Thanks to everyone from the Center who participated in the Creighton Clean Up on Saturday, April 18. We had around 25 people, including parents, children, teachers and students! We helped at two Open Door Mission sites with sorting and organizing clothing, toy and food donations. We had a great time!
Spring is here! (We hope!) The children are so observant—while taking walks they point to the green plants sprouting from the ground, and the buds on the bushes. Soon we hope to see leaves and flowers.

The older infants worked on getting the soil in our planter ready for seeds. Some of the children would use the shovel to scoop dirt and put it into a bucket, while others just scooped and dumped with the shovel. They enjoyed playing in the dirt. This was a wonderful hands on outside activity.

Each week the older infants look for the Tumble Bus. It comes to the Center every Thursday morning for the toddlers and preschoolers who have signed up for tumbling on a bus. While the bus is at the Center we do large motor activities in our room. Our top two favorites are the bouncing mat and the portable balance beams. (see pictures below). During these activities the children use their large muscles and practice balancing, and problem solving. Don't be surprised when you talk to your child about the Tumble Bus that they clap the syllables for the word “Tumble Bus.” They will also clap when they say their friends and teachers names.

The younger infants have also been working on their large muscles. They are practicing rolling, crawling, pulling themselves up to their feet, and walking. Each child goes at their own pace, but we try to provide activities to help master each stage. We may put the toys just out of reach so the child has to stretch and move to get the toy or to strengthen their leg and arm muscles they will pull themselves up and stand while holding the bar by the mirror.

The infants really enjoyed having breakfast with their parents on the Parent Breakfast Day. It was a special time, enjoyed by both children and teachers.

We would like to thank parents for the flowers and treats. The flowers really brighten our room and also our homes.

We have welcomed two new infants to our room. Dalen Wright is the son of Dalen and Lecia Wright and Kaylie Van Ruler is the daughter of Mike Van Ruler and Nancy Koster.

Shanna, Lynn, Gina
Toddler Room News

Warmer weather has definitely been welcomed by the toddlers. We have been outside whenever the weather permits and the toddlers have enjoyed taking advantage of more energetic activities such as running, climbing and playing with balls. Getting reacquainted with the Nature Classroom has also been an adventure. The children are remembering to go around the flowerbeds and through the secret passages. However, the favorite of all the toddlers is still the hill. Climbing to the top is proof that they have all grown over the winter months. Those who used to hold onto the fence to come back down are navigating the height without any problems. Naptime seems to last a little longer as a result of mornings outside, and the anticipation of afternoon playground time is definitely a reason for toddlers to head to their mats with smiles on their faces after lunch.

There have been a few additions to our already busy days. The first addition is brushing teeth. Each child has a toothbrush with her/her name on it. After lunch, all of the children and teachers brush their teeth. We did a week’s lesson plan titled “Show Me Your Smile.” During this time, we read stories about going to the dentist, practiced smiling for the camera, and checked out our teeth and smiles in the mirror.

Another addition to our room is based upon the book Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. This is a story about a little boy who has such a bad day he decides he wants to move to Australia. We have built upon the story line from this book and turned our safe place into Australia. This area is just inside the door between the cubbies and front window. It is a cozy spot where a child can go when they need a few minutes to themselves or just to regroup before returning to playtime with the other children. In our corner, we have provided a map of Australia, travel brochures and pictures of tourist attractions and animals found there. There is a koala bear to hug and a turtle rug that is reminiscent of the Great Barrier Reef. Some of the children have told teachers that they want to go to Australia because they are having a bad day. Most are content to enjoy a few minutes of quiet time in a cozy corner before returning to an activity.

We have welcomed three new children to the toddler room. Jackie Williams and Caitlin Carter are from the infant room and Trajan Smith is new to the Center.

We would like to thank everyone for the flowers for Staff Appreciation Day. Each special flower helped to make beautiful bouquets that brightened each teacher’s day and their homes. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Laura, DuRell, and Erin

Sarah and Joshuwa show us how they brush their teeth.

Noah and Estelle relax for a moment in Australia.

Ali, Noah and Jackie have a great time being firefighters in the climber!
The preschoolers have been very busy! In March the preschoolers enjoyed two very interesting field trips. The first field trip was to the Orpheum Theater to see the African Children’s Choir. The children really enjoyed the singing, dancing and costumes. During the week of the performance the children were exposed to many different African artists and their artwork. We read many books about African culture and the children made an African dessert called Fu-Fu. During this week each teacher took advantage of the great opportunity to expose the children to another culture and the many traditions; the children truly were interested and excited about learning about other cultures.

Our second fieldtrip was to the Rose Theater to see the performance of Le Petite Rouge. This was a “Louisiana Cajun” version of Little Red Riding hood. The children really enjoyed the “Big Bad Alligator” in place of the “Big Bad Wolf!” Seeing another version of the well-known children’s book was a great experience for the children.

During the month of April the preschoolers and their families were asked to collect and bring bottle caps to school so that we could practice our counting. Wow did we collect a lot of caps! At the last count each class had over 200 bottle caps. After counting the caps, the children graphed them by color and size. Later they were placed in our sensory table with cups, spoons, and bubbles. The children loved searching through the bubbles and trying to remember which caps they brought. Thank you to our families for participating in our bottle cap activity; this was an easy yet significant way that we were all able to help build that relationship between home and school.

We have had some great weather lately and the preschoolers have taken every opportunity to enjoy it! We have been on many walks, we read books outside and some of the children had the chance to dig in the soil in the planters in front for the Center. But most importantly the children have been able to run, play and just enjoy our playground area. The children are beginning to watch for the many different plants that are beginning to sprout in the Nature Classroom.

The children are still continuing to work in small groups in the literacy room, and will continue throughout the summer months. Many new skills are being introduced to the older children and the younger age children will continue to work on letter recognition, beginning and ending sounds and improving eye-hand coordination.

Shari, Keon and Annie