DIRECTOR’S DESK

The semester is moving along quickly, as usual. Mid-terms are over so now it seems we’re quickly heading into the last month of the semester! I’m sure everyone is looking forward to the long holiday weekend that is coming up at the end of the month.

Thanks so much to our staff and students who participated in the Homecoming Parade in October. Some photos of the event are included at the end of the newsletter. This was the third year CCC participated in the parade and we won second place for our float! Our staff has really enjoyed supporting NIU in this way.

Please refer to the text box later in this newsletter for more information regarding our re-enrollment process! Janene will hold all paperwork at the front desk and give it to parents to be completed at the center. The process will start during the week of Nov. 9. You will then sign your contract during the last week in November in order to secure your spot for spring semester.

The teachers are busy preparing for parent conferences. The dates for your child’s classroom will be posted by the classroom sign-in sheets and are also listed inside this newsletter in the Calendar of Events. All parents are expected to meet with your child’s primary teacher. They will be sharing information using our assessment tool (Teaching Strategies Gold) that is directly tied to The Creative Curriculum. Please keep in mind that we do make referrals if we feel a child needs some additional assessment or services, and we expect parents to follow up with these as it is essential to your child’s overall growth and development. Very often, something like a vision, hearing, or speech problem can be addressed at a very young age. If left undiagnosed and untreated, however, it could lead to permanent or long-term issues. We see sharing this type of information with parents as an important part of the work we do.

We often remind parents to dress their children appropriately for the weather—coats, boots, hats, mittens for winter, etc. Right now is a tricky time of year because the mornings start out cold but the sun is still somewhat strong and we can have warmer weather during the day. If you send your child in full winter attire, including mittens, hats, scarves, etc. but it has warmed up by mid-day, then these items will not be worn by your child when they go outside. We will use our best judgment to decide what is best for your child at that time. We want to make sure children do not become over-heated as they are running around outside; so, we will make those decisions to take hats, mittens, and scarves off if it’s too warm; and to put them on if it’s cold.

Aniyolah (P4), Jack (P1), and Khira (P2), Playing with NIU Drumline.

NOVEMBER 2015
In this Issue:

- Preschool Room 1
  - Spirit Week Wrap up
  - Areas of Interest
  - Reminders

- Preschool Room 2
  - Learning and Engagement
  - Literacy Creation
  - Art Experiences

- Preschool Room 3
  - Social and Emotional Curriculum
  - Sneaky fine motor tricks
  - STEM at work

- Preschool Room 4
  - Science Inquiry
  - Daily Structure
  - Class Jobs

- Articles and Other Info
  - Calendar of Events
  - Homecoming Float Photos
  - Re-Enrollment Process
And, as a reminder, children do not get sick from being outside, they get sick from being inside with all of the germs. And, wrapping them up to the point where they are overheated can be an unsafe practice and does not protect them from illness. We work closely with our nurse on all health and wellness related issues and also utilize the Academy of Pediatrics as a resource when creating center policies. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please don’t hesitate to talk with us. And, as some of the illness continues, please keep your child home if they have active symptoms such as vomiting or diarrhea. This time of year we typically see more upper-respiratory illness. Children may attend as long as their breathing is not of concern, do not have a temperature above 100.5, and can participate in the regular day’s activities.

Good luck with the remainder of the semester and enjoy the holiday break!

Chris Kipp

Preschool Room 1

October was such a busy month! We welcomed Bri into our classroom as the new Pre 1 teacher! She has been getting to know all the children and families, and is so excited to see what the remainder of the semester holds!

The weather also has been changing with the leaves falling off trees and turning colors. Pumpkins and gourds were brought in and we discussed how they grew on vines with different colored flowers. We then cut them open and saw how they looked

REMINDERS

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

- Although classes are not scheduled on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, CCC will be open for business as usual. This means everyone will be billed their regular daily fee even if your child does not attend. The Center will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26 & Friday, Nov. 27.

- Interim requests have been sent out. You must return this form by Nov. 6 if you need full-day child care any time during the Dec/Jan break.

- 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.

GO HUSKIES!!
different and similar. We talked about what was inside of them and what they felt like. We also guessed the weight and size of the pumpkins and compared them.

Homecoming week was so much fun, with the spirit days and dressing up. The children really enjoyed showing off their school spirit and being a part of the center festivities. Fancy day was our favorite day, we even had a super hero in the classroom!

The children also have been interested in ocean animals and horses. They have been building homes for them with blocks and Legos, and taking them to the tables and making horse sounds and having races.

We have also been talking about where horses live and what they eat. We even researched the names of different horses and the children now use those terms during play. For the upcoming weeks be on the lookout for conference sign ups.

