Howdy!

This time of year is very busy for the center, and for the university as well. We had a great time at our annual family picnic and was very happy to see so many families participating. Our Pre-K classes, the Jaguars and Tigers will be graduating this week! And we will celebrate our teachers with Teacher Appreciation Week. At the end of this month, we will say goodbye to friends who will be leaving the center and welcoming new friends for the summer.

Teachers will continue planning exciting and educational lessons. Topics this month among the classes are: Bugs/Insects, Gardening, Nature, and Earth/Recycling. We’ve had many parents come in to share in the lessons and activities with the students and it has been a wonderful partnership. It allows the children to see their parents working with the teachers and teaching a lesson to their friends and it greatly enhances the content of the study and investigations the teachers have planned for the students. Please continue to share in our units of study and invite colleagues and other faculty who may be willing to share with the children. This does not necessarily have to be their career or research focus, but could also be a hobby or specialty.

As you can tell, we love our new curriculum. The most exciting part for us, though, is how much the children are getting out of it. We understand that it is essential that young children learn by doing. We capitalize on their natural sense of curiosity and their ability to question everything. Our goal is to make sure that they are able to use all of their senses (sight, taste, touch, smell and hearing) to explore their environment. We thank you for your commitment to our program.

Have a wonderful summer!

Kisha
William’s Mom, Lauren Douglas, talked to us about germs and the importance of washing our hands!

Ke La’a’ula’s Dad, Alika Ganir, taught us exercises, talked about eating healthy foods, the importance of staying hydrated with lots of water, and how our bodies need rest to stay healthy.

Dr. Wilson, a scientist with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, talked to us about agriculture and how it is important to our health. He also talked about how honey is made and showed us how popcorn is made! We even got a taste of fresh popcorn! Yum!
Congrats to these student workers!!

Gaby Reddall—May 2017
Early Childhood Education

Chris Duarte—May 2017
Education

Annelise Sauer — May 2017
Agricultural Communications and Journalism

Rachel Fair—May 2017
Kinesiology-Motor Behavior

Dejanay Tippens—August 2016
B. B. A. in Marketing

Rachel Calabrese—August 2017
Human Resource Development

Maddie Meier—December 2016
Child Professional Services
Howdy All,

I hope your all doing awesome. Here we are in May, can you believe it? We are about to get into those hot summer months, so it might be a great time to check your child’s change of clothes to make sure they are weather appropriate. We have a large part of our playground shaded but they can still be in the sun, so please make sure they have sunscreen.

I wanted you to know that our projects are going spectacularly! They are having a blast. We have some fun ones coming up that I am excited about, like projects about bugs and dinosaurs. Please keep us in mind if you have any fun books you would like to share.

Wow, I can’t believe how much our sweet little ones are changing. Hailey is so expressive! She uses her hands and voice to talk. You should see her with the little phone up to her ear. I think she is giving whoever the what for. Hailey loves our art projects—the messier the better! Zola has really come out of her shell, too. She and Beau have partnered up. Zola loves to follow Beau’s leads. Zola loves our markers! We tried blind art and that didn’t go well, but the markers were a hit. Beau is loving the little transportation toys. He loves pulling and pushing to make them go. I think he has taught all of his friends to do it. Our little Avery loves to build with blocks. He can sit forever. You should have seen his eyes when we got to the playground and he saw the Legos. Avery loves to play with his friend Benjamin. Speaking of Benjamin, he is growing so fast. He loves our little cars, too. He has discovered how to Velcro our little cards to the window and loves this activity. Benjamin has a lot to say lately, pretty sure it’s Korean. He is the sweetest friend, and everyone runs to get the first hug from him. Lucas loves to see his friends. Every Monday morning he comes in with a smile. Lucas is really enjoying the hands-on activities. He loves to keep his hands busy. Did I say he gives the best bear hugs ever?

**Reminders:** If you have any books at home that have to do with our upcoming bugs and dinosaur projects we would love to read those with our class. We will have some changes in staff for the summer - as soon as I have the names of our teachers I will share those with you. Thanks, as always, for being the best parents ever! I look forward to a fun filled May. Lots of learning for sure.

