



Children's Center Chatter

Safe, Child-Friendly Halloween Fun

On Monday, October 31st The Children's Center will celebrate Halloween with a safe child-friendly celebration.

For children enrolled in our program, dressing up is a part of our everyday fun. Outfits available in the dress up area include some favorites like the firefighter jacket and doctor scrubs. Halloween allows us an opportunity to dress up and celebrate with campus.

Part of an annual tradition, the classrooms will head out around 10 am for an annual Halloween Parade. The parade will include a loop through the academic quad and walk to Hamilton Hall.

Faculty members will be invited to bring

healthy, child friendly treats to pass out to the children. Each classroom will have extra adults for added supervision.

A group of volunteer students from the Freshman Year Experience class taught by Karen Wright will be setting up a snack for the children in Hamilton Hall. They will be



passing out cider and donuts to the children along with a book for every child.

Parents and family members are welcome to

join us for the fun. Please let your child's teacher know if you are planning to attend.

As always, we remind families to use caution when going out to trick or treat in their community on Halloween. Please choose costumes that fit properly and don't interfere with their vision. Use reflective tape on bags and costumes if planning to be out in the dark. Always walk with your child to each door when asking for treats. Take along a flashlight or glow stick!!



Staff Development Session

On Tuesday, October 11th The Center will close at 3:30 for a Staff Development Session. There will be no SAP that afternoon. It is the first of four early closing days for the year.

The Children's Center teachers will all attend an afternoon/evening of training to include a session on how to help children cope with loss. The training is geared specifically on

helping children under 6 that have had to cope with a death in the family or someone close to them. It is a training topic that many teachers wanted more information on.

The session is geared towards helping children and families help children work through the steps of grieving. Pamphlets are available in the front end if anyone is interested.

The Children's Center at
Morrisville State College,
Inc.

Fall 2016 Issue

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Annual calendar included
- ☺ Closing early October 11th
- ☺ Center and School Age Closed 11/24 & 25
- ☺ Center and School Age Closed 12/24-1/2
- ☺ NAEYC Accreditation
- ☺ Harvest Day November 15th
- ☺ Call for Parent Leaders

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Literacy Opportunities

"One of the greatest gifts adults can give -- to their offspring and to their society -- is to read to children."

Carl Sagan

The Children's Center would like you to know that we support early literacy. An easy, inexpensive way to fill your home with books is ordering books through Scholastic Books. We will be sending home Scholastic booklets each month with your child. If you are interested in ordering please make checks or money orders payable to Scholastic Books and drop them off to Robin or Jen. Also available this year is

online ordering. You can simply order on the Scholastic website and use an activation code that credits The Center with points that generate reward dollars for our own library.

A second easy opportunity to buy books is through the Books Are Fun display. A new display is delivered and available every couple of months. There are order forms located on the display and items are delivered directly to The Center. Another display will be arriving soon.

Make reading a part of your family time. Reading to your children

will encourage them to love books and become great readers.

"It is only by introducing the young to great literature, drama and music, and to the excitement of great science that we open to them the possibilities that lie within the human spirit - enable them to see visions and dream dreams."

Eric Anderson



Preschool Harvest Dinner

Annually the preschool classrooms host a Harvest Dinner. The dinner is cooked by Miss Ellie while the preschoolers prepare a delicious dessert.

This year's big event will be November 15th in Madison Hall. Dinner will be served at 11:30 am. Family members are welcome to join their children. It is a wonderful time to share a feast together and remember what we are thankful for.

Our annual menu includes chil-

dren's favorites: roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, muffins and a homemade dessert.

Please watch for an invitation and the sign up will be posted soon. Because we are limited on space, we politely ask guests be limited to two per child.

We truly hope that you'll consider joining us. If you are not available please feel free to invite a family member or friend. All visitors will be asked to sign in on the visitor's log at Madi-

son Hall.

From The Children's Center Staff, I would like to thank you for sharing your child with us everyday. We consider it a privilege to work with your child and support their learning and growth.



Families Opportunities to Get Involved

Each year The Center offers ways for families and parents to participate in the program. The Center is highly sensitive to parent's busy schedules but recognizes the importance of parent involvement. Throughout the year there will be a variety of events. Some involve fundraising, networking with other parents, parenting tips, classroom meetings and parent/teacher conferences. In addition to

these opportunities, families are asked to participate in an annual Family Survey and special events. The survey, created by NAEYC (the National Associate for the Education of Young Children), is used by the Board of Directors to make improvements center wide. Surveys will be available to families next week and due back on October 17th.

Flyers, reminders and letters

will be given out periodically to invite you to events. Please be sure to read through the "mail" in your child's cubby so you don't miss your opportunity.

