

# ★ Bunnell House News ★

UAF Community and Technical College Early Childhood Lab School  
~ We nurture children and support families in a university lab setting.

## From Paige

I told you Spring break up was coming! Hopefully, it won't be long and the mess will be a memory. We're eager to get down to the business of our summer activities.

This is always a bittersweet time of year at Bunnell House as we greet warmer weather and summertime friends and bid farewell to others...some for the summer, but some who will leave Bunnell House. We'll miss every friend who is leaving and hope they'll stop in to say hi in the future. Before most go, please join us for our annual ice cream social on Wednesday, May 24.

Until then, best wishes as the spring semester comes to a close. Be well!

~Paige VH 



May 14, 2017



## Children's Garden

One of the delightful things about summer at Bunnell House is the children's garden. Their garden is planted with particular seeds and plants that we know work well when gardening with young ones. In mid-May we'll put out a list of the specific seeds and plants we need donated for the garden, so keep us in mind as you purchase for your own planting. We are also happy to accept gift certificates or monetary donations to shop for what we need.

The garden will be planted around the 1st of June. ♦



## Questions or Concerns

Your child or the classroom:  
*Your child's teacher*

The program, billing, or vacation notification: *Paige VH*

Thank you! ♦

## Lab School Dates to Remember

Ice Cream Social	May 24
Memorial Day Holiday	May 29 (closed)
Last Day of Spring Program	May 31
First Day of Summer Program	June 1
Independence Day Holiday	July 3 & 4 (closed)
Last Day of Summer Program	August 18
August Closure	August 21-25

## C'mon, Let's Get to Play!

### Remember when?

Think back to your childhood—what are your best memories? Sitting still? Setting the table? Making your bed? Well, maybe making your bed...into a *fort*! Typically, when adults are asked to really think back to their most fun childhood memories, they relate stories of forts and hiding places, catching bugs, roller skating, pretend play, and exploration. Very often, nature is involved—making a fort out of tumble weeds or snow, a set of dishes out of clamshells or trying to whistle using a blade of grass.

### What did you gain?

Besides skinned knees, you gained important knowledge and problem solving skills that created a foundation for future learning. You learned to cooperate with others in order to get that fort built. The bugs...well, you learned to have gentle hands if you didn't want them squished. You gained balance and coordination as you learned to skate and patience as you scoured the grass for the perfect blade. You worked hard! Remember how hungry you'd get, how dirty and tired you'd be?

### Was it hard?

No way! It was fun! It was satisfying work that you did. But the grownups never said, "Go work." They said, "Go play—outside!" If they'd called it work, you would've thought they were silly. That is what play is, though—the work of childhood.

### Unstructured

Notice that I've been referring to play that is unstructured in that it is created by the children. Involvement in sports, dance or other activities with a particular set of rules or movements is valuable, but it's important that children have many opportunities to play freely without the constraints of imposed rules or requirements—just their wonderful curiosity and imagination...and maybe a cardboard box or two.

### Materials

Nature is an awesome resource, but so are boxes, blankets, dress up clothes (Value Village, here we come!), the nook under your stairs, magnets, magnifying glasses. I knew someone who made a doll using a rock for the head and an old bit of sheet for the body. She loved that doll!

### Examples

Watch SpongeBob—that sponge knows how to play! He and his best friend, Patrick Star, can have a blast using only a cardboard box and their *Imagination!* Also, an excellent book to read (to yourself or your children) is *Roxaboxen* by Alice McLerran.

### And if you won't take my word for it...

The American Academy of Pediatrics position is that "play is essential to development because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth." Now go play! ♥



### Quote to Note

Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.  
~Fred Rogers



### When Do Children Move Downstairs?

Children who will be 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2017 will move to Pammy's classroom after our August closure.

Your child may talk about "visiting downstairs." This is one way we prepare children for their move downstairs. Pammy also offers a home visit in August.

Please talk to us if you have any questions or concerns. We want children and their families to be happy and comfortable. ♦



### Ice Cream Social

Please join us for our annual ice cream social!

Date: Wednesday, May 24  
Time: 3:30 pm  
Location: Our playground

*A non-dairy alternative will be served for those who do not eat dairy.*



### Monthly Fees

- MTWRF \$950
- MWF \$595
- TR \$397
- 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. ♦

Have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day!



Mama squirrel moving babies into the hole in our tree.

### Lab School Staff

- |                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Director                     | Paige Vonder Haar |
| Upstairs Lead Teacher        | Chasity Evanow    |
| Upstairs Assistant Teacher   | Shannon Harvey    |
| Downstairs Lead Teacher      | Pammy Fowler      |
| Downstairs Assistant Teacher | Emily Soen        |
| Floating Assistant Teacher   | Paige Best        |
| Substitute Assistant Teacher | Connie Slater     |
| Office                       | 474-6393          |