From the Director’s Desk…

I am pleased to announce that we have (once again!) achieved accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), a marker of quality for early childhood programs. The accreditation process involves evaluation in 10 program areas: relationships, curriculum, teaching, assessment of child progress, health, teachers, families, community relationships, physical environment, and leadership & management. You can find out more about the NAEYC accreditation process and access great parenting resources here: http://families.naeyc.org/

The accreditation evaluation included a review of classroom and center portfolio documentation, classroom observations in all age groups, surveys from families and teaching staff, and written annual reports. Programs must score at least 80% in each area to obtain or maintain accreditation, and the CDC scored 100% in 8 of 10 areas.

While we are exceedingly pleased with the outcome of our visit, we know that there is always room for growth and improvement. Your thoughts and feedback are very important to our success as a program, and we hope that you will take advantage of ways to share your opinions and experiences.

First, our annual NAEYC family survey went out during family-teacher conferences in May—thank you so much for returning those! I look forward to reviewing the surveys and compiling the information to share at future staff and PAC meetings.

Second, we invite you to participate in our parent strategic planning focus groups. Over the course of the upcoming year, we will hold these sessions with teachers, parents, past and prospective families, and university & community members, in order to gain valuable perspectives on where we are, where we’d like to be, and how we can get there. Please join us for these sessions, or reach out to share your thoughts.

Dr. Alyson Williams, Director, VCU Child Development Center
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As we bring our Creepy Crawlers Theme to an end, we will transition into our Beach Theme. Our class will explore the sand and seashells as many of our families prepare for their beach vacations. We will also explore the water when we bring back our water play Friday’s beginning in June. Next, we will dive into the ocean and explore the sea life and animals that live underwater. Finally, we will explore the different ways people travel during our Transportation Theme. This will be an exciting summer for our toddlers as we explore these new themes and also welcoming new faces to our classroom!
Happy Summer CDC friends! The spring weather has come and gone and the heat is here! G2 will be exploring exciting themes including, but not limited to, Sea Life (and beach), The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Summer Fruits and Veggies and July 4th (colors red, white and blue).

Water Play will be beginning in June (exact date will be emailed to parents soon). Water play is always held on Fridays. We ask the parents to bring your child dressed in bathing suit wear when you drop off in the morning (apply sunscreen as well, please). We will change them into school clothes following water play. Remember to bring a plastic bag on Friday mornings with a towel and set of clothes. Along with water play days, the summer weather will allow us to spend more time outside. For example, we will be doing more painting on the playground and maybe even have lunch outside a day or two! Lastly, remember that the Zoo Trip is rescheduled for June 11th. Let's have an awesome summer CDC friends!

We've had a busy spring here in 102, having lots of fun and learning about a variety of topics. We planted seeds and observed all of the new growth in the CDC garden, made wind socks and did bubble art, did lots of egg activities (including tasting, of course!), made Amish Friendship Bread, practiced sewing with wool, and much more! We really enjoyed all of the special activities during Week of the Young Child like the book swap, ice cream social, and visit from The Story Lady. Upcoming themes for our class include Shapes, Summer, Bugs, USA, Beach and Ocean, Camping, and Transportation. With our Amazon gift card, we plan to purchase some new floor puzzles, hooks to hang up our dress-up collection, and possibly a new game or toy set - thank you!
Children explore mathematical and scientific concepts by engaging in sensory play throughout the day.

It might just look like fun, but we’re developing our fine and gross motor skills at the same time!
Room 101, Younger Preschoolers, Ms. Lori Do & Ms. Benita Thompson

Room 101 is ready for summer to begin with all the wonderful things this season has to offer as the children learn from various topics and ideas. We will talk about sharks, fun with water, ponds and puddles, insects and jungle animals. A couple of these topics were requested when asking the children what they would like to learn about. We have really enjoyed these teaching moments while taking the lead of the children. Parents, please feel free to come and spend time with us while we are learning through play, having lots of fun and growing to be the best children we can be!

