August is here. With only 8 more days left of summer semester we are reflecting on how fast this time files and how much fun we have had in such a short time. As you read the three articles in this newsletter you will see what each classroom has been up to and how the staff have built unique learning experience for each age group and interest.

We will be taking some time in the next few weeks to clean up and prepare for the Fall semester that begins on August 28th!! If you are moving on from us we wish you the best in your new school and hope that you will always look back on this time of your life with fond memories, even if you can’t remember our names!! Please keep in touch and send us an email from time to time to let us know what you have been up to. If you are staying with us for another year here is some information for the next few weeks.

- Classrooms will start to get cleaned up in preparation for interim.
- You will have art to take home and hang in your favorite spot!
- Once swim clothes and towels are sent home we will be finished with water play, until next year.
- Interim approvals have been placed in your parent pockets.
- Toddlers and twos will be together for week one of interim and then the twos will move up for week two.
- Preschool will be start in Pre-4 for week one and will move to Pre-1 for week two.
- August 28th- all children will be in their permeant Fall classrooms!

We know that moving classrooms can present a bump in your routine and we ask that you allow us to help your child transition. You are welcome to talk with your child about these changes and plans and we welcome your feedback.

I will be publishing the results of the NAEYC parent survey in the September edition of the newsletter. These results are being used in combination with other assessment data to help our program plan for the future of best practice and education. If you are interested in joining our parent advisory board please send me an email. We are always looking for student members. Your opinion matters and we want to meet your needs!

Kristin Schulz
Greetings Toddler and Two Parents,

What an amazing summer we have had. The children have learned so much from one another. The older ones had to practice patience with the younger children. The younger ones had opportunities to listen to more words spoken from people their size and explore the manipulatives in so many new ways. Dumping the toys has become less and less, and play has taken its place.

We think the most enjoyable part about the summer, was the water play outside. Who knew the slip and slide would cause so much joy and laughter? The children also truly enjoyed washing the bikes and cars. The children had a large tub on soapy water and sponges to get the job done. If the children were not interested in the slip and slide or washing something, that was okay, because we had a small media table available for scooping and dumping water. The climber, basketball hoop and house were always available to for the children to use during outside time.

We have been encouraging the children to take a closer look at nature. From the bugs crawling in the hallway and outside to looking at the bark on a tree. We went on a nature walk and found many treasures. The children had opportunities to explore them and then put them on contact paper to display.

An activity that the children really gravitated to was the ramps and ball run. With some adult help the children would create a series of ramps and downward spirals. Of course the fun part is watching the ball go down, down, down. The children have been really awesome about using the same ball again and again. This strategy eliminates confusion and frustration if someone else takes a ball another child was using. It has been amazing watching the maturity and growth occurring right before our eyes with some

REMINDERS

- The last day of summer semester is Aug. 11. Full-day care is available during Interim (Aug. 14—24; applications are past due. Anyone who requests care now will be charged the ‘extra care’ fee of 10%.

- We will be closed on 2 Fridays to provide time for professional development, classroom prep and new student orientation. These dates are Aug. 18 & 25.

- If you find that you need to withdraw from Fall semester, you will need to let us know ASAP or you will be billed for the first 2 weeks of that semester, no refunds for forgetting.

- Please call the center if your child will be absent or arrive late on his/her scheduled days. It is easier for us to make decisions regarding staffing or on-campus walks when we know who will be here each day.

- Parent Open House/ Orientation will be Thursday, August 24th from 9:00–11:00 and 3:00-4:30. If you have been off all summer please stop in and meet your child’s teachers and get re-connected.
of the children.

We would like to thank Laura (Tessa and Lucia’s mom) for coming in to read to us during family day. The children loved listening to her that she was able to read FOUR books in a row. Some of the books the children were familiar with, like Pete the Cat. Then she read a few new ones that we would like to get for the room. Thanks again, Laura for spending some time with us.

The children love to cook! In July they helped make pancakes. Katilyn and the children put the ingredients in a big and bowl and everyone had an opportunity to stir everything up. During snack the children were offered a pancake to eat. In August the children will be making mini pizzas for themselves. We feel it is important for the children to understand the process of creating dishes to devour.

Interim will be coming up soon. We will be having conversations with all of you about what changes to look for. Until then keep doing what you have been doing, dropping off in the toddler room. If you are not enrolled for interim care, enjoy your two week break and we’ll see you in the fall.

