DIRECTOR’S DESK

The semester is moving along very quickly. Mid-terms are over so now it seems we’re quickly heading into the last month of the semester!

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

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. 7. 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 parent info boards in each classroom 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. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please don’t hesitate to talk with us.

Mehtap and Justin (Pre-3) building friendship!

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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.

Please sign up for a parent conference and fill out your spring semester application!

Kristin Schulz

Preschool Room 1

Pre-1 has had a busy October! We have been doing a lot of observations about the fall changes. We’ve noticed the leaves have been changing on the trees right outside our classroom window, on the playground, and all around. We created fall art in the classroom by drawing trees and gluing on colored fabric leaves. Some children extended this and even added animals or people to their drawings. We have taken a few nature walks to look at the trees and collect the colorful leaves from the ground. We made nature collages from the items we collected, learning that glue is what is needed to hold the materials on the paper. We also went on a pinecone hunt, and decorated the pine cones to hang in our classroom, both with paint and glue and glitter. I really enjoy art, and encouraging children to document what they see either by drawing, coloring, or using the materials around them.

We noticed the temperature outside is getting cooler, and that we need jackets more often than the beginning of the semester. Please make sure your child has a labeled jacket, mittens, and hat here at all times. The other observation is that it’s getting darker sooner. Once the time changes we will have to stay in the classroom at the end of the day because the playground will be dark. Once this happens, you may notice that your child has extra energy to burn at night due to one less recess.

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. 24 & Friday, Nov. 25.

- Interim requests have been sent out. You must return this form by Nov. 4 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!!
We have some budding scientists in the classroom! They have been asking for more science investigations and explorations. We have experimented with mixing different materials together to see the reaction. We have experimented by mixing baking soda and vinegar together. The children get excited to hear the sizzle as they react. We talked about the gas that is created during the reaction and observed it when we put baking soda and vinegar in a bottle and then put a balloon on the top. The gases partially blew up the balloon! For a comparison in another bottle I put in Alka-Seltzer and water. The reaction also created gas, but did not blow up the balloon as much. One fun experiment with Alka-Seltzer and water is putting the two in a film canister and watching the top pop off! Other mixtures we have made this month include play dough that smells like apple pie, galaxy play dough that’s black with glitter, and green gooey slime! We are always mixing something together in Pre-1!

Some children are showing more interest in the writing center and pre-literacy activities. We recently made our own name tags to use at the lunch table. The children were given the option of writing their name or looking for the letters in their name on a sheet of stickers. In a mixed-age classroom we expect to see all levels of pre-literacy skills from children who are not yet interested; children who are starting to recognize letters, especially the letters in their names; children beginning to notice print on signs such as store or restaurant names; children realizing that print carries meaning such as in books, and then using letters as they begin to read and write. We provide a variety of activities to encourage children at whichever stage they’re in and to challenge them to the next level as they’re ready.

At home you can encourage this by providing your child with books and writing materials. When you’re driving point out signs that you see – street signs, stop signs, or store names. Ask them if they can find the letters in their names as you’re driving or at the grocery store. Reading with your child is very important because they see that reading is fun and they enjoy the time you get to spend together. Reading the same book over and over again shows them the print carries a message and the book doesn’t change. In our writing center we recently added stones with letters written on them in marker so the children can search for letters or use the stones to spell their names. You can add letters to the sides of Lego’s or Duplo’s, we have chalkboard blocks that en-
courage children to write store names on them, kids can help write grocery lists, and alphabet fridge magnets are all great ways to encourage literacy!

Jen Young and Bri Wicker

Preschool Room 2
We have been having a lot of fun in our class this past month. It all started with a “Nature Hunt” around the campus we observed many changes to the trees leaves and we collected many items in our bags to bring back to our class. We found pinecone various nuts and seeds colored leaves and a yellow squash laying on the ground. We have created, shadow boxes, animal feeders - experimented by dissecting a pinecone and the squash, painted on and with all the items and we have displayed many of them around our room. Have your child point out where we have used everything from our Nature Hunt.

To add to our scientific Nature and the interest of the children we also did a dissection of a pumpkin we thought of what might be inside the pumpkin. Diane cut it open and we scooped out the seeds and pulp and then separated the seeds and the pulp. The next day we baked the seeds and tried them for snack.

