Greetings!!!

Summer is in full swing here at the UCC! The temperatures are sky high, the smell of sunscreen is very prominent, and we are trying to beat the heat with our weekly water-days for all of the older UCC students. We hope your families are enjoying your summer thus far!

As we busily prepare for August enrollment we want to make parents aware of the upcoming transition process. The “last day of school” for all students who are leaving to head to pre-k/kindergarten is Thursday, August 7th. We will have a Professional Learning Day for teachers on Friday, August 8th and our “new school year” will begin Monday, August 11th. (See page 3 for more information on PL Days)

With that said, there will not be a lengthy transition for students to move to their new classrooms. We have well over 100 students transitioning into new classrooms. We used this same process last year and the students did wonderfully!! Transitions are MUCH easier on the children than the parents; we know from experience.

Since we will not have a long transition, we have decided to host an Open House for all of our current and new UCC families on Friday, August 8th. This will be a drop-in style event at UCC between the hours of 2:00pm-4:00pm. This will provide both parents and children the opportunity to meet their new teachers and see their classrooms. All students will receive their new classroom assignments by July 25th.

All of us at UCC are looking forward to the new school year! If you have ANY questions about the transition process, or anything else, please feel free to speak with Ashley Gunter.

Reminders:

- Please be sure to keep up with your key cards... For the safety and security of the children and our building please use your key card when entering the building.

- No school on August 8th for a Professional Learning Day.

- Please remember that tuition is due Monday of each week. If payment is not received by Wednesday, you will be charged a $15 late fee each week that your account is outstanding. We appreciate your cooperation!

Parent Council

The UCC Parent Council will officially launch in August! As previously mentioned, the overall goals for the Parent Council are: to support the mission and values of UCC, to support the administration and staff of UCC, to provide meaningful communication between and among UCC parents, staff, and administration, and to build community amongst UCC families.

While we have parents who have volunteered to serve as representatives from a number of classrooms, our goal is to have a parent representative from each classroom. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Leigh Elkins at uceparentcouncil@gmail.com.
Frequently Asked Questions

What does UCC do when it is very hot outside?
Administration carefully monitors outdoor temperatures along with the heat index by using the Bright From the Start weather chart. According to the chart, when the temperature/heat index is 90 or above children are not allowed outdoors.

How often are fire and tornado drills performed?
UCC performs monthly fire drills and quarterly tornado drills. In the case of a fire all children are directed out their classroom’s back door and taken to our designated safe zone outside the building. In the event of a tornado every child and staff member are taken into the main hallway, where children will sit down with mats over their heads. **For a more detailed description of our emergency procedures please find the “emergency procedures” page on our Parent Board located inside of the second door of the lobby.

When do children begin potty training?
Typically most children begin consistent potty-use between the ages of 2-3 years old; some sooner, some later. At UCC our Older & Younger Toddler classrooms are where the potty training process usually begins. UCC generally waits until the child is 2 years old to begin the process and we encourage practice with consistent potty-use at home.

What are UCC meal times?
All UCC classrooms from ages 1 and up have set meal time schedules: Breakfast 8:00-8:30, Lunch 11:00-11:30, and Snack 2:00-2:30. If you would like your child to have their meals at UCC please be sure to have them here between those times.

My child is going home sick with a fever today. When can he/she return?
All children who go home sick need to be symptom free (without the aid of medication) for a least 24 hours. UCC will send home an “I’m not feeling well” form to inform the parents of the child’s earliest return date.

Do I need to drop my child off by a certain time?
No. UCC is open between the hours of 7:00am-6:00pm. Families can come and go as they please and use our services when it is most convenient for them. However, as mentioned above, meal times are set and so are activities in the classroom. If you would like your child to participate in specific activities they must be in attendance at the designated times which are posted on the classroom schedule.
Since our last newsletter we have recognized several teachers as our “Employee of the Month!” All of these teachers posses the qualities that are needed to be a successful early childcare teacher. “Rule-stickler, classroom manager, enthusiastic, dedicated, and going above-and-beyond” are some of the descriptions we have used for these teachers. We wanted to share their pictures with you to continue the recognition beyond the center and classroom. Thank you, teachers, for all that you do!

Past Employees of the Month

Professional Learning (PL) Days are provided for our full-time teaching and administrative staff to participate in online trainings, face-to-face trainings, conferences, or classroom upkeep in order to provide quality care in our classrooms. UCC closes to families on PL Days 10 times per year. However, administration and staff still work at the center.

Our next PL Day will be on August 8th and will primarily be a day of preparation for the upcoming school year. As mentioned on the first page we will also host an Open House for UCC families. In September our staff will head to the Gwinnett Center for the Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC) Conference for the second year in a row. We attended this conference last year and look forward to attending again in order to gain knowledge in a variety of topics in early childcare. Below are the scheduled days off for the remainder of 2014 as well as 2015:

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<tr>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 8 (PL Day)</td>
<td>July 3 (Holiday)</td>
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<td>September 1 (Holiday)</td>
<td>August 7 (PL Day)</td>
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<td>September 26 (PL Day)</td>
<td>September 7 (Holiday)</td>
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<td>October 20 (PL Day)</td>
<td>September 25 (PL Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26 (1/2 day-PL Day)</td>
<td>October 23 (PL Day)</td>
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<td>November 27–28 (Holiday)</td>
<td>November 25 (1/2 day-PL Day)</td>
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<td>December 25-31 (Holiday)</td>
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<td>December 25-31 (Holiday)</td>
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Policy Highlight: Hand-washing

UCC cannot stress enough the importance of hand-washing. Our classroom teachers do a fantastic job in making sure students are washing their hands as thoroughly as our state licensing standards require. Please help us follow the state rules as well as combat the spread of germs by washing your hands, and your child’s hands, as soon as you walk in the classroom. Thank you!
Hello UCC Families!

As most of you know, I have recently taken over the Director position in May 2014. I am very excited to be in this role, serving the families of UCC, and monitoring all of the day-to-day operations of the center. Having been the Parent Resource Coordinator at UCC for the past 2 years I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you all and look forward to continuing those relationships.

I would like to let you know my focus as Director is to broadly monitor all aspects of the center (curriculum, lesson planning, classroom structure and management, safety, staff development, nutrition, customer relations, etc.) and make sure each is managed appropriately and to the best of our abilities. With each of these components in mind our Administration team monitors and enforces policies and procedures to ensure quality childcare at UCC. With that said, a wonderful foundation has been laid out for me to continue growing this program.

In addition to the goals stated above, I look forward to continuing the on-going professional development for our staff. Our teachers have grown and continue to make improvements daily in order to ensure quality care for your children and classroom environments. As mentioned in our Professional Learning Day section of the newsletter, we have many great things in store as we kick off the new school year! We will be sure to keep you informed as to what types of training our staff is obtaining.

As always, please know that my door is open in the event you have a comment, feedback, or just want to talk! I look forward to the upcoming school year and hope to see you around UCC!

Best,
Ashley Gunter

Music Teacher

UCC has a continued partnership with the University of Georgia’s School of Music. We have been fortunate to have a music education student from their program over the past few semesters. Beginning August 19th we will have another UGA music education student (and UGA Redcoat member), Josey Jimenez, join our UCC family as our music teacher for the fall semester. Josey will provide weekly pre-planned music lessons to all UCC students. Josey will visit all 13 classrooms over the span of 3 different days each week. Please join us in welcoming Josey into the UCC family!!