Mrs. Andrea
Howdy Parents,

I would like to thank everyone who signed up for conferences this spring. I enjoyed talking to each one of you. My family and I had a wonderful time seeing everyone and their families having a blast at Tiffany’s Park for the spring picnic. We have had an exciting time in April learning all about the young child and healthy habits. Our little bees were able to explore art in new ways. For instance, they were able to go outside and make a large portrait using paint and fly swatters or by walking across butcher paper with paint on their feet. We also got to learn how we can stay healthy by what we eat and how much we exercise. This month we are going to investigate Bugs and Dinosaurs. I have a feeling that these little ones are going to be over excited. Just a little reminder, with the weather getting hotter we are asking that you check your child’s extra set of clothes and change them to spring apparel. We have checked your child’s supply of sun screen and bug spray, so if we have sent yours home, please replace it. Also we need you to check your child’s art folder daily and every Friday.

Fun Facts:

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Enjoy free, family-friendly movies under the stars at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater. Bring your blankets, chairs and coolers to experience our Movies in the Park series on our giant 32-foot inflatable high definition screen. Here is a small schedule line up that they will also be providing:

FRIDAY, MAY 27th -- "MAX"
7:30 p.m.
• Gates open from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
• Museum of the American GI Military Vehicle Display
• Texas Service Dogs Demonstrations & Kissing Booth
• Paw Paw’s Party Train
• Franklin Safari Petting Zoo
• Movie begins @ 8:30pm

**For more information, visit cstx.gov/movies or call 979.764.3486**

SPLASH PADS

With the weather getting hotter outside a cool way to cool down is getting wet for free. There are a few parks in Bryan that offer a splash pad. If you are interested please visit http://www.bcsfamilies.com/visit-a-splash-pad/ for more information.

Teacher Schedule:

Mrs. Jamie
M-F: 7:30-4:30
jamieg@bgcc.tamu.edu

Ms. Michelle
M-F: 8:30-5:30
Dear Parents,

The children had a wonderful month of April! They learned about Week of the Young Child and Healthy Bodies. The children enjoyed going outside and running, jumping and kicking a ball. Also in the April, we had our Family Picnic. Thanks for coming and sharing your day with us!

This month we will talk about dinosaurs and bugs. We are still working on saying “please”, “thank you” and “excuse me”. The children are doing great on toilet training. Some of the children are sitting, but not doing anything. It’s a great start. If you could work with them at home on these skills it would be a big help.

This month on Tuesday, May 24th is Pancakes with Parents Celebration from 7:30-10am in the Multipurpose Room. We are closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 30th.

Have a great month!

Reminders:

- Please make sure to sign your child in/out each day.
- Please remember to close the gate when leaving the room.
- Please take your child’s art and blankets home every Friday.
Dear Parents,

May is here! April was a busy month filled with fun projects. The children had a lot of fun engaging in a variety of activities. Some of our fun themes included celebrating young children and good health habits. Children explored healthy foods by touching, smelling and tasting them. We identified different fruits: apples, oranges, watermelons and bananas. We also learned about vegetables, including carrots, corn, celery, and cabbage. We also discussed many concepts such as round, long, big and small. We also learned about colors as they relate to the foods we eat. For our activities we painted with carrots and celery, and made apple, broccoli and potato prints. We enhanced our gross motor skills by dancing, stretching, running and doing jumping jacks. We ended our good health project by making smoothies and fruit salads. A BIG thank you to all the parents who brought in the fruits and apple juice, as well as those who came into read for the children during April.

We also want to thank you all who had a chance to attend both the parent/teacher conference and our school family picnic. I enjoyed having conferences with all of you. We have some great celebrations in May, including Cinco de Mayo. One of our most exciting events of the year is our Parents’ Day: we will have Pancakes with the Parents and celebrate in the multipurpose building. I hope to see you all again soon!

As the weather becomes warmer, it is time to start thinking about sunscreen and bug spray. If you want your child to wear sunscreen when we go outside, please provide a bottle of sunscreen, clearly labeled with your child’s name. Also, please check to be sure your child has an appropriate change of clothes for keeping at school: having several changes of clothes—including socks—is important. It is also important to dress your child in easy-to-use clothing with an elastic waistband. Blue jeans, and pants with buttons are hard to manage when in a hurry to make it to the restroom in time. Please keep this in mind when dressing your child in the morning.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!!!! We hope you have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mable & Ms. Calee

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following friends this month:

Adam, Maia, Cid, Claire and CeCe

Happy Birthday
Howdy! May is here already. It is hard to believe summer is just around the corner. I am waiting for the birth of my 3rd granddaughter around mid-May. I will be going to help a bit with her big sister, Ada. Also, I am going to Oklahoma to visit Grace and my family early this month. Ms. Brittney and I will be scheduling some vacation time in the coming months. We know some of you will be travelling during the summer. It would be helpful to know when you will be out of town.

