

FEBRUARY
2023



UNO CHILD CARE CENTER CHRONICLE



Feature Facts With Dawn

Director - Dawn Hove-Casart

January has gone by so fast and now February is upon us. Hopefully the colder weather will be behind us and spring just around the corner.

We would like to thank all our families who participated in the Lunar New Year event. We had over 50% of our families participate. To celebrate Black History month, we have two fun events planned. **On Friday, February 17, author Barbara Freeman is coming to read to the children at 9:30 A.M.** We are glad to welcome her back to the UNO Child Care Center. One of her books, *"Sugar, A Princess Pit Bull Finds Her Family"*, is located on the book shelf in the front entry way. **On Friday, February 24, we will be having a family event to celebrate African American Inventors.** There will be an Ice Cream Social from 5 to 6 P.M. and a fun activity with prizes! We hope that you can join us.

Please remember that the children do go outside if the weather gets above 32 degrees, including wind chill. Please provide the proper outside attire including coats, hats, gloves and boots. The children may go on walks in the afternoons and asked to be back by 4 P.M. If you will be picking up your child 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 Tuesday, 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: 9 Children, 9 Staff

-Preschool 1: 12 Children, 6 Staff

-Transition: 12 Children, 8 Staff

-Preschool 2: 17 Children, 8 Staff

We are asking that no candy containing peanuts/nuts be included in ANY of the Valentines treats 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.

We are going to have several other events coming up in the spring semester, so please make sure that you are watching your emails and flyers going home for details.

Some events we are looking forward to are Read Across America, Dr. Seuss' Birthday, and Parent/Teacher Conferences weeks in March, Summer and Fall Registrations in March/April, Week of the Young Child Events in April, and Preschool 2 Graduation in May.

Until next month..."Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment." ~ Oprah Winfrey



Important Dates



FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

DENTAL HISTORY MONTH

2 - Groundhog's Day

4 - National Eat Ice Cream For Breakfast Day

12 - Super Bowl Sunday!

14 - Valentine's Day & Classroom Parties!

16 - C.H.A.M.P.S Kick-Off Meeting (4:45 P.M.)

17 - Barbara Freeman Author Visit (9:30 A.M.)

20 - President's Day

21 - Mardi Gras

22 - Ash Wednesday

24 - Ice Cream Social! (5 P.M. - 6 P.M.)

26 - Tell A Fairy Tale Day

27 - March 3rd - Read Across America / Dr. Seuss Week!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

17 - EVA A.

20 - EMALINE S.

20 - MISS CAITLYN

25 - MISS AUDI



MARCH

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

February 27 - March 3rd

Read Across America / Dr. Seuss Week!

22 - Ramadan Begins

Week of the Young Child Kick-Off...

Details TBA

31 - Family Luau Party!
(5:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.)

April 1 - Center-Wide Elmwood Park Playdate!

C.H.A.M.P.S

C.H.A.M.P.S will be hosting its first meeting of the semester on **Thursday, February 16 beginning at 4:45 P.M. in the Multipurpose Room!** Join us for some information regarding what the organization is, what we do, and how you can become a member! We encourage anyone who is interested to join to drop by during pick-up hours!

If you are interested in information but are not able to attend the meeting, feel free to sign up at the front desk to receive an email after the meeting!

Scholastic Book Orders

Book Orders for this month will be due on Friday, February 17.

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 (and through our center account), Scholastic also sends free books and educational materials to the center for use in our classrooms!

Please visit [scholastic.com/bookclubs](https://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs) to order.

If this is your first time ordering online, you will need to set up an account with Scholastic using our center's code: **GKXFX**. This is the center account under "Dawn Hove". Please make sure you are using this account, or your order will not be processed. You will be able to pay online using a card through Scholastic's website. Happy reading!

Book Recommendations

February is Black History Month- Take some time this month to read some of our favorite books both written by Black authors, as well as about different aspects of Black culture.



"Our Skin: First Conversations About Race" by Megan Madison

"Don't Touch My Hair!" by Sharee Miller

"Parker Looks Up" by Parker Curry

"M is for Melanin" by Tiffany Rose

"Happy In Our Skin" by Fran Manuskin

"Every Little Thing" by Bob Marley

"I Am Famous!" by Tara Luebbe



Talks with Toddler 1 & 2

Toddler 1 Lead Teacher - Effie Swinarski

Toddler 2 Lead Teacher - Fred Abram

Toddler 2 Assistant Lead Teacher - Lizzie Parker

Welcome to February!

Love is in the air! We are looking forward to our annual **Valentine's Day Exchange on Tuesday, February 14**. If you would like your child to participate, please bring store bought Valentines to the center **no later than** the morning of the exchange. If you wish to bring other Valentine's items, such as trinkets or candy, these must also be store-bought and brought in with your child's Valentines. **Please, nothing containing peanuts/nuts and no hard candy!**

February is also Black History Month! To honor and celebrate, the Toddler staff will be reading a book to the class either written by a Black author or that features Black historical figures/protagonists every day this month!

