



Dickinson College Children's Center December 2020

From the Director's Desk

Wow, what a fast month we had. The children enjoyed the month doing lots of crafts and enjoying playing with their friends. Usually by this time of the year we would have had many events such as the visit from the Fire Department, Fall Harvest Parade, Turkey Trot and our annual Thanksgiving feast in the big room. It is tough because a lot of what we are giving up due to COVID are the events and activities that we as teachers look forward to. But we understand the importance of keeping our DCCC bubble as small as we can right now and we know it is a small sacrifice for staying healthy.



During December the staff will be busy developing their professional goals, updating online trainings and completing their self assessments as a part of their annual performance reviews.

Thanks to Ms. Barb who has pulled together a number of holiday games to help keep the next few weeks special and lots of fun for all the staff.

A special thank you goes out to all our families. We thank you as parents for a year of learning and support as we continue the journey of growth and development with your child/children. Thank you for sharing your most special gift with us!

We also managed to squeeze in a Fire Drill and an Intruder drill in November. It's important for the children to know what to do in an emergency as well as for the teachers too.

Please remember to help guide your children in walking up and down the hall. We will continue to allow a few parents in at a time for drop off and at pick up so please allow for a few extra minutes since this may take a little extra time to do so.

Have a relaxing holiday and we'll see you all back after the new year. It is sure to be a fantastic 2021 here at DCCC!

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Below are two links that we thought would be helpful for families. The first addresses mental health and the approaching holiday season. The second answers some possible COVID questions:

<https://mailchi.mp/d0905ce2e59f/holiday-mental-health-resources?e=7d1837ccaf>

<https://mailchi.mp/email/answering-your-covid-19-questions?e=4eb3b04218>

Dates to Remember:

December 18—
Last day of Dragons III Remote Learning Program

December 21-
January 10, 2021
DCCC CLOSED
for Holiday Break

January 11,
2021—DCCC Re-opens



Fundraising Updates:

Rite Aid: 3 families registered

How to register for Rite Aid?

Getting started is easy. Just follow these three easy steps:

Support Dickinson College Children's Center by completing the registration form at <https://support.rxfundraising.com/DickinsonCollegeChildrensCenter> Register for a [Rite Aid wellness+ rewards](#) number (if you don't already have one).

[Transfer your existing prescriptions to Rite Aid](#) and start using your Rite Aid wellness+ rewards number to accrue funds for us on prescriptions and qualifying purchases. RXfundraising will automatically give funds to DCCC for 36 months if you continue to fill prescriptions and shop at Rite Aid using your wellness+ rewards number.

Giant A+ Rewards: no longer exists

Shoparoo: \$71.28

Panera Night Out: \$265.77

Chipotle Night Out: \$333.25

Freckled Moose: \$913.50

Charleston Wrap so far: \$1,025 ends 12/7

Total: \$2,608.80

To Go: \$12,391.20

ALWAYS CHECK OUT OUR FUNDRAISING BULLETIN BOARD FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION!



DUCKLINGS

November flew by in the blink of an eye! We had fun exploring our playground and fall leaves that we found while we were outside. We liked the way they crinkled and crumbled. On a few of the chillier days, the older babies who are cruising and walking went outside while the rest of us stayed inside. It's nice to have some small group time to explore! We spent time talking, singing, and reading board books all about fall!



In December we will experience some of the diverse ways that families celebrate the winter holidays, adding new story board books, pictures, music, songs and finger plays to our repertoire. We will continue games that involve clapping and other gestures, such as waving, pointing, blowing kisses and simple sign words. We learn through repetition, repetition, repetition! Playtime will include lots of free floor time, on the playground and in our classroom, with surfaces to pull up and cruise and lots of space to roll and crawl and climb. We love to post your family holiday photos on our bulletin board to help spread the cheer! Please be sure that your baby has appropriate clothing for outdoor weather – we will be spending time outdoors if the temperature/wind chill factor is above 25 degrees F. December will pass quickly with winter break approaching and so much to do and to learn! We wish you all a safe and happy winter holiday season with family and friends!

