Finally Fall has arrived!! This is my favorite time of year as the weather cools down and the colors begin to change. It’s a great opportunity for science investigation and reflection as you will see in the articles that follow. So far it has been a very busy semester for us 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 Amy, Bri, Denise, Hillary, Jaquida, and the parent volunteers that helped to make the book fair such a success! We meet our goal and will be using the funds to purchase a few more listening stations and books on CD. Now more children will have the opportunity to share in high quality literacy experiences.

We will be finishing up our interviews for the 2/3-1 teacher position on Monday, October 3rd and are very much looking forward to starting a new staff member as soon as possible. I will send an email to families as soon as we know who that person is!

As many of you are aware, CCC has participated in the NIU Homecoming Parade for the past three years—taking home two first and one second place trophy in the department category! Thanks to our staff who have led this project enthusiastically in the past, as they will again this year. This year we would like to invite families back on the float or to walk along side if we have a large turn out. Please come talk with Amy or I if you have questions. You can find more information in this newsletter. 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.

Kristin Schulz
INFANT ROOM
This past month we have had so much going on in the infant room. In the short time since the semester began we have said good bye to both Kennedy L and Jaxon; and welcomed Layla and Henry who joined our classroom a few weeks after the semester started. In the middle of the month the center hosted the Fall Family Gathering during the book fair week. The center hosts a family gathering each semester as a way for families to get together in a social setting. No need to worry if you missed this one, next semester you will have another opportunity to attend a Family Gathering. Please know that you are always welcome to visit the classroom, join us for an activity, or use the observation booth.

Pam and I would like to begin this newsletter with a sincere thank you to all of you who supported the center by making a purchase, volunteering, or browsing the selection at the Scholastic Book Fair last month. Reading books to children is essential to building early literacy skills. The infants in our classroom are all in the early stages of literacy; enjoying being read to, exploring books independently, and beginning to notice pictures and text in books. Twenty minutes of reading a day should begin as early as possible and become a part of your daily routine. With that being said, the attention span of infants would make it practically impossible to read all 20 minutes at one time. Reading short books many times a day makes it possible to get your 20 minutes of reading in each day. Sturdy board books will last longer during this infant stage of oral exploration. The thicker pages of board books are helpful for those small fingers to grip on the page to turn them. If you take a look at the books on our book shelf in the classroom you will notice that our books are well used. The book area has become a cozy place to enjoy books with the children throughout the day. I hope that reading at home will become a favorite activity with you and your child as well. There is a small

REMINDEERS
- Please call the Center on days your child will be absent or in after 10am. 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.
selection of board books you can borrow from our NIU CCC lending library in the lobby area.

This month we will be celebrating the first 1st Birthdays in the infant room. We do celebrate birthdays in the classrooms here at the center. Each classroom chooses ways to celebrate the day. In our classroom we have a special birthday plate the birthday child eats off of for snack and/or lunch, we sing “Happy Birthday”, and we send home a birthday card. If you do not want your child to participate in the classroom birthday celebration please be sure to talk to Pam or I before your child’s birthday. Once the children turn 1 year old they begin to sit at the table for meal time and eat meals from the menus posted on the parent board outside the classroom. This also means that we have more food program guidelines to follow when providing meals. The morning meal is a light snack and not breakfast so your child should be eating breakfast at home. Because the food is served from the kitchen at regularly scheduled meal times we are less flexible about the time we offer the meal. Morning snack is served starting at 9:00, lunch starts at 11:30, and afternoon snack is at 2:45. We serve whole milk in a sippy cup along with the meals.

Getting to Know You:
This is a section that will be included in each newsletter to help us get to know one another a little bit better.

This is a parent in our classroom who had a role in a short film while in high school. The film sold 3 copies!
Who is it? It is Skylar’s Dad, Rene.

This is a student worker who is a strong swimmer and teaches swim lessons when not at school.
Who is it? It is Bree, our Monday through Friday 7:30 – 10:30 student.

