I have now been at Becky Gates Children’s Center for over a year and last year seems like a blur. There were so many families and staff to build relationships with, policies and procedures to learn, and many events to help prepare for. This year I have been able to do my job and enjoy it all at the same time. Unity Feast has become one of my favorite days and the addition of the cultural parade made it even more enjoyable for all who could attend. It was wonderful seeing the children dressed up in clothing to represent their country, and as usual, the food was amazing! Thanks to all of you who brought food to share and who came to read/sing/share with the children in the classroom!

Thanks to our generous endowment from Mr. and Mrs. McFerrin, Ms. Kisha, Ms. Krista, Ms. Carolina, Ms. Marina and Ms. Rebecca were able to attend the annual conference of the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) held in Orlando. They went to many sessions with great information and made a little time for some fun!

The holiday season is upon us and there will be a lot going on in the classrooms. The classroom holiday celebrations will be December 15th. Watch for information from your child’s teacher concerning times and help that is needed from parents. Final exams for the students begin Dec. 11. After finals, some of our teaching assistants will be graduating and others will be taking time off to spend the winter break with their families. In order to plan for staffing and to help avoid preparing too much food, a survey will be sent out to determine an approximate number of children who will be in attendance each day. Watch for an email with a link to a survey or a list in your child’s classroom.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your child! As a parent of 4, I know it is not easy to do. The classroom teachers at Becky Gates are experts in the early childhood field and they work tirelessly every day to provide an excellent environment for your children. Happy Holidays to each and every one of you and your families!
Fall Family Fun Night
Unity Feast
Unity Feast
Howdy All,

We have had a busy November. We had a parade, a Family Feast, and enjoyed visiting with you all. Also, a big thank you to those who helped us fulfill a little boy’s holiday wishes. We are going to have a busy few weeks with a lot of fun projects. We will be studying arctic animals and bakeries. We will have fun dressing up and I promise to get some adorable pictures. We might even sneak some food tasting in.

Our little butterflies are growing so fast. They are everywhere. They are at that age where things are changing rapidly. The words are beginning to form along with some signs also. A few more steps and a lot more independence. Did I say that I love my job? Now, let’s brag a bit. Hailey is really starting to repeat our words and is following directions so well. She is at the stage where she can sit for longer periods and loves Storytime the best. Zola is repeating words also and loves to say art over and over. She is so close to taking off with her walking. She is such a sweet friend. Avery is also close to walking and is the sweetest boy. He gets so much pleasure out of making his friends smile. He will clap, giggle and pat them. He also loves to say art. Beau is using his signs a lot and it touches my heart to see those sweet little hands form and say words. He loves kicking the ball; I think soccer is in his future. Lucas is so active and also loves playing with his friends. He is so fast. Benjamin is the cutest thing, he loves playing with Avery. They love to play peek-a-boo and chase the balls. He loves and enjoys our lunches. It’s cute listening to him when he is enjoying his food. I could go on and on, but I think you can tell how much we love and enjoy them.

Reminders: check clothes for weather appropriate and I hope you all to have a great winter break. Cuddle up and read some stories and just enjoy spending time with them. We will miss them so much. I am excited for our new year and accomplishing a lot of our milestones. Have safe travels and enjoy family time. We will see you on the 4th of January.

Love, Mrs. Andrea
What a splendid month we have had. We would like to thank everyone for your help on making our cultural festival and unity feast a success. The children really enjoyed the different dishes along with the wonderful food that Ms. Edwinnna made for us. We hope everyone enjoys their Unity Feast Recipe Book.

We would like to give a big thank you to Mrs. Sanjukta for coming in and sharing the festival of lights from their culture. All the children enjoyed creating a beautiful Diwali.

We have an exciting month of December filled with lots of wonderful things planned for all our little bees. We will be talking about arctic animals, bakeries for two weeks and reviewing all that we have learned. With the winter break upon us, we will be having a winter celebration within our classroom on December 15, 2015 at 2:30, during snack time. For our celebration we will be baking sugar cookies in the morning as a project during the celebration we will decorate our cookies. We encourage everyone to come out and join in our classroom

Bee Reminders

~Please check your child’s daily’s for any items they might be needed.
~Sign your child in and out
~Please provide a jacket with your child’s name in it for outside play.

