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.

Lucia in the Toddler room is busy painting with gourds & pumpkins

November 2016
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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

INFANT ROOM
As always the semester is moving along quickly. We welcomed Lynn to our classroom in October. Lynn will join Noah and Kennedy who turned 1 on October 17 in the 1 year old club on November 5. We have been busy in the infant room keeping up with everyone’s growth and development. Pam and I will be sharing our observation of your child’s progress this semester during our Parent/Teacher Conference week. Pam will be meeting with the parents of her primary assignments during the week of November 7 -11 and I will be meeting with the parents of my primary assignments the week of November 14 - 18. We hope you have had an opportunity to schedule your meeting with one of us. Please be sure to talk with one of us if the week or time doesn’t fit into your schedule.

An infant parent who is also a kindergarten teacher shared that she recently attended a training on helping children learning to write. One of the things she shared with me is that the muscles infants build while experiencing tummy time are the same muscles re-

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!!
quired to grip a pencil. Tummy time is an important part of your baby’s normal growth. Tummy Time describes the times when you place your baby on his or her stomach while your baby is awake and while supervised. Tummy Time is important because it can help prevent flat spots on the back of your baby’s head. It makes neck and shoulder muscles stronger so your baby can start to sit up, crawl, and walk. Research also suggests that babies who spend time on their tummies crawl earlier than babies who don’t practice tummy time. The more time babies spend on their tummies, the earlier they might begin to roll over, crawl on their stomachs, crawl on all fours and sit without support. It also improves your baby’s motor skills (using muscles to move and complete an action).

Infants benefit from spending time on their stomachs starting from the day they come home from the hospital. In the beginning tummy time sessions each day should consist of short period of time (3 to 5 minutes). As your baby grows and shows enjoyment of being on his or her stomach you can lengthen the time. Be consistent with providing tummy time even if your child dislikes it. Most infants do not enjoy tummy time at first. As infants grow older he or she will become more accepting of tummy time. As an infant gets stronger on his or her stomach the next progression will be rolling over, sitting up, crawling, and walking.

Have a great month!

Kellie Fuss & Pam Yockey
I cannot believe that we are already more than half way through the semester. I hope everyone is having a great semester. The toddlers’ have been very busy and doing lots of different activities.

Last month, we had our first friend turn two years old. Aziz turned two on October 10th. This month we will be celebrating Nora and Da’nyla’s second birthday.

Homecoming week was a blast! My favorite day was pajama day! Both the children and the teachers were very comfortable. Thank you to all of the families who walked with us during the parade and who watched us!

Many families have been going to pumpkin patches on the weekends. The children have been very interested in pumpkins, so we brought some into the classroom! The children were able to explore the pumpkins. We cut them open and saw what was inside. The children were able to explore the pumpkins using their hands and shovels. At first, the children stood back and looked but soon enough the children got right in there and touched the pumpkins. We felt the seeds and the mushy inside of the pumpkin. After we explored the pumpkins, we used them as scoops inside on the media table. The children were able to scoop and pour the water with pumpkins and gourds. After we used them in the media table, we painted with the pumpkins! We used little pumpkins and gourds to make prints on the paper with fall colored paint.

We have continued the study of colors. We have gone through all of the primary colors and the colors that the primary colors make. Each week the children have been coloring with different colored markers and the same matching colored tape. The children have enjoyed touching the tape and feeling how sticky it is. Now we are adding black and white to different colors and see what happens. We have been using different colored markers, chalk, crayons, and paint. Each week we have been adding the color of the week to our box. The children used their hands and paintbrushes to paint the box. While the children are painting they enjoy to paint the fence, patio, and toys, too. Come check out our playground, it is very colorful!

Moving forward we will begin talking about letters. Some of
our activities that we have planned is for the staff to start pointing out letters in the children’s names as well as making letters out of playdough.

Remember to meet with Katilyn for conferences October 31st-November 4. Make sure to look out for Barbara’s conference signup sheet. Her conferences are November 7th through the 11th.

It is starting to get cold outside, so make sure to bring is weather appropriate clothes for your children (i.e winter coats, hats, mittens, boots (for snow).
I hope you have a great rest of your semester!

Katilyn Ostenson and Barbara Zeman

TWO/THREE-1

Hello Two’s Parents,

We had such a fun and busy October. In the science area, the children have explored pumpkins and leaves. Some have attempted to draw pictures of pumpkins with the fall paper on the small clipboards. I hope that the children have enjoyed having their painted pumpkins home. They had so much fun painting them. The children have created many pieces using fall objects—leaves, fall markers, and pumpkins. We opened a pumpkin one morning and before I cut it open, I asked the children what they thought would be inside. Most of the children said the color orange, but Celina said “a coconut.” We
had a pumpkin seed tasting at group time earlier in the month. The children LOVED the seeds, they asked for more.

