



Dickinson College Children's Center December 2014



From the Director's Desk

I'm ready for the winter. Seems like the weather has really been going back and forth so much this fall. It's a lot easier as a parent to stay on top of dressing our kids appropriately when the temperature is consistent.

November was full of activities here at the center. Miss Michelle kept the kids moving in the mornings for Promotion Motion. We had a great turn out for the Mini Turkey Trot. The teachers and the kids did a fantastic job. The smiles on the children's faces when they saw all their families were priceless. That's really what makes this fundraiser the best, it's all for the kids!

During the November staff meeting teachers took time to work in their rooms to check for items necessary for ITERS/ECERS. Early this fall, DCCC renewed as a STAR 3 site. A STARS ERS (Environmental Rating Scale) Assessment visit is scheduled to occur within the next few weeks. A number of Health and Safety improvements have been implemented along with the help from the facilities department. Gates were installed to increase supervision and hooks to separate individual child belongings. Steps were made for changing tables while each table also had the height on the sides of the table increased to prevent any accidents from occurring. Meeting the ERS criteria and maintaining the high scores in all the classrooms is a very difficult but extremely important task. It is our hope that our scores will indeed come in high so that we can automatically move to a STAR 4 site.

The Thanksgiving Meal was fantastic. Thanks to Dining Services for a wonderful meal, the children enjoyed the food and eating lunch together with other classes!

The Pancake breakfast is quickly approaching. We need lots of help to make the event successful. Please plan to attend the parent meeting on December 2nd at 4:15 here at the center.

Summer Camp Update: Dickinson College Summer School Age Program: A new Summer Program (operated through DCCC) is in the process of being licensed. It will be located at 1250 Ritner Highway. The 2015 camp is for children ages 9 to 12 years old, and we will continue to offer our Summer Camp Program at DCCC for the younger school-age children. The 10 week camp will consist of full time and part time openings and will run from June 8th to August 21st with a four week minimum. An Open House is set for January 18th from 2-4PM, we hope you will join us and help spread the word!

~Gina VanKirk, Director

Dates to Remember:

**December 10—
Hearing Screening
for Kindergarten**

**December 22—
January 2, 2015
DCCC Closed for the
holiday break**

**January 5, 2015—
DCCC Re-opens**

Inside this issue:

Announcements	1-2
Ducklings	3
Yellow Puppies/Blue Puppies	4
Yellow Bees	5
Blue Bees	6
Yellow Bears/Blue Bears	7
Bunnies	8
Kindergarten	9

In the event of a DCCC Emergency Weather Delay or Closing:

A letter will be sent home to all families pertaining to the procedure that we follow. The letter is also located on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE!

Children's Center Pancake
Breakfast



Saturday, February
14
8—11 a.m.
HUB Social Hall

Keep your child (and other children) safe in the hallways:

- Please remind your child to use walking feet in the morning at drop off and in the evening at pick-up.
- The hallway is a very busy place and it is so important for your child to stay by your side as you come and go. Thank you!!

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Ongoing:

*Giant Bonus Card Numbers-If you did not give us your bonus card number last year, please either sign up online or turn in your number at the office. Thank you!

*Nell's Gold Card & Target Red Card-Please find information on how to register for these on our website at: http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20075/children_s_center/1055/fundraisers

Totals:

South Side Deli-\$50.00

Promotion Motion -\$4000! Thanks for your help in reaching our goal and for encouraging your child to be active!

Total Amount Raised: \$5962.14



Current:

None

Upcoming:

Cookie Exchange

Pancake Breakfast-February 14th, 2015



Goal for the year: \$15,000



Ducklings



November was a month of thanks! Thanks to all who shared by participating in the feather-our-turkey "I am thankful for..." bulletin board activity. Our older infants beginning table foods sampled many of the traditional holiday foods for the first time....the familiar applesauce won out as the all time favorite, followed closely by the spicy pumpkin cookies. We were thankful to be included in the two week Motion Promotion campaign. ...it is never too early to incorporate fun exercise into a healthy lifestyle! Thanks to the families who came out to support us in the mini-turkey trot...the infants were such good sports in their turkey hats!

