DIRECTOR’S DESK
March Already?? No doubt you are gearing up for mid terms and mid term projects. Possibly annual reports and goal assessment for the coming year. We want you to know that no matter what project you are working on we are hear for you.

It is our mission to provide you with excellent care and a caring environment so that you can focus on your goals and get your work completed. When you arrive to pick up your child we will ask you about your day, we will ask you how things are going, we may even suggest resources to help you navigate NIU and the larger community. This is our way of getting to know you, supporting you as students and parents and helping you to learn and grow a long the way.

We value the relationships we build with you and your children and we look forward to helping you. So, even though you might not be up for talking or you have some place to be, try and connect with your child’s teacher, Janene, Amy or I so we can help you fell connected and supported.

We are getting ready for Week of the Young Child (WOYC) a celebration of young children and all that they do to grow and learn. Special events are being planned now and a full calendar of events is to come in April.

For those of you who were able to attend Family Week we thank you for stopping by and spending your time with us. We had two successful parent trainings the first a lunch and learn about play presented by Kendra Nenia and Diane Mathison and the second a Kindergarten Readiness workshop presented by Jen Young in partnership with 4-C social worker Toni Leal. The last two days of Family Week were open invitations for parents and loved ones to engage in our world. We had guest readers, science experiments, cooking projects and tasting. We look forward to hosting these events, if you have some feedback we’d love to hear it. These events are for you, so let us know if you have an idea!! And how you liked or didn’t like the changes we made in this event this year.

Thank you for allowing us to care for you and your children. We are looking forward to the rest of the semester and a short break this month.

Good luck on midterms!

Kristin Schulz
PRESCHOOL ROOM 1

It's hard to believe another month is over and we are almost halfway through the semester. This month we were excited to have the NIU music students come into our classroom, and learn about high and low sounds, long and short sounds, and fast and slow sounds. The children really enjoyed all the activities that went along with the lessons including scarf movements, base instruments, and marching quietly and loudly.

This month we continued to be helpers in the classroom! When caught being helpful to a friend or teacher a snapshot photo was taken and put up on our “Being Helpful” bulletin board. The children love to see what they were caught being helpful with, and it encourages them to want to help others throughout the day.

We talked about our families many times this month, and family drawings are posted by the cubbies in the hallway. We talked about what the word meant to them and what makes a family. The children have different perspectives on what a family is, based on their experiences. This shows others what someone else’s family may look like. Some children even drew self-portraits!

Fine motor was also an area of development that we practiced throughout the month. We used eye droppers to paint, tweezers to sort and count items, and writing utensils to write stories.

REMINDERS

- Full-time child care will be available during Spring Break, March 13-17. The registration has passed so if you still need care please see Janene ASAP for any space that may be available. At this point, extra care fees will apply.

- Please be aware that classrooms will be combined during Spring Break due to low enrollment; and teachers will take time off or spend time out of the classroom to plan the curriculum.

- For those who pick up at the end of the day, please remember that our building closes at 5:30 so we need you to pick up and leave the building by this time.

- For tax purposes, our FEIN is 36-6008480. We do not distribute statements regarding your child care payments. You need to track that information yourself, so we recommend for everyone to save your invoices as a way of documenting your annual child care expenses.
We look forward to the spring approaching and exploring outside within the next month!

Happy Midterm!
Briana Wicker & Jen Young

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. One of the new things Ann and I have incorporated into the classroom this semester is our job chart. The children are assigned a job every week and they have been very excited about this. Some of the jobs include calendar helper, snack helper, line leader, caboose, and weather person. These jobs help the children to feel included and part of the classroom.

Our Author of the month was Audrey Penn. We have been exploring some of her books: The Kissing Hand, A Pocket Full of Kisses and Chester the Brave. In these stories a mother raccoon explains to her child that when they miss her they can remember the story of the kissing hand. If your child has not talked about this story with you yet, ask them what they learned from the book: The Kissing Hand. It really is a sweet story.

Ann and I have continued with our small groups. Recently we read the book; The Foot Book by Dr. Suess. I then traced the children’s feet and we measured how long they were by using unifix cubes. During this activity we practiced one-to-one correspondence, counting, color recognition and writing our first names by memory. The children also were able to experience pendulum painting with Ann. In this small group the children experienced with motion and were introduced to force and gravity.

