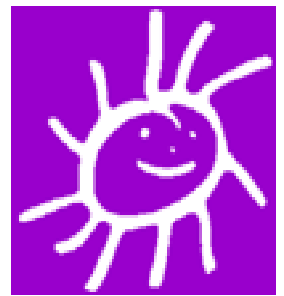


The Children's Center at Caltech



September 2006

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|--------------------|-------|
| From the Director | 1 |
| Bunny Hopping | 1-2 |
| Dolphin Splash | 2 |
| Penguin Parade | 2-3 |
| Koala Korner | 3-4 |
| Raccoon Roundup | 4 |
| Beaver Tales | 4-5 |
| From the Editors | 5 |
| From the Board | 5 |
| Fun Pages | 6-9 |
| eScrip Information | 10-13 |

Upcoming Activities

Board Meeting:

7:00 p.m.

Room 239, Moore Lab
3rd Monday of each Month

Back To School Night

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday
October 11th

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

From Susan's Desk

We extend a special welcome to all our new families. This has been a tough time for some. The Bunnies saw tears from babies and parents, but we are doing better and the babies are getting comfortable. We bid a fond farewell to our Beavers that have now all moved on to Kindergarten. Most of our children have transitioned to their new classroom and it is an exciting time for most.

Remember that it takes time for both parent and child to get settled in and used to a new environment so take extra few minutes in the morning to get to know you child's new teachers. Your Lead Teachers are here to answer your questions and help you in any way they can.

Each year at this time, Liz and I put together both teacher and parent workshops topics and arrange for guest speakers. If you have a topic you are interested in leaning more about please contact call us at x6860. I would also like to invite you to check the all center staff meetings. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. and have many topics that are geared to both parent and teacher alike.

Mark your calendars now for **Back to School Night, October 11th, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** This is an adult only event and parent hours will be given to each parent who attends. We look forward to seeing you all that night.

And please remember . . . my door is always open.

Bunny Hopping

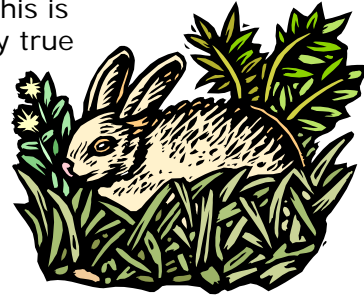
This is the time of the year when many transitions take place. This means that many children are moving to new rooms and many new children are coming into the center. This is especially true for the Bunny Room.

All of the Bunny children

have transitioned to the room next door with the exception of the youngest Bunny at the time **Euan**. With this being said, we would like to say farewell to our former Bunny babies: **Dante, Bela, Sean, Christina, Hannah, Erez, and Owen**. We miss them dearly, but we know that they are growing and learning many new things in their new environment. We take comfort in knowing that they are only a room away.

With all of these transitions taking place, the Bunnies have received 12 new babies who have transitioned into the room. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new Bunny families.

We would like to welcome **Maggie, Martin, Alexander (Sasha), William, Estelle, Sarah, David, Kailo, Joshua, Alon, Dante, & Daria** along with their families to the Bunny Room. We are excited to be working with the new parents and their babies. We look forward to watching all of these new babies



grow and learn in the Bunny Room.

The Bunnies would also like to welcome **Jackie Reyes** back to the Bunny Room. Jackie had been a Lead Teacher in the Bunny Room for 5 years before she moved on to the Penguin room to be a Lead Teacher. Jackie will be mentoring **Sharon**, the new Bunny Lead Teacher.

The Bunnies have been looking at water in relation to the transformation of water and things that move in water. The



former Bunny children have enjoyed this; especially with all of

the warm weather that we have been having. The curriculum will probably be changing now with the influx of many new children.

Bunny Parent Information:

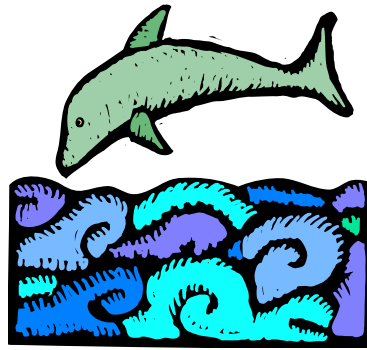
1. Rest-sitting Opportunities: Every Tues and Thursday 1:30-2:30; also the third Wednesday of every month from 1:15-3:00. This is for the All Center Staff Meetings.
2. Bunny Work Saturday coming up soon. We will provide more information in the classroom.

Reminder: Please label all of your child's personal belongings.

All parents are encouraged to attend Back to School Night. This is a great opportunity to get to know your child's teachers in a more casual, relaxed environment. This is also a good opportunity to

network with other parents. A flyer will be posted soon, so keep an eye out for more information.

Dolphin Splash



The recent completed curriculum of Energy/Movement with the focus of animals/insects within the dolphin classroom was very evident in the motions of moving, running, shaking, rolling, hopping, and jumping. Exploration continued within the classroom setting as the children started pointing to and showing the teachers the various animals living in our outdoor environment such as: rollie pollie bugs, praying mantis, ants, and butterflies to name a few.