LACI & STEPH

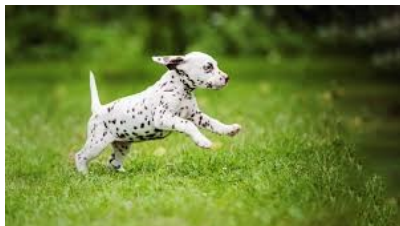
Reminders:

Please check your classroom mailbox regularly!

Please be sure to send in extra clothing that is appropriate for your baby's size (we grow fast!) and the cooler weather ahead. We will play outdoors each day if the temperature is above 25 degrees F.

Please make sure bottles and table food containers are labeled with your baby's name.





YELLOW PUPS

November flew by in the blink of an eye. We spent the month talking about all that we are thankful for! We read some special books, sang some songs, and we are getting especially good at the clapping and stomping motions in “If You’re Happy and You Know It”. We talked about friendships and read and played together. We practiced pointing to our friends when we heard their names, and we worked on saying names, too. The children are getting to be expert handprint artists, and the turkey handprints were so much fun to make!



We always look forward to December! It is a month full of new sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and textures. We’ll dive into the holiday season using our five senses. A special bulletin board will be a fun addition to our room as we learn about special family holiday traditions. We will be making cookie cutter art, singing holiday songs, shaking jingle bells, and looking at lights that are hung in our room, just for a start! We will also be exploring pine branches, wrapping paper, and pinecones. Before our holiday break we will be singing and dancing to some fun, new songs and making a special art project using our handprints and footprints!

ALISHA & DIANA

Family Reminders:

- * We will be going outside as long as it is above 26°. Please make sure your child has a hat, gloves/mittens, and a warm coat!

Please place your child’s coat in the plastic bin in their cubby.
(This way, no little hands will be tempted to pull on coats on hooks.)

Check your child’s mailbox daily.



BLUE PUPPIES



It's the most wonderful time of the year! There are so many sights to be seen and heard this time of year! The puppies are going to be exploring some of fun things that happen around this month.

Since candles are used in so many holiday traditions, the puppies are going to make a candle from a paper towel roll.

The puppies will get to decorate a paper gingerbread house and color a gingerbread man, along with working on our counting skills as we count some gingerbread men.

The puppies will paint with pine branches to make a pine tree, and make a handprint wreath.

We are going to practice on our colors as we hang a strand of colored lights in the room, and we will make hand print lights.

There will be bottles with bells, bows, and ribbons in them to explore in the sensory bins.

We will be sending home a cut out gingerbread person, if you have any family traditions for the holidays, please feel free to share with us and write them on the gingerbread.

FYI:

We are going outside every day, (weather and temperatures permitting) please make sure to have a warm coat, hats, and glove/mittens for your child. The children like to take them off, we do our best to keep them on while outside. We would also like to try and play in the snow, make sure to have snow pants and boots on hand to bring in.

CHOKING HAZARD FOOD FOR TODDLERS:

- Grapes and hot dogs MUST be cut into quarters for us to serve them.
- NO raw vegetables such as broccoli, celery, and carrots.
- We do not serve chips of any kind to toddlers-potato, tortilla, fritos, etc.

We understand you child may eat differently at home, but when in a group care setting these are best practices for safety.

REMINDERS:

~Label yogurts, applesauce cups, and pouches.

~check food labels for "may contain peanuts/tree nuts" or "processed in a facility"

~Check/ask to see if your child has extra seasonal clothes.

~Please check mail box folders and daily sheets for items needed such as diapers, wipe, creams, etc.

~CATHRYN & MIMI

YELLOW HONEY BEES



Hello Yellow Bee Families!

What a wonderful month we had celebrating November. We were busy learning about how to harvest food, talked about what we are thankful for, and of course, learned some turkey facts. We played with pumpkins, apples, and explored the textures of feathers. We even had fun with a few messy science experiments.

We continue to work on developing relationships with one another.

We are learning how to take turns, to share, and what it means to be a good friend. We also spend a lot of time learning to use our imaginations. Talking through our "big emotions" and learning strategies to use to help us calm is also a big part of our day.

And here we are...in the month of December. We are excited to celebrate "The Senses of the Season". We will learn about trees, wreaths, Gingerbread Men, and "Holidays Around the World". We will be asking you about your family traditions and sharing them with one another.