- Jen’s are already posted next to the door, and Bri’s will be held during the last week in November.
- Make sure to check your child’s cubby and clothes bin as the seasons are changing quickly!

Bri Wicker and Jen Young

Preschool Room 2

Pre 2 has been buzzing with activity this month! As fall fell upon us, the children have experienced many different things such as the changing leaves, acorns, new bugs, and a pumpkin! We explored the outside of the pumpkin and hypothesized on the weight and size of the pumpkin before we dove into it and investigated the inside of the pumpkin. Not only were we able to identify the physical properties of the pumpkin but we were also able to taste the cooked seeds and
make pumpkin muffins as a class!

We have also been embracing nature by creating homemade birdfeeders. We used some pine cones that we found along our nature walk, peanut butter, and bird seed. The children had the opportunity to pick a spot on the tree outside our classroom to hang their birdfeeder. We have enjoyed watching for animals who may be coming along to grab a snack! This has helped the children have a deeper understanding of living things and their needs and habits.

The children in Pre 2 have been extremely interested in showing off their writing skills. Many of the children ask how to spell things and by sounding out letters, they are able to identify and write the letters. Diane and I have been so impressed by the skill set of these young children! A lot of our friends also created stories with the help of their teachers and classic story props such as ‘The 3 Little Pigs’. The children illustrated the photo and spoke the words that the teacher wrote on their page. We had a lot of fun exploring the creativity of the children’s stories. These activities have demonstrated a strength in the literacy skills of the children. They are beginning to understand that words and letters are used to convey meaning and are understanding the parts of the story such as the illustrator, author, and plot.

Our friends have also demonstrated their interest in artwork. We have done various types of artwork such as marble painting, Q-Tip painting on foil, painting with the wheels of plastic cars, and using a mirror to create self-portraits. Not only have the children had fun with these activities, but they have also helped strengthen the children’s fine motor skills.

One of the student workers at Campus Child Care participates in the NIU Drumline. She was able to get some of her drumline friends together and come perform for the children at Campus Child Care! We had so much fun watching the drummers, clapping and dancing along to their music, and then drumming on their drums when they were finished! The children had the opportunity to participate in a new and interesting musical experience that was unique to us.

Finally, Diane and I would like to remind our families of a few things. First of all, as the colder weather approaches, please begin to switch out the extra clothing in your child’s bin in the bathroom. Long pants, shirts, and sweatshirts are welcome! Also, please label any and all cloth-
ing that is brought into the center so we reduce the risk of misplacing items, as we know they are im-
portant to you and your family. Also, parent teacher conferences are approaching, be sure to be on
the lookout for the sign up sheets with your child’s primary care giving teacher. Thank you for all of
your support throughout the semester so far. We are thoroughly enjoying spending time with your
child and watching them grow and learn. It’s such a pleasure.

Have a wonderful fall!
Emily Stoll and Diane Mathison

Preschool Room 3

What a fabulous Fall we are having. It has been great to enjoy so much sunshine on the playground.
We have taken advantage by bringing out the cd player, art supplies and added new items to our
playhouse.

We continue to work on our social skills every day. A favorite ECE professional of mine is Dr. Becky
Bailey and I implement some of her ideas into the classroom each semester. This helps us connect
our Everyone Matters (anti-bias) curriculum as well. We are now discussing how we can be a STAR in
the classroom. We find ways of helping others or making others feel better when they are sad. We
have a game that we play during small group — there are several stars on the table and each star
has a question about a different situation and how we can help out and be a STAR. The children
have really gotten into this way of thinking. Every time they do something kind to help another, they
get their name on a star on the bulletin board. This is a concept that families could easily do at
home too!

### 3 STEPS to CCC Enrollment

**Application — Placement — Contract**

**Week of Nov. 9**— An application packet will be available for you to pick up, at the front desk, to
re-enroll for Spring semester. All paperwork must be completed at the center (it cannot go
home with you), so allow 5-10 minutes to review your information and fill out the re-enrollment
paperwork. You will need to know the schedule you are requesting and any changes regarding contact information.

**Week of Nov. 16**— We will place children in classrooms based on the schedule you have re-
quested and availability (returning children will remain in the same classroom).

**Week of Nov. 30**— You will need to sign the contract in order to secure your child’s space for
the upcoming semester. Anyone who does not sign a contract this week will lose priority place-
ment because new families will begin enrolling.
Many of us prefer to play actively in areas rather than work on our printing skills, which is great; this gives me the opportunity to add fine motor development in different areas throughout the classroom. We made silly putty and added bugs and spiders. The children enjoy pulling out the creatures with their fingers, which in turn builds their muscles in their hands and fingers that they need to be able to print letters! Pretty clever! We also took the silly putty and hung it from the ceiling and counted how long it took for it to hit the table! It was fun watching and waiting for it to fall!

