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## Dickinson College Children's Center April 2014

### DCCC Spring Reminders!

- **Shoe safety:** Make sure children wear shoes that protect their feet. Please make sure your children wear sneakers or sandals that cover and protect their toes. Rubber clogs and some sandals can be fun and airy, but they may also be too flimsy or loose for running, climbing, or riding trikes and can lead to accidents and injuries.
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- **Sunscreen:** Each child should have a bottle of sunscreen to be kept here at the Center. Spray sunscreen is **not** permitted. While convenient, spray sunscreen enters the air and children breathe it in to their bodies. We also apply sunscreen inside, and it creates quite a filmy build up on the floors at the Center. Please bring sunscreen for your child by May 1 and remember to check expiration dates before sending them in to school.
  - **Sun Hats:** In addition to sunscreen, another good way to protect your child's head and face from the sun is a sun hat.
  - **Bike Helmets:** In order for the children to be permitted to ride bikes on the playground, they must wear a helmet. Properly fitting helmets are important for the safety of your child while riding. Please check your child's helmet! Providing a helmet for your child to keep at the Center works much better than taking it back and forth from home to school.
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**Dates to Remember:**  
**April 10—April 25**  
**Parent/Teacher Conferences**

**May 6 & 7**  
**Kindergarten Conferences**

**Please, no cell phones at drop-off and pick-up. Your child needs your full attention.**

**Thank you!**



## From the Director's Desk

We hope that we have done a good job in informing all parents of where their child or children are projected to move in August of 2014. However, if you have any questions please feel free to stop and talk with me. I would be happy to discuss any concerns that you have. Class rosters for fall 2014 have been given to the teachers. The Waiting List is currently being reviewed. Tours are being scheduled for prospective parents and enrollments for the fall have begun. If anyone is interested in being placed on the wait list, they are encouraged to call the center office.

Grandparent's Day was a hit and we had over 85 visitors at the center. I would like to grant many thanks to all those that participated in the special day. Everyone truly enjoyed their time here. Although it is very busy, we know as teachers, how important it is to welcome all family members and friends into the lives of the children.

During the month of April, DCCC had their annual Department of Public Welfare Inspection. The center was found to have 0 areas of noncompliance. Great job teachers!

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### Inside this issue:

Announcements	1-3
Ducklings	4
Yellow Puppies/Blue Puppies	5
Yellow Bees	6
Blue Bees	7
Yellow Bears	8
Blue Bears	8
Bunnies	8/9
Kindergarten	10

A number of staff reviews have been given. All staff will continue to work toward their training goals as well as establishing and reviewing classroom goals. Webinars have been very popular this spring and some of the Preschool teachers have been able to take advantage of this. Our Preschool teachers will also be visiting some of the local Kindergarten Programs this month in order to help bridge the gap between Preschool and Kindergarten. Transitioning the children appropriately is very important to DCCC.

Parent Conferences will also begin on Thursday. This is a great time for parents to talk one on one with their child's teacher. Substitutes are brought in to cover the shifts so that teachers can be freed up to meet with parents. Therefore, if anything should come up and you are unable to make the conference, please contact the office to let us know.

Summer Camp Packets will be sent home this month and field trips will be set up with the Wolf's Bus Company.

Playground maintenance will begin within the next month or two. The new surface of rubber mulch will be poured for the infant/toddler playground. Teachers will be busy taking walks as the play area is worked on. A new roof will also be placed on the toddler end of the building.

During April, the center will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child. Many additional activities will be offered to both the children and to the families to express why they feel Early Education is important. Providing information about quality care is our focus for the month.

A Trike A Thon for Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Children will be encouraged to bring their bikes to school for the day.

Have a great week and a fantastic month!

~Gina

## Fundraising

### Ongoing:

\*Nell's Gold Card & Target Red Card-Please find information on how to register for these on our website at: <http://www.dickinson.edu/blog.aspx?blogid=235> and <http://www.dickinson.edu/about/offices/childrens-center/content/Fundraisers/>

### Totals:

Giant Rewards-\$1156.44 (final amount)

**Total Amount Raised to date: \$12380.01**

### Totals Waiting On:

Meadowbrooke Gourds

### Upcoming:

Original Works

Yearbooks

**Goal for the year: \$15,000**



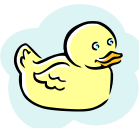
## In consideration of our staff...

