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 is 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.
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

Infant Room

What a busy month of learning and growing. The children are getting more and more mobile in their different ways and moving all around the classroom. With this mobility, we’ve been going to the playground around the ten o’clock hour. The fresh air gets them away from the germs that naturally get trapped indoors and the wide open space and different terrain increases their cognitive functioning, not to mention their gross motor mobility.

During our inside time the children have been exploring paint and water. With the paint the children have used foam pool noodles, which represented Pete the Cats buttons (a popular character from some of our classroom books), wooden blocks in the shapes of triangles, squares, and rectangles, and of course their own fingers and hands (sometimes mouths too) to explore the texture, temperature, and consistency of the paint. The water has been a big splash. Literally and figuratively! It doesn’t matter if we put sponges, plastic floating shapes, or pool noodles in the water, plain old water is a hit by itself. The cause and effect exploration of the water with their own hands and feet, creates fun sensory in and of itself.

This past month we’ve introduced some new topics for the children. Basic geometry (shapes), math concepts (colors, po-
sitional awareness, and counting), emergent reading skills (books and page turning or book orientation), and earth science (collecting items from nature). Related to geometry, one of the things we did was look for shapes around campus. Reading comes pretty naturally in the infant room. Pete the Cat or any book that comes with music is extremely popular. And for earth science, one thing we did, was collect a jar full of acorns over a one week period. The children held the jar for us, while we found mostly brown and some green acorns with and without caps. In the classroom the jar is a popular item to shake and roll over the floor.

Of course music is an everyday occurrence in our classroom, but this past month we got to experience it outside. One of the students from Campus Child Care is in the N.I.U. drumline. She and many of her drumline friends came on a Friday morning and put on a performance for the whole center. Who knew drums could create such a diverse musical sound.

So much more has happened, but these are a few of the highlights and a brief recap of what has happened. To find out more of what goes on, on a daily and weekly basis, in the infant room, don’t forget to read the Weekly Reflection posted on the bulletin board by the classroom door.

Have a great month!

Barbara Zeman & Kaitlyn Ostenson

Toddler Room

Happy November! The semester seems to be moving along rapidly. We have become very familiar with the children and their routines. In return the children have become more comfortable and trusting of us. Since the start of the semester we have observed many changes in the development of the children. Carol and I will be sharing your child’s progress during parent/teacher conferences at the beginning of this month. Carol will be meeting with parents of her primary children during the week of November 2-6 and I will be meeting with parents of my primary children during the week of November 9-13. If you have not had an opportunity to schedule your meeting, please talk to one of us and we will get one scheduled that works with your schedule. We both look forward to meeting with you.

Toddlerhood is a time for children to learn about the world around them and how and where they fit into the world. Have you ever heard the toddler rule, “if I ever touched it… it is mine or if I ever looked at it… it is mine”. It is very true and you probably do not see this rule played out much in your home environment as we do here in the classroom group care setting. Toddlers are beginning to develop empathy for others; however the self-centered stage is not completely over. The concept of sharing and turn taking doesn’t develop fully until the preschool years. Many times throughout the day the teaching staff assists the children in order to negotiate the claims of owner-
ship of a toy. The adults are helping the children understand that a toy is being used by someone else and redirecting to another toy either identical or similar which is not being used. You may hear us using the words “that sorter is busy; when (name) is done you can use it”. We encourage a child to use the word “busy” over “mine” because our classroom is a community in which the materials are for all children to use and explore. You can work on this at home too while playing with your child. When your child wants something you have you can tell him or her you will let them use it when you are done.

Last month, the children had an opportunity to explore a variety of art media. At the easel the children were able to explore with crayons, markers, and chalk. The art/writing materials are left on the easel tray and available during free play. We are noticing we are reminding the children less frequently to keep the materials at the easel. Some of the materials the children have had an opportunity to use during group art activities have been paint with paint brushes, finger paint, paint blotter bottles, oil crayons, as well as glue and collage material. While participating in art the children use their small muscles of their hands as they hold and grasp the tool. At this time many of the children are beginning to use the pincer grasp over the palmer grasp while holding onto the tools. Art is also a tactile and visual sensory experience.

As a reminder, we will continue to go outside as the weather gets colder as long as the temperature with the wind chill is 15 degrees or warmer. After the time changes and it becomes too dark to go out at the end of the day, we will only be going out in the morning. Please be sure to label all outdoor items so we can help get things back in the correct cubby. Part of helping the children with self help skills is allowing them to remove their outdoor clothing and put it away in his or her cubby. Sometimes, okay, most of the time it gets put in the wrong cubby and we do our best to catch it, but we aren’t always able to. If you can’t find something at the end of the day, it could be in another child’s cubby or hiding in the classroom. If this is your first child, toddler hood is the beginning of the winter weather ritual of losing mittens. It might be helpful to get a few pairs of mittens before the stores run out.

Carol and I are available to answer your questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to talk to one of us anytime. Have a great month.

*Kellie Fuss & Carol Schroder*
2/3's–1

Wow! Can you believe that we are half-way through the semester already? Time sure does move fast when you are having fun!

The weather is changing and it is that time to start preparing to bring in heavier coats, hats, gloves, and mittens for your child. With the recent weather changes, Sherie and I have been discussing the different seasons, going on nature walks in search of colorful leaves, pine cones, and acorns, along with having discussions about the temperature changes. We also have been reading books about fall, and having discussions about the appropriate clothing attire for the cold weather so that the children are aware of what should be worn outdoors.