The awareness and the care of our environment is highly encouraged with the children by demonstrating with them the way we take care of animals and plants, along with reinforcing the concept that we "do not hurt ourselves, others or the environment."

The children enjoyed watering the plants, as well as themselves as they explored with many containers for pouring, scooping, and digging. A growth of language, cognitive, social, and fine/large motor development skills were seen daily in the children.

The latest curriculum web of possibilities has the central concentration of Energy/Movement looking at "Our Bodies" with a focus



of how toes and fingers grip while hands clap and snap.

Thank you **Charlotte's** family for sanding and refinishing the inside changing table and cabinet. It is greatly appreciated.

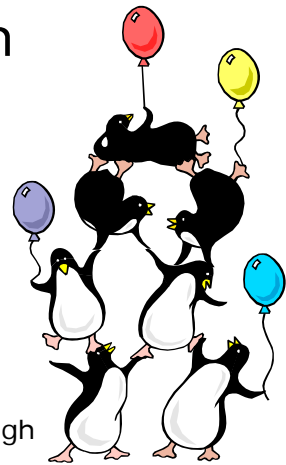
Transitions

We say "see you soon" to the following children that have transitioned to the Penguin classroom: **Jinny, Lily, Martino, Hanu, Leo, Alison, Jason, Itamar, Natalia, Phoebe, WeiWei, Owen, and Charlotte.** **Samantha** and her family recently moved out of state, so we'll keep in contact by written correspondence.

Hello and Welcome to the following new children in the dolphin classroom: **Zachary, Christina, Willie, KenKen, Erez, Dante, Sean, Hannah, Claire, Loretta, and Bela.**

Penguin Parade

The Penguins had an exciting summer!! In the classroom we are continuing to investigate changes through growth and seriating. We enjoyed



transforming the dramatic play area into the Three Bears House. The children pretended to be Papa, Mama, and Baby Bear. They especially liked to hear the bear's different voices changing from deep, to soft, and then squeaky.



The Penguins also paid close attention to sizes by classification and learned new vocabulary words like Large, Medium, and Small.

In the classroom you will see that Penguins participated in many surveys. We introduced different types of seeds, fruits, and vegetables to see what the children are familiar with. We compared and contrasted tomatoes and apples. They both sure do look the same! The Penguins had great ideas and responses! Please check out our classroom boards to see your children's great work!

Currently the Penguins are watching the plants in our playground. We recently discovered that some of our plants need more space to grow in other pots. We recently repotted some of our indoor plants to larger pots outside. Thank you to **Usha (Phoebe's mom)** and **Heidi (Gabriel's mom)** for your participation in this activity!

All transitions involving children and teachers also took place. Moving on to the Koala room was **Otto, Michael, Jack, Jack A., Max, Chloe, Cassidy, Julien, Araya, Anneliese, Gregory, Douglas,** and **Gabriel**. It was a pleasure having you and best wishes to you and your families!

We also welcome many new children to the CCC: **Olivia, Keshav,** and **Alice**. We welcome from the Dolphin room: **Charlotte, Phoebe, Natalia, Itamar, Lily, Jason, Leo, Alison, Jinny, Martino, Wei-Wei, Hanu,** and **Owen!** We have a great year ahead of us!

We also have new teachers in the Penguin Room. We welcome **Szilvia Bartha** (Substitute Teacher), **Susan Cho** (Associate Teacher), **Patty Moreno** (New Lead Teacher), and **Jasmin Alvarez** (Lead Mentor).

Great thanks to **Jackie, Dolores,** and **Retha** for helping with the new teacher transitions! We also said good bye to **Olivia** who has left the CCC, and **Jackie** who moved to the Bunnies as Lead Mentor. We would also like to introduce **Laurie Kovalenko (Jinny's mom)** who is our new room parent!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year and hope to see you all at Back to School Night Oct. 11th from 6-7. (Earn 2 hours for both parents!)

Reminder: Please check the lost and found regularly for your child's items and don't forget to label your child's clothing!

Koala Korner

Hello everyone!

First we, the Koala Teaching Staff, would like to say that we are very excited for what the new school year has in store.

This past year has been a great one and we would like to formally wish each and every former Koala family much success in the future! We are sad to see each of you go, but happy to see you continuing to grow.

To our new Koala family we send our warmest of welcomes to each of you! We are looking forward to making

new friendships as we all work together to provide the best learning experiences for your children! To give you a head's up: Wednesday, October 11th we will hold our "Back to School" night gathering from 6-7pm. We request all parents to attend and we look forward to seeing you there!



During September we are investigating systems and interactions. There are many kinds of interactions within a system. There are natural systems that include the solar system, ecosystems, individual organisms, and chemical and physical systems. The boundaries of a system lie in its parts and interactions that are possible.

We are focusing on one or a few aspects of interactions within a system. To do this we will focus on a variety of systems; which in return, all interact with one another. We are focusing on the following:

- communication,
- transportation,
- food,
- people,
- buildings, and
- plants.

