Dear ECDC-ND SY Families,

**IMPORTANT DATES AND CONTACT NUMBERS**

Even though it is only early summer, it is helpful to look ahead to the upcoming school year. It is our hope that this letter will help you and your child prepare for the upcoming school year. The first day of the 2018-19 School Year is Monday, August 20, 2018. The Family Open House is Friday, August 17, 2018. ECDC-ND phone number: 574-631-3344, fax: 574-631-7808 and email: Thayer Kramer, ECDC-ND Program Director, thayerkramerecdc@yahoo.com and Terri Kosik, ECDC Executive Director, tkosik@saintmarys.edu.

**FAMILY OPEN HOUSE - Friday, August 17, 2018, 4:00-6:00pm**

Friday, August 17, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. is the ECDC-ND annual, beginning of the school year Family Open House. Families with last names beginning with A-M are invited from 4:00 - 5:00pm. Families with last names beginning with N-Z are invited from 5:00 - 6:00pm. If the time designated for your family to attend the Open House does not work, please feel free to come at the other time.

If you are unable to attend the Friday Open House, the teachers will be working in their rooms on Thursday afternoon, August 16; you and your child are welcome to stop by for a short visit with the teachers between 2:00pm and 4:00pm. Our goal is to make sure a child new to ECDC-ND will have the opportunity to visit at least once before her/his first day. A visit with mom and/or dad to meet teachers and to explore the activity rooms and playground is very helpful in supporting the child’s adjustment on the first day of school.

**It is helpful to bring the following items to the Open House~**

- **One photograph of your child for the front of her/his locker.** If possible, have your child help you select the picture to bring to school for his/her locker.

- **One complete change of clothing to keep on the top shelf of your child’s locker.** These clothes will be used by your child should he/she experience a bathroom accident or spill milk or juice on her/his clothing. Children feel more comfortable putting on their own clothing if they do need to remove wet clothes. If your child experiences frequent bathroom accidents, please provide several sets of clothing, including socks and an extra pair of shoes or slippers. Please mark your child’s name on the extra clothing and store in a plastic bag on the top shelf of his/her locker. Please keep your child’s extra clothing seasonal and check them often to make sure a complete set of clothes is always available. Thank you.
➤ **RESTING ITEMS** for children attending in the afternoons in the 2's, 3's, 3/4's, 4's and 4/5's: 1 small (crib size) pillow and 1 small (crib size) blanket. Children enrolled in the mornings only do not need to bring resting items. Resting items are optional for children enrolled in kindergarten. Kindergarten children still napping on a regular basis are encouraged to bring resting items. (Kindergarten children not napping regularly do not need resting items.) Please note: bed size pillows, bed size blankets and large or small sleeping bags may not be used at ECDC for rest times due to limited storage space and cleanliness and safety issues. Please provide crib size pillows and crib size blankets.

➤ **ART SUPPLIES:**
* 1 package of 8 color, *washable* markers
* 1 box of 8 color Jumbo Crayons; Kindergarteners may bring reg. 24 count crayons
* 4 oz bottle of *SCHOOL GLUE*, please do not send all purpose glue
* Paint smock (optional - this can be an adult shirt with the sleeves cut off or a plastic smock)

**SY PARENT ORIENTATION**
Three upcoming ECDC 18-19 SY Parent Orientation meetings are scheduled - 1 at ECDC-SMC & 2 at ECDC-ND. Parents are welcome to attend either program site’s orientation session regardless of where their child is enrolled. The same orientation to SY material will be shared at each session. These meetings are primarily designed for new to ECDC families, however, returning families are also welcome to attend. Sign-up to attend one of the SY Orientations for Parents here.

➤ **Tues., July 31st @ ECDC-SMC, 4:00pm - 5:00pm**
➤ **Wed., August 8th @ ECDC-ND, 4:00pm - 5:00pm**
➤ **Tues., October 16th @ ECDC-ND, 4:00 - 5:00pm**

**BREAKFAST**
ECDC-ND offers a breakfast from 7:00 until 8:15am. A variety of breakfast items rotate through the menus; including oatmeal, waffles, yogurt, cold cereal, and toast.

**LABOR DAY - September 3, 2018**
PLEASE NOTE: ECDC is open on Labor Day, Mon, Sept. 3, 2018 due to Saint Mary's College and Notre Dame conducting classes on this day. If your child *will not* be attending on Sept. 3/Labor Day, please contact the ECDC-ND office on or before September 1st (631-3344) to provide this information. This will help us plan for staffing and lunches. Our goal is to avoid wasting food, primarily lunches, due to absences on this day; we would like to order lunches only for those children attending on Labor Day, thank you.