We conducted an Apple tasting. We analyzed 3 different types of apples (Red, Yellow and Green) discussed how each tasted and looked on the inside. Then charted which one each child/teacher liked we looked at our findings to and counted how many votes each apple received to discover which, as a class we liked the best and the least.

That same week we used a Rebus Recipe (picture and words) to make apple sauce. Using pre-reading and math skills we made sure we had all of the ingredients, measured and stirred, and waited all day to taste and eat it for snack. Some of the children needed to be encouraged to try a little bit but we finished all of it for snack.

Events coming up:
Conferences begin Nov. 14 for Diane’s primaries and Nov. 28 for Ann’s primaries Please look for the sign-up sheets when you come into the room on top of the shelves.

Reminders:
• Just a reminder please do not bring toys from home. When the children get their coats some children are moving toys from one child’s cubie to theirs. We would hate to lose a beloved toy.
• Please be sure to check the extra clothes bins in the bathroom to be sure they have weather appropriate clothes.
• Also we try to go outside daily so make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the quickly changing fall weather.
• Please label your child’s belongings because some of the children share cubbies and also because we have found that they have the same clothes.

Ann Kuta and Diane Mathison

Preschool Room 3
I’ll jump right into a reminder about Pre-3 conferences, they are the week of November 14. A reminder note will be put on your child’s cubby.

Thank you to all the families who participated in the homecoming parade, what a fabulous turn out we had! And thank you all for supporting our spirit week. I know it can be a challenge to find all those outfits to go with each day! Thanks for making it special for the children!

We have been working hard on individual goals this past month so we can show each child’s pro-

3 Steps to CCC Enrollment

Application — Placement — Contract

Week of Nov. 7—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. 14—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. 28—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.
gress on the TSG program at conference time. We have been focusing on the importance of books, parts of a book, who writes and who does the artwork in the book, and rules at the library. The children have really enjoyed visiting the NIU Founders library. We get to ride the elevator up to the 4th floor, sit quietly so as not to bother students who are reading and studying, and we each get to choose our own book off the bookshelves. We sometimes have time to read a story while we are there, but we always read them every day for the next week or so because we add them to our classroom bookshelf! We even sit outside on our walk back to read if the weather allows!

It's very exciting for me as a teacher to see all the children begin to discover writing and drawing. We added journal books and each child has their own. They are available all day whenever the children want to use them but we specifically use them right before nap, to help calm bodies and to give each child a quiet time to be able to use writing tools in their own space( on their cot). Some children reinforce printing letters and shapes, some like to draw pictures and have teachers dictate what their pictures are about. This has been a very positive activity that we hope to continue for the rest of the year.

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**Calendar of Events**

- **Nov. 4** — Interim applications due back to Janene
- **Nov. 7** — Spring applications sign up week
- **Nov. 24 & 25** — Center closed for holiday
- **Nov. 28** — Contract week
- **Dec. 9** — last day of Fall Semester
- **Dec. 12—Jan. 13** — Interim (only full-day care is available for those who sign up in advance). NIU is closed from Dec. 23—Jan. 2.

**Parent-Teacher Conference Schedule**

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

- **Week of Oct 31** — Katilyn (Tod); Bri (Pre 1); Hillary (Pre 4)
- **Week of Nov. 7** — Pam (Inf); Barbara (Toddlers); Denise (2/3-2); Emily (Pre 4)
- **Week of Nov. 14** — Kellie (Infants); Sherie(2/3-1); Diane (Pre-2); April (Pre-3)
- **Week of Nov. 21** — Make up week for missed conferences
- **Week of Nov. 28** — Sherie(2/3-1); Kendra (2/3-2); Jen (Pre 1); Ann (Pre 2)
We are introducing rhyming in our literacy part of our curriculum. This has been a difficult concept for the children to grasp. Trying to have them rhyme words to a spoken work has proven to not be the best way to start this process. We have started working on learning simple nursery rhymes and rhyming songs. This seems to be more enjoyable to the children and they really pick up on songs very quickly. Here are a few that you can reinforce by singing them at home:

- Hickory Dickory Dock
- Peas porridge
- 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive
- 1,2, buckle my shoe
- I’m a little teapot (rap version)

If you need the words to these, just let me know and I can get you the words. I’m not opposed to singing them either, your choice!