Teacher Schedule
Mrs. Jamie       M-F: 7:30-4:30   Wednesday 7:30-1:00
jamieg@gcc.tamu.edu
Mrs. Shaymaa     M-F: 8:30-5:30
Howdy Parents,

We had a terrific November learning about fall, colors, and turkeys. Our Cardinals had a great time going on a turkey hunt through the center, identifying all the different colors of turkey feathers. We would like to thank you all for your participation in our Unity feast. The children enjoyed all of the foods you shared! We are excited to watch your little ones learn and grow even more as we begin the month of December. In the month of December we will learn about Arctic animals and Bakeries for two weeks. Please make sure to put their names on their jackets. We ask that you read your child’s daily report to make sure your child is not in need of supplies. We want to thank the parents for all the donations for our CPS child. Johnathan is going to have a great Christmas. We hope to see you next year in 2016. If you have any questions or concern please let us know.

**Important dates remember for the this month:**
- Tuesday, December 15th – Classroom Holiday Celebration (at 3:30)
- Thursday, December 24th thru January 1st - Center Closed for winter break. (Reopen January 4th)

**Developmental Skills for December:**
- Reciting and singing days of the week.
- Increasing vocabulary through song and stories.
- Strengthening of positive self-concept.
- Encouraging independence by practicing self-help skills (washing hands and cleaning centers).
Dear Parents,

We would like to express our thanks to the parents who participated in our cultural parade, took time out of busy schedules to prepare cultural dishes, and came in to talk to us about different home countries during our cultural week. The children enjoyed participating in all of the fun activities that each of the parents prepared! Thank you! The class Unity Feast party was a blast, and the food was delicious! I also would like to thank you all who had a chance to meet with me during parent-teacher conferences.

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us...The Holidays! December is a month that all of us happily look forward to. In this busy month, we enjoy talking about all of the holidays that our families celebrate. We talk about families, friends, love, giving and sharing. We are lucky to have families from a variety of different cultures and religions who celebrate different holidays. It is so wonderful for us to be able to share our holiday traditions, and to learn and appreciate our likenesses and differences. It is also nice for us to talk to the children about giving to other families who do not have as much as we do. Our classroom holiday celebrations will be on Dec.15th at 2:15pm. We will post a sign up sheet for items we would like for our holiday party. Please look for the food sign-up list by the classroom door. We are looking forward to meeting the kids in the New Year for our Spring calendar. We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Thank you,

Ms. Mable and Ms. Michelle

**Important Reminders:**
Please make sure that your child’s extra clothes are complete and that they are appropriate for the weather. With the weather getting colder, it is imperative your child has adequate clothing for the weather conditions.
Please make sure that all of your child’s clothes are clearly labeled.
Please remember to sign your child in/out every day.
Please remember to take your child’s art work every Friday.
November was a busy month! Our Unity Feast was amazing! The foods from your Home lands were so delicious. We are grateful to the parents who brought dishes to share. We have read books written by Lois Ehlert this month such as *Growing Vegetable Soup* and *Eating the Alphabet*. You can check out her books at the local public library! We wish to thank everyone who donated gifts for the CPS child. He will have a happier holiday due to your generosity. We will have a Winter Celebration on Tuesday, December 15th – look for information to come! We hope you can join us! We appreciate all your support for our class activities!

The children are working toward independence in toileting and taking care of their clothing. To help give them success with this skill, we are requesting that clothing be easy for them to manipulate. Pants should be easy for them to get up and down. Dresses need to be easy to hold. We are looking forward to achieving success in this important milestone. If you have any questions concerning clothing, please talk with us!

There is exciting news in Ms. Sandy’s home! Her daughter is expecting her second child in May 2016. Jason, Leslie and Ada are looking forward to welcoming the new little one to their family! Yes, Ms. Sandy has grandbabies due in January and May!

**Reminders:**

- Remember to check your child’s clothing basket for the proper clothing for the season.
- Remember to check your child’s art folder for their masterpieces.
- Please make sure to sign your child in and out each day.

**Parent Tip:** The children are beginning to be ready to play games. Over a recent weekend, all the adults in my family had fun playing *Elefun* with my granddaughter, Ada. With winter coming, these would provide fun, educational activities for you and your child. Some other games that might also be good are *Hi Ho Cherry-O, Candy Land, Hungry Hungry Hippo* and *Sneaky Snacky Squirrel Game*. Easy card games are *Go Fish, Old Maid and Memory*. Playing with your child has many benefits such as visual discrimination, hand eye coordination, counting, colors as well as learning to share and take turns.