Room 202, Pre-K, Ms. Marilyn Alston & Ms. Glynis Broy

Room 202 put on a stellar “graduation” performance for our families!
Room 201 has launched a large unit exploring the world in which we live as both a macrocosm and a microcosm. We are presently investigating our globe and the various continents including diverse terrain, climate, animals, and cultures. Over the summer, we will also explore our solar system, and then trace our steps back to the animals of the world and the North American continent on which we live and then the USA, Virginia, Richmond, and our own backyard!

All of our students are huge fans of animals, and our June 11th trip to the Richmond Metro Zoo will also be a prime opportunity to build background knowledge and animal vocabulary. At that time, we look forward to seeing how many South American animals we can find as we will be studying South America and the rain forest during that week. We will also have a more detailed animal unit over the summer in which we will see how various animals are the same and different.

Water play will be a weekly event at the CDC over the summer. Students do need to remember to wear protective sun gear from home including hats or shirts offering more covering. With an application of sunscreen at home before school, and an application after naptime, students ought to have good protection. My own red headed, fair skinned son managed to avoid freckling and burns by wearing a hat, a tee-shirt with bathing suits and sunscreen.

Our classroom presently has bulletin boards filled with African masks and beads, lion faces, and Hamsa hands, as well as some Australian Aborigine dot art kangaroos and turtles as well as platypus puppets. We have also added some fun spring flower still life and abstract paintings to the spring flowers display in the hall. During our Asia lesson, we have created thumbprint Asian dragons and had an enjoyable and fascinating Mandarin calligraphy lesson with Miranda’s mother, Mrs. Zhang!

The children learn about calligraphy from Mrs. Zhang.
Room 201, Continued

Mr. Chris bought an i-pod with the splendid Amazon gift card and has loaded all of the classroom music on to the new i-pod. No more contending with skipping and scratched CD’s. The students have loved movement and dance time with the improved quality of background music! Mr. Chris even takes the i-pod outside during playground time adding an additional opportunity to hear music and engagement in movement and dance!

Daily show and tell is also a prime time for students to collaboratively learn about our weekly lessons. Any item or book that applies to our weekly lesson is a welcome addition to our show and tell sharing time. Any show and tell item about our continents, even those previously studied, is a welcome addition to our background knowledge!

Best Wishes,

Miss Mary

CDC families eagerly await the graduation performance by rooms 201 & 202.
Reminders

- Please remember to call the center before 10 a.m. if your child will be absent or arriving late.

- Illness can strike in the summer, too! The CDC follow regulations from Virginia Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Wondering whether your child should come to school or stay home? Our general rule of thumb is that a child must be able to fully participate with the classroom activities. If a child is unable to participate, and shows signs that require exclusion, we will ask you to pick up within the hour and to remain home for at least the next school day. Your child may return when the signs and symptoms have resolved and your child is able to fully participate with the classroom activities for the day. For more specific information, please see the “signs and symptoms chart” from the AAP that is attached to this newsletter. Thanks for keeping us all healthy and safe!

Fundraising

The CDC participates in an ink recycling program through Funding Factory. As we recycle our ink cartridges, we earn points to redeem for supplies for the center! In May, we redeemed TONS of points to trade in for Amazon Gift Cards. Each classroom received $50 to purchase items for their classroom, and additional funds went to purchase supplies for the whole center. Thanks to your participation, some of the things we were able to purchase include:

- A new canopy for the climbing slide on the back playground
- An iPod for all the jams in Room 201
- Copies of books for our classrooms & professional development libraries
- “Bumpkins” (hugs bibs for art activities)
- Sand toys
- Floor puzzles
- Hooks for dramatic play costume storage

Please help us continue to earn points for products by bringing your used ink cartridges to the center!
The PAC Picnic on May 30 allowed teachers and families to enjoy some “down time” together. Thanks for making it great!

Thanks to the PAC for purchasing an MP3 player and Bluetooth speaker for the center!

June PAC meeting: 6/4 @ 4:30

PAC Officers:

Rosalyn Hargraves, President
Brad Bradley & Jennie Bradley, Co-VPs
Desiree Draper, Treasurer
Melanie Goodman, Secretary
Coming up…

June 11  Zoo Trip
July 4   CDC CLOSED for Independence Day
Aug 14  CDC CLOSED for Professional Development
Aug 15  CDC CLOSED for Professional Development
Sept 1  CDC CLOSED for Labor Day