Dear Parent,

Everyone appreciated the opportunity to attend the Nebraska AEYC conference last week in Lincoln. We especially benefited from workshops on Nature Classrooms.

Keynote presenters from New Zealand and a workshop presenter from Scotland shared information on building the classrooms and using the classrooms throughout the year. This was an unusual opportunity to hear the speakers who were in Nebraska for a meeting of the International Nature Action Collaborative for Children.

We spread out into the breakout sessions on literacy, science, math, play, and children’s mental health and emotional development. We will share information gained from the workshops with each other.

Thank you for making it possible for us to renew our commitment to the children and families in the Center through attendance at this outstanding conference.

Nature Classroom Update

Work continues on the Nature Classroom. By August 4, we hope to have the nature art table and Akambira (musical instrument) installed. The raised beds for the children to use for planting should also be in place. The raised planter beds will be on the east side of the building where there are currently plantings. The area for building with larger logs and branches is ready to receive materials. Soon material will be added to make a complete new track for wheeled activities. The performance area is completed, as is the small fence around our storage area.

Mulhall’s will prepare and plant the new planting bed berms that will be placed in several positions around the area. When we contract with Mulhall’s, they will guarantee the plants for one year, which we felt was a good investment.

We plan to have a family day when most of this work is done so that you may come and enjoy the Nature Classroom with your child. We will ask families to help make signs for the completed areas during the event. We will announce the date once we are closer to completion.

Everyone here is excited about the progress. The teachers are talking to the children about what is happening and showing them the architect’s drawing. We will keep you updated on it too. Please feel free to look around on the playground when you pick up your child. (Ask for the alarm to be turned off first!)

Connie