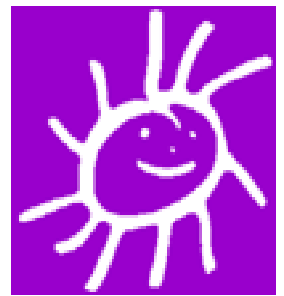


The Children's Center at Caltech



March 2007

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Upcoming Activities

Board Meeting:
April 23rd - 7:00 p.m.
Room 239, Moore Lab

Center Closed
Friday, May 18th
Staff Development Day

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

Well, the science lab is starting to take form. The roof should be going up this month and then we are on to the finishing touches. We are on schedule, so the lab should be ready for it's unveiling May 12 for the fifth annual, "Evening Under the Stars."



This year we will be holding this wonderful event in the Preschool yard. The night will include music, magic, silent auction, fabulous food and drink, the live auction and a special guest speaker. The fundraising committee is busy getting ready for this event and you can help by donating items for the live and silent auction. Classrooms will be putting together theme baskets so check with your child's lead teacher for more information. The invitations are ready and should be going out the first week in April. If you are interested in volunteering for set up or clean up please contact **Marta Castro** at marta.r.castro@kp.org. I hope to see you all there!

Other Center improvements this month included planting two sets of Jacaranda trees to the Penguin yard and the floor of the entry to the Raccoons room has been replaced. Many thanks go to Caltech for their care and maintenance of the CCC. Landscape maintenance (our gardeners) also reseeded the grass and repaved the pathways in the preschool yard preparation for

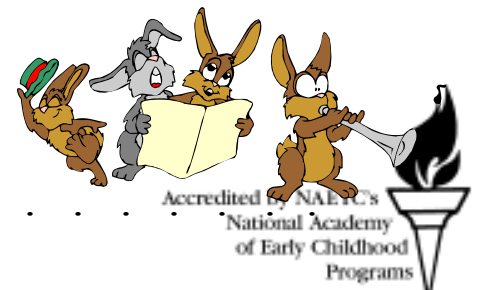
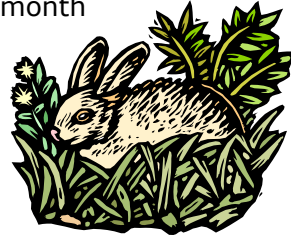
our big event. We are looking good!

- Susan

Bunny Hopping

Greetings Bunny Families!

Over the past month and a half the Bunnies have been looking at the sense of sound. They have enjoyed looking at and exploring the many different things that make sound, and the types of sound connected to those things. The children enjoyed going on Buggy walks around campus to explore the different sounds in their community. The children were really interested in the different sounds of music and musical instruments with which we explored. We had fun exploring with shakers, bells, tambourines, drums, and other musical instruments. The children had fun shaking shakers and bells, tapping tambourines, beating drums etc. They listened to different types of music such as Classical, Native American, Reggae, and of course beloved children's songs like "Twinkle Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," and "The Itsy Bitsy Spider."



The children also painted along to different genres of music playing in the background. The Bunnies most recently have been looking at the sounds of nature. The recent rain and wind that we had really went along nicely with our curriculum; even though there was not much of it. We will now be looking at another one of the five senses.

The Bunny staff and children would like to say farewell to **Tom Frederick** who has moved over to the Dolphin class. Beloved teacher and caregiver Tom will be missed. All of the Bunny children will eventually join Tom in the Dolphin class. Tom moving over to the Dolphin class adds continuity of care in terms of caregiver.

The Bunny staff and children would like to extend a warm welcome to **Aleesha Sniderhan**



who is the new Bunny Teacher replacing Tom. Aleesha worked at the center in the past in the Penguin Room. She has worked with infants before. I think she will be a great addition to the Bunny classroom.

The Bunnies would like to say a sad farewell to **Dante Ortiz** who has transitioned over to the Dolphin Room. We will miss him, but we know that he is only a room away. We know that he will be growing and learning many new things in his new environment. Tom was Dante's beloved primary caregiver, so it will be nice for Dante and Tom who will be with each other again in the Dolphin Room.

The Bunnies would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Bunny **Paloma Moser** and her family. She has a brother Leo who is a Penguin now, and was a former Bunny at one time.

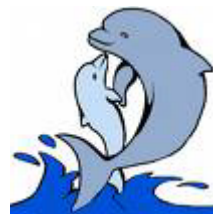
Well, the annual CCC Fundraiser is just around the corner. The event will take place on Saturday, May 12th. The theme for the Bunny fundraiser basket this year is: Beach/Pool Fun. Stay tuned for more information to come.

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, 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. Please remember to sign in and out daily, and to fill out a daily sheet everyday.
4. If your child has a blanket, don't forget to take home your child's blanket on Friday's to wash.

