



Inside this issue:

Welcome Parents	1
Infant Classroom News	1
Toddler Classroom 1 News	2
Toddler Classroom 2 News	2
Preschool Classroom 1 News	2
Preschool Classroom 2 News	3
Preschool Classroom 3 News	3
School Age Classroom	3
Recipe Corner	3

Upcoming Events: Please check the door of your child's room for upcoming family events!

ECEC Newsletter

ECEC Parents:

It has been wonderful to have our building full of laughing and happy conversations after a long break! It is always one of my greater pleasures with my job to be at the front desk and greet all of our wonderful families as they arrive for the day or picking up at the end of the day. I truly feel gifted to be a small part of all of your families.

I know the teachers in all of the rooms have wonderful activities planned for this spring semester. We are excited to see how our Contraption Room grows with new ideas generated from the children as well as input from you all. I'm also excited to have an administrative Intern this spring semester. Laura Kelly has worked for the ECEC as a student staff for the past couple of years. She has primarily worked in the Toddler Rooms as well as the After School Room. Laura brings a lot of enthusiasm to her internship and is hoping to receive her American Montessori Teaching Certificate after she graduates from UW. Please take a moment to say hello to Laura at the front desk in the mornings.

Infant Classroom: Michelle

We are excited to see what this semester has in store for us! We have started the semester by exploring flour, which includes exploring it with our hands, scooping and pouring it, and watching it fly when we drop things in it. In the coming weeks we will be exploring it more with our whole bodies, as well as exploring the change in texture when water is added to it.

Since we are all movers now, we have each been exploring the way our body works by challenging our balance (walking down the ramp on our own, standing without holding on), coordination (climbing over things, getting from point A to point B), and strength (climbing onto the rocking chair or sensory table, pushing toys or chairs around). Every day is a new experience, and it's definitely an incredible moment when you see a child achieve something they have tried to do over and over again.



Exciting news.....we will start doing a cooking experience every other week! The children will help in pouring the ingredients, stirring them, and of course.....eating them when we are finished! We will keep you posted on how it's going, and may even share some of our concoctions.

Please remember to make sure your child has shoes, coat, hat and gloves/mittens every day. Also, our door is always open and we would love to have each of you come in and explore with us, cook with us, or read to us, so please let me know if you have a day in mind and we can set up a time that works. Thanks again for all your support!

Toddler Classroom 1: Christy

The Toddler 1 class spent most of the fall semester creating and building strong relationships with one another. Now that these friendships have been solidified, we are excited to start exploring the children's interests on a much deeper level. Currently the children enjoy bringing pieces of the classroom together to have tea parties, as well as investigating and building with loose parts. Looking forward we are eager to try out a few cooking projects and expand our loose parts exploration throughout the spring semester.



Toddler Classroom 2: Shaila



We are excited for this new semester and what it will bring for our classroom. We will be exploring familiar materials in new ways to help the children develop deeper thinking about the way materials can be manipulated. One way we will be encouraging deeper interests is through acting out stories. The children showed us last semester that they love to engage and interact with and through stories. They loved having teachers tell them stories, and while reading books, they would repeat character's lines. We will be encouraging children to read stories, help retell stories, make their own stories, and also act out stories. This is just one example of how we want to help children think deeper about the materials they use in the classroom. We can't wait for the many opportunities we are going to have for learning with your children.

Preschool Classroom 1: Jaclyn

We are excited to be back and in the swing of things again! Many of our kids have become interested in the addition of the "Contraption Room" as an option for building exciting new creations with some amazing materials. We've briefly gone over the process that will take place in order for kids to use the room, and a few kids have even tested it out. We are excited to have such an amazing space for them to be able to plan and carry out scientific process like projects in.

Another plan we have this semester is to become more involved with the other preschool classrooms. We've all agreed to provide more opportunities for children to interact with other classrooms on a daily basis. To start this process, we've combined our big room times so that each class has children in the big room at the same time. This has been an easy way for kids to see their friends in other classrooms as well as to explore the exciting things that are happening in other classrooms as well.



Preschool Classroom 2: Adina

All the children and teachers in P-2 were so excited to come back to school and see each other! We are excited to have Conner as our intern for the semester. We were so happy to have some great weather! We took full advantage of the warm weather and spent as much time as possible outside. We played outside on our playground and had an all preschool picnic. We also went over to Prexy's with all the other preschoolers. We will be doing many more activities with all the preschoolers. This will help us get to know other children and teachers better as well as give children the chance to explore the other classrooms and see what they are doing. We are very excited about the contraption room! This space is full of great building materials and will give the children a chance to plan and create. I cannot wait to see what amazing things happen in this room!



Preschool Classroom 3: Rhianna



Preschool 3 has been busy in the last few months exploring the children's many different interests. One of the biggest themes of their play has centered on representing buildings and structures in many different ways. We have used several different building materials within the classroom to represent structures such as towers, tents, houses, garages, etc. The class also took a trip to Prexy's Pasture to create models of the buildings that are most familiar to us. The Big Room has provided us with another place to create forts and houses. The children have also used our new straw bales to build to symbolize structures in their dramatic play. Throughout the next few weeks we will plan to explore other types of structures through adding more to our building materials and looking at different kinds of constructions.

This semester we have an intern, Aleighica, who will be taking over the role of lead teacher for a few weeks. We are excited to share our classroom with her! She and I both hope to help the children continue their interest in building.

School Age Classroom

It's been a great start to spring semester here in the school age room. The kids were happy to come back and see their friends after the break. Inside they have really enjoyed playing with Legos and working with yarn. We have been fortunate enough to be able to play outside most afternoons so far, where the kids have been loving to play on the straw bales on the playground. Outside time is an important part of their day so they can be physically active as well as use their imaginations to come up with new games to play. One such game involving physical activity and imagination has been the "piranha" game.



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Early Care and Education Center
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources •
Department Family and Consumer Sciences
250 N.30th St. • Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 766-4816 • fax (307) 766-4093



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Visit Our Website:

www.uwyo.edu/ecec/

Winter Recipe Corner

Skinny Slow Cooker White Bean Chicken Chili

Ingredients

3/4 pound chicken breast (boneless skinless)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1 onion (chopped)
1 jalapeno peppers (seeded and chopped (optional))
2 teaspoons oregano
1 teaspoon ground cumin
4 clove(s) garlic (minced)
2 Can (15 oz) kidney beans (white kidney or cannellini beans, rinsed and drained)
3 cups chicken broth
6 ounces shredded cheese

Directions

Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper then place it in the bottom of the Slow Cooker. Then add the onion, jalapeno, garlic, oregano and cumin on top of the chicken.

Next add white beans and pour the chicken broth over everything. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours or 4 to 6 hours on high.