Parent Conference Schedule Changes– Up and coming for April–

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<td>Sherie</td>
<td>Kendra</td>
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<td>Bri</td>
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<td>Jennifer</td>
<td>Diane</td>
<td>Hillary</td>
<td>Ann</td>
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<td>Jen</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Barbara</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>WOYC</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Conferences</td>
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<td>Katilyn</td>
<td>Kellie</td>
<td>Pam</td>
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New this semester– Each teacher is being given a full 9-4pm shift out of the classroom to conduct parent conferences. We do require families to meet with staff for a 20 minute conference and goals setting period. We value our relationship with you and the home school connection for your child’s benefit. We will remain flexible with families who have trouble meeting this time frame but ask that you keep to your day as best as possible to help us manage all of the meetings we need to get through over 5 weeks.
Our block area and dramatic play continue to be popular areas throughout our classroom. The children continue to show an interest in the ramps. They are creating new structures everyday using a variety of materials such as marbles, cars, ping pong balls, golf balls and wooden balls. While engaged in this motion activity, the children are learning to share and cooperate with each other while building their 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!

The children have also been doing a wonderful job finding their name on the bulletin board and signing their name in their folder when they are dropped off at school in the morning. It’s amazing to watch their growth throughout the semester. We will be sending these folders home with you in May.

I also wanted to bring to your attention that Ann and I will be conducting our conferences during the week of April 10th-14th. On this note we will be doing this differently from in the past. Diane’s conference day will be Tuesday April 11 from 9:00-4:00 and Ann’s

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**Calendar of Events**

March 7 — Parent Advisory Board Meeting 9-10am conference room of CCC.

March 13-17 — **Spring Break** (Interim care must be requested, extra care fees apply).

March 25th — **Teachers Participating in A.L.I.C.E Training**

**Parent Conferences** (Month of April): See page 3 for your child’s conference day!!

April 24-28 — **Week of the Young Child (WOYC) Guest Reader Program and Child Alumni Readers Welcome!**

May 5th — **Reading Day** (we are open as usual)

May 8 — 12 — **Finals Week**

May 15 - June 16 — **Spring Interim**
conference day will be Thursday April 14 from 9:00-4:00. We will have a sign-up sheet in our classroom. Please leave these dates open on your schedule. We look forward to meeting with you and discussing your child’s progress.

-Please check your child’s extra clothes bins to make sure they have all the appropriate clothing.
-Please remember to check your child’s art folder every day at pickup.
-Please feel free to come and talk with Ann or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Diane Mathison and Ann Kuta

PRESCHOOL ROOM 4
Hello from Pre-4

We sure have enjoyed the nice surprise of a few warm days here and there and the fact that it is staying light outside! We will continue to go out at the end of the day if the weather permits! This month has flown by and we have been busy introducing many new things in the classroom!

We were very excited to have the NIU music students come for 2 days and teach us new songs, show us instruments and new concepts such as high and low music and long and short notes of music. The children did a great job participating and staying engaged in the activities.

We changed the science area to embrace our love of amphibians and reptiles. The children have taken the animals to the block area and created some pretty amazing environments for them to “live” in. We also have added new games, floor puzzles, and manipulative toys to build on our skills such as special relationships, fine motor, working together, taking turns, counting and sorting.

We have spent a lot of time discussing the importance of dental health and eating good food to keep our teeth and heart healthy. We did an experiment with eggs- one we put in water and one we put into cola. We showed how the water didn’t stain our teeth and how our teeth were easy to brush when we just drink water. The egg in the cola turned brown and it took some scrubbing to make the egg white again.

We also discussed the color of our skin, and how each of us is a different shade. We had the
children pick skin-toned paint, some mixed colors together and then painted faces. Be sure to check them out!
Thank you to our families that participated in our family week. Reading, playing and having snack with us meant a great deal to your child and we loved having you join us in the classroom!

We hope everyone has a safe, fun, and relaxing Spring break!
April Kaiser & Hillary Rosher
Family Week 2017
Thank you for your Engagement