DIRECTOR’S DESK

The semester is moving along very quickly. Mid-terms are over so now it seems we’re heading into the last weeks of the semester!

It’s re-enrollment time! Janene will hold all paperwork at the front desk and give it to parents to be completed at the center. The process will start during the week of Nov 6-10. You will then sign your contract during the last week in November in order to secure your spot for spring semester.

The teachers are busy preparing for parent conferences. The dates for your child’s classroom will be posted by the parent info boards in each classroom and are also listed inside this newsletter in the Calendar of Events. All parents are expected to meet with your child’s primary teacher. They will be sharing information using our assessment tool (Teaching Strategies Gold) that is directly tied to The Creative Curriculum. Please keep in mind that we do make referrals if we feel a child needs some additional assessment or services, and we expect parents to follow up with these as it is essential to your child’s overall growth and development. Very often, something like a vision, hearing, or speech problem can be addressed at a very young age. If left undiagnosed and untreated, however, it could lead to permanent or long-term issues. We see sharing this type of information with parents as an important part of the work we do.

We often remind parents to dress their children appropriately for the weather—coats, boots, hats, mittens for winter, etc. Right now is a tricky time of year because the mornings start out cold but the sun is still somewhat strong and we can have warmer weather during the day. If you send your child in full winter attire, including mittens, hats, scarves, etc., but it is has warmed up by mid-day, then these items will not be worn by your child when they go outside. We will use our best judgment to decide what is best for your child at that time. We want to make sure children do not become over-heated as they are running around outside; so, we will make those decisions to take hats, mittens, and scarves off if it’s too warm; and to put them on if it’s cold. And, as a reminder, children do not get sick from being outside. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please don’t hesitate to talk with us. And, as some of the illness continues, please keep your child home if they have active symptoms such as vomiting or diarrhea. This time of year we typically see more upper-respiratory illness. Children may attend as long as their breathing is not of concern, do not have a temperature above 100.5, and can participate in the regular day’s activities.

Please sign up for a parent conference and fill out your spring semester application! Make sure your account is paid in full so as to not jeopardize your placement.

Kristin Schulz

www.ccc.niu.edu
(815) 753-0125
Preschool-1

We have had a very busy month. We have been having a lot of fun learning about trains. The class Loves the book Freight Train by Donald Crews. We first made a shoe box train and when their interest grew we then made a big box train for the dramatic play area. The children voted on which train cars to make for the big Train. This fascination with the Freight Train Book lead to a group discussion. We listed all the information we knew about trains and what we wanted to learn. After the big train was made a huge discussion on how a train is driven. We found out that there is NO steering wheel.

With their interest in trains we planned several small groups reinforcing colors and introducing numbers and shapes. Working on identifying triangle circle and squares while sorting them into the correct train car. We also worked on number recognition and counting corresponding objects. Look for a more in-depth description of the small groups on TSG.

Family wall: we moved our Family Pictures to our group area and have had the children tell us who is in their picture, if you have not already done so Please bring in or email us your family picture so each child has a picture to share.

Each child has had the opportunity to create a Feeling Monster. The book Glad Monster Sad Monster by Ed Emberly. The book shows a monster and what feeling it is Sad, Glad, Scared, Silly, Worried, Angry and Scary, with a description of each feeling and their face. The children noticed that the monster faces were pumpkin shaped. Jaquida was inspired to buy each child a pumpkin to create their own feeling monsters. Hopefully
each pumpkin made it home safely.

To help with identifying and dealing with our emotions Toni from Four C's has been joining us in the afternoons to conduct a large group on Feelings/Emotions. Each child should have received a letter and a sheet with feeling faces/emotions taped to your child’s cubie.

Daily in our classroom to reinforce positive communication and actions between the children and the teachers we have our Apple Bulletin Board. When a child is noticed by any of the teachers in the room using their words asking and helping, sharing toys or cleaning up etc. By themselves we acknowledge the positive work and add an apple to the board. We have almost covered the whole board.

One more Item: Conferences are coming up please look for a letter/board to sign up. Each teacher gets one whole day. We look forward to meeting with you and discuss the awesome accomplishments of your child.

Ann Kuta and Jaquida Wynn

Preschool-2

The month of October has flown by. We have been very blessed with the weather we have been having. We have been spending a lot of time outside on the playground.

Recently we have read the book, The Bucket Filling Book to the children. We have a special bulletin board that each child has a cup with their name on it. During the day the children are given gems to encourage helpful and kind choices. For example: Cleaning up their toys, saying kind words to our peers, helping the teachers. If you hear your child say I was a bucket filler or a bucket dumper today at school. Encourage them to be a bucket filler.

The children have been using the playdough and pretending to make cookies, cakes and other bakery items. Hillary and I thought it would be fun for the children to create a bakery in the dramatic play area. During group time we will be asking the children to think of items we could add to our bakery. The children in Pre-2 are very

division of student affairs
creative and imaginative. We can’t wait to hear their ideas.

