From the Director

Parent-Child Taste Testing Events Continue

Dates:  Tuesday, August 1  3:30-4:15  Whole Grain Trail Mix
       Tuesday, August 8  3:30-4:15  Black Bean and Corn Salsa

Please join us for a parent-child taste testing in the main entry to the Center. We are excited to sponsor this Team Nutrition Grant opportunity for our families. The children will prepare the food for taste testing during the day and you and your child can taste the foods together from 3:30-4:15. Recipes will be available at the taste testing.

“This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the view of policies of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.”

Free Developmental Screening

On August 15-17, 2017, Early Intervention Partners will provide a free developmental screening for the children in the areas of gross motor, communication, fine motor, cognitive and social-emotional development. A qualified, trained professional will administer the screening in each classroom to measure the child’s present level of functioning. The screening results will be shared with you and the Center teachers through written documentation. They will begin screening at 9:00 AM.

2017-18 Parent Advisory Committee Meetings

The Center would like to invite all parents to participate in our Parent Advisory Committee meetings scheduled for this year. The purpose of the Parent Advisory Committee is to advise and assist Center staff on implementation of programs and activities for children and their families.

The Parent Advisory Committee meetings are held three times per year or as requested. Based on your feedback from the Parent Involvement Opportunity form (completed with enrollment forms) you said Tuesday at 12:00-1:00 would be the best time for our meetings. This year we will meet:

- Tuesday  September 26, 2017
- Tuesday  January 23, 2018
- Tuesday  April 10, 2018
All meetings will take place in EML Hall room 269. Please mark these dates on your calendar now. WE LOVE parent input and feedback which helps us best meet your child’s education and family needs.

Program Evaluation and Accountability

August will be a busy month of external program evaluations, as required for our September child care licensing visit. Our fire inspection, health and sanitation inspection, and child care physical activity health code evaluation will all take place the beginning of August.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Re-Accreditation

NAEYC accreditation is the gold standard for early childhood programs across the country. Families of young children who attend NAEYC accredited programs can be confident that they deliver the highest early care and education.

The Center for Child Development staff will be preparing for our five year re-accreditation this year. This includes preparing the Program Portfolio, Classroom Portfolios, self-assessment through Family and Teaching Staff Surveys and a validation visit for a NAEYC professional between the periods of February 1, 2018 - July 31, 2018. Parents will receive an update on our progress through this comprehensive assessment process.

Welcome and Good-bye

A warm welcome to Vincent with parents, Zhula and Siew, and Silas with parents, Daniel and Krista. Welcome to our Bison Family!

Jeric and Isla will be transitioning to the toddler room with their first full day August 16. We wish you the best in your new learning adventures and look forward to seeing you on the playground!

Featured Family

This month we are featuring Raelyn and Stacey’s families on the Featured Family Board. The board is located underneath the sign-in sheet. A Featured Family Sign-Up Sheet will be posted this month. It is a way for us to get to know your family a little better and the kids LOVE to see their family photos. Participation is voluntary.

Welcome Back Students

It is soon time to welcome our wonderful NDSU Student Assistants back to our classroom. A few past students are returning and we will have a few new students. Good news, Anna will be back with us! Having new students in our classroom can sometimes cause stranger anxiety with some of the children. The teachers will support your child’s needs through this transition.

What Children Learn When They Are “Just Playing”?

Young children work very hard at play. We should encourage this because children gain a great deal of new information about themselves and the world around them during the course of their play. It may just look like play, but they are very busy constructing knowledge.

When children are engaged in playing blocks, they are learning.....

- language, changing roles
- problem solving: interactions, cooperative play
When children are playing with manipulative toys, they are learning.....

- math: patterns, numbers, sequencing, measurement
- self-direction: making a plan
When children are playing with sand/water, they are learning .....

