As 2017 comes to a close, we would like to wish all of our families a heartfelt thank you for choosing UNO Child Care Center as your child’s early education program and all the support that you have provided. You are the best! We look forward to serving you in 2018.

The final event of the year will be our Holiday Program on Saturday, December 9, 2017 in the Strauss Performing Arts Theater at 10 AM. Dr. Shelly Cooper has been working very hard with the children and we are very excited to see what she and the children have been working on. The children that are in Dance will also perform. Ms. Kathy and the dancers have also been working hard learning their routines.

Please have your child at Strauss no later than 9:45 A.M. After the program, there will be a visit from Santa. So, bring your cameras! The C.H.A.M.P.S. group will be selling DVD’s of the Holiday Program. The cost for the DVD’s will be $15. Please make sure that you fill out a form and reserve your copy the day of the program.

Please note that Strauss Performing Building is currently under construction. The only doors that will be open are the far North end doors. Parking near the building is limited. You may need to use the Library Lot and the East and West Parking Garages. Please plan ahead, as the program starts at 10 A.M. and the children need to be there by 9:45 A.M.

A big huge thank you goes out to all of our families who participated in our annual food drive for Together Inc. We raised over 1,037 items. Every pound of food raised feeds a meal for one family. Way to go!

Please make sure you have turned in your registration forms and/or class schedules for the spring semester. We will be opening up spots to families on our waiting list. So please make sure we have your correct schedule. Thank you.

Reminder, the child care center will be closed from December 23, 2017 to January 1, 2018. We will re-open on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. If you have any questions or concerns during this time, please see Monica or the Lead Teachers.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at 402-554-4936, e-mail me at dhove@unomaha.edu or stop by my office.

Until Next Year...
*From our house to yours, everyone here at the UNO Child Care Center wants to wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season!

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**Feature Facts from Dawn**

- 12/4 Wyatt W.
- 12/4 Beckett F.
- 12/9 Miss Merriam
- 12/10 Will H.
- 12/14 Delia C.
- 12/14 Kiera B.
- 12/16 Soren P.
- 12/21 Zoe M.
- 12/24 Mr. Fred
- 12/25 Mr. Brandon

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**Dates to Make Note of...**

**December**
- 5 – CHAMPS Meeting; Alumni Center, Noon
- 9 - Holiday Program; 10 A.M. Strauss
- 11-14 - UNO Finals Week
- 13 – First Day of Hanukkah
- 21 - First Day of Winter
- 23 - Jan 1, Winter Shut Down; Center Closed
- 25 – Christmas Day
- 26 – Kwanzaa Begins

**January**
- 1 – Child Care Center Closed
- 1 – New Year’s Day
- 2 – Child Care Center Re-opens
- 8 – Spring Semester Starts
- 9 – CHAMPS Meeting; Child Care Center, 4:30
- 15 – Child Care Center Closed
- 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**February**
- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 4 - Rosa Parks Day
- 13 - CHAMPS Meeting; Child Care Center, 4:30
- 14 - Valentine’s Day
- 14 – Classroom Valentine Exchange
- 16 - Chinese New Year
- 19 - President’s Day
The holiday season is upon us. This year our holiday program will take place on Saturday December 9 at 10 A.M. at the Strauss Performing Arts Center. Please have your child there by 9:45 A.M. Family and friends are welcome to come.

Themes for the month of December are Transportation, the color Green, the Star shape, the number 4 and letters, J, K, & L.

We will have a pajama day on Friday, December 15. Your child may wear his/her pajamas on this day. Slippers are welcome, but please remember to bring in shoes. Also, make sure that your child has an extra set of clothes to change into.

The following friends will be moving up to Toddler 2 this month; Delia C., Henry D., Theodore E., William H., William McD., and Rachel R.

Mrs. Effie will be on vacation the week of December 18. Please see Mr. Fred, Dawn or Monica if you have any questions.

It has been a pleasure to have your child in my classroom. I would like to wish all my families and teacher assistants a wonderful holiday season.

Happy Holidays!

Toddler 1 Teachers

Winter is around the corner. We are planning some fun activates that will keep the children busy this month.

A reminder our annual Holiday Program is on Saturday December 9 at 10 A.M. at the Strauss Performing Arts Center. Please have your child there by 9:45 A.M.

We are planning some fun indoor activates for the winter season. PJ Day is Friday, December 15. Your child may wear his/her pajamas on this day. Slippers are welcome, but please remember to bring in shoes. Also, make sure that your child has an extra set of clothes to change into.

Themes for the month of December are Transportation, the color Green, the Star shape, the number 4 and letters, J, K, & L.

We will also be baking holiday cookies. Each family will be going home with a small plate of cookies.