We would like to thank Leon’s mom and La’Nia’s mom for coming into our classroom and reading to the children. The children were excited to hear a different language (Chinese). We are working on learning a few words. La’Nia’s mom read The Little Old Lady who was not afraid of anything. She provided each child with an instrument and they asked out different parts to the story. Thanks for sharing your time, the children had a lot of fun.

During November Hillary and I will be conducting parent/teacher conferences. Hillary will be doing her conferences on Monday, November 13th from 9:00-4:00. Diane will be doing her conferences on Tuesday, November 27th from 9:00-4:00. We will have a sign-up sheet posted by the cubbies. Please write this date on your calendar. We look forward to talking with each of you and sharing the great things your child is learning at school.

Reminders:
- Hillary will be attending the NAEYC conference in Atlanta on November 15th, 16th and 17th.
- Please remember to dress your child accordingly with the weather getting cooler. Hats, gloves, coats and boots.
- Please check your child’s art folder and bring home on a daily basis.
- Please make sure to bring home your child’s blanket, pillow, stuffed animal to wash over the weekend.
- Parents we would like to invite you into the classroom to share a book, do an art activity, do a cooking activity, share something special about your culture.

Diane Mathison and Hillary Rosher-Thompson

Please watch the video animation that explains how you can support your child develop secure attachments and self-confidence.

https://vimeo.com/122770192

More information can be found on their website– Click the parent tab for more information.

https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/
https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/animations– more animations!!
Preschool-3

Pre-3 has had a very busy, yet fun October! We have been talking about and observing how the season is changing. We have been on nature walks on campus where we have each used the teacher camera to take photos of the beautiful fall trees. We then created fall art in our classroom as we brought these photos up on the laptop and used sponges and red, orange, yellow and brown paint to create the tree in our individual photos. We also went on a pinecone hunt and covered pinecones with vegetable shortening, corn kernels and sunflower seeds and hung them on the trees on the playground. We visited the pinecones each day and used our documentation skills to record any noticeable changes. The sunflower seeds and corn kernels had slowly disappeared, this led the children to hypothesize that squirrels, and birds have probably been eating them.

Our mini pumpkin study encompassed all the areas of our curriculum. We used our scientific skills to investigate both the inside and outside of the pumpkin. Measuring pumpkins by using different lengths of ribbon and putting the pumpkins in order of smallest to largest and heaviest to lightest help strengthen some of our math skills. As far as language and literacy, the children came up with some wonderful new vocabulary when describing pumpkins—cold, bumpy, smooth, rough, hard, etc. Art included cutting out our own pumpkins and adding a vine a leaf and we had a parent come in to our classroom to paint mini pumpkins with us. Our pumpkin study was so much fun.

The children are showing so much interest in writing and pre-literacy activities, especially when it comes to the letters in their names. Thank you for helping your child sign in each day. This individualized attention helps them with correct letter formation and pencil grasp. We have also been looking at letters to determine if they have straight lines, curved lines, diagonal lines, holes and dots. We introduced environmental signs (store and restaurant signs) and the children are excited when the can recognize and read some of these signs from the community. Children at this age are just starting to realize that print carries meaning such as in their names and in their favorite books. You can encourage this learning by reading a variety of books and providing writing opportunities at home.

The temperature is slowly getting cooler and we are noticing that we need to wear coats and jackets a little more often. Please be sure to
send in cooler weather- gear, coats, hats, mittens, and boots-when you see fit and please remember that every article of clothing needs to be labeled with your child’s name.

Thank you so much for your help with this.

Lastly, parent/teacher conferences are just around the corner. Please be on the lookout for sign-up sheets with November dates and times. I look forward to meeting with all of you very soon.

Leslie Dolan & Jen Young

Assessment Tools for Teachers and Parents

Campus Child Care utilizes Teaching Strategies Gold an online assessment tool for teachers. This tool falls in line with our current use of the Creative Curriculum, another Teaching Strategies product.

The teachers are using GOLD to assess the development of each child based on 38 research-based objectives that include predictors of school success and are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, state early learning guidelines, and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. These help teachers focus on what matters most for children’s success.

During your parent conferences you will have an opportunity to see this assessment tool if you have not already looked at it. Teachers have shared documentation with you. If you have any questions about this, please talk with your child’s teacher.

We look forward to working with you and using this amazing tool together! If you have a kindergarten bound child, be thinking about where you will store their documentation when they leave CCC. We can’t keep their account forever so think ahead.
Calendar of Events

Parent Conferences:
Week of October 30th-Nov 2nd-
Kendra, Sherie, Pam and Kellie

Week of November 6th-9th-
Leslie, April, Ann, and Alex

Week of November 13th– 16th-
Hillary

Week of November 27th– 30th-
Barbara, Diane, Leslie, and Jaquida

Week of December 4th-7th-
Kat and Any make up conferences

Check in with your child’s teacher for the sign up sheet with their list of times offered all day between 9:00am and 4:00pm