The semester is quickly coming to a close; we know that all of you are busy trying to finish up with Fall semester obligations so we wish you good luck. We hope this has been a successful semester and we have helped you in some way.

It is hard to believe that after 26 years with CCC I am writing my last newsletter and approaching my last month as the director. What a long and amazing journey this has been! When I first started, Janene had just been hired a few months prior, as our 'secretary', and my first work computer was not even set up on my desk yet. What an exciting time—to no longer have to complete billing and payroll by hand!! And, our first parent pockets consisted of an old orange panty hose dispenser (I’m not kidding) until Janene made us real pockets out of fabric. ‘Back then’ we had 2 classrooms with 25 student workers and 3 teachers; we were housed in the south end of Gabel Hall (that is our old playground that you pass on the way to CCC). We now have 8 classrooms, 16 teachers and 60 students. I also remember being the most junior director (of 11) in Student Affairs, and I am now the senior director of 22 departments. And, my children were very young (my youngest was just 3 months old) when I started this job, and they are now both grown adults.

Time has certainly flown by! I have been blessed over the years to work with so many staff who have given their hearts and souls to making this such a wonderful program. I have also known many parents and children over the years. So, I have many fond memories to draw from as I move on. And, what a great environment to work in. Where else can you get up from your desk to greet a buggy full of infants, wave to toddlers as they line up on their rings to go outside, read a book to a two-year-old, or help a preschooler zip their coat. Or, to have teachers burst into my office with a problem to be solved or a rash to diagnose. I will treasure all of the great moments (and there are many) that have happened over the years, and all the times we have been able to laugh together. Thanks to all for helping to make my time at CCC so memorable and fulfilling! I will miss you all!!

To those of you who will be here during the upcoming Interim, here is some information that will be helpful to you. This is a time when we combine classrooms due to low enrollment. And, because of the nature of the interim times, your child may not be in their regular classroom every day. The staffing will also rotate to allow teachers to have some time out of the classroom for cleaning, lesson planning, committee work, training, and vacation time. We will post a note up front to let you know which classroom they are using for that day or week. During these weeks, the rooms will be combined as follows: infants & toddlers; both 2/3’s rooms; Pre 1 & 3; and Pre 2 & 4.
We wish all of you the best of luck with finals and hope you are able to enjoy some rest and relaxation during the upcoming break. We will see some of you during Interim and others we will see next year! For those who are done at CCC, we wish you the best and will miss having you in our program.

Chris Kipp

INFANT ROOM
This semester has gone by so quickly. We have enjoyed getting to know you and your children this semester. We now have three one-year-olds in the classroom, so we are using the small infant chairs and table. The children are enjoying sitting at the table and having more freedom instead being in the high-chairs. Liam Y. turned 1 in September, Nora and Delassa in November, and Jayden will be turning 1 in December; it’s hard to believe how quickly they are growing!

The children have been enjoying the outdoors at the 10 o’clock time, and even more now that the children have been getting more mobile. The children have been sitting on the outdoor bikes, trying to climb on the climbers, sliding down the slide, and sitting on the outdoor chairs. We have made it easier for the children to move and use their large motor skills inside the classroom too. We have brought in different climbers and mats, and a tunnel. The children favored the tunnel as they were able to crawl through it. As they children crawled through the teachers cheered them on and the children were excited when they got to the end!

The children have been really working on their fine motor and creative expression skills. First, we had a black piece of paper and used 5 different colors of

REMINDERS

- The last day of the semester is Friday, Dec. 11. Full-day child care is available during Interim (Dec. 14-23 and Jan. 4–15) for those who have requested care in advance.

- Please remember that you have been billed for your regular schedule during finals week. If you need additional hours of care, you will need to talk with Janene about scheduling ‘extra care’.

- Please stop by the front desk and sign your Contract for Spring semester. They must be returned to Janene by Dec. 4 to save your spot. If your plans change and you need to withdraw from spring semester, you must notify Janene by Dec. 18 or you will be billed for the first two weeks of Spring semester. And schedule changes are due by Jan. 4th.

- Spring semester starts on Tuesday, January 19. The center will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18 for MLK Day.

- All children who are well enough to be in attendance at the center will be taken outdoors on a daily basis. As the weather turns colder, please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play and walks.
chalk to draw on the paper. The children used yellow, blue, orange, purple, and green. The teachers helped the children with hand-over-hand guiding the children’s hands to draw with the chalk. We soon learned that the chalk is really easy to wipe away, so the next week we used white paper and crayons. We used the hand-over-hand method again and the children made many different lines and dots with their crayons. The children enjoyed sitting on the paper and moving their feet around to hear the sounds that their feet made on the paper.

