Board of Directors’ Corner

February 2015

We hope you are having a pleasant new year and an enjoyable start to the Spring Semester at the University. Our Board continues to meet on a monthly basis and is currently considering several topics for the coming school year. These include updates to CPS’s calendar, modifications to age groupings within the classrooms, improvements for access to the building, and changes to the "sign-in/sign-out" process. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to let the Board know. We can be reached via email at CPSBOD@binghamton.edu and via the suggestions box in the main entrance way.

Zach Staff
Board President

The Director’s Corner

Dear CPS Families,

February is here! Along with the new month comes another fun holiday- Valentine’s Day! As we celebrate the month of February our awesome teachers have some lovely learning to share with the children. The children will learn the purpose, colours and activities related to the holiday. This day also provides an opportunity to talk about the importance of sharing, giving, loving and friendship.

February is also National Dental Health Month. There is a fun theme called “Defeat Monster Mouth!” I have attached a short story for you to share with your children to reinforce the importance of brushing their teeth.

Enjoy the snow while you can....
Spring will be here before you know it!

All the Best,
Tonya Rivera
Executive Director
Wee Bear News

The Wee Bears have finally been able to enjoy some snow play—inside and outside! Please continue to provide snow pants, boots, hats and mittens.

We sadly said goodbye to Olivia in December, as her mom finished up with school. They joined Dad in Rochester. We welcome Woody Hu, who will be with us every day.

We also welcome Ms. Louise Sezenias to our classroom as a morning assistant from 7:30-1:30. Please feel free to welcome both Woody and Louise!

Ms. Kelly
Ms. Louise
Ms. Nicole

Pooh Bear News

The Pooh Bears will start February off with a “Transportation” theme. We will explore different ways people travel from place to place through stories, and fun art activities.

And of course we will spend the second week of February focusing on Valentine’s Day. You are more than welcome to bring in Valentine’s with your child on Friday, 2/13, but by no means do you have to! We will be making special “mailboxes” and any child that brings something in will deliver them to each child’s mailbox with a teacher’s help during activity time that day.

Since February is Dental Health month, we will spend the third week doing activities based on making healthy choices for our teeth! We will explore different foods, and make a chart for these items to decide on what foods are good for our teeth and what foods are bad for them.

The last week we will be learning and exploring through our five senses. We have many activities planned that will focus on using one or more of our senses. It should be a blast!

Happy 3rd Birthday to Alice and Haolin!

Welcome to our room Ms. Michelle!

Larissa, Kait and Michelle

Bear Cub News

In February we will be talking about family, friends and friendships. We will also be introducing heart shapes to celebrate Valentine’s Day as well as other theme related projects.

Many of the children are beginning to play more together in all areas of the room. This phase of development is parallel play moving towards cooperative play. They love to cook for others in the house-keeping area, share stories in the book area and they are enjoying their creativity in the art area. Our curriculum is based on play and your child is continuously learning engaged in play. For example, when your child plays in the house-keeping area, he or she learns what the roles of mothers, fathers and children are. He or she begins to understand what it feels like to play at being somebody other than him- or herself. He or she learns how to use his or her imagination and to cooperate with others. When your child listens to stories or looks at books, he or she learns to listen, learns new vocabulary, and different concepts. The child learns to enjoy books and reading. The child’s mind is constantly being stimulated. Remember to take some time out of your day to play! It is fun and relaxing not only for your child, but also for you.

Thank you again for all the proper outdoor clothing. Now that we’ve past the bitter January cold, hopefully temperatures will cooperate so we can enjoy our outdoor play!

Congratulations to Zoie and Yihong on their new siblings!

Welcome to our new friends, Alina, Alex, and Vasia—who come in Tuesdays and Thursdays. We look forward to making your first school experience a lot of fun in the Bear Cub room! Happy 2015!

Chris, Jamie and Sarah

Honey Bear News

January was a busy month! The Honey Bears explored snow, animals and cold weather. We also took a look at our bodies and learned about how to keep our hearts healthy.

In February we will be learning about Dental Health, Post Offices and celebrating Dr. Seuss!! Lots of fun and new activities are planned.