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 play 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! We will also continue our daily outdoor exploration to see nature and all of the seasonal changes happening around us, labeling everything we see and adding new and interesting vocabulary. Playtime will include lots of free floor time, on the playground and in the large motor room (the Big Room), with surfaces to pull up and cruise and lots of space to roll, crawl and begin to walk

Please think about sending in family photos, if you have not already done so....holiday photos are welcomed! And don't forget to watch for the Duckling holiday door as we participate in the Center-wide holiday door decoration competition!

Please remember:

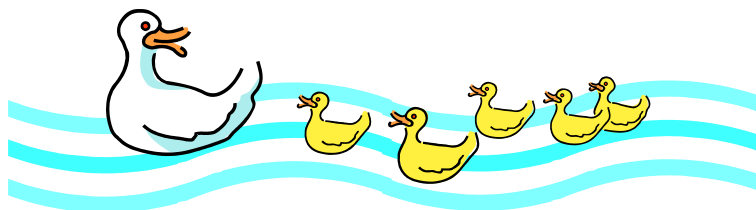
*To label all milk bottles clearly

*To be sure your baby has appropriate, well fitting clothing for outdoor weather – we will be outdoors if the temperature/wind chill factor is above 25 degrees F. One piece snow suit style with mittens and hats, please.

*To supply at least one change of season- and size- appropriate clothing for back up needs.

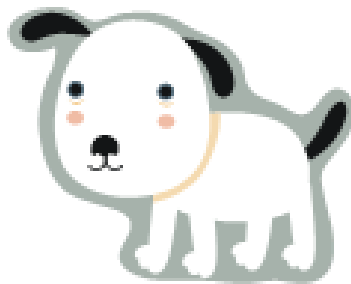
December will pass quickly with so much to do and learn and with winter break beginning on the 19th! We wish you all a safe and happy winter holiday season with your baby and family. The New Year will bring lots of fun and exciting new milestones!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



We are enjoying the fall weather with some walks and a lot of outside time. If you are wondering if we get outside if there is snow, the answer is yes! Please make sure your child has the proper outside wear. That includes hats, mittens, snow pants, and boots. You can place these items in a bag and hang it outside our room on the hooks.

We had such fun at the mini Turkey Trot! We had to do in a stroller, but we still always enjoy getting out. Thanks to the parents and family members for their support. We also had a great time with all the great activities in the big room with our Blue Puppy friends. We ended the month with our Thanksgiving Feast and for some, it was some of their first times trying new foods. Please check out some of the neat paintings and art work! We also are getting better at using stickers, we love stickers!



Next month will be short. We will start with Colors of the Season. Another week with Songs of the Season (our puppies do like to dance) and finish the month with a Winter Wonderland. We will ask parents to help us do a family project (we will be sending that home with parents to complete).

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. Be ready to go in the New Year!

Diapers, wipes and cream, oh my! When your child needs additional diapers, wipes or cream we will write it on the bottom of their daily sheet so please be sure to pick that up from their mailbox at the end of the day. If you are ever unsure if an item needs to be replenished, please do not hesitate to ask and we will do our best to communicate your child's needs to you.

~MARSHA & DONNA

Yellow Pups

Blue Puppies



The Puppies are welcoming the upcoming season with lots of fun activities. We started the month with exploring pine branches and pine cones. Pine branches and cones were put in the sensory table for us to touch. We painted with branches and rolled pine cones in paint and made a mixture of glue and pine needles to paint with.

MMMM! What's that smell? We explored our sense of smell and had fun playing with gingerbread scented play-doh, made cinnamon ornaments, and smelled pine.

We will have some fun in the room with the lights off and a strand of colored lights on. Upcoming projects: hand print lights and candles out of paper towel rolls and glued candles on paper.

The puppy room has inherited some new toys and we love them! We have a magnetic barn with animals to match on the door, a piggy bank to put "coins" in, two car ramps/garage, another house, car and airplane for our little people, a weeble wobble tree house, some baby strollers, mega blocks, and stacking rings.

REMINDERS:

~ 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. Snow is coming and we will play in it! Please bring a pair of boots and snow pants to be ready for that kind of weather as well.

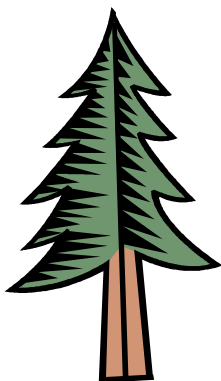
~Make sure to label all lunch containers, utensils, yogurt/applesauce and baggies.