*We hope that you enjoy the Winter Break. Just relax, sleep in and enjoy time being together. If you are travelling, please be safe on the road or in the air! We will look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!*
The end of the semester is upon us, and it has certainly been a semester full of adventure! In just a short time, the children have accomplished some amazing milestones. We have seen each child develop some impressive vocabulary. More than half the class is well on the way to being toilet trained, and the children have all grown more confident! Our Unity feast was an enormous hit. You all brought some amazing dishes and treats, and we enjoyed them all! I would love to create a class cookbook with all the wonderful recipes! You may also submit any recipe of your choice. Please submit your favorite recipes to me by December 7th.

As we approach the winter break, you may be wondering what you can do to entertain your child while they are at home. Board games are a great way to pass the time, and they are full of learning opportunities. A great game to start off with is Candyland Castle. It is interactive, and the children are learning shapes, matching strategies, and turn taking. Another favorite game is Hungry, Hungry, Hippos. This particular game is high energy, but focuses on counting skills. You might try incorporating a family game night each week. Make this a time where all electronics and devices are put away. It will create some fun family memories!

Hope you all have a wonderful winter break. If you are traveling, be sure to bring back some pictures your child can share with the class. The children love to share about their adventures! We look forward to the spring semester and the adventures that await us!

**Reminders**

1. Please be sure to sign your child in and out each day, and ensure that a teacher is aware that you have dropped off, or picked up your child.
2. As you enter and exit the room make certain that the gate and door are securely closed and latched. It only takes a second for a curious child to slip out.
3. Check the menu for any dietary needs or limitations.
4. December 15th is our holiday party. A signup sheet will be posted!
5. Mrs. Martey will be out December 21-23.
6. The center will be closed December 24th-January 1st for the winter break. The center will reopen January 4th!

Thank you,
Mrs. Martey & Ms. Elaine
SEALS  Lead Teacher: Alissa Montminy

Winter is upon us!

November brought many new adventures to the Seals room! We had an excellent Unity feast and Culture Parade where our children were able to learn about their friends more and engage in different cultural activities. We used chopsticks, made Ukrainian headbands, and even learned to count to 5 in Korean! The children spent a lot of time learning about the farm and harvesting plants. One especially exciting activity was popping corn right on the cob in our classroom microwave! We are so ready for the opportunities to learn and play that are coming our way in December.

REMINDERS:
December 15th: Classroom Holiday Party! More details will be sent home as the date approaches!

December 24th: Center Closes for the Winter Break.

January 4th: The center will reopen.

Tips for the Winter Break:
Check out Pinterest to search for fun activities to do with your little seal over the break!

Search Keywords:
*Winter Break Activities
*Indoor Activities for the Winter Break
*Winter Outdoor Fun

Thank you:
I want to thank all the families and parents who participated in culture week and the Unity Feast! Our class wouldn’t be as amazing without you!

Please take a look at our classroom door for future announcements and events!

Monday Morning Sharing:
We are going to begin having sharing time on Monday mornings where the children can bring in something from the weekend (or something they just really love) to share with their friends. This is a great way for children to gain confidence in front of their peers and work on their communication skills.

First sharing Monday will be December 7th!

Our Upcoming Adventures!
This upcoming month we will focus on winter themes. We will cover winter animals/hibernation, holiday celebrations around the world, snow, and gingerbread fun! Be on the lookout for another exciting Pajama Day this month! We will continue to incorporate more cooking and science this month as well as having a pretend sleigh and snow in our dramatic center. This month we will be moving to the BIG KID PLAYGROUND!!! How exciting!
Howdy!

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the long weekend over Thanksgiving Break, and that you are all safely back! Our Unity Feast was a total success! Thank you so much for sharing delicious dishes with our class!

Now that the days are getting cooler, remember to dress your child appropriately. Please dress your child in easy to put on and comfortable clothes. We do go outside every day unless it is raining.

This month we will continue working on our animal unit and will discuss and learn what animals do during the cold winter months. During this month, we will have a two-week project on Bakeries. We will continue working on improving our cutting with scissors skills and generating as many crafts as we can.

We will be working in these areas in the classroom.

**Math**: number concepts and number recognition.

**Science**: We introduced a scientist’s first tools: the five senses! We will continue focusing on our five senses.

**Literacy**: letter recognition

In order to help with our projects, you can donate ribbons, fabric straps, empty cereal boxes, empty water bottles, gift-wrap and other “goodies” for our material collection. Perhaps you can think of other materials that would afford us creative learning experiences. If so, then please send them with instructions for their use.

