I hope everyone had some time to relax during Spring Break. At least now we are having more spring like weather!

We are gearing up for the second half of the semester. The teachers are very busy preparing for parent-teacher conferences. We expect all families to sign up for a time to meet with a teacher to discuss your child’s progress and development. The exact week designated for your child’s teacher is listed on page 4 of this newsletter. Please sign up on the sheet by the classroom or work out another time with the teacher. We will also be celebrating Week of the Young Child (WOYC) during the week of April 13. We have some fun activities planned and will invite parents to participate in several ways. Please check the calendar on page 4 and get ready to have some fun! Another important part of celebrating WOYC is to acknowledge all of the hard work of our staff. We do this by planning some special activities for the teachers. We will be asking parents to participate by bringing in a healthy snack at the beginning of the week. More info will follow!

Once again we will be holding a re-Enrollment week for currently enrolled families during the first full week in April. Please stop up front to get a packet from Janene and allow 5-10 minutes to fill out the application for Summer and/or Fall semester(s), and to review/update your contact information. Janene will work on placements the following week and then contracts will be available for you to sign (to secure your space) during the third week. After that, we will open enrollment to new families so don’t delay in getting your child registered!! Applications for the May/June Interim will go out separately.

Please remember to sign your child in AND out each day at the check-in station up front. We are required, by DCFS and other agencies, to have drop off and pick up times documented for each child every day. This is not optional, so please do not treat it as such.

We hope to see a good amount of parent involvement in the weeks ahead. We (and your child) look forward to having you come in to share a special talent or activity, join your child for a snack, or a few minutes of painting. Before you know it, the semester will be coming to a close. Once again, we will be offering some light lunches for our students during finals week in the North Corner Room. We are happy to support you in the hard work you do as both a student and a parent. Both require extraordinary time and effort!

Chris Kipp
INFANT ROOM

Happy spring!

Thank you to those who were able to attend the Family Night last week. We understand that it is a very busy time of the semester and we appreciate you spending time with us. It was pleasurable for us to see the families socializing over a meal then interacting with your children in the classroom. It is our sincere hope that you find the time just as pleasurable. We have a family gathering planned each semester so if you could not make it, there is always next semester.

This month we will be celebrating Week of the Young Child April 13 - 17. Center wide activities are being planned as well as activities in individual classrooms. During WOYC we would like to extend an invitation to you to read a book to the classroom, take a walk, or spend some time in the classroom.

Last month we requested a white t-shirt for decorating. We will decorate the t-shirts with each of the children’s footprint. Once the t-shirts are complete the shirts will stay at the center. On Monday of that week all of the children will wear their t-shirts home. We have already started decorating them so if you have not brought one in for your child yet there is still time before WOYC. During that week we would also like to invite you to play a game called How Well Do You Know the Infant Room. Each family that participates will receive a treat. A committee of teachers and administrators has planned some fun activities for the children as well as the staff for the week. Information on the schedule of events is coming soon. We will keep you posted.

We want to remind you our parent conferences are being offered during April 6 - 10 for children assigned as Kellie’s primary children and during April 27 through May 1 for children who are assigned as Carol’s primary children. You will receive a preconference form once you have scheduled your conference date and time. This form serves as a reminder for the conference on the top half and the bottom half of the form is for you to com-

REMINDE R S

- The last day of spring semester is May 8. Full-day care is available during Interim (May 11—June 12); applications are due by April 11. Anyone who requests care after this date will be charged the ‘extra care’ fee; an additional 10%.

- Child care fees need to be paid in full prior to the upcoming semester.

- Summer and Fall child care applications are due during re-Enrollment week, April 6th. Contracts will need to be signed the week of April 20th.

- For tax purposes, our FEIN# is 36-6008480. We do not distribute statements regarding your child care payments. If you did not save your invoices for the year, you can obtain a record of your payment history through MyNIU.

- Please do not give your pin code out to anyone else. We will have to de-active it if we find that someone else is using it.