~Please go through your child's cubby/folder and take home any toys or papers that may have collected in them.

We hope you and your family enjoy your time together this holiday season.

~CATHRYN & LACI

Yellow Honey Bees



Well I can't believe we are in December already. We had lots of fun in November, but I bet we can even have more fun in December. We will start the month off talking about winter. What do we wear in winter? Talk about what kind of animals hibernate. We will make snowflakes different ways.

Then we will talk about evergreen trees. We will take a walk and look at the tree we have adopted and take a few notes on how it has changed. We will make trees from triangle pieces, Popsicle trees, paper plates trees, and one big tree from all of our hands.

During the 3rd week of December we will talk about different holidays people celebrate in December. Will talk a little about each of these, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Reminder the college is closed the last two weeks of December.

It is a bitter sweet month. We say goodbye to Ms. Alisha at the end of the month. She has been wonderful to work with, and wonderful with your children. We will say hello to Ms. Sarah again after holiday break. Ms. Sarah and Ms Barb will be making some room arrangements during our break.

Please bring in snowsuits and boots for your child to keep here at the Center. If temperatures permit, we will go outside when it is snowy!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS,

MS. BARB, MS. ALISHA & MS. SARAH

Blue Busy Bees

Greetings from the Blue Bee room. We had a great month of November! We learned about hibernation, fall colors/ weather, music and movement and of course turkeys and Thanksgiving. The children enjoyed reading several books about what animals do when the winter comes. We had fun collecting the fall leaves for our art projects. The bees talked about the different colors in the fall and how the trees and weather change. Everyone had a great time at the Turkey Trot and our big Thanksgiving Feast in the big room. The bees were especially well behaved! It was a lot of fun listening to special music for our Music and Movement theme. Thanks to everyone who sent in a CD to share with the classroom. We wrapped up November with Turkeys and Thanksgiving and read books on the first Thanksgiving and enjoyed making some wonderful art items to take home and decorate with for Thanksgiving.

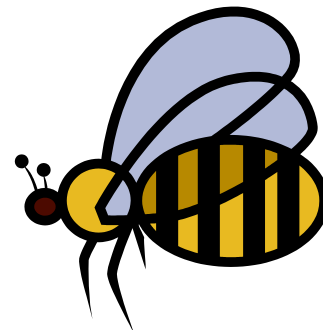
December starts off with the theme of Evergreens. The children will learn that evergreens do not change during the winter months. We will also talk about pine cones, the seed of the pine tree and how they feel and smell and of course we will talk about how we decorate with evergreens! Our next theme will be Transportation. We will learn about how people get places...car, boat, train, airplane, walking, etc. We will also cover transportation safety. Our final theme in December will be Family and Friends. We would like to decorate our Evergreen tree with family pictures. Stay tuned for more details as the time approaches. Our classroom is looking forward to a busy and exciting December. We will have many new songs to teach, books to read and lots of art work to share with you.

A special note...In December we will be visiting the "Big Playground." This is a fun time for the children but, they must be 3 years old and in underwear. This is a great time to get that potty training finished up! The Bees have a great time on this playground and look forward to their visits. Please let us know if you are trying to get your little bee into underwear. We are here to help!

REMINDERS

- * Please remember to label all of your children's clothing, food items, etc. Everything should be labeled down to hats, gloves and mittens!
- * The cold weather and snow are coming! Please bring your child's snow gear in for December. This would include; boots, snow pants, mittens/gloves that are waterproof or water resistant (otherwise their little hands get wet and cold). Also, please check your child's cubby for extra seasonal, fitting clothing.

~Miss JODY & MISS PAM



Yellow Bear Cubs

Living off the land was a lot of fun, I'm not sure what part was their favorite, the fishing or creating a garden inside, maybe it was cooking over the fire! We had fun learning about different farms and then following up with foods from those farms. Everyone really understood where their foods were coming from by the end of the week, as well as the different healthy food groups! The teddy bears seemed to really enjoy the Turkey Trot and Promotion Motion activities too!



