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 in some way. Thank you for attending parent conferences over the last month, Amy and I enjoyed sitting in and learning about the children’s development and spending time with you!

This has been an amazing semester as the weather has been beautiful, the children have all grown so much and we have all gotten to know each other a lot better. As I read the articles enclosed I can’t help but remember how excited everyone is to have made it to the end of the semester. We are all looking forward to a bit of a break and an opportunity to get the rooms ready for spring semester!

With spring semester approaching we will be making some changes to accommodate our enrollment needs and to better serve our mission to the university. As most of you are aware, the state budget stalemate has created a bit of a problem with the overall university budgets. As such it has been very hard to fill positions. At the end of December we are saying good bye and good luck to two teachers Denise Fenn (2/3’s-2) and Emily Greenwaldt (Pre-4) both have decided to pursue other endeavors. We will be closing the Pre-3 classroom and moving April Kaiser to Pre-4 and Jaquida Wynn our fulltime head staff floater will be working in 2/3-2 until a replacement can be hired.

This seems like a lot of movement but I assure you we are making these decisions so we can keep our high quality curriculum and best practices front and center. We value the work we do and want to make sure the quality of our program is not compromised in any way. I feel that fully staffing the classrooms with two head staff helps us provide the best experience for both you and your child.

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. Stop in and visit or send Janene updates of your success!

Kristin Schulz

INFANT ROOM
Happy December and Happy End of Semester!

Thank you for a great semester, it went by so fast! We were able to witness so much growth in your child’s development, in our relationships with your child and with you! We feel fortunate to have great communication and collaboration with you to provide your child with the best first school experience. Kellie and I would like to thank you for attending the parent/teacher conferences. We are fortunate enough to communicate daily with you about your child but that scheduled time to really go into depth about your child’s development is so valuable.

The end of the semester also means graduation for NIU and our infant room will be saying goodbye to Gavin, Noah and Kennedy!! Good Luck to these families and remember we love visits!

A look back at November, Creatively: We were able to create some creative art work this month with painting and engaging in some sensory play, which is crucial for this age. Not only touch and taste but also hearing the sounds of the paper, or of the crayon tapping on the paper. The greatest sensory play really happens

REMINDERS

- The last day of the semester is Friday, Dec. 9. Full-day child care is available during Interim (Dec. 12-22 and Jan. 3 –13) 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 signed by Dec. 2 to save your spot. If your plans change and you need to withdrawal from spring semester, you must notify Janene by Dec. 16 or you will be billed for the first two weeks of Spring semester. And schedule changes are due by Jan. 3rd.

- Spring semester starts on Tuesday, January 17. The center will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16 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.
at the table or high chair as the children will explore the different textures of their food. **Physically:** Lynn and Noah are walking! Kennedy, Harvey, Violet and Gavin are crawling and sitting up solid for us is Giovanni, Henry and Finn. Our new sitters this month are Skylar and Angel. Layla is showing some great tummy time skills!

Social and emotional development is just exploding in our room, the children are really developing strong relationships with staff, student workers and even with each other. We often see hand holding and foot grabbing! Our favorite social spot is our ball pool. The children just love to sit and smile at each other, kick and watch the balls fly!

The children now enjoy some small group times with favorite books. This month *Llama Llama Zippity Zoom* was a big hit! *Brown Bear* was introduced with some velcro props and we are beginning to really enjoy some music in our room. We are seeing an increase of the children exploring the centers in our room, blocks, dramatic play and the manipulatives which shows the cognitive development exploding as well.

We were able to celebrate the first birthday of our newest friend in the classroom, Lynn turned one on November 5! Thank you to Lynn's parents for celebrating with Mylar balloons and Pizza!

Did you know... American Academy of Pediatrics has new recommendations for Children's Media Use and they even provide a tool on the website for you to plan for media use at HealthyChildren.org/MediaUsePlan

We have posted some recommendations on our Parent Share Board above the communication notebook.

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**Subsidy Program and Redetermination**

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 Kristin if you have any questions.
The beginning of November saw the end of curiosity with ice exploration in the media table. We finished off ice exploration with sea creatures frozen in large chunks of ice, with tentacles, fins, and shells sticking out or partially exposed and “alphabet soup.” To make alphabet soup, we froze playdough cutters of the letters into large chunks of ice, just like the sea creatures. As the children touched and pulled out the letters we named the letter and associated it with someone’s name or something we had in the classroom. This helps to promote letter identification and the naming of letters.

