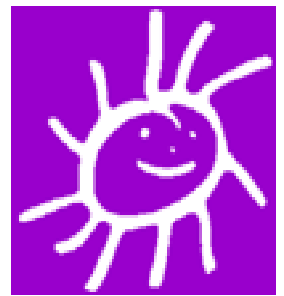


The Children's Center at Caltech



May 2007

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Upcoming Activities

Center Closed
Monday, May 28th
Memorial Day

2007 Board Election:
June 7th - 21st

Center Closed
Wednesday, July 4th
Independence Day

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

From Susan's Desk

Wow! What a wonderful *Evening Under the Stars!* Over 160 parents, staff, grandparents, Board Members, and Friends of the Children's Center at Caltech witnessed the ribbon cutting/ dedication with Caltech President Chameau at our new Science Lab.

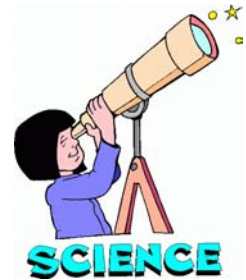
Both the Silent and Live auctions were fabulous successes. We all toasted with champagne in our CCC science beakers! Over 18 Child Endowed Chairs were purchased for our classrooms and more Growing Stones and Giving Tree Leaves will soon be gracing our preschool yard.

However, the most exciting news of the evening was the introduction of our new Science Curriculum Coordinator, Ann Chandler! Ann has been working with us as a sub for several months and we are so pleased that she has decided to accept this position. Please see her note in the next column.



For those of you who were unable to attend there are many items we have added to our "Wish List" on our web site. Ann put this list together to help stock the new lab. Please help spread the word around campus and JPL about our list. There is a list at the end of the newsletter.

- Susan



Introducing Ann

Hi! I'm Ann Chandler. As the new Science Curriculum Coordinator, I would like to introduce myself to the CCC community.

My background includes an M.S. in biology and four years training and experience in child development. As you can imagine, this is a very exciting opportunity for me to be able to combine two of my favorite areas of study.

My approach to early childhood education, specifically science education, is to provide a program that allows children to construct their own knowledge from appropriate activities and materials. I believe children are natural scientists. They observe carefully and constantly question and test their observations. I can already see their excitement at having an authentic laboratory to support their work.

Please take time to introduce yourselves to me, let me know your background and any contributions of your time and experience that you would like to make to our science program. Thank you!



Accredited by NAEYC's
National Academy
of Early Childhood
Programs



Bunny Hopping

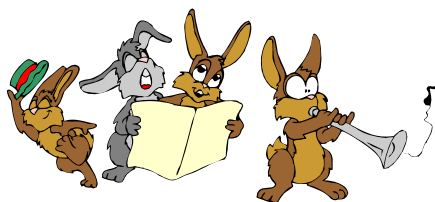
Greetings Bunny Families!

We have moved on from the sense of sound and have now been looking at the sense of touch. The Bunnies

most recently have been exploring various nature items. The

children enjoyed going on nature walks around campus, where we collected a variety of nature items. The children made nature collages out of the nature items. The leaves we collected were used to paint. The children also painted on the leaves as well as pinecones. We have also used sticks to paint with, with very close supervision by a teacher of course. We compared the different sizes and textures of the nature items that we had collected.

We are now looking at insects and plants. The children have been exploring with different plastic and rubber bugs. The children enjoyed digging for bugs that we put in the sensory table



and covered with dirt. We also put the bugs in the sandbox for the children to explore with and dig up. The children will be growing bean sprouts with the help of the teachers.

We would like say thank you to all of the parents who donated something for the Bunny fundraiser basket. Also, thank



you to the parents who sponsored a teacher to attend.

We would like to say thank you to the parents for the wonderful teacher appreciation luncheon that you had for us on Wednesday, May 9th. All of the Bunny teachers truly enjoyed the food that you had prepared for us. Your generosity and kindness were very much appreciated. We thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to do this for us.

Bunny Reminders:

1. Rest-Sitting Opportunities: Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 and the third Wednesday of the month from 1:15-3:00. These are great ways to earn parent hours. If you are not able to rest-sit, but are looking for other opportunities to earn parent hours, then just ask a Bunny teacher for other parent hour possibilities.
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. Don't forget to take home your child's blanket on Friday's to wash it, if they have one.
5. Please remember to bring extra changes of clothing for your children. With the warmer weather we will be doing more water play.