We will kick off December with a great week of Trains; I am sure the bears will especially love the Box Train! We will end our train week in our pajamas having hot chocolate and watching the Polar Express! We will be moving right into sharing and partaking in all the different Holiday



Traditions that our families have and do, we look forward to having families come and share some with us! So be sure to complete the family traditions sign-up sheet and return it as soon as possible! We

will be making Candy Houses with the bears so to make it easy and less hassle on all of you we have



asked that you send in \$3.00 to cover the cost of the supplies and we will do the peanut free shopping!

Please remember to send in hats, gloves/mittens (preferably water proof), boots, snow pants and coats. We will go outside as long as the temperature feels like 26 degrees or more. We need the water proof clothing to protect us from the wet melting snow followed by the mud!! We will be keeping the snow gear at the back of the cubby area on the hooks that are labeled by names!



If you would like to bring in hand lotion and/or Chap Stick for our chapped hands and lips that is fine, we will label them with your child's name and place them in a basket in my locked cabinet above my teacher sink. We will make it a routine to apply them before rest time and anytime your child requests throughout the day. **It may not stay in the cubby, bag/backpack, or child's pocket; due to safety reasons!**

~MANDY & CHERI

Blue Bears



It's December already and the Blue Bears are excited! We are starting off the month with some traditional holiday stories and some that are very new. We will read about the Grinch, Elf on a Shelf, and Rudolph. We will also spend time talking about Hanukkah, learning about menorahs and playing the dreidel game. Hopefully this week will lead us right into or next two weeks of family Traditions!

During our family traditions weeks we invite families to help us learn about a tradition or activity you might do every year with your family. We use this time to really get to know more about

the families in our classroom. A paper has been sent out with different times available for you to mark and return to Ange and Kristen. If you are unsure of a tradition to share but would like to spend some time in the classroom we would be happy to help you pick a small activity to participate with. We will also be making gingerbread houses! Don't forget the center will be closed starting Monday December 22nd and will reopen on Monday January 5th.



As the cold weather continues to come and the snow begins to fall please remember to always have a pair of snow pants and boots at the center your child. Outside our classroom door you will find a hook with your child's name on it for snow gear. Also make sure there is a full set of extra clothes including socks, those little feet can get pretty wet playing in the snow! If you have any questions please feel free to ask! Have a wonderful holiday break with your family!

KRISTEN & ANGE



Bunnies

Wow! I cannot believe that it is December already! November just flew by! We learned about germs and what it was like to live off of the land like when the pilgrims did when then came from England. We then talked about what it means to be thankful and what we are thankful for. We had a lot of fun with the promotion motion and then our turkey trot! The Thanksgiving feast was really yummy too!

We learned the letters K, L, and M in November and then had some time to practice those letters.



December brings another busy but fun month. We will start the month with a unit called kindness counts. We will really get into bucket filling and what it means to be kind to others and what you can do for others. We will then move into two weeks of celebrating your family traditions where we will invite you into the classroom to share something you do with your family during this time of year. Those activities could include a story you like to read, a place you go, something you bake or make.



We will be asking for **\$1.00** for supplies so we can bake and decorate gingerbread cookies. Keep your eyes on the door for signups to come in and share in your holiday season traditions. We look forward to experiencing your traditions with you.

We will be learning the letters N, O and P this month and will be practicing the signs and sounds that go along with those letters.

**We will also be welcoming Ms. Carly back on December 8 and saying goodbye to Ms. Debbie on December 5.

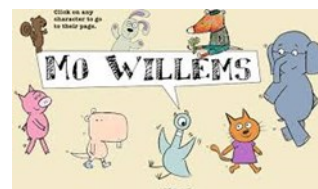
Dates to Remember:

Wednesday December 3: Vision screening for those who sign up

Monday December 22-Monday January 5: DCCC will be closed

Thursday January 15: PIGEON PALOOZA (More information to come but save the date!

Thank you! If you have any questions or concerns please let me know!



~Ms. BRITTNEY AND Ms. DEBBIE

Kindergarten Dolphins

November seemed to have flown by and, oh my, it was busy! Between our Diaper Drive, the Turkey Trot, DCCC's big Thanksgiving Feast, and our trips to Project S.H.A.R.E. and the Dickinson College Dog House, we were actually able to squeeze in quite a bit of learning!

November's focus was "our American heritage". We learned about some famous American symbols, read stories of the past, and learned some patriotic songs. We learned a little bit about life as an early settler



and as an early Native American, and made some comparisons to our life today.