Just a reminder: Please make sure your child has an extra pair of warm clothes at school, an extra mask to wear, and also a warm jacket for those cold days. We go outside as long as the feels like temperature is 25 degrees or higher.

Please also note that the center will be closed Monday, December 21st- Friday January 11th.

~BARB & MICHELE



BLUE BUSY BEES

In November the children talked about family and friends. They learned that families are all different and are made up of people that love and care about each other. We also talked about how the Blue Bee Room is like a family also. We learned about hibernation, migration and adaptation. We talked about and learned about animals that hibernate, migrate and adapt to the cold weather. The blue bees also talked about being Thankful and talked about the things for which they are thankful. We ended the month talking about turkeys and made two cute turkey crafts.



In the month of December the blue bees will talk about and experience the holidays using our 5 senses; taste, touch, smell, sight and sound. The crafts and activities that we do will center around one of the 5 senses.

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and experience a festive time in the month of December.

REMINDERS:

Please make sure your blue bee has a warm coat, hat and gloves to play outside on the playground. We do go outside every day unless the feels like temperature is below 26 and should snow be in the forecast please bring snow boots and snow pants as well.

If you child needs a fork to eat their lunch please be sure to provide on in their lunch box. We have plastic spoons we can give the kids but do not have forks.

Thank You,

ANTOINETTE AND JODY

Preschool Pages...

YELLOW BEAR CUBS



Welcome to December! The month of November flew by while we learned all about trees...parts of a tree, what comes from trees, and why trees are

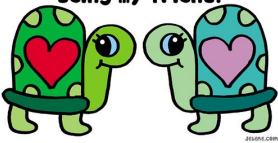
important. Then we finished out the month of November talking about kindness and what we are thankful for. The Yellow Bears were hard at work learning the letters of their names and T for tree, thankful, and turkey! They also did some fun number activities with block trees and started an acts of kindness chain in the classroom! We had a special "Mo Willems" and PJ day. We learned about one of our favorite authors and illustrators. We learned how to draw like him too!



Then at the end of the day each child received a BRAND-NEW Elephant and Piggie book to keep.

We will start December with a

Thank you for
being my friend!



week all about trains. Then we will spend the two weeks leading up to our holiday break talking about holiday traditions and celebrations while we share some of our favorite holiday stories!

Reminders:

~As the weather gets colder, don't forget to send a coat, hat, and gloves to school with your Yellow Bear so we can play outside

~If you haven't already, make sure your Yellow Bear has an extra mask at school so we can change it out if it gets wet

Have a happy December!



~ CASSIE



BLUE TEDDY BEARS



During the month of November, we spent time reviewing our manners and kindness. We had a blast making turkey crafts and using real feathers. We learned some new letters and shapes throughout the month and have enjoyed being responsible doing our classroom jobs. The Teddy bear class read many stories about giving thanks and have been extra kind giving classmates compliments. We had a special “Mo Willems” and PJ day. We learned about one of our favorite authors and illustrators. We

learned how to draw like him too! Then at the end of the day each child received a BRAND-NEW Elephant and Piggie book to keep.

December brings a month themed of Holiday Traditions. We will be learning about different holidays and the many ways people around the world celebrate. We will be asking the Teddy bears to share their family traditions with the class. Even though we cannot have family's come into our classroom, I will do my best to help the Teddy bears share with the class thru pictures, stories, games and crafts. Some of the fun tradition activities include Baking cookies, Elf on the shelf, Ringing Bells, Making Lanterns, cutting down trees, Gingerbread houses, Singing Carols, Lighting Candles, and many more.

Reminders: Please bring in a winter coat, hat, gloves daily for our child. You may leave items in cubby. Snow gear for snowy days including snow pants and boots. Please label items with your child's initials.

~BRI



BLUE BEARS



Wow I can't believe it is December already!! November was a busy month. We learned all about trees. We also had some fun learning about Thanksgiving food and traditions as well as discovering things we are thankful for. We had a special “Mo Willems” and PJ day. We learned about one of our favorite authors and illustrators. We learned how to draw like him too! Then at the end of the day each child received a BRAND-NEW Elephant and Piggie book to keep.

