



Curriculum Corner

Arlene & Claudine



The preschool classes at the Developmental Learning Centers are using Creative Curriculum this year. Creative Curriculum is designed to foster the development of the whole child through teacher-led center based activities. Preschool classes continue to work one-to-one during discrete trial instruction and opportunities are presented to allow students time to explore centers. Programs are carried over into a natural play environment to provide students with opportunities to communicate, develop play skills and engage with staff and peers.

We are pleased to announce that the Developmental Learning Centers have started a Professional Learning Community (PLC) for mathematics

A professional learning community is a group of teachers who work together collaboratively for a common goal of enhancing the learning outcomes of our students. The math PLC is made up of 15 teachers who are working conscientiously to expand our current math curriculum. They currently are researching math curricula, reviewing materials and looking at ways to modify the materials according to students' individual needs. We look forward to sharing this information with you in the future.

Personal Financial Literacy:

Through our goal of making students more independent and following the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standard 9.2, "Personal Financial Literacy," we are exploring two curricula to help our students learn the basics of handling their money and finances. One is developed by the FDIC and is called SMART MONEY and the other is developed by the Muriel F. Siebert Foundation called PERSONAL FINANCE PROGRAM. We will modify both for individual student use. More information will be coming!

Please send your questions to:

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Curriculum Tip: Let your child take the lead, engage with them in an activity of interest and encourage independence!

DLC Collaborates with Connecticut Farms Elementary School

The DLC - Union students will be participating in a Pen Pal program with students from the Connecticut Farms Elementary School in the Union Township Public School District. This program will give the students an opportunity to correspond with peers of similar grade levels and to further develop their academics and writing skills. The students will learn how to write a letter, address an envelope, and mail letters on a monthly basis.



DLC Happenings



Valentine's Day is coming in February and the Developmental Learning Center - Union will hold a Valentine's Day dance on February 12, in the afternoon. The specific time of each classroom's dance/activities will be sent home. Students will participate in group dances such as the chicken dance, hokey pokey, and the cha cha slide. Individual games such as, guess the number of candy hearts and Cupid's arrow toss will be played as well as group games such as the limbo rock. *It sounds like fun!!*



Upcoming Events

Valentine's Day Dance February 12, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. (sessions to be announced)
Parent/Teacher Conferences March 4, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Special Person's Day March 19, 10:00 a.m.
Autism School Wide Walk April 15, 10:00 a.m.
Parenting Issues—Dr. Frank Cicero presents "Toileting Skills for Children with Autism" May 19, 10:00 a.m.

A.P.E News



We are currently in the midst of winter madness in A.P.E. basketball! Students are working on skills which will lead up to a full court game. February is heart healthy month which will begin with jump rope and end with floor hockey. On the horizon, we are looking forward to play tennis and setting up the obstacle course again to improve balance, coordination and agility.

Club Highlights



Students are participating in social clubs every Thursday morning. They interact with a group of peers when switching into different classrooms and participate in social skill building activities. They are provided with an opportunity to learn various social skills such as, social greetings, turn taking skills, game playing and appropriate social interactions.

The DLC - Union is excited to begin a Cub Scout program during school hours twice a month on Thursdays from January through June 15, 2010. The troop meetings will be thirty minutes long, twice a month. Students will participate in Cub Scout activities to learn about developing character and good citizenship. An exciting social event that is coming up is the Pine Wood Derby! Students will participate in decorating cars and the Cub Scouts will provide a race track to race the cars.

Dr. Frank Cicero to present at Parenting Issues

Dr. Frank Cicero, Director of Psychological Services for Eden II, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and renowned international presenter and consultant, will present "Toileting Skills for Children with Autism" at DLC-Union on May 19th at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Cicero received his Masters degree in school psychology from St. John's University and his Doctorate in Education Psychology from the City University of New York Graduate Center. A not to be missed presentation!