From the Director

From the Kitchen to the Classroom
Cheesy Chex Mix
3 cups Chex Cereal
2 cups Mini Pretzels (we use extra crackers and cereal instead of pretzels as hard pretzels are a choking hazard for children under four years of age)
1 cup Cheese Crackers
½ stick Butter
¾ cup grated Parmesan Cheese
2 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder

Spread on a baking sheet and bake 15 minutes at 325 degrees stirring every five minutes.

Michele made this whole grain cereal mix with the infant group. They scooped, poured, and especially tasted the ingredients. They talked about the different colors and sorted by color and shape. They also discussed the taste and described the texture as bumpy or smooth.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017
Time: 12:00-1:00
Location: Room 269 EML Hall

Please come to our last Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting for the year. The purpose of this committee is to assist the Center staff in developing and implementing parent events, providing ideas and feedback on the children's curriculum, sharing resources and identifying areas of concern with the program and helping to problem solve. All parents are welcome to attend as we love your ideas and feedback! Bring a sack lunch to this informal meeting if you wish.

Agenda:
- Spring/Summer Menu
- Food Program Changes Effective October 1, 2017
- Summer Curriculum
- Jr. Master Gardeners Grant
- Week of the Young Child
- NAEYC Accreditation Update
- Electronic Family Survey
- Outside Door Replacement Project in May
**Week of the Young Child**

Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is April 24-28, 2017. It is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The purpose is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. It is also a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each child experiences that type of early environment- at home, at child care, at school and in the community- that will promote their early learning.

The Center has the following events planned to celebrate children, families and early childhood professionals:

**Monday**

*Kick off to the Week of the Young Child!*
*9:30 the children will transplant tomatoes with Charlie in the NDSU Greenhouse.*
*Children will be cooking up treats for the Parent Appreciation Breakfast.*

**Tuesday**

*Parent Appreciation Breakfast*- Please join your child for breakfast anytime between 7:30-9:00. The children have prepared two kinds of quick breads to share with you along with the recipes. This is our way to say THANK YOU for your support and partnership in providing care and education to your child.

*Tea Party, Biscuits and Fun Hat Day*- The children will enjoy an afternoon snack of tea and biscuits in a very fancy way. Also remember to have your child wear a fun hat today!

*Please bring a light colored or white t-shirt for your child to use fabric markers on later in the week. Also label the shirt with your child’s name to prevent any mix-up.*

**Wednesday**

*Working Together Wednesday*- Today the children will work together making a paper chain that will connect all the classrooms. This activity will promote color recognition, math, fine motor skills, problem solving and collaborative play.

*9:30 or 10:00 Field Trip to Shepperd Arena for Kiddie Days to see, touch, smell and ask questions about baby farm animals. Parents are welcome to join us! (Date and time not confirmed yet!)*

**Thursday**

*Staff Appreciation Day*- This is a day to thank the staff who support your child’s care and education. Show your appreciation by thanking them for their dedication and commitment to young children and families.

*3:30-5:00 Parent-Child Fabric Markers on T-shirts. We asked parents to bring a light colored or white t-shirt for their child on Tuesday. Now it is time for you and your child to be creative with the fabric markers on the child’s t-shirt!*

**Friday**

*Wacky Hair Day*- Today your children will get to wear their creativity on their head! Color, glitter, mohawks, hairspray, pony tails etc. Just have fun!!!!

*10:00 ABC Yoga at Bentson Bunker Field House with Kate’s mom, Nikki!*

**Family Survey-We Need Your Feedback!**

On Monday April 17, 2017, an electronic Family Survey will be emailed to all parents asking how we are doing in meeting your child and family needs. We ask parents for your honest feedback on each child enrolled in our program by Friday, April 21, 2017. This survey is anonymous and will be tabulated by the NDSU Group Decision Center. We ask for 100% parent participation so we can identify our strengths, design strategies for improvement and implement program goals. A summary of your feedback will be shared in the May Newsletter.
USDA Food Program - New Requirements Effective October 1, 2017

The Center is starting to make a few changes to our menu now instead of waiting till October 2017. There are three changes that we have started:

1. At least one serving of grains per day must be whole grain-rich (WGR). Whole grain-rich foods are those that contain 100% whole grain or at least 50% whole grains and the remaining grains in the food are enriched.
2. Breakfast cereals must contain no more than six grams of sugar per dry ounce.
3. Yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of sugar per six ounces.

When you look at our April menu you will see * next to whole grain-rich foods instead of WW (Whole Wheat). You should also know that all of our cereals contain no more than six grams of sugar per ounce and we have met this requirement for years. The Center has switched brands of yogurt for snack to a brand that has less than 23 grams of sugar per 6 ounce. All of our quick breads and muffins are made with 50% whole wheat flour and 50% enriched flour. We believe nutritious and healthy foods are an important part of a high quality care and education program for children. We are committed to making child nutrition a priority.

Wish List
Cowboy Boots all sizes
Bubbles
IPad
Sidewalk Chalk

Infant / Toddler EML 161 Happenings by Stacey & Raelyn

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Parent-teacher conferences are held in April. A conference sign-up sheet is located on the door for you to sign up for a convenient time. If these times do not work for you, please let Stacey or Raelyn know and we will make arrange with you. We look forward to sharing your child’s growth and development since our last conference and set new learning goals with you.