The Children's Center closes promptly at 5:30 each evening. Parents should arrive at the Center with enough time to pick up their child and gather their child's belongings and exit the building by 5:30.





## Ducklings



March was such a busy month, full of new discoveries and emerging skills for us. A major highlight of the month was “Grandparents Day”! Thank you to the grandparents who were able to take time out to come into our classroom for this special day. As we meet your family, we get to know you all a little bit better and that strengthens our relationship and bond with your baby. Thank you! We loved meeting you all.

The month of April ushers in spring for us. No more snow!! Please take home your baby’s snowsuit now and replace it with more appropriate outdoor wear for nature walks and outdoor play. Bear in mind it may still be windy and chilly, so layering is usually best. Even though we don’t worry too much about footwear indoors, as our babies are learning to walk, we do need foot protection for outdoor play. Robeez, or a similar soft sole protective shoe is fine.

Introduction of solid foods, table foods and self-feeding are big happenings in the infant room right now! Feeding is not only a source of vital nutrition for your baby, but it is also a social and emotional experience. Feeding times are happy times in the infant room! PLEASE, do not worry about messiness...messiness happens when children are permitted the independence they crave to feed themselves! We don’t mind and we have lots of bibs! As you begin to send in table foods for your infant, please make sure all foods are cut into small, infant-size pieces. Review the choking hazard list (posted in the classroom) and we encourage you to avoid highly processed foods. When your child is around 8 months, please send in a sippy cup, clearly marked with your child’s name.

The “big idea” of our April lesson plan revolves around our animal friends, from the animals we observe in our own neighborhood and campus environment, to farm animals, jungle animals, domestic animals and even extinct animals! Our stories and songs will revolve around this theme. Please send in pictures of your family pets to share!!

We will continue our daily nature walks, observing the seasonal changes around us in terms of weather, nature and wild life. We will observe the Week of the Young Child in early April and Earth Day toward the end of the month.

### ***Reminders:***

April 10 — Parent-Teacher Conferences

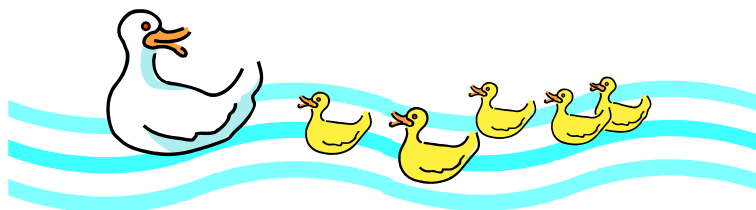
Please check and refill your baby’s diaper supply bin regularly

Please be sure to send in extra season- and size-appropriate clothing for your baby

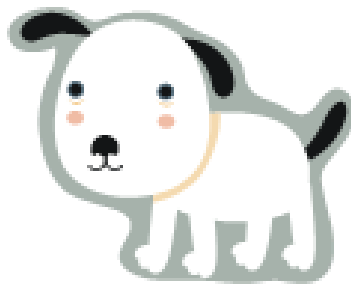
Please continue to label all of your baby’s belongings

Thank you!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



What will April bring? We sure hope some wonderful spring weather and have some spring fun! We are starting with talking about and enjoying the weather. Since we love animals, this month we will do a week on chicks, birds, and ducks. We will also have an egg-travagaza!! We will do some egg tasting; egg rolling, egg coloring and we will also be hunting for eggs!



Everyone is growing and learning. The children have adjusted well to their routines which helps during transition times. They will select activities that interest them and choose what they want to play with. More and more words are being used to express themselves. We can pick out our favorite book to read independently but we still love to have many books read to us. We are doing well with paints, crayons, stickers, and play dough and can follow simple directions from the teachers. This class has accomplished so much!

With the nicer weather coming, we will be able to do more outside play with sand and water. We will be going on walks with the ring rope. We leave for our walks around 9:30 a.m. If you and your child will be in to school later, please let us know with a phone call. Also, make sure you layer or have appropriate clothing for cooler mornings. In order to prepare for sunny weather, please bring a sun hat and sunscreen (bottle please, no sprays) for your child.

## Yellow Pups

Please remember we have April parent conferences on the 11th. Also, please check your child's bins for up to date clothing. Label anything coming into our room.

