

Health & Human Sciences, NIU
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March 2009
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**Important
Information!**

Dear Families;

March is here, and I am hoping spring brings warmer weather! If the upcoming season is motivating you to do any spring cleaning, be sure to think of donating any items to the CDL for our first ever yard sale which will be held on April 25th.

The practicum students have been working hard to plan for Family Night, which will be held on March 31st. Thanks to all of your valuable suggestions, we have decided to mix up the format a little bit. This semester Family Night will have a theme. Many of you suggested topics related to social and emotional development, so all three presentations will address aspects related to promoting positive social/emotional development. Topics for the night include: Mixed aged classrooms and empathy, Fostering Friendships and Pro social skills, and The Impact of Media on Children's Social and Emotional Development. We hope to see you there. Your support of the practicum students is vital to our program!

Emily Reilly
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Kindergarten News!

The CDL is hosting a Kindergarten Readiness Night on April 29th 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 29th 12-7 Thursday, April 30th 4-7:30

- ✓ Remember to change your child's extra clothing for the weather.
- ✓ Thank you all for your continued support!
- ✓ Please update your child's immunization record

Upcoming dates to
remember at the CDL:

Parent Advisory Board
March 20th

Family Night:
March 31st

WOYC Events

Yard Sale

April 25th

Kindergarten Transition
Night

April 29th

ITT West News

We hope everyone had a great start to their March! We have been very busy at the Lab this month. We are very excited to welcome our new friend Quinn to our classroom! The children have been excited to get to know her and introduce her to the classroom. She is a great addition to our classroom and we are happy to have her.

Leyla and Taryn are well into their lead teaching. They have been incorporating sign language into their lesson planning and group times. Lily's mom, Andriana, visited our classroom during group time last week to demonstrate the alphabet in sign language. Thanks Andriana! Our classroom has also been very interested in social play and role playing. The practicum students have been working on their documentation board regarding this topic. The children have really been enjoying imitating real life activities such as playing house, feeding the baby dolls and talking on our toy cell phones.

The practicum students are also working hard on their Family Night presentation. This semester they will be presenting on the development of empathy in a mixed-age classroom. Family Night is March 31st. We hope to see everyone there!

Due to the fact that March can be a toss-up weather wise, we will probably begin sending snow pants and other winter clothing items home towards the end of March. As the spring season approaches with rain and mud, please be sure to dress your child appropriately and ready to play as we will continue to go outside when weather permits. We hope everyone had a great spring break!

Laurel, Paul and the entire ITTW classroom

Preschool News

Happy March!

It's hard to believe that we are already in March. This semester seems like it is flying by. Once we get back from spring break, Leah and Dakota will begin their lead teaching. We are excited to see what they have in store for us.

The preschoolers have been learning a lot of interesting things this past month. It all started when Luke and Dana lost their tooth! From there we set up a dentist office in our dramatic play, did activities that correlate with teeth, and even had a dental assistant come and talk to our class about some of the questions that we had about teeth. It was a neat project to do, and please watch closely as the bulletin board in the hallway will be filled with documentation about teeth!

We also have been spending time talking about cause and effect. This started when several of the children found out through their play that blue mixed with yellow make green. From there we introduced primary colors and secondary colors. Ask your child what colors they get when they mix certain primary colors!

As the weather begins to get nicer, we will continue to go outside. Sometimes our playground can be a bit muddy, so it would be a good idea to send your child to school with their boots.

As always if you have any questions, please feel to ask!

Have a great month!
Amy & Euneta

ITT East News

Hello Families!

I hope that you are all enjoying the warmer weather that we have been having lately! Hopefully the warm weather will be here to stay soon. As the weather gets warmer we will try to spend more time outdoors so please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately. The ITT playground tends to be kind of muddy in the spring time. We will continue to have the children wear their boots when we go on the playground so that they do not get their shoes muddy. If you would like, you can leave your children's boots here for outside time. The children really enjoy the time that they spend outdoors running, climbing, and riding bikes.

In the classroom, the children have continued to be interested in helping each other. The twos and older toddlers have been continuing to help the teachers to feed and care for the infants. We have also seen them feeding and taking care of the needs of their baby dolls. To facilitate the children's play; the lead teachers have added a diaper changing station and food to the dramatic play area. The children have also been helping each other when a child gets injured. Many of the older children know where our ice packs are located and are quick to get one when a child is crying.

Many of the children have been excited to see the return of the animals to the area. On our walks we spend a great deal of time looking for ducks, geese, and squirrels. One of our practicum students' even found a caterpillar and brought it to the classroom. The children had the opportunity to observe the caterpillar and watch him form his cocoon. We are waiting to see what he will look like when it comes out! Seeing how interested in animals and helping we are looking into getting a classroom pet. Hopefully we will be getting one soon!

We hope to see everyone at family night March 31st!

ITT East Staff

Melissa & Sarah