Our Valentine’s Celebration will be on Thursday, February 12th and Friday, February 13th. Be on the look out for a detailed letter about the festivities.

Thank you for bringing in your child’s outside clothes and boots. We have such a good time playing outside when the weather permits.

Claire
Brenda
Meghan
**Teddy Bear News**

Wow, where did January go? We read the story “The Mitten Tree” which led us into making our own mitten tree in our classroom. The children did a great job sewing!

In the next month or so, we will be talking about our bodies. We will be discussing the different body functions, what we can do to keep ourselves healthy. We will discuss the food pyramid so we know what foods do what for our bodies. We will also be talking about Dental Health and doing dental related activities. We look forward to Dr. Hatala coming in to teach us about keeping out teeth healthy!

In February we will be celebrating Valentine’s Day. Look for more information in your parent folder.

The Teddy Bear class would like to welcome our new friend Sabrina. Happy birthday to TJ, Cassius, Alexa and Naveen, who all turned 4 in December, and Nathaniel, Sabrina, Wesley and Sophie-Claire, who turned 4 in January.

A big thank-you to Nathaniel and his family for the classroom goodies. Alexa’s mom for coming in to read us a story, and Kano’s mom for coming in to teach us origami!

Gabe
Michele
Renee

**Panda Bear News**

Welcome back! January was so cold, we thank you for bundling your children up and sending in the appropriate outerwear should we get the chance to go outside.

Our themes for February are: “Dinosaurs,” “Post Office,” “Chinese New Year,” and “Transportation.” We are excited to celebrate Valentine’s Day as a class and are hoping to be able to take a trip to the post office as we learn about writing and sending letters. We will be sending blank envelopes home for you to write your home address on—our goal is to begin learning our addresses as we study the post office and the mailing process.

Chinese New Year also falls in February, and we will be learning about China and their New Year’s celebrations. We will ring in the new year of the Goat together!

Stacy
Julie

**Grizzly Bear News**

As we slid into January, the Grizzlies learned about “Animals Everywhere.” We discussed different animals—from birds to polar bears. We learned the names of the continents that each animal came from, what they looked and sounded like, and even the things they like to eat. We then discussed “Hibernation, Migration and Adaptation.”

The Grizzlies have done many craft projects, including puff paint polar bears, painted penguins and walruses. They made Grizzly dens and loved playing with and eating gummy bears. They also made Polar dens with marshmallows (which they also enjoyed eating!)

We read the story “The Mitten” and painted mittens using the marble painting technique. Then we laced them and put all our furry friends inside. As for our writing, the Grizzlies have been doing a wonderful job working on position words.

Ms. Kristy and I are very proud of our Grizzly friends for filling up our “Fuzzy Friend Jar.” Because they filled the jar, we went to the “Drive-in Theatre.” The children did an amazing job decorating their box cars for the theatre.

For February our curriculum is “Construction Zone.” We look forward to learning about these machines. We will focus on how they are used in a variety of ways, including building, cooking and painting.

The Grizzlies will also be making a lot of Valentine crafts. We will be exchanging Valentine cards this month. We will give you more information as soon as possible.

Happy birthday to Yih Hui (Feb. 22)! Thank you!

Ms. Miranda
Ms. Kristy

**Polar Bear News**

The Polar Bears had a great start in the New Year! We began with a scientific look at NYS animals in winter. The children discovered that some animals hibernate, some go dormant, and others migrate to warmer climates. Please check out our Hibernation Houses displayed on the Science Table in our classroom; the children all worked very hard on them! Also in January we enjoyed some beloved children’s literature. First, we read Jan Brett’s “The Mitten”. The Polar Bears even made their own mittens and cut out their own animal characters to help teach them story sequencing. As we read the story they could follow along with their own story props!

Another classic story we looked at was “Peter and the Wolf”. The children were mesmerized by the audio story which we also acted out on a storyboard. Also in January, we celebrated diversity with Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Together we discussed what makes us different and what makes us alike. We also made a Peace Wreath in honor of this day.