Dolphin Splash

The weekly calendar of planned possibilities of movement of transportation was a great success with the children. Roar, boom, straight, wheels, stop, backing up, together, go, around, horn, collection, and tractor trailer are examples of vocabulary being used.



We are currently investigating the

science concept of movement/change and growth with an emphasis on plants. Planting, watering, investigating the soil contents, texture, tools usage and documenting the observations are just a few of the items of planned possibilities ahead.



Welcome to Tom, our new addition to the Dolphin teaching staff. We also welcome Dante Ortiz and his family who has transitioned from the Bunny classroom. Throughout the calendar year children transition to the Dolphin classroom, and to the Penguin classroom, therefore we say "see you soon" to **Claire** who has transitioned to the Penguins.

Reminders: You can contact the following families for the service listed below:

Room Parent:

Ella's Family

Scholastic Book Orders:

Euan's Family

Webmaster:

Claire's Family (can contact in Penguin class)

During the month of April we will be celebrating the "week of the young child." More information will follow regarding the details of this event.

May 12, 2007 - Save the date for the annual "Evening under the Stars" fundraiser.



Penguin Parade



During the month of March we have continued to do activities based on Energy. We are running, jumping, skipping and hopping using energy. We are looking at small and large machines. The Penguins are very interested in watching the dump trucks and cement trucks. One day **Martino** put a rain gutter on one of the cars and said "Look! A cement truck." We are also learning about Math as we blow bubbles and count how many we can catch with our hands.

The Penguins are also learning about incline planes and pulleys. Some of the Penguins get a kick out of pointing to incline planes in the classroom as well as outside of the classroom.

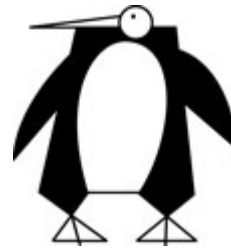


Outside on the play yard we are using rain gutters to race cars and roll balls down them. We also use them to make waterfalls for sea life.

Some of the Penguins enjoyed using a Juicer to make their very own cup of orange juice. We will of course repeat this activity because it's a hit.

We would like to take this time to welcome: **Yonatan, Claire** and **Samantha**, our newest Penguins.

Happy Birthday to: **Olivia** and **Lily. Kirthi (Keshav's mom)** is our new room parent.



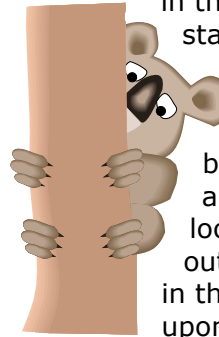
but firefighter Paul said they did not, but "it would be nice to have one." All of our questions were answered by this great experience!

Reminder: Keep a extra change of clothes in your child's cubby.

Koala Korner

Thank you very much to all parents who helped spruce up our room on our Work Saturday!

We would like to welcome two new children to our classroom. **Charlotte** and **Jinny** have joined us from the Penguins! We wish **Sulekha** the best as she moves to the Raccoons.



We are having a fantastic time continuing our study on systems and interactions. This past month the Koalas were interested in moving water. Many of our activities involved transferring water using measuring cups, eye droppers, and recently we used rain gutters! The garden hose has become a huge asset to these projects! And we have been lucky to have great weather to enjoy these projects.

With their interest in the hose and water, some Koalas questioned how firefighters used their hoses to put out fires. The teachers thought it would be appropriate to visit the fire station to find out. We all enjoyed our complete tour of the fire station. The children especially liked the fire engine! We saw where they store the very long hoses and were also given the chance to hold it. They showed us where they connect the hose to the truck and that the other end connects to a fire hydrant. **Michael** wanted to know if the station had a "county engineer,"

We are also studying the systems in the human body. We have started by asking the children what is inside their body. On our last trip to the library, we picked up books that illustrate our anatomy. After reading and looking closely, we traced body outlines and had the children fill in their insides. We have touched upon bones, veins, lungs, and the heart. During one activity, the Koalas were excited to feel their heart beating after a bit of physical activity. They continued to exert more energy just to feel their hearts beat faster! This sparked many doctor visits in the dramatic play area.

We also did an activity called "tell me a story about a boo-boo..." This was a wonderful activity where the children retold a story about a time they were hurt. Some of the stories shared were very vivid! We came upon the conclusion that most of the boo-boos were already healed and that our bodies are amazing! So we will continue to investigate our own bodies.

We also would like to wish Ms. **Sonia** and her new husband, Roylan, the best as they were married March 24! Congratulations!!

Reminders: Parents, please apply sunblock (8hr. formula) in the morning. Teachers will reapply if necessary.

Please label all clothing to avoid losing items.

