WELCOME TO THE FALL 2015 SESSION!

IMPORTANT FALL SESSION DATES
9/7: No School (University Holiday/Labor Day)
9/10: ECC All-School Picnic from 5:30-7:00

The ECC is open to children and families between the hours of 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Your key card allows you access to the building only during these times. Thank you for respecting the teachers’ schedule by working within your child’s enrolled hours for both drop off and pick up. The expectation is that children and families will not be in the building before 7:30 am and will have departed the building no later than 5:30 pm.

Required Classroom Orientations:

Each class has scheduled an important classroom orientation. This parents-only meeting will give you all the information you need about your room and will give you an opportunity to get to know all the other families in your room. Your children who are enrolled at the ECC will be safely cared for on the playground while the adults are meeting.

(Due to licensing requirements we ask that parents make alternative arrangements for any children who are not enrolled at the ECC.)

**Toddlers:** August 17th from 4:15-5:15

YPS room 106 and OPS room 006: August 18th from 4:15-5:15

YPS room 112 and OPS room 011: August 19th from 4:15-5:15
Dear ECC Parent Community,

Welcome to the fall session 2015! We are delighted that you have chosen our school for your child’s early childhood education. We appreciate your membership in our community and know that your child is the most important presence in your life. As a school we work to provide a safe nurturing place for your child to grow and develop as an individual and as a part of a classroom community.

We have observed that growth and development go hand in hand with respectful and collaborative relationships with ECC parents, staff, and children. As parents you will be an important contributor to both the classroom and school community. Author Robert Fulghum notes, “Don’t worry that children never listen to you: worry that they are always watching you.” As you probably already know our population, ages 6 weeks to 6 years, is highly observant and mimics behaviors they see. Being mindful of this adage often helps me when I travel from classroom to classroom. I want to respect the classroom norms and the work the children are engaged in as well as being a positive contributor to the space.

It is always interesting to watch young children make note very early on in the school year which adult goes with which child. I see our young toddlers anticipate a playmate’s entrance when they see a grown up through the glass door. This is very interesting to me, as it is the youngest ones in the room intuitively identifying the significance of these communal connections. They find comfort in this sense of connection between parent/child/teacher as a firm and strong foundation for the classroom community. Children sense the linkages that we share on their behalf and it creates a sense of calm and belonging.

As your join our community or come to find yourself in a new classroom, please feel free to ask questions and contribute your ideas. We see ourselves as a school that is evolving and growing on a daily basis. We are glad that you are here, delighted to know your family in these early years. We appreciate your commitment to the ECC community as positive partners in the lives of all of our children.

Respectfully yours,
Barbara
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Over the course of the summer we at the ECC engaged in multiple conversations around our commitment to an open and inviting school for all children, staff, and family members. We want to highlight with you some important aspects of our Reggio-Emilia inspired practices. We believe these practices support all community members.

- **As found on page 4 of the parent handbook, we ask parents to keep all toys at home.** Toys from home create challenges for children and staff, often ending in conflict and distress for the children. Please let your child know that his/her toy will be at home or in the car when he/she returns from school. We have an abundance of materials for children to use and investigate at the ECC. Acknowledging and supporting this boundary will enhance the classroom experience for all children and staff. A soft lovey can come to school for nap time and is to be stored in the cubby for the remainder of the day.

- **Birthdays at the ECC** include a small celebration in each classroom that focuses on the child and his/her special day. We will not be distributing birthday treats brought from home to the children, but instead encourage the birthday child to bring a favorite book to be read on his/her special day. If children do not bring a book from home a classroom support person will take the birthday child to our library to make a special choice.

- **As a school we are working towards supporting children by reducing commercial influences** at school. We are reviewing the content in our library and eliminating books that rely heavily on television and movie characters. We ask that you not send your child to school in any sort of costume. If possible, choose apparel that does not promote superhero/princess or other gendered/commercial stereotypes. Our hope is to follow the words of Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Emilia approach: “Our task, regarding creativity, is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible. No one can do more.”

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**Welcome to Elizabeth Fannon Owens**

We are delighted to announce that Elizabeth Fannon Owens has joined the ECC administrative team as the Assistant Director and Coordinator of Student Learning. Elizabeth is responsible for providing general support to the ECC and placing, mentoring, and supervising student teachers, interns, and practicum students at the ECC. In 2014, the ECC provided practicum and internship experiences to over 100 CSU students.

Elizabeth comes to us with an M.A. in Educational Psychology from the University of Colorado Denver. She holds a teaching license from the Colorado Department of Education and is Director Qualified by the Colorado Department of Human Services/Office of Early Childhood. She was most recently the Assistant Program Director at The Acorn School for Early Childhood in Boulder. Prior to that she was at the Boulder Journey School as an early childhood educator. While at the Boulder Journey School, she participated in a study tour of Reggio Emilia, Italy. Before she moved to Colorado, Elizabeth spent over 15 years as an early childhood professional in a variety of capacities in the Clayton School District in St. Louis, Missouri.