



UNO Child Care Center Chronicle

February 2024

Dawn Hove-Casart - Director

Monica Dey - Assistant Director

UNO Child Care Center Happenings and Reminders

Happenings: Mark Your Calendars

1. UNO Child Care Center Classroom Valentine's Exchange; Wednesday, February 14, 2024

The Valentine's Day exchange will be on Wednesday, February 14. If you would like your child to participate, please make sure to have your child bring in Valentines to share. This is optional.

Number of Valentines for each group are:

Toddlers	8 Children	11 Staff
Transition	11 Children	9 Staff
Preschool 1 & 2	17 Children	10 Staff

Please note that we are asking that no candy containing peanuts or nuts, etc. be included in any of the Valentines and that NO hard candy be placed in any of the toddler's Valentines. All items must be store bought and in the original packaging. Please see Dawn, Monica or the Lead Teachers if you have any questions.

2. Lead Teacher Announcement

I am pleased to announce that we have hired 2 new Lead Teachers and 1 Assistant Lead Teacher. Lead Teachers for Transition and Preschool 2 and an Assistant Lead Teacher for Toddler 1. A thank you goes out to everyone who helped assist with the interviewing process. A special thank you to Heather Leas and Rachel Radel in HR for all their help. It was truly appreciated! A formal announcement about each teacher and their start dates will come soon. We will continue to advertise for the Preschool 1 Lead Teacher.

Reminders

1. The children do play outside and will go for walks on campus. With the weather getting cooler, please make sure your child has a jacket/coat, hat and/or gloves for outdoor play. As long as the temperature, including wind chill, is above 32 degrees, the children will be able to play outdoor.
2. The UNO Child Care Center closes promptly at 5:30 P.M. Please make sure you are picking up your child by 5:30 P.M. The staff thank you.
3. Remember that if your child is experiencing any illness type symptoms, to please keep them at home. If your child develops a fever of 100.4 or above, your child must be fever free with out the aid of Tylenol or Ibuprofen before they can return. If your child has vomited or had diarrhea 2 or more times in a 24 hour period, and/or develop additional symptoms, they must be out for 24 hours, symptoms improving before returning. The UNO Child Care Center continues to follow all COVID guidelines from the Douglas County Health Department. If you child has been diagnosed with an illnesses, please let us know.
4. Upcoming Spring Semester Event Dates:
 - A. Read Across America and Dr. Seuss Week: March 4-8, 2024
 - B. Parent/Teacher Conferences: Week of March 18-22, 2024
 - C. Preschool 2 Graduation: Friday, May 3, 2024, 10 A.M. at The Thompson Alumni Center
 - D. Week of the Young Child; April 7-11, 2024
 - D. Stretch-N-Grow Dance Recital: Wednesday, May 13, 2024, 3 P.M. at The Thompson Alumni CenterPlease watch for more information about each of these events, closure to the dates.
4. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dawn at 402-554-4936 or by email at dhove@unomaha.edu.



Happy Birthday!

- 17 - Eva A. 20 - Miss Jamia
- 17 - Miss Taryn 25 - Miss Audi
- 20 - Emmaline S.
- 20 - Miss Caitlin



February

Black History Month Dental Awareness Month

- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 4 - Rosa Park's Day
- 9 - National Pizza Day
- 10 - Chinese New Year
- 13 - Mardi Gras
- 14 - Valentine's Day
- 14 - Lent Begins
- 14 - Read to Your Child Day
- 15 - Susan B. Anthony Day
- 19 - President's Day
- 29 - Leap Day



March

Women's History Month

- 2 - Read Across America Day
- 2 - Dr. Seuss' Birthday
- 10 - Harriet Tubman Day
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 18-22 - Parent/Teacher's Conferences
- 20 - First Day of Spring
- 24 - Palm Sunday
- 31 - National Crayon Day
- 31 - Easter Day



Book Orders



Book Orders for this month will be due on Friday, February 16.

Books are an important part of a child's development and can help your child gain pre-literacy skills. When you order your child's books through Scholastic Book Orders, the center earns points to use towards free books and educational materials we can use in the classrooms!

Please visit scholastic.com/bookclubs to order.

If this is your first time ordering online, you will need to create an account using our center's code GKXFX. This is the center's account under "Dawn Hove". Please make sure you are using this account, or your order may not be processed. You will be able to pay online and the books will be delivered to the center. Happy Reading!



Recommended Books for the Month.

Lunar Phases! On Chinese New Year by Ruth Spiro

The Tooth Book by Dr. Seuss

Pout-Pout Fish Goes To The Dentist by Deborah Diesen

Black History; Tina and Gina Discover Twelve People of Color by Barbara J. Freeman

Emma's American Chinese New Year by Amy Meadows

Saving The Day; Garrett Morgan's Life Changing Invention Of The Traffic Signal by Karyn Parsons

Black History Picture Book For Kids: 18 Inspiring Black Hero's to Read and Learn About by Jasmine Riviera



Talk With Toddler 1 & 2

Welcome to February!