Children will have opportunities to use dress up clothes for pretend play. We welcome your donations of clean, used clothing and purses for our collection. We would love it if we could have your no longer needed old clothes, purses and/or wallets. The kids LOVE real items to dress up with.

Thank you so much for letting me be part of your child’s life!

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**Developmental Goals**

**Fine Motor**: lacing, finger tracing, painting with brushes, eyedroppers, and cutting with scissors

**Gross Motor**: walking backwards, hopping on one foot, and balancing skills

**Social and Self-help**: delaying gratification, self-regulation, and playground safety

**Language**: letter knowledge, vocabulary pertaining to unit

**Math**: number concepts, AB patterns, number recognition

**Science**: classifying, measuring and comparing

**Phonological awareness**: beginning sounds, rhyming words

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**Becky's Bulletin**

**The NewsLetter of The Becky Gates Children's Center**
Howdy, parents!

Happy December!

First, I want to thank you for all the participation and delicious food from our little sea-horses and their family for the Unity Feast. Our parade was a great success! We had a wonderful time celebrating our international friendship together! Meanwhile, I want to thank the parents who volunteered to present and share their culture with our class during our Culture Fest week study. We learned about the Ink painting and number songs from Korea, Diwali festival in India and the Moon festival in China. Our children were so excited and curious to learn about different cultures!

“Don’t give up. I believe in you all. A person’s a person, no matter how small.”

-Dr. Seuss

What we will be learning

In December, we will talk about bakeries and celebrations. Our children will explore all kinds of fun literacy, art, math/science activities related to our learning themes.

Language/Literacy: Letter recognition; Name tracing
Art: Color inside of the line
Math: Number recognition; Counting skills
Fine motor: String/lacing skills; Holding pencil/scissor correctly; Cutting skills;
Social/Emotional: Sharing; Turn taking; Listening and following directions

Fun ways to develop fine motor skills at home

1. Stock up play-dough: Play-dough is not only fun for kids to play, it also helps them strengthen fingers muscles, and touching it is a valuable sensory experience.

2. Squeeze out a sponge: Set up two separate bowls, one filled with water and the other empty. Give your child a sponge and have him/her soak it in one bowl. Then have him/her squeeze the water out of the sponge into the other bowl. This simple game can strengthen hands and forearms. It’s especially fun if you throw in some bubbles or some food dye.

3. Make macaroni necklaces: Give them thick string and big beads or large pieces of dry pasta. Stringing together necklaces is a great way for your child to be creative while working on their hand-eye coordination and developing their ability to manipulate objects.

What we’ve learned

The past few weeks we learned about Nocturnal animals, My family/Culture and Thanksgiving/Turkey.

We learned that animals like owls and bats don’t sleep at night; we learned about holidays and customs from different cultures; we learned about what Thanksgiving is all about and we are thankful for what we have.

During these few weeks, we practiced our pre-writing line tracing skills, writing our first name, cutting skills, color and shapes recognition, letter and number recognition.
What a wonderful semester we’ve had so far! Thank you all for sharing in November’s Unity Feast! The month of December is always packed with fun and excitement. Winter is one of my favorite times of the year, we will do a theme on evergreen trees and holidays around the world.

We will be working on rhyming words and learning new letters. The children are continuing to practice cutting skills. We encourage practice of this skill at home with parents. Not only does the practice help them to control the small muscles in their hands, but also reinforces the concepts of shape, size and location. Before teaching your child to use scissors, have them participate in some fun activities that will strengthen hand and finger muscles and improve bilateral coordination. Tong activities are an entertaining option. Have your child use kitchen tongs to stack small blocks or to move cotton balls from one container to another. Or jump-start his/her fine motor skills with these activities:

- Tear paper into small pieces to improve the ability to use both hands in a coordinated manner.
- Punch holes in index cards with a handheld puncher to strengthen the hand muscles and improve bilateral skills.
- Squeeze water out of squirt-toys in the bathtub so hand muscles get a workout.

Use an eye dropper filled with watercolor paints to challenge fine motor skill.

Finger puppet play is entertaining and addresses finger isolation and dexterity.

Place clothespins or kitchen clips on the edge of a paper plate to strengthen small hand and finger muscles and encourage bilateral skills.

The class is learning to make patterns (AB, AAB, and designs) that expand their basic math and counting skills. Identifying numbers is one skill, and knowing how to count is another. To put numbers into context and learn that each have meaning is best taught one on one with the child.

