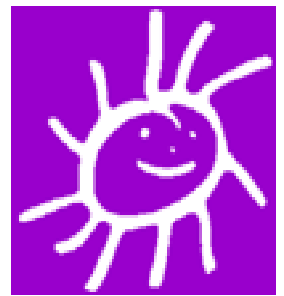


The Children's Center at Caltech



February 2007

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Upcoming Activities

Center Closed
Feb. 19 – President's Day

Early Childhood Workshop
Feb. 21 – 1:30 to 3 pm
Rapport: Staff/Parents/Children by Roleen Heimann

Board Meeting:
Feb. 26 - 7:00 p.m.
Room 239, Moore Lab

Koala Work Day:
March 10 – 9 am to 1 pm

Parent Education Meeting:
Mar. 12 – 12 pm to 1 pm
The Importance of Block Play

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

We are so excited to have begun construction on the Science Lab. The official ground breaking (or as Arianna told me, "the floor breaking") ceremony, was attended by the President of Caltech, Jean-Lou Chameau, the CCC Board of Trustees, Tom Mannion (Asst. VP of Caltech Campus Life), teachers, parents, and 60 children all wearing bright yellow hard hats. It was short and sweet. To see pictures of that event and the on-going construction go to www.caltech.edu/ccc.



Another great place to see the progress and what the children think about it are the classrooms. The construction has been a wonderful addition to the preschool curriculum. All the children have been using their science journals to record the work thus far, drafting paper for "design modifications" and story boards with their comments on what we are building.



We are very happy to be working with Vancrest Construction. They have made time to stop and explain, and in some cases, even allow the children on the site so that they feel part of this important project.



We are planning to hold the *5th Annual Evening Under the Stars* in the yard to celebrate the opening of the Science Lab. So far we are right on schedule! California needs rain, but I am hoping that it will only rain on the weekends so the work can resume on Mondays.

Happy Valentine's - Susan

Bunny Hopping

Greetings, Bunny Parents!

Over the next few months the Bunnies will be exploring each of the five senses. We are now looking at the sense of sound. We started off by looking at sound in general and the things that make sound. Now we are putting more focus each week on the different things that make sound and the types of sounds connected to those things.



We have been looking at sounds within the community. The children enjoyed going on buggy



rides around campus exploring the different sounds. We listened to the sounds of turtles splashing in the water at the pond, water falling down at the pond, water coming out at the different water fountains on campus, the sounds of people talking, and the sounds of small Caltech vehicles going around campus. On occasion we came across a barking dog or two.



The Bunny children are growing and changing dramatically as time goes on. All of the Bunny children are now walking with the exception of the two youngest ones. A few of the children have just started walking so they are now working on perfecting their skills. Some of the Bunny children who have

mastered the skill of walking are now beginning to walk fast, and a few are even in the beginning stages of running. The vocabulary of the Bunnies is increasing everyday. One of the older Bunny children is even using 3 word sentences on occasion. It is a joy to be in the Bunny room and to be able to be a part of all of this change (development) that is going on daily in the room.

The annual CCC Fundraiser is just around the corner – only three months away. The theme for the Bunny fundraiser basket this year is Beach/Pool Fun. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Bunny Reminders:

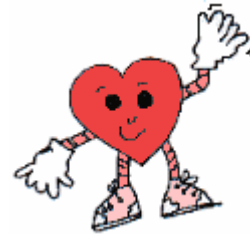
1. Rest-Sitting Opportunities: Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 and the third and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1:15-3:00. These are great opportunities to earn parent hours. If you are not able to rest-sit, but are looking for other ways to earn parent hours, just ask a Bunny teacher for other parent hour opportunities.
2. Please label all of your child's things to prevent things from getting lost or mixed up.
3. Please remember to sign in and out daily, and to fill out a daily sheet every day.

Hoppy and Happy! ~ The Bunnies

Dolphin Splash

Get Ready! Get Ready for 2007!

We have been very busy since September. Most of the children have turned two, and the vocabulary has grown from one word to several within a matter of months. The large motor skills continue to expand; some of the favorites are jumping, climbing, kicking the balls down the hill, and just really discovering new ways to use the



body in motion.

Things that move or energy has been our focal point, and with a concentration of transportation of mechanical things the children see daily planes,

and helicopters that soar through the sky. During snack time the delivery trucks

can be heard roaring through the street with the sound of beep – beep or engine noise as it backs up for the next exciting delivery.



