I cannot believe how fast January has flown by and February is already upon us. I hope that the colder weather is behind us and that spring is around the corner.

Please remember that the children get to go outside once the weather gets above 32 degrees, including wind chill. Please provide the proper outside attire including a hat and gloves. The children may go on walks in the afternoons and are back by 4 P.M. If you will be picking up before 4 P.M., please remember to let the staff know, so that your child can stay back at the center.

The Valentine’s Day exchange will be on Wednesday, February 14. Wear the colors, red, white or pink. Please check with your child’s lead teacher to find out what time the class will be exchanging Valentine’s with their classmates.

The number of children in each group is as follows:
- Toddler 1  9
- Toddler 2  13
- Transition  24
- Preschool 1  15
- Preschool 2  19

Please note that we are asking that no candy containing peanuts, nuts, or pineapple, etc. be included in any of the Valentines and that NO hard candy be placed in any of the toddler’s Valentines. Please see Dawn, Monica or the Lead Teachers if you have any questions.

Mark your calendars now for the following upcoming events and watch for more details in the coming months.

1) Dr. Seuss’ Birthday is March 2. There will be a special UNO Child Care Center event this day. Please watch for more details to come.
2) Parent/Teacher Conferences will be the week of March 26.
3) Week of the Young Child is April 16-20. We will have special activities planned during this week.
4) Preschool 2 Graduation and center wide lunch on Friday, April 27 at 11 A.M. at the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom.

I will be out of the office on February 9 in the afternoon and February 23. If you have any questions or concerns during these times, 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 month...“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all” - Aristotle

Happy Birthday!

2/4 - Adelyn B.  
2/8 - Miss Meggan

2/12 - Miss Emily
2/23 - Violet D.
2/25 Leo S.
2/25 Kateri K.
2/27 Miss Juli

Dates to Make Note of...

**February**
- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 4 - Rosa Parks Day
- 13 - CHAMPS Meeting; CCC 4:30-5:30 P.M.
- 14 - Valentine’s Day
- 14 – Classroom Valentine Exchange
- 14 – Ash Wednesday
- 16 - Chinese New Year
- 17 – Staff CPR/FA Training
- 19 - President’s Day; Center is Open

**March**
- 2 – Dr. Seuss’ Birthday; Center Celebration
- 11 - Daylight Savings Begins
- 13 - CHAMPS Meeting; CCC 4:30-5:30 P.M.
- 17 - St. Patrick’s Day
- 18-25 – UNO Spring Break; Center is Open
- 20 - Spring Begins
- 25 – Palm Sunday
- 26-30 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 30 – Good Friday
- 30 – Passover Begins

**April**
- 1 – Easter
- 1 – April Fool’s Day
- 10 – CHAMPS Meeting; CCC 4:30-5:30 P.M.
- 16-20 – Week of Young Child Activities
- 17 – Tax Day
- 22 – Earth Day
- 25 – Administrative Professional Day
- 26 – P2 Graduation Practice
  MBSC 9:30 A.M.
- 27 – P2 Graduation & Center Luncheon
  11 A.M. MBSC Ballroom
- 27 – Arbor Day
Welcome to February. We would like to welcome Louisa A., Everly A. and Sua (Belle) Cho to the Toddler 1 classroom.

Themes for this month:
Our friend, Lucky the Bunny, will be taking turns going home with each child. A flyer will go home on Thursday, February 1, 2018. We believe that early literacy is important in a child’s language development. Mrs. Effie will start sending Lucky the Bunny home with a friend on Monday, February 12.

The toddlers will have their annual Valentine Exchange Party on Wednesday, February 14. There are 9 children in the Toddler 1 classroom. We ask that parents only write their child’s first name on the cards. We will have a special afternoon snack.

Take some time to explore your world!
Toddler 1 Teachers

Welcome to February! We have an awesome group of friends that are learning their colors, numbers and shapes. Learning is so much fun in Toddler 2!

Themes for this month:
Our friend, Lucky the Bunny, will be taking turns going home with each child. A flyer will go home on Thursday, February 1, 2018. We believe that early literacy is important in a child’s language development. Mrs. Effie will start sending Lucky the Bunny home with a friend on Monday, February 12.

On Wednesday, February 14, we will have our annual Valentine Exchange Party. There are 14 children in the Toddler 2 classroom. We ask that you write only your child’s first name on the cards. If you wish to provide a treat, it must be a peanut free/pineapple free snack.

Our friend, Lucky the Bunny, will be taking turns going home with each child. A flyer will go home on Thursday, February 1, 2018. We believe that early literacy is important in a child’s language development. Mrs. Effie will start sending Lucky the Bunny home with a friend on Monday, February 12.

Have an awesome month!
Toddler 2 Teachers

Happy February! Spring semester is in full swing and the Transition class has been very busy. We are going to kick off the month with an indoor picnic on Friday, February 2. Lunch is at 11 A.M. and parents are more than welcome to join us for lunch. Your child will need a sack lunch free of peanut, tree nut, and pineapple products. This includes items that may have processed in a facility that processes peanut and tree nut items.