In April, our project studies included many fun activities. The class especially liked visiting Ms. Edwinna’s kitchen for a tour. She had even baked special cookies for us! We worked together to make blocks out of recycled boxes. The class built a tall tower with them. The children learned about germs from one of the parents in the Hummingbird class. We talked about how to stay healthy and take care of our bodies.

The month of May brings two of Ms. Sandy’s favorite project studies. We will be exploring insects and dinosaurs. We will feature becoming paleontologist and digging for dinosaurs!

I want to thank the parents for taking time out of your busy schedules for conferences. It is nice to be able to talk about your child’s growth and successes. It was a pleasure to see our friends, old and new, at the Center-wide picnic. The splash pad is always so much fun!

Reminders:

*If you, or anyone you know, has expertise related to our upcoming projects, please let us know. We would love to have “experts” come and talk with the children to enrich their learning experiences. This can be as simple as sharing a book related to the project or by showing actual objects that these people use on a daily basis.

*Please make sure that you are closing the gate each time you enter or exit the room. It only takes a second for a child to slip out.

*BGCC will be closed in observance of the University Holiday, Memorial Day, on Monday, May 30th. We hope you have a relaxing and fun holiday!

Parent Tip: If you are looking for a fun weekend activity close to home, Sunshine Farms located in Montgomery, Texas might provide an interesting day. This is a real working farm that offers tours of their barns and vegetable gardens with seasonal herbs and vegetables. There is also a gift shop where they make and sell their own all natural skin care products. The farm is located at 5800 Jackson Rd., Montgomery, Texas. You can contact Jim or Lisa Jenkins at 936-648-6145 for more information. They are open 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Tuesday through Saturday and 12:00 – 4:00 PM on Sunday. If you wish, check out their Facebook page to see photos and reviews of the farm.
The semester is winding down, but there is still lots of learning happening! I enjoyed meeting with you all during parent conferences in April. The children have all achieved many benchmarks and it gives me great pleasure to share that with you! As we conquer the month of May we will continue to explore rhyming words and opposites. We have introduced all the letters of the alphabet, throughout May, and the rest of the summer we will review three letters each week. Our instructional focus for math and science will be classifying objects. We will use the assorted insects and investigate various ways we could classify them. In the process we will consider aspects such as type, size, and color of the insects, and sort them accordingly. At home you can support our learning by giving your child opportunities to practice these skills. You can provide your child with various dry goods, such as differently shaped pastas and have your child sort them. To challenge your child, you may also get pasta that is the same shape, but different sizes. This encourages your child to use critical thinking while exploring all the possible ways the pasta could be sorted. A fun way to get your child to identify letters is to go on a letter walk. When you are out and about task your child with finding a specific letter. For example, if you are at the grocery store encourage your child to look around at the signs and find the letter you choose. You can search for one letter for a while, once your child has found several of that particular letter you can move on to another letter.

The children enjoyed the hand washing demonstration that William’s mother did with the class during our Healthy Bodies project. The children were amaze at how long you actually have to scrub to remove the germs! Remember that we love having parent experts come in to do demonstrations with the children. If you, or anyone you know has any background knowledge in the areas of our upcoming projects we would love to have you visit our class.

Our studies on bugs and dinosaurs will be rich with vocabulary! We will learn that an insect has three segments, a head, thorax, and abdomen. The children will learn the names of dinosaurs as well. A favorite dinosaur name to say is Pachycephalosaurus! We will also learn that a paleontologist is a scientist that studies dinosaurs! Dinosaurs are my favorite unit of study to with the children.

Reminders:
If you, or anyone you know has any expertise related to our coming projects please let us know. We would love to have “experts” come in and talk with the children to enrich their learning experiences. This can be sharing a book related to the project, or showing actual objects that these people use on a day to day basis!

The center will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

The weather and temperatures are changing! Please make sure that your child has a supply of extra clothing appropriate for the weather. Remember that we should have two complete changes of clothing on hand.

Please make sure that you are closing the gate and door each time you enter or exit the room. It only takes a second for a child to slip out!

We typically start our morning activities around 9:15 each morning with music and movement, then are sitting down on the carpet for our meeting time by 9:30. If you child is a late arriver we will certainly acknowledge your child’s arrival, however, because we are engaged with the children, we may not be able to break away to speak personally with you that time.