- All family members should be registered in Procare. Please remember to use the system up front to indicate your child's attendance every day. You need to sign them in and out each day!
complete and return to us by the date indicated. It helps us pre-
pare for your conference by knowing some questions you may
have ahead of time. You will receive the access to your
child’s portfolio prior to meeting with one of us, so watch your
email for documentation from Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG).
We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child’s
development and what he or she is doing in the classroom.

What have we been up to in the infant room? Well... the mo-
bile children have been extremely busy. Some of the most
popular activities have been the kitchen area, the ball ma-
chine, reading books, singing songs and the soft climber. Most
of the children are drawn to the kitchen area. They pull the dishes off of the shelf, take out the basket of
pretend food, and use the spatulas. Some of the older children are beginning
to move into the stage of pretend play where they are using items as intend-
ed. For example, putting the empty cup up to his or
her mouth as if drinking, using a spoon to stir, putting
the play phone up to his or her ear and saying
“hello”. One of the manipulatives we have had in
the classroom for some time is the ball machine. The
children practice persistence, problem solving, spa-
tial awareness, and fine motor when interacting
with this toy. Almost anytime throughout the day
you may notice at least one child in the book area
exploring the books. We continue to practice ex-
ploring books with hands and eyes, redirecting the
children to use plastic toys and teethers for mouth-
ing. If you have not had a chance yet, come in and
read the book: Hickety Pickety Bumblebee with your
child. The climber both provides a safe appropriate
place for the children to use their natural interest in climbing.

Our two younger infants have not caught up to the older infants and young toddlers yet. We give them
as much time on the floor to feel the pressure of floor which is different than a
bouncer, crib, or someone’s arm, etc. and takes some
time to feel safe there. While on the floor there are
toys and adults to encourage them to reach, grab,
stretch, and move. Floor time is given for the length of
time that is comfortable for them. They are getting
book time as well, independently or sitting with an
adult and a group of children reading. During meal
time for the table eaters, they are sitting with a teach-
er interacting with the other children eating. They are
fortunate to have so many older children to serve as
role models for them.
We celebrated four children turning 1 in the month of March: Melony, Emma, Hank, and Peyton. Just a reminder, with spring weather being so unpredictable, please have warmer and cooler weather clothing at the center for your child, this includes outdoor clothing. The temperatures can be in the 30’s in the morning but warm up dramatically by outdoor time, so please have a lighter weight jacket here as well. Please bring a sun hat and sun glasses (if you choose) for your child.

Have a great month!

Kellie Fuss & Carol Schroder

TODDLER ROOM

Greetings Toddler Parents,

Spring is here and we are ready for it. The children have been so busy with new activities in the classroom and mastering so many skills. We hope you were able to find the previous newsletter useful and benefit from the information. We have so much information available to us, with the internet, workshops we have attended, and just from the amount of experience we have accumulated over the past several years. If you ever have any questions or concerns, just ask, we’ll do our best to help you.

During the month of March the children had experiences with the castle climber that was set up in the toddler large motor room. They also had the farm animals and barn in the classroom. The children really enjoyed push-

Parent Conference Perspective

Parents, for the most part, have limited exposure to young children. Most families have one or two children and some extended family (nieces and nephews). Teachers, on the other hand, have worked with hundreds of children. They are also educated in child development and know what constitutes typically developing skills and behavior in young children. For example, many parents write on their child information sheet that their three-year-old is unable to share and many are concerned about this. Although this is an important skill to develop, we do not expect such a young child to have mastered this; they are still growing and learning and need much more practice! They also need more emotional maturity to comprehend the concept of sharing. A favorite saying, often attributed to young children’s behavior is, “If I like it, it’s mine; if it’s near me, it’s mine; if I’m building something, all the pieces are mine….”. On the other hand, a four-year-old may have unintelligible speech or social skills that are severely lacking. We will make a referral for this, knowing there is a delay, and services are probably needed. So please keep an open mind and utilize the expertise of your child’s teacher. They are here to help!