These are key components of each child's internal and external systems. We will study systems

in the home, school, and surrounding community. Take a look at our bulletin boards as they reflect the ideas and discoveries that our Koalas are making!

Reminders:

- Please don't forget to label your child's clothing.
- Looking to earn parent hours? Ask a Koala teacher how.
- Please bring in a family portrait for the classroom (and feel free to update these family pictures at any time)!
- Please check cubbies for wet and/or soiled clothes which are placed in plastic bags.

Working towards a better tomorrow!

Raccoon Roundup

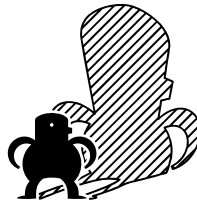
We want to start off by saying good-bye to all those who have moved onto the Beavers. We hope your journey with the Raccoons was a delight. We will see you in the yard!



Also, we would like to give a warm welcome to our new families. We have gotten to know your children a bit in the yard and look forward to getting to know them even better now in the classroom.

Our friends have been investigating light vs. dark by looking at change. Our front room has been turned into a light projector room. The Raccoons first liked exploring

the shadows they were able to create with their hands. Later they traced shapes. Outdoors, we also explored our shadows.



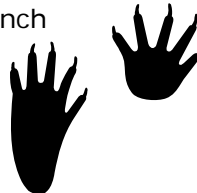
In addition to shadows, we have been working on a tree project. The Raccoons have observed and documented trees. We have been taking walks within our surroundings. We visited the Penguin yard looking at trees and talking about them.

We have also taken walks on campus and in our community with our journals. Our friends have been noticing similarities and differences between trees. Thank you for those who have taken a picture of a tree. It has been a nice addition to the classroom to have a connection from home.

We have looked at light vs. dark with regard to growing beans. A long term project entailed beans that grew in the light vs. dark was documented by the children. They made predictions and measured the bean plants.

Reminders:

- Bring a flower Tuesday
- Please label all blankets, clothing, lunch containers, etc.
- Please place only lunch containers in the refrigerator. A lunch box is placed in the cubby.



If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in. ~Rachel Carson

Beaver Tales

“To think intensively and to think critically . . . Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education,” is part of a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.

In dissecting this further and applying it to our practical minds and actions, this holds true for the Beavers.

During this month of August, we focused on the central concept of **form and function**, as we explored the children's



interests in “Sports and Games” to cap off the Summer Season. Analogous to the quote, we used our minds and hearts to think *intensively and critically*, through various explorations, including:

- brainstorming different sports we enjoyed through home-school experiences
- comparing and contrasting the form and function of various sports (solo versus team, gross and fine motor roles, the many uses and traits of balls and equipment)
- creating our own “Sports/ Games Box” with children's favorite games/sports
- exploring letter recognition through motor games and music
- doing a mini-version of “Olympic relay games”
- painting and drawing our Favorite games and sports
- developing our own Board games, like the favorite “Pirate Board” game, where planning, doing, and recognizing shapes, quantity,



mapping, sequencing, are integrative math-spatial concepts

- using recycled materials for bowling fun and other circle-motor games
- deciphering the relationship of an object, such as the ball, with respect to the difficulty or ease in relation to its distance via the process of "throwing and catching" in team pairs
- doing "team-sports" via soccer games through fun coaching by Paul's dad, Mike, who's dressed in his referee/coach outfit

Likewise, character education as valued in the quote, translates to the Beavers working as team members or partnership roles. Self-esteem, sharing, compromising, healthy competitiveness, risk-taking, respecting rules and boundaries, intro- and inter-spective analyses, and social-emotional interactions, were just some of the character building crucial to the formation of **sports (hu)manship** and **community building**.



One particular occurrence was our trip to Grant Park on Aug. 17th, where the Beavers enjoyed the games and challenges of the climbing structures. Among the memorable incidents were:

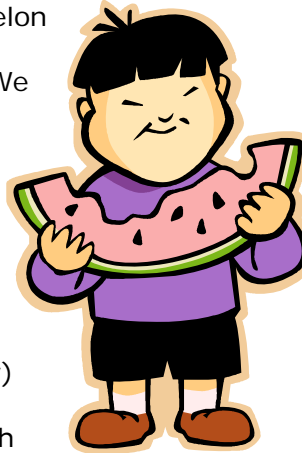
- **Ryan, Kourosch, Warren, Rebeca, Mwi, Paul,** and **Parseg** (and the teachers!) sliding down the blue tunnel repeatedly;
- **Jacob, David Marcus, David Nieto, Natalie,**

Kimia, Daniel, Asa, and **Sam** climbing the structures and running across the bridges;

- **Amelia** and **Alexandra** riding the horse,
- **Melody, Lilian,** and **Helena** (and the teachers) enjoying the swings.

It was no wonder how the subsequent picnic of watermelon was devoured within minutes! We had a blast!

Finally, a big "thank you!" to **Mike** (Paul's family) for the watermelon, and to **Christine** (David M. family) and **Mike** for coming along with us on our trip. A fun way to earn parent work hours, I might add!



