

ECEC SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Parents!

Hello! Well, we hope that spring is on its way. We know that in Wyoming each day can be very different with regards to the weather, so I guess we just have to be prepared. Whoever gets credit for the quote, “if you don’t like the weather, just wait five minutes”, was pretty accurate for Wyoming weather!

We have many exciting things happening this spring at the ECEC, so please be sure to pay attention to important dates listed in this newsletter as well as dates posted at the school and in your child’s class newsletters or blogs. One of the major exciting changes we have coming up is with regards to our webpage. We have been working with Montica Willmschen and all of her wonderful staff at UW Institutional Marketing. They have been helping us revise our Vision and Mission statements and have even helped us create a wonderful logo. They will also be helping us update and hopefully make some major revisions to our website which will not only be more fun to look at,

but will also have some more user-friendly information for all of you! Look for announcements coming soon with information regarding the release of our new site!

In addition to the website, our Administrative Intern, Dantzel Averett has written a grant to help us fund some equipment and supplies for our garden. If we get the grant, we are looking to add boxes for more permanent raised beds. We are also looking for a more permanent ground cover to put around the boxes to help us combat some of the deep mud we are getting in the garden during the early spring. We will plan to let you know more about the garden as we receive information about the grant. We also welcome any parents with a green thumb (or who just enjoy digging in the dirt) to help us out as we look to work on the garden this spring. Please contact Mark or Nikki if you are interested in helping out! Have a great spring!



DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ March 4 Mid-semester
- ◆ March 14-18 Spring Break
- ◆ April 18-Kindergarten Enrollment Begins
- ◆ April 22-24 Easter Break
- ◆ May 2-6 Finals Week
- ◆ May 7 Summer Semester Begins

Infant Classroom: Michelle Kearns

These last couple months have been and exciting for all of us! We have painting, types of paper, cotton balls, cleaners and are currently exploring water. We have painted our bodies flour, made footprints with flour, and



the texture of dry flour, as well as flour and water. You may see us some days with flour in our hair, on our face and all over the classroom, but all that means is that we are having fun!



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water and bubbles. We have learned how to blow the bubbles off our hands; we have washed our babies, played in the "pool" and watched what happens when we pour water on a slanted surface. We love to splash in the water, climb in it and pop bubbles!



We are anxious to see how long these two explorations last.



The good thing about exploring flour in the morning is that in the afternoon we may clean ourselves off a little while we explore

I want to remind all of you to please make sure your child has a coat, hat, gloves, shoes/boots, and snow pants every day, we never know when we may go outside and get some fresh air. Thank you!

Toddler Room 1: Brenna Randall



It has been a great start to our semester. We all came back refreshed and excited to learn. We have had several interests showing up with the children lately. One of the interests that all the children share has been to investigate their bodies. We started with the book *Go Away Big Green Monster*. That was a huge hit. We have read it every day. They love it so much that they have it memorized. We began talking about the monster's face and comparing it to their own. This was the

spark for our body project. We started our exploration with our faces. We have looked at what is on our faces. Each child created their representation of their face. They turned out so well we laminated and displayed them in the room. They have begun to notice each other's face parts and point them out. We have fun movement activities that have helped them increase their ability to manipulate how to move their bodies. We have measured our bodies and compared them with each other. We have graphed how tall

each child is and will continue to investigate how our bodies work and move.

We have also been busy exploring with our senses. We have explored the properties and textures of cornmeal, rice, flour, sand, corn starch and water, beans, lentils, gelatin, shredded paper, etc. We have talked about how they feel, sound and in some cases taste. We are also exploring taste and textures in foods. How the same food can taste different like cucumbers and pickles. They really have enjoyed this activ-

ity and we will continue throughout the semester. We took our first bus ride two weeks ago to go to the Half acre gym with Crystal's class. The children enjoyed running and playing with balls inside on a cold and windy day. The children had so much fun on the bus that we have decided to make it a regular outing. We are looking forward to the nicer weather in order to visit places on campus.

Please check out our classroom blog to see what we are doing.



Toddler Room 2: Crystal Ballard

We have been trying new foods for some of our projects with the intention of expanding our knowledge of food and to have more of an appreciation of how to use a food to make something else. For example we tasted lemons and sugar and then we made lemonade. The children really love the excitement of opening up a new food and exploring what is inside. Then they love exploring



the food with their taste buds. We also cut up green peppers and tomatoes and then made salsa. A lot of the children really loved the salsa and asked for seconds. We explored separate ingredients for pizza and then put them all together to make pizza. It was fun to watch the children be pleasantly surprised at the foods they thought they wouldn't like, but then



realized they did like them.

