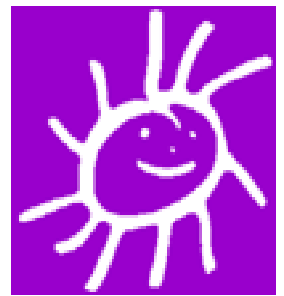


# The Children's Center at Caltech



January 2007

## From Susan's Desk

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## Upcoming Activities

**Board Meeting:**  
Jan. 22 - 7:00 p.m.  
Room 239, Moore Lab

**Penguins Parent Education Meeting:**  
Jan. 22 - 12 pm to 1 pm  
*Toilet Training/Transitions*

**Penguin Work Day**  
Feb. 3 - 9 am to 1 pm

**Center Closed**  
Feb. 19 - President's Day

293 South Chester Avenue  
Pasadena, California 91106  
626.395.6860  
626.793.7308 fax  
[www.ccc.caltech.edu](http://www.ccc.caltech.edu)

The Science Lab construction is just days away. We have already cleared the way between the preschool houses in preparation for **Vancrest**, our construction contractor. **(M)Arch.**, our architect, has filed the plans with the city of Pasadena. Any day now we expect to see the bulldozers arrive.



The children will be thrilled, but judging from past construction projects I know that there will be challenges for the adults. Parking at drop off and pick up times may take longer due to spaces being occupied by trucks and trailers. I will be working closely with Jim, the contractor and Todd, the architect, to make sure that these inconveniences are minimal. I'm sure that we all agree that the results will be worth the troubles, and I appreciate in advance your patience and support.

Mark your calendar for the fifth annual Evening Under the Stars on May 12th. This year we are planning on having this wonderful event in the preschool yard to celebrate and dedicate the new Science Lab. With the construction completed we hope to raise money to equip the Lab. At this time you can help by recruiting auction items or by volunteering on the Fundraising committee. For more information



please contact Linda Breen or the CCC office.

December brought the center quite a bit of turn over. Four teachers left to pursue their education, have a baby, or try something new. Three new teachers have joined our team, and one other has stepped up from part-time to full-time. Many of our rooms have had lots of good-byes and now, are welcoming new children and their families. To see what's been happening in your child's room read on.

Happy New Year!

## Bunny Hopping

Greetings, Bunny Parents!

The Bunnies would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Bunny Families. We would like to welcome **Neeku, Phoebe, Abigail**, and their families to the Bunny Room. We look forward to watching them grow and learn many new things.



The Bunnies would like to say a sad farewell to **Euan** and **Martin** who moved to the Dolphin Room. We miss them dearly, but we know that they are thriving and learning many new things in their new environment. We take

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Programs



comfort in knowing that they are only a room away.

A sad farewell also goes to **David Carillo** and his family who left the CCC. Unfortunately, David was only with us for a few months, but we had all become very attached to him like we do with all of the Bunny children.

The Bunnies have one last sad farewell to one of our beloved teachers, **Suzanne Lett** who left the CCC. The Bunny Children, Families, and Staff miss her. We wish her well in her new job and future endeavors. We will hold all of the memories that she gave us close to our hearts.



The Bunnies would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Bunny Teacher **Susanna Chan**. She is a student at PCC majoring in Child Development. I think she will be a great addition to the Bunny room. The Bunny staff all looks forward to working with her.

The Bunnies would like to extend a warm welcome and say thank you to **David Boyd** (William's dad) who has agreed to be the new web master for the Bunny Room.

In the month of November the Bunnies were looking at Cause and Effect by focusing on movement of body. We started with our bodies as a whole. Then we went on to look at movement of

hands. After that we focused on movement of feet. This tied in nicely with our curriculum as many of the children are learning to crawl, pull themselves up, and walk. The children enjoyed painting with their hands and feet, and have also enjoyed exploring with various balls by mouthing, rolling, and throwing them. The Bunnies had fun going on walks around campus to watch the movement of other people and things.

