DIRECTOR’S DESK

We are fast approaching the end of a semester and more importantly, the end of another year! We hope it has been a great year for each of you, both at NIU and CCC. Our intent is to nurture your children as they learn and grow and also support you in your ongoing efforts to balance a busy life of college course work, real work or your professions, and raising children!

Thanks to those of you who took the time to get involved in our Week of the Young Child activities. It certainly was a busy week! Big thanks! to Amy, Hillary, Kendra, Bri and the Parent Advisory Board members for all of their hard work on the activities surrounding this week. Thank you to all of the parents that signed up and brought in food for staff appreciation, stopped over early for Music Monday and the Huskie Drum Line, went through the obstacle course, stopped in the read and dressed your child for spirit day! Some photos of these events are included on the last page of this newsletter. Thanks again for a great celebratory week! We had over 20 guest readers from all over the university stop in to see what great things our teachers, as professionals are doing to build a great foundation for future learning.

The summer semester is soon approaching and we are starting to prepare. We will begin applying sunscreen to the children as of the first day of interim, May 15th. If you have given us permission to apply the center sunscreen we will use that or you are welcome to bring you own bottle of cream sunscreen only (no sprays please). Please label the bottle with your child’s name for us to apply.

Our plan is to have 3 classrooms open this summer: the Toddler Room (for toddlers and twos) with Katilyn, Sherie, and Pam as teachers. Preschool 1 (for all current Pre 1 and some twos moving up) with April, Leslie, and Jaquida as teachers. Preschool 2 (for all Pre 2 and Pre 4 children with some twos moving up) with Ann, Hillary and Jennifer as teachers. Jen will be working on NAEYC classroom portfolios in preparation for accreditation this fall.

Several of our teachers will be off for the summer and returning for fall; they include Kellie, Barbara, Diane M., Kendra and Bri. Bri will be returning in October from maternity leave and Jen will be gone from August 21st till October 16th for student teaching.

As of fall semester, the current toddlers returning will be placed into a 2/3’s classroom and the current infants (who turn one by Sept. 1) will move to the toddler room. Also, all of the children who are currently in a 2/3’s classroom will be divided into the four preschool rooms. We will make every effort to keep small groups of children together as they move into new classrooms. We take into consideration current relationships among children, as well as teachers.
Fall semester is a time of year when we make some changes to our staffing to try and keep with continuity and relationships. Most preschool children will stay in their current room placements but may have one new teacher for fall depending on the needs of the children and the staff. Letters will go out in early June with your fall contracts and an email will be sent in early August with the fall teacher placements.

Since we are nearing the end of the semester the teachers will be starting to close down their classrooms. The janitors will then be able to get into each room during Interim to do a thorough cleaning to prepare for the upcoming semester. So, you will notice things coming down from the walls and items removed from the classroom. We hate to do this but with so many teachers that are off during the summer, it’s really the only time they have together to get it done. We appreciate your understanding!

We wish all of you good luck with finals and congratulations to those who are graduating; what a huge accomplishment! For some, we will continue to see you, and for others we won’t see you until next fall, so have a great summer. For parents of preschoolers heading off to kindergarten, know that we will miss you so please keep in touch and feel free to visit at any time or send a quick email with a photo or short update. We love to see how our graduates have grown.

Kristin Schulz

PRESCHOOL ROOM 1
Hello Pre 1 Families:

The month of April is coming to an end, and what a busy end of the semester Pre 1 has had. As May fast approaches so does the end of the semester. As interim and summer semester is just around the corner we are looking forward to the weather that follows. At the beginning of the month Josephina added soil, flowers, flower pots, gemstones and shovels to the media table. The children planted the flowers, pretended the gemstones were seeds, and gave the plants to friends and teachers. When the children observed and used these items in the media table their interest in planting and how plants grow sparked. Many children started asking questions such as how to plants grow, and what helps them grow big. Jen put some bean seeds in the science area, which the children observed and sorted. A visual print out of what the parts of a plant are and what they are called was also added to science area. As a class we decided

REMINDERS

- The last day of spring semester is May 13th. Full-day care is available during Interim (May 15th — June 10th); applications are past due. The ‘extra care’ fee; an additional 10% will be applied if you still need care.