The Transition class is in need of shoeboxes for their Valentine mailboxes. All shoeboxes must have lids. We will be doing a valentine exchange on Wednesday, February 14 starting at 9 A.M. If you would like your child to participate in the exchange, you will need to bring in valentines for your child to exchange. There are 24 kids in the Transition class. We would also like for parents to come in and read that day. Parents are welcome from 9 A.M. - 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. If you are interested in reading please let Ms. Cassie know.

Here are Transition’s learning themes for the month of February:
- Modes of Transportation & Feelings & Emotions
- Color: Purple
- Different Ways to Travel
- Shape: Heart

How Do We Get Around
Numbers: 14, 15
Handling Our Emotions
Letters: O, P, Q
Different Types of Feelings
Holidays: Valentine’s Day, President’s Day

Detailed weekly lesson plans are posted in the hallway outside the classroom and as always if you have any questions or concerns feel to reach out via email or during my scheduled hours at the center.

Ms. Cassie and The Transition Staff
January has already come and gone. We had a fun month learning all sorts of good stuff.

One theme we focused on was states of the USA. We spent learning all about different types of science experiments, as well as time spent focusing on writing letters of the alphabet. Our letters of the month were M, N, O and the numbers were 13 and 14. Our shape of the month was diamond and the colors were blue and silver.

February also means Valentine’s Day! This year Valentine’s Day falls on a Wednesday so we will have a class celebration on that day. More information will come out on that in the near future.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions you have. I am here daily from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. with desk hour from 8 A.M. - 9 A.M.

Thank you and have a great February!
Brandon Sklenar and the Preschool 1 Staff

Points to Ponder with Preschool 1

Brandon Sklenar – Lead Teacher

News and Views from School-Age

Megan Liu - Lead Teacher

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

Brandon Sklenar – Lead Teacher

Frosty February Greetings

Brr...what a chilly way to begin 2018. With the beginning of February, we are beginning the short countdown to GRADUATION. Yes, it is nearly here and I can hardly believe it!!!

For the month of February, there are a few announcements I would like to make. First, thank you to all the parents who have turned in to me their child’s photographs for the graduation presentation. To all the parents who have not yet sent me pictures, it is still not too late!!! I need just one baby picture and one toddler picture for each child (anything else is just a bonus). Please bring in either a hard copy to scan or email me the photos at mmliu@unomaha.edu.

Second, the week of February 5 marks the beginning of the end for naptime. We will begin by shortening naptime to 30 minutes of rest and 30 minutes of quiet playtime. In March, we will be shortening rest time to 15 minutes of rest and 45 minutes of quiet play.

By April, naptime will be completely phased out. If you would like your child to have extra time to rest, please let me know.

Finally, graduation will be on Friday, April 27 at the Milo Bail Student Center. Cap and gown fees will be due the end of March. Please watch for more details.

We are also be seeing who will be returning for the summer program. Our summer program is so much fun and it will be even more fun to see everyone there. A form will be sent out in later in the month.

Thank you all so much for all that you do, I love working with you and your children. If you need to contact me, my desk duty from 3 P.M. to 4 P.M. or email me at mmliu@unomaha.edu.

Thank You,
From Miss Megan and the staff of Preschool 2

CHAMPS did not meet in January. We need to have parent participation in order to plan family activities for the upcoming semester, so we are inviting you to come to the next meeting! It was decided to change the time of the meetings to 4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. and to meet at the child care center.

The next CHAMPS meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 4:30 P.M. at the child care center. We will be discussing a spring fundraiser, Week of Young Child Activities and Preschool 2 Graduation.

See you there!!!
This month’s recipe, called “Sweet Tea Brined Hot Chicken Wings” looked good to serve at a Super Bowl party.

Ingredients include:
For the Brine:
2 cups brewed sweet tea
1 Tbsp. kosher salt
½ Tbsp. smoked salt
2 lbs. chicken wings
For the Rub:
2 tsp ground cayenne
1 tsp ancho Chile powder
1 tsp garlic powder
1 tsp ground paprika
½ tsp ground black pepper
¼ tsp smoked salt
Cooking spray, as needed
1 Tbsp canola oil

Directions:
1. On the night before, the brine needs to be made: mixing the sweet tea, kosher salt, and smoked salt in a 2-cup microwave safe measuring cup. Microwave on high for 45 seconds and stir until the salt is completely dissolved. Then add a few ice cubes to bring mixture back to room temperature.
2. In a medium bowl place the chicken wings, pour over the cooled brine mixture, cover and chill for 8 hours. The next morning, remove the wings from the brine and place upon paper towels, pat the wings dry and set them on a baking rack in a half-sheet pan and place in refrigerator for 6 to 8 hours to completely dry.
3. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and place on an oven-safe baking rack inside. Spray with cooking spray.
4. In a bowl, combine cayenne, ancho Chile, garlic, paprika, salt and pepper. In a larger bowl, toss the chicken wings with 1 Tbsp. of canola oil and sprinkle the spice mixture until evenly coated. Next, place the wings evenly apart on the prepared baking rack.
5. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, flipping once part way through, until skin is browned and tips are crispy. Serve warm.

