

Welcome to the new school year!

We are so excited for the new school year and are honored that you and your family have chosen Ellis. The first few weeks we will be focusing on transitioning students into their classrooms and getting to know you all a little better. Please note we are here to support you and your child(ren) so please feel free to reach out at any time.

Early Education Curriculum

Happy September! Below, please find the curriculum planned for the month.

UPK/Preschool

Bruins and Patriots: Unit 1- Together in Our Community

This unit encourages children and teachers to build the foundation for a strong community of learners—developing caring and respectful relationships and routines and expectations for how we all work together in the classroom. From the first day of school, children and adults share experiences through storytelling and play, exploring what it means to be in school, as well as understanding the importance of feelings, identity, family, and community. They develop shared ways of interacting, solving problems, and creating together.

Big Ideas:

- Each of us is an important part of the community. Our families are part of the community. We each make contributions to the community. In our community, we do things together and share ideas. We all have ways of communicating.

Maple, Celtics, and Red Sox: Unit 1 Continued- Family and Friends

In this unit, children will learn to think about the concept of family while they also begin to form friendships with peers. They're learning that families and friends may share similarities while also having differences. Additionally, families and friends can collaborate to care for one another, communicate feelings, solve problems, and resolve conflicts. Children come to understand that a community is a group of people who live, work, or engage in activities together.

Big Ideas:

- A family is a group of unique individuals who care for and support each other. A friend is someone we care for and want to spend time with. Shared experiences build connections and identities. Families and friends can be alike in some ways and different in others.

Toddlers

Exploration Unit- All about us

In the first unit of the Learning Through Exploration curriculum, children will learn about themselves and each other in the context of their classroom community.

All About Us offers educators a chance to intentionally build community in the first weeks of the school year. The focus will be on getting to know one another, affirming children's individual identities, strengthening relationships, and laying the foundation for social and emotional skills which will be built on and encouraged year-round. It is also an opportunity to engage mindfully with the anti-bias goals of the curriculum by reflecting on the connections between all members of the community and the importance of caring for one another.

Big Questions:

- What is a community? Who are the people in our classroom? How are we similar? How are we different? How do people take care of each other? Who takes care of us? What kinds of feelings do we feel? How do people talk about their feelings?

Infants

Our youngest scholars will be growing and learning so much!

You will be receiving your child's **individual curriculum** so you can try the activities they are doing in the classroom at home. Throughout the month the teachers will provide activities and record your baby's responses.

Infant Reminders:

- EEC requires all children to have something on their feet. Please make sure your baby has socks, booties, or shoes to wear in the classrooms.
- Please make sure your child has a daily, labeled, supply of sippy cups or bottles for every feeding. These will be sent home daily for cleaning.

Social Emotional Development

As the new school year begins the children in all of our rooms will be identifying their emotions and learning how to express their feelings.

Classroom Requests

1. Please ensure your children have extra, seasonally appropriate clothing in their cubby.
2. Please send in some photos of your child's family and friends so we can post them in the classroom.
3. Please wash your child's hands upon entering the classroom.
4. Please arrive no later than 9:15 each day. Late arrivals disrupt the classroom and curriculum.

Monday Sept. 2- Labor Day- Ellis is closed

Friday Sept. 6- Ellis is closed for a Professional Development Day

Monday Sept. 9- First Day of School

Friday Sept. 13- JP Back to School/Welcome Celebration 4-5PM

Friday Sept. 20- South End Back to School/Welcome Celebration 4-5 PM

Thursday Sept. 26 Boston Universal Pre-K Open House-[See attached flyer for Details.](#)

September Birthdays

- Telilah 9/3
- Kali 9/5
- Abigail 9/7
- Thomas 9/9
- Frances 9/10
- Arillelle 9/12
- Peyton 9/12
- Cameron 9/14
- Zaeleigh 9/16
- George 9/16
- Matteo 9/17
- William 9/19
- Faith 9/21
- Jahmir 9/23
- Luca 9/23
- Saul 9/26

Birthday at Ellis- Policy Reminder

With a focus on equity and accessibility, Ellis does not permit outside food to be served at Ellis. Birthdays will be celebrated with joy and merriment.

This year to celebrate your child's birthday we will be sending home a canvas for them to paint or draw a picture on. This will be sent home 1 week prior to their birthday. On their birthday we ask you to send it back so your child can share their picture with the class. It will then be hung in the classroom on the birthday board.

September Anniversaries

- Ms. Lisa 9/6
- Ms. Elizabeth 9/6
- Ms. Gladys 9/7
- Ms. Mandira 9/11
- Ms. Shaiana 9/13
- Ms. Lara 9/18
- Ms. Sandra 9/19
- Ms. Mayelin 9/19
- Ms. Sasha 9/22
- Ms. Rosely 9/27
- Ms. Ruth 9/28

September Menu

September Vegan/Vegetarian/Allergy Menu

Music Classes with the New England Conservatory We are so pleased that our partnership with NEC will continue this year. Below is the schedule by site and classroom

