



## LANE CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

As a Reggio-inspired early learning center, the Lane Child and Family Center philosophy is based on the core principles of respect, responsibility and community.

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### **Director's Corner~ Katheryn Blair**

Fall weather has arrived! Please make sure your child comes prepared with all-weather gear (boots, raincoats, warm coats, and extra clothes). Please talk to me or your child's teacher if you need any all-weather gear for your child; we can provide it.

Lane Child and Family Center encourages parents to be very involved in the Center by observing their children during the day and meeting with the teachers and staff. You are welcome to come into the center at any time during operating hours. You may either join in the classroom or observe from an observation room (if you need headphones, you can borrow some from the office).

Nothing can replace the face to face daily interactions teachers have with parents. However, staff also rely on bulletin boards, notes on sign-in sheets, newsletters, emails and phone calls to establish and maintain open communication. If anything comes up in your family that you think the staff should know, please do not hesitate to discuss this with a teacher, either in the classroom or via email. We hold parent teacher conferences in both the fall and spring terms (and at any other time either party requests).

We value the time we spend each day interacting with families, developing strong reciprocal relationships, and getting to know the child and his or her family as a unit. We learn from parent's expertise regarding their child's interests, approaches to learning, developmental needs, and to learn about their concerns and goals for their children. This information is incorporated into ongoing classroom planning. Parents are encouraged to share preferences, concerns and questions with their child's classroom teacher or administrator at

any time. The relationship and understanding we develop with you makes the experience for children, families, and staff a rewarding one.

As a parent, we would like to invite you to become involved in one or all of the following ways:

1. Support your child's daily transition to school by sharing information about your child's interests and abilities with the teachers, and by keeping teachers informed of changes and events that might affect your child. Daily contact with the teachers is crucial to meeting the needs of your child.
2. Return all forms, questionnaires, etc., promptly to the center.
3. Attend Parent/Teacher conferences during the Fall and Spring terms.
4. Volunteer to share some of your talents and time in your child's class through: storytelling, cooking, art, music, sewing, crafts, artifacts from trips you have taken, or your profession.
5. Volunteer to share any of your family traditions with your child's class.
6. Come have lunch with your child.
7. Come to play.
8. Serve on our Parent Advisory Board.
9. Read and/or contribute to our monthly newsletter.

## News & Updates

December 7th is the last day of childcare for Fall term.

Winter Term begins **January 8th**.

## Upcoming Fundraisers

Barefoot Books: November 27th  
9-4 in building #26, Large  
Observation room (Room 314)

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Look for your child's  
classroom conference sign up  
in your classrooms.

## Schedule Changes

Come into the office if your  
child's schedule will be  
changing next term. We need  
a 2 week notice if you are not  
needing care.

## Sea Turtles



Welcome to another fall term in the Sea Turtle class! We are so excited to have so many returning children as well as new friends to get to know. We've already begun to see a lot of creativity and curiosity in our classroom, and we have a budding group of storytellers and scientists with great questions and ideas. With this in mind, we've begun introducing some big ideas along these lines.

We've begun investigating pumpkins from the pumpkin patch, which has inspired some great art and storytelling. It has also prompted some questions about pumpkins and other vegetables, so we have been doing some cutting and exploration of different kinds of squash, and we've tried to collecting and washing the seeds. We continue to gather

children's questions and ideas as they notice different characteristics of the squash. We are also experimenting with the different properties of various materials such as water, baking soda, vinegar, corn starch, and water colors by mixing them in different ways to see what they do!



Many of our children have taken an interest in "imagination stories" - storytelling about fairy tales and other fantastic ideas that don't happen in the real world. We have talked about how they are different from stories that could really happen, and the children are beginning to make up their own stories. We are just beginning to explore these ideas and look forward to developing the sparks of creativity we've begun to see! Some of these stories have even involved pumpkins, tying in with our experiments and our discussion of fall.



We plan to begin introducing a new "bear study" topic in our class soon, based on the children's interest in stories about bears and songs such as "Going on a Bear Hunt." We will learn more about bears, and maybe we can begin making our own stories about bears, too!

Our family Harvest Night will be on Tuesday, November 7th, from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Sea Turtle classroom. We encourage you to bring your children and come enjoy food and fun activities with us! It is a great chance to get to know the classroom and some of the other families, as well as spend some time having fun with your child. Come and help us celebrate getting our school year off to such a great start!

The Sea Turtle classroom  
Emma, Shannon, and Amy

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## Starfish



Dear Starfish Families:

The Starfish children have been interested in art, story-telling, constructing with a variety of materials, and exploring the properties of water.

As budding artists we have noticed children combining colors to create new colors by blending two or more colors together. They have also discovered that when all colors are mixed, their rinse water becomes

brown. Clay and modeling mixtures have also been popular art mediums. Our children have been sculpting daily. Their creations include: horses, birds, dragons, and food items. After their work has dried, children are excited to paint and add detail to their sculptures.



Our children are becoming expert story-tellers and enjoy acting out the roles of the stories they tell. The stories that they love to tell the most are tales similar to the three little pigs, tales of home life, and tales of fantasy, particularly tales with positive conflict resolution. They are beginning to exchange jokes with each other and sharing conversations.

We are supporting their emergent interest in stories and role play by acting out plays. Thank you to everyone that joined us for our family event where the children put on a series of plays based on "The Three Little Pigs." What a wonderful evening!