- Child care fees need to be paid in full prior to the upcoming semester.

- If you are enrolling for summer semester, please remember that children must be enrolled for the entire semester and not just part of it. If you leave early, our withdrawal policy will apply.

- Child care rates for the fall semester will be posted to the CCC web site by the end of May.

- Campus Child Care will be closed on 2 Fridays for staff training—August 18 & 25.
to germinate the bean seeds and see what would happen when putting them into a plastic bag with a damp paper towel, and taping them to the window. The children stated that the seeds need sunlight and water to grow. Within a week and a half some of the seeds began to sprout, while others started to mold. As a class, we discussed which windows got more sunlight, and if the seeds were folded in the paper towel or laying on top of the towel. Two weeks later, when the sprouts were big enough we decided to plant our sprouts into cups and place them on the windowsill. Some children’s seeds were moldy so they were given the opportunity to choose between pea or green bean seed to plant. Finally, we planted vegetable sprouts in a clear container, the children were able to watch the plants grow under the soil. The plants are continuing at grow and the weekly plant waterer is assisting them in the growing process.

Pre 1 came up with an ABC countdown to summer calendar for the month of April and the beginning weeks of May. Each remaining day of the spring semester represents a letter in the alphabet and each day we are participating in an activity that goes along with that particular letter. They thought this would be a fun way to countdown until summer. Many friends will be heading off to kindergarten in the fall and this may be their last semester at Campus Child Care. Some of the ABC days included L for luau day. The children watched a YouTube video teaching them different hula dance moves, the children wore leis, and listened to tropical music during free play. E was experiment day, many science experiments were conducted including making gems, making instant snow, poking pencils through a plastic bag without water escaping, and making a sprinkle with a water bottle and invisible holes. G was for game day, we brought out board and card games that included literacy rhyming games, UNO, a unicorn matching game, and bug bingo. The children were given the opportunity to play games with rules, take turns, and work cooperatively together. The children have invited their families to come and look at the calendar and see what the upcoming days are.

Week of the Young Child was such a blast! Music Monday we had multiple dance parties and the NIU drumline came for a visit. Tasty Tuesday we had a pancake breakfast bar with topping including
sprinkles and whipped cream. Work Together Wednesday the children were challenged to complete an obstacle course and they wore their fancy clothes to school. Artsy Thursday we created gems jewelry and invited all to check out the preschool art gallery displayed in the pre 3 classroom. Family Friday we wore our PJ’s and invited families in to read! Thank you for such a fun-filled WOYC!

Friday, May 5th will be our Kishwaukee interns Josephina’s last day. We want to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to our classroom and bringing her positive, outgoing personality while engaging with the children. She has done a wonderful job implementing new and emergent activities, group times and centers within our classroom. May 12th will also be Bri’s last day until returning from maternity leave in October.

As interim and summer semesters are approaching we would like to give some friendly reminders. Please check your child’s bin of extra clothes to make sure they are appropriate for the weather. Ann, April, and Jen will be working in the preschool classroom for interim. We want to thank all of our families for such a wonderful year! This year was filled with so much growth, friendships, creativity, and exploring. Happy May!

Bri Wicker & Jen Young

PRESCHOOL ROOM 2
What a whirlwind of a month! We have been knee deep in dirt with our project on Garden. We have read about plants and how they grow. Planted some flower seeds in individual cups and charted how long it took to see sprouts show up in the cup and then how long it took for the rest of the class

Calendar of Events

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

**NIU Cares Day** – Saturday, April 22nd – A team of teachers and students will be doing spring cleaning and gardening from 9-12pm. If your family would like to contribute materials or time please see the sign up sheet or Kendra for more information.

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

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

May 8 — **Finals Week**

May 15 - June 16 — **Spring Interim**
to show shoots. The documentation is on our classroom calendar and also introduced new vocabulary and time period with the word week. We also have made a seed book and currently tracking the sprouts by graphing their progress on a chart. You can see our seed bags on the windows and how many have begun to germinate.