This month we have been trying to incorporate different cultures by reading books or singing songs in different languages. We had a guest reader come into our classroom. Rene came into our room to read books to the children in Spanish. When he came in the children gathered around to listen to a book called Como Dan Las Buenas Noches Los Dinosaurios, which means How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight. As Rene was reading in Spanish he was also saying the meaning in English. At the end, he sang a Mexican song. The children were very engaged and enjoyed listening to a book and song in Spanish. Even after he left we tried reading the books in Spanish. It did not sound as good as Rene did but at least we tried.

We hope that everyone enjoys their winter break. We can’t wait until everyone returns in January!

Katilyn Ostenson and Barbara Zeman

**Subsidy Program**

Anyone who receives a subsidy from the state to help pay for child care will need to contact your local resource and referral agency and provide the following:

- Fall semester grades
- Spring semester class schedule
- Spring semester work schedule
- 2 current pay stubs

Please know that you will be responsible for paying the **full child care rate** if your subsidy case is incomplete or you are ineligible for any full or half-days in which you schedule child care. You may only schedule child care on days in which you work and/or have class. Also, your GPA must be 2.5 or above if you do not work. If it is between 2.0 and 2.5, you must be working at least 20 hours a week in addition to taking classes to remain eligible for the program. Please talk with Janene or Chris if you have any questions.
TODDLER ROOM

We have almost made it through the fall semester! Good luck to all of you who are busy with end of the semester papers, exams, presentations, and grading. Some much deserved time off is ahead!

Kellie and I appreciated the fact that all of you signed up for and attended our parent-teacher conferences. We all have busy schedules. However, we also all benefit from time dedicated to discuss your children and how to help them in their continuing development. They are growing up before our very eyes.

One of the things we are observing in the classroom is an increased spirit of working together at playing. Toddlers most often play alone or next to someone. We encourage community in our classroom as we share materials, wait our turn for an object or an activity, and join together in filling a sand bucket, building a tower, creating a work of art, or using our large muscles together on the climber.

You are most likely hearing your children’s expanding vocabularies. I know we are. It’s delightful to hear them call us and one another by name and to know that they know the names of body parts, sounds of animals, and labels for objects in their environment. This is a precious time for learning. Make sure you are expanding your child’s vocabulary through your own word usage. Give them the words to describe their feelings; tell them what foods they are eating for supper; read and read and read to them; talk about what they do during the day and what will happen tomorrow.

We are working on some self-serving skills during our mealtimes. Most of our children now use a sippy cup at meals. All the children use spoons and we are encouraging the use of forks too. We are always reminding them to use their fork to poke their food. We are asking children to help us pour seconds of milk from a small milk pitcher. And we are working on self-serving their foods too. Bread and crackers are things we have been self-serving all semester. We cover most of the food on the plate and say, “take some bread” or “take two crackers (counting practice!” Morning and afternoon snacks we are beginning to also encourage the children to help us serve them with the serving spoon.

Just a reminder: we go outside every day all year unless it is 15 degrees or below with the wind chill. Please make sure your child is prepared to be outside and to be comfortable in winter weather conditions. Boots, mittens, hats, and snow pants all need to be available for outdoor play. Mittens get wet and mittens get lost. Please plan to have several pairs.

Have a great month!

Carol Schroder & Kellie Fuss
What a wonderful month it has been. It is so hard to believe that in just a few short weeks the semester will be over and a well-deserved break had by all. This month has focused on a variety of fun activities, one of these being corn. We had different types of corn brought into the room so the children could experience and talk about the similarities and differences. We had corn in the media table for the children to scoop and drive small tractors, wagons, and trucks through. This is a very familiar activity for some of our children, which makes coming to school easy!

There were also whole ears of corn in the media table for the children to “shell”. They would use their fine motor skills to take one kernel off at a time. We also had popcorn for the children to talk about. We colored the popcorn kernels with food coloring and decorated with them. The last kind of corn we explored was Indian corn; the children didn’t have much interest in it. We also had the owner of Taxco come in and he made fresh corn tortillas for us and they were VERY good. We also have lined up some research testing that involves GMO corn vs. non GMO corn and animals (in our case, squirrels) to see if they have a preference. This is not going to involve the children in anyway; they will just be able to watch the squirrels from the windows. Some research that did involve the children had to do with the colored kernels of popcorn. The question, “What will happen if we popped the colored kernels?” The answers varied from “I don’t know” to “It will be brown.” We tested the question and all the colored kernels popped white. I think the teachers were more interested in the result then the children! We also have an ongoing experiment happening in the classroom. We took an ear of corn and placed it into a container of dirt, added water, and placed it in the sunniest part of the room. We are hoping corn will begin to grow before the mold does! This then led the class into a discussion about what plants need in order to grow.

We have changed the dramatic play area a few times this month. First, a grocery store was added.

