

# UIC CHILDREN'S CENTER

AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME

Welcome to our August newsletter. There are a few important dates to remember. **The Children's Center will be closed for 2 weeks, August 12-23, 2019. We will reopen on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The Family Potluck is scheduled for Friday, August 2, 2019.** This month's newsletter includes a summary of activities for the month from each classroom. There is also an at-home math activity and a July book list. Have a safe and fun summer month!

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Samantha

## Important Reminders:

- 8/12-23- Children's Center Closed\*
- 8/26- Children's Center Reopens\*

## July Birthdays:

- Leo D.- 8/27

## Events:

- 8/2- Family Potluck 5-7pm
- 8/23- Open House (for new & returning families) Time- TBA

### \*SUMMER FAMILY POTLUCK\*

**AUGUST 2, 2019**

**5:00PM-7:00PM**

Bring a dish to share with friends! And a blanket or chair to sit on.

Bring the whole family!


We will provide the drinks

**Last day of school for children who are not registered for the new school year is Friday, \*August 9<sup>th</sup>\***



*"Tips to help your kids transition back to school"*

<https://www.family-institute.org/behavioral-health-resources/tips-help-your-kids-transition-back-school>



A look at this month  
from each  
classroom...

#### From the Blue Room:

For the month of August, the Blue Room will continue to explore planting, gardening and harvesting fruits and vegetable. Because of the children's interest in this area, we have decided to talk to the children about healthy eating. We will also learn more about the various foods and the health and nutrition benefits food gives our bodies. Within the last two weeks of school, we will wrap up healthy eating/nutrition. Before the end of the school year, we will have conversations with the children about moving to new surroundings, such as new classrooms, new schools and or new places to live. We will encourage the children to talk openly and freely about their feelings, worries, and even their excitement that comes with transitions and moving on to new environments. As a special gift, we will have "goodbye books" to send home with the children for their end of the year exit!

#### From the Orange Room:

Students in the Orange Room have shown an interest in science based activities. They are still exploring bugs and thanks to Calla's family, we now have two caterpillars in the classroom. We are excited to watch their growth process. We will wrap up our bug study by talking about the life cycle of a caterpillar. We will introduce related words to the children such as larva and chrysalis. We will also observe the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly. Students will draw observations, paying close attention to the caterpillar and chrysalis appearance.

The end of the school year is near and we are working on good-bye shirts and pictures. Children are discussing upcoming transitions to kindergarten and their thoughts. We believe that this transition can be easier for the children when teachers and parents help prepare children for the big move. We will help the children by encouraging conversations and reading books about kindergarten/transitions.

#### From the Green Room:

This month, our focus is on ocean animals. We will read books and sing songs on ocean life. As an end of the year treat, Teachers Brittany, Juan and Sammie will work on "end of the year books." These special books include work samples and pictures that each child has done throughout the year. This book will be given to parents at the end of the summer semester. The last week we will focus on our favorite songs and books for the entire year, and discuss our favorite things that made our year together wonderful and awesome. The Green Room would also like to talk about friendships. This will include making personal gifts to one another. Making these gifts would allow the children to have a special item to enjoy over the summer break.

*August Math Game: This math game*

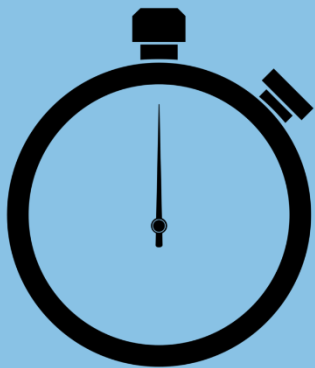
## Measure, count, and record

Most kids love stopwatches, and watching the seconds tick by gives them opportunities to practice counting. Measure distances and heights. Count jumping jacks, push-ups, or consecutive kicks of a soccer ball.

**Ask your child:** *How far can you throw a ball? Take a guess, then throw the ball as far as you can and measure the distance.*

*How many jumping jacks can you do in a minute? Try it!*

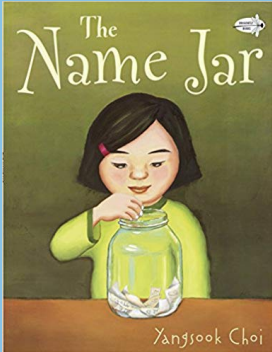
*How many times can you jump rope or bounce a ball without missing? Count and see.*



Reference: Duncan et al. (2007) School Readiness and Later Achievement. *Developmental Psychology*, Vol. 43, No. 6, 1428-1446.

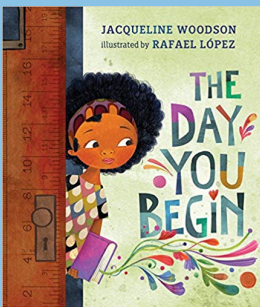
*August Book List:* This month's book list includes books that highlight topics related to the summer season. How fun is it to explore mud puddles and oceans on a hot summer day.

*The Name Jar- Yangsook Choi*



Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar has mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it—*Yoon-Hey*.

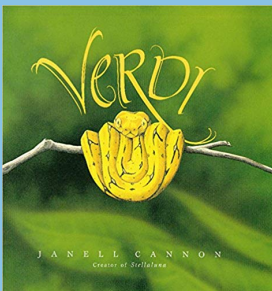
*The Day you Begin- Jacqueline Woodson*



There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.

Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes-and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

*Verdi- Janell Cannon*



Young Verdi doesn't want to grow up big and green. He likes his bright yellow skin and sporty stripes. Besides, all the green snakes he meets are lazy, boring, and rude. When Verdi finds a pale green stripe stretching along his whole body, he tries every trick he can think of to get rid of it--and ends up in a heap of trouble. Despite his efforts, Verdi turns green, but to his delight, he discovers that being green doesn't mean he has to stop being himself.

## Just a reminder that our last Pot Luck Dinner is August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm-7pm

### FAQ

- **Where can we park?**

Families are welcome to park on the Children's Center driveway (next to the playground). The driveway gets crowded on potluck night; please be considerate of others when you park. If your campus parking is close enough to walk or you can carpool with another family, we highly recommend that.

- **What should I bring?**

Just about anything goes! Homemade or store bought items. Take out foods like pizza or chicken. Fruit or veggie trays. Kid friendly foods like PB& J or Macaroni & Cheese. Even desert. Whatever makes it easiest for you!

- This potluck is outside so bring a blanket or chairs to sit on. We do have several picnic benches on the playground as well.

- **Can I drop my dish off when I bring my child to school?**

Yes! A staff member will help you put it away. Please label your dish by telling us what it is and any special instructions (ie heating instructions). We also appreciate knowing if a dish contains meat (particularly pork) or nuts. This way we can label dishes accordingly.

- **Is it possible to heat up my dish?**

Yes! We are happy to reheat but due to limited space and time we cannot cook items completely. Please be sure to let us know to use an oven or microwave, reheating temperature and time.

- **Do I need to bring a serving utensil?**

No. If you do bring your own please be sure to label it; serving utensils are often the things that accidently get taken home by the wrong people. Labeling your serving bowl isn't a bad idea either.

Just a couple of other food related items to keep in mind:

- Drinks will be provided.
- If you are bringing something that requires a bowl please let me know in advance so we can have the bowls and spoons ready.

- **Can I bring other members of our family?**

Yes! All family members are welcome.

- **What if we can't make it?**

We will miss you! Talking with your child about your family's plans will make leaving school tomorrow easier.

If you have a question that has not been answered, please let us know. Pot Luck dinners are really a great time and we hope to see you there.