



Dickinson College Children's Center April 2015



From the Director's Desk

We hope that we have done a good job of informing all families of which classroom their child or children are projected to move in August of 2015. 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 2015 have been given to the teachers. The Waiting List is currently being reviewed. Tours are being scheduled to 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 Visiting Day was a hit and we had over 88 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 our children.

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. Our Preschool teachers will also be visiting some of the local Kindergarten Programs this month, in order to help bridge the gap between Pre-school and Kindergarten. Transitioning the children appropriately is very important to DCCC.

Parent Conferences will begin toward the end of the month. 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 for those children scheduled to attend the Summer School Age Program. All bus field trips will be set up with the Wolf's Bus Company within the next couple of weeks so that the Activity Fee Letters can be sent home as well.

~Gina

Dates to Remember:

**April 20—May 5
Spring Conferences**

**May 7—St. Jude's
Children's Research
Hospital Trike-a-Thon**



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Fundraising

Ongoing:

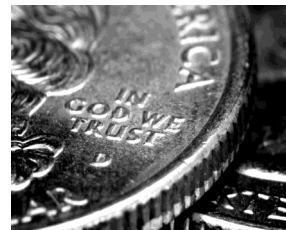
*Nell's Gold Card & Target Red Card-Please find information on how to register for these on our website at: http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20075/children_s_center/1055/fundraisers

*Shoparoo-sign up at shoparoo.com to help our center earn roo points.

Totals:

Target- \$484.53
Cookie Exchange -\$400.00
Giant Rewards - \$892.49
South Side Deli- \$100.00
Chicken BBQ - \$1626.97
T-shirts- \$273.00
Promotion Motion- \$4306.70
Red Robin- \$55.52
Pancake Breakfast - \$5458.60
Portraits - \$335.00
Box Tops - \$1186.90

Total Amount Raised: \$15, 119.71



Upcoming:

*Original Works

Goal for the year: We have met our goal of \$15,000!! Thank you everyone for your help in this accomplishment!

In consideration of our staff...

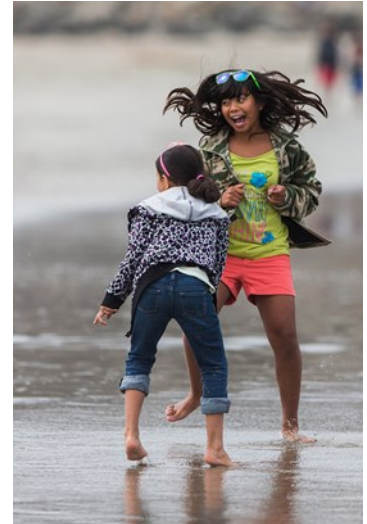
The Children's Center closes promptly at 5:30, with the Infant Room closing at 5:15, each evening. Family members should arrive at the Center with enough time to pick up their child, gather their child's belongings and **exit the building by 5:30.**



Dickinson College Children's Center Older School Age Summer Program

****Open House**
April 26 2-4 p.m.

1250 Ritner Highway



Invite a friend and help spread the word!*

Dickinson College Summer School-Age Program Open House –
new program & location!

Dragons II (Ages 8-12)

Sunday April 26th 2-4 p.m.

1250 Ritner Highway Carlisle

***Refer a new family and have them attach this coupon to their camp application. If they are enrolled in the camp program, your family will receive a \$25 tuition credit!**

Invited by: _____



Ducklings



March was such a busy month, full of new discoveries and emerging skills for us. A big highlight of the month for us was Grandparents' Day. Thank you to those grandparents and other family members and loved ones who came into our classroom on that special day. As we meet your family, we get to know you all a little bit better and that strengthens our relationship and our bond with your baby and family. Thank you! We loved meeting all of you.

The month of April ushers in spring. 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, we do need foot protection for outdoor play. Robeez, or a similar soft sole protective shoe is fine. If your child is standing and walking, he may need a more supportive style shoe.

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. As your younger infant approaches the 9 month mark in the coming weeks and months, we will be sending home the Nine Month Letter, which highlights the developmental goals and expectations for the older infant. Let us know if you have questions or concerns. Please remember that these are all normal expectations for the older infant, but that each child progresses toward them at their own pace.

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 fun theme. Please send in pictures of your family pets to share!

We will carry on with our 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 mid-April, participating as appropriate in this important center-wide celebration. We are looking forward to meeting with you at parent-teacher conferences on April 20 to share in your baby's developmental progress, goals, expectations and plans to move up to their new classrooms in late summer.

Reminders:

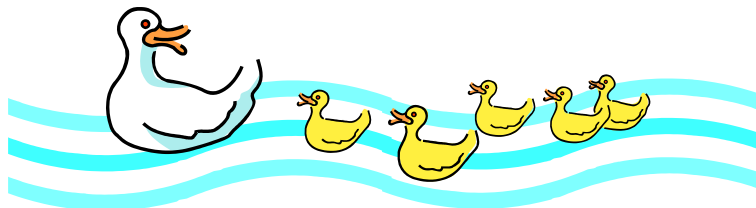
Please continue to check and refill your baby's diaper supply bin regularly

Please be sure to send in extra season- and size-appropriate clothing for your baby...spring is here!

