I don’t know how it has gotten to be October already. Maybe because it still feels like summer outside (or did when I started writing this!). It has been a very busy semester for us so far and things are moving along quickly. We hope everything is going well for you, including classes, work, life, etc. We know all of you have a lot going on in your lives so please remember that we are a resource for you. If we can help you with something, please don’t hesitate to ask, and we will try to at least point you in the right direction.

Thanks so much to those of you who assisted us by volunteering to work the Book Fair or those who supported us by purchasing books for yourself or the classrooms; and to those who attended the Family Program. A special thanks to Kristin, Diane, Amy, Bri and Klint for all their work to make the book fair such a success! Although we don’t make a lot of money from the fair (usually $800), we are happy to be providing an event that is, with no doubt, beneficial to children and families.

We are sorry to say that Klint will be leaving our program shortly; his last day is Oct. 2. We appreciate all that he brought to our program during this past year and wish him well in his new endeavors! We are very happy to welcome a new teacher to our program. Hillary Rosher joined us at the end of August and we are thrilled to have her. Hillary started the semester working primarily in the Toddler room and will now settle into Pre 4, with Christy. We genuinely appreciate Hillary’s great attitude and willingness to go with the flow since she’s been here!

As many of you are aware, CCC has participated in the NIU Homecoming Parade for the past two years—taking home a first place trophy each time! Thanks to our staff who have led this project enthusiastically in the past, as they will again this year. There are some significant changes to the parade this year in that it will be held in the evening so we will not be inviting families to ride our float. The theme this year is “Huskies Light the Way”. Barbara (Infant Room) is our contact person so feel free to talk with her if you would like additional information. Go Huskies!!

We encourage you to continue to talk with the teachers about your child’s growth, development and adjustment to CCC; and to any of us up front if you have other questions or concerns. Good luck on upcoming projects, assignments, tests, etc.

Chris Kipp
Preschool Room 1

Welcome to Fall Pre-1 families! We’re off to a great start in our classroom. October will bring about some changes, but I think the children will adjust well. We would like to welcome Bri to our classroom, and wish Klint the best of luck in his new position!

We have been busy learning the classroom routine and growing as a school family. The children have been forming friendships and are expanding on their social emotional development on a daily basis. Social and Emotional development is so important in these early years. It will be the foundation that sets the tone towards education in the future. It will help children as they learn about feelings, form relationships with their peers, develop communication skills, and prepare for future school success! Some of the things we have been working on are labeling feelings, expressing them appropriately, and learning calming techniques.

We spend a lot of time with the children giving them the words to help navigate conflict and solve problems with peers. In the early years we hear a lot of “busy,” when a child is playing with something. We are working on expanding this phrase to, “It’s busy,” or, “I’m using it.” Then children can say, “Would you like a turn when I’m finished?” or the other child can ask, “Can I play with you?” We have been talking through a lot of scenarios! At this age, it will take a lot of practice and we expect conflict, but are hoping that with these tools and support the children will become great problem solvers!

**Time Management**

Tuesdays from 4:00-5:30 p.m.  
November 9th

Toni Leal the 4-C social worker will be here to conduct a life changing workshop on Time management and building routines.

This workshop is open to all parents of CCC children and will be a great opportunity for you to learn more about how you can get the most out of time!

Workshop is FREE! Sign up at the front desk or via email to kschulz@niu.edu if you will be attending or have questions.

**REMINDERS**

- Please call the Center on days your child will be absent. Our number is 815-753-0125.
- Children should arrive by 10:00 a.m. Infants, toddlers, and twos are going outside at this time, and preschoolers are fully engaged in learning activities.
- Child care fees need to be paid on time to avoid the potential for termination of child care services.
- Please save your invoices so you can track the amount you are spending on child care (for tax purposes).
- CCC does not celebrate holidays so the children will not be wearing costumes or distributing treats for Halloween.
- 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.

**HOMECOMING 2015**

Thurs., Oct. 22 @ 7:00 pm  
**HUSKIES LIGHT THE WAY**
Many parents will ask what their child is learning and what we are doing academically in the classroom. As early childhood professionals we know that children learn best through play and hands on experiences. We spend a lot of time assessing the children through play and our interactions with them. We use this knowledge and understanding of child development to take the information we collect to plan our emergent curriculum. We know that children develop rapidly, but at their own pace at this age. It’s important to keep in mind that they are not all interested in the same things or ready for the same activities as some of their peers.

Throughout the day teachers are playing with children on the floor, working in small groups at tables, and teaching during group times. We are providing activities that will challenge them and help them to reach the next level when they’re ready! Unlike kindergarten, children will not be bringing home worksheets to show their “work.” We invite you to read the weekly goals and reflections to see what we are doing in the room, and also to spend time with us in the room to see the learning in action! I have also attached to our parent board examples of what children are learning in each area of the classroom, so be sure to check that out!