Reflecting on the quote, Martin Luther King, Jr. would be beaming with joy knowing that his words are alive and flourishing to this very day.

From the Editors

"... and change comes like a little wind that ruffles the curtains at dawn, and it comes like the stealthy perfume of wildflowers hidden in the grass." ~ John Steinbeck

Fall is a season of change. Summer is over, the crape myrtle blooms are fading, and Caltech undergrads are reappearing.

A friend we've known both professionally and personally for years recently made a big change. She, her husband, and their three kids moved back to the east coast after 10 years in LA. Yesterday I picked up my office phone to call her before I remembered that she was no longer here.

Our oldest daughter started first grade last week. There are faces she recognizes and some that she does not. Lucky for us, she has embraced the changes.

And our youngest is now a Koala. She misses her old teachers, talks of her friend Adi who moved to Israel, but also is excited by the newness that surrounds her.

"Things do not change, we change." ~ Henry David Thoreau

-Erin & Sam

From the Board

Dear Parents -

Just a short and simple note from the Board this month . . .

Jump in!

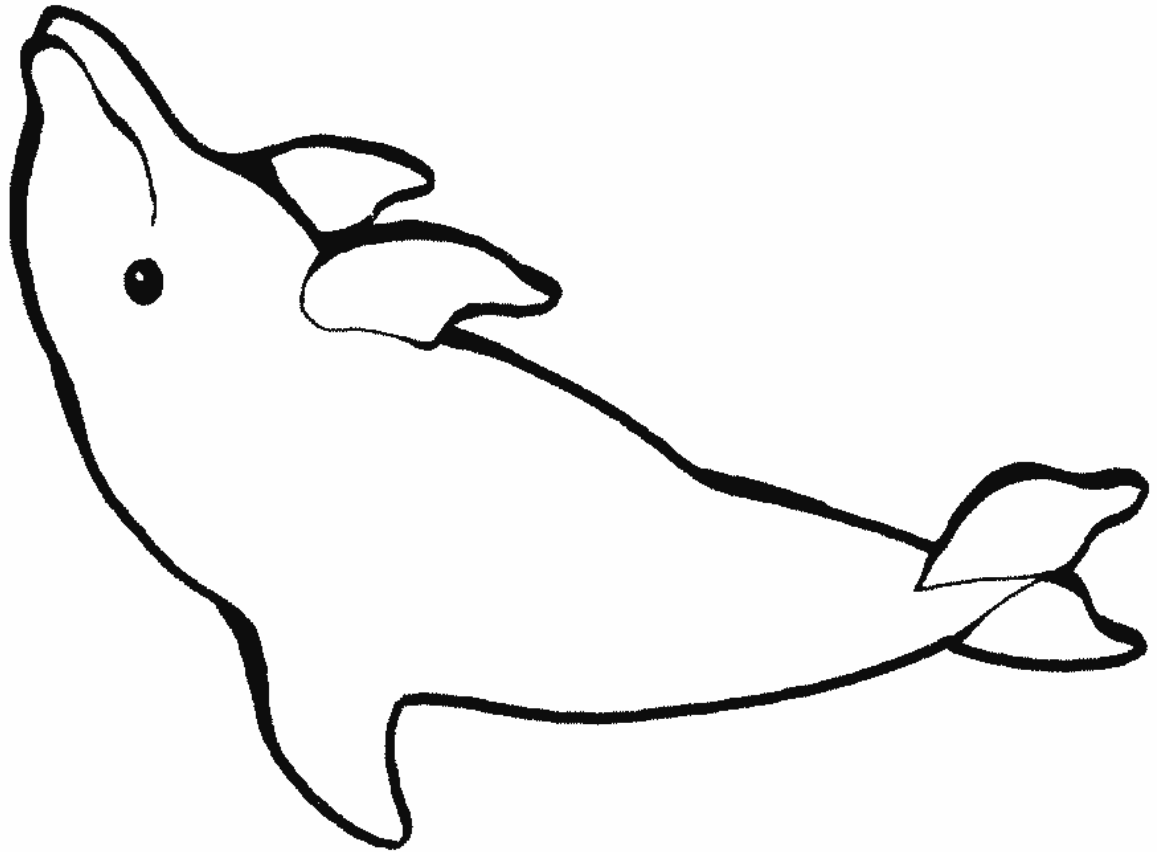
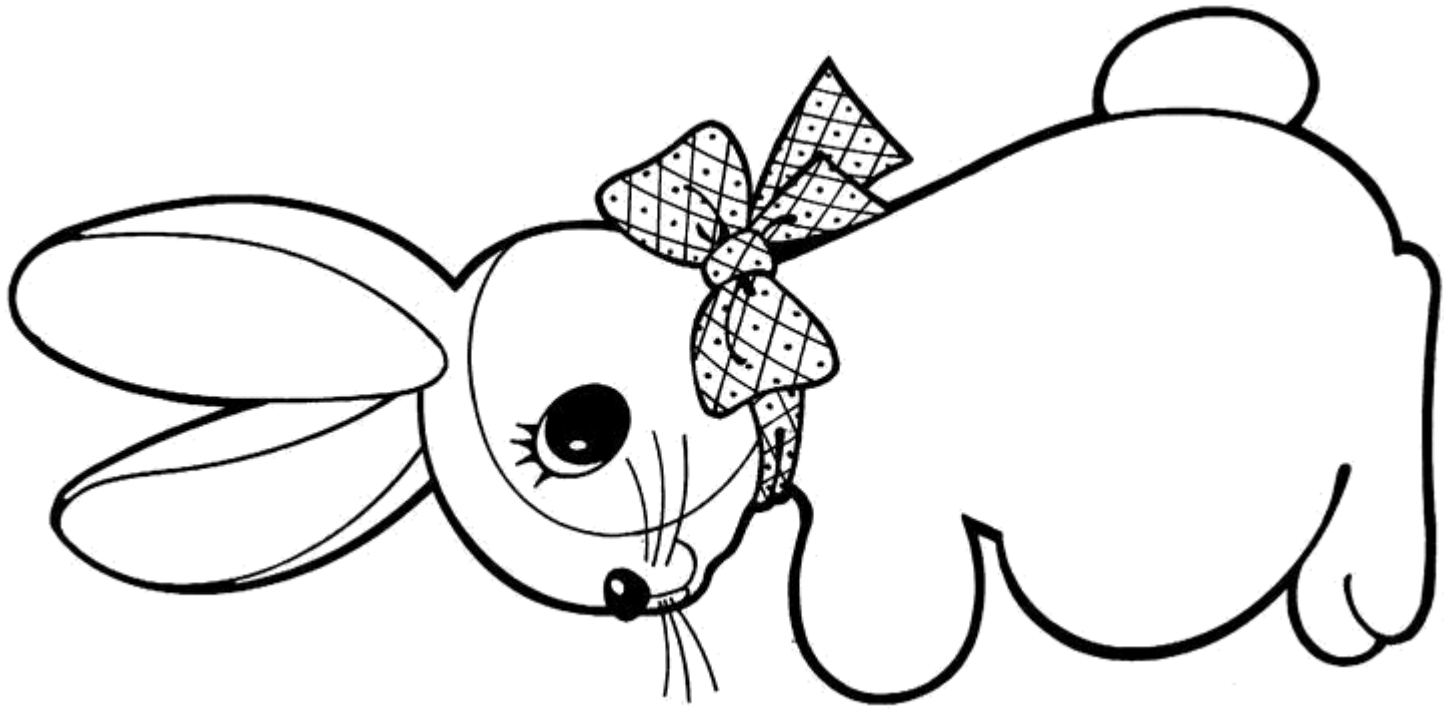
There are lots of opportunities at the CCC for parent involvement, utilizing all kinds of skills . . . if you are not sure where your unique talents may fit, talk to your lead teacher or Susan Wood.