We have had such a fun semester. We would like to thank all our assistant teachers for all their hard work. Best of luck on your finals!

Wishing all our families Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Toddler 2 Teachers

The Transition class is already in the holiday spirit! We will kick the month off with the Center’s Annual Holiday Program on Saturday, December 9 at 10 A.M. at the Strauss Performing Arts Theater. All children received a note with the songs we will be singing to practice at home. We have been practicing our songs very hard so we are hoping all of you can make it.

We have some new faces in the Transition class. Ben and Ellis moved up from the Toddler 2 class and some of their other friends will be joining us soon. Also, we some of our friends will be moving on to Preschool 1. Daniel, Isabelle, Shekinah, Emerson, and Henry will all be moving down this month and joining Mr. Brandon’s group.

During the week of December 18, we are asking for parents, grandparents, other family members, and friends to come read to the Transition class. You may come anytime between 9 - 11 A.M. or 3 - 4:30 P.M. If you are interested let Ms. Cassie know.

December Themes:  World Culture, Traditions, and Holidays

Color: Green Giving and Sharing
Shape: Triangle Different Holidays
Numbers: 10, 11 Children around the World
Letters: J, K Similarities & Differences

Holidays: Christmas, Hanuka, Kwanzaa

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

Transition Teachers
**Points to Ponder with Preschool 1**

Happy Winter!

Preschool 1 enjoyed a wonderful month of November and we have busy December planned.

Our annual Holiday Program will be on Saturday, December 9 at 10 A.M. at the Strauss Performing Arts Theater. Please have your child there by 9:45 A.M.

In November, we learned about the letters G, H, & I, numbers 7, 8, & 9, the rectangle shape as well as the colors brown, black and gray. We even learned the nursery rhythm Baa Baa Black Sheep. We also learned about community helpers, fairy tales and what it means to be thankful.

In December the themes will be health/exercise, winter, and we will learn about the different holidays that take place during this time of year. We will learned about the color Green, the Star shape, the numbers 10 & 11 and the letters J, K, & L, as well as our new nursery rhymes. This final month of the semester will be over quickly but we will enjoy it while it lasts.

As always if there are any questions please feel free to contact me during desk hours from 8 - 9 A.M. at the center or email me at bsklenar@unomaha.edu.

Have a great month!
Happy Holidays.
Brandon Sklenar & Preschool 1 Staff

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**News and Views from School-Age**

Season’s Greetings!

I cannot believe how fast November flew by, Thanksgiving is already here and gone in the blink of an eye. It seems so strange that we are so close to the Holiday Program and to the final days of the semester. We are going to be even busier in the days to come, so there are just a few announcements I need to make before we dive right in to December.

I will be away from the center from November 30 to December 1 and December 4, 6 & 7. If you need to contact me for any reason during those times, I will be available by email at mmliu@unomaha.edu.

Otherwise, we will continue with normally scheduled activities.

Our Holiday Program will be on Saturday, December 9 from 10 to 11 A.M. at the Strauss Performing Arts Building. Please have your child there by 9:45 A.M., so that we can organize and prepare them for the concert. We also encourage you to have them dress up in festive holiday clothing and stick around after the concert to visit with Santa!!

We will be have December homework up until December 22, so please watch for any homework being sent home. We will be doing new sight words and writing and counting practice will be coming home as well as our nursery rhyme for the month of December.

I cannot believe how fast 2017 has come and gone. I am really looking forward to December and what the New Year will bring. Feel free to contact me at the center at 402-554-3398 or email me at mmliu@unomaha.edu.

Preschool 2 Staff

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**C.H.A.M.P.S. Information**

CHAMPS met on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. The group discussed the upcoming Holiday Program. Volunteers are needed to sit at tables here at the center to gather family signatures for holiday greeting cards to be given to the staff. Volunteers are also needed to sit at a table before and after the Holiday program to take orders for the program DVD sales, as well as a volunteer to speak for CHAMPS when handing out cards to the staff after the program. If you can help, please contact Dawn or Monica as soon as possible. The next meeting will be in January. We hope to see you there!
Yes, can you believe it, 2017 is coming to a close and that our Fall Semester is about to end. I want to wish everyone a safe and merry holiday. As the weather begins to cool down, I look for hot food to eat when I get home in the evening and casseroles are my go to recipes. This month’s recipe reminded me of chili and looked good. It’s called: “Chili Mac Casserole”.