**ECDC-SMC Early Closures on 5 Friday Afternoons at 4:00pm to Assist Teachers/Program Staff with Preparation for Upcoming NAEYC Accreditation Process & Visit**
ECDC-SMC and ECDC-ND will close at 4:00pm on the following Friday afternoons: 9/7/18, 10/19/18, 11/30/18, 1/11/19 and 3/15/19. The early closure at 4:00pm on 5 Fridays will allow our
teachers to meet for a 4:15-5:30pm full group teachers meeting to prepare for the NAEYC Accreditation process and visit. We realize that this may be an inconvenience for our families and will do our best to see if we might be able to pull together a list of college students available to help parents by picking up children in the role of a babysitter. This is a one year “pilot” that will be re-evaluated prior to the 19-20 SY including parent feedback in our school year evaluation.

**ECDC-ND CURRICULUM NIGHT FOR PARENTS**

**Tuesday, September 25th, 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.** Parents spend time in their child's classroom learning about the ECDC curriculum and learning goals for the 2018-19 School Year. This evening event for parents provides the opportunity to get further acquainted with the teachers and learn about the daily schedule, curriculum and program related topics as well as have your questions answered. **7:30-8:00 p.m. Refreshments and Get-Acquainted Time with other ECDC Parents.** FYI - Curriculum Night is for adult family members only. We hope you can attend! Please sign-up [here](#).

**INDIVIDUAL AND CLASS PICTURES – Wed, Oct. 3 and Thurs, Oct. 4, 2018**

In early October, Heirloom Pictures will be at ECDC-ND to take both individual and class pictures. More info will be distributed in late September about individual and class photos. Parents must submit a pre-paid order on or before October 3rd to participate.

**ECDC-ND IS OPEN DURING FALL BREAK – October 15-19, 2018**

ECDC is open during ND/SMC Fall Break, 10/15-10/19, 2018. Families are invited to visit their child's classroom if their schedule permits. Please sign up [here](#).

**2019-20 SY KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR PARENTS**

The Kindergarten Lead Teacher will present the kindergarten curriculum and activities, daily schedule, provide parents with examples of K projects and journals, and answer questions. Please sign-up [here](#).

- Fri., November 16, 2018 - 4:00pm - 5:00pm at ECDC-ND in the Gross Motor Room
- Thurs., January 17, 2019 - 4:00pm - 5:00pm at ECDC-ND in the Gross Motor Room

**BOOK FAIR – November 12-16, 2018**

Each year, ECDC holds a book fair at both program sites. The purpose is to assist families in locating and selecting quality books for their children and raise funds to purchase educational materials for ECDC classrooms. We are hopeful that all families will do some holiday shopping at our book fair.

**SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SCREENINGS – December 4-5, 2018**

ECDC offers Speech, Language & Hearing screenings through the Saint Mary's College Communicative Disorders graduate program. Screenings at ECDC-ND will be on Tues. & Wed., December 4 & 5. Parents will be provided with permission forms to fill out if they are interested in these screenings. Only children with written parent permission will be screened.
Speech, Language & Hearing screenings are $20 per child (with financial assistance available if needed)

**ECDC CLOSED for THANKSGIVING – November 21, 22 & 23, 2018**

**& WINTER BREAK – December 24, 2018-January 4, 2019**

ECDC will be closed for Thanksgiving Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - November 21, 22, and 23, 2018, and will be closed for winter break beginning Monday, December 24, 2018 through Friday, January 4, 2019 at both ECDC program sites. Parents are not assessed tuition for these time periods when ECDC is closed.

**2018-19 SY TUITION**

[http://ecdc.nd.edu/registration/tuition/ecdc-nd-tuition-schedule](http://ecdc.nd.edu/registration/tuition/ecdc-nd-tuition-schedule)

Attached you will find the **2018-19 School Year Tuition Schedule**, which reflects a tuition increase of 2%; this is a direct result of increased program costs from health insurance for teachers and staff, food costs, consumable materials, and educational materials.