Remember that breakfast is over at 8:45 each morning, this includes snacks from home. We are utilizing our tables for art and teaching activities, and it can delay the start of our educational lessons if we have children still eating.

Mrs. Martey & Ms. Elaine
We are already in our final month of the spring semester! I wanted to start off by letting each parent know how much I have cherished the time with your children this semester! Getting to know your families at the spring picnic and having the opportunity to talk with you during the parent teacher conferences has allowed me to really connect with each one of you and your child. Thank you for that. I truly value the opportunity to get to know each family. I also wanted to thank Frieda and Mariya for coming in and reading to our class during the Week of the Young Child. The children really enjoy having visitors! Looking forward, we have a few Seals who will be moving after this semester and I plan to have a Goodbye Celebration for them at school. We will also have an End of the Year Party to wrap up our year and kick off the summer! This summer we have many exciting things planned and I look forward to spending a few more months with the Seals before they transition to their next adventure here at BGCC.

With Kindness,
Mrs. Alissa

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**May Goals**

- Continue working on writing our first names
- Continue working on our fine motor skills with cutting
- Placing our nap mats out by ourselves

**Reminders**

- May 24th: Parent Pancake Celebration 7:30-10:00am
- May 30th: BGCC closed for Memorial Day
- May 31st: Final day of the spring semester
Dear Parents,

It is May and I am realizing how close we are to the end of this year. I've enjoyed and loved my "little ones" for nine months and will miss their wit and wisdom. Thank you for letting me be part of your child’s life.

In April we learned all about construction and nutrition. During the month of May, we will continue focusing on seeds, flowers and insects. Our friends will be planting seeds in their own “terrariums” and observing how they grow.

We will continue working on how to ask questions. Please continue reinforcing this concept at home. It would make project work even more effective.

Remember to talk with your child about what he or she did during the day. Begin by sharing what you did during the day and then pose questions desiged to elicit more than “yes” or “no” answers. For example: What songs did you sing today? What new things did you learn? Which activity was the most fun for you today? Why? What new friends did you make? What have you brought home from school to share?

Review all work brought home and set aside a special place for displaying the work. Your constant interest will play an important part in your child’s development.

Love,

Ms. Marina
Howdy Parents!!

Can you believe it is already May? Another month has quickly passed us by! Your little Seahorses were busy, busy finishing up our unit on community helpers and participating in the Week of the Young Child.

The children really enjoyed learning about community helpers and meeting with some experts that took time out of their day to come talk with us and teach us about what they do. We particularly enjoyed the university police officers that came and visited with us. We learned a lot from them!

The Week of the Young Child was a blast as well. Each day, we had a different theme for the day and the children really enjoyed it. We started out with Artsy Monday and the children loved making their very own instruments. Nutrition Tuesday came and we were able to make a classroom fruit salad that the children were able to enjoy as a healthy snack. Wednesday we worked together to follow clues to find our class mascot. Thursday we dressed all crazy and read lots of books that the children really enjoyed. They love being read to! Friday we did all sorts of music activities and went on a musical parade around the school. We had a blast all week!

As the months are getting warmer please keep in mind that we do go outside twice a day, every day! You are more than welcome to send sunscreen and bug spray to school and we will apply it in the afternoon before we go out. We do ask that you send your child with it already applied in the morning.

Our summer months are going to be packed with so many fun activities that we are so excited for! Please let us know if you will be traveling during the summer so we can make accommodations. It is helpful for us to know when your child will be out!

As always feel free to come to me with any questions or concerns you have! You may also email me at any time and I will get back to you as soon as I can!

Thanks and Gig’em!
Ms. Sarah
As May begins, we hope to enjoy many beautiful spring days! During April, the children had loads of fun, engaging in a variety of activities. Some of our fun projects included learning about our community. The goal of this unit was to teach the children about important people in our community, their jobs, and the fact that anybody can hold these jobs. Also, people of all ages can perform activities to help our community. The children talked about their experiences with community helpers at a variety of locations. Teachers at their school, workers at the grocery store, nurses at the doctor’s office, sirens that they associate with firefighters or police officers, and many children love that the police car made a stop at our school. For preschoolers, learning about community helpers helps take on the perspectives of others, and become participants in the world beyond the home. The information gained learning about others allows children to expand their perspective of the world.