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better do better.”
--Maya Angelou

Mr. Rick

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.
Parent Corner

Kindergarten Readiness: The 10 Traits Successful Kids Have In Common, From A Kindergarten Teacher

As a kindergarten teacher, I’d like to share a few observations of children who successfully transition to school. MERETE L. KROPP
Beginning kindergarten is a huge rite of passage that looms large for most children and their parents.

Children are excited to join the world of older students who attend elementary school. Parents are often understandably emotional about their child’s transition to formal schooling, and perhaps a bit nervous about their child’s readiness for what will be required of them in the classroom. With kindergarten registration season approaching, parents may wonder how to best prepare their young children for entering kindergarten in a few months’ time.

As a kindergarten teacher, I’d like to share a few observations of children who successfully transition to school. Certain skills and dispositions make for a smooth transition and a successful kindergarten year for many children.

Children who do well in kindergarten are ones who can:

1. Make choices. Children will be given many opportunities in school to make choices. They will choose what to play on the playground. They will choose activities and books in the classroom. Children who have been given autonomy at home in developing preferences and making meaningful choices from limited options are able to transfer this skill to the school setting, thereby exerting confidence in making wise choices within the classroom setting.
2. Make connections. Classroom discussions and individual learning are enhanced by students who have the ability to relate events, topics and experiences that they have had outside the classroom to what they are learning about in school. Parents can support the development of making meaningful connections by participating in responsive conversations with their children about what they are doing, experiencing and reading. Parents may point out links, commonalities and contrasts in every day interactions and ask questions that solicit thinking that compares and contrasts information.
3. Self-advocate. Children who are able to state their wants and needs in a clear and polite manner tend to transition more easily to school. Parents do their children a favor in the long term when they consistently model and expect good manners within the family and discourage whining and tantrums. “Yes please” and “No thank you” are phrases that serve children well as their worlds expand.
4. Take turns and handle disappointment. In school, children will have to wait, and no one can always be first or have their own way. When children have had practice at home in learning the important life skill of patience, sportsmanship and understanding that life may not always seem fair, they will have increased success in their transition to school where they will be sharing space and attention with at least 20 other children.
5. Sustain attention. Children are expected to pay attention and listen within the classroom setting. Children who are accustomed to listening to books being read from start to finish and participating in conversations about the book are well prepared for Kindergarten. Parents can support the development of this skill by incorporating reading aloud into their regular routine. Family meals also provide an excellent opportunity to practice sitting still and participating in conversations by taking turns and listening until all participants are finished and ready to move on to the next activity.
6. Cooperatively clean up. In Kindergarten, children collectively clean up their environment, sharing the responsibility of keeping the classroom orderly. Children who know how to help with chores at home bring this skill to school and set a great example for the other students. Parents can help their children develop this positive habit by encouraging family members to pitch in and work together at home to keep the house tidy. Young children can put away their own toys and may also be excellent helpers at setting the table or transporting small piles of folded laundry.
7. Independently dress themselves. When children can dress and undress themselves into their shoes and jackets, they will have more time to play and participate in classroom activities. Time spent at home practicing putting on and taking off jackets, shoes, gloves and hats, as well as independently mastering toileting is well spent. Children should also be able to wash their own hands and to open and close lunch/snack bags and containers. Children who have mastered these skills have the advantage of not having to wait for help. In addition to the traits listed above, I would encourage parents to cultivate the habit of reading books aloud on a daily basis.
8. Children who are familiar with books, stories and rhymes will be successful in school.
9. Children also benefit from having had the opportunity at home to explore and to take risks and to build, make and create their own fantasies, artwork and ideas.
10. But the most important factor that helps a child successfully and confidently embark on their formal school journey is to have a responsive, nurturing relationship with someone who is crazy about them, someone who will listen and talk to them about interesting things and who believes that they have the potential to learn and be successful in school.

This article was originally posted on the Nurtuance website.

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

Focus on Policy and Procedures

CLOCKING IN AND OUT
There are a number of reasons to clock your child in each day.
1. It is a licensing requirement.
2. Any child not clocked out by 5:30 P.M. will be automatically charged a $1 per minute late pick up fee.
3. We are a participant of the Federal Food Program and must have proof of attendance in order to be reimbursed for meals served.
4. We track ratios through the computer and if your child is not clocked in, we may think the teacher has fewer children than is accurate.
5. If there were an emergency, we would need to know exactly how many children we have to ensure we have everyone with us.