



Dickinson College Children's Center January 2015



From the Director's Desk

Wow, what a fast month. As a child, I remember it felt like the longest month ever. It is always a month so full of cheer one can't help but get into the holiday spirit!

During December we held a Vision Screening for the children two years old and up. There was also a Hearing Screening held for the Kindergarteners.

The staff competed in a Door Decorating Contest. They all did a fantastic job and really brightened up the center. Thanks to Ms. Barb who pulled together a number of Holiday Games!

A special thank you goes out to all the families for the wonderful lunch and gift card. It was truly appreciated!

Somehow we also managed to squeeze in a Fire Drill. Although, with all the special projects going on outside, we had to modify our emergency route for a few classrooms. We are so excited that our shade structure has finally been installed and will be ready for Spring when we need it. It's been a year trying to get the playground finished and I finally feel like we are almost there.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to a few friends whose parents will be leaving the college. I know the kids will miss their smiling little faces. We are excited to be welcoming some new faces at the beginning of the new year!

Please remember to help guide your children in walking up and down the hall at pick up time. It can get quite busy here, so please keep them with you at all times.

Have wonderful January! It is sure to be a fantastic 2015 here at DCCC!

~Gina

Dates to Remember:

**February 14—Pancake
Breakfast Fundraiser
8—11 a.m.**

**March 13—DCCC
Closed for Staff
Training Day**

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Fundraising

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:

Promotion Motion-\$4281.70
Lil'Angels Photography-\$335.00
Giant (total to date; runs to March)-\$319
Cookie Exchange-\$370
Total Amount Raised: \$7785.44



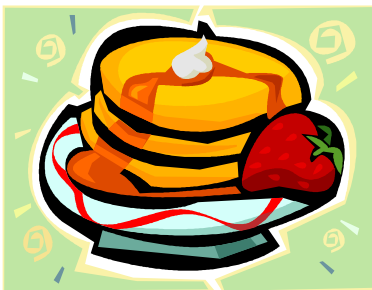
Upcoming:

Pancake Breakfast-February 14th, 2015

Tickets will be distributed in January 2015

Goal for the year: \$15,000

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!



February 14, 2014 8-11 a.m.

HUB Social Hall

Keep alert for volunteer opportunities!





Ducklings



Happy New Year! And our very best wishes for 2015!

December was such a fun and festive time, as we experienced all the sights, sounds and beautiful aromas of the holiday seasons....so many firsts in the lives of our young infants! Thank you, parents, for your generous gifts and holiday wishes. In December we also welcomed two new infants into our classroom.

On January 5th we welcomed everyone back from holiday break, which in the lives of our young infants, is a long absence from the Center. There are sometimes some minor readjustments as we all resume our daily routines. We will gently ease back into our routines and find fun opportunities to practice the skills we have learned and to make new, challenging discoveries. We said farewell to two of our young toddler friends, but we look forward to reuniting with them daily on the playground. And we welcomed two infants and a new young toddler into our classroom. January will be a time of becoming acquainted and reacquainted with each other!

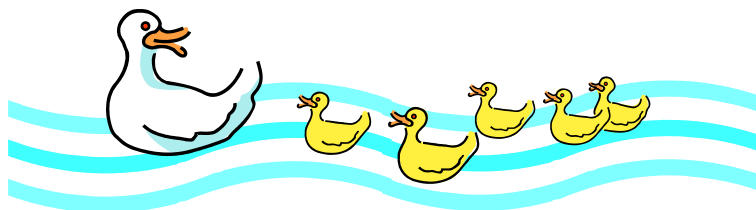
Lesson plans in the infant room revolve around essential daily care routines and the developmental needs of each individual child. With that in mind, we will add some new board books, songs and finger play games. Old seasonal favorites, such as "Frosty the Snowman," give us an opportunity to practice our "bye-bye" waves and to label our heads, noses and eyes. Winter themed stories, such as Snowy Animals, Ten Shiny Snowflakes and I Love Winter, allow us to expand vocabulary, to manipulate book pages, to point & label and to make connections to what is happening outside in our own environment (we will take lots of outdoor walks when temperatures permit). We will continue to gradually work toward introduction of new foods and offer opportunities for grasping spoons and self feedings for our older infants. And we will continue to support motor development with lots of free floor space to move, roll, sit, crawl, pull up, cruise and walk.