For the month of December the Bunnies looked at Cause and Effect by focusing on things that fall. The children enjoyed going on nature walks around campus to collect various leaves, pinecones, and other nature items. The children painted with some of the leaves we had collected. They explored with the leaves by crunching the dry ones in their



hands or tearing them apart with their hands. They had fun crawling, and/or walking across a pile of leaves. They also jumped on piles of leaves with the help of the teachers. Unfortunately, we did not get to explore much with the rainfall since there was not a lot of rain during the month of December. The children also enjoyed throwing balls and watching them fall down. They had fun putting balls into holes, and then watching them fall down and come out of the hole. We are now going to be looking at the five senses.

### Bunny Parent Information

1. Rest-Sitting Opportunities: Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of

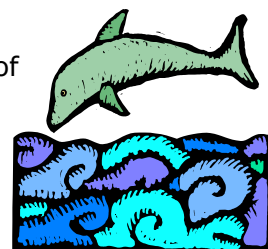
the month from 1:15-3:00. These are great opportunities to earn parent hours. If you are not able to rest-sit, but are looking for other ways to earn parent hours, then just ask a Bunny teacher for other parent hour opportunities.

2. Please label all of your child's things. This is to prevent things from getting lost or mixed up.
3. The Bunnies will be having teacher/parent conferences starting in February. Stay tuned for more information. There will be a sign up sheet where you can sign up to have a conference with your child's primary caregiver and/or the lead teacher.

## Dolphin Splash

*Get Ready! Get Ready for 2007!*

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 go on and on. The children



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

With cooler weather upon us, please bring

extra clothes in your child's cubby for changeability.

### Transitions

**Hannah, Loretta, and Amber** have all transitioned to the Penguin Class. Our teacher



**Martha** also transitioned to the Penguin Class.

We welcome **Ryan, Samuel, Marty,** and **Eleni** to the Dolphin Class. We also welcome a new teacher **Sarah** to the Dolphin Class.

## Penguin Parade

We want to thank all parents and the board for the winter staff gift that was very thoughtful of everyone!

We hope that everyone had a great winter holiday.

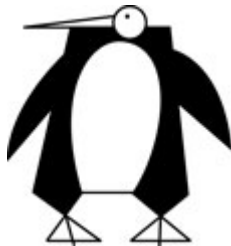


We want to welcome **Martha, Erez** and their families to the Penguin room.

And we want to wish **Phoebe, Owen,** and their families' best wishes and that we are going to miss them, they will be leaving the center. We also want to wish **Nolan** and his family best wishes in the Koala room; we'll see you across the street!

The Penguins have been busy working on Practical Life Experience (self-help skills), such as serving snack, putting on their shoes, and folding their blankets.

They have been very busy and interested in painting lately.



We are continuing our curriculum on change and focusing on "me." We are encouraging parents to participate with our curriculum and help us bring in story starters related to the curriculum and coming in and doing a

cooking activity in the class. For example you can share with the class what is your child's favorite food or snack and they can help make it and they can share how food helps us grow.

We also want to thank all parents and staff that donated items for the baskets for Haven House. Thank you so much!!!

## Koala Korner

The Koalas had a great start to the New Year! We continue to investigate different systems and interactions by looking closely at pipes. This past month we introduced and added PVC pipes and all the connecting pieces to our block area. We have also learned new terminology (goose neck pipe, valves, elbows, tees, crosses, male/female threads, couplings, and caps) that we use to connect these pipes.

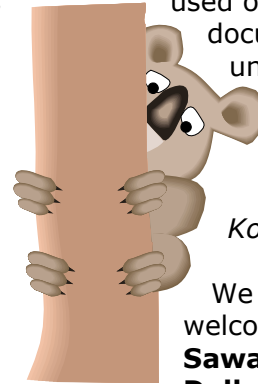
The children have become great problem solvers when putting their pipes together. They are using trial and error to find the correct fittings when connecting two pieces of pipe. With the help of teachers and with practice, they have learned they need to find a connecting piece to put two pieces of pipe together. At this time our pipe systems are built upwards, our goal is to get them to expand out as much as possible.



Recently we took our pipes into the sandbox and let water run through the pipes. This was fascinating to some, as we guessed which holes the water would flow through. We also were

able to control the water flow by using caps and valves!

