DIRECTOR’S DESK
Hello CDL families! I hope everyone had some time for some 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 24-28 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 the CDL Parade! For the Parade, we will be staging around 10:15 am on Thursday, April 27, and then heading out! Please feel free to join if you are able! More information to come!

On Monday, April 10, the practicum students will be hosting the CDL Family Night at 5:00 p.m. Flyers for this event will be going out, and we hope many of you can attend.

The CDL is thrilled to be participating in the Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day (URAD) on April 25th, 2017! This is the first time the CDL will be a part of this important day. Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day (URAD) is an annual showcase and celebration of the outstanding research and artistry projects that undergraduate students have participated in throughout the academic year. The CDL is not competing in this event; rather, we will be showcasing the excellent qualities of the CDL; how children learn through play; and highlighting the important academic mission of training and mentoring our undergraduate child development students. The CDL will showcase following the undergraduate presentation time. A special thank you goes to our Pre-school Master Teacher, Kristi Hayward, for spearheading this project! More information will follow!

I would like to remind you that our second Parent Advisory Board meeting for spring will be held on April 11 at 3:30 in Wirtz Hall 113. Earlier I sent an email to all CDL families regarding the most recent ‘Baker Report’ from President Baker on March 22. The President is reviewing a proposal for a merger of the CDL and the Campus Child Care program that has a timeline of about 2 years. During our Parent Advisory Board meeting, this topic will be prominent on the agenda. I encourage as many parents as possible to attend.

It is also getting to be closer to our time for Parent Conferences (the end of April and the beginning of May). I highly 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 teachers will also be planning for a Gardening Day! Both age groups, ITT and Preschool, will be hosting their own gardening day event soon. They will be asking for parent volunteers and donations! Bring your green thumbs (or in my case—no green thumb!) for a great outdoor experience! More information will be posted soon!

Finally, keep your eyes out for an email from Denise regarding applications. Denise will be sending out applications for interim, summer, and fall within the first 2 weeks in April. Please get these filled out and returned prior to the designated due date.

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 Preschool Families,

*May we take your order?* We have been enjoying our restaurant in the dramatic play area! As you can see to the right, we have a photo of Sam using his fine motor skills to write down a friend’s food order. Some children have used this opportunity to explore different multicultural foods placed in Dramatic Play, as well.

![Image of children using fine motor skills](image1.jpg)

The warmer spring weather has given us plenty of opportunities for exciting outdoor play this month. We have been emergent in using the muddy playground to explore. Some of the preschoolers have been using shovels to dig and examine the garden and what lives in there. While exploring, we found some worms and have been investigating them in their natural habitat. In this photo you can see the children digging in our garden on the playground and look what was found!

![Image of children digging in garden](image2.jpg)

We have also taken an interest in building things with several materials available in our classroom. Maddy used several boxes as well as pipe cleaners to make a robot! They have also been describing what they created after making it.

![Image of child making robot](image3.jpg)

With the ever-changing weather we are experiencing, please have the children dressed in layers. Also, please make sure each clothing item is labeled with your child’s name. Along with this, please send children with an extra pair of shoes, like rain boots or sneakers to be worn outside as it has been muddy on our playground. We have been working with the children to hang up their clothing when they are done with it on their hooks with their picture.

![Image of children hanging up clothing](image4.jpg)

Stay tuned for some information regarding *Week of the Young Child*. This action packed week begins **April 24, 2017**. We look forward to a fun week with several engaging activities planned. We will also be having our *Family Night* on **April 10th** in the Preschool room at 5pm! We are looking forward to seeing you all there. A sign up sheet will be posted outside of the classroom for you to share an item at the potluck dinner. We appreciate it!

Sincerely,

*Sam, Kat, Kristi, and Jamie*
Greetings ITT East families,

March was an exciting and busy month for the East classroom. The pet shop was added to dramatic play and the children have been busy feeding, grooming, and exercising the animals. The children have really enjoyed giving our pets treats and have even started giving some of our pets names!

The children have shown an interest in sensory activities in recent weeks. Our interns, Megan and Alex, planned some fun sensory experiences for the children such as bubbles, shaving cream, and Megan even made a sensory board for the children. Be sure to check it out!

Sensory activities are very important for the children to have access to. Not only are they really fun, they also have several benefits. Research shows that sensory play builds the nerve connections in the brain’s pathways, which lead to the child’s ability to complete more complex learning tasks. Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills, and social interaction. Sensory play is great for calming an anxious or frustrated child.

We are also excited for our intern Stephanie to start lead teaching April 3rd. We can’t wait to see what fun activities she has planned for us.

Reminders:

- WOYC April 24-28 —Week of the Young Child is coming up! Stay tuned for further updates on what, when, and where our activities will be taking place.

- Family night is April 10th. We are excited to see what the interns have planned and we hope to see you there!! A sign up sheet will be posted soon.

Sincerely,

Christy, Clarissa, Nat, and Elena
Hello ITT West Families,

We are exciting to have Joe take on his lead teaching the next four weeks! Thank you to Magaly and Amanda for their engaging curriculum and helping the children reach their developmental goals throughout the past four weeks.

Throughout the month of March, we have had many children interested in helping each other. We have been allowing children to encourage others as they reach their goals as well giving gentle hugs and touches. Some children have helped get objects for other children or help feed them. To expand on this learning, we incorporated baby dolls into our classrooms with beds, blankets, and bottles. The children have been exploring how to take care of young children and their needs.

We are attempting to go outside as much as we can now that the weather is getting nicer. We have had a few days when we have been able to play on the playground. The children have been running laps, playing in the sand box, and riding bikes and cars. It is exciting to see their new interests as we can finally begin playing on our playground again for gross motor development! If we can't get outside, we have been taking walks to the ramp and listening to music to get our wiggles out. We can't wait to be outside every day again and enjoying the fresh air!

Lastly, we would like to remind everyone that Family Night is coming up on April 10th. Please join us and see what our practicum students will be sharing with you. Week of the Young Child is also in April (24-28) and more information will be available on that later.

Sincerely,

Leigha, Krysten, Ecila, Christina, Tena
CDL Alumni Visit—Onward to Kindergarten!

In preparation for many of our CDL preschoolers to transition to Kindergarten in the fall, the Preschool room hosted 2 of our very own alumni, Jaimini Woodstrup and Eowyn Feldacker, to come back to the CDL to talk about their experiences in Kindergarten! It was so exciting to see our 2 friends return and to hear them share what Kindergarten is like. Jaimini and Eowyn came on separate days, where they each had a small gathering of CDL children in the group time area. Both CDL alumni did outstanding jobs!

The preschoolers asked our guest speakers some very good questions; such as, “Do you ever get lost in the hallway?” or, “How do you find your classroom?”. The guest speakers talked about having homework; interest areas students can choose to go to; teachers do a silent ‘Quiet’ warning; if kindergarteners cannot listen during school, they will get ‘clipped down’ (clip up is being ‘ready to learn’, a clip in the middle is a ‘warning’, and a clip down is going to the principal’s office); students need to get your coats and mittens on to go outside; students put their name on all papers; write with upper and lower case; students have a take-home folder that goes back and forth from school to home; and, students can eat their own lunch from home or get a hot-lunch at school. So much GREAT information was shared!

Jaimini taking questions from the group.  
Eowyn READING her book!  
Kendall is telling Jaimini he is going to Kindergarten!

Eowyn sharing her folder.  
Jaimini sharing her homework book.  
Eowyn sharing her writing journal.