Reminders:

- *Please continue to label ALL bottles and personal clothing items.
- *Check diaper supply bins regularly and keep them well stocked.
- *Make sure your infant has at least two sets of seasonally appropriate clothing changes

Thank you and Happy New Year!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



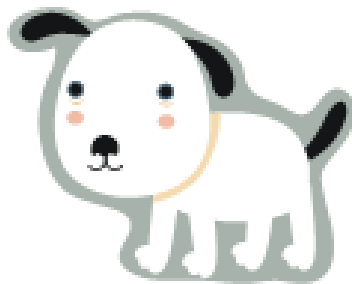
We had been looking forward to December. We loved all the different music and all the dancing! We have mastered the bikes and can ride well. Lunches are nice and we do so well with eating our food but do still need to work on using spoons and forks.

During this month we also enjoyed those special tasting of treats and the teachers made a special lunch for the Yellow Pups to celebrate December!

In January we will be going forward trying to use the ring ropes for walks, starting small with walks to the big room and gradually progressing to short walks outside once the weather is nice!

We will going outside as much as possible so please make sure your child has the proper clothing for outdoor play in winter: snow pants/suit, boots, hat, and mittens.

We will work on using our spoons and forks as much as possible. Lunchtime is a very important time for



learning and being social.

Our January themes will be about winter, cold, and hibernation. We will be doing more art and having more choices. Do we want to do puzzles? Or do you want to try harder shape sorters? Or let's pretend to set the table, feed our babies

bottles, and use gentle touches on each other. We will work on greeting our friends who are coming in to the room by using our words and practicing our language skills.

Again, thanks parents, for proving us with lunch. And we will enjoy using the gift cards.

Yellow Pups

Have a safe and happy holiday.
See you in the New Year! Marsha and Donna

~MARSHA & DONNA

Blue Puppies



The puppies welcomed 2015 with a fun wacky week to get back into our routine. A week of mixed matched socks, silly hats, inside out clothes, and crazy hair had us laughing. We will then have fun looking at books and singing songs about farm animals, making their noises, rolling tractors in paint and making a milk shake. We looked at animals that live in cold places like polar bears, and colored a big penguin. We will end the month talking about birds, coloring birds, listening to

bird noises, and making bird feeders to take home.

We will be working on opposites, matching, counting activities, and fine motor skills such as stringing beads and more complicated puzzles. We will also start introducing open cups during snack time.

REMINDERS:

~please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, and gloves/mittens for outside play.

~In the event of snow, please bring snow gear-boots, pants so we can go and play.

~make sure to check food labels, we cannot serve foods with mango or coconut as well.

~CATHRYN & LACI



Yellow Honey Bees

Welcome back. We hope you had a great holiday with your families. Some things have changed (hopefully the room arrangement). For one Ms. Sarah is back! Also a dear friend has moved to the blue bee room, and two of our part-time friends are now full time. Ms. Barb and Ms. Sarah are looking forward to a great new year.

We will start out talking about penguins. We will make penguins from heart shapes, using our feet and hands, and talking about where they live.

Next we move onto snowmen. We will talk about what we can use to dress our snowman. We will make snowmen many different ways. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and there will be snow for us to make own snowman.

The following week, we will talk about friendship. We will make a friendship tree and friendship quilts and we will also talk about how we treat people and how to be kind.

To end the month we will listen to and dance to different types of music. We will play different instruments, and make our own instruments.