Katilyn, Pam and I want to thank you for an amazing summer. Even though it seemed to go by super-fast, we hope that we made special memories for the children. At this time, we also want to shout out a BIG and LOVING THANK YOU to Katilyn. We are going to miss you so much, it’s beyond words. We want to wish you the best of luck on the next chapter in your life. Make sure you stop in and say “Hi” as often as you can. We are going to miss Skylar so much too. She always brought a ray of sunshine to the room, with her amazing and cheerful personality. Keep being amazing Skylar, we know you are going to do amazing things with your life.

Katilyn Ostenson, Sherie Newman & Pam Yockey.

Preschool Room 1
Can you believe that the summer session is winding down already? It has gone so quickly and we have had so much summer fun in Pre-1. Summer has been a wonderful time to give our newest
preschoolers a taste of what is to come and our veteran preschoolers a final and fun departure.

A tremendous amount of time in our classroom this summer has focused on the importance of being a nice friend and making good choices to keep our classroom safe. Our “Helpful Huskies” wall has exploded beyond the borders of the bulletin board as the children have been “caught” using kind words, helping even though they were not asked to, keeping the classroom neat and organized and of course maintaining a safe environment in which to learn.

Summer is all about outdoor fun and April and I have been very intentional with our outdoor playtime. We made a pool noodle abacus for counting and for fine motor strength and we created a “mud kitchen” where the children pretended to make cakes, cupcakes, stews and soups. This sort of sensory play is so fun and essential because it teaches imagination while fostering sensory processing patterns.

Research shows that art develops brain capacity in early childhood so April and I took art outdoors and created an outdoor art studio equipped with easels and an art clothes line. Children got a chance to explore and express themselves with various art mediums such as different size paint brushes, sponges, fly swatters, water colors, tempura paint, colored shaving cream, pipettes and droppers, just to name a few.

We continued the importance of learning throughout the summer by counting and estimating in math, learning about maps and globes in geography/social studies, and mixing, measuring and experiencing different concoctions in science.

Please note that summer session will end on August 11th and interim will begin the week of August 14th and extends through August 25th.

Some of our classmates will be heading off to Kindergarten after interim. We wish them well and know they will be very successful! Many of our classmates will be returning for the fall semester joined by some returning and new friends. Please help prepare your child for this upcoming change by talking with them about the fun, friends and learning they will experience in preschool in the upcoming school year.
Thank you for all you do and thank you for a very enjoyable summer!

Leslie Dolan & April Kaiser

Preschool Room 2

It’s August ALREADY!? This summer is flying by way too fast! We have been engaging with so many different activities in Preschool 2 it hard to know where to begin.

We have been keeping up with our task of taking care of the Heritage Garden. We will soon be harvesting some of the vegetables. Look for baskets of the vegetables in baskets in the lobby area. To tie into our garden study, we have a Heritage wall documenting our adventure. On the opposite wall from the documentation is a huge bar graphing comparing heights of the children and the plants. To reinforce comparing words such as bigger/smaller/same we went on a walk around campus comparing different items. Some pictures from this adventure are hanging by the cubbies.

As we were visiting the garden the children noticed Huskie Stadium. This quickly led to phone calls inquiring how to make a visit happen. Thanks to Terri Gensler, Matt Gonzalez, Dan Wolfe and the NIU football players for making this happen. During our visit, we learned how to hold, throw and kick a football. We also ran a few plays with the players, and we got to see the field/end zone. We had a MARVELOUS DAY!!

Please take a look at the dragonfly’s that are on the teacher closet in our room. It’s where you can see the progress we have been making, for making good choices, and kind behavior. The children are conversing their needs and wants (most of the time) and are using their understanding of emotions to express their feelings and show concern to their classmates. The children are using their words and are getting better at voicing their feelings and concerns. They have even made an Emoji Tree.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can always talk with one of us at drop off or pick up or feel free to email us.

Have a great Month!
Dear CCC Families,

I have been analyzing data all summer long to prepare the numerous annual reports that were due.

While reading through the Parent Program evaluations and the Teacher Feedback forms the one thing that stands out to me is our relationship!!

We are a service that many of you have to use. But we recognize that you have choices in this service and we are pleased so many of you choose us for the quality care and programing we provide for your children. We value our relationships and will continue to partner with you along the way. More results in the September issue!! Stay tuned...