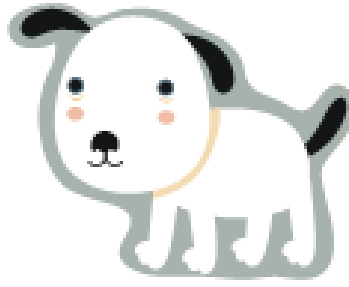
Please continue to label all of your baby's belongings

Thank you!

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



April is upon us and the Yellow Puppies are becoming those big Toddlers! We all know how to hold on to the ring rope on walks and where to go to wash hands, find our chair, and bring our cups to the counter! Following directions happens when we want to and we are using many words or gestures to express ourselves! We enjoyed having our grandparents join us in our room. It was a little crowded but such fun to have everyone visit.



This month we will work on finding our own coats/jackets to put on. With help, pulling their zipper down and taking off their coat. Maybe starting outside to drink some water with an open cup.

Reminders to parents: Thanks for labeling lunch items in their lunch box. Also, we hope that parents are remembering to wash their child's hands when coming into the room. Please make sure we have extra clothing. And please, remember to let us know if your child will be off.

~MARSHA & DONNA

We sure hope April brings us some nice weather because we really enjoy getting outside. We are doing an egg-stanza week and will taste various ways we eat eggs. More information will be given when we get closer to the time.

Yellow Pups

There will be a pool of eggs to play in and we will practice hunting eggs. We will also do a week talking about chicks, a week about Bunnies and lastly, a week of things that go and grow.

Blue Puppies



April is here and hopefully some warmer weather is on it's way! In the meantime we have lots of fun things planned for the Puppies!

We will start the month with "Things that Go!" The puppies love playing with cars and trucks and watching the train as it goes by. We will paint car wheels and run them across paper and will also make car tracks in play-doh. The puppies will go for a walk and look for cars, bikes, and trucks. April is the "Week of the Young Child" and each day we will have an extra special activity such as messy-finger painting, making a special snack, looking through magnifying glasses and colored paddles, throwing balls through hoops and jumping. The puppies will enjoy digging in dirt as we have an Earth week, during Earth week we will be 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:

- ~Grapes, hot dogs, cherry tomatoes, etc. **MUST** be cut into quarters.
- ~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 are running, climbing, jumping, and taking 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!



theclipartdrawer.com

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

We are looking forward to meeting with you all at the end of April for parent teacher conferences! We value this time with you so much!

REMINDERS:

* Because the health and safety of your children is one of the utmost concerns to us, please abide by our center's choking hazard policy and double check the food items on the list the DCCC parent handbook provides. We understand that in a home setting, a child may be capable of eating foods off 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. Clean out what is not needed! A good rule of thumb: Extra clothing and ONE stuffed animal for nap time. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this!

MS. BARB & MS. SARAH

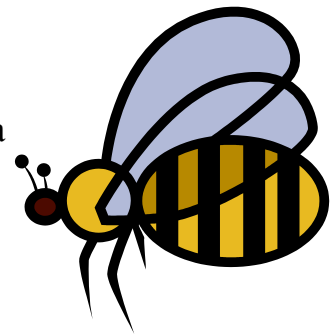
Blue Busy Bees

Greetings from the Blue Bee room. Our Bees are anxiously awaiting the spring weather. When asked what they are most excited about during the day, the majority responded that they like going to the playground to play and ride bikes. We kept our Bees busy during the month of March with the crazy weather. Since all of our Bees are three now we have begun to introduce new toys. You may have noticed children playing with water color paints, match box cars and many new counting toys. The children have really been enjoying these new items. They also loved planting their bean seeds and watching them grow. We even have a new bird feeder on one of our windows (facing our playground) and the bees love looking out for the birds to come. Many of the children expressed an interest in having one. Feel free to check it out. It's an easy project that you could make at home.

We had a great time with our March themes. Birthday Fun was a big hit! The children loved talking about birthdays and of course, the gift exchange. Our Shamrocks and the Color Green week was a blast. Everyone got a kick out of our visit from the sneaky leprechaun and the tricks that he played in our room. It was fun creating crafts for Rainbows week and the Bees really loved our book themed week. Our group is serious about books! There have been some books in our classroom this year that the children can practically read to one another because they are constantly looking at them. What great readers our Bees will be! We are ready for our April themes. They include; Farming Fun, Week of the Young Child, Up, Up and Away and April Showers. There will be lots of opportunities to learn, read, sing and create art work for all of our themes.

REMINDERS:

- As spring arrives the weather can still be quite cool in the morning. Please consider dressing your child in layers and providing appropriate coats and jackets.
- Please check out your student's cubby for any clothing needs.
- As the spring rains arrive it is suggested to provide some rain boots as well. The Bees often find the mud puddles!
- Please remember to LABEL, LABEL, LABEL everything! This includes hats, gloves, lunch items, etc.
- Don't forget to provide your Bee with a child sized fork if desired. We can only provide plastic spoons thus, making some lunch time eating a little difficult.



