

CHILDREN'S CENTER UPDATES

A monthly newsletter brought to you by UICCC

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

9/2/2016

REMINDER
UIC CHILDREN'S CENTER
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
on
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th

Meet the Staff



Kim Kull

Director

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312-413-5328

Hi, I'm Kim Kull, the director of the UIC Children's Center. I have just begun my 20th year here at the Children's Center (3 as a classroom teacher, 13 as the assistant director, and beginning my 5th as director). My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Indiana University and a master's

degree in early childhood leadership and advocacy from National Louis University. I live in Evanston with my husband, Jason, and our 16-year-old sons Dylan and Kameron (UIC Children's Center alumni). With high school boys comes a lot of weekend time spent at sporting events. When I get some me time I enjoy gardening, eating out, and hanging out on my deck. I look forward to working with you all this school year. Please feel free to stop in and say hello anytime.



Melinda Young

Assistant Director

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312-413-5326

It has been a pleasure getting to know each of the families that have begun to mold the 2016-17 UIC Children's Center family. I would like to share a little bit about myself. As you are already aware, my name is Melinda Young and I am the Assistant Director. This is the beginning of my fourth year in this position. Prior to this

role I taught in the Orange Room for 7 years and 1st grade at a Charter school. I received my ME. in ECE Instructional Leadership and BA in Elementary Ed here at UIC. Outside of the center I am a busy wife and mother of two dynamic girls, Camden who is 6 years old and Madysin who is 2 years old. Learning new hobbies and crafts is a passion of mine in my free time. Currently I'm into home DIY projects from Pinterest. I look forward to having another opportunity to work with the teachers and families at the Children's Center. Here's to a great year of growing and learning!



Christener McCrorey

AM Float Teacher

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312-413-5327

This is my 15th year at the center. I have taught in the Green Room for 11 years and the Blue Room for 3 years. This year I am a float in which I get to work with all of the classrooms and do some interesting projects with them and the children in and the early room. Also, I have received my Masters in Elementary Ed and Early Childhood education here at UIC. I look forward to working with the staff again and getting to know the children and

families this school year. Some of my interests are collecting children's stories, stuffed animals and puppets. I also dance both Ballroom and Latin styles and I have my certification for Zumba. I enjoy demonstrating some of the dance steps to the students when I decide to change the pace and put on some dance music. This allows me to do the two things that I love most, dancing and teaching.



Molly Rosenbach

Float Teacher

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312-413-53267

It has been great getting to know so many of the new families and seeing familiar faces from last year these first few weeks. Although I haven't met everyone yet, I hope to in the near future. I am Molly, a Graduate Assistant here at the UIC Children's Center. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Colorado and I am currently attending UIC for my Masters in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education. I have been at the UIC Children's Center since February and float between all three classrooms. Before entering the program here at UIC, I taught English to children aged 4-16 in Santiago, Chile for two years. In my free time I enjoy traveling, skiing, and yoga. I am excited to learn from the children, families, and teachers here and gain practical experience that compliments my studies.

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9/2/2016



Lisa Cochran

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Blue Room Teacher

312-413-5327

This is my 13rd year at the Children's Center, teaching in the Blue Room! I come from a family of educators although I am teaching the youngest learners. I live in Chicago, in the Wicker Park neighborhood and enjoy trying out different restaurants, street fests and different things in the city. I also get to travel quite a lot to

see my brother in California, my younger sister in Oregon, and my older sister and her family in Colorado and driving down on weekends to see my parents, who live in Central Illinois. In my free time I enjoy running, making jewelry, and sewing. I received my masters in education from UIC as well as the Special Education endorsement in 2012. I'm continuing my education to receive my ESL (English as a Second Language) Endorsement which I will finish up in December. I'm looking forward to a great year with all the Blue Room Families!



