

Dickinson College Children's Center February 2015

From the Director's Desk

It's February! It is so hard to believe we just completely flew through January.

We have lots of things going on here at DCCC.

We are still focusing on enrollments as we have more movement going on throughout this new year. We welcomed a number of new families during January and said good-bye to some of our little friends.

Kindergarten interest letters were handed out, due date is February 18th and from this list we can plan accordingly for the fall. We will very soon start working on our classroom projections for the fall and we hope to share results with all families at the Spring Conference.

We held an Open House for our older Summer School Age kids at the new site located at 1250 Ritner Hwy. We plan to hold another Open house during April for any families that couldn't make it.

I have to say that the Pigeon Palooza was pretty amazing! I was so thrilled to see such creativity and dedication from all the teachers that were involved in so many different ways. It truly was a fun night for the children!

We are preparing for the Pancake Breakfast and can't wait to see what the Silent Auction will bring our way! This year we will be switching from Scholastic Book Fairs to Usborne Books. We are hoping to expand our library with lots of nonfiction types of books on miscellaneous topics.

Soccer Shots has been going strong. We had a number of children sign up for the winter session and Mr. Josh is fantastic with the kids!

Make sure to keep an eye out for all the upcoming events!

Thanks again for your continued support,

~Gina

Dates to Remember:

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

**February 17—
Kindergarten
Readiness Information
Night 6-7 p.m.**

**March 3—Infant/
toddler (&sibling)
portraits**

**March 4—Preschool
portraits**

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

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IMPORTANT WINTER WEATHER POLICY CHANGE:

Dear Families,

As we are now in the middle of the winter season, I want remind you of the following guidelines that pertain to weather related closings, delays and early dismissals and update you with an additional recent change.

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 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

On a two hour delay DCCC will open at 9:30 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

DCCC opening at 10:00 a.m. – the 11:00 arrival policy will be extended to 11:30 a.m. to help accommodate the number of children at drop-off.

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

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:

Box Tops- \$900.70

Giant (total to date; runs to March- \$505.60

Total Amount Raised toward goal: \$8682.14

Current:

Pancake Breakfast Tickets now on sale

Box Top Competition now until February 13th

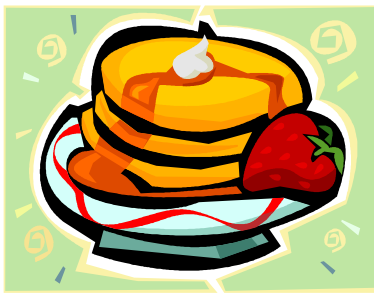
Upcoming:

Pancake Breakfast-February 14th, 2015, 8-11 AM



Goal for the year: \$15,000

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!



February 14, 2014 8-11 a.m.

HUB Social Hall

Please sign up for volunteer opportunities at the sign-in desk outside of the main office





Ducklings



January has been a busy month of transitions as we have all returned from a long winter break and have also warmly welcomed three new little friends into our classroom: a young infant, an older infant and a toddler! The dynamics of our room have changed somewhat now with infants ranging from 5 to 13 months in age! Some are just learning to roll over; others beginning to sit independently and our young toddler is beginning to walk! Feedings range from exclusively bottle feedings to spoon feedings of pureed fruits & veggies and cereals to finger and table foods and various combinations of all of the above!

Lunch time is a very busy time of day in the infant room with a lot of activity, parents entering and leaving the classroom, eight tired and hungry babies, multiple feedings and diaper changes! Our goal is that each child should have a peaceful, enjoyable feeding experience and a calm transition to naptime. We thank you for helping us to maintain that calm atmosphere.

We are about half-way through our first winter, and although temperatures have kept us indoors for much of January, we have been able to play outside on a number of days. We have experienced ice and snow and blustery days! We have explored ideas associated with winter through the scenes that play out beyond our windows, outdoors on our playground, during stroller walks around our neighborhood and through pictures, books, stories and song.

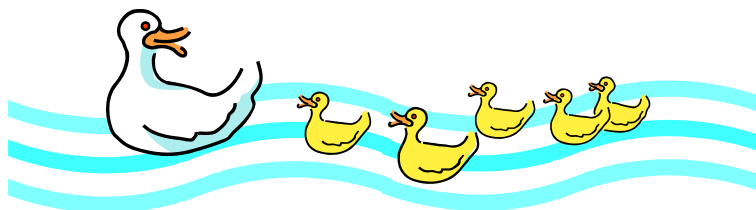
In February, we will explore shades of the color red and heart shapes in our environment, as well as thoughts of love, nurturing and caring for each other, as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day with related board books and songs. While our curriculum revolves around basic care needs, we will introduce chunky puzzles, cause & effect toys, puppets and building blocks for the older infants. The "Big Room" will give us lots of space to practice sitting, rolling, crawling, pushing toys, walking, climbing, dancing and rolling balls. We will take nature walks whenever the temperatures permit. We will also continue to incorporate gestures and signing: waving, clapping, pointing, blowing kisses, and others that build on our emerging language development.

