Directors 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
INFANT ROOM
Hello infant families,
We have finally reached the mid-point of the semester. We have made great connections with all of the children. From the beginning of the semester to now, there has been great improvement in the classroom. We have a schedule down for all of the children and the bonds are continuing to grow.

At the beginning of the semester, the goals that we were creating were very generic. Now, as the children are beginning to develop, many of the goals we have now are centered toward a specific age group. Our goals are posted outside of the classroom for you to look at. Be sure to look to see what your child may be working on!

This month we spent a lot of time exploring different nature items. We got to go on a walk around campus to find different leaves and branches. Once we had a collection of leaves, they were brought into the classroom for the children to explore and play with. Towards the beginning of October, Sherie brought pumpkins and gourds into the classroom for the children to explore as well.

We have been very involved in different activities for creative expression. After Sherie brought the pumpkins into the classroom, the children were able to sit down and finger paint with the pumpkins. Other art activities that we have done involve, finger painting,
The children have been exploring many areas of the classroom. Some of their favorite areas are the library and the music area. Some of the books that the children have been drawn to are Brown Bear, Brown Bear, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Do you Know A Friend of Mine, and many more. In the music area, instruments such as bells and shakers are amongst the favorites. Recently, we brought the drums into the classroom and the children were very interested in hitting them and listening to the different sounds that they make.

Our parent conferences are right around the corner. Sherie just had her conferences on October 31st, and Alex will have hers on November 9th. These conferences are a time for us to sit down and talk about your child’s development and goals.

This month, we welcomed a new child into the classroom. Saylor started mid-October. Welcome Saylor!

Reminders:
As the weather is starting to change, please bring in appropriate clothing as we will be going outside every day. Make sure to be checking your child’s cubby every day for daily sheets and also clothes that may need to go home.

Happy November!
Alex McAnally and Sherie Newman

**TODDLER ROOM**

It is hard to believe that we are already in November! Let’s recap October in the Toddler Room! Our Toddlers have been building relationships with each other and with the adults in the room; there isn’t anything greater than walking into our room and hearing the children’s excitement at seeing us or other classmates. Some of the children are eager for a hug or act as our greeters with the newcomers entering the room. We have been allowing the children to find a hand to hold as we transition outside instead of using the walking rings. It is heartwarming to see a child put out their hand and another child take hold of it! Not only that but our transitioning has been much more successful, we have even added some direction following skills and traveling skills as we experiment with go and stop (freeze) and various ways to move through the hallway.
Group Time has been well attended this month; the children love to find the mouse in our Mouse House game. The children help find the mouse behind a colored house, this game has helped the children with waiting turns and color identification. We also had some color mixing art activity that is displayed in the hallway and keeping up with the interests of colors, we added a color sorting activity in the dramatic play area. Another new interest is the magnetic board with the alphabet magnets, zoo animals and farm magnets. We noticed that while doing stickers the children like to put on and pull off so the magnets boards was the perfect solution. They can put them on and take them off!

While you may not be ready for your toddler to grow up and gain some independence, here in-group care we are fostering that independence many times daily. Mealtime is a time during the day where we have seen the most growth. We are assisting the children self serve using a serving cup or spoon. The children need less assistance from us. At times when a child may need help, we give them a chance to put his or her hand on the serving utensil then we place our hand on the utensil as well to give that extra support. Last month we introduced open cups for the afternoon snack time when water is served. After a few weeks of lots of water being spilled, we went back to sippy cups with lids for the younger toddlers. The older toddlers are continuing to use open cups and to practice pouring the water from a child size pitcher. Right now an adult pours with the toddler putting hand over hand saying pour “slowly, slowly, stop”. This gives the children experience in learning how much to fill their cup. As the semester progresses and the children continue to get older more children will use an open cup and eventually introduce pouring milk.

As the weather gets cooler and eventually cold, we will continue to go outside each day as long as the temperature is within the range conducive to outdoor play. Please continue to bring outdoor clothing for the weather and please be sure to label all coats, hats, gloves, boots, and snow pants. Speaking of fostering independence, putting on outdoor clothing and putting away in cubbies is another way to help children with that independence. Right now most of the children are at the beginning stages of zipping up their own coats. When getting coats on an adult starts the zipper then asks the child to finish zipping by pulling the zipper up. This is a great way to help develop
those fine motor muscles in fingers and hands. When coming inside after assisting the children in tak-
ing off their coats after encouraging them to pull down the zipper, and remove their coats, we ask
them to find their cubbie. We then ask them to put their coat and any other outdoor clothing inside
their cubbie. We have the cubbies labeled with names and photos in order for the children to find
the space we have provided for them to keep their outdoor belongings

As a reminder, please check to be sure that your child has weather appropriate changes of clothing
in their extra clothing box in the bathroom. Enjoy the month of November and the season change.
Kellie Fuss & Pam Yockey

TWO/THREE-1

Greetings families,

Happy fall! This month we have been enjoying the weather and time outside on the big play-
ground. The children have been using their large muscles to discover the new climbers and materials
provided. One of the things that the children have been interested in is the tricycles. There are tricy-
cycles that have pedals and no pedals and the children have been using their legs and feet to move
the tricycle.