We spent all of last month and the start of this month with reading and listening to, on CD, all the Laura Numeroff books in the If You Give a Mouse a Cookie series of books. With, I think, If You Give a Moose a Muffin book the class favorite. It seems to be the favorite, not just because we have a stuffed moose that goes along with the book, but possibly because of all the muffins we made one week. We made, blueberry, apple cinnamon, and peach muffins. With these cooking activities, the children were able to experience a chemical reaction with heat. As they helped measure, pour, and stir all the ingredients together they saw the batter become runny and liquidly. But, when the muffins came back from the kitchen, warm out of the oven, they were solid! The following week I tried to get the children interested in the book If

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**Getting to Know You**

This is a section that will be included in each newsletter to help us get to know one another a little bit better.

- This student worker grew up in Chicago, just 4 miles from Wrigley Field! You will never guess.... Hannah!!
- This teacher has mastered the art of selling popcorn.... Kellie Fuss
- This parent graduated from Monmouth College but is a big Iowa Hawkeye fan.... Ben Bingle! (Harvey’s Dad) Go Hawkeyes!

Have a great month!

Pam Yockey & Kellie Fuss

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**TODDLER ROOM**

The beginning of November saw the end of curiosity with ice exploration in the media table. We finished off ice exploration with sea creatures frozen in large chunks of ice, with tentacles, fins, and shells sticking out or partially exposed and “alphabet soup.” To make alphabet soup, we froze playdough cutters of the letters into large chunks of ice, just like the sea creatures. As the children touched and pulled out the letters we named the letter and associated it with someone’s name or something we had in the classroom. This helps to promote letter identification and the naming of letters.
You Give a Pig a Pancake, but even with the stuffed pig and all the silver dollar pancakes they could eat over two days (and one day we even had banana pancakes), they still gravitated to the moose. We had so many pancakes leftover one day we took a trip around the center and shared the pancakes with the staff.

We didn’t stop there with our science (or social studies) activities. We made clean mud one week. After smelling and letting the children hold and walk around with bars of ivory soap one day, we grated the soap. We also tore up, with the children’s help, unused toilet tissue and colored tissue paper. The children helped to scoop the grated soap and pour water into a table top media bin. Then, with their hands they mixed, stirred, squished, and dove in to make clean mud. This was a sensory experience we thought would be for the nose and hands, but it turned out for some of the children it was almost a whole body experience.

We didn’t forget about art last month. We had been using spoons so much to stir our muffing and pancake mixes, we thought “what about using spoons to “stir” paint.” It was a little confusing at first. The children knew what paint was for and what spoons were for, but together? That took some thinking. All in all, the children created some nice artwork to hand in the hallway.

Enjoy the break!

Barbara Zeman and Katilyn Ostenson

Food Allergy Information:

We have a number of children and staff with food allergies here at Campus Child Care and although we can’t create an environment that is totally free for allergens, we can all work together to limit the exposure but taking precautions.

As a policy we ask that you do not bring outside food into the center. (Please finish your breakfast in the car), this limits crumbs and food residue from being tracked through the center. Please help keep everyone safe!! You can make a difference!
Hello 2/3’s-1 parents,

It is hard to believe that our fall semester is coming to an end. The children have shown so much growth and development over the past 16 weeks. They have learned everyone’s name, including teachers, demonstrated their ability to count, name colors and shapes, problem solved a variety of situations, like how to ride a tricycle, put together a new puzzle, and how to do the “flip trick” with their coat.

I want to give a huge WELCOME to Jennifer. She is our newest teacher at Campus Child Care and we are lucky enough to have her in our room. Jennifer comes to our room with fresh ideas, energy, and lots of experience. I hope all of you get a chance to talk and get to know her more.

With the end of the year approaching so quickly, we need to say “BEST of LUCK!” to some of our families. Joshua’s mom will be graduating this December- Congratulations to you Kiah! Also one of our new classmates, Sandro, will be leaving at the end of the semester too, he will be a big brother in a few weeks.