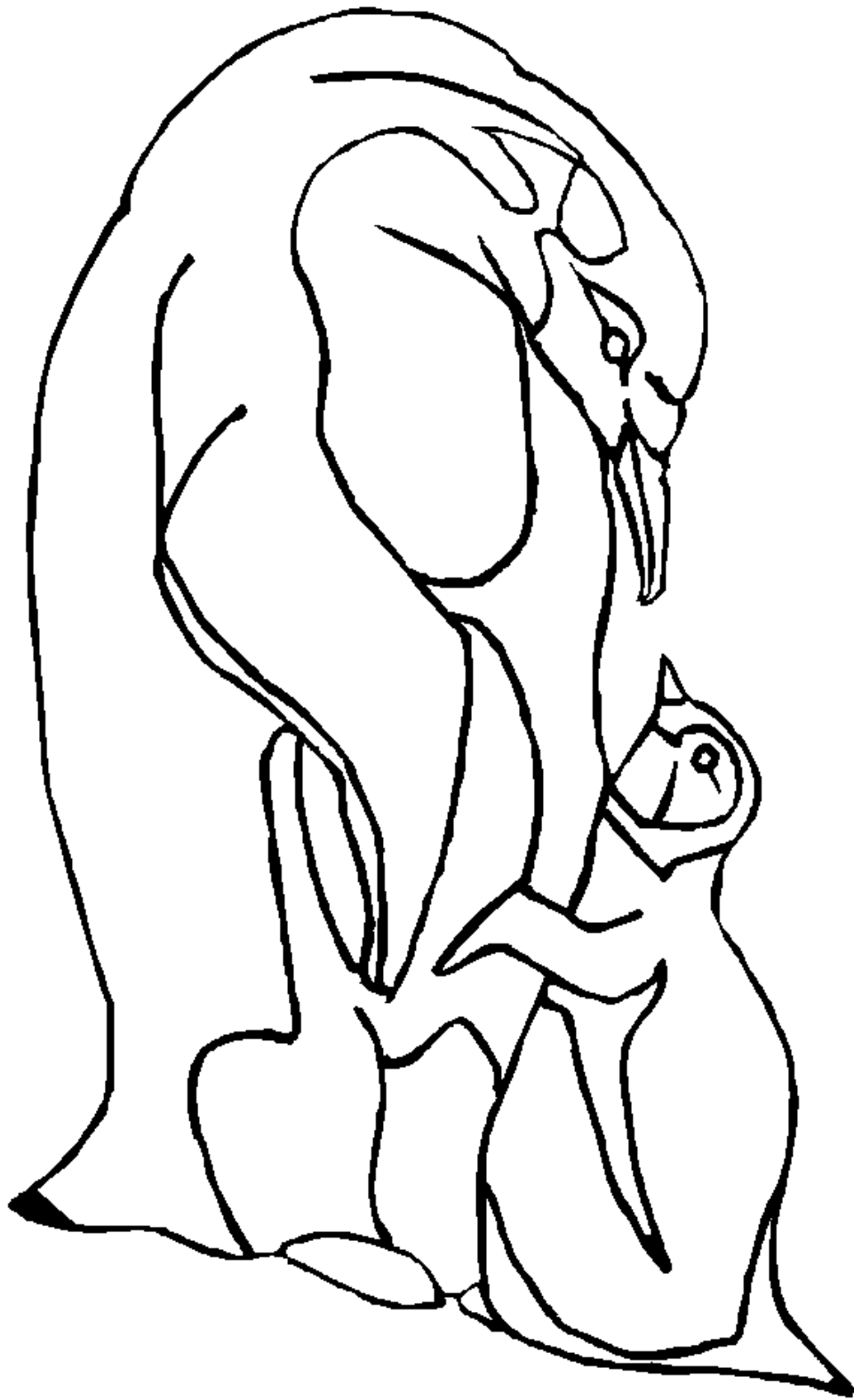
One of the best ways to teach creativity to your children is simply to be creative yourself . . . so let's "model" creativity for our kids.