- **ECDC Tuition is billed for the full semester.** Parents may pay for the full semester (e.g., fall, spring and summer) or may elect to pay their tuition as follows:
  - **Fall Semester** – Divide the tuition invoice into 2 equal amounts paying one half on Aug 20 and one half on Nov 1. Divide the tuition invoice into 5 equal amounts remitting equal amounts on Aug 20, Sept 1, Oct 1, Nov 1 and Dec 1. Or, divide the tuition into 9 equal amounts remitting equal payments on Aug 20, Sept 1 & 15, Oct 1 & 15, Nov 1 & 15, and Dec 1 & 15.
  - **Spring Semester** – Divide the tuition invoice into 2 equal amounts paying one half on Jan 7 and one half on Mar 1. Divide the tuition invoice into 5 equal amounts, remitting equal payments on Jan 7, Feb 1, March 1, April 1 & May 1. Or, divide the tuition into 9 equal amounts remitting equal payments on Jan 7 & 15, Feb 1 & 15, March 1 & 15, April 1 & 15, and May 1.
  - **Weekly Tuition Payments** - Tuition may be paid on a weekly basis; please call the ECDC office to arrange weekly payments. ECDC tuition must be paid in advance. Please call the ECDC office should you have tuition questions (574-631-3344).
  - **Student Activity Fees:** A $30 student activity fee is assessed each school year semester as follows - August/Sept and in January for children enrolled in the 2’s, 3’s, and 3/4’s. A $60 student activity fee is assessed each school year semester as follows – Aug/Sept and January for children enrolled in the 4’s, 4/5’s and Kindergarten. The summer program includes a student activity fee - $140 for all full time summer enrollment schedules and for all school-age schedules (Full Time/MWF All Day/TTH All Day); there is a $95 summer student activity fee for all part time summer preschool enrollment schedules.
  - **Payment Agreements** - Parents may, from time to time, have difficulty making monthly tuition payments due to unforeseen financial circumstances. If a parent(s) finds that he/she is unable to remit monthly tuition payments when due, the parent(s) must promptly notify ECDC’s Executive Director so that an agreement for the payment of past due tuition can be arranged. Failure to notify ECDC’s Executive Director or to comply with the payment agreement within one month of the date a tuition payment was due will jeopardize a child’s continued enrollment at ECDC. Please note: ECDC is an Indiana Nonprofit Corporation completely separate from the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College. ECDC is dependent upon tuition to meet financial obligations (e.g., payroll, food costs).
  - **Tuition may be paid with a personal check, money order or certified check.** ECDC does not accept credit card or debit card payments. ECDC uses the parent paid tuition to pay teacher salaries in addition to lunches and snacks, so timely tuition payments are great appreciated. Thank you!

**SCHOOL YEAR FIELD TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION**

ECDC is the proud owner of a Bluebird Special Activities School Bus. The ECDC-SMC children in the 4’s and 4/5’s will use this bus for field trip transportation. The bus is equipped with child harness seat restraints and will transport an entire class of children, teachers and parent
helpers on field trips. Each semester, the 4’s and 4/5’s class groups will participate in several morning field trips. Unfortunately, we are unable to schedule afternoon field trips due to lack of bus drivers. Children enrolled with afternoon only schedules will be invited to attend a morning field trip. In addition, in the afternoons we schedule visitors who are experts to share unique information with our children providing hands-on enrichment experiences. Some examples of these special visitors include Potawatomi Zoologist, St. Patrick’s Park Naturalist, Fernwood Botanical Garden Naturalists, ND Police Officers with their ND K9 dogs/officers, and ND Fire Fighters. Parents are required to sign permission in advance for each off-site field trip. Please be watchful for field trip permission postings near the daily sign in and out sheets, thank you.

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES - November and December**

Parent Teacher Conferences are 30 minutes in length and are an important part of our communication with families. Conferences are scheduled during the morning, afternoon and evening to accommodate various family schedules. Conference sign-up information will be emailed to families in mid to late October. If, for any reason, you would like to speak formally to your child’s teacher prior to these scheduled conferences, please do not hesitate to request a conference with the teacher directly or call the school office and we will gladly arrange a time for you and the teacher to meet.

**ECDC-ND DIRECTORY**

During the month of September, families will receive the 2018-19 School Year Directory of all ECDC-ND children in their child’s class; including parents’ names, addresses, email addresses and home telephone numbers. This directory should be helpful in organizing car pools, friends over to play and birthday parties. **WE ASK THAT BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATIONS NOT BE DISTRIBUTED AT SCHOOL, RATHER PLEASE USE THIS DIRECTORY TO MAIL THE INVITATIONS.** When party invitations are hung on lockers or distributed at school some children experience hurt feelings. Parties usually do not include all the children in the class and some children are left out. Mailing party invitations to the home will alleviate hurt feelings at school.

