

★ Bunnell House News ★

UAF Community and Technical College Early Childhood Lab School

~ We nurture children and support families in a university lab setting.

Lab School Calendar

November 4-7

Parent-Teacher
Conferences

November 26: 11:30 - 1 pm

Annual Thanksgiving Feast

November 27

Pajama Day

November 28 & 29: Closed

Thanksgiving

December 6: 11:30 am

Children's Holiday
Concert

December 18 (at noon)-

January 3: Closed

Winter Break

January 6

Spring Program Begins

January 20: Closed

Alaska Civil Rights Day

Need to Reach Us?

Call 907-474-6393

♥ Director

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♥ Upstairs Teachers

Lead: Chasity Evanow
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Assist: Jenny Taylor
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♥ Downstairs Teachers

Lead: Pammy Fowler
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♥ Floating Assistant Teachers

Connie Slater
Emily Soen

From Paige

"Joy is the simplest form of gratitude." ~ Karl Barth

Thank you for signing up for Parent-Teacher conferences the week of November 4. I once overheard someone comment, "How much can you really say? I mean, it's *preschool!*" I was flabbergasted! Bunnell House teachers have plenty to say about your dear children and we know you do, too. Teachers and parents discuss development, ask and answer questions, share stories, and gain insights. Conferences are part of teambuilding between school and home so everyone can do their very best in their respective roles. Yes, preschool conferences are valuable and you must agree—you signed up! ☺

November also brings our annual Thanksgiving Feast. Bunnell House tradition is for families and staff to gather for a feast that celebrates the diversity of everyone in our program. Food is a personal way to share culture and tradition, so I encourage you to bring one of your family's favorite foods to share.

This is the time of year when thoughts often turn toward gratitude. We are all very grateful for the opportunity to work with your little ones each and every day and to know each of you better over time. Thank you for sharing your spirited, charming, intelligent, witty, mischievous, curious and endearing children with us! ♥

~Paige



Thanksgiving Feast

Tuesday, November 26th,
11:30 am—1:00 pm

Please bring one of
your family's favorite
dishes to share.

See you then!



♥ Congratulations to Pammy! ♥

Pammy was the recipient of the **Unsung Hero Award** at the NIAAEYC Conference we attended in October.

The award is given to *“a teacher, who throughout their career has never left the classroom or home. This Hero continues to work with and inspire children every day. Their commitment to children and families is a shining example for those that have the honor to see them in action. Their continued dedication, whether in the classroom or home is what all Early Learning and Care professionals should strive to attain. This Hero would never ask for recognition and because of that deserves it even more.”*

Congratulations, Pammy—this award was long overdue! ♥



Pajama Day

We'll kick off the Thanksgiving holiday weekend with pajama day on Wednesday, November 27.

Children are invited to wear their pajamas and slippers and bring a favorite stuffed animal. ♦



Autonomy and Labeling*

When my youngest two children were in preschool together, they wore similar sizes and colors in snow pants, boots and mittens. Keeping track of their gear was challenging. Imagine what it's like for preschool teachers to help a whole class keep track of their gear!

One of our goals for children at Lab School is to build self-confidence and autonomy. Children are responsible for putting away their clothes, shoes, and lunch boxes. Each child is provided with a space to hang their clothing as well as boxes for storage.

Please **label your child's items**. Labeling minimizes mix-ups and settles arguments when children mistakenly believe someone else's item is theirs. ♦

**Autonomy is always encouraged. Labeling is only encouraged when used to identify ownership of items. ☺*

Wellness Policy

Children who are not feeling well will not have a pleasant experience and may expose other children to illness. Please do not bring your child if there is any sign of sore throat, rash, fever, headache, or stomach pain. Children who are not well enough to go outside should remain home. Parents will be notified to pick up their child if the child suddenly becomes ill or has a temperature of 100°F or higher. **Fever, diarrhea or vomiting must be absent for 24 hours prior to return.** ♦

The Value of High Quality Early Education Learning Begins Before Kindergarten

High quality early education programs construct a foundation for academic learning that benefits children throughout their formal school experience. Such programs capitalize on the time when a child's brain is developing rapidly, creating a groundwork of social skills, knowledge and self confidence that paves the way for success in kindergarten and the grades that follow.

