A message from the Interim Director...

I would like to thank families, children, staff, students, and the Keene State College community at large for a wonderful year working at the CDC. I have been inspired on a daily basis by observing rich, thoughtful teaching and learning across all classrooms and programs. The trusting, respectful relationships established at the CDC clearly have a positive, lifelong impact on the children and adults who have connections here.

The CDC is an outstanding program. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend time here, and get to know so many of you - thank you for all you did to welcome me and make me feel appreciated!

Beth Buoro

Preschool Graduation Celebration

On Friday, June 12th, Blue and Green Preschool classrooms celebrated another great year at the CDC. Families, children and staff bid farewell to preschool friends who will be moving on to Kindergarten next year, shared delicious food, and enjoyed relaxing and spending time with one another. Congratulations preschool graduates - we will miss you at the CDC!

Stonewall Farm Family Event

Saturday, May 30th marked the last of our Stonewall Farm family events this year, and CDC families enjoyed a wonderful Dairy Program at the farm. Children (and parents!) had the opportunity to feed and milk dairy cows, and were treated to delicious ice cream. It was a beautiful day, and a good time was
had by everyone in attendance.

We are thankful for Alan Bettler, Vanessa Calkins, and the staff at Stonewall Farm for providing such wonderful programs this year for CDC families!

Infant News

Toddler News

We support our very young children through thoughtful transitions. Our older toddlers have been visiting Blue and Green Preschool in preparation for their move in the fall. This allows them to get to know the teachers and to become comfortable in their new environment.

2015-16 CDC Calendar

The 2015-16 CDC Calendar has been developed in draft form, and is in the process of being reviewed by staff. We will get the final version out to families as soon as possible; in the mean time, here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- August 28th - Orientation Day for CDC families and children
- August 31st - First abbreviated day of school (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)
- September 1st - Second abbreviated day of school (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)
- September 2nd - First full day of school (7:30 AM - 5:30 PM)
- September 7th - CDC closed in observance of Labor Day
- October 9th - CDC closed for Staff Development
- November 11th - CDC closed in observance of Veteran's Day
- November 25th to 27th - CDC closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 21st to January 1st - CDC closed for Winter break
- January 4th - CDC programs resume
- January 18th - CDC closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day

CDC Family Picnic

The semi-annual CDC Family Picnic was held on Wednesday, May 27th. Families and staff shared delicious food together, and were able to spend time on the playground before the rain began. Many thanks to all who participated!

Family Advisory Council

Family Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
May 20th, 2015
1. Family Survey Results and year-end discussion - Beth B. described the process for the FAC and CDC staff to review and analyze this year's survey, and use the findings to identify both areas of strength, and areas for improvement. FAC discussion included:

   a. There was a difference between this year's and last year's surveys - last year's felt more negative. There was a really good vibe to this year's results.
   b. Transitions with new staff must have been extremely smooth, because there weren't any comments included in the survey.
   c. FAC members had positive comments about students - they were fantastic.
   d. Questions about student workers and academic students should be included in next year's family survey.
   e. Having pictures posted of all students (student workers and academic students) in all classrooms was suggested to help families and students develop relationships.
   f. Another suggestion was for students to have some kind of identifying information (we discussed badges, shirts, bracelets).
   g. There was a conversation last year about why staff development days are scheduled when they are (particularly in May). The FAC members wondered why staff development days don't align with SAU29; it may help for there to be coordination with that calendar. The other day that was very difficult for KSC faculty this year was May 11th (the day before grades were due) - it would be helpful if that day could be scheduled either well before or after grades are due next year.
   h. Security and safety - one comment was made in the survey spoke about easy access to the Blue Preschool room. Overall CDC security and future plans were discussed - we are hoping that the CDC will be included in the overall KSC security system used in dorms.
   i. Three families responded "rarely" to understanding the CDC's policy regarding children with special needs. FAC members wondered whether the question needs to be reworded, or if we have families who are concerned about their children and don't know how to ask for help.
   j. The survey comment about afternoon snack, and allowing children to open up their lunchboxes may to be related to preschool. It was suggested that we look at increasing the variety of snacks, but not changing how healthy they are!
   k. Communication between CDC staff and families was discussed; children will sometimes do things at school and parents are not being informed in a timely manner; also children often act differently at home and at school.
   l. Eight families feel they were not involved in the assessment plan (Question #34) we need to clarify what "assessment plan" means in next year's survey.
   m. The FAC members were surprised that some families only have monthly meetings - it may be that they requested that schedule. This is something we will discuss further. Parents did like having a journal for ongoing communication in GPS, and the daily email newsletters in the Toddler classroom.
   n. The survey comment requesting more academic focus in addition to play theory was discussed - this was also brought up at the Kindergarten transition meeting. FAC members felt that more information and resources would be helpful; more communication with parents. What is typically expected of a 3, 4, 5 year old, a child entering Kindergarten - readiness skills? How do the play-based activities children are doing translate into academic readiness? Ideas for sharing included documentation, articles in newsletters, handouts and other resources.
   o. Questions 47 and 48 (related to infant nutrition and breastfeeding) probably need a "not applicable" choice added next year.
   p. Question 55 - the results provide a golden opportunity for families and staff members to work together on community projects. Kylie offered to look into
organizing the lantern project again next year.

q. Question 56 should be worded a little differently - there may be many reasons why a child is not happy to come to the CDC.

r. FAC members felt the response to Question 62 (overall rating of your family's experience at the CDC) was very positive, with 77% of respondents giving the highest rating, and 23% the second to highest rating.

s. When new families start, especially in the infant classroom, teachers might want to send an email to the family that morning with a picture of the child having settled into the classroom.

t. The FAC members felt the meeting went very well, and liked that we didn't only look at the responses today, but also looked at the questions, which was fun.

2. Supervision of Children Policy update - the policy was reviewed and suggestions were made to clarify some of the points; the updated policy will be included in next year's handbooks.

3. It was requested that all families receive follow-up information about family survey and all self-assessment processes.

Many thanks to the CDC Family Advisory Council members for their hard work, dedication and support this year!

Families wishing to share news in future newsletters can contact Ellen Edge at eedge@keene.edu - even if you are a departing CDC family, feel free to send us your information!

Upcoming Events

- August 28th - Orientation Day for CDC families and children
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Wishing you a summer filled with sunny days, warm smiles, and many opportunities to spend time with family and friends!

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