Hello families!

I am writing this as we close out 2016, but 2017 is heavy on my mind. I trust that this year will send us many new opportunities to explore, grow, and discover as we move throughout our daily lives. My hope is that 2017 brings you many opportunities for happiness!

As with most new beginnings, the beginning of this year also creates a great time to make some new commitments. I have a few on hand that I would like to share with you for this upcoming year:

1. Healthier food offered: This comes from a growing concern about the health of all children across the nation. Research shows that when children eliminate processed sugar and junk food from their diets, they are more ready to learn and develop. My pledge to you is that the CCD will revamp its current menus to offer more nutritionally dense food and less “junk” food. This also includes any parties in the classroom. With that being said, I also need YOUR help to fully implement this. When participating in parties or bringing treats to the CCD, please make sure that they are healthy treats, as many parents are concerned about the nutrition in food as well. The teachers will help you to find some ideas if you need some help.

2. More parent involvement: This past year has seen a few great involvement opportunities, but I would love to see more! I love seeing parents participate in family events, volunteer in the classrooms, attend education events, and really be present overall at school. I appreciate all the faces I’ve seen last year, and I look forward to organizing more opportunities for this! Be sure to start the new year right by attending our Parent Advisory Board meeting on January 19th at 4:30 p.m.

3. An open-door policy: While this is not a new commitment, it bears reminding. I want you to know that my door is always open to whatever need, concern, or general comment you have. I have had many opportunities to meet with you individually and I really do enjoy that time I get to spend with everyone. Please feel free to stop by my office, give me a call, or send an email for anything that you may want to talk about!

Best Wishes,
Stephanie Haney
Director

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**Happy Birthday**

**Children**

Julian C. 1/2  
Vanessa W. 1/3  
Madeline F.H. 1/15  
Willow H. 1/23  
Emma H. 1/27  
Khiryn P. 1/25  
Havana S. 1/25

**Staff**

Latesa S. 1/2  
Shay G. 1/16  
Robin T. 1/19  
Heather B. 1/30

**Important Dates:**

1/16 CCD Closed for MLK Jr. Day  
1/17 USM Classes Start  
1/19 Parent Advisory Board meeting
From Mrs. Melissa’s class…

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful and relaxing holiday. After enjoying all of the colorful festivities of the December rush, it is time to settle back into our routine again. We will start our first lessons off on Camping, and then move right into Travel, and Winter. There will be lots of fun activities focused on outdoor adventures. The little ones will get to camp in a tent, travel in a car, and play dress up for the winter weather. Let’s remember to stock up on our needed necessities (diapers, wipes, change of clothes) for the return back to school. I’m looking forward to seeing you all in the new year.

From Mrs. Sherrie’s class…

For the month of January Ms. Sherrie’s class will be focusing on two themes. The first half we will be learning all we can about camping. We will talk about camping in the mountains and comparing this to camping in the forest. We will be exploring camping equipment and learning about animals that live in each environment. Our second theme will be weather. We will learn about clouds. We will discover what a meteorologist does. We will learn some of the ways to protect ourselves during the different types of weather. We have lots of fun activities planned.

From Mrs. Sharla’s class…

In January we are learning about winter animals like polar bears and penguins, camping, dinosaurs and weather. Happy New Year!!

From Mrs. Myrna’s class…

Happy New Year!! I would like to welcome all our students and parents back for a new year filled with fun and more memories. Our themes for the month of January will be Weather and Camping. We will introduce the different seasons, rain, sleet, snow, windy and other things associated with weather, such as a thermometer. Our camping theme will consist of the items needed to go camping, food, animals we might see and making smores.

From Mrs. Samantha’s class…

Happy New Year!! It’s always so exciting to start a new year. I am especially excited to hear about all of the wonderful stories from the holidays and special trips from each child. For the month of January, our themes will be weather and camping. I am so excited about the weather theme because we will focus on the types of weather that includes rain, snow, wind, and sun. With the camping theme, we will have learning activities focused on adventures outdoors. I can’t wait to get started.
From Mrs. Bridgitte's class…

It's hard to believe that 2016 is coming to an end! It's been a great year here at school, and we are looking forward to 2017. We will kick off the new year with a "Welcome Back to School" unit. Then we will concentrate on many different winter themes including: Snow/Snowflakes, Dressing for Winter, Artic Animals, and Groundhogs. We can't wait to start our new year and are looking forward to having many adventures together!

From Mrs. Kimmy's class…

Who can believe it is 2017? We hope you all had a very exciting Holiday Season. Our new student teacher will begin in January. We are opening our new year with lots of fun topics including: Snow, Winter Dress, Artic Animals, Groundhogs, and more. Remember that our center will be closed January 16th in observance of MLK day. We look forward to a new month and a New Year. New Year Resolution Quote: Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed. YOU CAN DO IT!

From Mrs. Zkela's class…

This month, we are learning about Seasons, Snow/ Snowflakes, Dressing for Winter, Arctic Animals, and Groundhogs. The children are going to have so much fun learning about the different units. They will listen to stories, explore, play games, create art, and continue to learn how to recognize numbers, shapes, and colors, and etc.

From Mrs. Rachel's class…

I can hardly believe that it is already 2017! Time flies when you're having fun! As we roll into January, our first theme will be about nocturnal animals. This is one of my most favorite weeks to teach. It lightly connects to our hibernation theme and it gives the kids a chance to review their previous learning. Our second and third themes will cover snow/snowflakes and dressing for the winter. Then, we will learn about arctic animals. This is always really fun because the children do not have much experience with arctic animals. They get to learn a lot! Lastly, we will cover groundhogs/shadows. I always love watching the children discover and experiment with their shadows! We have a full month of fun and learning. Please remember to continue to send a warm jacket/hat/gloves with your child each day for outside time!!
Be sure to attend our Parent Advisory Board meeting at 4:30 on the 19th. The topics are TBD. If you have any topics you’d like to discuss, please let Ms. Stephanie know. All parents are welcome!

“All About Ice” at-home activity ideas

The center will reopen from the holiday break on Tuesday, January 3rd