From the Director

From the Kitchen to the Classroom

Zucchini Bread
3 eggs
1 ½ cups sugar
3 tsp. vanilla
1 cup vegetable oil
1 ½ cups whole-wheat flour
1 ½ cups enriched white flour
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. soda
¼ tsp. baking powder
3 tsp. cinnamon
3 cups zucchini, shredded

Bake at 350 degrees for about one hour.

Michele made this bread in the toddler room. The children helped count the eggs, cups of flour and sugar. They talked about the different parts of the egg and how some parts are hard and others soft. The children noticed there were two different colors of flour, even though the texture was smooth. They smelled the spices and vanilla and commented “smells yummy”. Some of the children wanted to taste the bread right away, so we talked about cooking the bread in the oven first and tasting it next at snack. The children love eating what they helped prepare!

Field Trip to the Jet Center

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2017
Time: 9:45-11:15 AM
Location: 3802 20th Street North Fargo

Did you know we have a mother who is a Pilot and Lead Flight Instructor? Desmond’s mother, Tajae, has coordinated this wonderful field trip for children and their parents to learn firsthand about airplanes. The children will be transported by university vans and we invite parents to join their child at the Jet Center. Wednesday morning we ask that you properly install your child’s car seat into the assigned van. Also please have your child’s first name clearly written on the front of the car seat so there is no mix-up. A HUGE thank you to Tajae for allowing us to come to the Jet Center. We are all ready to learn about planes!
Center receives a $500.00 Jr. Master Gardening Grant

The Center wrote and received a $500.00 gardening grant through NDSU Extension Jr. Master Gardeners grant program. The toddlers will be planting tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, green beans, peas, dill, basil, mint and thyme. The preschoolers will plant three varieties of each to compare and explore: tomatoes, potatoes, peppers and string beans. They will also try their hand at growing melons. We will also be starting our own seeds this year indoors and planting them outside the end of May. NDSU Extension has many family friendly handouts and recipes on gardening with children that will be sent home for family education and enjoyment.

Outside Door Replacement

Facilities Management has informed us that the outside tunnel door and the main doors to the Center are going to be replaced one at a time. During this replacement time, parents will be able to use one or the other door to enter the Center. This project is expected to take about three day’s total.

Summer Program Hours and Staff

Hours: 7:00-4:30 May 15, 2017 through August 18, 2017

Staff: 
- Infant room -- Stacey, Raelyn and Anna W.
- Toddler room — Mary, Hayley and Bentley B.
- Preschool room—Monica, Robin and Olivia U.
- All classrooms - Michele

Summer Curriculum

May—Our curriculum will focus on being safe, safety rules and helpers in our community. A fire truck and the FM Ambulance will come to the Center to talk about safety first and then let the children explore the vehicles and tools that are used to help keep us safe. Gardening by the children will also take place throughout the summer on our playgrounds.

June—Our curriculum will focus on transportation and big vehicles. Facilities Management will be allowing the children to watch two kinds of loaders, dump truck, grader, utility vehicles and a garbage truck at Thorson Maintenance Center. Parents will need to sign a Parent’s Agreement of Waiver of Liability, Indemnification, and Medical Release form prior to June 5th. This form will be placed above your child’s cubby for your signature. At the end of the month we will be learning about recycling and the values of recycling. Also on Wednesday, June 14 from 3:30-4:00 we will have Popsicles on the Playground and invite parents to join us!

July—Our curriculum will turn to camping and all the fun outdoor events that go with camping. On Friday, July 14th Monica will be parking her pull out camper for the children to investigate. We will also be exploring some of our nearby parks and having a Wacky Wednesday Picnic on Wednesday, July 19th. We hope parents will bring their sack lunch and join us!

August—Our curriculum will focus on child classroom transitions, water, water everywhere, garden harvesting and Early Intervention Partners Developmental Screenings!

