DIRECTOR'S DESK

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!

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 and both 2/3’s rooms; Pre 1, 2, and 3.

We will also be running a trial of a communication APP called Remind. This app should allow us to communicate center wide information to those who wish to “opt in” to the feature. (See directions on page for more information about joining in.)

As the merger planning gets more official we will be communicating with you about the time lines and planning process. As always if you have questions please stop in and talk with me. Our staff will be participating with the CDL staff in a combined professional development experience this December. We are working on our team and look forward to you meeting them soon!

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
Preschool-1

Another year is coming to an end. Wow! It has been an amazing semester.

We have learned about different careers, the names and the different things each one does. We used felt-board and cards that have the career spelled out to help with recall, cognition and pre-reading skills. The children also recognized a person’s career by the clothing that they wear.

To develop mathematical skills, the children are learning simple addition. This learning has been acknowledged through songs, counting with building blocks and animals and incorporating counting throughout daily play. We’ve counted crayons while sorting them, counting children as they come into the classroom at drop-off.

The children have also been expanding on fine motor skills by using self-help boards (buttoning and using strings to tie bows), stacking tables, string beads, Play-Stix, and poly blocks.

We are continuing to reinforce positive behavior by having a child be “Top Dog of the Day.” Every day a child will be acknowledged. A “Top Dog” is one who helps out a friend, clean up behind himself/herself, uses good listening ears, respectful, etc. The picture of the Top Dog is located on the classroom door.

The children were charmed by ramps and watching cars go down the big wooden incline plane blocks. Because of the children curiosity, in small groups the children experimented with different size tubes. The children were given the opportunity to hypothesize if the object would go down the tube or not. To see if the children hypothesis were correct, an

REMINDERS

- The last day of the semester is Friday, Dec. 15. Full-day child care is available during Interim (Dec. 18-20 and Jan. 2-12) 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. Schedule changes are due by Jan. 3rd.

- Spring semester starts on Tuesday, January 16. The center will be closed on Monday, Jan. 15 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.
experiment was conducted and their answers were noted.

We would like to say thank you for allowing us to help your child grow. For those of you who are students, best wishes to you on your finals! We hope you all enjoy your winter break.

Stay warm, safe and we will see you all next semester!

Ann Kuta and Jaquida Wynn

Preschool-2

It's hard to believe the end of 2017 is upon us! This Fall semester has gone by extremely fast. First off, Hillary and I would like to thank you all for joining us for our Parent Teacher Conferences. It's such a nice opportunity to be able to meet with all of you and share what we have been observing and learning about your child throughout the semester. We would like to thank the parents who have come into our classroom to read a book with the children. They always enjoy hearing a new voice. We welcome any of you to join our classroom to share a story with us, a cooking activity, or a unique interest of yours, we would love to have you!

Throughout this month, the children have exhibited an interest in literacy. Not only are they intrigued by a teacher reading to them, but they are also excited to read to their friends and retell popular stories. Many of our friends are able to predict what will happen next in a story and discuss emotions and feelings of characters in the story. We are also encouraging the children to create their own stories by drawing pictures or having the teachers dictate the words for their story. We have very imaginary children in our classroom with exciting adventures.

The children have shown an interest in science activities this past month. We have made predictions on what materials will sink or float in a pool of water. The children love taking a guess at whether or not the object will sink or float and get very excited when their guess was correct. We have also participated in ‘erupting’ science experiments that involve baking soda and vinegar. The children are always amazed to see the chemical reaction between the two when the bubbling and fizzing begins. We also did a science experiment with celery and food color. They were surprised to see the celery turned the same color as the color in the cup.

During the last week of the semester, Hillary and I would like to end the semester with a fun day. On Thursday December 14th we would like to have a stuffed animal parade. We are asking the children to wear their pajamas to school and bring in a favorite stuffed animal. Throughout the day we will be parading around the center with our stuffed animals, making graphs, counting,
talking about similarities and differences. We are looking forward to a fun filled day.

Hillary and I would like to thank you for a great semester. This is always a busy time of the year but continue to work hard. Good luck on your finals and have a wonderful end of 2017! We are looking forward to a great spring semester.

