Hello CDL families! It has already been a busy start to our summer semester at the CDL. We said goodbye to all our spring practicum students on May 13, and welcomed a new batch of students on May 16! There have been some transitions at the center with our students, children leaving for the summer, and we will have new families as well!

Speaking of transitions, we have been navigating through our CDL Heating Renovation Project quite well. The work is actually progressing ahead of schedule. Thank you very much to the families for whom this has impacted at the CDL. The groups of children have rotated in and out of the Preschool room, the nap room, the West classroom; and, finally by the time you read this, they should be almost finished in East! Your patience and flexible attitudes have been most helpful. This is the second summer since I have been here that we have experienced a major renovation project—... hopefully next summer is more calm!

The CDL recently had our NAEYC Accreditation visit on May 12, 2016. This was an all-day visit with the NAEYC assessor observing all three classrooms and playgrounds, reviewing classroom and program portfolios, and interviewing myself. The practicum students were very strong; after all, they had 16 weeks to train and prepare for this day. It will take up to 90 days for the Academy to review the assessment results and provide us with feedback.

I will plan for a summer Parent Advisory Board to meet sometime in July. An email will be sent to all families inviting their participation. At our last Parent Advisory Board meet, we reviewed the applications for the CHHS Endowment for the CDL in providing financial assistance to our families who participate in CCAP. The endowment would assist them in paying for their co-pays for the remainder of FY16 (April, May, and June). All families who applied were granted the endowment, and we are currently working with Bursars to credit accounts. This will prove to be a significant assistance for our low income families. Thankfully, we’ll be offering this again for FY 17 for the summer, fall, and spring semesters.

As a follow up from the NIU Program Prioritization, the CDL came through very well. The CDL was one of the 28 programs on campus that were categorized as a candidate for enhanced resources. The Prioritization Task Force reserved programs for this category who demonstrated through their prioritization report to be of the highest priority programs that best advance the mission of the university. Not only did the CDL do excellent in categorization, the CDL also received acknowledgment for their community connections. The CDL demonstrated their role in community engagement as part of the student’s learning experience while supporting the university’s commitment to our local communities; known as “communiversity”.

Finally, I am happy to say that the CDL will be the site for an undergraduate Nutrition intern. The teachers and myself have come up with a list of special projects and activities for this student to be working on starting June 13. Her name is Kristen Fas, and we are all very excited to have this collaborative experience with her.

For this month, you will see that East and West classrooms have a combined newsletter. Everyone has enjoyed their time together as one class, but they will resume into their two separate classrooms June 13. Have a wonderful month!

Lisa Schmidt
Co-Director for Operations
Preschool Families,

We would like to give a warm welcome to our interns Racquel, Rebecca, and Brittani. They will be joining us over the summer. Katie and Sam are also joining us from ITT. We are really happy to have all of them. Kristi and I are looking forward to a very fun-filled summer. We were busy over the last few weeks moving in and out of the nap room while they did some work on our room. We appreciate everyone’s patience with the transition during that time.

Its with great sadness we are saying goodbye to some of our preschool friends. Eowyn, Allison, Liam, and Jaimini will be moving on to new adventures in their lives as they get ready for kindergarten. We will miss them very much!

The warm weather is here!!! We are all very excited about being outside and doing some exploring. The children are really excited for all the new materials that are being added to the play ground. There is a new sensory table, bubble wands, a basketball hoop, shovels, and buckets. They have been building sand castles and using the buckets to build flower pots and fill with other natural materials.

The children wanted to bring some of the natural materials into the classroom and do an art project. They decided that they wanted to paint sticks.

Reminders

Please make sure your child has extra summer clothes. We also recommend bringing in a water bottle that your child can use and fill up.
Hello East & West families,

We are thrilled to start off this summer semester and excited to see what it has in stores for us! We welcomed six new practicum students and are anxious to see what creative things they will bring into the classroom. We would like to welcome our first lead teachers Alexis (East) and Tytiana (West) that will start mid-June. We are really looking forward to seeing their fun and innovative activities. Please stop by to join us during group time! We would also like to welcome our new assistant teachers, Christina Giles and ShaVonne Jones, they have both completed the practicum this past May in the ITT East classroom. We look forward to their many ideas and roles in our classroom!

We have been taking full advantage with this sunny weather which promotes a ton of outdoor gross motor time! We’ve been taking many walks to the hill next to DuSable Hall and the fountains near the East Lagoon. The children have been fully engaged with running after bubbles and running and rolling down the hill.

Thanks for Jessica to suggesting us to have a breakfast picnic outside on the playground! The children and teachers ate banana pancakes and bananas. YUM!

Please check out the birdfeeders on the trees outside of our playground! The children used their fine motor skills to slide the cheerios onto the pipe cleaners. They were also able to choose if they wanted to hang their birdfeeders high or low on the tree. The following day we noticed that a few of them were empty!

Reminders: The weather has been cooperating and we have had some drop offs on the playground. We will continue to do this as long as the weather is warm enough in the mornings. A sign will always be posted on the main door when we decide to do so. Please remember to provide appropriate clothing in your child’s cubbies as the weather continues to fluctuate.

Sincerely,
Clarissa, Casey, Ecila, Jessica, Natalalee, Krysten, ShaVonne, & Christina
The Child Development Lab is located at:

Northern Illinois University  
Gabel Hall 169 & 170  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Our mailing address is:

Child Development Lab  
Northern Illinois University  
School of Family, Consumer & Nutrition Sciences  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Facsimiles can be sent to:

(815) 752-0023

For more information on our program, please visit:

http://www.cdl.niu.edu

If you have any questions that are not addressed on our website please give us a call at (815) 753-1150 or e-mail us at cdl@niu.edu.

Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday  
7:45 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday—Sunday  
CLOSED