Where has the summer gone? One minute we were finishing up with Spring semester and the next we are days away from August! Good thing we’re getting some fun water play in while we can. I wanted to take a moment to share several wonderful new additions to the center. The most important additions are our new staff. Please help me welcome Christeeana Claiborne (“kind of new” in G1), Emily Eaton (in G2), Suzanne Crossley and Gabrielle Hallion (in 102). We are lucky to have them join our team.

Some other things “new” to the center include a “smart table” for the PreK classes (you’ve got to see this thing in action), two color printers for the teachers, a new more secure back door, a camera facing the parking lot, and a platform for the preschool playground. We hope these improvements make for a wonderful learning and playing environment. We are also looking forward to new ground cover (poured in place flooring vs. mulch) and larger sandbox for toddler playground. Wishing you a wonderful remainder of summer!

COOLING OFF DURING WATER DAYS!

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## UPCOMING CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS!

### G1
**Seasons**
G1 will be exploring the changes of seasons. We started with summer where we are discovering how the weather changes and some of the things to do to keep cool and safe from summer sun. We will also learn about some fun activities to do in the summer like going to the beach, exercising in the park, and going fishing. Next we will talk about Fall and how the weather changes from hot to cool. We will talk about how the leaves change color and the type of clothing we wear during the Fall.

### G2
**Beach and Sea Life**
Over the next few weeks, our class will be exploring the beach and ocean. For our beach unit, the children will be exposed to new words like beach, seaweed, crabs, ocean, and sand. They will also experience making a sand crab and making ocean bottles. Our exploration of the beach will lead us into looking under the water at different sea life. The simple parts of a fish will be identified and they will experience painting a fish to make a fish print. Some of the books we will be reading include *Rainbow Fish* and *Whale is Stuck.*

### 102
**Life Around Lakes and Ponds**
This summer, 102 will be learning about the kinds of things we might see around lakes and ponds. We will learn about frogs, ducks, turtles, fish, snakes, and even some insects like dragonflies and mosquitoes. We're looking forward to incorporating this into our water play Fridays! We'll make floating lily pads that toy frogs can float on and maybe even turn the multipurpose room rug into a pond on a hot day!

### 101
**Beach, Camping, and Transportation**
Room 101 has been having a great time this summer with the beach, water, and picnics. We will continue with more fun activities as we learn about camping, various forms of transportation, and melons. We will top it off with many yummy cool summer treats to eat. We invite parents to be part of the children’s learning by participating in classroom activities. This is a fun way to incorporate activities to do with your child at home which enhances the home-school connection. We look forward to an exciting end to summer.

### 201
**Sea Life, Picnics and Monkeys**
Have you ever seen the months go by so quickly? It is almost the time of year to bid a sad farewell to some of our children who will be going to kindergarten. We wish them well in their future educational adventures. We will miss all of them. We have been having fun and discovering many things about sea creatures this summer. In August we will get out of the ocean and explore the beach and then pack our baskets for a week of picnic activity. In September we hope the children will go bananas over a unit on monkeys! In the second part of the month we will introduce author, A.A. Milne and our unit on Winnie the Pooh.

### 202
**Insects and Dinosaurs**
The Jewels look forward to engaging in summer fun by playing games, having picnics, and exploring the characteristics of insects and arachnids. In addition, they will also explore dinosaurs and art forms. A special thank you to Mrs. Lanneau (Omar’s mom) for assisting us in arranging a trip to the Federal Reserve Bank. We also extend a special thank you to Mrs. Casad (Arelis’s mom) for doing a scientific experiment with our class. We are fortunate to have such supportive parents to encourage our educational efforts with the children.
Getting to Know You!

Between summer and Fall we experience many transitions throughout the Center as we welcome new families to the CDC and transition children into new classrooms. Have you ever wondered what we do to help the children get to know each other? Here are a few tools we use to make getting to know each other fun for everyone!

1. We sing various songs that incorporate children’s names as a fun way for everyone to get to know each other. See pages 4-5 for lyrics!

2. Using family photo albums and posters, we invite children to talk about their families and whatever is depicted in the photos. This is a great way for the children AND teachers to get to know the important people (and animals) in each child's life.

3. Before starting a full day in a new classroom, we have the children spend short periods of time (e.g. circle time and outside time) over a couple of days in their new classroom to acquaint themselves with new faces and routines.

4. When we have children who speak a language other than English, we teach everyone in the classroom how to say hello (and other words) in that child’s native language.

5. We help children make friends by
   - grouping them in different combinations during center, lunch, or small group times.
   - encouraging two children with similar interests to do an activity together
   - inviting pairs of children to complete a chore or take a special trip with the teacher to the office
   - helping organize the PAC picnic early in the Fall so children and families get to know one another in a different setting.
Getting To Know You SONGS:

Try these at home or in the car. Your children will LOVE IT...

**Letter Song** (sung to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell”...)
Show and identify a letter, then ask whose name starts with that letter

*Suzie is here today
Suzie is here today
Let's all clap our hands
Suzie is here today

**Pop-Pop Fizz-Fizz** (sung to the tune of the old Alka-Seltzer song...)
Point at each child as it comes to their turn. You may also “clue” the children by prompting with something like “who is that handsome boy with the dog on his shirt?”

*Pop-pop, Fizz-fizz (clap as you sing),
tell me what your name is.

**The Name Game**
Point to each child as it comes to their turn. Observe the same procedure as above with prompting the children.

*Let's play the name game, the name game, the name game.
Let's play the name game, what's his/her name? (clap as you sing)
Her name is Lucy, Lucy, Lucy
Her name is Lucy, what's her/his name?

When you get to the last child, sing:

*His name is Henry, Henry, Henry
His name is Henry and that’s the end.

**Good Morning** (sung to the tune of “If you’re happy and you know it)

*Good morning Lisa
How are you?
Good morning Lisa
How are you?
How are you this special day?
We’re glad you came to play
Good morning Lisa
How are you?
**Getting To Know You SONGS:**

**We Welcome** (sung to the tune of “Mary had a little lamb”)

We welcome Tim to school today, school today, school today
We welcome Tim to school today, yes it’s a special day!

**Hello** (sung to the tune of “Frere Jacques”)

Hello Jane Hello Jane
Glad to see you, glad to see you
We are going to have a good day
We are going to have a good day
Yes we are, yes we are

**Bumble Bee Name Song** (sung to the tune of “Baby Bumblebee”)

I’m bringing home my baby bumble bee,
Won’t my mommy be so proud of me,
I’m bringing home my baby bumble bee

Then we all yell “OUCH” and point to a child, and we sing

Michael stung me!

(all children giggle at being called upon)

**Good Morning To You**

Good morning, good morning, good morning to you
Good morning, good morning, oh how are you?
Good morning, good morning, good morning to you
Good morning, good morning, I’m fine, thank you
Reach way up high, reach way down low (stretch up and down)
Creep them up, creep them up, put them in your lap
Roll them up and roll them up and give them a clap (clap)
Roll them up and roll them up and put them in your lap (place hands in lap)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

CENTER CLOSED: September 1st, 2nd, and 5th.
CDC OPEN HOUSE: Monday, September 19th (6-7pm)
PAC MEETING: Tuesday, September 27th (6-7pm)
PAC FALL PICNIC: Friday, October 14th (5-7pm)
TENTATIVE PUMPKIN PATCH FIELD TRIP: Friday, October 21st (AM)