Welcome back to the second half of spring semester. We enjoyed a nice break to catch up and get ready for the good weather (warmer with rain) and fun times ahead.

The teachers have prepared for parent-teacher conferences (conference schedule is listed on page 3 of this newsletter). We do expect all families to sign up for a time to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss their growth and development since fall. Each teacher has a sign up sheet in the classroom with times they are available to meet. If the times offered don’t work for you please talk with the teacher to plan for a time when everyone is available.

April is a busy time of year with conferences, WOYC, and assessments. During the week of April 9th we will have enrollment week for returning families. Everyone who will need child care for summer and fall will need to stop up front and take about 10 minutes to fill out the re-enrollment forms. Janene will take a week to make placements and then the week of April 23rd you will stop back up front to sign your contracts. The signed contract will hold your enrollment. The week of April 16th we will open enrollment to new families and you may lose your priority placement if you don’t have an application on file and you need care.

In a few short weeks, we will be sending out a program survey that will be asking for feedback about your experience this year and an opportunity for you to share feedback about the teaching staff that will be shared with them during their annual review. Please take some time to fill these out honestly, and openly as we use this information to plan program goals for the next academic year.

During the week of April 16th the center will be participating in The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Week of the Young Child (WOYC). Take a look at the calendar of events, which is included in this newsletter. The week will be filled with opportunities for parent and child play, participation and learning. Each day has a theme and an opportunity for center wide participation. We love this week and the opportunity to appreciate our teachers for the amazing work they do educating young children to be smart, strong and healthy members of society. The parent advisory board will have a sign up sheet posted near the check in station for ways you can help contribute!

We are happy to say that our NAEYC site visit is behind us. Everything went well, and now we play the waiting game, and wait for the results. We should hear something within the next three months. Thanks for your continued support!

Kristin Schulz & Amy Lofthouse
PRESCHOOL ROOM 1

First, I would like to give a huge thanks to those who came out for Family Literacy Night. This semester we switched up the setting, by holding a reading session in every room throughout the building. Hopefully, you all were able to mingle with families from all different age groups. Our class literacy session was inspired by the book we’ve been reading for the past several weeks, “The Three Little Aliens and the Big Bad Robot.” Doesn’t it sound familiar? If you’re thinking of the Three Little Pigs, you’re right! The children helped to make alien cupcakes, and bolts/nuts Chex mix. We hope that you all enjoyed the evening.

Spring is finally here! Yes, it feels like winter but I’m hoping that wearing my bright clothing every day to work will bring a little sunshine out. I can’t wait to see the first flower bloom on the playground. A friendly reminder to continue to bring appropriate clothing for the weather, and please make sure the clothing that is in your child’s cubby is replenished if needed.

My conferences will be held on Wednesday, April 4. Hopefully all of you have marked your calendars and prepared yourselves for some time for us to sit down and talk about all the wonderful things your child is doing. Ann’s conferences will be held in May and she will soon have out her conference sign-up form.

Week of the Young Child is also approaching. An

REMINdERS

- The last day of spring semester is May 11th. Full-day care is available during Interim (May 14th—June 15th); applications are due by April 13th. Anyone who requests care after this date will be charged the ‘extra care’ fee; an additional 10%.

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

- Summer and Fall child care applications are due during re-Enrollment week, April 9th-13th. Contracts will need to be signed the week of April 23rd.

- Summer Enrollment for New Families will begin on April 16th, online application.

- 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. If you did not save your invoices for the year, you can obtain a record of your payment history through MyNIU.
Parent Conference Schedule Changes

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2nd</td>
<td>Pam</td>
<td>Jaquida</td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9th</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>Kellie</td>
<td>Jen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16th</td>
<td>WOYC</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Conferences ———</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23rd</td>
<td>Diane</td>
<td>Kendra</td>
<td>Hillary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30th</td>
<td>Sherie</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7th</td>
<td>Make Up (Kendra for Barbara)</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This month our children have been extremely busy. The Three Little Aliens and the Big Bad Robot has been a hit in our classroom! It’s about three little aliens who left their mother’s home to go out to be on their own. The mother told them to watch out for the robot who meant no good to them and to always stick together. Each alien decided to live on different planets. The children’s knowledge about space and planets have expanded over the past month and a half. We have discussed the order of the eight planets, the biggest star, the planet we live on, and the hottest planet. One of the questions asked was how do we get to space. To extend the children’s knowledge we read “The Rocket Book.” It was about the countdown to blast off. We then made rockets to experiment on how far we could get in the galaxy, reinforcing the planet names, how far from the sun the planet is, and the climate on the planet.

The children are also excited about the dramatic play area. We now have the beauty salon in business. If you’re needing a haircut, or need extensions installed, we are here for you! Just stop by. We are open between the hours of 8:15a- 5:15p.

Jaquida Wynn & Ann Kuta

development of student affairs

campus child care

email will be sent out to you soon. WOYC is an annual celebration, celebrating early learning, young children, and the teachers who dedicate their time in the Education field.
We would like you to be on lookout for activities and events occurring during Week of the Young Child, April 16th -20th. Similar to last year, each day will have a special activity planned. For example, Monday will be music Monday, Tuesday, Tasty Tuesday, Wednesday, Work together Wednesday, Thursday, Artsy Thursday, and Friday, Family Friday. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding this special week. More information to follow.