Dolphin Splash

Spring has finally arrived and is apparent within the Dolphin Room, including in the growth of plants, as well as in the children and their emerging vocabulary. As

we continue our planned possibilities with the concept of movement/ change and growth the children are discovering that the things in their environment are changing and growing.



For the past couple of weeks we have been tracking the growth and color change of our strawberries, the growth of our zinnias, sunflowers, cosmos, nasturtiums, beans,

cilantro, and other plants.

However, pulling the plants is still a temptation for the children (ages and stages of cause and affect, and exploration of: what will happen if. . .)!

The children are using their emerging vocabulary to describe the growth and change of our plants. Some words and phrases being used are: "The roots are growing," "It's growing," "Has leaves now," "They're growing," "Beans and Strawberries growing." Other activities related to planting include:

- Collecting, observing, and manipulating plant life and its parts: roots, stems, seeds, bark, leaves and their parts, petals, grass, and the inside of the strawberry.
- Using plant life as canvas, mediums, and tools for creative expression in art activities.
- Taking nature walks to collect our natural materials.
- Using garden tools in art and for digging soil.



We are continuing to document all of our findings through



pictures, observations, children's art, and daily sheets.

We said "hello" to **Sasha** and his family who transitioned from the Bunny room and "see you later" to **Willie** and his family who transitioned to the Penguins, and thanks for the delicious bagels.

The Dolphin staff would like to express much appreciation for all of our families and their continued support, donations, contributions, book repairs, words of encouragement, and for returning the family surveys for accreditation. Special thanks to **Linda (Samuel Hart's mom)** for taking pictures of the children for evening under the stars fundraiser. Thanks to **Stacey (Dante Ortiz's mom)** for bringing the caterpillar for observation, and to all the wonderful staff, students, and helpers who continue to help as needed.



Our dolphin teacher **Christelle** coordinated a clothing drive to benefit the organization "Haven House." Thank you, **Christelle**, for your time and effort put into this campaign of caring.

Dolphin Reminders:

1. Sign in and out daily.
2. Check your parent mailbox and parent board for important information.
3. Check lost and found, cubbies for clothes or items needed to be taken home.
4. Please model for the children by sliding the gate leading in the Dolphin deck to come in.

Penguin Parade



Penguins would like to welcome **Willie** and **Ella** to the classroom and wish Happy Birthdays to **Natalia** and **Alice**.

The Penguins have been doing activities relating to planting. We have observed the seeds inside cucumbers, apples oranges, kiwi, strawberries and mango.

One of our favorite stories for this month has been *The Little Mouse*, *The Red Ripe Strawberry*, and *The Big Hungry Bear*. Oddly enough it could just as easily be *The Brown Squirrel* and *The Not So Red Strawberry*. Our tree squirrels have been caught red handed eating our strawberries.

Nevertheless we are watering our plants inside and outside of the class. We have just planted sunflowers and we can't wait for them to start growing. We encourage the Penguins to bring in stories related to plants, and gardening, or any story that goes with our theme.

To celebrate Week of The Young Child, Penguins painted t-shirts with their parents.

Penguins say the funniest things:

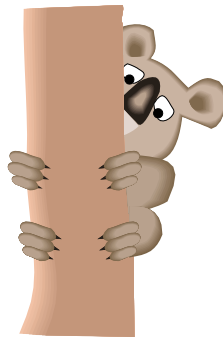
One morning at snack time Martino said, "I cannot have milk today." Itamar replied, "Why can't you have milk?" Martino: "Because I have diarrhea." Itamar: "What's diarrhea?" Martino: "Diarrhea is when you can't have milk."

Reminder: Keep a extra change of clothes in your child's cubby and please continue to label all important items from home.

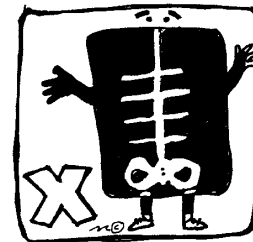
Koala Korner

Hello Koala Families!

