 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. This is the last semester we will be called CCC. Our new program name is, The Child Development and Family Center. We are in the process of a website redesign with the anticipated launch of May 21st! With the merger right around the corner I have placed merger updates later in this newsletter so it has its own space.

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, Pam, Diane, Alex 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, participated in the talent show, made a masterpiece in the art studio or even 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 just around the corner. We will begin applying sunscreen to the children as of the first day of interim, May 14th. If you have given us permission to apply the center sunscreen we will use that or you are welcome to bring your 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 4 classrooms open this summer: the Toddler Room (for infants moving up) with Alex and Kat as teachers. 2/3-2 (for all of the toddlers moving up) with Pam and Leslie as teachers. Pre-1 (for all current Pre 1 and some twos moving up) with Ann and Jaquida as teachers. Preschool 2 (for all Pre 2 and Pre 3 children with some twos moving up) with Hillary and Jen as teachers. April will be our professional staff floater for the summer subbing into each room for staff vacation time.

Several of our teachers will be off for the summer and returning for fall; they include Kellie, Barbara, Diane, Kendra and Brianna.

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 three 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 & Amy Lofthouse

**PRESCHOOL ROOM 1**

We have been working on counting and matching amounts to the number and numbers to amounts. We have done a small group with counting and have been working counting buttons with Pete the Cat.

Thank you for all the donations and involvement in Week of the Young Child. We enjoyed the different outfits and food all week it was a BLAST! Please be sure to check the extra clothes bins in the bathroom to be sure they have weather appropriate and correct size. Please label all of your child’s clothes with their name as it makes it easier

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**REMINDERS**

- **The last day of spring semester** is May 11th. Full-day care is available during Interim (May 14th — June 15th); applications are past due. The ‘extra care’ fee; an additional 10% will be applied if you still need care, not all days are available.

- **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 New CDFC web site at it’s launch on May 21st.

- Campus Child Care will be closed on 2 Fridays for staff training—**August 17 & 24** please plan ahead.

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when children have the similar like clothing.

Lastly do not forget to stop and enjoy the pictures of the fun we have been having in the classroom!

Ann Kuta & Jaquida Wynn

**PRESCHOOL ROOM 2**

As the semester begins to wind down, we would like to thank all of the parents and families for a wonderful year. We want to wish all of our future kindergarteners the best of luck this fall. We know they will do amazing things on their next schooling adventure.

We had a fun filled week celebrating Week of the Young Child! Thank you to the families that participated in our Friendship Fruit Salad for Tasty Tuesday. The children really enjoyed the extra healthy snack, but most importantly they enjoyed preparing it themselves using the plastic cutting knives and careful skill.

As a science experiment, we purchased a plastic dinosaur that grows once placed in water. We used this science experiment as a tool to enhance their problem solving and prediction skills. First, we measured the dinosaur before placing it in the water. Then, we asked each child to predict what they thought would happen once the dinosaur was placed in water. After a week, we watched the dinosaur grow larger and larger and then re-measured its length.

In hope to see any sightings of spring, most importantly, warmer weather, we planted a variety of flower seeds in plastic cups that the children were able to decorate with stickers. As the weeks have progressed we have seen a few sprouts and hope that each child will have special place for their flowers at home. Each child picked three different types of seeds and are anxious for their growth.

A special thank you to those of you who were able to make it for a parent teacher conference. It’s always a pleasure to get a chance to sit down and talk with you one on one about the special things your child is learning every day.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to ask either Diane, Hillary, or Kristin. We are always here to help in any way or simply just to lend an ear. Diane will be leaving at the end of the spring semester and will return in August of 2018. Hillary will be working through the
summer months.

Reminders:
- Kindergarten sign up will be happening soon. Call your school your child will be attending in the fall to find out the official date.
- If your child will NOT be attending during the summer months or fall of 2018, please make sure you take any personal belongings, such as extra clothes and winter gear.
- Please check your child’s art folder at the end of each day. The crate is located right outside our classroom door.

Hillary Rosher & Diane Mathison

PRESCHOOL ROOM 3
It’s hard to believe the end of the semester is so close! We’d like to thank everyone for meeting with us for conferences. We enjoy the time we get to spend with you, reflecting on the children’s growth and setting goals for the future! We’d like to give another big thank you for the kindness and generosity that was shown to all the teachers and staff during Week of the Young Child. It’s great to feel appreciated and supported by the wonderful families we get to work with.