Many of our children enjoy building with construction materials. With the large outside blocks the children have been building homes, pet houses, and forts. This is a team effort that requires the children work together and develop a way to use the structure cooperatively. Cooperative play helps children build social skills, communication skills, and problem solving skills. There has been an emergent interest in creating robots out of Legos. We will be observing the children and offering them additional materials to see where this interest might lead.

The warm fall weather has allowed the children opportunities to explore water in the dry creek bed and the mud kitchen. The children have discovered that water can be used to create mud, it flows downhill, evaporates on sunny days and is needed to make the sand moist enough to make sand castles. In the dry creek bed they have been engineering dams, levees, and deltas. One child even noted that the bars of the climber felt wet. She knew it had not rained and wondered where the water had come from (fog). Another child was seeking ice on one of our frosty mornings and wondered why it disappeared. We will be planning curriculum to explore the properties.

We look forward to seeing where the children's emerging interest will lead us.

Amber, Heidi and Marsha

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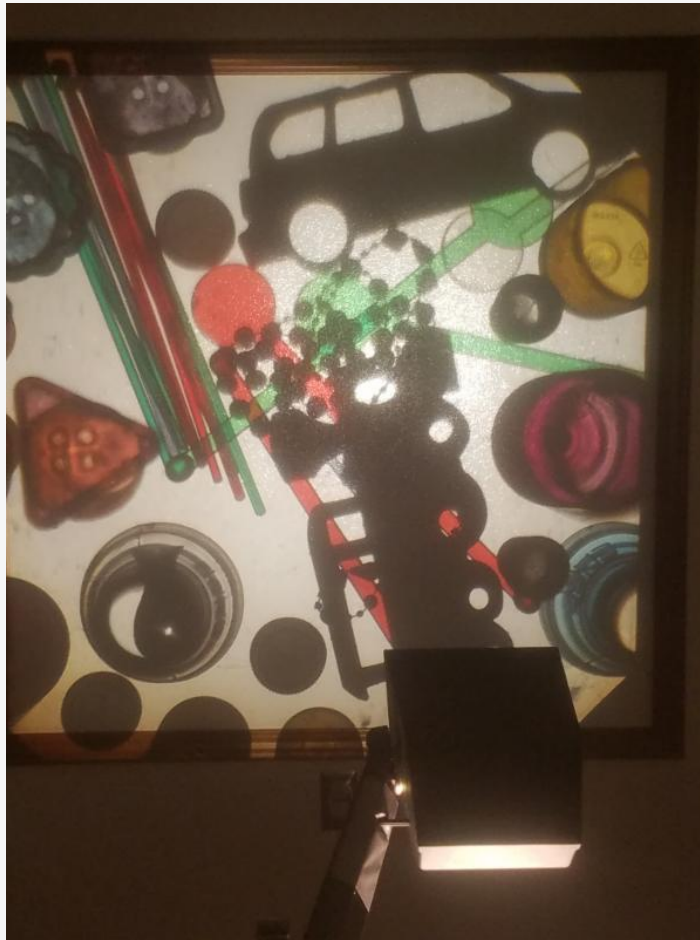
## Seals

Welcome! We're excited to start our year with friends old and new. Your child's teachers this year are Chris, Karyn and Sandhya.

We're off on our great adventure. Our philosophy, Reggio Inspired, holds that children are competent and, if offered support and opportunity, are eager to learn and grow. With that thought in mind, we've started our year building community. For our class, this means getting to know each other, getting acquainted with our environment and learning to care for both. We are having daily conversations about what it means to be safe, respectful and responsible. We are practicing social language and learning about sharing space and materials. We're trusting that the children want to spend their days in an environment that is enjoyable and comfortable. It always amazes us just a little bit when we see just how much our children do care about each other. Friendships are forming. The children are learning how to work in small groups.



Along the way, we're beginning to identify some areas where the children are showing an interest in pursuing project work. This is a time each day when children can explore what interests them, specifically. We've noted an interest in color and light and shadow play. Some children have been exploring HOW to stop water from flowing downhill! The construction corner is always a busy place. There are magnet tiles, blocks of all shapes and sizes and Legos. Even in the Art area, we see constructing as an area of interest. We will be introducing the children to the idea of "making" over the next few weeks by providing them with various recycled containers and plenty of tape. Donations of small recyclables are appreciated. "Making" was coined a few classes ago and involves the intricate connecting of materials. It has great value in helping the children make connections in their own minds and with each other.



We will continue to do walks throughout the term. There is a list of dates and times available. We love company! So please join if you can. We'll visit various areas of campus. Please remember that we won't be here to accept your child into care at those scheduled times. We may add additional walks and will always give you advance notice.

**SAVE THE DATE!** November 8, from 5-7. Please join us for Literacy night. Dinner will be provided. This is a wonderful chance to meet other parents. Please sign up in the classroom.

Another Save the Date: Developmental conferences will be offered in November. Sign-ups will be posted. If there is something specific you'd like us to address, please let us know in advance.

Thanks for sharing your child's day with us!  
Seal Teachers

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## Get Tips for Kindergarten!

Ready4K! is a free text message service designed by Stanford University. It sends preschool parents research-based fun facts and easy tips to help children do better in school.

To sign up, text READY4K to 313131. You'll receive weekly messages suggesting everyday activities to prepare your child for kindergarten. This service is completely free, except for standard text messaging rates determined by your cellphone plan.

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