This month, we continued our study on Systems and Interactions by focusing on the Human Body. Several questions arose as we started to explore what is under our skin? In one activity, Jannette outlined the children's bodies, and then the children filled in their veins, bones, lungs, heart, and other body parts. We will be revisiting these posters to make more sense of what we have learned. Please take some time to see them on our bulletin boards.



We've also talked a great deal about the bones in our body. We have used X-rays to closely examine bones. Thank you Ann and Colleen Roehl for sharing your X-rays with us! We used the light table to see if they could



recognize what bones were being viewed. Sonia asked, "What part of the body is this?" Some of the responses to the chest X-ray were:

- "Our Chest" - Spencer
- "Bones of stomach" - Gregory
- "Just Bones" - Chloe
- "Legs" - Wei-Wei
- "That's the skeleton" - Nolan
- "A stomach and neck bone" - Arianna
- "Your Heart" - Jinny
- "That's bones" - Anneliese

"I don't know" - Caiden
 "I think it's the tummy" - Medha
 "The neck and the tummy" -Jack
 "Blood, bones, lungs" - Cassidy
 "The arms and the neck" - Jason
 "Lungs" - Naima

We are now shifting our focus of study to weather systems and garden interactions. The warm



weather has allowed us to have much fun with water play! One of Jason's projects involves using

the rain gutters to move water from place to place. The Koalas are having fun positioning the gutters in different places and guessing where the water will travel to next.

Jasmin started our first gardening project, and the Koalas planted sunflower seeds in the backyard for all the classrooms to enjoy. The children are documenting the new growth in their journals and paying close attention to the new plant life everyday.

We would like to welcome a new Koala, **Wei-Wei Yu!** He has joined us from the Penguins.

The "Evening Under the Stars" fundraiser was a great success! Thank you parents for all your donations to the Science Baskets!

Reminders:

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

Raccoon Roundup



Spring is here! During these past few weeks we have been involved in the outdoor elements. The Raccoons were

excited to work in the garden boxes. We overturned the soil. Later we planted melons. The children had a terrific time working together.

Last month we visited the fire station. The children were given a guided tour of the living quarters. They walked through the different rooms. The children's favorite room was the kitchen. Of course the most exciting part of the tour was getting a closer look at the fire truck. We saw all the special equipment. Station 34 was so wonderful like always to the Raccoons.

We have tadpoles! The children have been observing our tadpoles. It has been a great addition to our raccoon experience.



The children have been discussing the different options for the frogs' future :) We have also estimated the time it will take for them to turn into frogs.

Have you seen the light projector and the light table? What an interesting addition for the Raccoons. The children are able to experiment and manipulate different materials. Many have been interested in shadows. The light room is available daily and it has been a success.

Thank you for coming to our family spring picnic. The children were excited making their own lunch for

the event. We all had a good time eating and talking.

Thank you also to all the families that participated with the Raccoons' CCC "Under the Stars" basket. Don't forget: for every \$25 donation receipt turned in you will receive one parent hour.

Beaver Tales

April was a fun-filled month, because we explored *recycling, life cycles, and Spring*



formations through the concept of *Change*. We documented the 2-3 week life cycle of our 5 caterpillars, of which 80% survived to become thriving chrysalis → butterfly → setting-them-free stages. Only one did not survive, whereby we made special dedications and had group discussions about the end of life. We buried the caterpillar outside by the Beaver driveway-garden and it became one with nature. Hence, this became what we call in teaching an experiential teachable moment where children's feelings were explored and validated.

The *cycle of life* investigation included all the nascent, midpoint, and end of life changes, as seen through these concrete experiences. NOTE: Check out the photos and pictorial representations of what the Beavers did on our Bulletin Board.

For a brief interim period, the Beavers also had 2 baby chicks as part of our cycle investigation. They enjoyed the sunlight, while habiting the makeshift box with



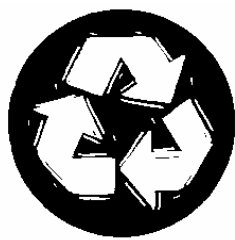
twigs, loose earth, and food. The Beavers had to part with them, as they transitioned and moved onto a more habitable and natural environment – the farm!

However, we got to pet them, read books about life cycles, and the children named them (via



class majority vote) **Charcoal** and **Giraffe**. Thank you to all who played various roles, esp. **Elise, Sara, Lily,** and **Maiken** who researched and cared for them in their early stages.