April Family Survey Results

By Brittany Voulgarakis and Beth Grimshaw-Field Experience Students

Thank you parents for taking the time to complete our electronic Spring Family Survey. This survey is part of our National Accreditation requirements and Center program evaluation. We had a 51% return rate. Comments shared by the majority of parents about what they like about the center included:
• Feeling welcomed and greeted during drop off and pick up times
• Parent-teacher conferences
• Parents encouraged to participate in field trips
• Teachers are easy to communicate with
• The curriculum and focus on each individual child’s developmental needs
• Childcare Alive! and Movin’ and Groovin’ sessions with emphasis on healthy eating and movement
• Center collaboration with other NDSU departments and the resources they provide
• Students extending children’s learning opportunities such as with the nursing, dietetic and physical education students

Parents also mentioned many ways in which their child has grown through educational opportunities offered in the Center including:

• Communication skills
• Vocabulary skills
• Social skills
• Relationships with other adults and peer friendships
• Learning about their community and the world
• Sign language
• How to count, read, and write
• Learning to follow rules
• Play-based, exploratory learning

A recommendation from a parent was to have summer breakfast closer to the academic school year breakfast time. This will be discussed at a staff meeting.

Overall parents feel “blessed” to be a part of the program. They “love” the program and feel like their child’s time at the center has had a “positive impact on their development”.

Thank you again for your feedback and recommendations on the Spring Family Survey. Based upon previous years return rates ranging from 88-95%, we will be returning to the hard copy of this survey in the future.

Wish List
Toddler Playground Basketball Set
Bubbles
Sidewalk Chalk

Infant / Toddler EML 161 Happenings by Stacey & Raelyn

Parent Teacher Conferences

A BIG thank you goes out to all our families for taking time out of your busy schedules to meet with your child teachers for conferences. We always enjoy learning more about your child’s development, together writing new learning goals and can’t wait to start reaching the new goals over the next couple of months.

Toothbrush and Chap Stick

It is that time of year when you need to replace some of your child’s supplies. The teachers like to replace toothbrushes every four months or so. If your child does not use a toothbrush or Chap Stick at this time, you are welcome to bring one for them.
Good-Bye Students

With spring semester coming to an end, we will be saying good-bye to our awesome students for the summer. They will be done in the Center the last day of finals week.

Anna W. will be one of our students that will continue working with our team this summer.

Baked Banana Chips

Here is a recipe we will be trying with the kids this month!

2-3 bananas
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. water
Cinnamon
Kosher salt

Slice bananas 1/8 thin. Lay out on a greased pan. Brush with a lemon juice and water mixture. Sprinkle with cinnamon and kosher salt.

Bake at 250 degrees for 2 hours, turning over after 90 min. Let cool and enjoy!

Summer Practicum Student

Starting May 22 the toddler room will have a Minnesota State University Moorhead Practicum student with us for 6 weeks. Her last day in the Center will be June 30. Teachers will make sure we introduce her to each family.

Playground Gate

When dropping off or picking up your child from our playground please lock the gate behind you to keep children safe. Hayley will have the sign-in and out sheet outside for more convenient pick-up during the afternoon.

Sun Screen and Insect Repellent Permission

Watch for a new Authorization for Non-Prescription Products form to be place above your child’s cubby on May 1, 2017. Once the form is completed and returned to Deb, we can apply non-prescription products such as sun screen and insect repellent to your child. Keep in mind, we will apply sun screen and insect repellent only once per day which will be after nap for afternoon outdoor time. If you want your child to have either of these products on for morning outdoor play, please apply your product prior to coming to school.

Toddlers in the Garden

The toddlers will start outdoor garden planting towards the end of May. We planted seeds of pumpkins, peas, cucumbers, and green beans in April in our classroom. The toddlers will be planting tomatoes, basil, dill, mint and thyme from plants.

Happy Mother’s Day
To all our Moms!!
Family Vacations

Please let Mary or Hayley know of summer family vacation plans as early as possible. This helps us make staffing and meal count changes which saves the Center dollars.

Thank You Parents!

A huge THANK YOU to all our parents who took time out of their schedules to meet with the teachers during Parent-Teacher conferences. We enjoy partnering with you in the education of your child!

