Greetings UCC Families!!

Spring showers, flowers, and pollen are here! With the warm weather approaching please bring weather-appropriate changes of clothing, sunscreen, bug spray (if needed), a sippy-cup, etc. Teachers only apply sunscreen for the afternoon outside time, so be sure to apply it in the morning hours before your child arrives (if you wish for your child to have sunscreen in the mornings).

Additionally, summer time brings teacher vacations and new schedules for our part-time staff (who are typically college students). Although not all classrooms will be affected by this change please be aware that you may see substitutes and/or new closers in your child’s classroom. Leads and assistant teachers will be sure to introduce you to any new staff members joining the UCC teaching team!

UCC Family Fun Night

On Friday, June 12th, from 5:30pm-7:30pm UCC will be hosting a Family Fun Night! This is a drop-in style event for all of our families and staff to get together outside of the classroom.

There will be face painting, a bounce house, and other fun activities for children and families to enjoy! More information will come as we get closer to the event date.

Daily Communication Forms

Daily communication forms are sent home each day to inform you of your child’s routine during the time they are present at UCC. We are making changes to these forms in hopes of including the most accurate and beneficial information for parents each day, as well as to avoid teachers from providing redundant information (which takes time away from the children and teaching). You will notice that unless your child has an allergy or food restriction teachers will NOT be including the foods already posted on our monthly menu. Teachers will still circle whether your child ate all/some/seconds/none. A ‘notes’ section is provided if any additional information is needed. This will go into effect Tuesday, May 12th.
Past Employees of the Month

We want to recognize and share our Employees of the Month since our last newsletter. We love and appreciate all of our teachers! So, thank you, teachers, for all that you do!

Mrs. Connie

Mrs. April

Mrs. Charlotte

Ms. Heather

Mrs. Kristy

Ms. Sarah

Employee Insurance ~ 2015 Tuition Rate Changes

UCC will be offering employee health insurance beginning August 2015. This is an exciting new perk being offered to all full-time UCC staff members. The insurance policy will be paid in part by the employer (Prodigies Child Care Management) which will help the employees who choose to participate in the insurance offered. We feel this new benefit will provide greater workplace satisfaction for our employees, which directly impacts the quality of care provided in our classrooms.

With that said, UCC has never increased tuition since it’s opening in 2012. The combination of annual pay increases and insurance offerings for all full-time staff requires UCC to increase tuition by $5 per week starting August 10th, 2015 (the first day of the new school year).

We understand tuition increases are not always welcome. However, the benefits of the insurance and yearly pay increases for staff far outweigh the monetary costs. New tuition rates beginning August 10th, 2015 are below:

**Full-Time**
- Infants $200 per week
  - Reduced infant rate $180 per week
- Young Toddlers $190 per week
  - Reduced young toddler rate $170 per week
- Older toddlers $185 per week
  - Reduced older toddler rate $165 per week
- 3s/4s $180 per week
  - Reduced 3s/4s rate $160 per week

**Part-Time**
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday $125 per week
- Tuesday/Thursday $85 per week

UCC will be OPEN December 28th and 29th

Although UCC typically follows the UGA holiday schedule it will be OPEN December 28th and 29th, 2015 during the UGA Christmas break. The Monday and Tuesday opening will accommodate both full and part-time enrollment schedules. Although this may be an inconvenience to some please know that staff are paid for all holidays and roughly half of UCC families are non-UGA. Both elements are contributing factors to this change in the holiday schedule.
Professional Learning Days (PLD)

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Friday, June 19th, during a Professional Learning Day. This is a time when parents are able to meet with their child’s teacher and discuss how their children are progressing. Assessments are based on the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) for Birth-5 year old students.

Parents will be provided with an Informational Memo of their child’s progress and shown examples of milestones that have been met. Additionally, areas of focused instruction with activities to be continued at home will be provided in order to extend learning opportunities at home.

