



Dickinson College Children's Center July 2020

From the Director's Desk

Welcome to July. I'm not sure how we got here so fast but it has definitely been a busy last couple of weeks. It has been great seeing all the smiling faces as they arrive for the day so very eager to get their day started. We continue to welcome back our second phase of children to the center. DCCC is now operating at fifty percent of enrollment for the next several weeks.

We are excited to share that in June, we applied for funding through the CARES ACT designated for Child Care Centers. We received the funding for both DCCC and the Summer School Age Program. On July 9th we received another email stating that additional funding is available once again for Child Care Centers. This funding is extremely important to help cover the salaries and wages that we continue to pay regardless of our low enrollments. We know how important child care is to the employees of the college and the community. It definitely is a "Team" effort reopening and establishing new guidelines and procedures.

All preschool families should have received the email in regards to the EITC scholarships available to those families (those entering Yellow Bears and up) that qualify. Please take the time to check out the income levels and feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Staff continue to implement new cleaning and disinfecting procedures. We are encouraging mask wearing with the children, washing hands, spacing seating apart at snacks, meals and nap and line up times. Mask wearing for the children has been going well and we continue to model as Teachers how to use our masks. It is a process and we are all doing our very best. We continue to have separate play times, use separate outside doors to go to the playgrounds and disinfect playground equipment/toys after each use. We continue to change to outside shoes to lessen the frequency of contamination within our rooms.

During July we will have a number of staff taking time off for appointments, vacations or just time away from the center. This will require DCCC and the Summer School Age Programs to begin to use substitutes within some of our classrooms. The goal is to be as consistent as we can but we also have to be wise in still following all our state regulations with ratios and supervision. Please know that we are constantly reviewing our schedules and staff coverage. All substitutes attended a COVID-19 meeting in June in order to review all new policies and procedures. Our entire staff have been extremely flexible and are working with much diligence to keep your child safe and healthy when attending care. Please do your part and supply a mask daily!

As of July 7th, OCDEL (Office of Child Development and Early Learning) along with DHS has issued a report to provide additional guidance to Child Care Centers. I plan to have additional information that should go out by Monday, July 13th addressing any changes to our current policies or procedures related to COVID-19.

We have set a date in July to meet with the Advisory Committee so that we can continue to plan for the fall in order to be able to continue our new procedures related to COVID- 19.

Thank you all for your support and positive attitudes in returning to care.

Gina VanKirk
Director Dickinson College Children's Center

DCCC Family Handbook Update:

For those of you waiting to sign the DCCC Family Handbook Acknowledgement Form until you were able to review the current Handbook, your wait is over! It is now posted online (hard copy available upon request from the office):

https://www.dickinson.edu/download/downloads/id/11690/dccc_family_handbook_2020.pdf

Dates to Remember:

**August 14—DCCC
Closed for Staff
Training
Open House 3-4 p.m.**

**August 17—First day in
new classrooms
First day of
Kindergarten!**

**August 19—
Kindergarten
Orientation 6:00 p.m.**

**August 26—
Kindergarten Family
Fun Night
6:00 p.m.**

Fundraising

Here at DCCC we rely on fundraising to purchase new supplies for the classrooms, the teachers, and the playgrounds. Each year our goal is, \$15,000. Our year starts July 1st! This is definitely a strange year to hold successful fundraising for sure! We try to plan many dinners out to earn a percentage of those dinners, plus it's a fun opportunity for families to hang out outside of the center to get to know each other. Not to mention the added bonus of taking the pressure off of working parents to not have to make dinner!

Unfortunately, many restaurants are still on hold for scheduling these fundraising nights at this point. But, what we do have in the works is another sandwich sale, like we were supposed to have in March. We will have that the beginning of September once we all get settled into our new classrooms. Another yummy fundraiser is, Freckled Moose, Butter Braids! Oh my goodness! These pastries are fantastic! And they come frozen for you to pull out when you want to serve a special breakfast treat, or impress your visitors with an amazing bakery! We hope this works out.

If you have any fundraising ideas, that are easy for families to handle, we will take them!