This teacher was a former cheerleader, cheer mom, and is known to break out a cheer or two anytime during the day.
Who is it? It is Pam.

We hope you have a great month!

Kellie Fuss & Pam Yockey
Now that the semester is in full swing we have seen the children settled into a routine and we hope the parents as well. By “settling into” and establishing a routine this helps with the children’s social/emotional development. This predictability creates trust between the children and us and in you. This past month for art/creative expression and math, Katilyn and I have been focusing on one color a week for the children to create and make art pictures and to learn color concepts. We have focused on the colors yellow, blue, green, red, and purple. Each week, the color we focus on becomes a topic of conversation. During play activities, as we see an item that is the color we are focusing on for that week, we mention it and how that was the color of the crayons, markers or chalk they used earlier. Using those implements/materials for art also are tools for the children to practice and strengthen their fine motor skills. They may, at first, use their whole hand to grasp the crayons, as if they were making a fist. Then as they hone and refine their motor movements they will use just their fingers to hold the crayons. Over time they will then use just the tips of their fingers then eventually the pincer grasp. By using a different color each week, it keeps the use of the “tools” new and different.

Also, with the exploration of color we’ve been able to make some scientific inquiries. One week the children got to explore with yellow and blue paint. As they mixed and spread the paint around on their paper, they no longer had yellow and blue. They ended up with green. This lead to questions (language) as to how this happened (science). Also, with science, the children have had multiple opportunities to explore with ice. One week we colored the ice red and put it in blue water. Once the ice melted the water had turned purple. Hmm, how did that happen, we asked?

Also, in the media table (and in the sand box) the children are getting a lot of practice with comparison and measuring. Scooping up water or sand in a cup and then pouring it out into another container helps the children understand simple comparisons between two objects and spatial awareness (directional movements) and it’s good practice for hand eye coordination. Working with hammers in the classroom and out on the playground was a great social studies opportunity. Out on the playground the children “fixed” equipment like carpenters and along with saws they got to be loggers “cutting” up the stumps and wood pieces from an old Box Elder tree that fell down next to my house.

After painting a large mural on the patio one day, we noticed that there was a lot of paint on the cement, fence, column, and door. So we asked the children to help wash it off. Soon the chil-
The next time you drop off or pick up, please take the time to look at the display we created from the work of the children. Next to it is a list of all the objectives and domains that we use from Teaching Strategies Gold to help us document your child's development for their portfolio and what our exploration of color met.

Have a great month!
Barbara Zeman & Katilyn Ostenson

TWO/THREE-1

Hello 2/3's-1 Families,
Our school year has started in a positive and loving way. I have truly enjoyed getting to know you better, as well as your child. We have implemented many activities that encourage name to face recognition, sharing, being around others during play time and listening time, and making choices. One of many favorites is the “Wish You Well” activity. I have a magnetic board with a heart on it, and we sing a song called “Do you know this friend of mine.” It’s to the tune of “Do You Know the Muffin Man.” Each child has a picture of themselves and when we sing the song, the children are encouraged to say the child’s name. Some of the children are saying the name, but as for now they mostly just point. If the child is not at school that day, we place them inside the heart and at the end of the song we “wish them well.” My goal is to first and foremost learn the children’s names, the second part is give the children an understanding about thinking of someone and hoping that whatever they are doing, they are well. At this age, most children are thinking of themselves, very egotistic and narrow minded. I hope this simple activity will give them an inkling to think of others too. Another activity they like is the “Move It” song AKA “High 5”. The children are encouraged to give gentle high 5’s to one another. At first the children would only give high 5 to me, but eventually, they started giving them to one another.
The children helped make play dough the first week and then slime the next week. Many of the children enjoy sensory play, whether it is sand, play dough, water, or paint. We will continue to bring sensory items in for the children to explore. If you have any ideas for us to use, please let me know.

Most of the children have really enjoyed painting. We have painted 3D structures and we will continue to add pieces throughout the semester. The children have used glue in a variety of ways, colored glue pictures and using glue to make collages. The children have also had several opportunities to work with stickers. Peeling the stick of the paper is a huge fine motor skill.