We are looking forward to our annual Valentine's Day Exchange on Wednesday, February 14.

The children have made their own Valentine bag to collect their cards in. If you wish to bring in

treats, they need to be peanut/nut free and store bought. Only write your child's first name on his/her Valentine cards.

There are 9 children total in the Toddler group. If you have any questions, see either Ms. Effie, Ms. Dawn or Ms. Monica.



Parent Reminders:

- Check your child's coat hook to see if he/she has a Change of Clothes bag that needs to go home.
- Check your child's mailbox for art work and other important papers
- Please provide a change of clothes for your child. This should include socks, shoes, pants, and shirt. If your child is in underwear, we ask that you provide at least 4 pair of underwear and a couple of pair of pants.
- Please make sure you are checking your child's mailbox each day.

Themes for this month:

Emotions, the color Pink, the Heart Shape, the number 7 and Letters P, Q, and R.

The children will also be working on fine motor skills, like tearing, coloring with crayons, and fingerpainting.

Remember to wear something red, pink or white on Wednesday, February 14.

Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play, children learn how to learn. -O Fred Donaldson

Ms. Effie and the Toddler Teacher Assistants



Time With Transition

Happy February!

Spring semester is in full swing, and the Transition class has been very busy!

We will be having a valentine exchange and class party on Wednesday, February 14. If you would like your child to participate in the exchange, please provide valentines. Any treats need to be store bought and packaged, with no Peanuts/tree nuts. There are 11 students in the Transition class. We will pass out Valentine's in the morning and have our class party in the afternoon from 3 to 4 P.M.

We encourage you to come by for the party as we enjoy arts and crafts, and music and dancing!

Themes of the month:

Emotions; Transportation; and Black History Month

Holidays: Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day

Color: Purple; Shape: Heart; Numbers: 14 & 15; Letters: O, P, & Q



Mr. Fred and the Transition Teacher Assistants



Welcome to February!

Thankfully, this month has started off with milder weather and temperatures! The children are enjoying a lot more outside time! With that in mind, please remember that mornings are cooler than afternoons and children need to have warmer coats to fully enjoy playing outside in the mornings.

Please check your households for center clothing that your child may have worn home and return these items of clothing to us. We don't have any extra pants for children to wear if they spill milk on themselves, or if they have an accident. Another reminder about clothing, please check your child's tubby for weather appropriate clothing and bring extra clothing for your child to change into if needed.

February is a busy month for Preschool 1 and 2! At the beginning of the month, we will learn a little about the Lunar New Year and have a Valentines celebration. Throughout the month, we will be doing activities, reading books and listening to music that celebrates Black History Month.

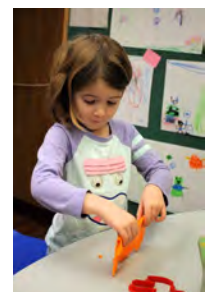
Our themes for the month centers around love and health. Weekly themes include, Feelings and Emotions; Friendship and Love; Dental Health and Staying Healthy. Our letters of the month are P, Q and R. The numbers are 13 and 14. The color for the month is pink and the shape is heart.

For our Valentine Celebration the children may bring valentines for their friends if they wish. We have a total of 17 children and 10 teachers. We ask that the children, with help if needed, write their own names in the "From" section and leave the "To" section blank. We are going to have special activities during the morning to make the day special. Don't worry about bringing something for the children to put their valentines in, we have already created our own!

Until next month,

Ms. Monica and the Preschool teachers

"Though February is short, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises." — Charmaine J. Forde



Parent Corner



How do you celebrate Lunar New Year with kids?

Lunar New Year is a family celebration. Children give their parents and grandparents good wishes for the new year and show their respect for the older generation. Older members of the family give children money, usually in small packets. These packets are red in China and Vietnam, because red is a lucky color. Today it's celebrated also by Chinese communities outside the country. Lion dance, dragon dance, temple fairs, flower market shopping and so on are just a few of these rich and colorful activities. In the run-up to the new year people will clean their houses to get rid of dirt, rubbish and other unwanted items. As 2024 marks the year of the dragon in the Chinese zodiac, it's an especially exciting time to celebrate! Here are eight fun activities that you and your preschooler can do together to celebrate the Lunar New Year 2024!

1. Making Lanterns

One of the best lunar new year activities for preschoolers is lantern-making. To make lanterns with your little one, you'll need red construction paper, glue, and glitter. Once you finish creating the lanterns together, hang them up around your house to decorate for Lunar New Year. Making lanterns isn't only a fun art project and an excellent opportunity to practice fine motor skills, but a time to learn about cultural traditions. Red lanterns are used to celebrate occasions of joy and harmony, and to signify good fortune.

