DIRECTOR’S DESK
Hello CDL families! We are nearing the end of our fall semester and I can imagine you are all busy with grading, papers, projects, and wrapping up semester responsibilities. Our practicum students are also finishing up with their last round of lead teaching in the classrooms, parent conferences, and other practicum responsibilities.

Parent will be receiving a Practicum Student evaluation shortly. We value and appreciate all the feedback we receive. The CDL professional staff look at the feedback and see where we can implement quality improvements to assist in the overall experience for the student; as well as, for the family.

On Friday, January 13, the CDL will host a Family Open House from 10-11:30. If you are able, please feel free to come and visit in your child’s classroom for a little while, and meet your child’s new practicum student primary caregiver. This may be especially helpful for those children returning from the long winter interim who were not here during that time. I’m sure the new students will also appreciate seeing you and your child before the first day of the semester.

I would like to provide an update for parents regarding our CDL Endowment Fund. Last spring, the College of Health & Human Sciences graciously awarded the CDL an endowment for three fiscal years. The endowment funds assist our low income families in paying their child care co-pays through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). In the fall 2016 semester, the CDL has awarded $4,116; benefiting 8 families/9 children (this is 20% of our enrolled children). The CDL is thrilled to have been able to assist our families and provide support to them while they are at work and school. Many thanks to the CHHS!

On a final note, the CDL will be saying goodbye to Dr. Sherry Fang, the CDL Faculty Co-Director in our Family and Child Studies area. Dr. Fang has been immersed in the CDL for over 25 years serving different roles. The past 2 years Dr. Fang has been my co-director on the academic end; transitioning our Child Development students through the undergraduate curriculum to get to their practicum experience of FCNS 490 in the CDL. When I was a student many years ago, Dr. Fang was one of my child development professors, and through the years has served as an inspirational mentor, trusted colleague and dear friend. With that said, Dr. Fang will be close by as she will still be a faculty member in our department, and I’m sure, will pop by the lab to say hi. Dr. Fang has warmly ‘passed the torch’ on to our new Faculty Co-director, Dr. Ilona Helin. The CDL welcomes Dr. Helin’s expertise in the areas of speech and language, infant brain development, inclusion and special needs, and social/emotional development. Welcome Dr. Helin!

Good luck on the rest of your semester and I hope everyone has a wonderful winter break! Enjoy your time off!

Lisa Schmidt
Co-Director for Operations

REMINDERS
- The last day of fall semester is Dec. 9th!
- Reminder: the CDL is closed for Professional Development Days on Dec. 15 and 16.
- Spring semester starts January 16th.
- The CDL is closed on MLK Day—January 16th.
- Please remember to drop your child off by 10:00 am.
- Invoices are to be paid in full each month. There is a $25 late charge for any invoices that are past due. Please pay your invoices in a timely manner to avoid this addition charge.
- Please save your invoices so you can track the amount you are spending on child care for your tax purposes. The CDL FEIN number is 36-6088480. Please record this number for your tax purposes.
Hello Preschool families,

December is here!!! As the semester comes to an end we would like to wish our interns, Vanessa and Angie, the best of luck as they start their new journey. We are grateful to have Jaclyn returning for interim and Frank returning for the spring semester. We would like to welcome our 2017 interns. Erin, Jackelene and Jasmine who will be starting with us in January. We would also like to wish a very warm welcome to Isaac and Avery who are transitioning from ITT. The children have been very busy this month!! We have been exploring the outdoors as the weather changes. We have playing in the leaves and even searching for bugs. We have been exploring the children interest in space and natural disasters. The kids continue to make lots of art using various types of materials.

Just a reminder that we will be close December 15 and 16 for professional development days.

Justin and Sam were building ramps for their cars to see which one would go fast.

Several children played in the leaves by making a pile and hiding in them. They also engaged in throwing the leaves and watched them fall.

Reminders
Please bring hats, gloves and warm clothes since the weather is getting cold. We will be going outside.

Addy explores water color painting while her paper spins around.

Sam and Maddy built a castle for their dogs to keep them safe from the bad guys.

Ashley
Greetings ITT East families,

It’s already December and the semester is coming to a conclusion. We hope you are staying warm this winter! This fall was filled with so much fun! The children had many opportunities to engage in hands-on experiences which promoted their gross motor, literacy and cognitive development for example: the children have been engaged in dancing to various new songs, “Freeze Dance”, “Listen And Move”, and “Driving My Tractor”.

The children have also been engaged in exploring their environment on our playground such as transportation noises (i.e. planes, trains, rescue vehicles, etc.) and nature items (i.e. leaves, various animals, and pine cones).

Farewell to both Logan and Avery, we will miss you both, have fun in Preschool!!:)

We had such a fun time at Family Night, thank you to all of our families that participated, we had a blast! Thank you to our last lead teacher Christina; she provided so many fun and innovative activities for the children!

Thank you to our interns for the awesome emergent experiences and fantastic ideas they have brought to our classroom!! Best wishes and congratulations to Ashly, Brittany, Christina, Taylor and Michelle!

We would like to introduce our new interns for the spring 2017 semester, Megan Franz, Caroline Kocher, and Stephanie Kester for the 7:30-1:30 shift and Cayla Learman, Alexandra McAnally, and Demone Williams will be here from 11:15-5:15. The spring interns have observed and interacted with the children for the first couple weeks of November, please welcome them! We are really excited to see what new ideas they have in store for our classroom.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS: We will be closed December 15th & 16th for Professional Development Days, and also will be closed December 23, 2016 and reopen on January 3, 2017. Please plan accordingly. Please bring in snow suits, boots, gloves, hats and any extra clothing for your child. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak with us in person or via email.

Have a fantastic week!

Sincerely,

Clarissa, Christy P., Natalalee and Elena
Dear West Families,

As the semester comes to a close, we would like to take a minute to offer up some ideas to keep the children busy during winter break. At the CDL, we use an emergent curriculum. In a nutshell, it means we use observations of the children at play and create activities, experiences and conversations to expand on the children’s interest. Some of the children’s most recent interest include sensory activities, traveling and medicine.

**Sensory play:**
Cloud dough made an appearance in our classroom last month! This simple recipe contains flour and vegetable oil. Throw in some cookie cutters and rolling pins and you’ve got an activity that will keep even the youngest of learners engaged for several minutes! Sensory activities are the perfect secret weapon to fight boredom on stormy days. For more ideas on sensory activities, click [here].

Ashley

**Ghana Bound:**
The children have shown a lot of interest in traveling. Hannah, Bils and Isaac narrated an elaborate story of a boat trip to Ghana, that was filled with sharks, penguins and chicken nuggets!

To expand your child’s interest in traveling, consider catching a train to see what Chicago has to offer! This [link] lists free or cheap winter break activities in Chicago that are both fun and educational.

**Is there a doctor in the house?:**

We would like to thank you Hannah’s mother, Jessica, for participating in November’s Parent Involvement. With all the talk about medicine, doctor visits, and shots, we appreciate her taking the time out to share her experience in the medical field with the children.

Hopefully, we have presented you with ideas that will not only keep your little learner busy but cognitively and physically stimulated as well! We hope you have a adventurous, safe, and restful winter break.

Sincerely,

Ecila, Casey, Christina and Krysten
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  
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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