We have also been acting out stories. Our favorite one is Caps for Sale. There are monkeys in a tree who take a peddler's hats while he is sleeping. The great thing about this story is that the children who have limited language can still participate because the monkeys only say "Tzz Tzz Tzz". The children started acting it out in our room and then we acted it out for the other toddler room. We then got

really brave and acted it out in Tammy's and Eleanor's rooms. We have decided to begin to act out new stories since the interest level is high. We learned about The Mitten today and acted it out. It was great fun. We can't wait to see where this goes next!



Preschool Room 1: Tammy Lee

Hello parents of preschool 1! We have been exploring some exciting new ideas and concepts in our classroom and we wanted to let you know a little bit about it. Enhancing our interest in Art has been an interest for some time. The children have been exploring a variety of ways to create representations. In addition to exploring superheroes and modes of transportation through drawing, the children have been learning a variety of ways to represent themselves as individuals. They have:



created self portraits with markers, water colored black and white photos of themselves as well as their own faces, created colleges with facial features from magazines, drawn and painted their faces, used wire and magazine to represent their face on paper, created wire sculptures as well as wire on black and white pictures and lastly used the light table and projector to trace. In addition to exploring Art, we have been learning about dino-



saur, their different environments, what they eat and how each of them can be similar and different. The children love to explore the dinosaurs and see them in their various habitats. Another activity we have been doing weekly is baking. Every Thursday we break the children into two groups and make some type of baked goods. If you have any family recipes or family favorites that you would like to share, please feel free to bring them in or email: tammyl@uwyo.edu.

We think it would be an interesting exploration to explore family foods and traditions. Alert: Mud Season!! Mud season is upon us and we wanted to remind you to bring extra clothing for your child. Let us know what types of clothing you would like your child to wear outside just in case they encounter mud. The mud is here sooner than preschool 1 thought so please inform us about your child's outside play clothes and your feelings about them playing in the mud.

Preschool Room 2: Linda Tanner

When we came back from Christmas vacation the P-2 class looked at the newly created monkey bars in the P-3 class. We voted to make monkey bars in our room. The children drew pictures of what they wanted. Then they sawed and painted the dowels. We watched Jace install them. Next Mr. Mark and Jace inspected the bars to make sure they were safe. Our ribbon cutting was next and then we were able to play on the bars. The children have enjoyed

challenging themselves with new goals. They hang, swing and move from bar to bar. Others enjoy doing flips on the bars and hanging by their knees. The children have learned about blisters and calluses. It has been fun to watch the children hone their skills daily.



In this picture Cole Ehmke, Charlotte's Dad, is helping children see who could hang the longest.

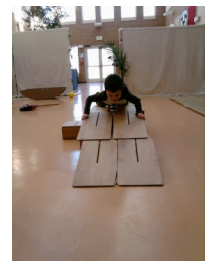
Preschool Room 3: Eleanor Frye

We have been exploring how are bodies move through space – in our classroom, in the big room, and outside. In our classroom we were excited to install monkey bars. The children gain new skills on the bars daily – moving from one bar to the next, hanging upside down, and doing flips. We also added a futon



mattress that we have been jumping on and we recently made it into a mattress slide for the children to roll, crawl, and jump down. We have had fun inventing new tumbling tricks. In the big room we have been riding bikes, skateboards, and scooter boards down the big block ramps. It's really fun when we ride down the ramp and have enough momentum to make it back up the ramp of the blue

fall zone. The children say it's like a roller coaster! They have also been jumping over a wall of cardboard blocks and finding different ways to jump like straddles, tucks, and spins. Outside we have been slipping and sliding on the icy tarp that covers our sand-box. Some of the children have been working on riding a skateboard and crawl-



ing with the skateboard on their stomachs. The teachers have been amazed at the variety of ways the children explore movement during their play.





We recently hosted a Dental Hygienist from the Wyoming Department of Health, who provided dental screenings for the children. This screening did not take place of a regular dental check-up, but did give us some information about the overall dental health of the children.

In addition to providing screenings and tooth brushes, we also learned the following information:

Even though newborns and infants do not have teeth, it is important to take care of

their mouth and gums. Use a damp washcloth to wipe your infant's gums after each meal. Begin using a soft toothbrush instead of a washcloth to clean your child's teeth as soon as their first tooth shows.

After your child has teeth, their teeth and gums should be brushed at least twice each day and especially before bed. Take your child to a dentist every 6 months. Let the dentist know if your child thumb sucks or breathes through the mouth. Teach your child how to play safe

and what to do if a tooth is broken or knocked out. Finally, he or she should begin flossing each evening before bed.

Learning good dental health practices when they are young will help your child have good dental health throughout their lives. Healthy teeth and gums are essential to your child's overall good health. Healthy "baby teeth" also affect permanent teeth, so it is worth it!

UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Early Care and Education Center
College of Agriculture • Family and Consumer Sciences
Dept. 3354 • 1000 E. University Avenue • Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-4816 • fax (307) 766-4093 • www.uwyo.edu/family