Though our classroom has a smaller group of children, this doesn’t mean they lack energy! We try to incorporate large motor in our classroom and playground each and every day! The children love it and this helps them release energy and have better focus at group times. Research proves that exercise not only strengthens the muscles and bones of the body, but it also releases endorphins, which make us feel happy and who doesn’t want to feel happy more often? This goes along with our social/emotional development—feeling happy encourages kindness and helpfulness toward others. We talk a lot about when we do kind things for others, it makes our hearts feel happy and fills our bucket as well as our friends’.

Along with offering large motor activities, we as adults, it is our responsibility to role model and offer healthy food choices. Fresh fruits and veggies are delicious and much better for all of us than sugary, high fat snacks, so be sure to offer these to your child everyday and keep in mind if children learns this young, as sees you eating healthy, what a great, healthy lifestyle they will continue in the future! Also remember that a child needs to be introduced to new foods at least 15 times before they might try it, so don’t give up, keep offering new, healthy foods! To encourage better eating at lunch time, we have introduced the ‘terrific taster’ chart. If a child takes just a bite of everything that is offered, they get their name on the chart. We have also done the ‘nifty napper’ chart as well. If a child lays quietly or sleeps on their cot, they get their name on the chart! If you would like to use these at home, go right ahead! You can check out how simple they are to make by looking at ours over by the children’s sink! This would be a great conversation starter at the end of the day so be sure to check it out!

Having daily conversations with families is one of my favorite parts of my day and it helps me understand an area at home...
that may need some extra help from my end here at school. This brought up the topic of bedtime routines in a small group. We had a few children come to the table at a time and tell us about what they do at home to get ready for bed. We then compiled a list of what the children said and put it in numeric order. We came together as a large group later and discussed our list and how they could be responsible at bedtime. Here is what we came up with:

- Watch a little tv/ipad, read books, or play with toys
- Put pajamas on
- Have a bedtime snack
- Brush teeth
- Go potty
- Get in bed
- Give hugs and kisses

Remember that screen time before bed isn’t the best choice. Books are best! Having simple photos next to each activity makes it easier for the child to “read.” Sometimes a chart, something concrete, helps children with a specific routine, and we all know that children do much better when they have a consistent routine!

We have a break at the end of this month, we hope you all enjoy the extra 2 days off!

April Kaiser

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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!
Dear Parents and Families,

Can you believe the fall semester is already more than half way over? Time sure does fly by quickly, and so has the time in Pre 4. Our Pre 4 friends have been doing a tremendous job becoming bucket fillers. The term bucket filling stems from a book called “Have You Filled a Bucket Today.” The concept of bucket filling encourages positive interactions with peers and incorporating kind words into their vocabulary. The children have responded well to this concept and are aware when they are being bucket fillers or bucket dippers. We have reminded them that moms, dads, grandmas, and grandpas have buckets too.

Emily and I have been encouraging the children to become familiar with the letters in their name. We have read several stories, played games, and displayed art work to showcase the letter that their name starts with. We have seen the children find interest in the letter of their name and will continue to encourage learning the rest of the letters in their name. Name recognition is a key skill in growing their emerging reading skills.

Conference season is in full swing, so please make sure to check by the Pre 4 cubbies for a sign-up sheet by your child’s primary teacher. If you do not know who your child’s primary teacher is, feel free to ask and we can direct you to where you can sign up. If the times available do not work for you, Emily and I have no problem rescheduling a time and date at your earliest convenience. We are looking forward to meeting with you and allowing you to see all the hard work your child has accomplished this semester.

As the seasons change, so does the weather. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the soon to be wintery days ahead. This includes: hats, gloves, warm jackets, snow pants, and boots. Please make sure to label each of your child’s clothing and boots, just in case we run into duplicates. Just a friendly reminder that we are required to go outside if the wind chill is no less than 10 degrees. We are looking forward to bundling up and having a blast outside!
As always, if you or any family member would like to participate inside the classroom, feel free to let Emily or I know and we can set a date!

Thanks for all of your support,

Hillary Rosher and Emily Greenwaldt
HOMECOMING PARADE
Huskies Through the Decades.....

Thank you for your participation and spirit! Campus Child Care won second place!