ECEC Newsletter Spring 2013

ECEC Families-

Spring always brings much excitement to our Center! We celebrate many special events such as national Week of the Young Child, National Teacher Appreciation Week, National Turn-Off the TV Week, Earth Day, Tax Day (ok, maybe that is not a celebration), and Mother’s Day. In addition is also means that we are getting closer to other welcomed events such as planting the garden and warmer weather (we hope!). Some of you are also getting ready for a major transition in your children’s lives as kindergarten registration approaches. We sure appreciate all of the great support you have all provided for many of the evening events here at the Center - it is always nice to have the continued support from you all.

As finals week approaches, please be aware of several upcoming news and events:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be taking place in each of the classrooms. Please watch for news from your child’s teacher about what days your conferences will take place. Individual sign-up times will be posted on classroom doors.
- Don’t forget that UW switches to summer hours starting Monday May 13th. Summer hours at UW are 7:30-4:30. For those families who work at UW and need to be in their offices by 7:30 and have to stay until 4:30, please contact your child’s teacher for arrangements.
- Also remember to check your child’s classroom for sunscreen. If you have left sunscreen for your child in the past, you may need to check the expiration date to make sure it is still good to use.

Have a great spring - please feel free to stop by and have lunch with your child or join us for a walk around the neighborhood!

Infant Classroom: Michelle

Greetings from the Infant Room!

We have had a lot of fun exploring many different things this semester. Ramps have been a fascinating exploration for us lately; we have used objects that travel down the ramps quickly and objects that need a bit of a push as well as using our own bodies on the ramps. The 2nd Annual Light Night enthralled us so much that we revisited lights by using flashlights, glow sticks, black lights, highlighters, and more. We are really enjoying playing with our baby dolls so we will be exploring how to care for them soon, including how to feed them, change, and dress them!
**Toddler Classroom 1: Christy**

In Toddler 1, we have been exploring foods. We began by tasting sour foods (lemons and limes), sweet foods (pineapples and honey), and pickles (dill and sweet). Using what we learned about flavors, we made juice out of carrots, limes, and apples. One class member suggested that the juice tasted like lemonade. We observed the food as it swirled in the juicer, and watched the extra rinds and seeds as they came out of the end.

In our play, our class enjoys making different kinds of soups by placing snow, grass, rocks, and woodchips in a bucket and stirring them together. We also enjoy having picnics using the food items from our play kitchen. Cooking and mixing items together has quickly become a favorite activity for many of the children in the classroom.

As we move forward with our exploration we will begin investigating the process of how various foods are made and how we are able to make them ourselves. We are excited to see how this knowledge will connect to other aspects of their lives.

**Toddler Classroom 2: Crystal**

Toddler 2 has been very busy this semester! One of our favorite activities has been acting out stories. We have been acting out different stories such as *Caps for Sale* and *The Three Little Pigs*. Acting out stories has prompted us to act out songs that we sing and also to create our own stories. Stories at this age can be very simple repeats of other stories the children have heard or their version of their favorite activities at home. It takes prompting and helping the children to recognize the steps of story writing. Once the story has taken shape, we act it out on our stage. We have many more stories to read, please stop by our room where we have them hanging up for all to see. We will continue with our stories but we will also merge into Air Movement exploration. We will begin this by learning about our own air and how we can move items or blow up balloons or even blow bubbles. We will also explore about outside air movement such as wind or fans. Hopefully the weather takes a turn for the better and we can take our explorations outside.

**Preschool Classroom 1: Jaclyn**

Preschool 1 has been busy learning more about dinosaurs this semester. We took a trip to the Geology Museum in early March and most of our parents were able to join us! We've also learned a lot about what habitats might have possibly looked like when dinosaurs were alive, and experimented with creating habitats for our dinosaurs in our room. One of the most exciting activities we were able to do was see how many of our shoes it would take to cover a Triceratops footprint. It took twenty six of our shoes!

As of late, we have been spending a lot of time preparing for Preschool Literacy Night which has sparked some new interests. We have been reading several books and acting them out each day. There has also been a new found love of writing and creating our very own books!
There have been many exciting things happening in the Preschool Two classroom! In February, we started cooking one day a week which began the Tasty Thursday’s project. The students would vote on what they wanted to bake, we would make charts and the students would make a mark under which item they wanted to cook. Doing this made them very interested in charts, we would use a chart to vote, and use different charts after to discuss whether the kids liked it, or what their favorite things about the dish were. In the picture you can see some of our kids making their own charts and asking each other to fill in the chart by writing their name and marking their favorite things. Art has been another big interest with the children, drawing is a huge favorite, they like to use their favorite books to trace pictures and make their own animal to play with around the classroom.

Preschool Classroom 3: Stephanie

Preschool Three:

We are GROWING! Preschool Three friends have been very excited about the potential for spring. We have been thinking and planning a lot of new ideas for the garden. This year some of the things we are going to plant include: a watermelon, snap peas, carrots and even zucchini! Growing plants is not the only thing sprouting up this spring! Our class has shown such growth in their writing. We are writing books, notes to friends and parents and even special signs for the room. Writing is all around us! With all the writing has also come a great love of books. This past few months our books have become plays. We act them out as a class during our morning group time. Some of our favorites have been Caps for Sale and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Looking ahead we will be continuing with the ideas of growing. Field trips, research and lots more writing will help us document these fun times in P3!

School Age Program: Jenna

The children in the School Age classroom have been very busy this spring! Many of the children have continued their interest in building and have been exploring building with new materials. Several children have recently been creating huge house structures with building straws. Everyone is very proud of each of these creations! With the spring weather approaching, we have all been very excited to get outside more often. The most popular game outside is one the kids have made up called ”groundies.” This is definitely a fan favorite!
Carrot-Shaped Calzones

- 2 tubes of store pizza dough (or make own!)
- **Filling:**
  - 3/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
  - 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
  - Package of turkey pepperoni
  - 2 tsp garlic
  - 3 tsp Italian seasoning
  - 1/4 c sundried tomatoes
  - Shredded fresh spinach

Roll out dough into a triangle shape. Spoon filling into middle of triangle and spread out with scraper. Fold one half of triangle over and add more filling. Fold other half of triangle over to create a carrot shape. Brush with orange food coloring before baking. Bake for 30-35 minutes at 350 degrees. Garnish with parsley stems before serving.