Welcome to a new school year. The ACC Children’s Lab School community consists of our teachers, support staff, faculty, child development students, children, parents and other family members, and the college.

We look forward to an exciting year of learning together. We know that we can learn more about your child from you and we hope you can learn more about children and their development from us.

There are many ways to be involved in the center and **WE NEED YOU!** Attend a Parent Association meeting, participate in a fundraiser, be a room representative, go on a field trip or share a skill or talent with your child’s class.

The most important way to be involved is to communicate daily with your child’s teacher. Knowing what is happening in your child’s life helps us support growth and development, plan, and respond to his or her needs. Have there been any changes in your family? Has your child’s routine changed? Does your child have new skills or interests? Has your child developed a new fear or habit you are concerned about? Have there been changes in your child’s mood? Information shared between teachers and parents is the backbone to building a partnership that will benefit your child.

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, September 16,**

- 4:45-5:45 p.m. Sunbeams & Moons
- 5:15-6:15 p.m. Stars & Planet Earth

- Visit and learn more about your child’s classroom
- Learn about the Parent Association
- Older siblings who are not enrolled will attend Evening Care—Please let us know in advance so we can plan for staffing

**Important Dates:**

- ☀ Monday, 9/7—Labor Day Holiday—CENTER CLOSED
- ☀ Wednesday, 9/16, 4:45-5:45 Sunbeams and Moons; 5:15-6:15 Stars and Planet Earth—Come and enjoy activities with your children at Open House and help them choose their first RIF book for the year

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Interested in contributing or seeing a particular topic in our newsletter? See Dawn.
Center Reminders—Parking, Security, and Safety

Enrollment has more than doubled at the Eastview campus since it was originally built. ACC has added additional parking behind the main campus, but finding a parking spot can still be tricky at certain times of the day or during special events at the center. There are five parking spots designated for parents to park while dropping off or picking up next to the center. We are trying to make sure that these are kept open, but be patient during these first few weeks of the semester. Staff, faculty and student parents should find other parking if they plan to remain on campus after dropping off their children. Following are some reminders about parking, security and safety:

- When you bring or pick-up your child each day, please use the parking spaces marked with blue signs "Child Care Pick-up/ Drop off" in the parking lot north of the building. The drop-off and pick-up spots are located next to the building so that children will not have to cross the parking lot. Using these spaces helps ensure the safety of your child as well as prevents you from being ticketed by ACC Police. Please do not use the spaces designated for "handicap parking" even for a few minutes as these spaces are reserved and used frequently by students, staff and faculty with disabilities. A reminder that parking is not allowed in the front of the building along the curb because this is a fire lane. ACC Police will ticket in this area.

- If you arrive at the center and find the front entrance locked, push the "doorbell" on the right wall of the foyer. A phone in the classroom allows the staff to see and talk with you and unlock the door so that you can enter. The doors may occasionally be locked during the day when there is no one assigned to the front desk and after 5:45 p.m. for security reasons.

- For safety reasons, children need to be accompanied by an adult at all times. Please walk with your child from the car into the building and all the way to the classroom at arrival. If you have more than one child to drop off, please do not allow one child to go to their classroom alone while you drop the other child off. At pick up time, your child needs to stay with you while you are gathering belongings, picking up siblings, or visiting with other parents. Make sure that you communicate with the teacher as you drop off or pick up each day. They may have important information to share with you.

- It is never OK to leave children in the car unsupervised, even for a moment to run inside for a forgotten item.

- Texas law now requires that children under 8 years of age or less than 4 feet 9 inches in height be transported in a car safety seat. It is important to us that your child is safe in our care, as well as on their way to and from the center. You are welcome to leave your child's car seat in the front foyer if someone different is picking up. We also have two car seats available for check out at the front desk in emergencies. If you borrow our car seat, please return it promptly so that it is available to others.

Thanks for helping us keep all the children in our program safe!
The Parent Association was formed by a group of parents interested in becoming partners with the Lab School staff and teachers to provide mutual support, communication, and fund-raising in order to maximize resources for the children served by the school.

The Association is self-governed and self-sustained. The goal of the Association is to function without the help of staff, while including them. The Association meets monthly. Child care and refreshments are provided. Reminders about the meeting are posted and sent out by e-mail prior to the meeting.

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.

Some projects the Parent Association has sponsored over the past few years include planting the four beautiful trees next to the parking lot by Building 5000, helping to make the foyer area more family friendly, staff and volunteer appreciation events and gifts, extra funds for staff attending conferences, and parenting workshops and support groups. Fundraising events this year include a gift basket raffle, "Dinner Out" at a local restaurant, and the sale of photo products.

The Parent Association Officers this year are:
Chair—Paloma Hernandez
Secretary—Aoife Longmore
Treasurer—Diane Bogard.
Room Representatives are:
Erin Romero (Sunbeams)
David and Mison Zuniga (Moons)
Amy and Richard Taylor (Stars)
Laurie Drucker and Mirna Benhamou (Planet Earth)
PA reps will be present at the Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 16 to tell you about activities and answer any questions.

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Foster Grandparent Program

The Children’s Lab School is a placement site for volunteers from the Foster Grandparent Program. Our grandparents provide extra one on one for children who need some lap-time or support working on a particular developmental task or skill. For example, a grandparent might be assigned to spend extra time with a new child who is still adjusting to our program or to work with a child who is learning how to walk or work puzzles. The classroom teachers set goals, assign tasks, and provide training and classroom supervision for the volunteers.

Sadie Lee Davis started as a volunteer in 2002. She has worked in the Stars, Sunbeams, and Moons classrooms. She will volunteer in the Stars classroom again this year.