Reminder: the May and November PL Days have been cancelled. The UCC closing schedule for the remainder of 2015 is below:

- May 25th (Monday) - Memorial Day
- June 19th (Friday) - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- July 3rd (Friday) - Independence Day
- August 7th (Friday) - Open House from 2:00pm-4:00pm
- September 7th (Monday) - Labor Day
- September 25th (Friday) - PLD - GAYC Conference for staff
- October 23rd (Friday) - PLD
- November 26th/27th (Thursday/Friday) - Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 25th (Friday) - Christmas Holiday
- December 30th-31st/January 1st (Wednesday/Thursday/Friday) - Christmas/New Years Holiday

Please note: Beginning in 2016 UCC will be adding Tuesday/Thursday days to the PL Day schedule in order to accommodate all enrollment schedules.

GEEARS Bus Tour

The University Childcare Center has been selected to participate in a ‘Bus Tour’ by the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) on Tuesday, May 12th. “GEEARS was established in 2010 to help business, civic and government leaders maximize the economic return on the state’s investments in early care and learning. Their mission is to inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on quality early learning and healthy development for children ages birth to five."’

The mission of the bus tour is to bring together approximately 40 key stakeholders from the state (chamber of commerce board members, legislators, Rotary Club members, members of the press, and others) on a 24 hour journey around Georgia to see what Quality Early Childhood Education looks like. This will be done by visiting two early education centers in Athens who have been designated Quality Rated through the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). The University Childcare Center will represent 3 star programs throughout the state. The goal is to give participants an overview of what replicable, high quality, and innovative programs exist as well as to give them ideas regarding how they can help to support early education in Georgia.

At the completion of the bus tour, stakeholders will meet with policy makers and academics. They will then process what they have seen and discuss the research and policy basis of the work of high quality teachers and providers in hopes of furthering the continuity of quality care throughout the state of Georgia.

Also know that we will treat all individuals on this tour in the same manner we tour potential new families. They will not be directly interacting with the children while they are here.

A Letter from the President

UCC Families,

The University Childcare Center, since its opening in January 2012, has made steady and consistent progress in becoming a leading childcare center within the state of Georgia. While it may not be easily noticeable to parents, there has been a great deal of positive work going on behind the scenes over the past year. We are very excited about our progress and would like to share a few noteworthy points with you.

The implementation of the new Quality Rated Improvement System (QR) allows our administrators and staff to recognize both strengths and weaknesses within our program. With QR in mind, our staff continues to constantly monitor our successes and work on our weaknesses so that we continue to grow. The “3-Star” Quality Rating UCC received not only shows that quality care is being provided at UCC but it also sets a precedence internally to continue to reach for and exceed the standard.

We are honored to have been chosen as one of two childcare centers in Georgia to participate in a GEEARS ‘Bus Tour’ on Tuesday, May 12th. GEEARS (Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students) is a leading early education advocacy group in the state of Georgia. They work with state and local policy makers and other leading advocates of quality early care throughout Georgia. This tour will allow several dozen policy makers and community leaders to see first-hand what quality childcare “looks like.” These individuals can then take their knowledge back to their home towns and civic organizations to encourage our early education peers to strive for better quality in early education.

The UCC and its employees are embarking on new and exciting territory with the offering of employer sponsored health insurance. While there are many benefits with offering health insurance, we feel that this will increase workplace satisfaction in hopes that staff retention will continually improve. We strive to make UCC not only the best early education environment possible for our children and families but also for our valued employees.

Thank you, families, for entrusting us to care for your children. This is a monumental task that is never overlooked or taken lightly. We want you all to know how much we value the relationships with the children and families we serve. Quality childcare ‘takes a village’ and we appreciate your positive involvement at the UCC.

Warm Regards,
Wes Zwirn

A Letter from the Director

Hello UCC Families!

It is great to be back from my maternity leave and see new and familiar faces throughout UCC. More than anything, I love to build relationships with all of our families, so feel free to stop by and say ‘Hey!’ whenever you have a chance!

Our Parent Council has had its first meeting of 2015. As stated in the past, the goal of the Parent Council is to create community and increase communication amongst parents, administrators, and teachers throughout UCC. If you have not already noticed, there is an email sign-up sheet in your child’s classroom to give permission for the classroom Parent Representative to email you in regards to classroom information.

We hope to see you all at the Family Fun Night in June! Thank you for all of your support as we continue to learn and grow together.

~Ashley Gunter