In addition, research indicates that children who participate in high quality early education programs are less likely to be held back a grade or to need special education. They are also more likely to graduate from high school and continue on to further education.

How do the activities your preschooler participates in at Bunnell House set the stage for formal academic learning?

- Learning to take turns, resolve conflicts with others, share materials, play cooperatively and console peers develops social skills necessary for success in a classroom setting.
- Listening to stories, poetry and songs provides the building blocks your child needs to grasp phonics and reading skills when it is developmentally appropriate.
- Playing with sand, water and containers as well as matching, sequencing and one-to-one correspondence activities form the foundation for understanding basic math concepts.
- Making observations and predictions provide a basis for scientific inquiry. Gardening, cooking, mixing colors, pedaling a tricycle and bouncing a ball are opportunities for scientific discovery and discussion.

Often we hear or read that preschool gets children ready to learn when, in fact, preschoolers are already well down the path of learning. Quality early education augments the journey and contributes to a smooth transition into the formal academic classroom.

Bunnell House staff are honored and delighted to be part of your child's journey. We look forward to seeing you at parent-teacher conferences...and all year long!♦



Playground Use

**Our outside play space is
an extension of our classrooms.**

One of my favorite areas of Bunnell House is our outdoor play space. Even in winter it provides opportunity for fun and discovery. I love to watch the children enjoying it—learning and not even realizing it. I hope that long after they leave here they will have amazing memories of the time spent playing there with friends.

You've seen the signs on the fence that say No Trespassing to deter snowboarders from building ramps and using our railings and equipment to do tricks. You've seen the signs on the gates that say children must be supervised by lab school staff to deter residents from using it as a playground on evenings and weekends.

Part of the reason for the signage is that equipment has been damaged and ruined in the past. The other part, and of greater concern, is that children playing here could be injured. That is never good and it is also a liability for the university. Parents have varying views on what is appropriate supervision, so the verbiage on the sign was specifically chosen, with the guidance of the university general counsel office, to state that lab school staff must supervise play.

If your child's class is not outside, please do not allow him or her to play on the equipment and grounds. Children should only be exploring on the playground when their class is out and/or lab school staff are present.

Thank you! ♥

Quote to Note

The deepest craving of
human nature is the need
to be appreciated.

~William James





It was an exciting day at Lab School...

- ★ We baked zucchini bread!
- ★ We tasted a variety of apples and identified our preferences!
- ★ We prepared for our holiday concert!
- ★ We measured and weighed apples!
- ★ We discussed how pumpkins grow!
- ★ We practiced sliding into our snow pants!
- ★ We learned that pumpkins are a type of squash!
- ★ We visited the fire station!
- ★ We observed that mixing red and yellow creates orange!
- ★ We learned that a pumpkin is a jack-o-lantern when it's carved!
- ★ We practiced taking turns!



Cell Phones

Please end cell phone use prior to entering Bunnell House or the playground. Your child deserves your undivided attention and teachers may need to speak with you. ♦

Late Pick Up Fees

Bunnell House hours: 7:30-5:30

Late pick up fees are \$5 per minute. Fees will be added to your account based on the time recorded when you check out your child on Procare. ♦

Do You Have Questions or Concerns?

About your child or the classroom, contact **your child's teacher.**

About the program, billing, or vacation notification, contact **Paige.**

Thank you! ♦



Monthly Fees

MTWRF \$985

MWF \$615 (summer only)

TR \$410 (summer only)

Late Pick up—\$5/minute

Fees are due by the 10th of each month. A late fee of 10% of the account balance will be added after the 10th. ♦

Note: Your balance due will appear at the bottom of your Procare check-in screen.

Fee Payment

Fees may be paid by credit card, check, or money order. A new credit card authorization form must be completed each month. Forms are located at the check-in station at the back of the gray payment box. Payments go into the locked box which is checked daily until all payments for the month are received. ♦

Winter Closure

Bunnell House will be closed from noon on December 18 through January 3, 2020. ♦