Raccoon Roundup

Wow, we have been having wonderful family participation. We have many volunteers for circle time, conduct a special activity, or just accompany us on walks. It is great to know we have tremendous family involvement. Thank you all for the donated buttons. The children really worked very long on the button project. The Raccoons sorted all kinds of buttons. The children placed buttons into groups then into subgroups. Later, we used the



buttons for sewing.

The most recent Raccoon project involves collecting "beautiful stuff." This was also a home to school connection. The classroom collected so many different interesting items. Among other things we collected ribbons, keys, bells, jewelry, seashells, and pebbles. Again, we sorted the items. Later we will use the items to create wire work.

The children are enjoying looking for humming birds in the yard. The children hung a hummingbird feeder under the Kumquat tree. They are monitoring the humming bird activity. The Raccoons are documented the water level of the feeder and graphing their results. It will be interesting to see how much sugar water they will consume on a weekly basis.

I wanted to briefly touch upon mystery box. The teachers have noticed that many children are forgetting their mystery boxes. This is an activity that is worked on together with you the parents We need mystery box time to continue and we could not do it without you. Some of mystery box time benefits include incorporating literacy, giving each child time to shine, practicing thinking skills, and oral speech. Please know your child's mystery box day.

Finally, I will like to thank you all for all the patience during our floor reconstruction.

Beaver Tales

We are in the midst of exploring the "**change formations**" of Spring, as evidenced by the time and light changes, the weather and temperature changes, and the growth of plants and living things in nature. Within this context, we are also exploring the concept of "**above and below**" formations, based on the emergent interests of the children. The following are some of our ongoing explorations and experiences.



- We documented, measured, and eventually ate the broccoli that we planted and cared for after a 3-month+ study!
- We observed, compared, and artistically drew the turtles and plant life at the Caltech pond (there were more than 65 turtles all basking in the sun!)
- We noted the beautiful moon visible in the afternoon while playing outside in early March, as we disproved the notion that

the moon only comes out at night.

- We analyzed formations found *under vs. above* the ground, such as trees, roots, construction foundations and materials, living things *above or under* the water/pond, things seen *above* in the horizon, and vegetables or plants that originate *below or above* the ground.
- We collected and made layers of the earth using nature and decomposing materials, as we analyzed things superimposing or *above* each other.
- We made surveys on flowers and charted daily weather pictures signifying the transition of Winter-to-Spring season.
- We continued using the mediums of wire, rocks, acrylic paint, canvas, etc. to create models of Spring and nature changes via sensory observations.

Similarly, we were happy to have many of our families participate or volunteer with exciting explorations. Last month, **Hsiuchen (Ryan's mother)** did a reading and cooking activity on "Chinese New Year" and the Beavers ate the treat during lunchtime (**Liam** said it tasted like a "sweet bagel" while **Daniel** asked for seconds!).



Back by popular demand, we also enjoyed our Saturday get-togethers at the Planetarium show, as presented or taught by **Jennifer (Liam's mother)**.

Also, who can forget the trip to the museum where the Beavers met on a



Saturday for some fun and lunch? The Beavers came back on a Monday sharing some of their highlights (NOTE: dinosaur models and insect specimens were the favorite, of course).

Thanks to **Nimisha (Arun's mother)** for planning this *social* event for the families. Equally so, we would like to extend our thanks to everyone for their participation in various ways, including:

- **Kathy (Sam's mama)** for the excellent updates of the classroom and science-lab photos on the CCC Website
- To our regular rest-sitters (**David's** and **Lisa's** mothers) and parent helpers (**Jacob's** and **Ian's** mothers) on our library, campus, and bike trips

Finally, thank you to all the families for your support and feedback during the **Parent Conference** period. At this time all 28 conferences have been completed. On behalf of the

Beavers staff, I would like to **thank you all** for your participation, inquiry, opinions, and perspective on the myriad of issues pertaining to the development and education of your child. As always, our doors are always open for continued dialogue.

'til next time – The Beavers

From the Editors

It is springtime. We feel we've worked our way into 2007 and can sense summer around the corner. The earlier daylight savings time has brought the delightful fortune of gardening after work and before dinner.

For our Anneliese, all talk surrounds the marriage of Sonia. Our daughter speaks of husbands and weddings and trips away from the Koalas. Each morning, we arrive to the Koala room and find girls dressed as brides and playing wedding. Sonia is very missed and her return and her wedding will continue to be widely celebrated.

