

Health & Human Sciences, NIU  
School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences  
Wirtz 118



April 2009  
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**Important Information!**

Dear Families;

April is here and looks to be a busy month for the CDL. Parent conferences will be held the last week in April. We encourage all families to sign up for a conference with their child's primary. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about what activities are being provided for your child and how they have developed through the semester. Not only will you hear updates on your child's school progress, you will give the practicum students an opportunity to practice valuable skills prior to them joining the early childhood field after graduation. Participating in this experience will also strengthen the connection between home and school, which is something the CDL highly values.

Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is April 19<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>. The CDL will be hosting two events that week. To kick off WOYC, we will be serving breakfast from 7:45-9:30am in the nap room. The staff is working on putting together a slideshow which will be playing during breakfast. Representative Robert Pritchard has also been invited to join us that morning. Pritchard has made early childhood a priority and supported many child care initiatives. We would like to share with him firsthand the impact he has made in the lives of children and families. We are also hosting our first ever yard sale. This will be a fundraiser supporting the CDL and Hope Haven.

Northern Illinois Association of the Education for Young Children is the local affiliate of the National organization and is supporting and advocating for children and families during WOYC by demonstrating fun and educational activities using recyclable items. If you have any of these items: Kleenex boxes, shoes boxes, water bottles, paper towel rolls, magazines, or newspapers, please drop them off in the preschool classroom.

Thank you for all your support and I hope to see you at our next board meeting on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Emily Reilly  
ereilly@niu.edu

- ✓ Remember to change your child's extra clothing for the weather.
- ✓ Late fees will be applied when children are picked up after 5pm.
- ✓ Please update your child's immunization record
- ✓ **Summer and Fall Contracts due April 6<sup>th</sup>.**
- ✓ **Toys to remain at home unless it is show and tell**

**Upcoming dates to remember at the CDL:**

**Parent Advisory Board  
April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**WOYC Event:**

**Breakfast: April 20th**

**Yard Sale: April 25th**

**Kindergarten Transition**

**Night**

**April 29th**

## Kindergarten News!

The CDL is hosting a Kindergarten Readiness Night on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:15-6:15. Information about surrounding kindergarten programs will be available, and Jodie Thunder, a kindergarten teacher at Brooke's Elementary, will be sharing information on skills children need to be successful in kindergarten. All families are welcome to participate in this event.

Registration for kindergarten students for the DeKalb 2009/2010 school year will take place on the dates listed below at the

Education Service Center, 901 S. Fourth Street DeKalb

Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 12-7 Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 4-7:30

## ITT West News

Hello Families!

Spring is here, and with the new season comes a whole new ITT West Classroom! At the end of last fall semester, Amy wrote a grant request for new furniture and a new cubby area. This past month came the arrival of a brand new book shelf, new chairs, new interest center shelves, and a brand new cubby area. We greatly appreciate Amy's contribution and are very happy with our new furniture and classroom setup.

We are very excited for the Week of the Young Child which is April 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Week of the Young Child, according to the NAEYC website, strives to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. We are planning activities for the children, such as tie-dyeing shirts with the children in the East classroom. Parents are asked to please bring in a shirt or onesie for your child by April 15<sup>th</sup> so that we are able to dye the shirts the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We have also been planning the CDL Yard Sale to correspond with the last day of week of the young child, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to drop off any donations for the sale on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

The children in our classroom have been showing increasing interest in art and dance. As part of a community involvement, Tasha invited a dancer to our classroom. Each child in the room sat transfixed as the dancer moved about to the music. Some popular items are leotards and colorful scarves that the children have been using and wearing to accentuate their own dance moves.

Laurel brought in a print of the Van Gogh work *Starry Night* and hung it in our classroom. Several children took interest in the masterpiece, making comments about its beauty and what certain details of the work meant to them.



We hope everyone is having a great spring!

ITT West

-Paul and Laurel

## Preschool News

Hi Families,

We have had such a busy semester so far! We set up a “dentist office” in our dramatic play area. The children were giving out great dental exams. Our hair salon was also a busy place. We’ve had a dance studio this week.

Springs is here, but please continue to bring in outerwear for the cold and muddy outdoor times. We were given some huge packing boxes. We took them on the playground and made houses, castles, ships, etc. Leah’s father also brought in several large cardboard carpet rolls. We hope to put them in the room very soon.

We will be visiting Theresa’s Bakery on Wednesday. We look forward to experiencing the baking process as well as purchasing the end results. Please be sure to fill out the permission forms. Also on Thursday, we will get to meet Pat, a fireman, who will be bringing an ambulance for ITT West.

Please remember the policy on bringing toys to school. We have Show and Tell times for specific items to share several times during the semester. The children may bring their items at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 815-753-1150. Thanks for all your support.

Amy and Euneta

## ITT East News

Hello Families!

I hope that everyone enjoyed family night! It was nice to get together and we appreciate the support that you showed the practicum students. If you were unable to attend, the student made pamphlets that contain the information that they presented. They are located in the entryway outside of the ITT and preschool.

We would like to welcome two new families to the ITT East classroom. We would like to welcome Varsha and her family to the CDL. We would also like to welcome Matteo and his family to the CDL.

As many of you may know, we now have a classroom pet. Six fancy mice have become the newest members of ITT East. The children have had many opportunities to care for our new pets. The two year olds are in the process of choosing the names for the mice. They are beginning to understand the importance of names and that each person or pet has a name. We have also seen this carry over into their play. During free play, the children will name their baby dolls or animals. The children also help to make the food that the mice eat. The mice eat a mix of cereal, rice puffs, pasta, and dog food. The children help to gather all the ingredients and also with mixing it together.



Making the food for the mice.

With the warm weather approaching, we have started planting plants indoor. A couple of weeks ago, we planted seeds as a table activity. Many of the children came over to see what the teacher was doing. They helped to put the soil in the pots, poke the seeds into the soil, and water the plants. To enhance their interest we have added books into the library about growing plants. Hopefully we will be able to transplant them to our flower boxes on our house outside.

We are very excited for the Week of the Young Child, April 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. WOYC is an opportunity to highlight young children, their families, and programs working with young children. We have many fun activities planned for this week. We would like to tie-dye shirts or onesies for your children to wear during this week. If you could please bring in your shirt or onesie by Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please ask.

Don't forget about the yard sale April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm at the CDL. We still have one more drop off date (April 17<sup>th</sup>) if you would like to donate items. All items are welcome.

Happy Spring!

Sarah & Melissa