**Ingredients:**
- 1 Cup uncooked elbow macaroni
- 1 can (4 oz.) chopped green chilies
- 2 pounds lean ground beef (90%)
- 1-1/4 teaspoons salt
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 can (28 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (16 oz.) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups shredded reduced fat Mexican blend cheese
- 1 can (6 oz.) tomato paste
- Optional: thinly sliced green onion

**Directions:**
1. Using the directions on the package, cook the macaroni. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, cook the beef, onion and garlic over a medium heat until the meat is no longer pink; drain. Next stir in the tomatoes, beans, tomato paste, chilies and seasonings. Drain the water from the macaroni and add it to the beef mixture.
2. Transfer the above mixture to a 13x9 inch baking dish coated with a cooking spray. Cover and bake at 375 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes (or until bubbly). Uncover the casserole and sprinkle top with the cheese. Bake for an additional 5 to 8 minutes or until cheese is melted. Optional is to add sliced green onions to the top.

Season’s Greetings!
Mr. Rick

“I believe in Santa…just be Clause.”

Reminder that Tuition is due on the first scheduled day of each week. You will be charged a $10 late fee if your payment is not received before 11 AM on the last day of the week. There are no credits for sick or missed days. (Prepayments are welcome.) There are NO EXCEPTIONS!

Remember when you are bringing in treats in for the children, in any group, make sure there are no nuts or peanuts of any kind in or on them. We have children and staff that are highly allergic. Thank you.

Please remember: it is important to wash your hands wherever you are and go. This could be at home, work, school, restaurants, grocery store, department stores etc. Washing your hands and your children’s hands will get rid of the germs and help you and your children stay healthy. It is important that we do what we can to keep everyone healthy and germ free.
Play-Based Philosophy

A team teaching approach is practiced in each age group classroom. Together the professional staff plan over-all program goals and objectives and curriculum units intended to meet the child’s individual needs. We nurture, facilitate, and assess each child’s normal pattern of development in all functional areas, while respecting the individuality and particular potential of all children enrolled. The teacher-planned curriculum and program design is balanced between both structured and child initiated opportunities for children to learn in a nonsexist, multi-cultural environment that is filled with age-appropriate equipment and learning materials. Some fixed learning interest areas in the classroom are dramatic play, blocks, small and large muscle, sensory motor, science, pre-math, reading, early literacy, pre-writing, cooking and nature.

Other types of balanced routine learning activities included in the program are one-to-one, small and large group, indoor, outdoor, quiet and noisy, field trips and special events. “Creative Play” can provide pleasure and knowledge at the same time and we foster such opportunities. Many of these learning activities are indicated on the lesson plans that are posted on all of the parent bulletin boards in the center. Other learning activities occur when the children are playing and staff are interacting with them. The State of Nebraska has developed the Early Learning Guidelines that supports our curriculum. As stated in these guidelines:

Use of the Guidelines provides children with a strong foundation for future success:

• Rich experiences that are encouraging and challenging to keep them motivated to learn,
• Supportive learning environments,
• Positive relationships.

The joy of learning is the best attribute children can bring with them as they enter kindergarten. Adults nurture that joy by providing many different kinds of experiences for children, such as exploration, as well as one-on-one direct teaching, both individual and group activities, and through carefully planned activities and materials as well as taking advantage of spontaneous teachable moments. School readiness is about more than what children know. Kindergarten teachers describe successful children as being:

• Healthy, rested, and well fed,
• Able to pay attention, follow directions and communicate their thoughts and needs without being disruptive,
• Curious and enthusiastic about new activities,
• Confident, cooperative, and able to practice age-appropriate self-control.

Children enter kindergarten with a wide variety of skills and knowledge. All areas of a child’s development should be considered, not just her/his academic skills. Science has established a link between social emotional development, behavior and school success. Executive functioning skills (working memory, inhibitory control, and cognitive or mental flexibility) predicts academic successes better than IQ, socioeconomic background, or math/literacy knowledge, and the effect is cumulative.

Lesson plans are posted weekly outside your child’s classroom. Please read and extend those lessons at home!

Focus on Policy and Procedures

PHILOSOPHY AND CURRICULUM
WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

A. Within our knowledge and awareness of children’s development across all domains, we perceive the Child Care Center as an environment that is rich with opportunities for children to:

1. Explore the world around them using their natural curiosity
2. Experience an environment that is intentionally set-up to challenge this natural curiosity to extend it and offer additional “problems” to solve.

B. Adults in the environment are aware of, and sensitive to, the important roles that these curiosities play in:

1. The development of social competencies and high self-esteem
2. The foundation of language acquisition
3. The foundation of math concepts
4. Pre-literacy – the foundation of reading and writing

C. Adults understand that many of these foundation curiosities have value as the building blocks of later school-related skills.

1. Decision-making
2. Moral judgment
3. Discrimination of object properties
4. Mathematical understanding
5. Scientific investigation
6. Predicting
7. Generating hypothesis