Dear families,

February, the month of “Love”. I hope that this month allows you some time to be with your loved ones. With children, sometimes *showing* “I love you” can be more effective than *saying* it. I encourage you to spend some extra time with your kiddos this month, perhaps doing an activity you may not normally do. Need some ideas? Please see this article for “31 Ways to Tell Your Child “I Love You” https://www.verywell.com/ways-to-tell-your-child-i-love-you-3105749. There are some great suggestions and recommendations for showing some love!

As we move through the month, I continue to look forward to new opportunities to connect with you and your children. I appreciate everything you do for the CCD and for our staff. We absolutely *love* our CCD community!

Best Wishes,
Stephanie Haney, Director

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**Happy Birthday**

**Children**  
Macy C. 2/1  
Logan H. 2/7  
Noah S. 2/13  
Christian S.L. 2/14  
Colin S.L. 2/14  
Alexander S. 2/28

**Staff**  
Raven F. 2/1  
Melissa A. 2/20

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**Important Dates:**

The Professional Development closure that was planned for February 27th and 28th has been **cancelled**. The CCD will operate normal hours and be open for childcare on those two days.
From Mrs. Melissa’s class…
Even though February is the shortest month of the year we have much going on! This month will be about Community Helpers. Each week we will have a lesson on a different community helper. Our first week will be on police officers, then we will move into nurses the following week, then dental assistants, and finally fire fighters the last week. It will be the perfect opportunity for Community Helpers in our city to come and visit the preschool and discuss with the little ones what he or she does and how they help our community.

From Mrs. Sherrie’s class…
This month Ms. Sherrie’s class will be learning about community helpers. We will focus on police, firefighters, nurses, and dentist. We will be learning about the uniforms, duties, and tools that these community helpers use in their professions. We will be visited by some of these community helpers. We will be taking a field trip to the Campus Police Station. We have a lot of fun activities planned.

From Mrs. Sharla’s class…
This month is community helpers. This week we will talk about police officers, week 2 is doctors and nurses, week 3 is dentists and their helpers, and week 4 is firemen and other first responders. On a personal note...Thank you all for your kindness and generosity after losing our home to the tornado. It truly was humbling. You are all amazing and make me so proud to be part of this CCD family. God bless you all!

From Mrs. Myrna’s class…
My busy eight have kept me quiet busy until January has slipped away, but not without making memories. We had a smooth transition with the children and it seems as though they are quite comfortable with being in their new room. During the month of February, our theme will be Community Helpers. Although, we will have visitors from the fire department, police department, nursing department and dental office coming to visit, we will expand our community helpers to a variety of local individuals. In light of the recent tornado in the Pine Belt area, we can visualize everyone being a community helper. With that being said, we will serve the community with donations from my (our) fabulous eight.
From Mrs. Samantha’s class...
Welcome to February! We are excited to start the 2nd month of the New Year learning about “Community Helpers.” For the entire month, we will have engaging learning activities about different types of community helpers that include police officers, firefighters, doctors and nurses, teachers and so many more. We can’t wait to explore the variety of individuals that help us on a daily basis.

From Mrs. Bridgitte’s class...
The new year is off to a great start as we have added several new faces to our classroom including our student teacher, Ms Catherine. She is an amazing teacher with a kind heart and natural teaching abilities. We will begin February with a focus on dental health. Next we will learn all about hearts and how to love our friends. Our next theme for the month will be Post Office. We will even mail a letter to ourselves!! We will wrap up the month with an emphasis on the work of one of the best children’s book authors, Dr. Seuss!! Preschool is so much fun!!

From Mrs. Kimmy’s class...
Spring is just around the corner. Does anyone else notice that we seem to have skipped the Winter Season? During the month of February, we will be learning about Dental Health, Love/Friendship, The Post Office, and the Infamous Dr. Suess. We will be having a “Friendship Party” on Tuesday February 14th. As always, you are invited to attend our classroom party. We will begin our party at 11:30 a.m. There will be a list of party foods located outside of our classroom door on Tuesday, February 7th. If you are interested in bringing an item for our classroom party, please sign up to do so. Currently, we have 14 children in our classroom. There will also be a list of all the children’s name in our classroom sent home Tuesday February 7th. We will exchange “Love” happies on Tuesday, February 14th. I will also e-mail each of you this list as well. Thank you for everything that you do to make our classroom so successful and so much fun!

From Mrs. Rachel’s class...
We are moving right along into February 2017! Time is flying! This months has some of my most favorite themes to teach! First, we will kick off with "Dental Health." The children will get a chance to make and use their own toothpaste! Next, we will have "Hearts/Love." I connect this theme more towards friendship and family. The children have a lot of fun making and writing sweet things for others. Then, we will work on our "Post Office" theme. The children will work on a lot of sorting and even get to write and send letters to each of you! Lastly, we have my favorite theme "Dr. Suess!" That week is always filled with a lot of fun and silliness! I look forward to learning and growing with each of your babies as we get ready to prepare for their graduation! I will have more details for you about that very soon! Thank you for all that you do!
Menu Updates
For the next few months, we will be altering our menu in order to provide more nutritious and wholesome meals. Some changes you will see for this month:
1. We are now serving whole grain pancakes, french toast, and biscuits
2. We have eliminated one day of juice served at snack. As a replacement, we will offer milk
   
   This is only the beginning, more changes are coming!

T-Shirt Team
At the last Parent Advisory Board meeting, it was requested that new CCD shirts are made. If you would like to volunteer to be on this team, we would love your help!

New Faces
With the beginning of the semester, you will see some new faces around the center. We have quite a few new work-study students, as well as new lab students for two undergraduate courses. As always, you can see their name tags posted outside of the classrooms.

Communication Efforts
We are always looking for new ways to increase communication. You will see two new efforts underway:
1. Talking Points for the Day on each classrooms dry-erase board
2. New preschool info sheets and revised toddler daily sheets (coming soon)

Meet Mrs. Marla
Have you had a chance to meet Mrs. Marla yet? She is our amazing administrative assistant and is here to answer any questions you may have or help you find information you may need. Be sure to stop by and tell her hello! She has been a great asset to the CCD already!

The mission of the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Child Development is to engage parents, teachers, and university students in developing healthy, motivated, and autonomous children in exemplary child centered and developmentally effective educational programs that promote evidence-based practice and a joyful, lifelong love of learning.

University of Southern Mississippi Center for Child Development
3404 Morningside Dr. / Hattiesburg, MS, 39406
PHONE: (601) 266-52964  FAX: (601) 266-6009
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