As always, if you have any questions and concerns please let us know.

~MARSHA & DONNA

## Blue Puppies

April is here and hopefully the warmer weather is here to stay! In the meantime we have lots of fun things planned for the Puppies!

We will start the month singing and reading Nursery Rhymes, the puppies will make a hand print sheep with cotton balls, put stars on contact paper, color a spider and paint mittens. The first week of April is the "Week of the Young Child" and each day we will have an extra special activity such as: messy-finger painting, super heroes-people who are important to us, wonder-we will look through magnifying glasses and colored paddles, thoughtful-we will read a book about feelings and color a picture for our families, and fitness-throwing balls through hoops and jumping. The puppies will go for a walk and look for signs of spring such as flower buds and birds singing. We will plant grass, paint a flower, and make a spring collage. We will also have fun with eggs. There will be plastic eggs in our sensory table and color paper bunnies. Please bring in 2 hard boiled eggs on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> so we can color them. The puppies will enjoy digging in dirt as we have an Earth week. Earth week will have us making tie dye t-shirts, coloring grass, planting flowers and making a special "dirt" snack. We will wrap up the month with April showers, the puppies will have some water play in the room, paint rain drops and color umbrellas

The puppies are doing great with helping to clean up. Stacking blocks is always a fun thing to do especially when they get knocked down! We are also hearing a lot of little conversations happening between friends!

### REMINDERS:

- ~Please make sure you take bedding home on Fridays to wash.
- ~Make sure your child has a hat, mittens/gloves for those chilly mornings.

~CATHRYN & LACI



## Yellow Honey Bees

The warmer weather is finally upon us! We have been enjoying more time outside after so much time being inside because of winter's lion-like traits! April showers bring May flowers! The honey bees have been strengthening their growing muscles as they run, climb, jump, and take walks! Through the month, we'll be talking about growing plants, ourselves growing, and how we can take care of the earth and its inhabitants! What colors are all around us? What things do you see now that you didn't see before? We will take time to point out all the new, colorful, growing things around us which will continue to help to expand our language, communication skills, and encourage us to be eager learners!



We want to thank all the grandparents and important people who came to spend the morning with us on Grandparent's day! The room was not only full of important people in our lives, but it was full of love!

A few slight changes will be taking place in the coming season starting this month of April:

1. Due to our increased focus on pottyng, our daily schedule will vary from before.
2. We will be getting outside on the playground earlier, so if you drop your children off between 9am-9:30am we'll be outside if the weather is nice.
3. Helmets are now being stored outside in our shed. If you would like to take your child's helmet home, please let a teacher know and we'll be sure to place it in their cubby!

### REMINDERS:

Because the health and safety of your children is one of the upmost concerns to us, please abide by our centers choking hazard policy and double check the food items on the list the our handbook provides. We understand that in a home setting, a child may be capable of eating foods on this list, but we are supervising a larger group of children, it is a risk we are not willing to take. Having food ready to serve, already cut, is a huge assistance to us! We really appreciate your cooperation with this!

-Check your child's cubby for weather appropriate and size appropriate extra clothing.

-Continue to encourage potty use! We are so impressed with the progress that is being made here at school! Keep up the good work!

**MS. BARB & MS. SARAH**

## Blue Busy Bees

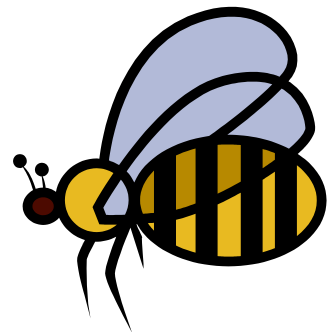
March was a busy and exciting month. All of our Blue Bees have now turned three! We also enjoyed more time outside as the cold weather (and snow) finally started to let up. The bees loved getting a chance to get their bikes and helmets back out. At the end of the month we celebrated Grandparents Day and enjoyed a visit from some of our bees grandparents.

In March we talked about St. Patrick's Day, shamrocks, rainbows and started learning about life on the farm, farm animals and the sounds they make. The bees planted bean seeds and had fun watching their plants grow. You may hear your child calling them "magic beans" as we read Jack and the Beanstalk. The children also had fun playing with our farm animal masks in the classroom.