This past month has been filled with learning how to solve social problems and communicating our needs to classmates. We demonstrated how to sign the word “stop” to the children. The children were encouraged to use their words to explain why they wanted a peer to stop. “That hurts my body,” “That was busy.” We often see the children just reacting to situations by screaming, pushing, pinching, or sometimes crying. By modeling and practicing the words, the children have gained confidence to communicate their needs and feelings.

It always amazing me how one activity can lead to another. The children have shown interest in the colored masking tape since the beginning of the year. One day when we had it out, the children always needed help tearing it off the roll. This lead to me introducing scissors to the children. I was a little hesitant at first, but then gradually they began to problem solve and cut the tape. Ever since that day, the scissors have been out on the shelf for the children to use. They understand that they need to be sitting at the table with paper when they use the scissors. One child was able to cut a large piece of paper all the way in half. Most of the other children would make small snips on the edge of the paper.
One of the favorite toys in the classroom, is a key and lock sorting box. The children must first find the correct key. The door and the key are the same color so the children will use color cues to problem solve. Fine motor skills are also important for this activity. The children must place the key into the shape the correct way in order to turn the key. After the lock has been turned, the door will fall open. The children get so excited about their accomplishment.

**Reminders**
The weather has definitely turned colder. Please check your child’s extra clothes box. If you want to take all their clothes home during winter break, just let us know and we will put them into a bag for you.

Please make sure that you have ALL of your child’s outside clothing labeled with their initials. We could have up to 10 pairs of boots and mittens, 10 hats, coats, and snow pants. This can get confusing for the children as well as the teachers very quickly. When all the items are labeled, they can be put back into their correct cubbies. Please note we WILL go outside is the temperature is 10 degrees or warmer, this is with the wind chill. Make sure that your child is prepared for outside time- they will go outside.

Please remember to call the center if you are going to be late (after 10) or not coming for the day. All illness must be reported to Janene for documentation purposes.

If your child has artwork and/or bags of clothes in their cubby- PLEASE take them home at the end of the day. If your child has borrowed ANY of the center clothing, please return it as soon as it is washed. We are always in need of them for all the children.

I hope everyone has a wonderful break. Enjoy your time with families and friends. I hope you are able to make lasting memories.

Sherie Newman and Jennifer Weber

**TWO/THREE-2**

As the semester comes to an end, I want to reflect on the studies the children showed interest in. We began the semester with a strong interest in insects. That turned into some deep exploration! My hope being that the children would be less “grossed out” by the insect world and to deepen their interest in the natural world.

The second study we have been focusing on light, shadow and color. It started on a cloudy day when I brought out flashlights for the children to explore. That led to using the overhead projector to cast shadow and colors onto the ceiling and walls.
Children would place objects on the overhead and walk to the wall looking at what was being projected. Other children would watch closely as the light glowed through and around the objects not cognizant of what was happening on the wall or ceiling. We placed window blocks in our classroom window to see how the sun would interact with them. Denise created a light box for the children to crawl through or lay down and look at multicolored lights. This was a great way for children to get a close up look at lights and colors. Additionally, we have begun to use materials that would reflect light and cast shadows outside during free play times.

We are looking forward to a visit from STEM outreach here on campus to conclude our study as the semester draws to a close. So many learning opportunities as the children play!

The children had the opportunity to observe and explore…
- How light changes objects (size, color, texture…)
- Why some items that are colorful are not on the projected image.
- How quantity of items changes the way they look when projected or lit up.
- How shadows are made.
- Identifying items and shapes shadows.
- Cause and effect.
- The children were given the opportunity to make predictions.
- And more I am sure I am not even thinking of right now.

Some friendly reminders-
- Please label, label, label your children’s things for winter!
- Make sure your child has weather appropriate items – long pants, long sleeve tops, coat, hat, waterproof mittens, snow pants and boots. If you cannot access these items talk to me! I am happy to help you.
- We go outside when it feels like 10 degrees or above.

Lastly, I want to tell Denise good luck with her adventures! I really have enjoyed teaching with her. She is off to bigger things, but I will sure miss her smiling face. Good luck with all that you do and please stay in touch.

Kendra Nenia & Denise Fenn