Lesile Bowie

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Blue Room Teacher

312-413-53267

Hello my name is Leslie Bowie and I am very excited to be joining the teaching team in the Blue Room. I graduated from Columbia College in 2012, and I have over 15 years of experience working with young children. I live in the Southside of Chicago with my husband and three children. During my free time I am usually running my children around to basketball and dance practices. I enjoy taking cycling and aerobic classes at the gym. I love being outdoors and I usually go camping a few times a year. I plan on continuing my education, and hope to receive my Masters in Education. I look forward getting to know the children and families at the UIC Children's Center. I know we will have a great year!



Juan Jimenez Jr.

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Green Room Teacher

312-413-53267

I have been a teacher at the Children Center for 11 years. This is my first year as a teacher in the Green Room with Brittany. My educational background includes a BA in Political Science from Loyola University of Chicago and a ME in ECE from UIC. I love to travel and see theater and visit art museums, I'm a member of the Art institute in Chicago. I also love taking photos with my iPhone. I love learning about different cultures and when children share there culture and home language with me. My father is a good cook and I love eating Puerto Rican Food! One day I want to learn how to make some good arroz con pollo!



Brittany Young

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Green Room Teacher

312-413-53267

Hello UIC families, My name is Brittany and I am the new co-teacher in the Green room. I graduated from Columbia College Chicago with my bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education. I have worked as a substitute, floater and head teacher since graduating from Columbia College. I always wanted to be an educator. I love to see how children progress over time. As a teacher I believe children learns best with good role models in their lives and I strive to be a good role model for the children at UIC children's center. During my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I am so excited to meet all the families and starting my new journey here at the UIC children's center.

SAVE THE DATE



You are invited to our

Fall Semester Potluck Supper

Friday, September 30th @ 5pm

Bring a dish to share with friends!

Bring the whole family!

We will provide the drinks.

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Linda Johnson

PM Float Teacher

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Linda Johnson has been with the Children's Center for now 30 years. She has worked with children in the younger and older classrooms. She's a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her degree is in human development and family ecology with emphasis in early childhood. She received her early childhood certification here at UIC. Linda is currently on medical leave and plans to rejoin us by the spring semester.



Arlene Wells

Orange Room Teacher

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312-413-5327

I have been at the Children's Center for 20 years. I have had the pleasure of teaching in both the younger and older classrooms throughout my career. My educational background includes a BA in early childhood education from Loras College and a ME in ECE from UIC. I have a 17 year old daughter named Ariel and an 8 year old son named Jason. In my not so "free time" I enjoy watching movies and spending time with my family and friends. I look forward to getting to know the returning families that are new to the Orange Room as well as the children that are new to the school.



Brittany Malone

Orange Room Teacher

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312-413-53267

My name is Brittany Malone and I have been a teacher alongside Arlene in the Orange room since June of 2016. I graduated in May from Columbia College Chicago with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I have lived in Chicago since 2012 and before that I lived in various parts of Virginia. I was born and raised in the Champaign-Urbana area of Illinois along with 5 little sisters. Being the oldest of 6, I have always felt that I would eventually work with children. As kids we spent most of our time playing outside in the countryside of rural Illinois. As an adult I still enjoy many of the same things. I love camping, hiking, gardening and riding my bike. I am really looking forward to getting to know your children and the community in which they spend their days in the classroom.



Ivy Henry

Culinary Worker

I have been working at the Children's Center as a Culinary Worker for 8 years. I like the environment here and the people are nice. Outside of work I like to play my PlayStation, watch TV, and play my guitar.

DID YOU KNOW???

Communication is something we are always looking to improve here at the Children's Center. With everyone's busy schedules and time constraints we are looking for ways to keep you informed about what is happening at the center and in your child's classroom. Here are a few ways and places you can look to stay in the know.

-Hallway parent board: Here you will find postings for upcoming close dates, weekly menus, monthly newsletters and articles, and any notices or upcoming events.

-Classroom parent board: Each classroom has a parent board located right by their entry way. On them you will find that classroom's daily schedule, a parent handbook, and that week's lesson plan.

-Children's Center website: Check out our updated website!

www.childrenscenter@uic.edu