2. Dragon Dance

You'll need streamers and a cardboard box to make a dragon puppet. Cut the streamers into various lengths, and tape them to the cardboard box to make the dragon's body. Afterward, have your preschooler paint the box (the dragon) in colors that range from yellow to red. Once the paint is dry, you can attach yarn to the top of the cardboard (dragon's body) to make a handle. Your preschooler can have fun parading around the house or backyard with their dragon puppet. In Chinese culture, the dragon represents good luck, strength, and health. This activity is the perfect way to learn about the importance of the dragon in Chinese culture together.

3. Dumpling Making

Dumplings are a popular, traditional food for the Lunar New Year. To make them, you'll need dumpling wrappers (easily found at the grocery store!), and a filling of your choice (ground meat, vegetables, tofu, or a blend of each ingredient). Have your preschooler help with the filling and shaping of the dumplings. Then, you can cook them in a pot of boiling water, or pan-fry them. This activity isn't only a fun way for preschoolers to help in the kitchen (they'll be so excited!), but it also doubles as a great fine motor skill activity, and a great way to introduce them to new flavors and textures experienced in the Lunar New Year.

4. Red Envelope Craft

During Lunar New Year, it's tradition to gift bright, beautiful red envelopes filled with money to friends and family, symbolizing good wishes and luck for the new year ahead. You can explore this tradition and make your own red envelopes with your preschooler. To make red envelopes, you'll need red construction paper and glue. Cut the construction paper into the shape of an envelope, and have your preschooler decorate it with glue and glitter. Once the glue is dry, you can use the envelope to either give gifts or decorate your home. This activity helps preschoolers understand the tradition of giving red envelopes filled with money as gifts during the Lunar New Year.

5. Read, read, read!

One of the best ways to learn about the Lunar New Year and its traditions with your little ones is through reading. Learn in detail about the year of the rabbit, the Chinese Zodiac and the 12-year cycle of the Chinese calendar, Chinese stories, and folklore. Check out the following books! [Ruby's Chinese New Year](#) by Vicki Lee, Illustrated by Joey Chou; [Tofu Takes Time](#) by Helen H. Wu, Illustrated by Julie Jarema; [A Sweet New Year for Ren](#) by Michelle Sterling, Illustrated by Dung Ho; [Year of the Cat](#) by Richard Ho, Illustrated by Jocelyn Li Langrand; [Long Goes to Dragon School](#) by Helen H. Wu, Illustrated by Mae Besom.

6. Be Curious and Have Fun.

Celebrating and respecting the diversity of our families is a cornerstone of Kids' Care Club's curriculum. When exploring new traditions and celebrations of different cultures, emphasize *learning* about the holidays rather than necessarily celebrating them if they aren't in your family's cultural practice. Learning about a holiday means teaching children about what the holiday means to different people and about the many different ways those families who honor the holiday celebrate it.

With a developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive approach, we believe that acknowledging and celebrating the holidays of the diverse families in our program help celebrate one another and build connections between our families. By learning about the Lunar New year through new activities, your preschooler will get to spend time with the whole family, create lasting memories, and learn about new traditions.

Learn more about celebrating Lunar New Year with your preschooler on [NAEYC's blog](#), with an extra special [Lunar New Year greeting card](#) with videos demonstrating additional cultural traditions.

Parent Corner

WAYS ALL FAMILIES CAN CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month - a month dedicated to highlighting and celebrating the important achievements and contributions that Black people have contributed to American history.

In addition to celebrating Black culture, this month is also a great opportunity for families to explore and have conversations about the historical experiences of Black people in America, while reminding us that all Americans must shine a light on the injustice African Americans still face in this country.

Everyone can and should participate in the month long celebration of black culture. Because the realities of prejudice and discrimination begin to affect children's development early, it is developmentally appropriate to address them with young children.

As adults, we have the power to create, to teach, to maintain bias-and to eliminate it. By exploring the stories and rich history of Black people in America, this can equip children with the tools to resist negative messages based on people's racial identities and/or physical differences.

In a time when cultural tensions are at an all time high, cultural learning is crucial for children to increase knowledge and empathy in an effort to build bridges across differences. From a mental health perspective, those who have high levels of empathy are more likely to function well in society. Research shows that empathy is vital in building successful interpersonal relationships of all types.

Celebrating Black History Month is the perfect opportunity to expand your children's awareness of other's racial differences while encouraging them to be open and respectful of all kinds of people they may encounter.

Here are 5 fun and effective family activities to do with your children this Black History Month:

1. Read books by African American authors.
2. Watch movies highlighting Black history.
3. Attend Black History Month events in your community.
4. Cook an African-American recipe at home or attend a Black-owned restaurant for dinner.
5. Head over to your local museum that features Black art.