A librarian from the local library has been coming to visit the classroom once per month to read various books to

the children that go hand and hand with the area of planned possibilities.

Get ready for the annual "Evening under the Stars" event to be held May 12th. More Information regarding the event will follow at a later date.

The children also have listened to the sounds of the fire trucks going by.



Upon hearing the loud siren of the fire

truck, many of the children would go to the window to watch the fire trucks go by. The children also listened to the sounds of airplanes and helicopters flying above, and cars driving by. The children could hear the sound of car horns as the Bunny Teachers honked their horns either coming in to work or leaving to go home.

We will now be exploring the different types of music and musical instruments.

We will be looking at things in relationship to sound and music such as soft, loud, low, and high. Our two talented Bunny Teacher musicians, Petruta Achiriloaie and Susanna Chan, will be playing a variety of instruments for the children. The children will also be able to explore the different instruments using their senses of sound, sight, and touch. After looking at the sounds of music, then we will be looking at the sounds of nature.



Congratulations to the Asimow Family. Molly Sage Asimow was born on Monday, February 5th 2007.

Reminders

1. Bring extra clothing for your child's cubby area.
2. Blankets go home each Friday afternoon for washing.
3. If you are planning a family vacation, please write it on the vacation board in case someone would like to buy an extra day of attendance.



machines. We have been observing screws and how they work. We have nuts and bolts to manipulate, trace, and draw. We will look at movement contrasting pushing and pulling, and we will look at wheels as useful machines.

We will continue to do surveys asking the children questions like "Where can you find a screw?" We will observe and draw leaves, wheels, and pulleys. We will continue to look at magnetism and other forces around us.

pipe." We like to encourage the children to be aware of their surroundings (which they are naturally curious about anyway), to help them make sense of the world around them.

We will be following the construction of the Science Lab closely and hopefully we can catch the

plumbers installing the new pipe systems! The children



have been keeping their journals close by to document the entire process. They have also become very proud of their new role as "photo journalists" by documenting the construction with their own picture taking! We are looking forward to an exciting next few months!

Thanks to everyone's continued support of the Dolphin Classroom.

Splash Away! ~ The Dolphins

Penguin Parade



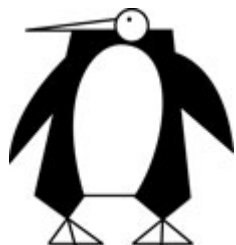
Welcome to the Penguin Room **Erez, Amber, Loretta, Ava, and Yonathan!** We also want to welcome to the Penguin Room our new teacher **Raffy.**

We also send Susan Cho best wishes as she continues her education.

Congratulations to **Jenny** who transitioned to the Koalas and to **Charlotte** who will start to transition to the Koalas this month.

Happy Birthday to **Itamar, Keshev, Martino, Olivia, and Lily**

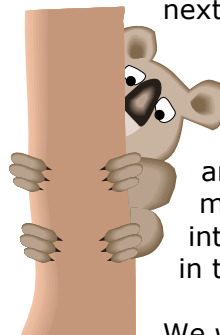
Currently we are focusing our curriculum on *energy* by looking at simple



March On! ~ The Penguins

Koala Korner

Do you know what the Koalas have been investigating lately? As you know, we've been looking into systems and interactions, and one avenue we continue to focus on is pipes! At first we looked at the pipes inside and outside the Koala house, and then it progressed to watching the workers lay pipes underground on Chester St. Now the opportunity arises for us to see the building of our new Science Lab!



Exploring systems and interactions has created much curiosity, questioning, and problem solving. This month we also hope to introduce and study the systems in the Human Body.

We would also like to welcome Ann Chandler to our teaching staff! She will be a substitute teacher for the preschool side.

It will be an amazing project to watch as the Koalas have already helped "break the ground" and witnessed the demolition. While watching the workers with the jackhammer and axes, one child asked, "Does he know that's the water main?" As you can tell the Koalas are very invested in this project already. Another great comment reported from a parent was that her child looked under a restroom sink at a restaurant and said "That's a goose neck

Reminders

1. Koala Work Saturday coming in March!
2. Need Parent hours? See Ann about taking books home to label.
3. Please label all clothing! Clean out cubbies on Fridays! (take home art, soiled clothing, and wash blankets)

Keep Kool and Kind! ~ The Koalas

Raccoon Roundup

What an exciting filled month we have been having in the Raccoon room! Let me say that we have been having such a *terrific* participation from you all. We have had many donations to our classroom projects. We also feel very grateful for the parents and care givers who accompany us on our walks and bike rides. We like to give a special thanks to Moya's "Oma" for spending time with us. The children enjoyed circle time and all the joy you brought them in your visit.