There are Board opportunities as well - so speak to me or other Board members if you are interested in committee work - we have active fundraising, facility, personnel, finance, and board development committees and we welcome parent participation.

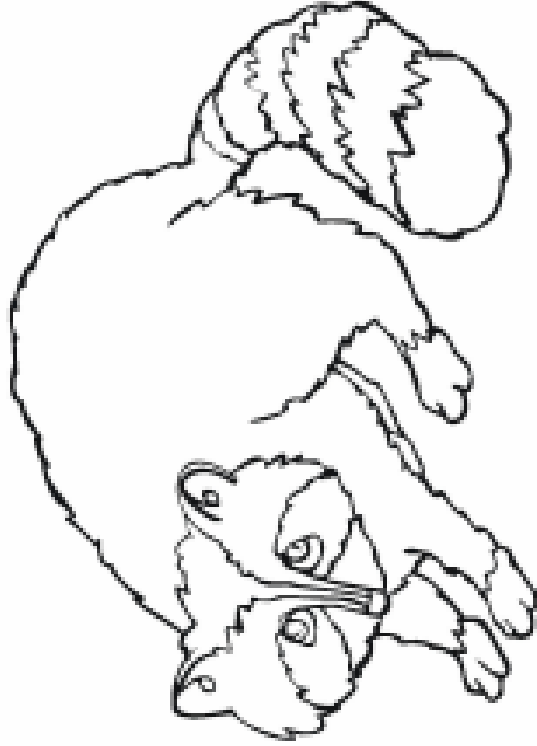
Best,

Marionne Epalle
President, CCC Board of Trustees





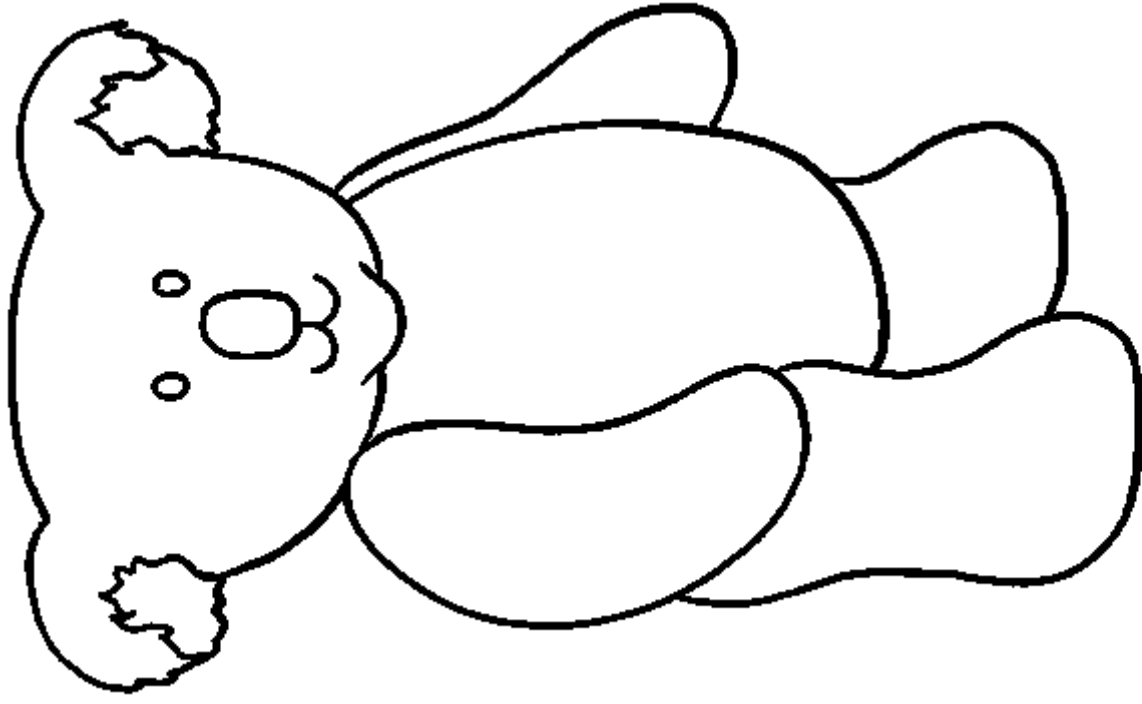
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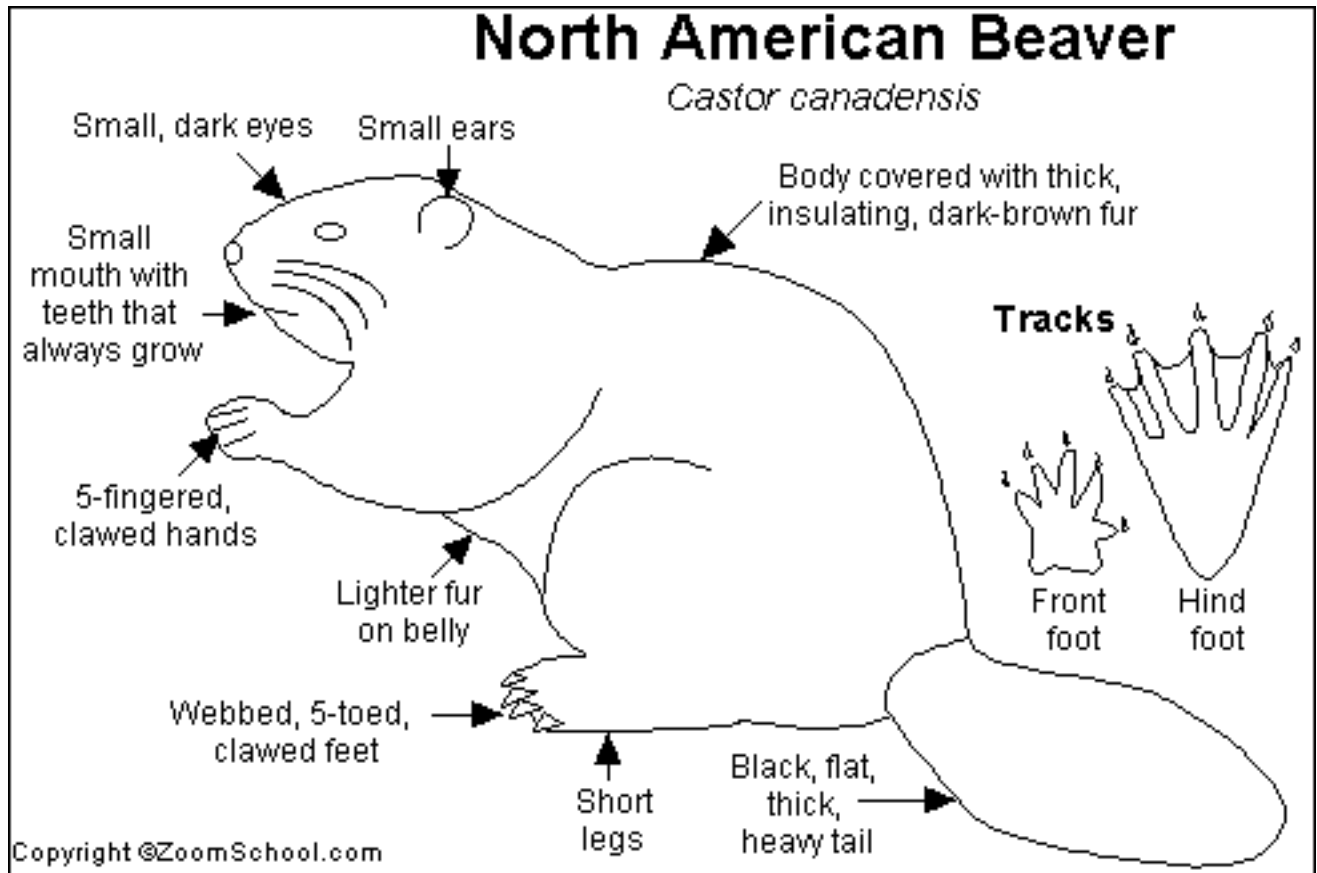
<http://homeschooling.about.com>



Koala

www.bears.co.nz





The beaver is a large, semi-aquatic rodent with a large, flattened tail. It is a strong swimmer and can swim up to 5 miles per hour. The beaver can swim underwater for up to 15 minutes. Young beavers are called kits. Beavers live in forests in North America and in parts of Europe and Asia. Beavers do not hibernate over winter, but they will stay in their lodge, where they have stored enough food to last until spring.

