

# University Childcare Quarterly Center Newsletter

October 2016

## 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.
- **October 28th**—UCC closed. Full-day PL Day
- **November 6th**—turn your clocks **back** 1 hour for Daylight Savings
- **November 23rd** is a HALF DAY (pick-up by noon) for a PL Day.
- **November 24th & 25th** NO SCHOOL for Thanksgiving Holiday.
- **December 26th—December 28th** NO SCHOOL for Winter Break.
- In December, UCC will be **OPEN** Thursday & Friday (**December 29th & 30th**).
- **January 2nd**—NO SCHOOL in observance of the New Year Holiday

## Greetings UCC Families!!!

Fall is here!! The new school year transitions went smoothly and it appears that students, teachers, and parents have adjusted well to their new classroom routines. We appreciate all of the support and feedback throughout this process. Below are a few center-wide reminders.

With the fall and winter seasons approaching be sure to bring weather-appropriate changes of clothes for your child(ren) and bundle them up as the cold weather creeps in. Regardless of the weather forecast please send a jacket or coat with your child each day since the weather tends to be cooler in the mornings.

Cold and flu season is on its way, so please be sure to help us combat the spread of any illness throughout the center. We are thoroughly hand washing and disinfecting daily, but anything that our families can do beyond the classroom is greatly appreciated. If your child shows any symptoms of a communicable illness/disease, 101 degree or higher oral temperature, diarrhea, rash, sore throat and/or any other symptom while in our care, we will remove them from the group and notify the parent or authorized adult by phone to pick up the child. Parents have one hour from time of notification to pick up the child. The child may return to the Center after they have been symptom free for 24 hours. Although we know this can be an inconvenience we appreciate your attention to this matter.

In early October, we held our first ever book fair! Usborne Books & More is one of the leading companies in the book industry, and we were delighted to provide this opportunity to our UCC families. Sales will continue online through the rest of this week if you would like to purchase more books! (<https://n4824.myubam.com/>) We hope you found a few good books to add to your collections at home!

Thank you for your continued support and participation as we continue to grow and learn together!



## Past Employees of the Month

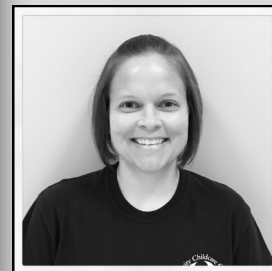
We want to recognize and share our Employees of the Month since our last newsletter. We love and appreciate all of our teachers! So, thank you, teachers, for all that you do!



**Ms. Shawna**



**Ms. Brenda**



**Ms. Courtney**

## UCC 4th Annual Tailgate-Picnic

On October 14th, UCC hosted its 4th Annual Family Tailgate-Picnic!

Each of our classrooms, Ms. Brenda, and Ms. Charlotte decorated pumpkins for our annual pumpkin contest, which were displayed at the tailgate and voted upon for favorite pumpkin. While we think they all deserve a big kudos, the winning pumpkins were Ms. Ansley's and Ms. Elisa's Harry Potter theme (1st place), Ms. Jodie's and Ms. Koko's peacock (2nd place), and Ms. Melissa's and Ms. Kristy's Charlotte's Web theme (3rd place).



This was another successful event and we hope all of our UCC families enjoyed their time with each other!

## UCC Closing Shifts

Many of our younger classrooms have a closing teacher who works from 4PM-6PM, Monday-Friday, unless they are absent. Most of these employees are college students who often have to make schedule adjustments at work each semester depending on their class schedules. Please know, your closing teacher changes from time to time. All of these students are fingerprinted and provided with an extensive orientation to make sure they are prepared to work with kids.

### Benefits of closing shift

- Provides college students with a work based learning opportunity
- New energy entering the room at 4:00 to entertain the kids
- Allows time for cleaning/disinfecting toys and furnishings to prepare for the next day

## Signing Children In & Out

It is important to use the touch screens during drop off and pick up to monitor your child's attendance and to highlight the person who is dropping off and picking up. If the screens are down due to internet loss, please use the notebook located under the monitors.