One of the highlights of the past month is our walk to Trader Joe's. With the Continuation of our investigating on systems and interactions we thought this would be a great experience for the children. Denise Norden our personal tour guide of Trader Joe's walked us through the store. The children saw the different areas of the store. We especially liked the juice sample counter. Another special moment to watch and hear was the baler crushing the boxes into flat cartons.



The children just loved watching the big machine. A big thank you to all of the parents who accompanied us on our walk. It was not only, I'm sure, fun for you, but it's a nice way to earn parent hours.

As you may have noticed construction is on its way for our science and arts lab. We participated in the ground breaking ceremony. The children were thrilled digging up the ground wearing their construction hats. The children are periodically documenting the building process.



(our central concept of inquiry) to the physical, structural, and functional parts and role of our Human Body.

Wow, our vocabulary and concept knowledge expanded both in syntax and context, as the Beavers discussed

words like digestion, circulation, esophagus, skeletal system, germs, nutrition, bacteria, heartbeat, inhale/ exhale, specimen, joints, eyesight, energy, exercise, healthy versus unhealthy foods, cells, the brain, and sensory, models, etc. It was endearing to hear from parents that their children were using these words



at home in natural settings, thus applying and transferring knowledge acquired at school to real-life situational contexts. In short, the connection between home and school proves relevant when it makes an indelible impact in a child's life meaningfully.

You may have also noticed all the cooking that has been occurring in the room. The staff is committed to conducting at least two cooking activities per month. Cooking is a great avenue to include literacy, science, and math. The children really respond well to measuring and mixing. The latest cooking activity is making dumpling soup.

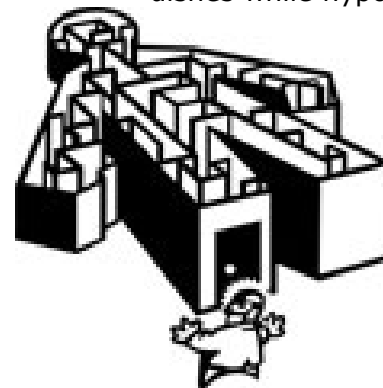


Our friends have also had a wonderful interest in sewing. At first children in the past have used Virginia's sewing machine, but now we have moved on to sewing, using embroidery rings. The children just flock to using real needles and beautiful color threads. Our next step is to sew on buttons. Stay tune for that!

Rac On! ~ The Raccoons

Beaver Tales

Wow! The days are going quickly due in large part to the excitement we had going on in the classroom and in the Center. Let's analyze this in greater detail. Curriculum-wise, we extended our exploration of **form and function**



Application-wise, the Beavers conducted scientific experiments such as investigating the growth culture of germs in petrie (**Agar**) dishes while hypothesizing, observing, and documenting the changes via drawings over a long-term period.



The Beavers also used measurement tools to compare the length of their arms and distance of their jumps for math and motor explorations.



Equally vital is the creative and aesthetic means of using clay for creating body figures or skin-tone/shades of crayons and paint for capturing our faces. Let us not forget the numerous surveys, webbings, and charts we did, or the 3-D skeletal system model, petrie dishes, and "human body/ senses" books lent to us or given by our wonderful Beaver families. We thank all of you for supporting and enriching our curriculum. Once again, the home-school connection is evidenced through your participation and support.

Finally, excitement in learning is captured in the sights and sounds of the Beavers as we monitor the daily construction of the **Science Lab**. Beginning on Jan. 26th, which commemorated the ground breaking event to today, the Beavers have mapped out, documented, and analyzed the structural and functional role of *what* and *how* the building configuration and its inside materials may look like.



across the holes of the science-lab ground. Check out the Children's Center website, and you will see the two "bridges" we literally carried and utilized. That day was so unforgettably fun, because we enjoyed walking across the bridge! It was like being transported back to one of "The Magic Schoolbus" adventurous rides! *Hang on, everyone!*

Till Next Time ~ The Beavers

From the Editors

We find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson



Maynard

Anneliese, in all her 3-year-old glory, is testing her power. "I don't care." "I don't like you." Sometimes the ego is intact and I can handle it. Other days? Not so much. But then she leans in and whispers in my ear, "You are my best friend." I live for those moments when my heart becomes too big for my body.