Preschool Happenings by Monica & Robin

Preschool Graduation Celebration

Date: Tuesday, May 9
Time: 3:00-4:00

Congratulations to our six friends that will celebrate their time in the Center for Child Development. We are thrilled to have a graduation ceremony on May 9 with Piper, Anna, Yeo Jun, Henry, Drake and Nyla and their invited guests. The children have grown so much since becoming preschoolers and will soon be on to their next learning adventure! Congratulations!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thanks everyone for taking the time from your busy days to meet with your child’s primary caregiver last month. We are better able to help your child grow and learn in preschool when we have your valuable input into our teaching curriculum and individual goal setting.

Warm Weather Clothes

Teachers have looked through your child’s extra clothing box and places winter clothing above their cubby along with a note asking for summer clothing replacements. We would appreciate if you could bring and place in your child’s extra clothing box warmer weather clothing to help keep your child comfortable.

Please continue to bring a spring coat and light hat/gloves for morning play. All winter clothing may go home for the season!

Sad Goodbye & Warm Welcome

Our friend Evan will be moving to Washington and his last day will be May 31. We will miss him and his family and wish them the very best!

The children and teachers will be welcoming in a new toddler friend named Adrienne June 1. Adrienne’s family has had a child in the preschool room before so we welcome Angie and Chad back to our classroom.

May Field Trips

3rd- Field trip to Jet Center. Desmond’s mom, Tajae, has arranged for us to visit the Jet Center where she is a pilot. We will tour the facility, learn about the planes and sit in one! Thanks Tajae for arranging this! The children will be transported by University vans so you will need to properly secure your child’s car seat in the assigned van upon arrival in the morning. Parents are welcome to join us on this field trip.

16th- Walk to Soccer Park at 10:30.
Story time Fun

During a recent story time we read the book *He Bear, She Bear* by Stan & Jan Berenstein. The children learned that we can do any job no matter if we are a He or She! Then they were able to tell us what job they’d like to do when they grow up. The children made some great choices!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Job Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>raise money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eowyn</td>
<td>police officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>build tallest tower ever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeo Jun</td>
<td>soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor</td>
<td>firefighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie</td>
<td>friends thought she could be a chef or Mom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>said he had no idea!</td>
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<td>Chase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzy</td>
<td>doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemma</td>
<td>Mommy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyla</td>
<td>police &amp; Mom</td>
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Hand-on Learning Every Day!

Each month we would like to highlight one or two areas of the preschool classroom to help you get familiar with materials we are using, activities teachers are implementing and learning that we see & expect to see take place in these areas. Let us know if you have any questions about these classroom learning areas.

**Area 4: Home Living:** In this area children have the opportunity to take on family roles. They can be a mommy, daddy, sister, brother, baby or pet in the family. The practice skills that they will use in their own family life now and in the future.

**Learning:** conversations, sharing, taking turns, conflict resolution, family dynamics, leadership, nurturing, problem solving, and cooperation.

**Materials:** This area always contains the basic items in a home such as kitchen appliances, table with chairs, dress up clothes, dolls, pretend food and dishes. Teachers routinely change items in this area to enhance learning. Items we may add are jewelry, glasses, flashlights, keys, tools as well as changing the basic materials to reflect cultural differences that our children experience daily.

**Additional Learning:** The home living area is complimented by the next area we will discuss, Dramatic play. The home living area is the home environment and the dramatic play is the community environment. Materials from one of these areas often make their way into the other one. For example the children may bring a pizza home from the pizza restaurant or take the dress up clothes to the laundromat.

**Area 5: Dramatic Play:** When the children are playing in this area they are able to experience jobs or adventures in the “community”. They can be a clerk, customer, doctor, teacher or police officer. The children are able to practice skills they may use in the future or that they see their family use when they are out in the community.

**Learning:** conversations, sharing, taking turns, conflict resolution, work dynamics, leadership, responsibility, problem solving, cooperation, and money management.

**Examples:** Some of the different community experiences that you may see in dramatic play include restaurants, laundromat, doctor’s or vet office, airport, fishing pond, grocery store, seasonal yard, hair salon, camping, zoo, gardening etc. The materials that we place in this area depends on what area we choose to use. Sometimes the children have good ideas about what the area needs and we work together to add new items based upon their interests.

**Additional Learning:** The dramatic play area is designed to be the community part of your child’s experience. Children attend many experiences out in the community and enjoy re-enacting those experiences.