**HELPFUL INFORMATION**

1. The following forms are required for all children each school year and are due on or before **August 1, 2018**:  
   - Emergency Information Form  
   - General Information Form  
   - Emergency Health Information and Medical Plan Form  
   - School Messenger Emergency Contact Information Form  
   - Tuition Payment Options & Parent Agreement Form

All forms are available on the ECDC website at [http://ecdc.nd.edu/registration/enrollment-forms](http://ecdc.nd.edu/registration/enrollment-forms).

Children **new** to ECDC must also submit the following required forms on or before **August 1, 2018**:

- Physical Form completed by their doctor  
- Birth Certificate Report Form  
- a copy of the child’s birth certificate  
- Waiver & Release Agreement Form
All forms are available on the ECDC website at [http://ecdc.nd.edu/registration/enrollment-forms](http://ecdc.nd.edu/registration/enrollment-forms). If you have questions about the forms or their due dates, please call the ECDC office at 574-631-3344.

If a family is participating in the ECDC-ND 2018-19 SY income based tuition scholarship, family income documentation was due June 1. If you submitted income documentation for the 2018 Summer program, resubmission for 2018-19 SY isn’t required. Please call 631-3344 or email Terri Kosik at tkosik@saintmarys.edu if you have any questions about the required forms or income documentation.

2. ECDC-ND opens daily at 6:30 a.m. and closes promptly at 5:30 p.m. An ECDC teacher arrives at 6:25 a.m. to open our facility. Parents may leave their children at 6:30 a.m., when a teacher is available to supervise. A $15.00 late fee charge per child per fifteen (15) minute increment will be assessed to parents picking children up after 5:30 p.m.

3. Parents are asked to sign children in and out daily on the attendance sheet located in your child’s activity room. If your child is or will be absent, please call the ECDC office with this information. The State requires ECDC to keep records regarding all absences.

4. ECDC doesn’t have the means to supervise children inside and outside at the same time. If a child is too sick to participate outdoors, the child is too sick to attend ECDC-ND.

5. ECDC may only administer PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION that is in the original container bearing the original label with the prescription number, date, physician’s name, directions for use, and the child’s name. We cannot administer nonprescription medication, such as cough drops, cough medicine, children’s Tylenol, throat lozenges, vitamins, etc. If your physician prescribes a nonprescription drug or gives you sample medication, we can only administer such medication with a written, signed authorization from the physician, including the date, child’s name, directions for use, and physician’s signature. Medication must be locked in our medicine cabinet or placed in our refrigerator; medicine cannot be left in a child’s locker.

6. The ECDC Calendar is located on the ECDC website at [http://ecdc.nd.edu/our-schools/calendar](http://ecdc.nd.edu/our-schools/calendar) and includes dates of special events (orientations, curriculum night, school readiness presentations, conferences, open houses, screenings) as well as time periods when ECDC is closed.

**ADJUSTING TO ECDC**

A few children will experience some tears and/or clinginess to their parents during the moment of the separation good-bye. Separation anxiety is typical for some preschool children and usually short lived (thank goodness). Even though children are excited and happy to come to school, when it is time to say good-bye to mom and/or dad, they will become sad and display tears or reluctance. We realize it is very difficult for a parent to leave a crying child at school. Do not hesitate to contact the ECDC office during the day (631-3344) to see how your child is doing. Be assured that should a child have difficulty calming after a tearful goodbye, we would
contact the parents. As the month of September progresses, your child will gradually display less and less anxiety and more eagerness for the new experiences preschool and kindergarten provide. Patience, support, reassurance and encouragement are the ingredients needed to assist the child through this process of adjusting to school. Children find it very helpful to have a consistent routine each day upon arrival at ECDC, for example:

1) going to your child's locker to put any items inside (jacket, special blanket)
2) sign in on the sign-in sheet located in your child's room
3) greet the teachers in the room
4) if your child brought a lovey (e.g. stuffed animal), please encourage her/him to put it in his/her locker
5) give your child a hug and kiss good-bye, reassuring him/her that you will be back to get him/her and hear about all the fun things she/he did at school
6) leaving your child with one of the teachers

This type of a routine, on an everyday basis, provides children with predictability and helps children understand what comes next in the sequence as they prepare for the good-bye. If your child does cry, one of the ECDC teachers will ask if she/he can help you. This allows you to decide if you want the staff member to help your child as you leave by holding and reassuring her or him. Should you ever have any questions or concerns about separation, please do not hesitate to talk with your child's teacher or one of the ECDC-ND Program Directors.

We are looking forward to an enriching and fun filled school year with you and your child(ren). Enjoy the summer, see you soon!

Sincerely,

Terri Kosik
Terri Kosik, Executive Director
574-631-3344 or 574-298-3353 (cell)
tkosik@saintmarys.edu