DIRECTOR’S DESK
Hello CDL families! I hope everyone was able to have a relaxing and rejuvenating break—we all needed one! And welcome back to our returning children and families—we are so happy you are here; a huge welcome also goes out to our new families and children. We have a sprinkling of new children in each classroom. And now….we are geared up for the start of a new semester at the CDL. We welcome a new batch of FCNS 490 Practicum students - 16 total! We have 6 in each ITT room and 4 in our Preschool room. Our new practicum students had a 2-day orientation on January 14 and 15 to get them acclimated to the CDL. The students were again able to experience the required protocols such as diaper changes and hand washing procedures; daily classroom routines; family-style meal service; becoming acquainted with the children; and we were even able to throw in a fire drill on Friday afternoon while they were all here. They had a terrific introduction to the CDL! Also during this time, we hosted a Family Open House for all CDL families to come and meet their child’s primary caregiver. This was also a great time for children who were not here during interim to see the room and reunite with their friends and teachers again. We had a great turn-out in all classrooms! If you were able to come, thank you!

The CDL will be looking for parents interested in joining the Parent Advisory Board again this semester. There will be a meeting in March and April; so please be looking for my email inviting you to be a part of this. We had a great turn out last fall, and I look forward to working with parents again this semester. Dates, time, and location will be shared later as I work to reserve a room for these meetings.

With the ending of fall semester, some of our graduate students graduated or have student teaching experiences to finish up. The CDL is thrilled to have 3 former interns from last fall join our assistant teaching staff—each working about 20 hours per week. We warmly welcome Natalalee and Krysten in East and Elena in Preschool. During Dec. 22 and 23, the CDL closed for professional staff development days, and the CDL staff used this time for professional development workshops as well as staff team bonding and collaboration. The level of professionalism that I see in the CDL staff is amazing, and I feel so fortunate that our center has such strong and caring teachers. These 3 new staff members fit in perfectly with our staffing team. Please welcome them as well!

Good luck to everyone with this new spring semester - some of you are students taking classes and some of you are professors teaching classes—I hope everyone has a great start! Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter as you read updates regarding your child’s classroom. And finally….try and keep warm out there!

Lisa Schmidt
Director for Operations

REMININDERS
• For tax purposes, our FEIN# is 36-6088480. We do not distribute statements regarding your child care payments. You need to track that information yourself, so please save your invoices.

• At the end of January, Denise will email requests forms for care during the NIU Spring Break (March 14-18); it is optional care and you will not be billed for this time if you are not approved for child care based on your request. Space is limited in the ITT rooms, and full-time NIU staff/faculty will have priority for care.

• For those of you who pick up at the end of the day, please remember that the CDL closes at 5:00 so we need you to have picked up by or prior to this time. Picking up any time after 5:00 will incur a late fee.

• Please pay your invoices in a timely manner. Late payments will also incur a late fee. The CDL depends on tuition fees/copays for operational costs including classroom materials and instructional resources.
We would like to welcome our new interns for this semester! Jorden Vermeyen, Miranda Ellis, Kelly Ingram, and Maria Panthier. We are very happy to have them. We also are excited to have back Elena who was an intern in ITT last semester. She will be serving as an assistant teacher. We are lucky to have our grad assistant Macy for one more semester! Jamie and I are looking forward to a great semester! Welcome back everyone!

This past interim we were super busy changing materials. The children were engaged in playing with the zoo animals, Duplo train set, Legos, and cars. The block area has been a huge hit! We also brought in scented markers which you may have noticed from the ink dots under their noses. Several children were interested in making kites with the art materials available on the art shelf. With all of the cold and icy weather, it was the perfect time to bring in the snow. We colored it with eye droppers and scooped it into bowls. We also introduced a variety of big body play activities to stay active while indoors. We did wrestling with rules, mat crashing, rocking in the boat, jumping on the trampoline, etc. We blew through straws into water with a dab of soap to create bubbles. We had a fun filled interim. We are ready for all of our friends to return.

Please remember to have all of your child’s outerwear here each day. We will be going outside as often as we can. Boots, as well as a pair of shoes to wear inside, is essential in keeping our carpets clean and having your child be comfortable while in the classroom. Have a great Spring semester!

Kristi, Jamie, Macy, & Elena
Welcome back ITT East families,

We are so excited about the New Year! We hope your winter break was enjoyable and relaxing! First and foremost we would like to welcome our new children to the classroom, DeAngelo, Avery, and Maliyah; we are so thrilled to have them in our classroom. Please welcome them and their families. Next would like to also welcome Natalalee Contreras and Krysten Jones, they have both completed the practicum this past December in the ITT West classroom. Natalalee will be joining us as Extra help and Krysten will be joining us as a student worker. We look forward to their many ideas and roles in our classroom!