*** Please make sure to bring in your child's snowsuits and boots. If temp is 26 or above (even if there is snow) we will go outside.**

MS. BARB & MS. SARAH



Blue Busy Bees

Happy New Year! We hope you and your families enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. We have a lot of fun and exciting things planned for January! We will start the new year off with the Winter Wonders theme. The children will learn what happens outside during the winter months. We'll explore all of the different winter activities that we can do. Following our Winter Wonders theme will be Polar Animals. We will discover animals that live in the Arctic, their environment and how they live and survive this very cold climate. As the winter weather continues through January we will have a Snowmen and Snowflakes theme. Discussions will include where snow comes from and what we need to build a snowman. January will end with Wacky Week. It will be a fun week talking about being silly! The bees will also learn about Groundhog Day. Be sure to check each day during Wacky Week for our wacky ways to come dressed for school. All of our themes will include class artwork, books and new songs. The Blue Bee's room will also be starting to use a calendar at Circle Time in January. The bees will learn the names of the months and the days of the week. This is always a fun time for our students.

Reminders:

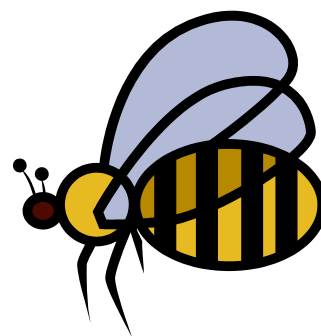
Please label all of your child's clothing, sleep items, lunch gear, etc. Also, please make sure that your bee has come back to school in January with winter gear. This should include boots, waterproof gloves, hats, snow pants and warm winter jackets. We will be going out in snow and cold weather. Your child will need their gear. Consider bringing a pair of boots and snow pants to leave at the center. This is a great time to check your child's cubby for extra warm clothing as well. Some things to keep in mind are; extra pants, underwear, socks and long sleeve shirts.

Areas we continue to work on:

Proper hand washing, putting on coat, gloves and shoes/boots. Potty training is going great in the Blue Bee room. Almost all of our bees are out of diapers/pull-ups! Please let us know if we can help you and your child in this area. We are glad to be of service!

Looking forward to the new year with our bees!

~JODY & PAM

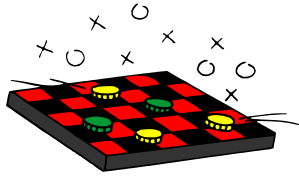


Yellow Bear Cubs

We kicked off December with a great week of Trains; we especially loved the Box Train! We then moved right into sharing and partaking in all the different Holiday Traditions, thanks to all the family members who took the time to come and share some family traditions with us! There were some great new traditions that were introduced to me this year, and I am sure that the teddy bears all took some new information away from the two week long experience!



During the month of January we will be advancing our cooperative social skills by taking turns and following rules to play games! We will be exploring the whole winter weather concept by having activities that give us a hands-on feel for cool, cold and freezing! We will also be talking about hibernation and the effects that the winter weather has on animals, as well as Polar locations and arctic animals.



The winter weather is HERE! 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 25 degrees or more. We need the water proof clothing to protect us from the wet melting snow followed by the mud!!



We will be working hard to improve our independence skills, by getting ourselves dressed and undressed for the outdoor play!

MANDY AND CHERI

Blue Bears

December has been a blast! We really enjoy all the holiday activities, traditions and fun artwork! We hope you have a wonderful break with your families!

January is going to be a busy start to 2015! We will spend our first week back playing lots of games. Please feel free to bring in a game from home for your child to share. It's a nice way to ease back into school after such a long vacation!



The following week we will be talking about those changes outside in the winter time. Hopefully we will get some more snow this week so we can truly get hands on! Next we stick with the winter theme and talk about arctic animals. We will learn all about how they keep warm with all of their blubber as well as why they are all white. This week will have lots of ice in the water table to explore.

The last week of January we will be talking about hibernation, just in time to predict whether or not that pesky groundhog will see his shadow.

Just a reminder to please make sure you have a pair of snow pants and boots here for your child at all times. There are labeled hooks outside the class room door for them.