We are so excited about the February 14 Pancake Breakfast and hope that you are all able to attend. The infants will participate in their small way toward the construction of a table center piece! Please don't forget to turn in to the teachers your family Valentine card no later than February 9th....be creative and have fun! The Duckling silent auction box is in the hallway by the front office if you wish to make a donation....our theme is board and texture books and early literacy. Also be sure to browse through the Scholastic book brochures that you find in your "go home" bins each month. It's a nice way to build on your baby's book library at home (they do feature board books). You may order on-line or submit your order to the office and with each book purchase you make, the Center gets points toward book purchases to enhance our classroom library!

Now let's all hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow!

Infant Car Seat Reminder: Please only "park" your child's car seat in the main hallway if a seat exchange is necessary at the end of the day (different parent picking up, grandparents, etc.). With so many seats in the main hallway it is difficult to maneuver strollers and our more mobile children are wanting to touch and play with the seats as they walk in the hallway. Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY

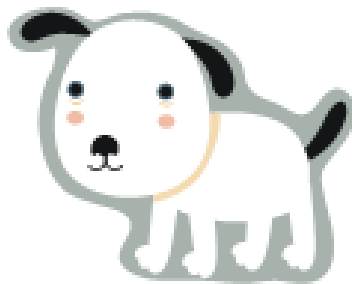


We came back from the holidays ready to go and that is what we have been doing in the Big Room. We love to run when the teachers say "Ready, Set, Go!"

We welcomed two new friends to our room and it didn't take long for them to feel comfortable and secure. They were ready for all the fun activities we have.

We are now walking on the ring rope to go to the Big Room and are doing well with that. We also had a fire drill in which we had to walk outside holding on to the ring rope. Everyone did a great job of holding on.

February will bring a month of "Love". We will talk about being gentle with our friends like giving and getting hugs. We do love patting and taking care of our babies. Next we will make some hearts and other crafts and will be sending home information about our Valentine Party. We will have some special music and will end the month with shapes. Talking about shapes, trying out different shape sorters, and using shape puzzles will be some of the activities during that



week.

Please remember to have outside wear available. This includes mittens, snow pants, and boots. If the temperature permits us to go outside, we will. So it is important to bring in these items weekly. Make sure your child has extra changes of clothing in their bins. And please, try

and bring in diapers and wipes when we send notes home.

Any questions or concerns, please ask.

~MARSHA & DONNA

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Yellow Pups

Blue Puppies



Wow! It's February already! The Puppies have been having a lot of fun playing in our kitchen and block area and working on our small motor skills. We are introducing open cups to a few of our friends and it is going well!

This next month will have us looking for our shadows. Start looking for those flashlights so we can have fun and make shadows on our wall. We will color a groundhog and see if spring is on its way. The puppies will be talking about feelings and friends as we get ready for Valentine's Day. We will play with red play-doh, color hearts, decorate a bag, and finger paint with red paint. I will be sending home a list of all the kids names so that we can exchange valentine cards. Next we will be working on identifying our colors. We will see what color everyone is wearing, talk about the color of the crayons and markers we use. The puppies will wrap up the month talking about teeth. We will, paint with tooth brushes and sing songs about brushing teeth.

We will be focusing on some cognitive skills such as matching, colors, and counting.

REMINDERS:

~Please check food labels, we may not serve mangos or foods with mango in them.

~Our cubbies are for gloves, hats, and lunch boxes, please hang coats on the hooks.

~CATHRYN & LACI



Yellow Honey Bees

January jumped its way in and it's jiving its way out! But we are certain and very excited about the month to come! We are going to LOVE February!

We'll kick off February with our own song and dance while we explore the world of MUSIC! Listening to different types of music can make us feel different ways! We'll get to interoperate those feelings through artwork and dancing! We'll follow up a week of music by really diving into what FEELINGS are all about. The first feeling we'll focus on is LOVE. We'll forgo the normal Valentine's Day party, but we will partake in a classroom Valentine's Day card exchange. More importantly, as we discuss our feelings, we'll cover what they are, what they look like, and how to appropriately handle them!