In the art area the children have been working with scissors, they have cut paper and tape on several occasions. Tape has also been put on the windows as well as paper. The children are constantly asking for tape or stickers. Stickers have been very popular too. For some children, peeling the stickers off the paper is a challenge. I continually encourage the children to keep trying and they usually are successful. The children love doing art projects. We can do several projects over and over, but the children never seem to mind.

Our project has changed from Move to Senses. The children have many opportunities to taste, smell, hear, see, and touch. The children had an opportunity to listen to a variety of sounds. The children sat and listened so intently, I should do that more often! We had a smelling activity that encouraged the children to try different smells. Some of the smells were very strong, while others were light and sweet. The children didn’t say much when smelling, but I knew when they didn’t like a smell, because they would wrinkle up their nose! We also made cinnamon smelling play dough. The children love to play with playdough! The touch projects have involved foam paint. Not all the children like to get messy, this activity was not for them. Other touch activities have been with sand, bird seed, and grass seed. The children can scoop their fingers through the material and stir it around.

We have a new block activity in the room. We have small, wooden blocks with Velcro on each side for the children to stick together or on the back of a shelf. The children were so interested in them. One had 6 blocks stuck together hanging off the back of the shelf. The children also did a teacher directed activity with patterns. We started with an AB pattern, and a few of the children understood the concept. As we were working through the activity, I would repeat the pattern over and over, “blue, yellow, blue, yellow, blue, yellow.” Then ask what color is next? A few children said “Blue!” I then gave them blocks and asked if they could put together a pattern. Although the children are not quite ready for patterns, I wanted to introduce a variety of ways to use the blocks.

I would like to thank all the children who dressed up for our Homecoming Days. The children particularly enjoyed showing off their pajamas.
Upcoming Events and Reminders:
Parent conferences are happening over 2 weeks; November 14 – 18 and November 28-December 2. I will have a variety of times set up for you, just put your name on the date and time that works for you. If the times I have don’t work for your schedule, just let me know and we will figure something out. At the conference we will talk about the growth and development of your child. You will receive a “pre-conference” form with the date of your conference and a section where you can write questions for me. If you have questions for me, please give them to me prior to the conference. I look forward to meeting with all of you.

The weather is changing and staying cooler than earlier in the semester. If you would like to look at your child’s extra clothes box and exchange warm weathered clothing for cold weather clothing, just let me know. I would also suggest that you bring in a medium weight jacket for your child. It is sometimes pretty cool in the morning, so you may want to bring a hat and mittens too.

It is important that you call the center if your child will not be in by 10:00 on their scheduled days. We have the expectation for you to be at the center by 10:00, but if you come later, we just need to know. If you are keeping your child home due to illness, please call the center to let us know. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or stories to share, please don’t hesitate.

Sherie Newman

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
I can’t believe we are more than half way through the semester. Kendra and I are so excited to see many friendships forming in the classroom. As children arrive to school we have observed several children calling out their peer’s names, greeting with a smile and sometimes even a hug. We have seen children bonding as they sit together looking at books, exploring art, while dancing, playing outside on the playground, and during meal times at the table. To build on their social skills we made a book in our classroom called “Friends Names and Faces.” The children have been looking at the book independently then practicing naming each child’s picture. We are so excited to see and hear our children identifying and building strong relationships with their peers.

The month of October brought us some beautiful fall weather with the colors changing to the leaves falling. We would like to thank Eddie’s mom for participating in some fun fall sensory exploration activities. The activities included painting small pumpkins as well as an opportunity to taste-test different orange fruits and vegetables with her NIU nutrition students. Sensory exploration activities such as these enhance learning through hands-on activities that stimulate a child’s senses. As they grow, children’s senses are their most familiar and most basic way to explore and process new information. This is a great way for children to discover the world they live in!

Homecoming week was so much fun, with the spirit days and dressing up. The children really enjoyed showing off their costumes and school spirit. Thanks so much to the families and staff that participated in the Homecoming parade!

As a reminder, we will continue to go outside as the weather gets colder. We continue to go outside as long as the temperature with the wind chill is 10-15 degrees or above. Please be sure to check bathroom cubbies for warmer clothing and label all outdoor items so we can help get things back in their correct cubby.

In the next few weeks, a schedule will be posted outside our classroom with dates and times available to schedule a parent teacher conference. Please make sure to sign up as soon as possible. During the conference we will discuss the various skills we have been working on. This will also allow you time to ask any questions or share any concerns that you may have about your child’s development. Kendra and I have really enjoyed the time spent with your child thus far and look forward to the months ahead!
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 Through the Decades…..

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