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**Myth: Cold Temperatures Zap Your Immune System**

**Truth: Cold weather might make you shiver, but it won’t make you sick.**

In various studies, researchers have exposed volunteers to cold temperatures and cold viruses while the subjects stood around in wet hair, minimal clothing, and damp socks. On the whole, they were no more likely to get sick than people who were exposed to cold viruses while wearing dry, warm layers. Still, you should bundle up to prevent frostbite.

and recently we added camping materials. The children would pack re-usable bags filled with vegetables, fruits, breads, and meats. They would pretend to check them out at the cash registers and then take them home or go on a picnic. Laura would pack a lunch with many fruits and veggies and then she would say, “I have to go to band practice.” Love the imagination! The camping area has been filled with imagination too. The children enjoy having the flashlights, backpacks, canteens, grills, and don’t forget the tents in the room. They are learning to share the tent space with others and sometimes with children who they may not be interested in having in the tent. We are starting to see “friendships” develop. Some children are actively seeking out certain peers and not engaging in play with others. This is a difficult balance for peers and teachers. We want them to have choices, but we also need them to be aware of other’s feelings. Always a learning experience at Campus Child Care!

We are continuing to work on our “Working Together” project. The children have been enjoying the class helper chart. We have so many jobs for the children to do and each one focuses on how it can be helpful to others. I think Waleed’s favorite job is pushing the lunch cart up the hallway. Another activity we did was clean up the garbage around the building on a warmer day earlier in November. The children had to remember to look at the ground instead of the trees or up in the sky or at a friend! Needless to say, the children did find garbage and we threw it away in the dumpster.

We also reintroduced “Our Pet” to the children again. Amber, Teddy’s mom brought in her young rat for the children to observe and learn about. The children were not allowed to touch the rat, but many of them wanted too. We learned that rats are nocturnal and eat corn just like cows and pigs!! They have to eat hard foods so their teeth don’t get too long. They like apples too. Jaquida brought in a new pet for our room—A FISH! The children have been very excited about her. We know it’s a girl, because they named her Elsa! You can visit Elsa when you come in, she is right by the door.

We want to wish Isabella the best of luck. We have had Isabella at the center since the infant room and it has been a blessing to watch her grow and become something so special. Good luck with student teaching Jamie!

We want to thank everyone for taking time out of their busy schedule to meet with Jaquida and I for parent conferences. The children have so much to share and they impress us on a daily basis. If you ever have any questions or concerns about something, please don’t hesitate to talk to Jaquida or myself.

Sherie Newman and Jaquida Wynn
As the 2’s/3’s-2 classroom makes it through the semester Pam and I have consistently been working to support the children’s emotional development. Our ‘go to’ source to support emotional and social growth is consciousdiscipline.com developed by Becky Bailey. There you can find parent and teacher supports, techniques, strategies and articles to help with discipline and logical consequences. One of the main ideas behind the strategies, used by the developer of Conscious Disciple, is connections and relationships. The idea being, if you have a strong & loving relationship with any child, if they trust you, they are more likely to listen to you. When they listen to you it usually becomes easier to discipline.

So, this is the biggest part of our day – connecting with every single child through hugs, eye contact, consistent loving support, and friendly faces. Sometimes we utilize ‘I Love You Rituals’ such as this (sung to the tune of Twinkle Little Star):

“Twinkle, twinkle little star, what a wonderful child you are! With big bright eyes, and nice round cheeks. A talented person from head to feet. Twinkle, twinkle little star, what a wonderful child you are!”

To see this song sung to children and to understand better why it helps with connection between caregiver and child you could watch, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3PtrlnUm4U.

Daily, Pam and I use breathing techniques with the children. They can take a S.T.A.R breath where they Stop, Take a deep breath And Relax. Or, pretend to blow up a balloon and then let it out like deflating a balloon, that’s called a balloon breath. Recently, Pam brought in small pinwheels for the children to blow when they become upset and need to focus on their breathing before working through the problem they are feeling upset about. Try it with your child sometimes; it often times works in the classroom and it may work for you at home too.

Another part of what we do for and with the children is our verbiage. You use phrase such as, “You got this!” or “You can do it!” and “You are safe, you are loved…” Most importantly we tell them we love them, and show we love them by our actions towards and around the children. Why? Because we do!

Now, here are some highlights from our room this past month. We have had some special, fun experiences such as Jesus from Taxco restaurant in Sycamore coming to visit the twos. He brought his sister who is an expert tortilla maker! She made homemade corn tortillas for all of us, and she made it look so easy. After watching her work we thought we would use the centers tortilla press and make homemade corn tortillas. Let me just say, I am so glad I thought to buy refried beans and cheese to go on top of the tortillas!! A fun experience that gave me whole new respect for people who make Mexican food.

Last, I want to thanks Amber for bringing their pet rat Gus-Gus to visit our room. It was very exciting to meet a pet like Gus-Gus.

Kendra Neina & Pam Yockey