Check your child's extra clothes bin for seasonally appropriate clothing as well. If you have any questions feel free to talk with either of us!



~KRISTEN & ANGE



Bunnies



Wow! December just flew by! We learned about bucket filling and what it means to be kind and then we talked about families and how they celebrate/what they celebrate during the holiday season. I want to say thank you to all of the parents and families who came in to share a holiday tradition with us. It was so much fun learning how everyone celebrates this time of year.

We have some pretty exciting events coming up this month. The first week of January we will have a day to welcome everyone back and talk about their break and then we will talk about books, all types of books. The next week we will be focusing on the author Mo Willems, who writes the elephant and piggy books as well as the pigeon books. We will learn about what authors and illustrators do, how to draw some of Mo Willems's characters and so much more. Then we will talk about winter and what happens during the season. The last week in January we will be talking about space. We will continue to practice our writing skills and learn the letters Q,R,S and T, and continue to practice beginning sounds of words.

We have a very exciting family event coming up in January as a culminating activity for our Mo Willems week. We are having a PIGEON PALOOZA! The event will take place after school on January 15 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. We will be using the big room, kindergarten room and blue bear rooms. There will be crafts, games, and activities for you and your

Bunnies—continued



child to participate in. There will be a raffle and the library will also be there with signups for library cards. The event is for the yellow and blue bears, bunnies and kindergarten children. It will be so much fun! Stay tuned for more information and the invitation!

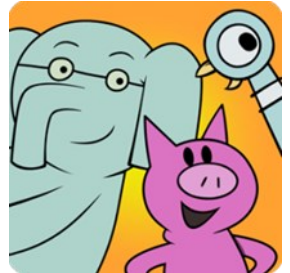


Mo Willems

Reminders:

*There are hooks in the big room for your child's snow gear. Please make sure it is ALL labeled with your child's name and hang it on their hook. (Snow pants, snow boots, waterproof gloves, and hats)

*Please check your child's extra clothes bin to make sure the clothes are seasonally appropriate and that they fit.



Important Dates:

January 15: PIGEON PALOOZA (6:00-7:30pm)

MS. BRITTNEY AND MS. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



What a wonderful month we had in December learning about family traditions! Thank you so much to all who came in to share with our class. Family Day was also great fun! We did lots of fun activities together and everyone loved having our family members spend the afternoon with us!

We've got plenty of great things in store for January as well. For starters, we'll talk about resolutions and will update our goals for the rest of the school year. We'll also continue our study about the season of winter, which we started at the end of December, and will learn more about the states of matter. Hopefully we'll get in a few good experiments with ice and snow and discover first-hand about how matter changes. We'll also experiment with other mixtures, we'll play in some "glop" (cornstarch and water), and we'll follow a recipe to make our very own play dough.

In January we'll focus on being good bucket filling friends and we'll also be learning about some famous American heroes and heroines. We'll review some conflict resolution strategies, learn about the qualities that make a good leader, and we'll learn about some ways that WE can make a difference in our community. "Kids Are Teachers Day" on January 20 should be lots of fun, too! On that day, the children will each have an opportunity to plan a lesson or activity and lead the class as "teacher" during part of the day.

As long as DCCC is not closed for any winter storms during the month of January, our 100th Day of Kindergarten will take place on January 28. The children will bring in collections of 100 things to display in our 100 Day Museum. We welcome everyone to come and stop in to see it! Lots of fun activities are planned for that day, including a piñata which will be filled with 100 items!

Lastly, it's with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to two of our kindergarten friends. Edwige and her family will be moving back to France, and Dani will be attending St. Patrick's with her sisters. We wish them and their families the very best, but we'll miss them so much!

***Please be sure to send in a set of winter gear for your child to keep at DCCC. Cubbies and hooks are labeled in the Big Room for these items to be stored. Also, please be sure that your child has a complete set of extra seasonal clothing in his/her bin.

~ Ms. Katie & Ms. Cheri