In December we are going to be looking at different types of holiday traditions. In years past, we have families sign up to come in and share their holiday traditions with the class, unfortunately with all the COVID restrictions, we are not able to do this. If you are interested in sharing some ideas or materials that are part of your tradition, please let me know and I will try to incorporate it into our plans.

We have several reminders for this month to start looking ahead and planning...

- We love snow days here at DCCC and it typically works best when each of us has a pair of snow pants, snow gloves and boots that we leave here at the center so we can go out and enjoy the snow without getting wet and cold.
- The center will be closed December 21st and reopen Monday January 11, 2021



~KENDRA

BUNNIES



It's the most wonderful time of the year! November flew faster than a turkey. We had a special "Mo Willems" and PJ day. We learned about one of our favorite authors and illustrators. We learned how to draw like him too! Then at the end of the day each child received a BRAND-NEW Elephant and Piggie book to keep and now December is here! Celebrating the tastes, sights, sounds, "feels," and smells of special times. Perhaps the place that family traditions start is not in one specific activity but simply in the joy of shared experiences. And maybe the best way to talk about these traditions at group time is to help children open up to their own sensory memories! We invite all

our families to come share their family tradition with our Bunny classmates! Look for more information on family traditions in our classroom lesson plans!



A favorite activity of Ms. Sarah's during the holiday season is playing in the snow! We'll dive into reading different books about snowmen. We'll talk about what makes a story, characters, and all the different story elements that make up the a good story. Possibly, we'll even get the chance to explore snow with some of our 5 senses!

With the holiday seasons come winter like weather. What would it be like to live in the snow and cold all year long? We'll take a week to research and discover the animals of the arctic! What makes the animals that live there so special? Why is it always so cold there? How do the animals survive and stay protected? So many questions, so little time!

With the thought of snow and winter weather approaching we wanted to remind all families to check your child's extra clothing bins for seasonally and size appropriate extra clothes. The bunnies will venture outside (weather permitting) and sometimes our normal clothes can get a little soggy underneath our snow clothes! Having extra clothes that are comfy and warm will make us very happy!

Thank you to all of our families who contributed to our teacher luncheon and celebrating the staff at DCCC!

We wish all of our Bunny families a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!



~CARLY & SARAH

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



November has FLOWN by! I cannot believe how quickly time is moving this year. We were very busy in Kindergarten last month. We started our month with a two-week unit about nocturnal and diurnal animals. We discovered that nocturnal animals are awake at night and sleep during the day and diurnal animals are awake during the day and sleep at night. We learned about their adaptations that they have which help them survive. We had a special "Mo Willems" and PJ day. We learned about one of our favorite authors and illustrators. We learned how to draw like him too! Then at the end of the day each child received a BRAND-NEW Elephant and Piggie book to keep. We then moved on to a unit called "then and now" where we compared our responsibilities and what our lives look like to those of the Wampanoag people and the English Settlers. We really enjoyed learning about what life was like then and now. We also discussed being thankful and what that means. We did some shared writing to make a list of things that we were thankful for and hung it up in our classroom.



In literacy we have been working on story elements. We have been spending time discovering the characters, setting, problem/solution in the stories we read. We are also working on different retelling methods. We are also discovering long, and short vowel sounds and using them to make CVC words. In writing we are practicing writing in sentence form with capital letters to start and punctuation at the beginning. We are also learning to write numbers and lowercase letters. In math, we are working on solving number stories and doing work with ten frames. We did an exciting experiment in science where we learned about capillary action, evaporation and crystallization and made crystal trees. We also learned about a new "superhero" named Amelia who has been teaching us about anti-bullying and bullying prevention.



In December we will be taking time to learn about seven different holidays: Diwali, St. Lucia, Las Posadas, Hanukkah, Christmas, and the Chinese New Year. We will also be doing our Gingerbread unit and comparing several different versions of the Gingerbread Man. We will be discussing our own holiday traditions and how they might be the same or different from our classmates and how that is ok and exciting.

Reminders:

- Check your child's Yellow Folder daily
- Read every night for 15 minutes
- Practice your sight words with your child



DCCC is Closed from: December 21-January 8th-

Ms. BRITTNEY

