The spring semester at the University Children’s Learning Center has been fast paced and filled with a lot of excitement.

The year began with the unveiling of the new UCLC logo that was shared with you in our January issue of the Parent Newsletter. The updates on all signage and forms continues to go well and is almost complete.

UCLC continues to be part of The Bright and Early Quality Enhancement Project and the Center had its first of two unannounced classroom observations. The second observation is scheduled to take place before May 20th.

An estimate was received from Facilities at UND regarding the cost associated with the creation of the two Nature Explore outdoor classrooms. The Center hosted a fundraising kickoff on Sunday, May 3rd, inviting families and community members to contribute either their time, talents or resources to the project. To date we have raised $11,200 towards the project! If you are interested in helping with this in any way, please let me know or contact one of the co-chairs: Red Family Representative: Katy Johnson—katydalehansen@gmail.com, Yellow Family Representative—Stacey Peterson—stacey.borboa.peterson@und.edu, Blue Family Representative—KariJo O’Keefe: kari.okeefe@und.edu and Green Family Representative—Kallie Naastad: Kallie@naastadbrothers.com

Thank you to those families who have completed the end of semester survey. Our hope again this semester is that more families will take the time to provide us with feedback before the official end of the semester. The information received from you will be reviewed during UCLC staff orientation in August and addressed in an effort to improve the Center’s programming.

Dawnita Nilles will begin her duties as UCLC director on June 15, 2015. Dawnita comes to UCLC with a lot of experience in the field of Early Childhood Education. She has worked in childcare as a teacher in Fargo and Pullman, WA. While in Washington she became a supervising teacher which began her director journey.

Dawnita first became familiar with UCLC in the fall of 2000 when her oldest daughter who is now 17 attended the Center.

In 2003, her youngest daughter joined the UCLC family. Dawnita is looking forward to continuing to support the UCLC teaching staff in providing high quality early childhood education and making UCLC the best place for children and families.

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Special points of interest:
- May 25: UCLC Closed (Memorial Day Holiday)
- June 5: Summer Session—SAP
- July 3: UCLC Closed (Independence Day Observance)
- August 7: Last Day of Care for Summer
- August 10-14: UCLC Closed (Staff Orientation)
- August 17: First Day of UCLC Fall Semester Programming
Student Teachers and Foster Grandmas at UCC

UCLC bid farewell to two student teachers this semester and will welcome four student teachers for the summer. Megan Thielen will be student teaching in the Red Family with Tina Adams, Samantha Brewer will be student teaching in the Yellow Family with Heather DeGeldere, Lexi Dick will be with Melissa Burdick and Carlye Thostenson will be student teaching in the Blue Family with Gwendolyn Puckett.

Some of our current UCLC Foster Grandmas will be taking time off in the summer, but plan on returning in the fall.

Please make an effort to welcome the student teachers in your child’s classroom. Keep in mind that they are at UCLC to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of an Early Childhood Educator; including planning and implementing developmentally appropriate programming, interactions with families and developing their personal teaching style. Any encouragement and support you are able to provide them will be greatly appreciated.

Outdoor Play

As the UCLC playground dries out from the rains this week and we begin to think about the kinds of things your child needs during these warmer months, please keep in mind that when construction begins on the outdoor classrooms, children will be visiting surrounding playgrounds.

Make sure your child has a labeled water bottle that should remain at the Children’s Learning Center for use while outdoors, on walks or field trips. Most classrooms will soon post their sunscreen application policy. It is also suggested that you bring a swimsuit (t-shirt and shorts, if you prefer) and a towel to leave in your child’s cubby in the event that their assigned color area “goes swimming”. The UCLC version of “swimming” in most instances involves children running through the sprinkler—an activity that both teachers and children thoroughly enjoy.

Staying Connected with Families

Please make an effort to welcome the student teachers in your child’s classroom. Keep in mind that they are at UCLC to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of an Early Childhood Educator; including planning and implementing developmentally appropriate programming, interactions with families and developing their personal teaching style. Any encouragement and support you are able to provide them will be greatly appreciated.

More of you continue to receive your child’s classroom weekly newsletters via email from your child’s teacher and it appears that this form of communication is working very well. We ask that if you change your email address, please be certain to share that updated information with the UCLC teachers so that your most current email address can be recorded.

Further, we are asking that families make sure to update this information regularly as changes occur. Updating information also applies to any changes associated with the key fob you are using to access the Center.

Thank you for helping us stay connected and being patient as we launched the secure door access. Remember that your questions are always welcome.