In the classroom we have been very creative! The art table is being used most of the time. Children are developing their fine motor skills here and are able to express themselves. They have created some beautiful masterpieces!

In this area children learn to ….
- Discover line, color, shape, and texture by seeing and feeling objects
- Experiment informally with a variety of simple media
- Express individual thoughts and feelings through picture making, modeling, constructing, and printing
- Engage in conversation by sharing ideas with others
- Develop problem solving skills

Jen Young & Klint Mathey

Preschool Room 2

It’s hard to believe that the semester is in full swing. Our children are settling into the routine of the classroom. During the first week of the semester, during group time, the children helped come up with classroom rules. We were impressed to see what they came up with. For example, the children suggested to walk in the classroom, put your toys away, and listen to your teacher. Emily and I are enjoying spending time with your child and finding out what their interests are.

The children have been very interested in our plastic alligator. We encouraged the children to
make predictions of what would happen if we put the alligator in water. Here were some of their answers: sink, swim, pop, float and grow. We discovered after the first day that the alligator grew. From that day on the children were excited to see how much it had grown. Each day we would measure the alligator and on our last day we found that it had grown 10 inches in length.

The children enjoyed our nature walk that we took around campus. While on our walk we looked for signs of fall and discussed some of the changes. We talked about how the leaves are just starting to change colors and the temperature outside has gotten cooler. The children had fun finding acorns, pinecones, leaves, and small sticks and placing them in their individual brown paper bags. In the next few weeks, we plan on taking more nature walks and finding other changes.

For art, the children have been exploring a variety of materials to create with. For example, the children have made nature collage, bubble wrap prints, rolling pin art, stickers, play-dough, finger paint, and water colors. The children have also shown a lot of interest in painting pictures at the art easel. Thank you for checking your child’s art folder at the end of the day so you can enjoy your child’s artwork at home.

Our block area and dramatic play continue to be popular areas throughout our classroom. The children are using their imaginations and creativity to build cars, boats, space shuttles, and houses with the large hollow blocks. The children are learning to share and cooperate with each other while building their structures. The Legos continue to be a big hit in our room. The children are using their fine motor skills to manipulate the Legos. We are amazed at their creative structures. In dramatic play the children are role playing by dressing up and pretending to go places like Target and the grocery store. They also have been cooking and baking for each other. We just might have some chefs in our future!

Some of the children are showing interest in writing their names. Emily and I will continue to challenge the children by helping them write their names on their art work and talking about and pointing out the letters in their first name. We also will be encouraging the children to sign-in when they come into the classroom in the morning. This sign-in book will be located at our writing center.

Emily and I would like to thank all of the families who attended our Family Nnight. We hope you were able to meet some of the other families in our classroom and enjoy the activities that were planned.

Please feel free to come and talk with Emily or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Diane Mathison & Emily Stoll
Preschool Room 3

We have had a great start to the semester! I’d like to thank parents for teaching manners! We have such a great group of polite children! This ties in nicely with our Everyone Matters and Fill a Bucket curriculum that we have initiated in our classroom. It also connects home and school activities! Our dramatic play area has been very busy! The children love pretending and taking care of babies and having a school family. They are learning how to get along with each other and how to solve conflicts by listening to peers and using words with one another to communicate their needs and wants.

We have done several activities to build on our small motor/pre-printing skills. We have had tongs and scoops in the water table as well as name cards available on the art shelf and writing materials in each area. Play dough is an excellent way for children to work on their fine motor skills as they roll and squish the dough and use the tools to create shapes and other creative things. The easel has been another fun way to incorporate fine motor/pre-printing skills. The children use brushes to move the paint up and down, and make letter-like shapes with the paint.

Literacy is another favorite of our class. The children have really surprised me by how well they can sit and listen and become engaged in the stories. They ask questions and notice the print and can guess what is going to happen by looking at the illustrations. They are also learning to rhyme, recognize letters and numbers as well as “read” the stories on their own. Two of our favorites have been King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub by Audrey Wood and Chick Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. We extended our Chicka Chicka by adding sand, palm trees, magnetic letters and magnetic wands at the table so the children could find and name letters and retell the story in their own words.

To extend our literacy skills and help calm our bodies before nap we have started journal books. The children can write in these books throughout the day whenever they like, but we all do them for 15 minutes each day on our cots. This way everyone is working on printing and small motor skills.

The children love outside time as well! We have extended play on the playground by adding a variety of props. The goggles are a favorite. The children pretend to be anything from construction workers to giant bugs!