New this semester, The Center is looking for 5 Parent Leaders to work together with the director to plan social events for families. If you are interested in joining please contact Jen at 684-6400.

Annual Calendar and Events

The Children's Center has an annual calendar and it's available in the lobby near the information bulletin board. The calendar lists our days of operation including times when we operate at reduced hours. Here are some special event and dates to remember:

As noted on the white board, The Center and School Age Program are closed on Monday, October 10th.

The Center and School Age Programs will be closed on November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Please be sure to note that The

Center and School Age Programs will be closed December 24th through January 2nd. The Center and School Age Programs will reopen on January 3rd.

There are extended care days listed on the calendar when School Age Care is available for families when school is not in session. Sign ups for those days are available at the SAP. Please be sure to watch for the deadlines and sign up as soon as possible.

You will notice that The Center will be holding three more in-service staff development sessions throughout the year. The dates have not been

decided yet. As soon as they are, they will be announced to you.

All important announcements are listed on the white board next to the front door. Please check it daily.

Happy Fall!



Screenings and Assessments: How you can get involved!

Every child enrolled in The Center is screened within their first three months of enrollment. This screening checks for any obvious developmental delays or concerns that may need to be further evaluated. Any concerns are immediately shared with the child's parents or guardians.

In addition to the screening, children's development is assessed twice a year. Observation notes, daily journal entries and samples of their "work" are used along with a checklist

of developmental milestones and stages of typical development. These results are shared with parents and guardians at a parent-teacher conference in November/December and May. In the May conference, parents are presented with a portfolio of their child's year and accomplishments. Both dates will offer conference times in the evening.

You can help us by alerting us to any developmental concerns or difficulties that you may have observed at home.

During parent-teacher conferences, please ask questions and feel free to request meetings throughout the year whenever you need to talk with your children's teacher. Building stronger partnerships with parents, helps better prepare us for caring for your child.

Additional reminder, our vision screening for all preschoolers will be October 19th and 20th.

What you need to know about medications at The Center

The Center is approved through The Office of Children and Family Services to administer prescription and non-prescription medications as well as topical creams to children enrolled.

If your child is prescribed a medication that needs to be administered while in care, arrangements can be made to be sure your child doesn't miss their scheduled dose.

Medications must be in the original container with the prescription label. A drug insert must accompany the medication along with written physician and parent permission.

Forms for medications can be faxed directly to a child's doctor's office from The Center.

If your child becomes ill while in care and you plan to visit the doctor, please stop by the front desk and pick

up an authorization form.

One last important note, there should be no medication or over the counter products stored in a diaper bag or in a child's personal cubby. Medication stored at a child's level is dangerous and poses a direct threat to children enrolled. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Children's Center at Morrisville State College, Inc.

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Licensed and Nationally Accredited
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The Children's Center at Morrisville State College is a licensed and nationally accredited child care center serving children ages six weeks to twelve years.

The Center offers priority to the faculty, staff and students of Morrisville State College. Community families are served as space is available.

The program is offered year round to children. It offers a safe, home-like environment for children when they must be away from home.

For more information about enrollment or to schedule an appointment to tour The Center, please call 684-6400 and ask for Jennifer or Robin.

Children's Center Moves Forward to Renew Accreditation

The Children's Center is the only licensed-nationally accredited Early Care and Education Program in Madison County and is currently working on its renewal.

NAEYC (The National Association for the Education of Young Children) strives to raise the quality of education for all children from birth through age eight. Accreditation systems are a major part of NAEYC's efforts to improve early childhood education; they allow programs to provide the best learning experiences for young children and their educators by meeting national standards of quality.

In 1999 The Center was successfully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The Center renewed accred-

itation in 2002, 2007 and 2012.

The current five year accreditation period expires on June 30, 2017. Renewal materials have been submitted and the teachers and administrators have been working to update materials for review.

The next step in the renewal process is an onsite visit by a trained assessor. Sometime between now and March The Center will host an assessor from NAEYC during a validation visit. Each classroom has built a Classroom Portfolio to be reviewed during the onsite visit day. Jennifer has also created a Program Portfolio that will be reviewed. Three out of the five classrooms will be observed for an hour each during the visit.

When The Center receives in-

formation about a specific timeline for the visit, you will be informed. Until then please continue to read any updates that are passed out in your child's cubby and be sure to participate in the Family Survey next week.

Results from the survey are included in our documentation for NAEYC. Achieving accreditation is important to The Children's Center. The Board and Director work hard to provide families with a high-quality learning environment for young children. Equally important to The Center is knowing that you are pleased in the care provided and are comfortable partnering with the teachers to care for your child.