Springtime reminds me of lines from Walt Whitman's, "Leaves of Grass"

*Come forward O my soul, and let
the rest retire,*

*Listen, lose not, it is toward thee
they tend,*

*Parting the midnight, entering my
slumber-chamber,*

*For thee they sing and dance O
soul.*

A festival song,

*The duet of the bridegroom and
the bride, a marriage-march,*

*With lips of love, and hearts of
lovers fill'd to the brim with love,
The red-flush'd cheeks and
perfumes, the cortege swarming
full of friendly faces young and
old,
To flutes' clear notes and
sounding harps' cantabile.*

*Ah from a little child,
Thou knowest soul how to me all
sounds became music,
My mother's voice in lullaby or
hymn,*

*(The voice, O tender voices,
memory's loving voices,*

*Last miracle of all, O dearest
mother's, sister's, voices;)*

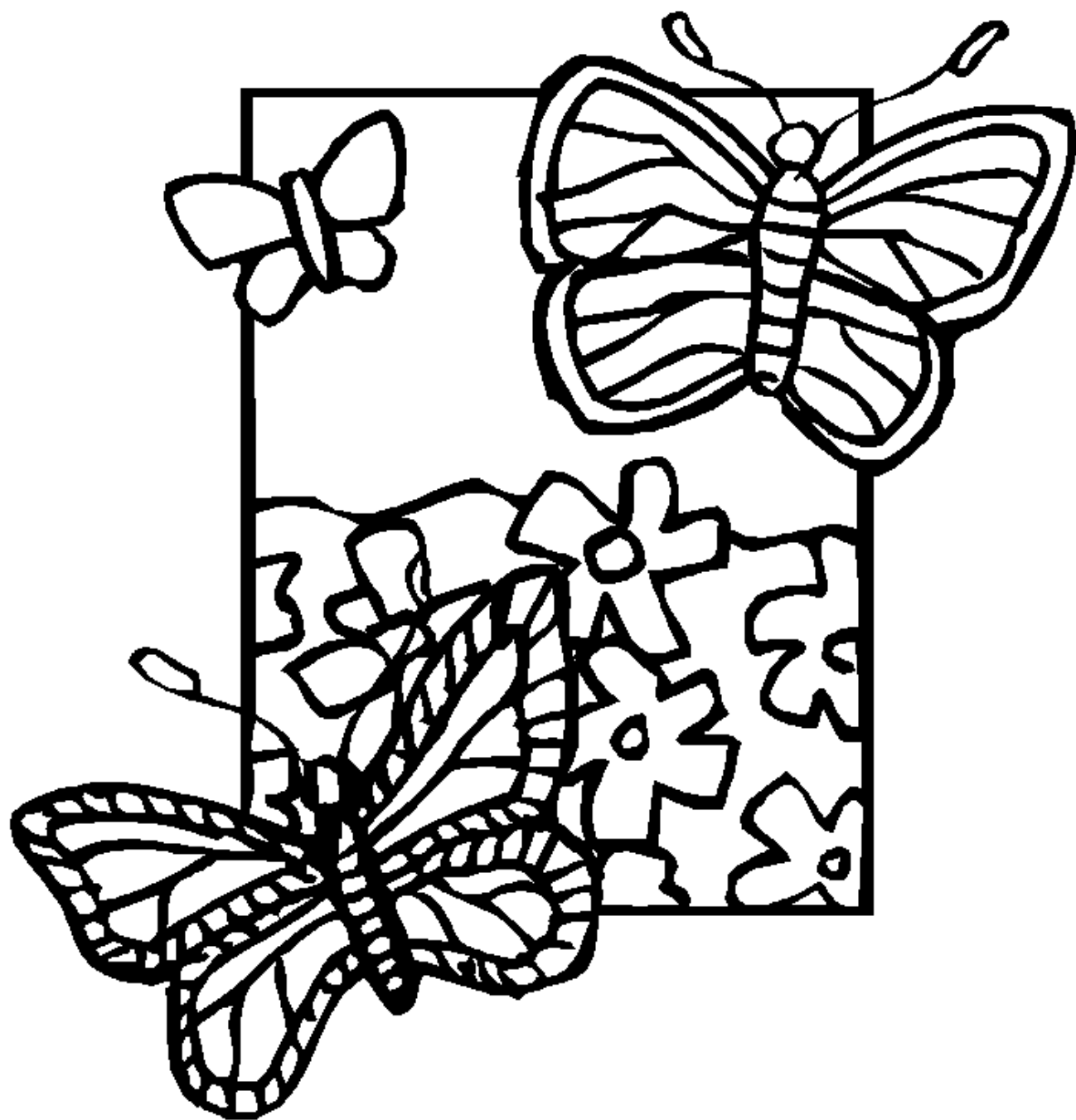
*The rain, the growing corn, the
breeze among the long-leav'd
corn,*

*The measur'd sea-surf beating on
the sand,*

*The twittering bird, the hawk's
sharp scream,*

*The wild-fowl's notes at night as
flying low migrating north or
south,*

*The psalm in the country church
or mid the clustering trees, the
open air camp-meeting,
The fiddler in the tavern, the
glee, the long-strung sailor-song,
The lowing cattle, bleating sheep,
the crowing cock at dawn.*



SPRING