In April our themes will cover Farming Fun (Food), Week of the Young Child, Birthday Fun and April Showers. This is a great time to check your child's cubby for seasonal clothing and to make sure that their helmets still fit. Please continue to put your child's name on their clothing and belongings. We appreciate it! Our bees having been doing a good job at self-help tasks (i.e., hand washing, putting coats on, etc.). We will be adding additional tasks on for our bees to encourage them at working independently. Our bees are almost all potty trained at this time. This is something to be excited about! We have been visiting the pre-school playground and are enjoying the change of scenery!

Have a great month!

~JODY & PAM



## Yellow Bear Cubs

We had a rhyming good time with our Dr. Seuss week to kick off March! We had two beautiful weeks of colors, and I am sure our color identifying skills are in tip top shape!! We wrapped up the month by exploring with our five senses and spending some quality time with our Grandparents!

We are going to kick off the month of April with a dive into the alphabet, and it couldn't come at a better suited time, we have made it over half way through the alphabet and the bears have really been showing an interest in the letters and sounds! We will be reviewing the numbers one through ten during this week as well! The Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is coming up the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>, and we will have a load of fun activities planned for each day that focuses on the interests of the children in our center! There will be a Move-It-Monday, All-About-Me Tuesday, Superhero Wednesday, Silly Thursday, and Frozen Friday! Next we'll jump right into the festive Eggstravaganza week where we will focus on ovals and eggs. There will be an egg hunt using some plastic eggs and our very own dyed eggs! We will head into the week of April 21<sup>st</sup> with an eye on our environment and how we can make a healthy impact; this will also be the week of Conferences, particularly April 22<sup>nd</sup>! We will be focusing on recycling and we plan on having a picnic lunch at the end of this week! We will wrap up the month retelling and exploring through Folk Tales.

### **Teddy Bear Reminders:**

- The weather is transferring to spring, dress your children in layers so as the weather turns warm throughout the day, they may be comfortable.
- Replace and/or update the extra clothes in your child's bin!
- As we head into our birthday season please take the time to review the healthful birthday policy in the parent handbook or ask Ms. Mandy!

Please take home snow pants and boots!

~MANDY

## Blue Bears

Hopefully we can jump into spring with some warmer weather and leave this crazy winter behind us! March was a lot of fun! We loved reading lots and lots of Dr. Seuss books, wearing different colors every day and then doing lots of fun Eric Carle activities. We also had a blast with our grandparents on Grandparents Day!

The Teddy Bears will start off April with a review of our alphabet. We have completed all the letters of the week so we take this week to review everything! We will have lots of different activities with letter recognition and some games that we have played throughout the year.

Next we will have a week that will focus on ourselves as we have fun with The Week of the Young Child. We will have very messy art projects and enjoy making and eating some healthy snacks. We will have lots of experiments on Wonder Wednesday and think about all of the people we are thankful for on Thoughtful Thursday. As of right now our Friday activities are being kept secret, but we know the kids will love them!

We will squeeze Easter and eggs in next, having fun egg hunts around the room and doing a lot of fun games and art projects. We will dye eggs too, so look on the lesson plan for when to bring in hard boiled eggs.

Next is environment week, just in time for Earth Day! We will talk about recycling and how important it is to throw our trash away



properly and to keep our world clean. We will take a trash walk to see how the people around us are doing with their littering and help by picking up (with gloves on) the things we see as we go. Watch your lesson plan for our no heat up recyclable picnic lunch!

We finish April with Fairy Tales! Get out the princess dresses because this is the week to wear them! We will read lots of stories, make up some of our own, and pretend play in a castle! (Ms. Ange will be off this whole week; Ms. Deb will be in for her).

#### Upcoming Events:

Spring Conferences April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25th

Trike A Thon — May 8

May 26<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day — Center Closed

## ~KRISTEN & ANGE



## Bunnies



Wow time flies! I cannot believe it is April already! March was a very busy but fun month. We started out the month with Dr. Seuss week where we did lots of silly “Seussy” things. Following that we moved right into dinosaurs. We then learned about Ireland, shamrocks, folk tales and leprechauns. The silly leprechaun escaped from our trap but he did leave us a rainbow of new markers! At the end of the month we started talking about weather and spring (which was kind of silly because it snowed during that week!) We had a lot of fun on grandparent’s day at the end of the month. Thank you to all of the families who came to enjoy the afternoon with us. On top of all of that fun we finished our alphabet but finally putting Zane’s name up on the word wall!