Although professional learning days may sometimes be inconvenient, it is important to understand their purpose. Bright From the Start (BFTS) requires that Early Childhood Educators have 10 hours of training each year. UGA requires an additional 10 hours to guarantee that our child care providers are up-to-date on all necessary trainings to ensure we are providing quality care for children.

Beginning in September, BFTS now requires 100% compliance for CPR certification and Health and Safety training for early childhood educators. These trainings must be completed within 90 days of hire date. To fulfill this requirement, we became 100% CPR, 1<sup>st</sup> AID, and AED certified during our last PL day on September 30<sup>th</sup>!

We also had a BFTS representative visit UCC to review the Core State Rules on our September 30<sup>th</sup> PL day. For the past few years, the Child Care Services Division at Bright from the Start has monitored child care programs using a system that focuses on certain “core rules” within 12 “core rule categories”. The focused visit system is based on research which indicates that these “core rules” are critical areas to consider when determining compliance and the impact on the health and safety of children.

Our next PL day will be on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. UCC teachers will attend a health and safety training on that day. Please refer our website for the Professional Learning & Holiday schedule for future closings.

## Hunger Bowl Food Drive

Once again, UCC will be participating in the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia’s Hunger Bowl, which takes place October 28<sup>th</sup>-November 11<sup>th</sup>. Collection bins will be located in the lobby. Please bring in canned and boxed food items to benefit this valuable community resource.



## Policy Highlight: Center Parties

UCC loves classroom parties!! We think birthdays, seasons, or any special occasions are wonderful things to celebrate! These are some things to keep in mind when having these celebrations at UCC:

- Healthier food option examples: cheese, fruit (no grapes), muffins, mini-cupcakes, cake-pops, crackers, veggies (no carrots), etc.
- Please, **no candy** or soft drinks.
- Also, please be aware that childcare centers cannot have any balloons present in the center at any time. The rubber balloons are a choking hazard and a licensing violation.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and attention to each of these matters.

## University Childcare Center

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**Go Dawgs!!!**

## A Letter from the Director

Hello UCC Families!

Thank you for a great turn out at the fall family Tailgate-Picnic! We always have a great time and enjoy the food and fellowship that come along with it.

We have had several people ask us if we accept donations (toys, clothes, etc.). **We gladly welcome donations!!** Please do not feel obligated to purchase and/or donate items, but there are probably tons of things around your house that you don't use that could easily be recycled here at UCC! See the 'classroom donations' section below for ideas.

As most of you know, I am living with metastatic breast cancer. It is hard to keep everyone updated, for those who are interested, so if you would like to keep up with everything cancer-related feel free to visit my blog:

[www.whosgottimeforbreastcancer.blogspot.com](http://www.whosgottimeforbreastcancer.blogspot.com)

I will be having a bilateral mastectomy on Tuesday, October 25th, to further my mission of keep my cancer at bay! I will be out for 4 weeks, returning the week of Thanksgiving.

As always, the center will resume as it normally does. Both Ashley B. and Robyn will continue the normal day-to-day duties as they already do, in addition to my responsibilities. We may have one additional employee to assist during transitional times of the day, as needed.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns with anything, anytime. My door is always open!

Thank you!

Ashley Gunter

## Classroom Donations

If you are cleaning out closets, toy rooms, or garages, we are always happy to accept donations of items you may no longer use. Below are ideas of items we would love to include in our classrooms.

Empty food boxes, telephones, cell phones, keyboards, dress up clothes, old Halloween costumes, plastic bins, storage bins, books, CD players, headphones, goggles, puppets & stuffed animals, pillows, bean bags, magnifying glasses, tweezers, tongs, eye droppers, funnels, containers for sorting & measuring, balance scales, magnets, flashlights, thermometers, magazines, measuring cups & spoons, whisks, strainers, buckets, instruments, sponges, cameras, helmets, fabric, ribbons, yarn, hula hoops, watering cans