Diane Mathison and Hillary Rosher

Preschool-3
This semester has gone by quickly! It’s good to be back from student teaching and back into the swing of things! Spending eight weeks in first grade was a new experience for me, and I feel like I learned a lot! I missed the personal connections and daily conversations you get to have with children and their families, and realized how important it is to work to build those home-school connections because there are far less opportunities once you get to elementary school.

I’ve always loved children’s books and using books in the classroom to enrich the curriculum. I experienced just how important it is to develop a love for reading at an early age, because once children get to elementary school the expectations are high and they spend a lot of time focused on literacy and language. In the classroom, Leslie and I have talked about literacy extensions. When the children are interested in a book, we are looking for ways to use that interest and expand upon it! One example, would be our Going on a Bear Hunt project! The children were interested in the song before, and

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!
we’ve expanded on is Pete the Cat. This series is great for fostering positive social and emotional development while reading fun books! Pete’s moral of the story, always has a positive message that we try to expand on with the children. For Pete the Cat, we made individual early readers that the children were able to bring home. The book activity provided children with an opportunity to practice following directions, name colors, work on fine motor skills, and practice reading. The repetitive, predictable text is great for building confidence and the children could “read” the book themselves. We’ll continue looking for more books of interest to build on! If you have any favorites at home, please share with us so we can incorporate those into the classroom too!

This month in the science center, we have explored ladybugs and beetles, magnets, and now are learning more about worms! It’s not the best time of year to explore a topic of worms, but one day Scott and Lucas used Styrofoam extras in the art area and made their own worm homes. This led to a deeper conversation about where worms live, what they eat, if we could find worms on the playground now, and other questions. We found a container that would make a good worm farm. Scott took it home and filled it with dirt! Leslie brought in some worms, and we started our investigation! We’ve read books now on why worms are important, what they eat, and observed them crawling in some dirt! We made our own worm farm at the science table, and are hoping to see the worms create tunnels soon!

We hope your families can enjoy the end of the semester and that it’s not too stressful! Please let us know if there’s anything you would like more information on, or assistance with! There are many resources here at NIU!

Please remember hats and gloves each day! Most likely we’ll be wearing snow pants and boots soon as well. When the children are dressed appropriately and prepared for the weather, our outside time is much more enjoyable!

Leslie Dolan & Jen Young
Campus Child Care will begin using the Remind App, to communicate center wide information and reminders. You can join in by following the directions below.

**Option 1**- If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iphone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: [Rmd.at/f3896f](http://Rmd.at/f3896f)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You’ll be prompted to download the mobile app.

**Option 2**- If you don’t have a smartphone get text notifications.

Text the message @f3896f to the number 81010.

If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @f3896f to (484) 652-8824.

Don’t have a Mobil phone? Go to rmd.at/f3896f on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

We will still use email as our main way to communicate but wanted to give people more options to get notifications!!
Illness and the Campus Child Care Policy:

As the **flu season** approaches, I want to remind everyone of the health practices we have in place. First and foremost, I would encourage all of you to get a flu shot. Even if someone gets the flu, symptoms could be lessened if they had the vaccine. As a parent, it is a good idea to conduct a quick health assessment of your child each morning before bringing him/her to the center.

Look for signs such as: crankiness; fatigue; decrease in appetite; temperature over 100.5; headache; sore throat; vomiting; diarrhea. Children need to remain at home until they are no longer sick, but that doesn’t mean they have to be completely symptom-free to return to school (a runny nose or mild cough may last a long time). If the flu becomes a concern, we will implement a stricter policy, such as remaining home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Sometimes it’s hard to distinguish between a child who is mildly ill and OK to be at school versus a child who needs to stay home. Things to look for include multiple symptoms, and the child’s ability to function throughout a normal school day. Also watch for the recurrence of a fever with a worsening cough; this is a significant indicator of the flu. Overall, you should monitor your child to see if s/he is feeling worse, rather than better. If a child cannot get through a regular school day or needs considerable comfort or extra rest, we will not be able to provide care for them in a group setting.

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.