In April we have all kinds of fun things planned as well. We are starting out the month with our garden week. We will be planting some flowers and vegetables. We will also be doing some experiments to see what conditions plants grow the best in. The second week of April will be the week of the young child. We will have a day of movement, an all about me day, a “super hero” day where we will talk about what makes a hero, a silly day and frozen Friday. Next we will learn about eggs, ovals, and pastels. We will be conducting some experiments with eggs and learning how to create pastel colors. Next we will move right in to our “reduce, reuse, recycle” week just in time to celebrate earth day! We will have a no trash picnic and reuse things to create art work and talk about how to conserve. We will finish out April with our frogs and tadpoles week. We will be learning about tadpoles and how they turn into frogs and observing some live ones in our classroom.

Since we have finished our letters we will be working on word families and rhyming words to continue to practice



### Bunnies—continued

our letters. We will also be working on numbers and various math skills weekly. Continue to practice letters and sounds and counting at home when you can.

#### Reminders:

- \*Please take home your child's snow pants and boots from the big room.
- \*Check your child's extra clothes bin and make sure the clothes in there still fit and are seasonally appropriate.
- \*Please make sure you are checking your child's mailbox daily.

#### Important Dates:

April 24 and April 25- Conferences (if you have not already signed up for a time please see Ms. Brittney, Ms. Carly or Ms. Michelle)

HAPPY SPRING!!

~MS. BRITTNEY AND MS. CARLY





## Kindergarten Dolphins



March certainly was a busy month! After a great unit about dinosaurs, the Dolphins visited Professor Marcus Key's lab for some firsthand experience with real dinosaur fossils. What fun! We welcomed in Spring with a unit about cycles and growth and all created our own My Life books using photos of ourselves from birth through kindergarten. We planted various seeds in baggies for a "sprouting race", which we'll be taking home soon, as most have already sprouted. We all know that plants need water, soil, and air to survive, but the children were wondering about some more specific things about plants. As we've begun to investigate some of these questions, we're learning a little more about following the scientific method. We'll be continuing these investigations throughout the month of April.

Our focus for the month of April is on the environment and what we can do to protect it for ourselves and for other living things. We'll learn about reusing, recycling, and reducing and will have a trash-free Earth Day Picnic to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

The children are each preparing an endangered animal project to present to their classmates during the weeks of April 7 and April 14. They are all researching information about their chosen animal at home, and in addition to presenting their projects, they'll teach the class about their animal, its diet, habitat, and why it's endangered. At school, the children will also be creating "Save the Animal" t-shirts featuring their endangered animals.

April is also the month for the Week of the Young Child. During the week of April 7, there will be a special center-wide theme for each day. Although we already have our unit on the environment in place, we'll participate each day by doing an activity or two to match the daily theme. On "Move It Monday", we'll be sure to get lots of "brain and body boosts" throughout the day. We'll start the day on "All About Me Tuesday" with some relaxing yoga. We'll also have a special "show and tell" that day where children may bring and tell about an item from home that is very special to them or signifies something special about themselves. We'll be "super heroes" on "Super Hero Wednesday" as we collect litter in the neighborhood. We'll sing a few silly songs on "Silly Thursday", and we'll listen to our favorite songs on the "Frozen" CD and eat some school-made frozen juice pops on "Frozen Friday".

In April, we started a "Behavior Buddies" program where each child is paired with another for the week. The buddies help each other keep their behavior in check, consult or discuss during "Pair Share" times, and try to earn points (sticks) for their team to add to our class's Golden Can. When 75 points are earned, the class will have a picnic. When 75 more are earned, we'll have a pizza party!

Our reading and writing abilities are really soaring, and it's so exciting to see that happen! The children are also enjoying working with their "Pair Share/ Behavior Buddies" on solving our "Problem of the Day". We're tapping into some higher order thinking skills as they share, discuss, and defend how they come up with answers they give. So far we've done some analogies, some "What Doesn't Belong?" puzzles, and some "What Am I?" riddles. We'll also try some Sudoku puzzles, some more challenging patterning puzzles, and some other brain teasers!

Happy Spring, everyone!

~ Ms. Katie & Ms. Cheri