DIRECTOR’S DESK

Hello CDL families! I hope everyone had some time for a little R&R during Spring Break! Now we need to focus on the home stretch with the last half of the semester! We are really starting to feel a little bit of spring around here!

April is going to be a busy month for the CDL! We have Week of the Young Child (WOYC) April 16-20 quickly approaching. The teachers have been busy planning for special activities and events throughout this week. Some favorite activities will be in store again this year, including the Dance Party and guest readers!

On April 2, the practicum students hosted the CDL Family Night. We had a variety of activities going on in the classrooms ranging from talking about feelings and making a ‘Feelings Jar’, music and movement and making fun ‘binoculars’ to use in one of the songs, and finally some amazing art/sensory experiences that the toddlers went ‘all-in’ with! It was a great night for all and thank you for coming!

I would like to remind you that our second Parent Advisory Board meeting for spring will be held on April 25 at 3:00 in Wirtz Hall 116. As with the first meeting this spring, we will be focusing on our merger with the CCC program. I highly encourage you to keep abreast of the emails I send families with information regarding this move, and to please ask me questions. I will do my best to answer. I hope to see an many parents as possible at this upcoming meeting.

It is also getting to be closer to our time for Parent Conferences (the end of April and the beginning of May). I encourage you to sign up for a parent conference! This is a wonderful opportunity for our practicum students to get critical experience in conducting a parent conference; expanding their growth and development as future early childhood professionals.

The time is also approaching for us to send out program surveys as well as practicum student surveys. We would appreciate you to fill these out and return.

Finally, keep your eyes out for an email from Denise regarding enrollment and applications. Interim applications will be sent out April 6 and due back on April 27. Additionally, we will be absorbed into the CCC practices for applications/enrollment and this will look a little different for summer and fall (with the forms and expectations) than what you are used to. Please be patient with us as we are also learning this new process, too.

Did I say we were going to be busy in April?!? Thank you, and have a very happy SPRING!

Lisa Schmidt
Co-Director for Operations
Greetings!

We have a new addition to the classroom—we are excited to welcome Aiden to preschool. He transitioned from ITT West. He likes cars and trucks! Chandler’s sister, Ella will be joining us at the end of this month. We are looking forward to having her join us as well. Thank you to everyone who attended our Kindergarten Readiness Workshop. If you would like the packet of handouts, please let us know! Please check out more photos of our tour of the NIU Police and Public Safety Department at the end of the newsletter.

The children continue to enjoy the partnership we have with the Literacy Center. The literacy students put on puppet shows on March 26th. These were based on the books *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister, *The Pout Pout Fish* by Deborah Dieson, and *Click, Clack, Moo* by Doreen Cronin.

In our learning centers in the classroom, the children in the restaurant (dramatic play) wore name tags with their role as either wait staff, chef, customer, or cashier. They served pizza and ice cream. Playdough has been popular using molds and presses. They have been hard at work squeezing and squishing the playdough and manipulating the tools with it! On the science end, we are seeing growth in our plants. It is exciting to see this slow process starting to take shape. A recent popular request is that the children are requesting books be read several times a day. These include *Truckery Rhymes* by Jon Scieska, *Jungle Bullies* by Steven Kroll, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness* by Carol McCloud and *Chester Raccoon and the Big Bad Bully* by Audrey Penn. If you would like to see any of these books, please just ask!

Sincerely,

Kristi, Jamie, & Frank

The children talked to Detective Williams during our tour of the NIU Police and Public Safety Department.
Greetings ITT East families,

March was a fun and eventful month for the East classroom. The zoo was added to dramatic play and the children have been busy feeding the animals, cleaning the cage with the spray bottles and dressing up as animals and zoo keepers. Along with that, the children are also using the camcorders and cameras to take photos of their peers teachers and zoo animals.

Along with that, our children have been engaged in dancing to new music, “Apples and Bananas”, “Do you know a Friend of Mine” and “Garbage Truck” songs. We also have been talking about taking care of baby dolls and being helpful in the classroom. For example: the children have been folding laundry, wiping our tables, and setting the table for meal times.

The children have shown an interest in nature and our lead teacher Deja has provided insects and magnifying glasses in our classroom and she has provided a leaf painting activity for the children. Children have also been, “Little Scientist” in our classroom; they have been engaged in Coffee filter art (i.e. dot markers) and Rainbow Art (i.e. mixing paint colors in Ziploc bags). We want to thank Deja for providing so many fun and innovative activities for the children. Next, we would like to welcome our last lead teacher Jessica Hurd! We look forward to the exciting activities she will provide for our classroom!

Reminders:

· WOYC April 23-27 — Week of the Young Child is coming up! Stay tuned for further updates on what, when, and where our activities will be taking place.

Sincerely,

Clarissa, Tena, Ecila, and Courtney
Hello ITT West Families!

We have been having a lot of fun enjoying time outside with the weather starting to get nice. We have been playing on the playground, going on walks to the bridge, and we even took a trip to the east lagoon where we saw many geese and ducks. The children have also been expressing interests in different kinds of animals. We have been going on bear hunts in the classroom. The children have also been pretending to be different types of animals and making animal sounds such as hooting like monkeys, roaring like bears, and howling like wolves. A few of our children have taken trips to the zoo this month and talking about the different animals they saw.

The children have been expressing cognitive development with memory skills when the they demonstrate the ability to acquire, store, recall, apply past experiences into their play. When children express recollections of memories based on experiences, it demonstrates their ability to understand concepts that are connected to the world around them through everyday interactions and special events. Children can use these concepts to initiate imaginary pretend play independently or with other peers.

We would like to thank Priyal for her lead teaching activities she implemented in the classroom. Next to Lead Teach in ITT West is Jamie. We are so excited to see what activities she has planned.

A few friendly reminders:

The CDL will be closed May 14—18 to prepare for the CDL/CCC Merger.

If you would like to take your child’s snow pants home, feel free to do so.

Sincerely,

Magaly, Krysten, Ecila, and Megan
On March 6, we took a tour of both locations at the NIU Police and Public Safety Department. We met several different people who work there. They shared their role and responsibilities. Each room had a specific purpose that told us about too. We learned that police officers sometimes ride bicycles instead of driving squad cars. Please check out our documentation on the observation booth door for more information.

Thank you Officer York and Officer Shaw for leading our tour and being our friends!

Thank you NIU PD!