Hayes has been very popular in the classroom, as if he was one of the children in our classroom. We decided that Hayes needed a brother or sister and so during group time, the children were able to vote on whether Hayes’s sibling would be a sister or brother and what its name should be. Our final vote was that Hayes now has a brother and his name is Wolfie. We discussed how Hayes’s brother would also have a job. This job would include providing therapeutic services for our friends whom may need it. For example, we had a friend who recently had a hospital visit. Though this friend was nervous and scared, he used Wolfie as a way to help calm and reassure that everything would be okay. The children have become interested in what a therapy animal does and who might need a therapy animal. Through books and video clips, the children have been able to see firsthand the importance of these animals helping individuals of all ages. We are currently researching a way to bring a therapy dog into the center.

Calendar of Events

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

April 16-20 — **Week of the Young Child (WOYC) Guest Reader Program and Child Alumni Readers Welcome!** (See schedule on page 7)

May 4th— **Reading Day** (we are open as usual)

May 7-11th— **Finals Week**

May 14-June 15 — **Spring Interim**
We would like to thank all of the families that attended family night last month. We hope this was a fun experience for you and your family. We hope by promoting literacy and preparing small snacks related to each story was an entertaining and enjoyable experience.

The two’s/three’s room invited us to their classroom to see a deceased octopus. This classroom has been doing a study on ocean life and invited Pre-2 to share their resources. When we first walked into the classroom the children plugged their noses because the classroom had a fishy smell, however it did not stop the children from wanting to touch and investigate the octopus. We learned many interesting facts: an octopus has 8 tentacles, eats crabs using its beak and has thousands of suction cups.

Last month we introduced Deshawn, our classroom persona doll. Deshawn is a four year old boy who enjoys art, riding scooters, and pizza. He has two moms, Jen and Sharon. One of his moms makes an excellent sweet potato pie. Deshawn is a great tool to encourage the children to treat others with kindness and to be mindful of diverse family structures. We use Deshawn and his life stories to discuss with the children certain topics, such as, teasing, bullying, and name calling. The children are asked to think of strategies to help Deshawn and his friends make good choices and to treat others kindly. Once scenario we used was when Deshawn was feeling nervous about starting at a new school. The children problem solved strategies as to how to welcome Deshawn into the classroom. Some of the children suggested, asking him to play, giving him a hug, and offering a stuffed animal. We hope Deshawn will help develop empathy towards others.

As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding your child, please feel free to ask!

Diane Mathison & Hillary Rosher

PRESCHOOL ROOM 3
April is always a month preschooler’s look forward to. It usually means more trips to the playground, warmer weather, trees and flowers blooming and worms under the tree stumps. We have been working very hard to help develop social/emotional skills in our classroom. We have been reading many books on kindness and how we can show kindness to each other. We...
looked at picture cards of children doing “kind” and “unkind” actions and had to place them on the “kind” or “unkind” side of the board. We created a “Be Kind” bulletin board where we asked the children what it means to be kind. It was evident that the books and activities about kindness have definitely made a positive impact on their behavior in the classroom.

The children have shown an interest in volcanoes so this has been the focus of science in our classroom. We used paper mache to make a volcano which turned out to be a very long process. First, we made the shape of the volcano using a plastic water bottle and drink tray and used paper mache to cover the top and bottom. We had to wait until the entire structure dried before we painted it brown. Once painted we coated it with Mod Podge to give it strength for the many eruptions it would endure. Finally, we talked about the chemical reaction of baking soda and vinegar to make the volcano erupt. This science experiment never gets old!

Our literacy and writing strengths are growing as we write in our individual journals each day. For our kindergarten bound friends, we print our names and we are trying to perfect our pencil grips. We can add other words to our journals and use illustrations to process our thoughts and written words. For our younger friends, we can also try to write the letters of our names but much of the time it comes out as scribbles and mock writing with letters which is most definitely developmentally appropriate, as they too are learning to properly grasp various writing utensils. We are also working on recognizing and finding the letters of our names and put them into the correct order. We continue to learn the Jolly Phonics jingles, actions and sounds. We have learned over 20 sounds and have about 20 more to go until we have learned all 42 letters sounds.

We are counting well past 20 and we are learning about patterns as we do calendar and group time almost every day. The children have mastered the months of the year and days of the week songs. We count “calendar style” using ordinal numbers and while we count the numbers on the calendar we count from left to right, just like when we read. We are able to sit attentively for longer periods of time and we remembering to raise our hands to speak or ask a question, both of which are very important preschool, and kindergarten, skills.
Thank you for making our Family Night a huge success! Reading “Dragon Loves Tacos” and making mini-tacos and nachos was so much fun! It was great having you visit Pre-3.

**Reminders:** Parent/Teacher conferences are approaching quickly. Please be on the lookout for sign-up sheets outside our classroom door. Leslie’s Conferences will take place on Monday, April 9 and Jen’s conferences will take place Thursday, April 12, 2018. We look forward to meeting with all of you!

Leslie Dolan & Jen Young

---

**April 16th-20th**

**Music Monday**— A musical break at 10:00, 12:15, and 3:30. CCC Band/Parade—all are invited to attend! (Wear work out clothes)

**Tasty Tuesday**— Each classroom will choose and cook a healthy recipe. Families many be asked to help provide ingredients. (Wear your favorite color!)

**Work Together Wednesday**— Each classroom will have a designated time and spot in the building to work together (Career Day—Dress for future career)

**Artsy Thursday**— All classrooms will have an opportunity to create art by visiting our art studio (pre-4). (Crazy Day—Mismatched, crazy hair—just be crazy!)

**Family Friday**— Pre-4 will be open as an art gallery, and families are encouraged to walk through. We will be hosting a family talent show from 10-11 in the large motor room. Parent’s only, stop in the conference room for muffins and coffee to go! It’s our way of saying thank you for being our partner! (Fancy Friday)