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Carolina Bratlien

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Holiday Events near San Antonio, Texas:

**Santa’s Ranch** - New Braunfels, Texas  
November 6, 2015 – January 2, 2016  
A drive-thru Christmas Light Park is located just 30 minutes south of Austin on I-35. With over 1 million lights and 100 displays & animations, the one-mile drive thru park is seen from your own vehicle.

**SeaWorld’s Christmas Celebration** – SeaWorld, San Antonio, Tx  
November 21 – December 31, 2015  
See San Antonio’s favorite park get dressed up for the Holidays with special decorations, Holiday-themed shows, hot cocoa, Santa Claus and more! Our favorite is SnowWorld, where you can have a snowball fight & go sledding....in Texas! Christmas Celebration is included with the park admission.

**Light The Way** - University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Tx  
The University comes alive with millions of twinkling lights with a big production & candlelight processional on November 21. Lights across campus will remain on through January 6.
Howdy Jaguar Parents!

December is here and the fall semester is quickly coming to an end! The month of November was a month full of festivities and cheer! With parent conferences, the week-long Unity Fest, and our annual Unity Feast, the Jaguar class has had to keep up with a busy schedule. I would like to thank all of the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to meet one on one with me to talk about your child’s progress. It was great to finally be able to sit down and get to know all of my student’s parents on a more personal level. I would like to also thank all of the parents who participated in our annual Unity Feast by bringing in a dish to share from their culture. All of the food was delicious! I would like to thank Yana (Gavin’s Au Pair) for coming in and teaching the Jaguars how to count to 10 and say different words in French during the week of Unity Fest. There were a lot of questions and giggles amongst the children. Furthermore, I would like to thank Aurora’s father, Chris Woodruff, for coming to speak to the Jaguars and Tigers about “Bats” during the week we studied Nocturnal Animals. This was a fun learning opportunity for the Rainforest wing. Lastly, I would like to also thank all of the parents who took time to purchase and wrap a gift for the child that we sponsored for the Holidays! I’m sure all of the gifts put a smile on his face.

During December, the number of the month will be 8, the color of the month will be red, and the shape of the month will be triangle. We will be introducing letters C, P, E, and O. We will also be introducing sight words away, where, can, it, make, funny, come, and here. We will be continuing to emphasize letter recognition, letter sounds, and number recognition to set a solid foundation for the spring semester. I would like to move on and focus on more complex objectives starting the month of January. Please continue to work on letters and numbers with your child at home. Also, please encourage children to practice writing both uppercase and lowercase letters at home. As we talked about in parent conferences, starting January I would like for the Jaguars to start writing their own sentences during journal time. If they are practicing writing their letters at home, writing their own words during journal time should be an easier transition for them. Remember, it is all about the process not the product! As I say every month, it is important for teachers and parents to work together to praise our children’s efforts to see them succeed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with me. Again, thank you for being so involved in your children’s education! I look forward to what is in store for the month of December. Thanks & Gig ‘Em, Ms. Jesi
Howdy Tiger Parents:

Thank you to all the families who worked on the Unity Fest project cards! They all turned out awesome! It was fun looking at each one and learning about everyone’s culture. I hope the project was fun for you to work on. It gave you time to work with your child on a school project. They looked proud carrying them in our parade. I also would like to thank everyone who sent food for our feast.

We will continue working on letter of the week, 2 sight words, numbers 0-30 and playing games learning the quantity of 10.

Tuesday, December 15\textsuperscript{th} we will have our Classroom Holiday Celebration at our snack time at 2:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be put by the sign in/out sheet for snack items to bring.

Our center will be closed December 24\textsuperscript{th} – January 1\textsuperscript{st} for the University winter break. If your child will be out before this date or after this date please let me know.

Home Ideas for Math – practice counting objects to 10 and have your child write the number. If your child can count objects past 10 have them go to a higher number up to 30.

Home Ideas for Literacy – Ask your child to draw a picture and let them dictate a story to you about their picture. Have them watch while you write. Sound out the words slowly. Let them know you leave a space between each word when writing them.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask.

Thank you,

Mrs. Kay
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**Meatless Mondays**

- Monday: Cereal
- Tuesday: Cereal
- Wednesday: Cereal
- Thursday: Cereal
- Friday: Cereal

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### December 2015

1% milk is served with morning snack and lunch; water is served with all meals.

TAMU Becky Gates Children's Center