We are continuing to work on our social skills in our classroom. One of the things that we are
working on is using our words to express ourselves and our needs with the help of social stories. The
social stories are present in our classroom to help give us examples of what we can say, ask, do etc.
We are also going to be introducing the puppets, Impulsive Puppy and Slow-Down Snail to help with
this as well. Our goal is that they are going to help the children use their words as well as help give the
children ideas as to how to handle certain situations. Furthermore, we have been talking about emo-
tions and how they are caused. We have been looking at what emotions look like based on facial
expressions. We have posted pictures of the children making faces based on emotions to help us rec-
ognize the different emotions we feel.

Again, art is a huge part of our classroom. The children enjoy creating art through several mediums,
including crayons, colored pencils, collage materials, and especially paint. Some of the pieces that we have created this month include finger painting on bubble wrap and making a print on construction paper, using a toy hammer to hit make up pads on top of paper and several other art projects.

For science and math, the children have been particularly interested in play dough. We have made several batches of play dough this month. We have mixed the following ingredients together: flour, salt, cream of tartar, oil, water, food coloring and an essential oil. We took turns to add the ingredients to the bowl and mixed them together. With this play dough, we are utilizing several of our senses as we interact with it like our sense of touch and smell to smell the essential oil. We also conducted a science experiment where we watched how vinegar reacted with baking soda and how water reacted with baking soda. We talked about how the vinegar and baking soda mixture created a reaction with bubbles and fizzing.

Reminders:
Please make note, parent teacher conferences are approaching. Sign-up sheets will be posted for you to sign up with your child’s primary teacher.
Please bring some long-sleeved shirts, hoodies, long pants, jackets, etc. for cooler weather that will be approaching.
Please check your child’s cubby for any notes and artwork.

Have a great month,
Kat Dolan & April Kaiser

TWO/THREE-2
In this month’s newsletter for 2’s-3’s/2, I want to tell you about what we have been doing and learning about for our study. This month the children have expressed an interest in farming. It started with the children exploring some of the farm props in the block area. Connor found a tractor and a disc plow. He began playing with it, but he could not get it to stay attached to the tractor. I saw he looked frustrated so I offered help. As I helped him, I started talking about the disc plow he wanted attached to the back of the tractor. I saw he looked blankly so I started to describe what it was. After a minute I said, “Let me show you a real disc plow.” I loaded a video of a disc plow being pulled behind a tractor through a field. Connor being the first one to watch declared, “It’s cutting up the dirt!”
“That’s right!” I told him.

The other children saw my phone out and Connor watching and immediately came to see what we were doing. I was not sure anyone would really be interested in a tractor pulling a plow. However, the feedback was loud and clear. Questions like, “What’s it doing?” and “What is that?” and Connor trying to explain to his classmates what was happening and repeating, “The farmer is cutting up the dirt.” This question and answer period went on for longer than most two-year-old’s want to talk about things showed me there might be some interest in this topic.

Not long after that, the children began playing with and talking about chickens. So, I turned to a video I had of a chick hatching from an egg on my phone from last year when the 2’s-3’s/1 room hatched chicken eggs. Nora watched the short video, gasping when the egg cracked open completely and she could see a black feathered chick emerging. “It’s not yellow!” was her first observation. I told her chicks could be yellow, shades of brown and sometimes black. She repeated this a few times and with her classmates wanted to watch this video again. The children were using the farm toys from block area, looking at the toy chickens they had to play with too.

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**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
I talked to Sherie and she offered to bring in a chicken for the children to observe on Monday. She also brought in a dozen farm eggs. The children were so interested in the color of the chicken. Everett found a yellow feather in book area, he decided it might be the chickens so we compared. Everett told me the chicken is not yellow. The children saw what we were doing and began to bring over toy chickens to compare to the real chicken. Nora, Bria and Amelia each brought over a chicken or a turkey. We looked and the children said the toys, don’t look like a real chicken. I agreed with them and asked how the toy chickens look different. Their main observation was the coloring of the toys in comparison to the real chicken.

This lead to conversations about chicken colors. We hypothesized what color the next chicken Sherie brought in might be. They chose green, pink, yellow or white. Therefore, I hung up construction paper in those colors by the chicken cage so we could compare when Tuesday’s chicken came for a visit. During this talk of color, we brought up the fact that eggs from chickens come in different colors too. Some eggs look greenish, others tan or brown and others are white. We cracked open the eggs Sherie brought to see what color the middle of the egg might be and to cook scrambled eggs. When I cracked the first egg open we all say it was yellow, just like the eggs from the store. Every child had the opportunity to hold an egg, and crack it open too. We found that every egg was a shade of yellow in the middle.

I cooked the eggs and we ate them (maybe I should say devoured them) and decided scrambled farm eggs taste delicious!

We are looking forward to where the children’s interests lead us next. Maybe we can even get an up-close view of a tractor!

Have a great month!

Kendra Nenia & Barbara Zeman
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.