Hello CDL families! Here it is again....another ending to another semester! We have had a great academic year at the CDL with some incredible family events, practicum students, and classroom learning experiences for your children. Please remember to wish your child’s primary good wishes. Graduation is just days away for them, and we will miss all of our students. Speaking of which, our new ‘crop’ of students will be starting the second week of interim; and, we are anxious to get to know all of them!

I would like to thank all the parents who were able to attend our last Parent Advisory Board Meeting in April. It was a huge topic of conversation—the proposed merger between CCC and CDL the President informed us about in March. Dr. Helin discussed the organizational structure being aligned under our department in Academic Affairs, both locations remaining open, and the expansion of child care services (especially for infants). Thank you for your feedback, questions, and thoughts. At this point, the merger is a proposal where there has been no official declaration of whether or not it will be moving forward. Following a review of proposed fiscal operations, the university will make its decision. We will certainly keep you abreast as updates happen.

Our Week of the Young Child was a huge success! We are thrilled that so many families were able to participate in the events we had throughout the week - the Dance Party; Zumba, and the CDL Parade. The teachers and children were especially excited to give to families Breakfast-To-Go bags at drop off, complete with homemade CDL muffins (a center favorite among the children!) fruit and water. I want to thank the CDL teaching staff for all of their hard work to prepare for this special week.

The CDL will be welcoming some new Assistant Teacher staff this summer. Two of our current 490 students, Magaly Rojas and Megan Franz, will be continuing on with the CDL in the summer. Both students will be Graduate Students in our Applied Family and Child Studies Program. We are thrilled they have decided to continue their studies in our department, and are so happy to keep them at the CDL! Both will be in the ITT West classroom. The Preschool room will have one minor change. Samantha Dedina will be taking the summer off from grad school and we welcome Erin Collins, one of our current 490 preschool practicum students, to serve as an Assistant Teacher this summer.

I will be sending out a Parent Program survey and I ask that you take a few minutes of time to fill it out and return to us. It will look different than in past years as I tried to create a survey with more detail than the one we regularly ask you to complete for NAEYC. I hope this one will provide the CDL with some good parent feedback that will assist us in our continued program improvements.

On a side note...I was talking with some teachers the other day and we realized that this is my first summer since being at the CDL without any major construction going on—it almost feels strange! As many of you may remember, summer 2015 we were building a wall in ITT and getting new carpet throughout the center; and, in summer 2016, we were getting a whole new heating system installed throughout the center. No disruptions this summer.....WooHoo!

Lastly, we will have our Parent Open House on May 19 from 10:00-11:30! This is a perfect time to get to meet the new practicum students for summer. Also, if you are not attending during interim, this is a good opportunity for you to bring your child in to meet the new practicum teachers and get reacquainted with the classroom.

We wish everyone the best of luck with the end of your semester. If you are a student parent, good luck with finals; and, if you are a faculty parent, good luck with finals!

Lisa Schmidt
Co-Director of Operations
Hello Parents!
April showers has our Preschool class very interested in May flowers! This wet weather has provided us with a great opportunity to work on our garden! Thank you for the parents who came to our Gardening Day! Your help and contributions made this day a huge success! Make sure to check out what is starting to bloom! We continue to watch our sunflowers grow in the classroom. Our tallest plant is already 9 inches. We have decided to plant them on the playground where we can continue to watch them grow.

The Preschool classroom has been very busy lately, especially with celebrating a week of events for **Week of the Young Child!** A very big thank you to all of our family and friends who helped us celebrate! We had such a great turn out and are already looking forward to next year! On the last day of WOYC, Parade Day, both Preschool and ITT went around campus and gave out sweet treats to our friends on campus. We even stopped by our department to give a big hello to our faculty! Please check out all of the documentation in the hallway!

As the end of the semester is rapidly approaching, we sadly say goodbye to our interns, Jackelene and Jasmine. We are happy to announce that Erin will be returning over the Summer as an Assistant Teacher! Best of luck to Frank as he graduates as well. Good luck on all of your future endeavors and we will miss you all.

Reminders: With this unpredictable weather please have a few clothing options for your child.

Sincerely,
Sam, Jamie, Kristi, Kat

MAY 2017
Hello East families! Can you believe the end of the semester is almost here? Despite the rainy weather, we have been enjoying ourselves and getting outside. One of our favorite outside activities is taking care of our new garden. We have been watering and checking on the plants to see how much they have grown. Thanks for everyone who helped make our garden possible either by planting or donating!!

We also had a blast celebrating **Week of the Young Child**. We participated in so many fun activities. We had a dance party and learned how to Zumba. We also got to make our very own fruit pizzas out of pancakes. On Friday, we went on a parade around campus with signs and musical shakers. We enjoyed dancing and signing along to some of our favorite tunes. We even passed out candy bags to students and faculty to share in the excitement. We also had a guest reader come in Friday who is a teacher at Campus Child Care, Kellie Fuss.

Thanks for everyone that participated and contributed in WOYC! It wouldn’t have been such a success without engaging families like you!!

As the semester is coming to an end we are sad to see our interns go. We congratulate them and wish them the best of luck! We are excited to announce that one of our interns, Megan, will be staying with us over the summer and starting grad school here at NIU this fall! Yay!

Thanks and have a great rest of the semester,

*Christy, Clarissa, Elena, and Nat*
West Families,

Wow, Gardening Day was such a success! We were we blessed with such perfect weather and a great turnout! Thank you to all the parents who donated supplies and volunteered their time to beautify our playground! The plants are still a topic of discussion with the children when they visit the playground daily. Gardening Day has even restored their interest in the dirt digging area on the east side of our playground.

Week of the Young Child highlights:
Zumba instructor, Cathy Pivonka, was absolutely awesome with the children! Ronnie and Hannah were asking to hear the song, Chihuahua, the very next day! We plan to add that song to our weekly dance party playlist.

Kendra Nenia, a teacher from Campus Child Care, volunteered as a WOYC guest reader. Instead of a book, she brought a felt board activity and a ukulele! All of the children were at the edge of their seats as she sang her rendition of the Scottish folk song, Aiken Drum.

We finished off the week with each child passing out breakfast bags to their parents. The WOYC parade was our grand finale! From Gabel to the MLK Commons, we danced to popular upbeat songs like, Happy, Better When I’m dancing, and I Like to Move It.

Lastly, we’d like to thank all the families for all the yummy food. Our staff room was filled to the brim with the perfect blend of healthy snacks and comfort food! April was a very eventful month, we appreciate all the support!

Sincerely,
Ecila, Krysten, Leigha and Tena
Thank you to everyone who helped make our WOYC 2017 a special and memorable event!