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
INFANT ROOM

Dear infant families,

Alex and I want to say thank you to all of you for an amazing fall semester. We have truly enjoyed getting to know all of you and your precious child. Being in the infant room can be challenging at times, but the fun and loveable times always shine through. We appreciate all of the suggestions, crucial conversations, and stories that you have shared with us over the past four months. We are extremely excited to have more in the spring. Thank you also for taking time out of your busy schedules to meet with us at conference time. We hope you have been enjoying the documentation that has been shared with you. Please let us know if you have any questions.

We want to wish Danah and her family the best of luck with the remainder to the year. We will miss you Danah!

MEMORABLE MILESTONES

Ali is more confident in her walking ability; it seems to be her mode of traveling now
Elena began taking a few steps for the last few weeks. We are continuing to encourage her to walk to us, as we are scooting further back!
Emily is getting very good at sitting all by herself. She can reach forward to pick up toys and straighten herself up again.
Rowan is moving on her tummy in circles. We will put toys to the right or left of her so she has to problem solve how to reach them.
Khloe has begun to pull herself up to a standing position with the help of shelves or people.
Kameron will investigate the room by creeping

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. And 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.
along the floor, army crawl style. Harrison has been attempting to say a few words and wave. Skylar loves hearing her name, when she hears it, she will turn to the speaker and give a big smile. Saylor is sooooo close to rolling from her back to her tummy. Martha will pivot around on her tummy to reach toys and creep backwards. Danah went from moving around with an army crawl, to being up on her hands and knees.

We are continuing to provide the older children with daily art experiences. It is important that the children have the ability to grasp the tools and have the gross motor control to sit up and participate. If you have not yet seen much artwork from your child, do not worry— you will soon. The younger children are focusing on head control, tummy time, and building social skills. These are just a few of the important milestones for them.

**REMINDERS**
Cold weather is here, please remember we will be going outside every day when the temperature (with the wind chill) is higher than 10. We recommend that you have a set of mittens, a hat, boots/shoes and a snowsuit here. You may want to check your child’s extra clothes bin to make sure they have the appropriate clothing for the season. If your child does go home in Campus Child Care clothing, please return them as soon as possible. If it is too difficult to get them washed, please just return them and we can wash them.

Have a great month!
Sherie Newman & Alex McAnally

**TODDLER ROOM**
The semester is coming to an end and it feels like it just started. It is just amazing to see the growth and development in the children this semester. All of the children have graduated to sleeping on cots! We celebrated the first 2nd birthday last month. Lynn is the first 2 year old with Isabel, Genevieve, and Ryan all turning 2 before the start of the spring semester. We definitely have a room full of very busy, independent toddlers each with unique and individual personalities. The children discovered autonomy, and are interested in doing things for themselves. They enjoy participating in things like washing hands,
self-serving at meal times, wiping noses, putting things away and toileting. Language is another area of tremendous growth, for some of the children it has seemed to develop overnight! A few of our student workers who are new to this age group are amazed with all the growth they have witnessed. It has been an amazing semester for us.

Last month we added new dolls, a wheel chair, and walker to the dramatic play area in order to help expand the interest in dolls. Some of the older children use the dolls with the walker and the wheel chair while some push them around the classroom. The difference in the way the children use the dramatic play materials is a reflection of their development of pretend play. The children are using the play to mimic what they know from their own life experiences. Throughout the day, you can observe children caring for the baby dolls by feeding, holding, rocking, and changing the dolls. The children dress up in the clothing, use the backpacks and hand bags then pretend to go off to work or school. Sometimes it may be a trip to the store. Talking on the cell phone to parents throughout the day continues now and the conversations are more than just hi and bye. The conversations can include who is present in the classroom or what the child is doing at the time. The dolls will continue to be a part of dramatic play and as the growth in pretend play continues other items will be incorporated in the area as well.

As cold and flu season is upon us, we are ramping up the hand wash-

**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!
ing due to more wiping of noses by both the children and adults in the classroom. The proper hand washing procedure is posted on the wall by the child size sink. In order to simply it for the toddlers, we say water, soap, water. The children and adults are required to wash for a full 15 seconds. We count or sing to help be sure to scrub for the right length of time. All that hand washing leads to dry hands so we give the children hand lotion to help ease the dryness. The center supplies Aveeno or a generic version of Aveeno for the children to use. All the scented lotions you see by the kitchen area sink are for adult use. If you prefer we use something else for your child, please feel free to send it with your child.

Reminders:
- We have had several runny noses due to colds and illnesses and have used all of the soft facial tissues some of you generously donated. We will gladly accept more tissue boxes for use in place of the tissue NIU provides.
- Please label your child’s coat, hat, mittens, gloves, snow pants, and boots. It is difficult for us to remember what items belong to each child. Please label the extra clothing for your child that you bring to the center.