I would like to say “thank you” to all of the parents that took time out of their busy schedule to meet with me for an Intake meeting. I will incorporate all the goals that we discussed and continue documenting throughout the semester. We will have a parent conference at the end of the semester. I will give more information when that time approaches. Parent conferences are a requirement that must be completed prior to the new semester.

THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!!! THANK YOU!!!!!

The center and I would like to thank all of the families for helping us reach our Book Fair goal. The books that were donated to our room are very much appreciated. We have them on the book shelf and the children have really been enjoying them. We hope you have a wonderful time at the Family Gathering too. It was nice to see so many families.

Reminders:

Please take home all plastic bags in your child’s cubby. They might have had an accident or paint on their clothes. These clothes need to be washed at home.

Please make sure you are bringing in clothes or diapers when we request them. These reminders are in your child’s cubby. Please check your child’s cubby on a daily basis. If your child has any art work you are more than welcome to take home.

Sherie Newman

TWO/THREE-2

Well hello families of the 2's/3's-2 classroom! The semester is in full swing and the children have really grown more comfortable with their teachers and our daily routine. As we’ve gotten to know the children we have learned some of the areas they are interested in. The first area we noticed was music, the children request songs, read books set to music, ask for a “dance party”, and like to listen to and play my ukulele. The second area we notice a lot of interest from many of the children is insects. After some consideration, we decided the children would really enjoy learning more about insects. So, that will be our official first study of the semester. Every time we go outside the children are finding insects and other bug-like creatures... earthworms, beetles, cicadas, and spiders just to name a few.
Within the next few weeks, we will be having a pet tarantula visiting our room. We are so excited to observe its behavior, colors, the way it moves and its habits. We’ll be posting the documentation from our insect, arthropod, and arachnid study on the large purple bulletin board in our classroom. Come and see what the children have been studying!

I’ve seen the children exploring many other areas and activities in our center. Outside the children have been riding bikes, climbing, running, drawing with chalk, and exploring the playground for insects and other nature treasures. In the classroom we’ve been constantly rotating toys and materials to meet the children’s interests and developmental needs. We’ve lessened the amount of certain materials to reduce the dumping of materials and encourage greater focus on toys that support their developmental needs.

With cold and flu season approaching I wanted to share a little with my families about daycare and illness. Being in group care children are exposed to a lot of things; new ideas, enriching experiences, social/emotional opportunities, and germs. Communicable diseases are part of our everyday life. I can assure you that we do everything within our control to slow the spread of illnesses. We clean (a lot!), toys are bleached regularly, the staff scrub tables and chairs every day at nap time and bleach those surfaces as well, and we make sure the children and teachers wash their hands with regularity (upon arrival, before and after eating, after messy play, after playing in the media table, after using the bathroom or diaper changes, after coming in from outside…). These things we do help to reduce the spread of illnesses. Unfortunately some things cannot be avoided! To help parents know what is happening in our room we post information about suspected and diagnosed illnesses in our room so you can be vigilant about those symptoms, and try to help reduce the spread of illness by doing things like covering ringworm, sores or blisters, staying home when your child is ill, or using appropriate treatments before spreading it to others.

If you have any questions or concerns, Denise and I would love to talk with you!

Kendra Nenia & Denise Fenn
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.

**Time Management**

*Wednesday from 4:00-5:30 p.m.*
*October 12th*

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 jboyer@niu.edu if you will be attending or have questions. Workshop requires 5 attendees minimum.

Dear Parents and Families,

Campus Child Care will be participating in the Homecoming parade on **Thursday, October 20th from 7:00-8:00pm**. This will be a lights parade and should be beautiful. If you are interested in participating in the event with us please let us know ASAP. If you do not want to commit to the late hours consider coming out to watch the parade as it’s a lot more fun when we have the community out in support!! The parade route starts on campus near Gilbert hall and will end in downtown DeKalb on Lincoln Highway. If you are interested in joining us please let Kristin or Amy know.