We will also be focusing on Fine Motor skills like exploring finger-paint, drawing with crayons, stringing beads, and exploring a variety of textures.

If you have any questions, please direct them to either Ms. Effie, Mr. Fred, Ms. Lizzie, Ms. Monica, or Ms. Dawn.

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

Toddlers January Theme:
Black History & Fine Motor Skills

Letters: P, Q, R

Numbers: 12 & 13

Color: Pink

Shape: Heart



Time With Transition

Lead Teacher - Allison French

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 **Tuesday, 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 12 students in the Transition class. For our class party on the afternoon of February 14, we will celebrate from 3:30 P.M.-4:30 P.M. We would love for parents, family, or friends to come in and read that afternoon during our class party. If you are interested in reading, please let Ms. Allison know. Even if you don't want to read, we encourage you to come by for the party as we enjoy a sensory bin, Playdoh table, arts and crafts, and music and dancing!

We are having a **Transition Pajama Day on Friday, February 24**. We are excited to see our friend's cozy pajamas and will be enjoying a movie that afternoon!

Lastly, be sure to check out information from UNO's Office of Multicultural Affairs for information about Black History Month and events that campus is hosting. **The Child Care Center is partnering with the office for our very own event, a special reading here at the center from author Barbara Freeman.** The reading will take place on Friday, February 17 at 9:30 A.M.

For a full list of events, follow this link:
<https://www.unomaha.edu/student-life/inclusion/multicultural-affairs/cultural-programs.php#black-history-month>

Lots of love, Allison & the Transition Teachers



Transition's January Themes: Modes of Transportation & Feelings and Emotions

- Different Ways to Travel
- How Do We Get Around
- Handling Our Emotions
- Different Types of Feelings

Letters: O, P, Q

Numbers: 14, 15

Color: Purple

Shape: Heart



A big "Thank You!" to all of our families who took part in our Lunar New Year celebration of making dumplings- We hope you enjoyed them!

Preschool 1 Pals

Lead Teacher - Ky Jackson

Greetings, P1 Parents! I cannot believe January is over and it is already February!

Here are some important happenings going on this month in our classroom and at the center.

- **Tuesday, February 14:** Valentine's Day! (Party beginning at 3:30 P.M. - Parents welcome!)
- **Thursday, February 16:** CHAMPS Kick-Off Meeting! (4:45 P.M.)
- **Friday, February 17:** Barbara Freeman Author Visit (9:30A.M. - Parents welcome!)
- **Friday, February 24:** Black History Ice Cream Social! (5 P.M. - 6 P.M.)

If your child will be participating in our annual Valentine's exchange, please provide Valentines! You may bring them in at any time beginning the week of February 6, up until the morning of the 14. Please make sure Valentines are **allergy-friendly (no nuts/peanuts!) and store-bought**. We have 12 friends in our classroom, as well as 6 teachers.

Hopefully, the weather will start getting nicer this month and we can finally spend some time back outside! Please make sure your child has the necessities for outdoor play (jacket, pants, closed-toed shoes), as we will try our best to go outside once the temperatures start reaching 40 degrees or above!

I hope you all have a **lovely** February (pun intended!)

-Teacher Ky & the P1 Wranglers



P1's February Themes:

Groundhog's Day, Our Teeth, Valentine's Day,
Black History,
Dr. Suess Week
Letters: P, Q, R
Numbers: 13 & 14
Color: Red & Pink
Shape: Heart

Preschool 2 News & Views

Lead Teacher - Megan Liu

Hello! It is February already! I cannot believe January is already over.

I have just a few announcements for the month of February, beginning with Valentine's Day. We will need boxes for our Valentine's Day exchange/party, if you have any extra shoe or cereal boxes at home that we could use, we would really appreciate it. When bringing in Valentine's, please remember that items must be peanut/nut-free and store bought! We currently have 17 friends in our classroom.

The second announcement is that starting the week of February 23, we will be shortening our nap time. We will begin nap starting at 1:25, and we will continue to do quiet activities before nap time. If you have any questions concerning nap time, please see me, Ms. Dawn or Ms. Monica.

The final announcement is that throughout the month of February we will be doing activities related to Black History Month. Some activities may include discussing and recognizing influential figures in the African American community.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me at the center phone or send me an email at mmliu@unomaha.edu. I'm looking forward to a safe and fun February.

-Ms. Megan and the staff of Preschool 2



Parent Corner



5 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, especially white families. 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



For a full list of events happening at UNO to celebrate Black History Month, follow this link: <https://www.unomaha.edu/student-life/inclusion/multicultural-affairs/cultural-programs.php#black-history-month>

