



ACC-CLS Parent News

Keeping in Touch

A Word from the Director



How do YOU like to be communicated with? Communication is one of the hardest things we do. Because teachers are in the classroom with the children most of the day and because the limited amount of time they are out of the classroom is used for planning, assessment and preparation, it is sometimes difficult to find time for optimal communication between teachers and family members.

Some forms of communication in our program are more informal or indirect. For example, by looking at lesson plans you can get a picture of what your child did at school that day. Instead of asking your child at pick up time, "What did you do today?" which may illicit the classic response of "nothing" or "played", you can ask

"What was it like painting with feathers?" or "Tell me about the duck story you heard at circle time today." Look around the classroom for recent art work, photos, dictation (adults write down something the children dictate to them), or other signs of special activities. Also, those brief exchanges in the morning and evening when dropping off or picking up your child can be very informative for both parents and teachers.

Some forms of communication are more direct and formal. Twice a year parent conferences are offered. Monthly class-

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October 2010

Important Dates:

- ☺ **Parent Workshop**
Series, Part 1: —
Wednesday, 10/13,
5:30-7 p.m.
- ☺ **PA Meeting—**
Wednesday, 10/20,
5:30-6:30 p.m.
- ☺ **Fall Festival—**
Friday, October 22,
3:30-5 p.m.
- ☺ **Time Change:**
FALL Back—Sunday,
11/7

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Interested in contributing or seeing a particular topic in our newsletter? See Dawn or Teri.

OCTOBER PARENT MEETINGS

Talking to Children About Difficult Topics Workshop Series Part 1
My Body Belongs to Me—Health Sexuality Development
Wednesday, October 13, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Parent Association Meeting

Wednesday, October 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Please sign up at the front desk or e-mail dleach@austincc.edu

Word from the Director—Communication (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

room newsletters inform parents about events and upcoming changes, as well as give friendly reminders. "Document" boards may share information and photos about a special activity like a cooking project or field trip. Infant-Toddler activity sheets or notes home in the preschool classroom also give you a glimpse of your child's day or alert you to things you may need to bring. Notes posted on the classroom door alert you to illnesses or inform you of staff changes for the day.

The calendar, monthly program newsletters, flyers sent home and posted on the front

door or classroom doors, and e-mail reminders also inform about upcoming events.

The Parent Association has parent representatives for each classroom who will make occasional phone calls or send e-mail reminders to parents in their child's classroom to remind them about upcoming events. The director also sends out reminders about upcoming center wide events. Please make sure that you update contact information when it changes.



Today we...

FALL PARENT CONFERENCES

It is time for fall parent conferences!

Fall conferences are the first formal opportunity of the year for teachers and parents to share information about their child's development and interests and discuss goals for the year. Teachers will have information and observations to share to help paint a picture of your child's development and school life. Think about information you may want to share about your child. This might include new interests or skills that your child has acquired, growth or changes you have observed, or family information that can be helpful in understanding your child's needs. During the conference you and the teacher will discuss your child's strengths and needs and together set goals to support his or her continuing growth and development.

Classrooms will offer parent conferences as follows:

Sunbeams—October 4-8

Moons—October 11-15

Stars—October 25-29

Planet Earth—November 1-5 and November 8-12

Make-up conferences—November 15-19

Conferences last 30 minutes. Watch for a sign up sheet on your child's classroom door a week or two before the above dates. Please keep in mind that staffing has to be arranged for teachers to be out of the classroom for parent conferences. **Be sure and sign up for a time that will be convenient for you to attend, make a note of the time and if you find that you will be unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible.** Because other classrooms will be offering conferences during this time too, any make-up conferences will be scheduled the during the week of November 15-19.



Parent Association Invites Your Participation

The first Parent Association meeting will be held this month on Wednesday, **October 20, 5:30-6:30** to plan for the year.

Officers:

Paloma Falcon and Erin Romero—Chairs
Aoife Longmore—Secretary
Rick Taylor—Treasurer

Parent Room Representatives:

Planet Earth—Aoife Longmore
Stars—Mollie Newcomb and Mison Zuniga
Moons—Bethany and Brandon Bell
Sunbeams—Chairmain Mackson and Kalie Nasworthy



Parent representatives give reminders to parents in their child's classroom about fundraisers or special events.

The purpose of the Parent Association includes:

1. Choose, organize and implement fundraising projects to benefit the program.
2. Provide opportunities for parent education and support by assisting with the planning of parenting workshops.

3. Act as an avenue for communication between staff and parents by providing an opportunity to discuss questions, compliments and concerns as well as share ideas.

The October meeting will focus on:

- Final planning for fundraisers for the year
- Final planning for other special events (end of year party and staff recognition)
- Planning for spring parent workshops
- Networking with other parents

A light meal and child care are provided for meetings. We ask that you sign up at the front desk if you plan to attend so that we can plan for food and staff. Thanks!

Contact Paloma at phernand@austincc.edu or Erin at erin.midgleyesc13.txed.net for more information or to volunteer.