-Source: Parents’ Perspectives on Conferencing, Roslyn Ann Duffy, Exchange magazine, July 1997
ing the tractors around. I think this stems from our CD book: Driving My Tractor. If we hear the children sing, “Chug, Chug, Clank, Clank, Toot” then they are for sure recalling the book! We encouraged the children to drink a green smoothie and invited them to tell us about what they knew about being healthy. The children were very interested in the pictures of children displaying healthy and unhealthy habits. Some of the unhealthy habits the children may understand from experience, such as picking their nose and eating dirt. Hopefully this little conversation will help them form new, healthier habits! We measured everyone’s height and we will revisit this concept at the end of the year to see if anyone grew more this semester. One of our science projects this month was to plant Marigold seeds and watch them grow. When the plants are ready all the children will take theirs home so you can continue to watch them grow. We will be cleaning out the pink sand and sea shells in the media table and replacing them with water and ocean life, such as whales and seals.

We are finally getting some warmer weather and enjoying our time outside in the morning. We will continue to wear boots and snow pants until everything dries out. The children are able to ride the trikes again—some have mastered this skill, while others are still problem solving. When staffing is available, the children who are 2 years of age are able to go to the “big” playground during our morning outside time. They will be able to investigate the bigger climbers and wear helmets when they ride the tricycles.

We are looking forward to.............

Week of the Young Child (WOYC). We will have special dress up days and activities throughout the week for you and your child to participate in. There is more information about WOYC in this newsletter and a calendar of events will be posted by the children’s cubbies.

Parent Conferences for Sherie are April 20th - 24th. Please sign up for any of the times posted or talk to Sherie if a new time is needed.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to have a conference with Pam. We hope you are able to access the Teaching Strategies Gold and that you are enjoying the documentation.

Thank you for coming to our Family Night. We love spending extra time with our families and for you to get to talk with other families in our program. We hope you enjoyed the information on I Love You
C A L E N D A R  O F  E V E N T S

Parent Conferences (week of):
- March 30—Pam (Tod), Kendra (2/3-2), April (Pre-2) & Kristi (Pre-4)
- April 6—Kellie (Inf), Barbara (2/3-1) & Jen (Pre-1)
- April 20—Sherie (Tod), Christy (2/3-2), Jaquida (Pre-2)
- April 27—Carol (Inf), Klint (2/3-1), Katilyn (Pre-1), Krystal (Pre-4)
- May 4th—Make Up Week for any missed conferences

Week of the Young Child — April 13-18th (Center Wide—Spirit Week)

Monday: Kick-off the week with a “Bubble Bonanza” (Stop up front to choose a container of bubbles for each child in your family.
(Crazy/Mismatched sock day)

Tuesday: Stop, Drop & Paint
Parents are invited to take a few minutes to paint a picture with your child. Easels will be placed in the Large Motor Room & in the Inf/Tod hallway. All finished products will be displayed in the windows up front!
(Crazy Hair Day)

Wednesday: Stop, Drop & Paint
Parents are invited to take a few minutes to paint a picture with your child. Easels will be placed in the Large Motor Room & in the Inf/Tod hallway. All finished products will be displayed in the windows up front!
(Pajama Day)

Thursday: Parent Performances—Share your talents or hobbies with us for a short 2min show case. Sign up sheets posted by each classroom. Questions: Talk with Barbara! (Fancy Day)

Friday: Afternoon Snack Invitation—Come and have afternoon snack in your child’s classroom. Snack provided—Please sign up!
(Red & Black Huskie Spirit Day)

Mon-Fri: Teacher Appreciation Week—Please bring in a healthy snack to share with our staff! Treats can be dropped off every day with Janene, up front, to be labeled.
Rituals and the importance of playing together. The more you practice the I Love You Rituals the easier they are to remember. You also can create your own too! A loving connection is the foundation to I Love You Rituals.