Cleo Scott, started as a volunteer in 2007 with the Sunbeams. She has completed a full infant-toddler loop and returns to the Sunbeams classroom this year to help our new babies (and their parents) adjust to group care.
**Reading is FUNdamental**

We have participated in the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Austin program since 2002. RIF and Reach Out and Read (ROR), a program that gives books to children at health clinics, recently merged to become Bookspring, an umbrella organization for reading programs in Austin whose mission is "launching children into a world of reading". RIF will continue to provide books three times a year for the children in our program to take home. On the day of the distribution, staff, lab students and other volunteers assist with activities around a theme that encourages reading. Children then choose a book as their own. Research shows that book ownership is linked to school success. This year's distribution dates are:

- September 16
- January 13
- April 7

**Welcome to Our New Families**

Our ACC Children’s Lab School community just grew larger. Please help us welcome:

**Sunbeams**
- La’Riyah (Barbara)
- Haven (Rachel and Christopher)
- Max (Erin and Luis)
- Isaiah (Dahlia)
- Suvi (Lucy and Dave)
- David Jr. (Pam and David)
- Aniela (Patricia and James)
- Bailey (Bethany and Brandon)

**Moons**
- Carson (DeNitrea)
- Ghomoto (Maggie and Osmundy)

**Planet Earth**
- Isobel (Lucy and Dave)

It’s fun to play with new friends!

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Thanks for making my last day TERRIFIC!

Thank you for the HAPPINESS you and your children brought into my life

I was AMAZED as you demonstrated so much love for me

NOTHING can erase the joy of being part of your children’s lives

The KINDNESS you all showed me is unforgetable

The days and YEARS I shared with your children were priceless

I was OVERWHELMED with the gifts you showered on me

Thank you for making this an UNFORGETTABLE time and season for me.

Again THANK YOU for the wonderful massage, movie, and Central Market gift certificates, as well as all the special notes, memories and pictures that you shared. You will all be remembered and fondly thought of during my retirement.  

_Ann Anderson_
CONGRATULATIONS
Teri Layton was accepted into the ACC Academy where she will focus on developing leadership skills. She will attend training once a month, work with a mentor and complete a special project.

ASSISTANT TEACHER CHANGES
We said good-bye to two outstanding assistant teachers in August, Rachael Haire (Stars) who took a position with Pflugerville ISD and Ann Anderson (Planet Earth) who retired. Becky Olivarez has rejoined us as the assistant teacher in the Planet Earth. We are in the process of hiring for the Stars assistant teacher position. In the mean time, Diego Fishburn, our full-time floating Assistant Teacher, will cover in the Stars. Pam Henry will cover Diego’s floater hours for team meetings and planning time.

OTHER STAFF CHANGES Kathleem Hrncir moves up with the Sunbeams to the Moons classroom as the late afternoon assistant. Sarah Jenkins and Ashley Harper will share late afternoon hours in the Sunbeams due to class conflicts.
 Kanisha Coruthers will remain in the Sunbeams this year to cover staff lunches.
 Shannon Johnson, YuHsia Pan, Pam Henry and Rena’e Nobles will continue to work as substitutes in our program. We may have other new subs joining us this fall.

OUR STAFF CONTINUES TO LEARN
Many of our staff continue to work and attend school. Gloria Perez (General Studies—ACC), Becky Olivarez (General Studies—ACC), Kanisha Coruthers (Child Development—ACC), Kathleen Hrncir (Child Development—ACC), Carmel Sweat (Child Development—ACC) Shayla Yarbrough (Education—HT), Shannon Johnson (Business—TSU), YuHsia Pan (Education—TSU), Ashley Harper (Pre-nursing—UT), and Sarah Jenkins (Plan II—UT). Diego Fishburn is taking a metal arts class and Dawn Leach is taking a third woodworking class, both at ACC. June Yeatman is teaching CDEC 1321 ITV, which is our Infant-Toddler Development course at ACC again this fall.

MEET OUR NEW UT INTERN
Amanda Foster, a UT Human Development and Family Sciences student joins us as an intern for the fall semester. She marches with the Longhorn Band color guard and loves UT football. She is from Garland Texas. She will be learning about and assisting with administrative duties and the parent program, as well as working with individual and small groups of children in the classroom. She has already observed and played in the classrooms. Please take a few minutes to welcome Amanda to our community.
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).

2009-10 Calendar at a Glance

*Labor Day Holiday........................................... September 7
Lab School Open House..................................... September 16
*Thanksgiving Holidays...................................... November 26-27
Last Day ACC Fall Semester................................. December 11
*Staff Development Day..................................... December 18 & 21
*Winter Break.................................................. Dec. 22-Jan 1
*Martin Luther King Holiday................................. January 18
ACC Spring Semester Begins............................... January 19
*Spring Break.................................................. March 15-19
Last Day ACC Spring Semester............................ May 14
*Memorial Day Holiday...................................... May 31
ACC Summer Semester Begins............................ June 1
Independence Day Holiday................................... July 4 (no closure)
Last Day for Graduating Lab School Children........... August 13
ACC Summer Semester Ends............................... August 13
*Room Preparation and Staff Development Week...... August 16-20
ACC 2009-2010 Academic Year Begins.................... August 23

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

Parents—Please remember never to leave your child alone in the car, “even for a moment.” Many parents do not realize that this is not only dangerous, but it is also against the law. If you have forgotten something, ask yourself if it can wait, ask another parent to help or take the time to bring your child back inside with you. Thanks!