THE WONDER OF LEARNING

The dictionary defines learning as "the act of gaining knowledge". In early childhood, learning takes place through the child's work—PLAY. If you watch a child, you know that learning involves all the senses. They often have to observe, touch, listen, taste, smell and ask many, many, many questions. In order to support children's learning, it is important to remember that it is not our role to give children knowledge, but to give them the tools to gain knowledge. We can do this by providing experiences, asking "open ended" questions (questions that usually start with why, where, when, what, or I wonder...) and modeling wonder at the world around us. Look at Eme as she closely looks at the spider on its web. What is she thinking? What questions could we ask to stimulate her thinking? What could we say to encourage her wonder and stimulate her desire to know more? What additional experiences could we provide to "scaffold" her interest?



TAEYC CONFERENCE

Five Assistant Teachers—Gloria, Shannon, Claudia, Becky, Monica—and the Evening Care Coordinator—Lesli Sparkman-Williams were able to attend one to three days of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children conference held in Austin this year on September 30-October 2. Chris and Dawn facilitated a session with other colleagues in the field on Saturday on the topic of "Supporting Early Childhood Students in the Lab Setting". Claudia and Shannon also attended the session to share their experiences as lab school teachers. Special thanks to parents who were able to make alternative arrangements for care on Thursday and/or Friday so that many staff could attend.



Becky, Claudia, Monica, Gloria, Lesli, and Shannon

June facilitates



Chris facilitates

Linda Welsh, Department Chair

Claudia and Shannon provide a lab school teacher perspective in their group

Welcome to Emma Song, Josh and Hannah Zuniga's new sister!



Join us for our annual



Friday, October 22
3:30-5 p.m.

FOOLISH FALLISH FUN
Activities and Snacks
on the Playgrounds
WE WELCOME FAMILY
PARTICIPATION!!!



FALL FAMILY FUN!

Outdoor Activities for the Family

- Go to a pumpkin patch or the Farmer's Market and pick out pumpkins to either decorate or cook with at home
- Let the kids "help" with some of the fall yard work by raking the leaves into a pile and then jumping in them
- Take a walk or hike in a local park, nature preserve or in your neighborhood
- Collect leaves, pinecones, and acorns while on your hike. See who can find the most leaves or who can find the biggest and smallest acorns.

Fall Pumpkin Recipes

• Roasted pumpkin seeds

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups raw whole pumpkin seeds
- 2 teaspoons butter, melted
- 1 pinch salt

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F
Toss seeds in a bowl with the melted butter & salt.
Spread seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet and bake for about 45 minutes or until golden brown. Stir occasionally.

• Pumpkin Bread

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 cups white sugar
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F .
Grease and flour three 7x3 inch loaf pans.
In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin puree, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Pour into the prepared pans.
Bake for about 50 minutes in the preheated oven. Loaves are done when toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.



• Pumpkin seed trail mix

- o Pre-Heat oven to 375
- o 1 cup raw pumpkin seeds, 1 TBS. of Olive Oil, Toss seeds in oil, season with coarse salt spread in a single layer on a baking sheet, toast until golden, about 8 minutes.
- o Next, place toasted pumpkin seeds and a 1/2 cup large unsweetened Coconut Flakes, 1/2 cup whole toasted almonds (optional); 1/2 cup dried Cranberries, and a 1/4 candied Ginger (cut into 1/4 inch pieces)
- o Mix all ingredients and store in a sealed bag or container at room temp for up to a week



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Austin Community College Children's Lab School is a preschool program for children, six months through five years of age, that serves as a demonstration school for the ACC Child Development Department. The Children's Lab School offers an early childhood program designed to support the growth and development of young children in a warm and creative environment. Through field work experiences in a lab setting, students observe the principles of child development and gain practical experience with young children under the supervision and guidance of qualified classroom teachers. The Children's Lab School is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs (NAECP), a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

2010-11 Calendar at a Glance

- *Thanksgiving Holidays..... November 25-26
- Last Day ACC Fall Semester..... December 10
- *Staff Development Days.....December 20-21
- *Winter Break..... December 22-31
- *Martin Luther King Holiday..... January 17
- ACC Spring Semester Begins..... January 18
- *Spring Break..... March 14-18
- Last Day ACC Spring Semester..... May 14
- *Memorial Day Holiday..... May 30
- ACC Summer Semester Begins..... May 23
- Independence Day Holiday..... July 4
- Last Day for Graduating Lab School Children.... August 12
- ACC Summer Semester Ends..... August 8
- *Room Preparation and Staff Development Week...August TBA
- ACC 2011-2012 Academic Year Begins..... August 29

*Lab School will be closed to children on these dates.
+Dates are tentative or to be announced

Reminder:

Donate TODAY to the Parent Association's **FUN**d Appeal

WHY?

Fewer fundraisers!

No item donations

No raffle ticket sales

The PA can spend its time and energy planning **FUN** events, rather than **fundraising** events!

Friends and family can donate too.

If you have misplaced your form, ask for another one at the front desk.