Mondays		Tuesdays with Phil		Wednesdays with Phil		Thursdays with Phil	
66 Berkeley Site		58 Berkeley Site		66 + 58 Berkeley Site:		Jamaica Plain:	
Time	Classes/Location	Time	Classes	Time	Classes	Time	Classes
9:30 - 10:00/05	Breakers (toddlers in fall/young preschool in spring) (66 Music Room)	9:30 - 10:00/05	Bumblebees (infants) (their classroom - 58 1 st floor)	9:30 - 10:00/05	Crickets (Infants) (their classroom - 66 1 st floor)	9:30 - 10:00	Willow (Infants) (their classroom)
10:10 - 10:40/45	Butterflies (2-year-olds) (66 Music Room)	10:10 - 10:40/45	Ladybugs (infants) (their classroom - 58 1 st floor)	10:10 - 10:40/45	Grasshoppers (Infants) (their classroom - 66 1 st floor)	10:10 - 10:40	Spruce (Infants) (their classroom)
10:50 - 11:00	Break	10:50 - 11:20/25		10:50 - 11:00	Break	10:50 - 11:20	Oak (1-year-olds) (their classroom)
11:00 - 11:30/35	Caterpillars (1-year-olds) (66 Music Room)	11:30 - 11:40	Break	11:00 - 11:30/35	Pollywogs (1-year-olds) (66 Music Room)	11:30 - 12:00	Maple (mostly 3's/some 4s) (their classroom)
11:40 - 12:10	Red Sox (young preschool) (66 Music Room)	11:40 - 12:10/15	Dragonflies (infants) (their classroom - 58 1 st floor)	11:40 - 12:10	Froggies (2-year-olds) (66 Music Room)		
Time	Classes	Time	Classes	Time	Classes	Time	Classes
3:30 - 4:00/05	Patriots (4-year olds) (66 Music Room)	3:30 - 4:00/05	Cubs (1-year olds) (66 Music Room)	3:30 - 4:00/05	Bears (2-year-olds) (66 Music Room)	3:30 - 4:00/05	Birch (1-year-olds) (Pinecone Play Space)
4:10 - 4:40/45		4:10 - 4:40/45	Celtics (3-year-olds) (66 Music Room)	4:10 - 4:40/45	Bruins (4-year-olds) (66 Music Room)	4:10 - 4:40/45	Cedar (2-year-olds) (Pinecone Play Space)

Family Resources

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) at Home Series by Liz Muscolino, M.Ed., EdS UPK Behavioral Health Services Liaison

What Is Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and why should I care?

Positive Behavior support, or PBS, is an approach to interacting with children that has been shown to improve child behaviors and adult feelings of well-being. All behavior is communication. When we acknowledge our child's behavior, even behaviors like tantruming, as communication, we can move away from snap judgements and knee-jerk reactions and start to use every situation, no matter how unpleasant, as an opportunity to support a "child's capacity to love, trust, explore and learn". Although most parents (91% from a large, diverse sample) find parenting to be a source of great joy, they also report having many questions about child-rearing practices. PBS, Responsive Caregiving, and Positive Parenting can offer some answers on the journey of parenthood. Each month in this year's family newsletter, we will share, review, and provide examples of one of the nine key elements of Positive Parenting.

Watch this 5-minute video <https://vimeo.com/136542836> from Zero-To-Three about Positive Parenting.

The full original article can be found here - <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/nine-elements-that-power-positive-parenting/>.

Notice and celebrate your child's strengths, abilities, and capacity to learn and develop

Element description: This element of Positive Parenting is all about taking moments to notice who your child really is and celebrate whatever you find. Is your child someone who boldly explores new places and gets into everything? Is your child someone who likes to stay close to familiar people until he gets comfortable? There are lots of qualities that may be easy to celebrate. It may be easy to celebrate that your child is curious with toys or sensitive to the feelings of others. There are also lots of qualities that may be difficult to find a positive perspective on. No matter what qualities we see when we make observations about our children, we can find something positive to celebrate. Celebrating who our children are can be a great opportunity to stretch our creative muscles.

Ideas for using this in everyday moments: Notice that your child bosses other children around? A positive perspective may be that they are a natural leader. Notice that your child cries a lot? A positive perspective may be that they are really expressing how they feel! Notice that your child touches everything? A positive perspective may be that she is curious about how things work.

Additional Resources: If you want to learn more about noticing children's behavior and celebrating what you find, check out this free 30-minute webinar from Conscious Discipline on perception and attention - Tools for Your Parenting Toolbox <https://consciousdiscipline.com/e-learning/webinars/tools-for-your-parenting-tool-box/>.



This school year, Ellis is continuing its partnership with The Housman Institute, an early childhood education training, professional development, curriculum, and research organization that promotes the development of emotional intelligence from birth.

In this partnership, our staff will be a part of the research-based begin to ECSEL (Emotional, Cognitive, and Social Early Learning) Educator Training Program. Teachers and administrators will take courses and work with Housman Institute Coaches to teach children how to effectively identify, understand, express, and regulate their big emotions.



The program teaches educators and children to:

- Understand the cause and effect of emotions
- Develop empathy and prosocial skills
- Gain problem-solving and conflict resolution skills to support healthy development, emotional well-being, and academic success

You, as your child's first teacher, will be working together with their classroom teachers to ensure collaborative communication continues in the best interest of your child's ongoing growth and development.



Throughout the year, our team will complete ECSEL courses and receive ongoing support and feedback from ECSEL coaches. We will utilize ECSEL language, tools, and techniques in our classrooms with your children. We will continue to provide families with updates and additional information in the coming weeks.

We are so excited to see the impact that this program will have on children, classrooms, staff, families, and on the Ellis community!



[HousmanInstitute.com](https://www.HousmanInstitute.com)