Recycling was another area of exploration. The Beavers collected all recyclable goods used in our daily life. We promoted the *home-school connection* by welcoming all the recycled items donated by our families! We compared, categorized, classified, and quantified the numerous items (through math inculcation), while building and constructing creative 3-dimensional, (yes, basic geometry!) figures using our endless imagination. The Beavers had so much fun constructing with the recycled items. Thank you once again to our wonderful parents for their contribution.



The Beavers continue to reuse/recycle our paper in our Writing/Arts Center, as part of our daily practices. Way to go, Beavers, for extending the practice of recycling beyond a monthly concept! As we all know, “true learning” extends beyond the here-and-now.

Similarly, we want to extend a major thank you to our parents/families for their participation in our curriculum. Recent examples of families include:

- **Ian’s family (Margot, etc.):** The hula-hoop activity and the new hoops they gave us! The children/staff learned some basic fun moves, as taught by a professional.
- **Adele and Motoko:** They shared special kites made in Japan, and showed us how to create and fly our very own. The Beavers enjoyed drawing, cutting, and most of all, flying them outside! Perfect during the windy days.
- **Lily and Maiken:** They demonstrated a creative/fine-motor activity on creating windmills and the Beavers made their own windmills using recycled items. Fun was had using during the windy week!
- **Ryan and Hsiuchen:** Sharing Ryan’s toys for decorating our fundraising basket.
- **Nimisha and Maiken:** Collaborating and purchasing our caterpillars from Kidspac.
- **The families:** Many donated tons of recycled items, which we used in creative and functioning ways.

Finally, thanks **everyone** for the donated items for the “Evening Under the Stars”! Again, we greatly appreciate all of your endless support and feedback.

’til next time – The Beavers

From the Editors

After a flurry of activity to ready the new science center in time for an *Evening Under the Stars*, the annual fund raiser has come and gone; it was a great success!

Please check out the wish list on the next page.

Until recently at pick-up time we’d find Anneliese more often than not spinning on the tire swing, or, at the very least, twirling some poor dizzy child faster and faster on that swing. But lately she’s been camping out under the metal roof of the science center excitedly showing us a squirming worm or, like today, drawing a rocket ship.

I have to admit that I was wrong about something. When I first saw the plans for the science center I thought, “Well, nice design; but do 3 and 4 year olds really need such a focused space?” Please understand that I revel in CCC’s large play yard, the structures on which I can wistfully spy my child from our offices across the street, and especially the waterfall in the digging area where the kids can manage the flow of the water stream. I’m from the school that my kid’s brain is going to wire better from figuring out how to keep the sand from falling into her newly-dug hole than she ever would from some sort of formal “learning” situation. So, I figured that this center “thing” would just make CCC look good – and I was o.k. with that!

And I was wrong. I was wrong to think that the science center would *just* make CCC look good more than anything else. It isn’t even yet up and fully functioning and already the kids are flocking to it with great interest.

Congratulations and a big thank you to those who had the vision to turn a space that hadn’t been utilized into this exciting and fun place. Fun is good. And if my kid learns something at the same time? Even better.



CCC Science Center Wish List

MAJOR EQUIPMENT:

2 stereomicroscopes @ \$249 each	\$ 498.00
Sunlit World Globe	\$ 295.00
Jiffy-Gro Light Greenhouse	\$ 270.00

PHYSICAL SCIENCE:

Kubic Bubbles Kit	\$ 37.50
Tuning Fork Set	\$ 28.50
Electrostatic Materials Kit	\$ 54.95
Sealed Iron Filings	\$ 45.00
Floating Ring Magnets	\$ 20.00
Platform Scale	\$ 17.95
Mineral and Rock Collection	\$ 36.50
Color Discovery Tables	\$ 39.95

LIFE SCIENCE:

Stethoscopes (6)	\$ 48.00
Silkworm Life Cycle	\$ 24.50
Frog Life History	\$ 19.95
Human X Rays	\$ 27.95
Animal X Rays	\$ 17.95
Sorting Sieves	\$ 24.95
Seashell Assortment	\$ 11.25
Insect Specimen Kit	\$ 49.50
Sea Life Specimen Set	\$ 44.50
Spider Specimen Set	\$ 49.50

