Hello CDL families!

The summer is well under way and our practicum students are about half way done with their experience! I hope you have enjoyed getting to know your child’s primary caregiver so far this summer.

Mark your calendars for our Family Night on Monday, July 10 at 5:00! The practicum students have been busy planning for this special event, and we are looking forward to what they will have in store for us! We appreciate parent support and participation during our Family Nights. The students spend a lot of time planning for and preparing for this night; they always work so hard at making this a great family event.

I recently attended a day long training for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). After about 30 years, the CACFP is revising and making significant changes to the Meal Patterns for all ages of children that will be in effect October 2017. The purpose of the updated meal patterns include many reasons: there will be an alignment with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA); to address the current health status of children and adults; to enhance the nutritional quality of meals and snacks; and, to help children develop healthy eating habits. I will be providing an in-service training to all our CDL staff on August 18 to help our staff transition into the new requirements. Prior to October, I will also share more information with parents as to how these changes would impact our menu planning and feeding of the children. Some of the meal changes include healthier choices for the children— for example, the CACFP will not allow the following to be served to children: PopTarts, cake, cookies, donuts, or no deep-fat fried foods—rest assured, the CDL has never allowed any of these things to be served to the children! The child care program always has the right to set their own standards of quality and protocols as long as they are minimally following the CAFP standards.

Finally, Denise will be sending out the summer/fall interim request forms around July 10 and they will be due back to her on July 24. Full-time faculty and staff will have priority for child care.

Lisa Schmidt
Director for Operations
Hello Preschool Families,

Summer is finally here. We have been spending a lot of time outside. We have been going for walks through-out campus. We have done a lot of exploring. The children have also been spending more time playing on the playground and were even able to have snack outside. We are able to see many plants growing in the garden. We have corn, broccoli, carrots, and pepper plants that are really starting to get big. The children have been keeping an eye on it each day.

We have been fortunate enough to have some beautiful days where we were able to participate in water play! Our classroom has taken advantage of the great weather to continue to explore NIU’s campus. We have traveled to the wishing well (pictured to the right), the Art Building, the fountain near Cole, and the Lagoon. At the Lagoon, we saw ducks!

The preschoolers continue to show their interest in and passion for nature! Our preschoolers have been using our extended time outside to collect, observe, and describe natural items they find on our playground. Erin took a trip to Michigan to visit family and brought back rocks she found in Lake Michigan. The children enjoyed observing the rocks with magnifying glasses. They were then able to sort them by size, texture, and pattern.

Sincerely,
Erin, Jamie, Kristi, Kat

We are thrilled to welcome Isaac back to our classroom!
Hi ITT East Families!

Our semester has been off to a wonderful start! We are taking advantage of the warm weather by taking walks on campus and playing on our playground during drop off and at our usual times. Another fun exciting adventure we have been embarking on is visiting the east side of the NIU campus. We’ve played at the lagoon and near the fountains located behind Davis Hall. Due to the hot weather the children have been engaged in finding new ways to keep themselves cool, such as using spray bottles to wet their faces and bodies.

In addition to all of our explorations on campus the children have been engaged in reading stories about Pete the Cat, construction and nature. Along with that, the children have been engrossed in art activities such as spray bottle water color art and paint sponge bombing! Thank you to Genesis for providing so many fun and exciting activities for her weeks of lead teaching.

Next up for lead teaching is Amanda Brooks; we are excited to see the fun activities she will provide for us for these next three weeks! Please stop by to join us during group time and for our Parent Community Involvement, which will take place on July 6, 2017 at 10:15 a.m. Amanda will be inviting Jess Gardner to talk with the children about flowers and plants. Also, the children will be painting the flower pots at school and then plant seeds at home with their families!

We would also like to introduce a new friend to our classroom. We are excited to have Khloe to join our ITT East classroom and get to know her and her family, please welcome them!

Friendly Reminders: Please bring in a water bottle for your child to keep at school, sunscreen, bug spray, sun hat, extra clothing and a light jacket.

Center Closures: Tuesday July 4, 2017

Sincerely,
Clarissa, Christy, Natalalee, and Elena
Hello ITT West Families!

The summer semester is off to a great start! We have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather by taking many walks around campus and playing outside on the playground. The children have shown great interest in different types of vehicles. We have spent time building different ramps, roads and tunnels in the classroom. The children have also been enjoying the construction dramatic play area. They have been using the tool set to build and are dressing up as construction workers and firefighters. Cindy’s community involvement was a hit. We took a walk to Huskie Hill to have a dance party. The children enjoyed playing with bubbles, sunglasses, beach balls and maracas!

Our next lead teacher is Alyssa Jones. We are excited to see what fun activities she brings to the classroom these next three weeks! Alyssa has planned a Family & Community Involvement field trip to the Founders Memorial Library on July 10th at 10:30am. Parents are encouraged to join!

We would like to welcome three new children into our classroom; Jordan, Thomas and Joselyn. We are excited to get to know them and their families!

We are also excited to have Lucas back in our classroom after being in China for 5 weeks! Welcome back Lucas!

Reminders:
- The center will be closed Tuesday, July 4th.
- Please bring reusable swim diapers, a swim suit, a towel, and water shoes for your child. Also, please bring plenty of extra summer clothes for your child’s cubby.

Sincerely,

Megan, Ecila, Krysten, Magaly, Tena