Don't forget to join the Giant A+ rewards—please let us know if you're unsure of how this works!

We just received our check for over \$900 from Giant!

Visit your app store for these other “fun” fundraising opportunities:

- **Shoparoo**
- **Box Tops**

Ducklings



This year July will bring lots of changes! As we begin to transition back to DCCC some of our friends will begin an early transition to the puppy room. This is a big transition for them, and will be exciting because Steph will be in the room with them for the month! This move will help us to maintain consistent staffing between the infant and toddler rooms, lessening the amount of people in the group. The rest of the group will be in the infant room with Laci and Mimi! Once we are settled back in, we will be practicing sitting in real toddler-size chairs, feeding ourselves table foods with utensils and cups, and working toward a toddler schedule. Our “big idea” for the month is summer days. We will get outside to enjoy the sunshine, read some summer themed books, and enjoy playing with each other again!

~Laci & Mimi

Reminders:

Please bring seasonal outfits to replace the winter ones we have! You may also need to bring larger diapers! Make sure finger foods are cut in appropriate size pieces for your child. Round foods, such as grapes and hot dogs, need to be cut into quarters.

Please remember shoes and hats for our time outside on the playground!



Yellow Puppies

Summer is here ! It has just been so wonderful finally being back at DCCC. We have been learning about how we can stay safe in the sun with sunscreen, and by wearing sun hats and sunglasses. We also have been emphasizing how important hand washing is, more than ever, and have a few new, fun hand washing songs. We have read fun summer beach books, and sang happy songs like “You Are My Sunshine and “If All the Sunbeams”. What a great time we have had being back together enjoying playing outside in the warm, summer breeze. We had a super time sitting under our tent outside pretending to camp, and playing in the sandbox as if we were on a beach. We painted sea-shells and sandcastles, danced to “Baby Beluga” and “Baby Shark” and giggled while we blew bubbles! What a way to start the summer off!

July is a month filled with water and transportation themes. We will read books about cars and trucks such as *Little Blue Truck* and *Little Blue Truck in the Big City*. There will be many types of transportation toys to play with inside and out. We will even pretend to paint the riding toys with water and brushes. Our water theme will include learning about ocean and lake creatures and things we do at the pool or beach. The toy sea animals are lots of fun to play with, and pretending we are swimming under water with them will be quite an adventure! We will also be making some red, white and blue art. What a great time we will have as we welcome our friends back. We sure have missed you! - Alisha and Diana



**Happy Birthday
to Wyatt who
is turning two
on July 5th!**

**Happy Birthday
to Sam who is
turning two on
July 27th!**



**We will need
sun hats for
outdoor play
time!**

Blue Puppies



We have adjusted well to being back at school and we are awaiting some more friends to join us here in July!

The beginning of July had us looking patriotic with RED, WHITE, and BLUE crafts. We made fire works, painted stars, and listened to patriotic music. We wore our red, white, and blue apparel on Thursday.

We will then explore what grows in gardens, fruits, vegetable and flowers. The puppies will look at books about food that grows in gardens. We will



make a paper plate watermelon, paint a garden, and sing songs about them. The puppies will be making flowers with our hands and paper towel rolls. We will identify the different colors of flowers we see.

What's a garden without bugs? The puppies will have fun exploring them as well as color a bee, paint beetles, do some matching games and look for them outside.

REMINDERS:

~If your child will, please bring in a hat, and/or sunglasses for them to wear outside.

Thank you, Cathryn & Donna

Yellow Honey Bees



Hello Yellow Bee Families! Although the month of June was much different than usual, it was good to be back. The children have adjusted well to our “new normal” of wearing masks for part of the day, changing their shoes, and extra handwashing. We are so proud of them.

We look forward to the month of July when many of our Yellow Bees will be returning to school. We understand that this transition may be difficult. We will continue to work on teaching classroom routines, and reacclimating to being with their friends and their teachers again.

Our theme for the month of July is, “Let's Go!” We will open our suitcase on Monday mornings and will make a prediction about where we are traveling for the week. Will we be camping, going to the beach, going to the farm, or traveling to Disneyworld?