We invite you to look at our bulletin boards, we were able to capture some great moments working with pipes. We have also



used our journals to document the pipes under our sink, around school, and the Caltech campus.

### *Koala Transitions*

We would like to welcome **Naima Sawaya** and **Dee-Dee Delbruck** to the Koala Room.

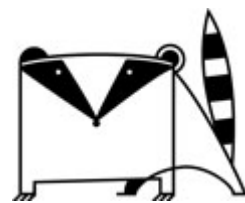
We also wished **Otto Ross** and **Dominik Giapis** the best as they moved to the Raccoons. We also send our best to **Gabriel Hackel** and **Jackson Adkins** who will leave the center, but return after a few months.

### *Reminders*

- Keep toys at home. Soft toys OK for naptime.
- Sign in and out daily
- Label clothing (especially socks)
- Rest sitters needed every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (1:30-3)

## Raccoon Roundup

### *Happy New Year!*



Welcome back...we hope everyone had wonderful holidays. This will

be short and sweet. We first would like to thank all the families for your generous gifts and the staff's holiday bonus.

We all appreciate the wonderful cards and notes we have received during these past two months. We look forward to continuing 2007 with you and your children.

In the next few months we will be investigating systems and interactions. Families will be informed soon about walks to Trader Joe's, the post office, and the fire department. We will also have a sign up sheet available in the next month to invite parents to conduct a cooking activity.

This is a great way to earn parent hours and spend time in the classroom. You are always welcome to read a

story, or share a talent like playing a musical instrument. We are continuing to bring flowers every Tuesday to beautify our environment. The Raccoon staff is also asking for donations for the children's desk. Donations of stationary like note cards and envelopes would be appreciated.

*Gentle Reminders*

1. Encourage children to sign in and out on our easel.
2. Label clothing especially sweaters and jackets.
3. Arrive by 9:30 on special days like walks or bike days.

## Beaver Tales

Happy New Year everyone!

As we start the year, we want to start with the **new changes** that transpired in the

Beavers. Did you notice our brand new laminate floors? They bring more light and space into our entire classroom! The children, families, and staff were really happy to see our beautiful "new" classroom, coupled with our new arrival of classroom supplies. Thank you Susan and Liz and Caltech for helping our Beaver dream be realized. Humor is intertwined into our daily routine, as exhibited in the children and staff quickly

wiping any spill off, and enjoying the new child-size sweepers on the new shiny floors as opportunity arises. Great job Beavers!

Just as the physical changes took place, the curriculum exploration also

evolved. Throughout December-January, we explored "The Winter Changes" and "Our Human Body" via the science focus on *change and transformation*. We analyzed and observed the weather changes and the foliage around us; took trips on Campus; documented and graphed the growth height of our flowers and vegetables by counting and measuring with real tools (NOTE: we noticed the rapid growth in inches especially after the rain!); conducted solid-liquid meltdown temperature

experiments; used many aesthetic mediums as we observed the plants, clouds, and nature changes around us; and continued our charting, webbing, and graphing modes of inquiry through learning.

Analogously, the concept of the

physical, structural, and functional changes of plants is also seen in our exploration of "The Human Body." At this age-stage, children are aware of the similarities and differences in

their bodies, and so we are exploring the areas of growth, traits, hygiene, health and nutrition, and both external and internal systems. For example, the



Beavers physically explored their bone structure and made popsicle models as we explored our skeletal system; we conducted growth changes of bacteria on food during science experiments; explored germs and hygiene through water and washing modes; and analyzed food groups and nutrition through the meaningful foods we eat in our daily life. Through meaningful connections, the Beavers are using inquiry as the basis for their science, math, motor, literacy, and aesthetic experiences and explorations.

Lastly, as we begin the New Year with great excitement, we want to extend our **deepest thanks** to all the families for your generosity over the holidays. The Beaver staff is grateful for all the kind gestures and deeds bestowed upon us, as we shall never forget the warm dedications and drawings done by your child, the cards and delicious goods, the shared stories and greetings during the day, and *The Holiday Staff Fund*. Again, your warmth and acts shall remain an indelible fixture in our hearts and minds.

**Happy New Year! - Elise, Iwona, Randi, Sara, and Milly**