Beaver Lodges and Dams: Beavers build sophisticated lodges out of sticks and mud. The dome-shaped lodge is built in water and only has underwater entrances. If the local pond water isn't deep enough, the beaver will build a dam (or a series of dams) downstream from where the beaver wants to build a lodge. The dam forms a deep pond. Beavers cut down trees for the dam using their strong teeth. The water in the pond must be deep enough so that the pond bottom won't freeze in winter, blocking the lodge's entrance.

Anatomy: Beavers are about 3 ft (0.9 m) long; their flat, thick tail is about 1 ft (30 cm) long. They weigh 30-70 pounds (14-32 kg). Like all rodents, their teeth continue to grow their entire lives. Their ears and nostrils can close while the beaver is underwater. While swimming, transparent eyelids protect their eyes. Beavers can close their mouth by closing a flap located behind their teeth, allowing them to chew while holding their breath.

Diet: Beavers are **herbivores** (plant-eaters). They eat tree bark, leaves, roots, twigs, and water plants.

Predators: The beaver is hunted by many animals, including coyotes, wolves, [bears](#), lynxes, and wolverines. Minks, [owls](#) and hawks prey upon young beavers. Beavers cannot move very quickly on land, so their best defense from predators is to retreat into the water and go into their lodge.

eScrip

What Is eScrip?

eScrip is a hassle-free way for schools and groups that support children's programs to raise funds through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants.

How Does it Work?

eScrip and merchant partners have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to your chosen group.

Parents, teachers, friends and families are encouraged to register their credit, debit and grocery club cards as supporters with the eScrip program. Upon receipt of registration, a percentage of all purchases made at eScrip merchants will be given back to the designated school or group.

Simple Registration:

- Log on to www.eScrip.com and go to "sign up".
- Designate your favorite school or children's group to receive contributions.
- Register your grocery club card from a participating merchant and your debit/credit cards.

That's it! Visit eScrip merchants to shop and earn.



See What Can Be Achieved!

Annual Activity Highlights

| | |
|---|------------------|
| <i>Kiddo (Mill Valley Schools).....</i> | <i>\$192,187</i> |
| <i>St. Vincent High School</i> | <i>\$ 80,066</i> |
| <i>Amador Booster Club</i> | <i>\$ 71,726</i> |
| <i>Corte Madera/Larkspur Schools... </i> | <i>\$ 60,848</i> |
| <i>Serra Catholic School</i> | <i>\$ 55,923</i> |
| <i>Mt. Diablo Elementary School</i> | <i>\$ 42,636</i> |

eScrip Advantage

- *Ease of use - simply swipe your registered cards at time of purchase*
- *Participation from a broad and growing base of national and local merchant partners*
- *Online access for families to sign up*
- *Monthly funds distribution and reports*
- *Contributions based on "everyday" purchases*

We need your help!

**Help us raise \$\$!
Sign up with eScrip.**

Local eScrip merchants will contribute up to 8%* of the purchases you make to our group.

**eScrip is unique --
there is no cost to you!**

Sign up online. It's quick and easy!

- STEP 1** Go to www.escrip.com
- STEP 2** Click on "sign-up"
- STEP 3** Follow the instructions

It's Easy! It's Free! It's Powerful!

There are no receipts to collect, no vouchers or certificates to buy, no hassles for you - and every purchase counts!

Now just shop at eScrip merchants. Check www.escrip.com for participating merchant locations.

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Group ID: _____

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Certain merchants may have specific "group type" requirements in order to qualify for contributions. Visit www.escrip.com and go to merchant search for specific merchant details.

online_signup_safe_wcs_092904

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eScrip is an important part of our fundraising program. We ask that every family help us make the grade in our fundraising goal.

Making the Grade...

Our school needs your support!

We need all of our families to get straight A's in their enthusiasm to raise funds. This task will not require hours of homework but just a few minutes of your time and your grocery club card number.

- Log onto www.eScrip.com. Enter the School or Group I.D.
- You can also register your debit and credit cards.
- Shop at eScrip merchants!
- Use your eScrip registered cards for all your purchases.
- A percentage of purchases will be automatically contributed by the merchant.

That's it! It's that easy—your family shops—our school earns dollars.

For eScrip Program Information, Merchant Lists or to sign up online visit www.escrip.com

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eScrip Families

Renew today!

It's easy to renew:

- Have your VONS Club Card Number Available
- Visit escrip.com
- Click on **"YES! RENEW"**

If you have not renewed, our contributions have stopped. Renew now to start earning again!

VONS is proud to partner with eScrip to support the education of youth.

If you participated last year, don't forget to renew your commitment to the program to continue receiving VONS contributions.

If you are not enrolled in the program sign-up today at escrip.com.

Shop VONS, and earn valuable money for our school or group.