We spent some time learning about physics this month. With our silly putty activity we discussed gravity and that’s why the silly putty wasn’t staying up at the ceiling; gravity was pulling it back down to the table. We also learned about force. The more force you use the faster the wooden balls rolled. We also made ramps. The children designed the ramps and through trial and error they were able to figure out that the higher the beginning ramp, the better the chance that the ball could go over the other ramps in the track! Great math as well as team building experience!

The NIU drumline came and played for us on the playground! If you have never gotten a chance to hear them, you should! They are awesome! We had a great time listening, dancing and getting to

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<th>Calendar of Events</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 6</strong> — Interim applications due back to Janene</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 13</strong> — Spring applications due back to Janene</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 26 &amp; 27</strong> — Center closed for holiday</td>
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<td><strong>Dec. 4</strong> — Signed Contracts due back to Janene</td>
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<td><strong>Dec. 11</strong> — last day of Fall Semester</td>
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<td><strong>Dec. 14—Jan. 15</strong> — Interim (only full-day care is available for those who sign up in advance). NIU is closed from Dec. 24—Jan. 1.</td>
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<th>Parent-Teacher Conference Schedule</th>
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<td>(everyone is expected to meet with their child’s teacher)</td>
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<td>Week of Nov. 2 — Kendra (2/3-2); Jen (Pre 1); April (Pre 3); Carol (Toddlers)</td>
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<td>Week of Nov. 9 — Kellie (Toddlers); Sherie (2/3-1); Christy (Pre 4)</td>
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<td>Week of Nov. 16 — Barbara (Infants); Hillary (Pre 4); Diane (Pre 2); Pam (2/3-2)</td>
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<td>Week of Nov. 23 — Make up week for missed conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of Nov. 30 — Bri (Pre 1); Emily (Pre 2); Katielyn (Infants); Jaquida (2/3-1)</td>
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know more of our NIU family! They even let us play the instruments!

- Please make sure to check the classroom bulletin board. There are different things added weekly and important information you may need!
- Thank you for participating in the conferences this week. It will be great to sit and discuss your child’s progress so far this year!
- We had a great time dressing up for homecoming week- thanks for all your support!

Enjoy your November!

April Kaiser

Preschool Room 4

With the change of seasons happening outside of the classroom, many new changes have occurred within the classroom. We have gotten to know our newest teacher, Hillary this past month, as well as experienced making applesauce from scratch and exploring pumpkins. These two activities have encouraged the children to learn measurements, make hypotheses, and foster their desire to learn about elements of nature.

Together we have collaborated on a new daily schedule that reinforces structure and consistency for our classroom. Some of the features of this include a helper job board, which encourages individual responsibility among the children. One responsibility involves our new classroom pet, who is a fish and resides on our classroom counter. We will be getting a new one soon as Ariel just passed away and we made a book about her. Each day there will be a new fish feeder among the other responsibilities assigned to each child.

This year we are providing picture clues for the children. Picture clues are designed to promote the children’s concept of “what comes next” in their daily schedule. It also functions as a tool to promote reading readiness.

As always, we encourage parents and families to express their questions or concerns with us anytime. Within the next few weeks, a schedule will be posted in our classroom with dates and times
available to schedule a parent teacher conference. Please make sure to sign up as soon as possible. If the various times given do not work for you, we can gladly make accommodations to suit your schedule.

During the conference we will discuss the various skills we have been working on in classroom. This will also allow you time to ask any questions that you may have about the development of your child. We have enjoyed the time spent with your child thus far and look forward to the months ahead!

Have a safe and healthy fall.

Hillary Rosher and Christy Pelikan

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**Assessment Tools for Teachers and Parents**

Campus Child Care utilizes Teaching Strategies Gold an online assessment tool for teachers. This tool falls in line with our current use of the Creative Curriculum, another Teaching Strategies product.

The teachers are using GOLD to assess the development of each child based on 38 research-based objectives that include predictors of school success and are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, state early learning guidelines, and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. These help teachers focus on what matters most for children’s success.

During your parent conferences you will have an opportunity to see this assessment tool if you have not already looked at it. Teachers have sent parents an invitation to join Teaching Strategies so you can view your child’s documentation, see the assessment tools and reports uploaded by the teachers, and add your own family observations to create a clearer picture of your child’s development. If you have any questions about this, please talk with your child’s teacher.

We look forward to working with you and using this amazing tool together!
HOMECOMING PARADE
Huskies Light the Way.....

Float Participants—Barbara (& Anthony), Kendra (and Jack & Margaret), Sherie, Pam, Amy, Jaquida (& Khira), Katilyn, April, Hillary. Student staff: Cynthia, Falucq, Shannon, Becca W., Natalalee, Maria, and Elena.