In December we'll focus more on present day families.

We'll learn a little about families and customs around the world, and will have the opportunity to share traditions and customs shared by our own families. A few families have already signed up to come in to share but we'd love to invite even more families to participate! If you're interested in doing this there's a sign-up sheet in front of the children's "take-home" file box in the hallway.

On December 12 in our room, it'll be "Dress Like Someone Else in Your Family" Day. The children may come dressed either as a human member of the family or a pet! It should be interesting! Another special day will occur on Monday, December 15. That'll be "Family Day" for the kindergarteners! Each child may invite a family member to come in to spend part of the afternoon with us for some fun family centers. Please save the date! We'll be sure to have a great time! Rather than making edible gingerbread houses with real candy, we'll be creating crafty, decorative ones which hopefully will be equally fun to create (and maybe longer lasting!) After studying about three dimensional shapes in math class, the children will each assemble their own house out of cardboard. Then we'll be decorating them with our family members during "Family Day"!

Speaking of craftiness, the Dolphins will be working

very hard on our door decorations for the center's door decorating contest! The children will be brainstorming ideas for this right after Thanksgiving, so even Cheri and I don't know what will transpire!

The kindergartners have been invited to attend a special program put on by the CPYB on December 5. It will include some storytelling, dance excerpts from The Nutcracker, and some interactive dancing. We have quite a few dance enthusiasts in our class this year, so it should be a fun time!

The first day of winter (and the last day of school for 2014) will be celebrated with a "First Day of Winter Party" on December 19. We'll play some winter games and do some special activities that day! That day also happens to be Edwige's very last day of kindergarten here at DCCC. She and her family will be heading back to France shortly after that. We will all miss Edwige dearly. She's been such a kind and caring member of our kindergarten family. We wish her and her family safe travels!

And we wish *everyone* a wonderful holiday break with your families!

****Please send in winter gear for your child to *keep* here at DCCC so that he/she will be ready for all cold days and snowstorms. He/ she'll need snow pants, boots, mittens or gloves, and a hat. Please be sure to label everything and put these items in your child's Big Room cubby. Also, please be sure that your child's bin of extra clothes is filled with weather-appropriate clothing. We could also use some donations of extra underwear, socks, and long pants to keep in the kindergarten room in case a child doesn't have a spare set at some point.

~ Ms. Katie & Miss Cheri

December 1, 2014

Dear Families,

As we are nearing the winter season, I want to make you aware of the following guidelines that pertain to weather related closings, delays and early dismissals.

Closing/delay due to bad weather:

DCCC will be closed when the college is closed due to bad weather (snow/ice). We will continue to notify families via the e-mail distribution list and through the following media outlets:

TV Stations: WGAL Channel 8 (NBC), WHTM Channel 27 (ABC), WPMT FOX 43, WHP Channel 21 (CBS), and WLYH Channel 15 (UPN)

Radio Stations: WHP 580 AM, WRVV 97.3 FM The River, WRBT 94.9 FM BOB, WHKF 99.3 FM KISS, WITF FM 89.5 NPR, WINK 104 FM, WROZ 101.3 FM The Rose, and WI00 1000 AM (Carlisle Station).

In order to provide the utmost safety to the children within the Center, DCCC also reserves the right to decide to close even if the college would remain open.

If the College decides to delay, DCCC too will delay.

On a one hour delay DCCC will open at 8:30

On a two hour delay DCCC will open at 9:30.

Once again, if possible we will notify families via the e-mail distribution list and local TV stations.

Early Dismissal:

When the college decides to close early due to worsening weather conditions, DCCC will close as well. However, we will add an hour to our closing time in relation to the college time to allow parents within the community enough time to make arrangements to pick up their child safely. (For example, if the college decides to close at 3:00 p.m., the Center will close at 4:00.)

This message will go out via e-mail distribution list, local TV stations and, when necessary the classroom teachers will call their individual families.

Please keep in mind that the college does not decide to close very frequently. However, when they do, it is necessary that we now follow their same schedule in order to provide the utmost safety to the DCCC staff as well. **We will be certain to make sure that the Children's Center is specifically stated in order to avoid confusion.**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter,

Gina VanKirk, Director