Just like last month, the children are still showing a strong interest in art and sensory activities. The children have been busy exploring different types of media including, finger paints, water colors, collages, and the children worked especially hard to make sculptures from wood using glue and tape. You can find their sculptures up front by Janene’s desk; stop by and check them out! Since the childrens’ interests continue to be with art and sensory activities, Sherie and I have already started thinking of incorporating some different materials such as Q-tips, play dough, tape, and paint. Our plan is to put these materials out so the children can come together as a group and work together as a team to build and use their creativity to create a sculpture. We can’t wait to see the end results!

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!
The children have also enjoyed the gross motor activities we have implemented in our classroom. We brought in the trampoline, a climber, and we even put tape on the floor for children to move about on the lines. This is such a great activity for perceptual motor.

Our student worker, Ashley Oare, recently invited the NIU drumline to come and play for the children. The children very much enjoyed the performance, and are still talking about it. Sherie and I would like to thank Ashley for setting this up. That same week our dramatic play area was changed. A stage, drum set, microphones and other musical instruments were provided for the children to explore. It was so fun to see them perform, and to role play their own “drumline.”

Parent-teacher conference will be here in no time! Sherie’s conferences will be held November 9-13 and Jaquida’s conferences will be November 30-December 4. There will be a sheet posted by the cubbies for you to sign up, so keep a look out for them.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to ask at any time. Happy November!!

Jaquida Wynn & Sherie Newman

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**Calendar of Events**

**Nov. 6**—Interim applications due back to Janene

**Nov. 13**—Spring applications due back to Janene

**Nov. 26 & 27**—Center closed for holiday

**Dec. 4**—Signed Contracts due back to Janene

**Dec. 11**—last day of Fall Semester

**Dec. 14—Jan. 15**—Interim (only full-day care is available for those who sign up in advance). NIU is closed from Dec. 24-Jan. 1.

**Parent-Teacher Conference Schedule**

*(everyone is expected to meet with their child’s teacher)*

- **Week of Nov 2** — Kendra (2/3-2); Jen (Pre 1); April (Pre 3); Carol (Toddlers)
- **Week of Nov. 9** — Kellie (Toddlers); Sherie (2/3-1); Christy (Pre 4)
- **Week of Nov. 16** — Barbara (Infants); Hillary (Pre 4); Diane (Pre 2); Pam (2/3-2)
- **Week of Nov. 23**— Make up week for missed conferences
- **Week of Nov. 30** — Bri (Pre 1); Emily (Pre 2); Katilyn (Infants); Jaquida (2/3-1)
This month I really wanted to share with families about our classroom study on tools. It has been ongoing since the beginning of the semester, when Martin and some of the other children used some pieces from our ramps as saws. We then watched a video of a man using a hand saw to cut a log. We pulled out our plastic saws and the children started using them to cut wood, blocks, play food and more! That led us to wonder, “Who else uses tools?” When the NIU police came to visit our class, we asked this question, and they showed us all of the tools they use to help keep NIU safe.

Not long after the NIU police visited, the children started using the saws to “cut” my hair. That led us to wonder again, “What kinds of tools do beauticians use?” Emily, from Pre-2, used to be a beautician. She visited us and brought in some of her specialized tools – like hair scissors, combs, clips and a blow dryer. We also saw how some people get the hair cut with clippers instead of scissors. Arione was excited to tell us about when he gets his hair cut with clippers and the noises the clippers make.

Some workers came to our center to look at the gutters and we noticed they had a cart full of tools! We kept our distance and watched them put together scaffolding for the workers to climb in order to reach the roof.

I asked the children if we could think of anyone in the center who uses tools, and the children and teachers thought of Dan, our janitor. He visited our room and showed us his special cart full of tools for cleaning. We found some play cleaning tools like Dan’s and used them in our room for a week, pretending to clean up.

While by the janitors room we noticed the kitchen and wondered, “Who is in there and do they use tools?” Ariss walked right in and asked Karen if we could see the tools she uses. She showed Ariss an apple slicer, whisk, and her special knives she uses to cut up foods for us. We went back and visited the kitchen and learned that Karen uses tools like; a stove/oven, dishwasher, apple slicer, can opener, fan and microwave. Evy said, “We use a microwave at home and it makes thing really hot!”

And today two nursing students came to visit us, the nurses brought stethoscopes, and blood pressure cuffs. They told us these are some of the tools they use! Wow!! What a connection the children made. We took a lot of pictures of the children using these tools with the nurses. The children really explored the parts of the tools. They listened to the air coming from the blood pressure cuff and to the sounds they heard while using the stethoscopes.

So, do you have any tools at your homes? Tools you use for hobbies or maintenance? Maybe kitchen tools? I am sure your child would love to talk to you and maybe try to use those tools.

You might ask, “How does a study benefit my child?” A study, focuses on a centralized topic – this can encourage thought, and focus. Teachers can provide information for children that they may not have seen, experienced or thought of before. Using a study can expand their knowledge base, so we can “build” their
If you’d like to see more of what we have done with our study come look at the large bulletin board in our classroom, and stay and talk with us!

Kendra Nenia & Pam Yockey

### 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 requested 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 placement because new families will begin enrolling.
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.