I love how kids can learn through play and through creative learning ideas! You don’t need to use a worksheet or math book to learn how to count. Simply counting your steps as you climb the stairs, counting the number of dogs you see at the park, the flowers in the garden, the items on conveyor belt at the supermarket, fingers and toes while singing, how many red cars whizz past the window, etc. Children learn best through real life experiences. We want to build on those by creating more learning opportunities at home or at school. Here are some fun ways to practice counting skills:

- Create sensory art as a number
- Go on a hunt for numbers and match it with the written number
- Follow a number from start to finish in a maze
- Trace numbers
- Create a parking lot with numbers
- Find and match playing cards
- Have target practice with water balloons and numbers
- Do paint by number art
- Reuse old containers for numbers
- Number plastic cups from 0-9 to make every number from 0-99

May Day Activities:
Flowers - Enjoy flower pressing. Flower pressing is something you might want to try as a May Day activity. Planting live flowers in May has become a tradition. Many people plant a variety of flowers in pots, baskets and flower beds around their homes. A trip to a local nursery can be fun for the kids where they can count all the different flowers and plants that are available.

On Hawai’i’s Lei Day, you can make and wear flower leis and flower crowns. Make leis by stringing together a bit of fern leaves and a couple of flowers.
Howdy Jaguar Parents!

May is already here and graduation is right around the corner. Where has all of the time gone?

During the month of April, the Jaguars studied Health and Healthy Bodies for three weeks, and we also celebrated The Week of the Young Child for one week. During our Health and Healthy Bodies project, we talked about healthy foods, exercise, dental hygiene, and germs. We also had a personal trainer and a representative from USDA come and speak to the children. The children had a lot of fun learning this month!

I would like to thank all of the parents who took the time out of their workday to schedule a parent conference with me. It was a great opportunity to finally get that one on one time with each parent and talk about your children’s progress. Thank you once again!

For the month of May, we will be reviewing letters N, F, A, and D. We will also be continuing to review our sight words. We will begin talking about kindergarten and reading books about kindergarten on a regular basis to ease their anxiety about transitioning to a new school. As usual, we will be working on two projects: Gardening and Insects. If you have any ideas or suggestions on these subjects, please let me know so I can include them in my lesson plans!

Some friends will be leaving us after graduation for vacation, to spend time with grandparents, etc. and we will be welcoming some new friends. Please let me know ahead of time if you know your child will not be returning to the Jaguars class for the summer months, so I can plan accordingly.

At home, start talking to your children about kindergarten. Let them know they will have a new school, see new teachers, and make new friends. Emphasis that this will be exciting and fun! The more our children hear about kindergarten and how great it is going to be, the more excited they will become as August approaches. Parents and teachers must work together to prepare our children mentally for this big chance in their life.

As I say every month, thank you for being so supportive. It has been a wonderful first year of teaching!

Thanks & Gig ‘Em,
Ms. Jesi
Howdy Tiger Parents,

Graduation is here. How exciting! Your child will be completing another milestone in their life and yours. Kindergarten will be coming soon. I hope everyone’s questions were answered at our Kindergarten/Graduation Meeting. If not, please feel free to ask. We will be saying goodbye to some of our friends in our class. They have parents who may not be teaching this summer, they might be spending time with grandparents, etc. We will be getting some new friends, too!

Many of you go on vacation in summer, so if you know your child will not be here, I would appreciate it if you would let me know when they will be out. It helps for better planning in the classroom AND I tend to worry if they are not here. I will be calling you or emailing you to find out if they are okay and why they are not at school.

We have learned all 26 of our letters, so from here on we will be reviewing all the things we have learned – letters, letter sounds, numbers, shapes, color words, number words, sight words, days of the week, months of the year, etc.

During the summer months we will have a Picnic and a Movie Day once a month. We will have a Splash Day once a week. A schedule will come out for these activities in June.

For the month of May we will be learning about Gardening and Insects. If you have any suggestions or ideas about these subjects please let me know.

**Home Activity** – When reading to your child, follow the words along with your finger. Show your child how a space is in between each word. Ask them questions about the book – what was your favorite part of the story, name the characters in the story, what was the problem, how did they fix it?

If you have any further questions please feel free to ask.

Thanks,

Mrs. Kay
Division of Student Affairs
Becky Gates Children’s Center

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- All menu changes will be posted in the front foyer.
- Substitutions for butterflies and muffin bees.

May 2016

1% milk is served with morning snack and lunch (whole milk is served to children under 2), water is served with all meals.

Tamu Becky Gates Children's Center