- math concepts: numbers, weight, differences, etc.
- creativity: expressing their ideas
- language: phrases, vocabulary
- social skills: sharing, problem solving, exploring

**Toddler FLC 113 Happenings by Mary, Hayley, & Michele**

**Child Transitions**
This month we will have five toddlers transitioning to the preschool classroom. Bryn, Amy, Bell, John and Daxton will all transition during the first two weeks of August. We wish you all the best as you grow and learn in the preschool classroom.

Isla with parents Kellie and Brandon and Jeric with parents Liz and Matt will transition to the toddler classroom from the infant room August 2-15 and start full time August 16.

**Welcome New Families**
We would like to welcome four new families to our classroom. Simon with parents Katie and Phil, Calvin with parents Siew and Zhulu, Ruby with parents Jill and Aaron and Emma with parents Ying and Gongyi. We look forward to welcoming you to our classroom and the Center!

**Mary’s Vacation**
Mary will be taking annual leave beginning July 31st through August 4th. During this week, Hayley will be opening at 7:00 and working until 3:30. Bentley will work 8:00-4:30 and Desirae, a Student Assistant from last year will be subbing 9:00-4:30.

**Garden Update**
Our garden has produced four cucumbers so far! We made a recipe of Refrigerator Pickles. Our pumpkin plant and tomato plant are both looking healthy. We look forward to more produce this month!

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year.” by Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Preschool Happenings by Monica, Robin & Olivia**

**Goodbyes & Welcomes!**
As mid-summer approaches we will have new faces joining us and dear friends leaving our classroom. Chase, Nyla, Drake, Piper, Anna, Victor and Henry will be starting their new schools soon. They are excited for a new adventure and learning opportunities. We will miss you and wish you the very best!
We welcome new friends to our classroom. Amanda with parents Madhavi and Keerthi start Aug. 21 and six children from the toddler room start full time on August 16.

- Amy with parents Michael & Sunny
- Daxton with parents, Keshia & Tony
- Bell, with parents Matt & Liz
- John with parents Amy & Ryan
- Bryn with parents, Kellie & Brandon
- Adriana with parents Sarah & Aaron

Wow! We can’t wait to get to know our new friends!

Welcome Student Assistants

Classes will be starting on August 21 and the Student Assistants will be back. We hope to have some familiar faces back and welcome new students.

Preschool Discovery and Exploring

- **Campus Walks:** The children will be walking to various campus locations to explore this month. We will post a notice on the sign in and out board where we are walking to. If you know of a location that may be educational for the children, please let the teachers know.
- **Water Play:** The children will continue to have water play on the playground when the weather is warm. Thanks for having your child’s water play clothes at the Center!
- **Soccer Park:** We plan to go to the soccer park (behind T lot) on August 17th. The children will leave around 10:20 and we will be back at 11:30.
- **Poky Little Puppy:** The Poky Little Puppy will be visiting the NDSU Bookstore for a special book reading on August 8. We are excited to be invited and attend this event! More information to come.

Hands-On Learning Everyday

**Area 8: Outdoors and Large Motor Room 319)**

**Learning:** Strength, endurance, resistance, taking turns, conflict resolution, large motor skills, problem solving, self-confidence, and pride in accomplishments. Children are learning how the body moves when using different muscles, balance, coordination and speed.

**Materials:** This area has a large assortment of materials that we can use to help with skill building. Some obvious choices would be trikes, balls, scooter boards and climbing equipment. Other items we make available are nets, rackets, bats, and golf clubs. We also have items that help with balance such as balance beam, can walkers and stepping stones. The teachers use hopscotch and bean bag toss to help with hand-eye coordination.

**Additional Learning:** In addition to building skills, children are learning to have confidence and take some controlled risks when moving their bodies. They may try to jump from higher surfaces, run faster, and pedal without holding the handle bars. The children learn that they can apply problem solving skills outside too. We also explore and make discoveries in nature such as observing bugs, spiders, plants, trees and rocks.

---

**Happy Birthday to You**
August 1st Nyla turns 5!
August 20th Laura turns 4!
August 21st Christopher turns 5!
August 29th John will turn 3!