Sherie Newman & Pam Yockey

TWO/THREE-1 ROOM

We have had quite a lot going on this March. We started off this month with a bang. We made sardine pizzas that were much more popular than expected. The children were very interested in the fish inside the little tin. We got to smell and taste them, then we added them to something we knew we’d love, pizza. The children all built their own pizza. Although we had limited ingredients, everyone chose to add a sardine to the top.

To kick off spring, we got out the camping toys for dramatic play. We’ve been grilling meat, catching fish, and hanging out in our tent. We couldn’t wait for the nice weather to do our wilderness activities. We’ve been playing with fish that are native to all our ponds and rivers around DeKalb.

We finally did get to go outside more than once a day this month. We got plenty of large motor room time during the first half of March. But then we got to see both winter and spring within the past couple weeks. We went from sledding down the hill, to watching our snow “mountains” melt away while we rode our bikes.

We did do some fun indoor stuff too. As we’re sure all the parents already know, our assortment of colored glue has been quite popular this month; the children have been using tons of it. We’ve used it to mix colors, make collages, and we’ve even used it on plastic surfaces so we can peel it off and see what it looks like just by itself.

In our media table this month, we’ve shied away from the basics and made a swamp out of “clean mud.” We shredded up multiple rolls of toilet paper, crumbled up ten bars of Ivory soap, added a little water, and mixed it all together. The children were much more interested in watching the Ivory soap expand and grow in the microwave than they were in tearing up the toilet paper. But the whole project was a team effort, and it’s been quite fun for everyone. We threw in some alligators, snakes, and turtles as well as some food coloring to make it more swamp-like.

Our social studies activities came late this month with our sculpture walk inspired by 2/3’s-2, which followed our own sculpture making. And Parissa’s mom came in to teach us about the Persian New Year
on the first day of spring, I think we are all ready for spring to come in full force. We hope to see you all outside!

Klint Mathey & Barbara Zeman

TWO/THREE-2 ROOM

Well, warmer temperatures are finally creeping in. That has meant opportunities for us to be outside more often; that has been so wonderful for the children and the teachers. We have played a lot on our playground, drawn with chalk on the sidewalk, rode tricycles and dug in the moist sand, in our sandbox. Halfway through March we took a LONG walk across campus to look at some of the sculptures. During this walk the children noticed the material each sculpture was made of and the variety of shapes that were part of the sculptures.

The following day I provided materials for the children to make sculptures of their own. The children used play dough, wooden pieces, sculpting wire, yarn and glue. The children titled their structures things like; The Birthday Cake, A Sculpture, and Cookie. I guess most of the children were thinking their sculptures looked like sweet treats!

This experience was a fun opportunity for me (and I hope the children as well) to look more closely at their community, the art and beauty around us, and to get our bodies moving.

The website “No Time for Flashcards” has a fun list of 50 things to do outside with children. The founder Allison McDonald has so many great and simple ideas of things you can do outside with your child. Here are just as few:

⇒ Go on a bug hunt
⇒ Melt crayons in the sun
⇒ Stack rocks
⇒ Draw chalk letters and shapes
⇒ Paint rocks on the sidewalk with watercolors
⇒ Go on a nature scavenger hunt

If you want the official list of all 50 things, go to...

http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/03/50-simple-outdoor-activities-for-kids.html
Some reminders for families,

Warmer weather = lighter jackets! Hooray!! Please take your child’s snow pants and winter boots home.

Parent teacher conferences are underway, if you haven’t met with your child’s teacher we will need to schedule a time before the semester ends May 8th.

Week of the Young Child is April 13th and that Friday is our talent show. Got a hidden talent? Let us know and sign up to participate in the talent show.

Thanks for reading!

Kendra Nenia & Christy Pelikan

Parent’s, Adults, Caregivers, and siblings—do you have a hidden talent, or not so hidden, you would like to share? On Thursday, April 16th during the WOYC you can share your talent from 10–10:30 in the Large Motor Room. You will have up to 2 ½ minutes to perform. You can dance, juggle, play and instrument, do magic, recite poetry, read a short story, sing, all in English or in another language.

Please sign up to entertain and engage the interests of the young children here at CCC.