For those Yellow Bees returning in July, please make sure that you have updated your change of clothes for summer time temperatures. Extra underwear and socks are also helpful. Closed-toe playground shoes, and sunscreen are also a must. And finally, don't forget your mask and inside shoes.

We look forward to seeing all of you again!

Barb and Michele



Blue Bees



As we arrived back to DCCC in the month of June, many things were very different. The biggest difference was the very low numbers in the Blue Bee room. But that just meant more individual time with teachers. Some other changes we have made is that there are less toys on the shelves so we can be sure that they are all being cleaned between play times. We are wearing masks during free play times when we will be closer together or playing with a peer so we can be sure to keep our germs to ourselves instead of sharing them with each other. When we are not wearing masks, we are trying to keep distance between ourselves during times such as snacks, lunch, large motor and outdoors. We are also washing hands more often and are working really hard to have a 20 second scrub time to make sure we get our hands squeaky clean for playing, eating snacks and lunch, after we use the potty, when we arrive in the morning and coming in from outside on the playground. We also have two sets of shoes one for inside and one pair for outside that we switch when we arrive to school, before going outside and before going home. Another change is that we do not combine with the yellow bees in the morning, outside on the playground and at the end of the day. All these changes are helping us to stay as safe as possible during this time of Covid 19. We will continue to follow these new procedures until further notice. One change we will do for July is that the families will now be allowed to enter the building and bring their Blue Bee to the Blue Bee door but we ask that only the child enter the room until further notice. Although we had many changes in June, we still managed to have fun learning about Sun and Summer Safety and we had a fun week talking about Outdoor Fun.

In July we will be saying welcome back to some more Blue Bee families and we will also be following most of the safety guidelines that we followed in June with one change that parents will now be able to bring their Blue Bee to the classroom door.

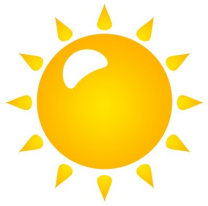
July Theme: Vacation Let's Go – We will talk about going to the beach, visiting the zoo, camping fun and transportation.

Parental Reminders:

- *Remember to bring an extra pair of shoes for your child to keep here for indoor play
- *Your child should bring a clean mask each day to school
- *Check your child's cubby for extra change of clothing (shirt, shorts, socks, and underwear)

—Cassie & Jody

Yellow Bear Cubs



Starting off the month of June with welcoming some of our teddy bears back and reviewing our DCCC's Big 3: Be Kind, Be Safe and Be Responsible as well as our center expectations! The bears didn't miss a beat, I was so proud of them! We enjoyed our Frog and Tadpole week. We have a great understanding of how to be safe in the sun after our Fun in the Sun week. The last week and beginning of July had us feeling the patriotic spirit!



We will start back after the 4th, sailing the high seas with a bunch of teddy bear pirates! We will continue our month with some Fun at the Beach! The fun will continue with two weeks of Fairy and Folk Tales!

Mandy



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Blue Bears



Even though this June has been anything but typical, we have had lots of fun doing science experiments, playing pirates and looking for buried treasure. We did some fun activities with stars and stripes as well.

As we welcome back some of our Blue Bear friends in July, we will take it slow and try to get back into a routine. We will do a show and tell with our masks and try to help the kiddos feel comfortable wearing them during our free play times. We will also be working on making cards to send to Miss Ange wishing her well on her new adventure.

One of the fun themes for July is camping. We will pretend we are at Camp Blue Bear. Through dramatic play, we will hike, fish, build campfires and more.



Another fun theme is Beach and ocean. We will learn about some animals that live in the ocean and have dramatic play like we are vacationing on the beach.

I know it may be difficult for some of our Blue Bear friends to transition back into the classroom with all that has taken place, but I am determined to make it a fun, safe place for all of us.

