



# Early Childhood Center

Jan/Feb 2012 Newsletter

## SPRITE CLUB NEWS AND CCAMPIS RECEPTION

Hope you can join us on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> for our first SPRITE Club meeting for the Spring 2012 semester. SPRITE stands for Student Parents Resolving Issues and Transcending in Education. At this meeting, we will review the upcoming SPRITE Club events. Also, we will be recognizing our CCAMPIS recipients to congratulate them and acknowledge their educational pursuits. The meeting will be held from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the Early Childhood Center. See Theresa Zecca, Parent Support Specialist for more information. Hope to see you there!

## WHAT IS CCAMPIS?

CCAMPIS stands for Child Care Access Means Parents in School. CCAMPIS is a federal grant that assists student parents with child care costs. In order to receive CCAMPIS, a student must be:

- \* Pell eligible
- \* enrolled in at least 6 credit hours
- \* have their child enrolled full-time at ECC

See Theresa Zecca, Parent Support Specialist for more information at  
(815)280-2280 or tzecca@jjc.edu

## Dr. Shea Dental Presentation

Dr. Shea will be at the ECC on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The children will be shown a presentation on dental hygiene. Be sure to look for your child's free toothbrush!

## Reminder about February 14<sup>th</sup>

In order to be culturally sensitive, it is the policy of the ECC to refrain from observing specific holidays. As a reminder, we cannot distribute food or candy to celebrate holidays or birthdays. If you have any questions, please contact Program manager, Bev Cavanaugh. Thank you for your cooperation.



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE  
1901

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## WINTER FESTIVAL 2012

Be sure to join us for an evening of family-friendly winter-themed activities. The Amazing Tim Adamz will dazzle children of all ages with his magic show. Frosty the Snowman will be here for a special visit. Games and crafts will also be available. Don't miss this one!!

Date: Feb. 21, 2012  
Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Place: Early Childhood Center



Visit our website at  
[www.jjc.edu/info/ecc](http://www.jjc.edu/info/ecc)

Here you can view  
Calendar of events  
Weekly curriculum  
Lunch menu  
Staff biographies  
Newsletter

## What's going on at the ECC?

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Dr. Shea Dental Visit  
Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> SPRITE Club Meeting  
Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Center Closed  
Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Winter Festival  
March 5<sup>th</sup> Scholastic Book Fair Begins

## WINTER IS HERE!!

The ECC children play outdoors daily if the temperature is above 20 degrees. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather with hat, gloves, and boots.

## CAFÉ TALK

Do you need a break from studying? Be sure to join us for an evening of Café Talk on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm. Café Talk is an interactive learning opportunity designed for parents to share and learn from their own experiences. Free child care will be provided. Dinner for children and parents will also be provided. Raffle prizes will be awarded. Don't miss this one!! Hope to see you there. Check your child's folder for a flyer soon. For more information, see Theresa Zecca, Parent Support Specialist.

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## MANAGER'S MINUTES

Being in the car can be a special time for parents and their children, offering them opportunities to talk about things that they think and wonder about. Use "Car Time" to talk to your child about everyday activities and events; whether it's how snowflakes form or what makes a good friend.

While your child is captive in the car, talk about topics that are of interest to them. Also use "Car Time" to expose to environmental print, whether it involves looking at letters in road signs or having them "read" the names of the stores and restaurants as you pass by. It's also a good idea to keep one or two favorite books in the car for travel time. On your next car trip home, consider activities that can engage your child, while fostering language and literacy development. Look for weekly "Topic Tips" for "Car Time" each week in your child's classroom. Let us know if you have a Topic Tip you'd like to share with us too.

Bev Cavanaugh

## PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Monica Yanajara! She has been chosen this month for our Parent Spotlight!! We appreciate Monica's support and involvement in our program. She and her family have been active participants in our SPRITE family fun events. Monica explains that she appreciates the convenience of the Early Childhood Center as she can bring her child to the ECC and continue on to the library for study time. Monica came to an ECC Open House where she had the opportunity to learn more about the ECC from Program Manager, Bev Cavanaugh. After speaking to Ms. Bev, Monica states that she was pleased with the philosophy and curriculum of the ECC. Monica is studying Early Childhood Education at JJC. This summer, she plans to do an internship at a preschool. After completing her Associate's degree, she wants to continue her education to be a bilingual speech-language pathologist. Congratulations and best of luck to Monica!

In April, during Week of the Young Child, the ECC will hold its spring semester children's art sale.

In preparation for the sale, we are asking families to donate gently used picture frames to frame the children's art work. All donations will be accepted. Funds raised at the art sale are used to purchase art supplies for the ECC classroom.

Thank you for your support of this event.

## GOT SOUP?

Soup and chili orders are now available. Order some soup or chili for the family and leave the hassle of cooking to the culinary arts students.

The prices are reasonable. This fundraising effort helps to off-set supply costs for classroom materials.



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## WEST CLASSROOM NEWS

Classroom teachers Ms. Evelyn, Ms. Laure, Ms. Nicole, and assistants would like to welcome ECC families and their children to the ECC for the Spring 2012 semester. During the first two weeks of the semester, we will be focusing on the classroom environment and materials. We would like parents to assist their child in the morning routine of signing in, putting their winter clothing in their box, and hand washing. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the classroom teacher.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> – MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>

Early Childhood Center

We ask you to support this event by helping your child select books to purchase and read. A child's life is positively influenced by exposure to books. The Book Fair offers quality books at family friendly prices. Through your purchases, the ECC earns free books and materials for the classroom. We look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair.

## Scholastic Book Ordering

Each month, the ECC offers books available from Scholastic's preschool prescription Firefly! Orders are available online with the classroom code that you recently received in your child's mailbox with the Scholastic order forms. You can also use the Firefly order form to make a selection and return the order portion from the back of each form with a check made payable to Scholastic Books. We encourage you to create a life-long love of reading with your child. Through your purchase, we earn free books and materials for the classroom.

## Batelle Developmental Screenings

Developmental screenings are conducted on all preschoolers at the ECC. These screenings will give teachers and parents more information related to your child's overall development. We will keep you informed about this important process.