DIRECTOR’S DESK

Hello CDL families! As we move into October, it is hard to believe we will soon be coming upon midterm. Our weeks seem to fly so quickly - sometimes I wish I had the superhero power of stopping time! So much to always do and accomplish! I can imagine you are all very busy as well in your classes, teaching, and jobs!

Thanks for all who were able to attend the Parent Advisory Board Meeting on September 13th. I appreciate parents taking the time out of their very busy days to come. Some highlights from our administrative report included: enrollment—currently at 40 children; stable profession staffing with no changes; and, discussion on staffing and hiring part-time student staff. Our Advisory Board also spent a great deal of time addressing parent questions and concerns regarding the upcoming merger with CCC. All parents are invited to attend the final Parent Advisory Board Meeting on October 10 at 3:30 in Wirtz 113. This meeting will actually be the CDL Parent Focus Group that will be a more structured experience with pertinent questions Dr. Helin will be posing to the group so that certain information and data can be collected to assist in the merger process. We truly hope many of you will be able to attend!

This is the time of year we like to remind parents to dress their children appropriately for the weather—layers and warmer clothing, if needed, etc. Right now our temps are fluctuating - sometimes the mornings start out cooler but the sun is still somewhat strong and we can have warmer weather during the day. It is hard to start thinking about the colder weather coming, but before you know it the northern Illinois blustery wind will soon be here. Also as a reminder, children do not get sick from being outside. They get sick from being inside with all the germs surrounding us. We work closely with our nurse from 4-C on all health and wellness related issues and also utilize the Academy of Pediatrics as a resource when creating center policy. As a reminder, the children go outside on winter days as long as the temperature with the wind chill is above 15 degrees.

Sometime around mid-October, I will email out to all parents an evaluation for you to fill out on your child’s primary caregiver for the practicum students. It is extremely beneficial when parents are able to provide their perspective and thoughts on their experiences with their child’s primary. We find these very helpful in getting an overall assessment of the practicum students and their performance; and, we use these results in our annual priority planning for the program. Please enjoy the rest of October!

Lisa Schmidt
Co-director for Operations
Hello CDL Families,

We are excited to announce that we have a new volunteer and student worker joining our classroom, Adriana will be completing her volunteer hours for her degree in Family and Child Studies and Courtney will be joining us as a student worker. We welcome Marquise who has transitioned from ITT East and our new friend, River. We are excited to have all of them join our room. One last shout out to the Heck family! They donated a couple books to the CDL to thank us as Addy headed to Kindergarten. The NIU nursing students captivated the children’s attention with their engaging lesson on fire safety. They wrapped paper fire around their waists and taught them how to stop, drop, and roll. They used a blanket as a cloud of smoke and had the children crawl under it to teach them to stay low if they are in danger of inhaling smoke. They then transferred the paper fire to the house where they used water bottles as hoses. The bottles contained actual water and the water came out through a punctured hole in the lid. The children squeezed the bottles and put out the fire.

Lucas tried washing the matchbox car under the sink in the dramatic play area. I asked him if he had ever been in the car when his family drove through the car wash. We decided to watch a video of a real vehicle going through a car wash.

We then created our own pretend car wash with blocks, recyclable foam cut into strips and tape. We taped the strips so they would hang down and drove the cars through. This led to us making a larger sized car wash on the playground for the children to drive through on their bikes. We created this using tubes and ribbon. We used tires to weigh it down. You can extend this learning by taking your vehicle through the car wash with your child and talk about each step and it’s purpose.

Chandler made a garage for the garbage truck using the magna tiles. After the children made beeping noises when they backed into the garage, we had a conversation about the type of garbage collecting that happens at their homes. We talked about the garbage truck needing to beep to alert others. We also watched a video clip of a real garbage truck picking up the cans and then one emptying a dumpster. You can enhance this learning at home by watching your garbage collectors work if possible.

We read the book, *I’m Stinky*, by Kate and Jim McMullen, to explain the importance of putting garbage in the appropriate place and where it goes after it is collected.

Sincerely,
Kristi, Jamie, Frank, & Kayla
Cheerful Greetings ITT East Families!!

Wow, it’s already October!!! Yay fall season! We are excited about the change in weather and hope to implement some fun activities using the colorful leaves outside and possibly bringing in some fall harvest items (i.e. pumpkin, squash, etc.) to explore and discuss.

The children have been getting comfortable in our classroom and have gotten to know their peers and the new teachers in our classroom. The children are still building special bonds with their primary caregivers as well. We want to say farewell to Marquise, have fun in Preschool M.J., we will miss you!

Kelsey Kuhlman has started her lead teaching! She has offered some engaging activities such as, “Five little Worms” rhyme, “Mud Painting”, and “Red Bus, Red Bus, What do you See?” story. Also, please join us for her Family/Community Involvement on October 5, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in our classroom where we will be building different faces on rocks. This activity’s main goal is to assist the children with their social/emotional development.

We have noticed the children’s growing interests with the baby dolls, nature items (i.e. leaves and pinecones), and listening and dancing to music. We have also went on various walks around campus and explored the fountains (i.e. near Lucinda Ave.).

Just a few reminders...
Please make sure your child has indoor shoes that can be used when they are in the classroom as well as outside shoes. Please also be sure to have an extra set of clothes in your child’s cubby as well. Also, as the weather is starting to cool down, please be sure to bring a sweatshirt in for your child. Along with that, please SIGN IN at drop off.

Thanks,
Clarissa, Christy, Nat, Genesis, Elena, & Amanda
Hello West Families,

Our Fall 2017 semester has been off to a great start! With the unusually warm weather we have been having, we have been spending a lot of time outside, playing on the playground and going for walks! While playing outside, riding tricycles on the sidewalk has been a very popular choice along with playing with balls that we kick and throw for gross motor activity. On our walks, we have been spending a lot of time on Huskie Hill and we are taking walks to the pond by Cole Hall where we have seen a lot of geese swimming. We even saw two geese fly into the pond and the children shrieked when they saw them splash into the water.

We are excited to have our first lead teacher! Kelsey will be doing her lead teaching over the next four weeks. We look forward to all of the activities she has planned for us.

ITT West has been very active this semester. The children have been running and climbing and we have incorporated small workout routines into the classroom setting. While teaching the children safe practices and what they can do to keep their bodies safe and making good choices, we’ve shown them different ways they can move their body. We’ve been stretching, doing push ups, crunches, jumping jacks, and bicycles with our legs.

Just a few reminders, please make sure you are providing at least two complete outfits for your child and a coat. With the unpredictable weather we’ve had this past month, it’s hard to tell what type of clothes your child may need. It may be a good idea to provide short sleeve and long sleeve shirts just in case. Also, with Halloween coming up, the CDL does not celebrate this holiday. Please leave all costumes at home.

Sincerely,
Krysten, Ecila, Magaly, and Megan