Ms Kendra

Bunnies



BUNNIES SUMMER FAVORITES SO FAR:

JOLENE—LOVED THE PLAYGROUND AT OCEAN CITY

OLIVIA—LIKED THE FIREWORKS ON THE 4TH OF JULY

CLARENCE—LIKED PLAYING WITH THE BEACH BALL WITH HIS SISTER

MILES—LOVES GOING SWIMMING

BELAL—LOVED GOING OT THE BEACH WITH HIS FAMILY

LYRIC—LIKED PLAYING WITH FRIENDS AND GOING TO THE SPRINKLER

The Bunnies were eager to have more of our friends join us for the month of July! We had a great time sharing our room with the blue bear friends last month, but as our class size increases to 10 friends this month, we have to say “see you later” to those friends!

As we welcome our friends back to the Bunny room, we’ll pay close attention to our DCCC big 3 rules! Being safe, being kind, and being responsible Bunnies will help us have the most fun! Hand washing, toy rotation, and some new social distancing measures will be taken throughout portions of our day! We will be responsible and learn how and when to wear our masks! Rest assured, wearing a mask will be a transition we will work on together.

In July our learning topics will be full of adventure as we dive in to a deep sea adventure! We’ll explore the oceans and seas! We’ll also go back in time; prehistoric time to walk with the dinosaurs!

We are very much looking forward to our friends being back and going on these adventures together!

ˆ SARAH

Summer School-Age Program Swimming Announcement:



Each summer we look forward to being able to walk over to Dickinson's Kline Athletic Center to use the swimming pool at their facility. After submitting a plan to the pool for our use it was determined that, unfortunately, due to the different kind of year we are having due to the pandemic, we will not be able to use the pool this summer. We are hopeful that by next summer we will be back to being able to walk and swim.

We are confident that while we are disappointed with this news, that the teachers in each of our Dragons programs will provide some entertaining and fun replacement activities!

Thank you,
Gina VanKirk
Director, DCCC

Dragons 1

Wow what a fantastic first month of camp! I hope your dragon is having as much fun as I am. We explored many new STEM activities and used problem solving skills to make new things. We made lots of yummy snacks and looked forward to special snack days. Movie day was another favorite and the dragons couldn't wait until movie time. We explored different jungle animals and learn some interesting facts about them. We found lots of creepy crawlers on the playground and some we have never seen before.

Favorite June Activities From Some of the Dragons:

- "Playing Outside"- Delaney**
- "Making a Pirate Ship"- Gregory**
- " Making Worm Dirt"- Sam**
- "Ping Pong Game"- Jack M.**
- "Building with marshmallows"- Jackson**
- "Playing the floor is Lava"- Charley**
- "Making special snacks and Movie Day"- Carter**

During the month of July our first theme are going to be Shipwrecked – Mermaids and Pirates. We are going to make lots of Pirate STEM Creations and Pirate Treats. We will be making our own Treasure map and going on a real Treasure Hunt. Shipwrecked is going to be so much fun. Dress like a Pirate/Mermaid day will be next week on Friday or all week if you are up for the challenge.

Some other Themes will be Beach Fun, Under the Sea, and Hawaiian Luau!! We will be making lots of sea animals crafts using different materials. We will be watching Finding Nemo and Moana for some of our special Movie Days. Don't forgot lots of STEM Activities and some more cooking activities are in the works.



DRAGONS II



Happy Summer Everyone! I cannot believe that summer is finally here, and we can get back to “normalish” and have some fun! We are so excited to be back together and in a new space. We have all enjoyed seeing each other again and meeting some new friends. So far this summer we have had several dance parties, done a few STEM projects, played games like Nuke Em’, volleyball, and jump the creek and started Yoga on Fridays.



As the summer progresses, we are hoping to be able to slowly add more of our “normal” activities back into our schedule and invite visitors into our camp.



What is your favorite thing about being back

at Dragons II?

“Seeing all my friends” KB

“Seeing people” TH

“I like Tetherball!” AC

“Playing Nuke Em’!” CH

“Going swimming, even though we can’t go quite yet” BG

“I like seeing the teachers and my friends”GG

We are looking forward to more fun as the summer continues!

-Ms. Brittney and Ms. Carly