The Elephant Song
One elephant went out to play
Upon a spider’s web one day.
They had such enormous fun (hands up in the air)
That they called for another elephant to come.
You, who……Mr. Elephant come and play with me (hands over your mouth and whisper)
Run, elephants run……. (Slap your legs with both hands very quickly over and over again)

Repeat, starting with two elephants!

This is a favorite song right now in our room. The kids giggle and scream when we sing it!

Examples of Fine Motor Skills in Young Children
8-18 months

Happy Birthday to You
Danielle turns 1!
Teo and Alex turn 2!

Featured Family
Brecken
Check it out!
1. Transfers a block or other toy from hand to hand
2. Holds 2 blocks and hits them together to make noise
3. Uses pincher grasp with thumb and forefinger together to pick up small objects
4. Pushes or pulls toys while standing or walking
5. Drops or throws balls and other objects while sitting or standing

18–36 months
1. Kicks or throws a ball toward another child or adult
2. Stacks two or three blocks on top of each other
3. Makes lines, circles, or scribbles with a crayon on paper
4. Pushes or pats puzzle pieces into place
5. Digs in sand with a spoon or small shovel
6. Tears paper into small pieces

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Parent-teacher conferences will start in our classroom the week of April 10th. A separate conference sign-up sheet for Mary and Hayley’s primary care group will be posted the first week of April. Mary will email the schedules out ahead of time to help coordinate conference scheduling. If you have any questions as to which primary care group your child belongs to, there is a list posted on the bulletin board near the sign-in and out clipboard. Conferences will be scheduled for a 30 minutes. If you feel you would like more time, we will schedule another conference time.

Language Development
Encouraging language development, specifically communicating and speaking, in infants and toddlers takes many shapes and forms. Beginning in young infancy, language development is supported by listening and watching for different types of sounds, gestures or cries a baby makes. In older infancy language development is supported in exchanges which allow sufficient time for the child to respond to questions or suggestions. During “toddlerhood” language development is supported by modeling two or three word sentences that the child can imitate or responding to the child’s use of words to express needs or wants. Older toddler’s language development is supported by asking open ended questions. Open ended questions are questions such as “tell me about that tower”, “tell me about your picture”, “What you think would happen if___” or after a child tells about an occurrence asking “then what happened”. Ideally, open ended questions are a question that requires more than a one word response and one to which you don’t know the answer to. Through open ended questions we facilitate the child’s ability to process information taken in, assess the information and to express thoughts regarding that information. Through their answers, we can find out a great deal about what the child thinks and feels. The best part of this process is that any response is a correct response. Always keeping in mind, no matter what the age of the child, the thought of expanding the child’s language skills by repeating what you heard the child say and expanding on the thought presented to you. This process broadens the child’s vocabulary and association skills which, interchangeably, affect cognitive development.

Resources: North Dakota Department of Human Services Birth to 3 Early Learning Guidelines pg.30; Family-Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs by Deborah Diffily and Kathy Morrison, pg 10.

Toddler FLC 113 Happenings by Mary, Hayley, & Michele

Happy Birthday to You
April 29th Bell turns 3!
Love This Warmer Weather
We have a bit of an early spring this year! Please take home winter items except for a hat and light weight gloves. If it should snow again, please bring back winter clothing for outdoor play. It would help your child be more comfortable outside if he/she had a light jacket in their cubby for warmer afternoon play. The mornings can be cool outside so a hat and light gloves are still needed.

Cheyenne Our Student Teacher
By now you have met our student teacher Cheyenne who started teaching in January. In April she will begin her full time six weeks teaching. Cheyenne will plan and implement many of the activities for the children, leading up to her head teaching week, May 1-5.

Soccer Park Field Trip
On April 11 we will walk to Soccer Park leaving around 10:30 and returning at 11:30. (Weather permitting)

Hands on Learning Every Day!
Each month we would like to highlight one or two areas in the preschool classroom of what children are learning. Our goal is to help you become familiar with materials we are using, activities we are implementing and the learning that is taking place.

Area 2 - Literacy: In this area we are promoting language, reading and writing skills. Having a language rich environment at this age promotes children’s vocabulary, conversation, pre-reading and writing skills.

Children are Learning: vocabulary; proper book use such as top to bottom, left to right, front to back progression; writing names, letters and words; listening skills; parts of books such as author/illustrator, characters; prediction and setting of the story.

Materials: Books that are rotated every other week, book and tape/CD stories, pencils, pens, paper, dry erase materials, word cards, letters, and comfortable places to sit and read.

Additional Learning: Reading books to children is one of the ways that research has shown to dramatically increase a child’s future school success. We have two story times daily in addition, books are read to children throughout the day.

Area 3 - Manipulatives: In this area of the room, the children are increasing fine motor development, problem solving skills and social skills such as sharing and taking turns. The children can work alone or in groups to put together toys, lace, build and play games.

Children are Learning: conversations, sharing, taking turns, stringing, counting, shapes, balance, matching, problem solving, cooperation, critical thinking.

Materials: puzzles, games, counters, laces, shapes, beads, tubes, links, small blocks, Duplos, Mr. Potato Head

Additional Learning: Often times the materials that are placed in this area have recently been used in a teacher directed learning activity. This allows the child to further their skills through practice and exploration. The fine motor skills they are learning will develop into shoe tying, writing and buttoning.

Happy Birthday to You
April 16th Anna turns 5!
April 17th Graham turns 4!