We would also like to introduce our new interns for the spring 2016 semester, for the morning shift, 7:30-3:30 ShaVonne Jones, Shawna Johnson and Samantha Dedina will be present. Alyssa Terwillinger, Taylor Smith and Christina Giles will be present for the afternoon shift, 11:15-5:15 Please give them a warm welcome to the CDL.

The primary assignments will be posted in the classroom on the bulletin board located by the counters. Please feel free to view your child’s primary. Also, a friendly reminder, we will resume regular operation hours on January 19, 2016 (7:45-5:00). Please remember to bring warm clothing for your child (ren) for outdoor time (i.e. hats, gloves, snow pants, boots, etc.).

If you have any concerns in regards to any of the information mentioned or any questions in general please feel free to ask us at pick-up, drop off, or via email. Have a fantastic day!

Sincerely,
Clarissa, Jessica, Natalalee & Krysten
Welcome back ITT West parents!

We hope everyone had a great winter break! We are so excited to get back in the grove of school! January 15th was our Family Open House at 10am and we had a great turn out! Our staff and students are ready to get back in the swing of how the classroom flows and working with the children!

This month, West and East have been mostly combined during Interim. Unfortunately we have been stuck inside from all the cold and icy weather but we made the best of it with art activities and lots of Gross Motor! So all the children have been busy meeting new skills and already beginning to develop challenging and new skills in the classrooms!

Our infants are working on being more mobile in the classroom and exploring their environment. With newly mobile infants, there is a huge learning curve on gross motor skills! They are still learning balance and space—they may (and probably will) fall, bump their heads, trip, etc. If you have a newly mobile infant, then you may start to see some accident reports as they navigate through learning these skills. Our toddlers have been working on their language skills in identifying their needs both verbally and non-verbally. The twos have been helping their younger friends complete tasks and have shown much empathy towards the younger children’s emotions.

We would like to welcome Ingrid (Felicity’s new baby sister) and Hannah (Addison’s younger sister) to our classroom this semester! We are looking forward to having new friends in our growing room! We would like to also congratulate Katie Granger on becoming our new Graduate Assistant! She was formerly an intern in ITT West and was our Assistant Teacher this past Fall. We are excited for her new journey and wish her good luck! Also, some parents have seen, or knew before break, that we have some returning students from this past Fall as Assistant Teachers for the Spring. So let’s give a big welcome back to Krysten, Natalalee, and Elena! Krysten and Natalalee are both Assistant Teachers in East and Elena is an Assistant Teacher in Preschool. How exciting! We are so happy to have them part of our team!

*Reminder*:
Check your child’s cubby to make sure they have winter appropriate gear along with extra clothing for back up. We ask for at least two pairs of each clothing item be provided; socks, shirts, pants, and underwear.

Stay tuned for further updates this month and stay warm,

Casey, Ecila, Brittney, and Katie
Around 18 months of age, your toddler may display signs that she is developing an awareness of self. One of the signs of this growing awareness is the emergence of words like "me" and "I" in your toddler's vocabulary. Another, more difficult sign is the discovery of "mine."

Along with this increasing awareness of self come issues of ownership and sharing—or more accurately not sharing. This possessiveness may seem quite strong at times as your little one constantly claims objects and toys as her own. In fact, this focus on ownership may be one way in which she comes to better understand herself as a separate person, distinct from others, and expresses her growing independence and autonomy. Though this expression may appear to be "selfish" and can be trying, once she becomes more secure in knowing what is and is not hers, she may begin sharing more readily with others.

Self-control—which is also just beginning at this age—also plays a role in this task of sharing. It is very difficult for her to wait for even a few seconds in the presence of a much-desired object. Although she may understand you when you tell her not to take from others, she may have great difficulty stopping herself from doing it. This self-control comes with time and brain maturation, and in particular, development of the frontal lobes of the brain. This area of the brain is really beginning to work in a meaningful way in the second year, and will continue to mature throughout childhood and adolescence!

There is a wide range of other feelings happening during this time. Sometimes these feelings can be very strong. She may feel very proud of a tower she has built but get very frustrated and upset when it tumbles to the ground, or even angry if someone topples it over. Also, budding independence is mixed with still wanting to be "the baby." She may want to do everything for herself one minute, but want you to hold her in your arms the next.

What Parents Can Do:

• Be patient and tolerant in your expectations of sharing. Provide a model of sharing in your interactions with family members and friends.
• Provide lots of guidance. Initiate games of sharing and turn-taking.
• Use distraction or redirection to calm or avoid disputes.
• Look for signs of tiredness or illness, as both can affect tolerance for sharing.
• Let her help you with sweeping, making a snack, or other work around the house so she can feel "big" while maintaining special rituals like a bedtime story to let her know she's still your "baby."
• Help her put her feelings into words, "You're frustrated that your tower fell. Why don't we build another one?".