All artwork is placed in the bottom of the cubbies when it is ready to be taken home. Please check these daily. Any artwork left in over a week we be discarded. Please take a moment each day to
notice the new art and different activities we have around the classroom. The children are very excited to share their achievements with you.

Speaking of achievements, parent conferences will be coming up. Each family is required to complete a conference during conference week. A sign-up sheet will be posted. Please sign up in the available time slots. If these do not work with your schedule please let me know and I will do my best to meet your needs.

Please check the parent bulletin board daily. This is where the weekly goals and reflection sheets are posted. If you have noticed, on the goal sheets there are “N”s and a star. The “N” represents NAEYC requirements that we are meeting and the star reflects our Everyone Matters curriculum we have incorporated for the week.

Please keep updated on the daily weather and dress your child accordingly. We do go outside every day.

Last but definitely not least, a huge thank you to all the families who participated in our Family Night and book fair! These little connections to home and school mean so very much to young children!

Have a great month! April Kaiser

Preschool Room 4

We have been so busy in Pre-4 that time has flown by. We have had a great start to the semester. We wanted to start by thanking families for joining us for Family Night this fall. We really enjoyed getting to know each family better. The children and families seemed to really enjoy the outside activities and the book fair. We also wanted to thank anyone who participated in our book fair. Whether you were able to volunteer your time to work the registers or purchase books for your family or our classroom, we truly appreciate whatever you were able to do.

Dear Parents and Families,

Campus Child Care will be participating in the Homecoming parade on Thursday, October 22nd from 7:00-8:00pm. But, due to the timing of the event we will not be inviting children and families to participate on the float this year. I’m sorry if you were looking forward to joining us. However, if you are able to watch the parade it should be beautiful as all entries will be illuminated in some way.
The children have been busy participating in cooking activities, imaginary play, and using their science inquiry skills. We found that many of the children enjoyed the housekeeping dramatic play area we had open at the beginning of the semester. The children enjoyed taking care of the babies, pretending to be pets, and cooking for one another. We found that the children were always making one another pancakes. The children were asking the teachers what is in pancakes, what toppings go on pancakes, etc. We decided to make a few kinds of pancakes to help with this interest. We tried blueberry, strawberry, and plain. The children helped cut the fruit, mix the batter, and they even got to observe the pancakes cooking! We then voted as a class as to which was our favorite. We found that strawberry was the most preferred!

After adding an outer space puzzle to our classroom, the children became very interested in space and astronauts. We decided to change dramatic play to outer space/astronauts. Space helmets, space suits, moon rocks, and radios were added to help us pretend to be like real astronauts. Raegan’s family even donated cardboard so we could make a class rocket ship. The children have been taking voyages to the moon and to several of the different planets. Baldur, Raegan, and Mark even painted a larger scale solar system to put on our wall. We were also very interested in what is inside a space ship. We learned that the control panels of the space ship have several different buttons and astronauts are trained in knowing what button is needed to perform certain tasks. We also learned that after a rocket ship blasts off, the rocket boosters fall off once it gets high enough into the air. We also learned that it takes 4 days to get to the moon and that there is no air once you get there. That’s why astronauts have to wear special suits.

Thanks for making the start of the semester such a success! As you know Bri will be moving to Pre-1 next week and we will miss her, however we are so thankful she will be just a classroom away so we can visit. We welcomed Hillary to Pre-4 last week and we look forward to continuing our work with your child and family this year, even if the start has been full of transitions.

Christy Pelikan & Bri Wicker
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.

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THE CHALLENGES OF SHARING

In her book The Insightful Teacher, Nancy Bruski offers this insight about sharing in the preschool classroom:

"It is necessary for young children to learn how to cooperate in the use of classroom materials; however, sharing often involves giving up what one has so that someone else can have it, and this is very difficult for young children. Children become attached to things they invest themselves in, whether it be toys, materials, ideas for play, or being the first in line. Sharing is challenging and something that is learned slowly.

"Some children seem to have an easier time sharing than others, but the child who is more possessive is not being bad or difficult. Wanting to keep the teacher's attention or to play with the favored red fire truck is normal on the part of children, and their feelings should be treated as such.

"Our early childhood program found a solution to this type of problem that worked extremely well...If a child chose something to play with in the classroom, he could keep it as long as he wanted, even if he played with it during the entire free-choice time. If he needed to go to the bathroom and was not finished playing with the toy, he could ask the teacher to watch it for him, so that no one else could play with it. However, if a child left a toy or play material to go to another part of the room and do something else, then the toy or material was open for anyone else to play with."

This is a practice that is also used at CCC. Good information to think about!