We have been busy welcoming spring in the classroom! I feel like it was long overdue, but this last week of April seems promising. We took the clipboards, paper, and pencils to the playground to look for signs of

Calendar of Events

May 5th — Reading Day (we are open as usual)
May 8 —11— Finals Week
May 14- June 15— Spring Interim
June 18— First day of Summer Semester
spring, and documented what we saw. We found a few buds on the tree, and some green plants starting to grow! We would like to thank Jedidiah's grandma for coming in to plant tomato plants with us! She shared some great stories about her garden and how they enjoy eating cherry tomatoes! We are taking care of our seeds, and watching closely to look for signs of growth. We also have seed houses hanging in the windows. We did a bean experiment where we placed a few bean seeds into a baggie with a wet paper towel and we’ve been documenting the changes we see. Within a few days the seeds have started to sprout, and on a few you can even see the shoots where the roots will be. To help understand what’s happening we watched a video called “How Does a Seed Become a Plant?” You can find it on YouTube, it’s by SciShow Kids. It helped us to understand the different parts of a seed and how the seed is dormant until you wake it up, and that’s when it begins to grow! We are also growing grass seed. Having a variety of plants in the classroom encourages discussion and deeper thinking of why some things grow faster than others, and how different plants grow from different seeds. To extend this we also have printed early reader books for each student called, I Planted My Seed, Indeed! Early Readers often have phrases that repeat themselves to help young readers practice emergent reading skills, but also to make it a fun and easy experience for them! We started by reading this book in a small group, and then the children were encouraged to draw a seed on each story page, and could color the books if they wanted to. The book talks about different places you could plant a seed, for example – I planted my seed in the tub. Did it grow? NO! At the end, though, it says, I planted my seed in the soil. Did it grow? Not yet! And then it talks about the rain and the sun, and then the plant can grow! This way each child can have extra practice with learning how plants grow, and an opportunity to practice and share what they’re learning at home!

We have a very musical group of kids in our classroom! We have discovered they are into singing, dancing, instruments, and especially drumming! To encourage this, we brought bucket drums into the classroom. At first it sounded like a lot of loud banging, so we used YouTube again to find some instructional videos on drum beats, and even found a video of kids drumming along to different songs! This made the experience more enjoyable, but also more purposeful as they could see that people really do drum on buckets, and make great music! We also took them out to the playground to share our love of drumming with the other preschool classes!

We hope the end of the semester goes smoothly for you, and that you have a great summer!

Jen Young & Leslie Dolan
Campus Child Care + Child Development Lab = Child Development and Family Center

Since my last update back in February we are right on track. The CDL staff will be moving into CCC the week of May 14-18th and working to get their classrooms set up for the children to start in their new school on May 21st. Lisa Schmidt (Practicum Director), Denise White (clerk); Kristi Hayward and Clarissa Luke (Master Teachers); Jamie Kenney, Krysten Jones, Eclis Scaife (Child Development Supervisors); Megan Franz, Magaly Rojas, Tena Callahan, Adriana Gonzalez, Alyssa Rogalski, and Tanisha Bryant (Graduate Students).

The families from the CDL had an opportunity to tour CCC last week. They asked a lot of questions and were able to see the spaces they will be moving into. They are a bit overwhelmed with how big our center is compared to the CDL.

Campus Child Care for now is a location name along with Gable Hall Annex. Both sites will be operated under the Family and Consumer Sciences Department of The College of Health and Human Sciences. Dr. Thomas Pavkov is the faculty chair of the department. I hope this helps clarify for you the new reporting lines.

The classrooms they will be moving into will convert to practicum classrooms and will have different hours of operation: 7:45-5:15. The practicum rooms in the CCC building are: Infant, Toddler-1, 2/3-1, and Pre-4. The CDL staff will occupy these rooms along with the Summer semester practicum students. Each room will have one master teacher, one child development supervisor, one or two graduate students and interns. CDL children and families will be transitioning over into these rooms with their familiar teachers and peers.

Current CCC families will stay inside the child care classroom network. Our hours stay the same 7:30-5:30 with the possibility of early care at 7:15 in 2/3’s and Preschool. Your children will also move at the natural transition time of June 18th with a familiar teacher to their new age group. The classrooms we will be using are Toddler-2, 2/3-2, Pre-1, Pre-2 and Pre-3. This fall we will be opening up infant and toddler rooms in Gable Hall with new families enrolling for fall semester.

I know that you are worried about what might change and how it will be different. We have tried to create familiarity for you throughout this process not changing too much so that you and your children will transition through this merger with us smoothly.

If you have additional questions I did not address here please let me know. I’m happy to help clam your worries and get you the answers you need in order to understand the process.

Many thanks for your patience,

Kristin Schulz, Child Care Director