Good Luck on finals and Happy Holidays!

Kellie Fuss & Pam Yockey

TWO/THREE-1

December is here already! This semester has flown by!

Thank you to our families for meeting with us for your child’s conference! We enjoy this time with you!

We finished our curriculum on farm and farm animals. The children really enjoyed learning about the different aspects of farm life. A big thank you to Sherie for bringing in a variety of live chickens for us to observe every day. That was so much fun! We learned animal/baby animal names, the sounds each animal makes, jobs of the farmer, and we learned what types of food we get from farm animals and the type of equipment farmers use every day.

The children love music! We had a stage and musical instruments in dramatic play for about 3 weeks. I brought in a banjo, guitar and violin for the children to try. We had a parade in the preschool classrooms with our instruments and sang songs. We offer music in our class each day. We are focusing on counting songs and number songs at the time being. We are learning “5 green and speckled frogs”, “1,2, buckle my shoe”, “The day I went to sea”, and we will be learning more. We will also incorporate the meaning of one,
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](http://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!!
Most of the children have a good understanding of the circle shape. We will be working on square and triangle next. We worked on colors as well. They love the color shout chant!

Group time can be challenging at times so we are going to have each child have their own shape with their photo so they can better understand their own space, as well as color and shape recognition.

We have changed dramatic play into a “donut shop” which the children love! We will be singing a donut song about colors and simple subtraction to go along with this area! We also have play money available so children can observe and get an understanding of the exchange of money when purchasing items from stores. It also gives them a type of technology when they take turns with the cash registers.

As you have probably seen by the bulletin board in the room, we are learning how to “fill each other’s bucket.” Any time we see the children being kind or helpful or using kind words to one another, they get to put a “helpful husky” on our bucket. This encourages positive social skills and using words to one another. It also helps with responsibility and helping others.

Speaking of helping others, 2/3-1 is collecting gently used toys for needy families. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please see April.

Here are a few reminders:

- Please label your child’s outerwear with their name.
- Make sure your child has coat, hat and gloves daily.
- Check cubbies for notes and take home any artwork.
- Snow boots are a good idea - the playground gets muddy.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please let us know, we are here for you!

April Kaiser & Kat Dolan

**TWO/THREE-2**

What a month of excitement. We ended October with the building of a scarecrow. It now sits (it got tired of standing) in the garden outside the Large Motor Room. We said goodbye to the farm animals and tractors and hello to fairies, castles, and a birthday party set up in the classroom.

An unexpected interest came up this month. The children have always been interested in the book Victor Vito and Freddie Vasco, but one day a new interest in the book developed. After listing to the story/song on CD, Kendra asked the children about the pictures in
the book. What did they see? Did they see any food? As the children started naming the food, Kendra said, “Let’s make a list.” They all followed her to the table, where she got out a notebook and pencil from the shelves, and started asking the children about the different foods. Seeing Kendra writing, Amelia got her own notebook and pencil. As Kendra was making her list, so was Amelia. After making the list, we all went on a “shopping” field trip to the manipulative storage room to look through the play food to see if we could find any food on our list. We found most of the food on our list except watermelon, rutabagas and collard greens. Then it turned into a real field trip. We ended up going to all three preschool rooms and the toddler room to find watermelon but we still could not find rutabagas or collard greens. We showed Amy and Kristin our listed and asked them if they had rutabagas or collard greens. Amy thought she should check her lunch box. No rutabagas or collard greens. Kristin had a green plant, no collard greens.

The following week Kendra brought in real collard greens from Schnucks and we cooked them. Everyone who helped tear the collard greens for cooking tasted them raw. Everett devoured them. When it came time to taste the cooked greens at lunch, only Kendra and I would eat them. After seeing Kendra get a second helping, Nora said she would try them. She even asked for tobacco sauce, just like in the book. She said she liked them. The next week, Kendra brought in rutabagas from Hy-Vee. They were not as popular as the collard greens. Outside the children were interested in digging for rutabagas in our sandbox.

All month we have been looking for numbers in the classroom. We have even been talking about “more”. How five is more than one or how two is more than one. To help illustrate this, for group times, we use sorting keys and number cards to show the children. We even used sign language to reinforce the concept. We have foam numbers in the room from one through nine to help with number recognition and naming. The number nine does not look quite like a typical nine and Pax noticed this. He says the nine is not a number, but a letter. Connor noticed that our clocks have numbers and are different shapes, rectangle and circle. Now wherever we go, we look for clocks, talk about the numbers (especially the digital clocks) and what shape they are.
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.