused universe who takes delight in testing, observing, puzzling, and wondering:
Happy Spring!

~ Marianne Epalle
President
CCC Board of Trustees

Springtime Fun

Spring Flowers Search

Grow Corn

Children will enjoy watching the seeds sprout!

This project is rated VERY EASY to do.

What You Need

- Kernels of popcorn
- Ziploc bag
- Dirt
- Water

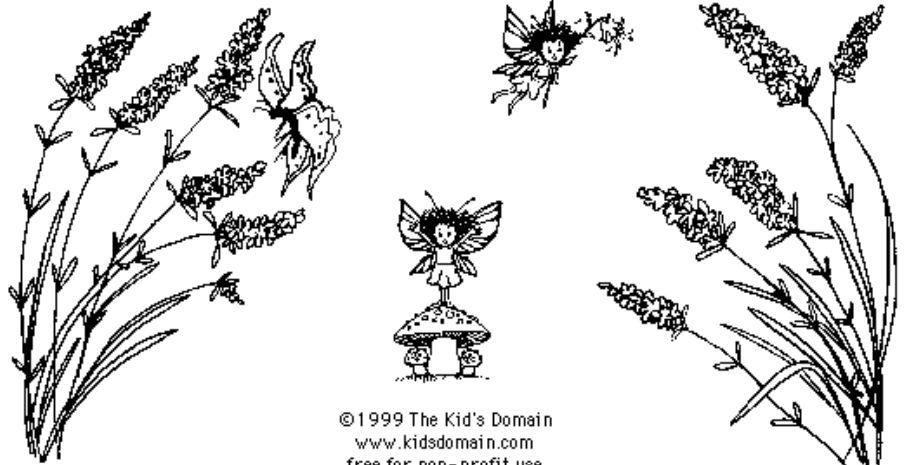
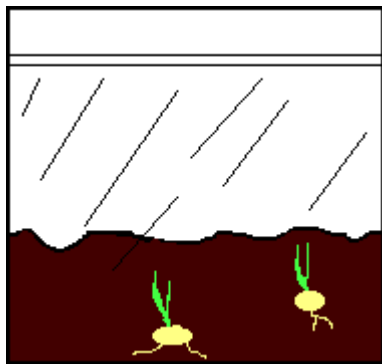
IRIS
LILY
DAFFODILS
TULIPS
CROCUS
VIOLETS
POPPY
SNOWDROPS
BLUEBELLS
BUTTERCUPS

Q J K L P E B T M F
B U T T E R C U P S
L I L Y Q B W L O N
G R G A H U W I P O
V I O L E T S P P W
H S C R O C U S Y D
D A F F O D I L S R
E T W X F N O Q Q O
Q B A R Q Q F O M P
P B L U E B E L L S

How To Make It

Place some dirt in a Ziploc bag, add some water and a few kernels of popcorn.

Seal the bag and place it in a sunny window. You should see some growth within a week.



©1999 The Kid's Domain
www.kidsdomain.com
free for non-profit use
Happy Spring!