If there is anything that we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves. ~C.G. Jung



The other day I was dropping Sophie off at first grade. We were waiting for her class and she was being so six, hopping in place, clapping her hands, and grinning to beat the band. I watched a couple of classmates looking at her; one rolled her eyes at the

other. I wanted to stop Sophie before they made fun of her. I wanted to protect her. But I didn't. I *knew* there were lessons for her. And then it happened. The two classmates started hopping after her, clapping their hands, grinning to beat the band.

Goodness. Who really needs the protection? Who really learned the lesson?

It's not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can't tell my children to reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for it myself. ~Joyce

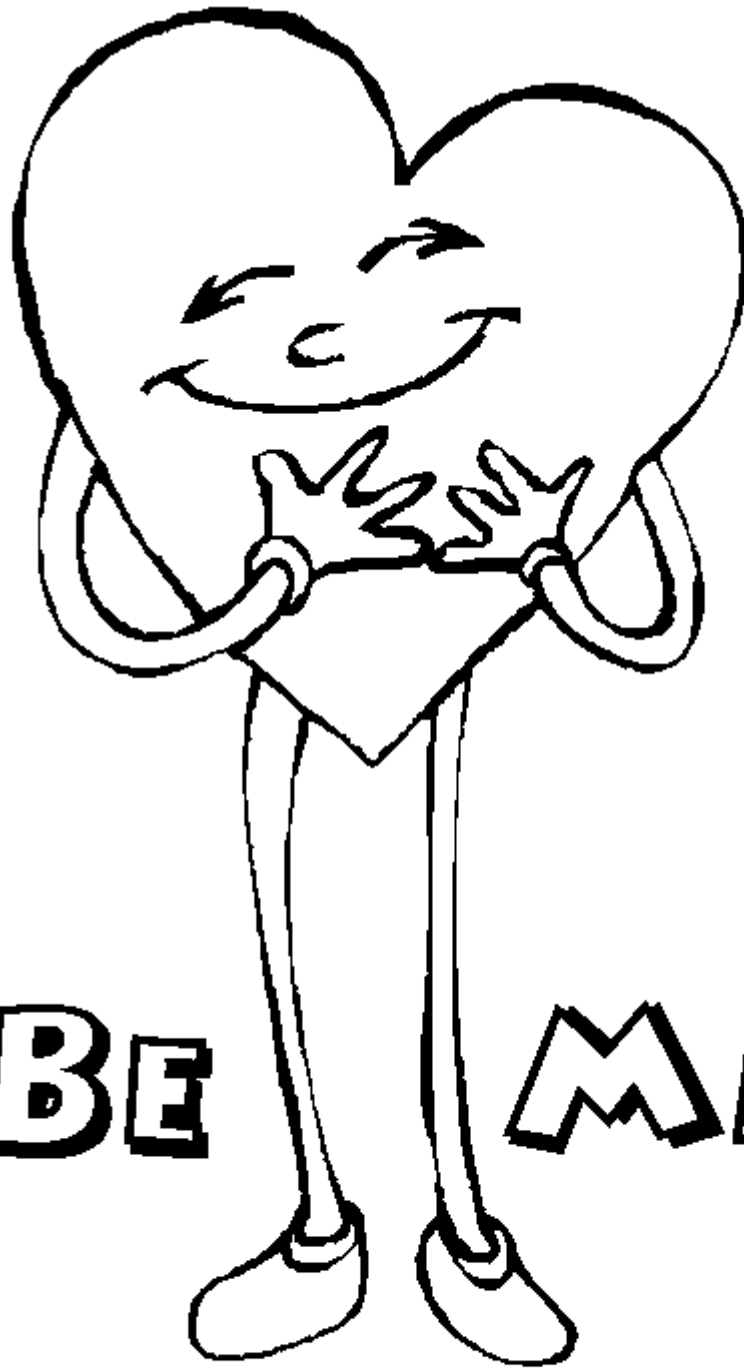
Each day I resolve to be a better parent. Some days I succeed. Some days I wish I could do better. The best days? The best days are those that I don't try so hard; the days that I just be. And those are the days our girls will remember, because those are the days I remember from my childhood.

The most precious gift we can offer others is our presence. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers.
~Thich Nhat Hanh

Here is to all of our children blooming like flowers. *Happy Valentine's Day.* ~Erin and Sam



How can we forget the day (Feb. 7th) when the Beavers literally carried the lightweight climbing ladders, and we converted the set to a "bridge" (a replica from December's investigation of "bridges"), so that we could walk



BE MINE

VALENTINE