We continued our garden theme with our new Author of the month of May; Kevin Henke book “My Garden” which encourages children to use their imagination. We encourage this by having each child draw, described, and write about what they would grow/they’re favorite item in their garden. They pictures were displayed in the Art Gallery during the Week of the Young Child.

We have worked very hard on our classes social-emotional growth by using Second Step Posters, we use these at group time to work through different situations as a class and offer solutions that we can then apply to our classroom. Some of the topics have been: What to do when someone takes your toy, Joining a group playing, What to do when there is only 1 toy, and Balancing the needs and rights of self and classmates.

We have continued with number and patterning by using our calendar and reinforcing these skills with our WORM small group, science and weather and the effects on our plants and growing plants, with our daily weather, and as always creative expression with all our art projects.

It truly has been a busy month and this last week of April and the Week of the Young Child (WOTYC) was the frosting on top. We had some amazing visitors come in and read to us; we were visited by the President of NIU - Dr Baker and his wife Dana, Visiting Assistant Professor in Literacy - Concetta Williams, FCNS Chair – Tom Pavkov, Director; Holmes Student Center – Ian Holmes and Assistant Director of CCC- Amy LoftHouse. A HUGE Thankyou from Pre 2 for taking time to meet us and read some amazing Stories.

Other Activities from the WOTYC were an Art Gallery in Pre-3 room from all of the preschool rooms, a visit and concert from NIU Drumline, making and baking Blueberry muffins, enjoying the challenging Obstacle course put together by Hillary and Kendra, making by having the children cut up fruit and trying the various new fruits (Thank you Parents for all the donations) also
our new art with WOTYC picture frames hanging on our mirror to chalk drawings hanging in the lobby! What an AMAZING busy Month! Thank you for sharing these experiences with us.

Reminders:

- We go outside daily Please bring in make sure your child has short sleeves and shorts in their extra clothes box in the bathroom.
- Just a reminder please do not bring toys from home. When the children get their coats some children are moving toys from one child’s cubie to theirs. We would hate to lose a beloved toy.
- Please take home winter clothing - hopefully we don’t get any more snow.

Diane Mathison and Ann Kuta

PRESCHOOL ROOM 4

Greetings Parents and Families,

Wow, can you believe how fast this semester has flown by? Our Pre 4 friends have been very excited about the changing weather and sunny days ahead. Please make sure that your child has appropriate shoes for outdoor play. This means they must be closed toed. If your child wears sandals to school, please make sure to leave extra shoes in their cubby. Also, it might be a good time to check your child’s clothes bin located in the bathroom to replace winter wear with summer wear.

With the warmer weather comes a need to screen. The center provides a sunscreen lotion, however, if you have a personal preference of sunscreen please make sure to bring a bottle labeled with your child’s name. Please bring the lotion and not the spray type of sunscreen.

Moving forward, we will be focusing on gardening and the importance of taking care of our growing plants and vegetables. Along with this, we will be having a vegetable taste test. Our goal is for the children to be responsible for watering and taking care of their plants, as well as, find an appreciation of foods grown from the ground.

As many of our friends will be moving on to kindergarten, we will be encouraging letter recognition, phonological awareness, and rhyming using group games and activities. Make sure to ask your child about some simple rhyming words to build upon their knowledge.

After exploring our friends’ interest by using a graphing web, we found that they would be very interested in having a classroom forest for our dramatic play area. With their love of animals and the great outdoors, our friends will be able to imagine they are in a forest wonderland. We will have
woodland themed animals and stuffed animals, a tent, binoculars, a pretend grill and grilling supplies, an imaginary river, and pinecones, acorns, and sticks.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to ask! We have enjoyed having your children in Pre 4 this semester. It has been a joy watching them grow, maintain relationships, and build their love for their school family! Best of luck to our future kindergartners in the fall!

Sincerely,

April Kaiser & Hillary Rosher
Huskie Red and Black in Pre-1

Week of the Young Child Special Events

President and Mrs. Baker as guest readers!

NIU Winter Drum Line

Making Muffins in Pre-2 and Working together in the obstacle course in Pre-4!