Feeling healthy is something we LOVE to FEEL! How do we stay healthy? What foods are healthy for us? What can we do to help ourselves feel better if we are sick? During the third week of February, we'll discover ways to keep ourselves healthy! You'll be hearing a lot about "Choosey Kids", a music CD that we have that puts a song and dance to some daily healthy habits we can all take part in to help us lead a healthy lifestyle!

Lastly, we LOVE books! It will be a week chalk-full of learning about ourselves, from the inside out! It's fun to document these new found learnings in the form of books! So this week, we'll read a lot of books about the world around us. But, the most fun will be had when we get to write our OWN books about ourselves as a class! (This is equally as fun for the kiddos as it is for the teachers!) We look forward to sharing our productions with our families!

REMINDERS:

-If you have not provided your child with snow gear to wear outdoors, please do so! The weather is cold and we do like to get outside! Also, so there are no mix-ups with whose boots/gloves/pants are whose, please label your child's belongings! Thank you!

-KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! It has been a pleasure getting to know you and your children these past few months!

Ms. BARB & Ms. SARAH

Blue Busy Bees

Greetings from the Blue Bee room. We had a great month of January! Our bees returned from their holiday breaks ready to have some fun. We explored with our Winter Wonders theme, had a blast with our Polar Animals playing in the icy water and loved learning about snow and snowflakes. The weather even cooperated and gave us a few inches of snow that week. We were able to build our snowman and the children had a wonderful time. We finished up January with Wacky Week. The bees enjoyed dressing "wacky" and we shared a lot of laughs that week.

We will start February off with Art Week. We will discover different ways to make art. The children will learn about the various art tools that one can use. There will be opportunities to make special projects and read many new books about art. Next up will be the theme of I Love You, You Love Me. We will talk about kindness and what it means to be kind to one another. We will be decorating valentine's cards and sharing them with our friends. The next theme will be Feelings. We will discuss our feelings, facial expressions one may use to show a feeling and our feelings towards our friends and families. Our final February theme will be Community Helpers. The Bees will learn about people in our community that help us to stay safe and healthy. We will learn about the roles Police Officers, Fire Fighters, Doctors, Nurses, Dentists, etc. play in our lives. We will even talk about Veterinarians and how they keep our pets healthy. It should be a fun week! Of course, we will have plenty of new books in the classroom covering these areas. Our Bees will enjoy making art projects and singing new songs as well.

REMINDERS:

Please remember to label EVERYTHING that your child brings into the classroom. During this time of year we have lots of little mittens, hats, etc.. Often some look alike (Soccer Shots hats for example). Please find a creative way to put your child's initials or name on them. Also, please label all food items in your child's lunch as well (special cups too).

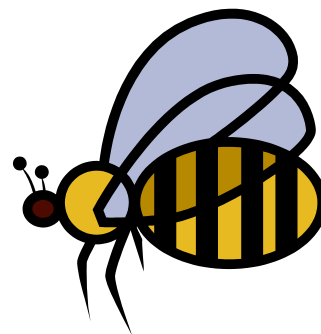
***Please remember to have your child wash their hands upon arriving AND fill out your child's slip for their day.**

Areas we continue to work on:

Hand washing, potty training, putting on coats, winter gear and shoes.

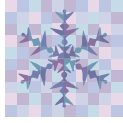
We are looking forward to a fantastic February!

~JODY & PAM



Yellow Bear Cubs

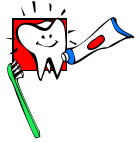
We had a great time starting off the New Year by playing games with our friends! We experienced some very fun games that our friends all shared nicely! We then learned about all types of weather; windy, rainy, etc. We had a great time exploring with cold and freezing water, and learning about different arctic animals in their habitats! We wrapped up the month by diving into some great winter stories by Jan Brett that also introduced us to some special animals!



In February we will be looking online at a hibernating bear and her cubs during Hibernation week, hopefully the den cams will be up and running. We will look forward to reviewing feelings and encourage more “Doing Turtle” throughout our feelings week and all of February. We will be taking a trip back in time to Dinosaur land where we will learn a lot about



several dinosaurs, measurement and comparisons! We will wrap up the month by learn about dental health and hopefully have Dr. Joe or some Dental assistant students visit us.



Teddy Bear Reminders:

We are heading into our classroom birthdays in March, please take the time to review the birthday policy in the parent handbook, feel free to touch base with me on any questions or suggestions if you would like to do something at school for your child.