During this half of the year, we are going to be focusing much more on letter recognition, letter sounds and introducing the children to letter formation. So far, we’ve formally introduced letters “A”, “H”, “S”, “I”, “P”, “J” and “G”. We will be looking at letters as we go through our theme-based and play-centered curriculum.

Coming up in February, the Polar Bears will be learning about Our Community through themes such as: The Post Office, Transportation, Doctor, and Dentist. Also, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and experiencing fun with rhyming words!

Happy New Year!!
Nicky & Carolyn
ON ICY, SNOWY DAYS
Please park away from curbs at pickup/drop off times, so that our BU grounds crew can keep our sidewalks safe and clear and to protect your car from getting bumped by the Brush Vehicles.

Policy for Returning after Illness
A child may return to the center when the child feels well enough to participate in usual daily activities, and when the following conditions exist:

- Fever has been absent for 24 hours without fever reducing medication (Tylenol or Baby Aspirin)
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea has subsided for 24 hours. If in the preceding 24 hours the child has exhibited any of the above, was listless or had poor appetite should not be brought to the center until symptom free.
- A full 24 hours have passed after the initial dose of an antibiotic for known step of other bacterial infections.
- Chicken pox lesions are crusted (5-6 days after onset.)
- Conjunctivitis has diminished to the point that eyes are no longer discharging.
- Lice are under treatment with no nits present.
- Ringworm is under treatment.
- Pinworm treatment has occurred 24 hours before readmission.
- Lesions from Impetigo are no longer weeping and are covered.
- The child has completed the contagious stage of the illness.

FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS

INCLUDE:
* Fever
* Cough
* Sore Throat
* Runny or Stuffy Nose
* Body Aches
* Headache
* Chills
* Fatigue

Some may also have vomiting, AND diarrhea. People may be infected with THE FLU, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

TAKE PREVENTATIVE ACTION:
* Wash hands often (water and soap)
* Cover mouth and nose when sneezing
* Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
* Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
* Stay home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone (without fever reducing medicine)
* While sick, limit contact with others to keep from infecting them

We hope to have our new Procare Check-in System and online billing up and running soon. Thank you for your patience in this process—look out for more details on signing in and out, as well as how to make online and credit card payments coming soon!

Parents—You may notice that some of our drop-off and pick-up teachers have changed. We are currently revising the schedule of our staff members to ensure each class has the correct amount of teachers in order to provide the highest quality care for our students.

You may have noticed some changes to our menus in the past few months—We are working on more variety, better food choices, and exploring more home-made entrees. This spring we hope to bring a larger variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables to the table for your children. If you have any questions or concerns about the menu please see the Assistant Director, Freedom Morehart.
DEFEAT MONSTER MOUTH

ADA.org/nedhm
Brush two minutes, two times a day.
Clean between your teeth daily.
Limit snacks, eat healthy meals.
Visit your dentist regularly.

Just 2min2x!
Brush 2 minutes 2 times a day
-and YOU can defeat
Monster Mouth, too!

ADA 
American Dental Association®
America's leading advocate for oral health
Defeat Monster Mouth!!

Oh no! The dreaded Monster Mouth - and The Plaqster has it! Not to worry. Flossy and Buck McGrinn, Den and Gen Smiley, and their trusty pal K-9 are on the job! They know just how to attack Monster Mouth and get The Plaqster's smile back on track.

To fight Monster Mouth and promote good oral health our friends follow this simple rule, "2min2x." That's code for "brush your teeth two minutes, two times a day."

Flossy, Buck, Den, and Gen know the importance of good dental habits to keep their smiles bright. They brush their teeth when they get up in the morning and again before they go to bed at night. They also floss their teeth once each day. Because Den wears braces, he is especially careful about keeping his teeth healthy so he has a bright smile when the braces come off.

Defeating Monster Mouth takes a lot of energy so the McGrinns and Smileys do eat snacks between meals but very few sugary ones. They usually stick to fruit and other healthy foods, and they choose water when they are thirsty instead of soda pop.

You can defeat Monster Mouth, too! Join in the fun by playing the games and doing the activities to learn how to take good care of your teeth.

And remember the code "2min2x!" For a super smile and healthy mouth, brush your teeth two minutes, two times a day.