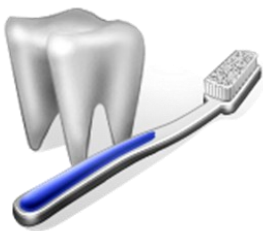
MANDY AND CHERI

Blue Bears

We had a fantastic January! The weather could have been a little warmer, but it was fun to get out and play in some snow when we had the chance. The kids had a great time playing games they brought from home, talking about Polar Regions and animals, and especially playing in the ice cold water in the water table! We ended the month predicting whether the Groundhog would see his shadow....



We are looking forward to our short but busy month of February. We begin the month talking about dinosaurs! This is usually a very popular theme. We then move on to feelings, just in time for Valentine’s Day. Look for a class list soon in cubbies to fill out those Valentine’s; we’ll have a small party to exchange Valentine’s on February 13th. That will be followed by dental health week and hopefully a visit from a local dentist. We finish the month with Dr. Seuss, since his birthday falls



right at the beginning of the March! We love the rhyming and art projects that go along with reading all those silly books!

Upcoming events:

Pancake Breakfast and Usborne Book Fair February 14th 8-11am

Picture Day – March 4th

Grandparents Day March 27th 10-11am

As always, check extra clothes bins for seasonally appropriate clothes, make sure your child has snow pants and boots here at all times, and label, label, label! If you have any questions please talk with Ms. Ange or Ms. Kristen. Thank you!



~KRISTEN & ANGE

Bunnies



Wow, February already, I cannot believe how quickly this year is flying by! In January we had so much fun learning about books, Mo Willems, winter and Space! The Pigeon Palooza was the hit of the month I think because the class is still talking about it! (Thank you everyone who made that event such a success!)

February will be a month of excitement as well. We will start the month talking about dental health. We will discover what dentists do, why we brush our teeth, and what will happen to our teeth when we don't. Then we will move into our feelings week right in time for Valentine's Day weekend. We will talk about different feelings, how we show people we love and care about them and what makes us feel happy. Friday of that week will be our Valentine card exchange. The following week we will be discussing famous Americans. We will learn what they did, why they were important and how we can be like them. We will wrap up the month talking about dinosaurs.

We will learn the letters U, V, W and X and will continue to practice the ones we have already learned. We will also continue to work on our kindergarten readiness skills.

Reminders:

- *Make sure to return your child's signed Kindergarten Readiness form to your child's teacher
- *Please be checking your child's extra clothes bins for weather appropriate clothing
- *Please put your child's snow boots on the floor under their snow pants not on the shelf
- *Make sure that all of your child's snow gear is labeled

Important Dates:

Saturday February 14: Pancake Breakfast

MS. BRITTNEY AND MS. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



The children all did an awesome job of being teachers on our "Kids Are Teachers Day"! Each child was in charge of two parts of the day. Some even planned lessons and center activities. Miss Cheri and Miss Katie enjoyed being "kids" for the day!

In the weeks preceding our 100th Day of Kindergarten we did a bundle of 100-themed activities. We've done LOTS of counting... by ones, tens, and fives.. and are learning more about place value. Our actual 100th Day, which we celebrated on January 28, was tons of fun, and the children's 100 Day projects were really quite impressive! I hope you were able to come on in to visit our 100 Day Museum!

We'll be celebrating Groundhog Day by learning a little bit about shadows. We're hoping the weather will cooperate with us so that we can get outside to do a few shadow experiments, but we'll settle for indoor experiments with flashlights if necessary!

Also in February we'll revisit our study about Health and Nutrition. We'll review about healthy habits and how to prevent germs from spreading. We'll also review the importance of exercise and eating nutritiously, and will learn about dental health, as well. On Valentine's Day, we'll find out some interesting things about our real hearts.

We'll be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 13. The children may all bring Valentine cards for their peers and we'll do a few Valentine-themed activities that day.

We're planning two weeks of fun and rhyme at the end of February with "On the Loose With Dr. Seuss and Mother Goose"! We'll play around with rhyming words and alliteration, as we do our share of writing rhymes and stories. A few special days are planned during those weeks. We'll practice reciting nursery rhymes and dress like a favorite nursery rhyme character on "Nursery Rhyme Day" (Feb. 19). We'll be doing everything in a wacky way on "Wacky Wednesday" (Feb, 25). "Dr. Seuss Day" will be celebrated the following week on Dr. Seuss's actual birthday. That day we'll all come to school dressed like our favorite Dr. Seuss character.

~ MS. KATIE & MS. CHERI