~JODY & PAM

Yellow Bear Cubs

We had a rhyming good time with our Dr. Seuss weeks 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 spending some quality time with our Grandparent visitors!

We will jump right into the festive Egg-stravaganza week where we will focus on ovals and eggs! There will be an egg hunt using some plastic eggs and we will be dyeing eggs during that week too! We are going to follow that 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 during the week of April 13th, and we will have a load of fun activities planned for each day! There will be a Musical Monday, Taco Tuesday, Building Wednesday, Artistic Thursday, and Family Friday! We will head

into the week of April 20st with an eye on our environment and how we can make a healthy impact, 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; this will also be the week of Conferences, particularly April 27th!

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 birthday snack policy in the parent handbook or ask Ms. Mandy for the list!

MANDY AND CHERI

Blue Bears

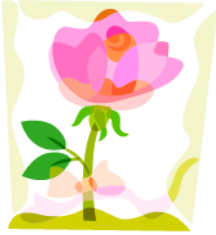
Hopefully we can jump into spring with some warmer weather and leave this crazy cold behind us! The teddy bears will start off April with a review of our alphabet since we came to an end with the letter Z. We will have lots of different activities with letter recognition and some review games that we have played throughout the year.



Once we finish our review we will enjoy a lot of different activities with the Week Of The Young Child. We will have a special music event some food activities and look for information about when you can come and visit us that week. It is going to be a very busy week!



After we finish having fun activities we will learn about the environment we live in and celebrate 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 will end our April with lots of spring garden talk. Hopefully by this time we will have warm weather and can do some planting of our own. We will have lots of activities with flowers and changing the colors of different flowers. We will also have some flowers in our classroom so we can pretend to have a floral shop!



~KRISTEN & ANGE



Bunnies

My oh my! March has just flown by! We started out the month talking about Dr. Seuss and had a great time with cooking and rhyming. Next we moved into fairy tales and nursery rhymes and we were able to discuss the setting and the characters of many stories and compare the various versions. The tricky leprechaun paid us a little visit when we were discussing Ireland and St. Patrick's Day. We were hoping to get some tadpoles but due to cold temperatures we didn't get them yet. Hopefully, in a week or two we will be able to get some in our classroom to watch. We rounded out the month talking about spring.

April brings a whole new list of fun themes and activities, and hopefully some warmer sunny weather! Starting with bugs and insects, we will discover where they live and all different kinds of bugs. Then we will have the Week of the Young Child, which will have a different theme each day. To celebrate Earth day we will have a week on recycling and how to take care of the environment. We will finish the month with Gardening week, where we will be planting various things in the garden and a mini classroom garden.

We will be continuing to work on our letter and our writing but will also focus on putting letter sounds together to start thinking about how words are spelled. We will also be practicing our number writing.

Reminders:

*Please make sure that you are checking your child's extra clothing bin to make sure they have clothes and that they are seasonally appropriate and fit correctly.

*Continue to be checking your child's mailbox daily to make sure you are getting important information.

Important Dates:

Bunny Conferences: April 30-May 1 (Make sure you have signed up for a time slot).

MS. BRITNEY AND MS. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



Dinosaurs infiltrated much of our learning during the first half of March. We created a dinosaur land for them in our water table, measured their would-be lengths, examined fossils, found little words and word parts within long dinosaur names, and created a "Dinosaur Math" book using dinosaur stories to represent number equations.

Although he left quite a mess in our classroom, the kindergartners really enjoyed our visit from Lep the Leprechaun. Instead of traps, we created a play yard and wrote letters to him. How thrilling it was to receive letters back from him with many of our questions answered! "Lep" also left lots of little clues throughout the room about his size, weight, and age, all of which we needed to use our skills in math to solve. He did try to trick us by leaving some "fake" gold, but the kindergartners were way too clever to be tricked!

We are welcoming in Spring with a unit about cycles and growth, and are all creating our own "My Life" books using photos of ourselves from birth through kindergarten. We're also learning about what plants need to survive and are planting various seeds in baggies for a "sprouting race". We'll be taking a trip to the DC Greenhouse in April to help Ann plant seeds for our Children's Center garden.

Throughout the month of April, the kindergartners will be learning about our environment and what we can do to conserve resources and protect our environment for ourselves and for other living things. We'll have a trash-free picnic to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and we'll culminate our unit with a "Rainforest Day" on April 24.

The children will each be preparing an endangered animal project to present to their classmates during the weeks of April 13 and April 20. They'll research 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 their own "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 13, there will be a special center-wide theme for each day which we'll incorporate in addition to our unit on the environment. We're looking for a few people who would like to come in to do a short musical presentation for our DCCC children on "Musical Monday", so if you play an instrument, sing, or dance, and you'd be willing to participate, please let me know! Our audience is always quite appreciative and easy to please! On Tuesday, we'll enjoy a "Taco Lunch" and on Wednesday it will be "Building and Construction Day". Please help us to collect some good reusable items (boxes, paper rolls....) as well as some wood scraps to use in our construction that day. Thursday will be "Art Day". There are so many ideas for this, but we'll fine tune our plans closer to that day. On Friday it's "Celebrate our Family Day". We'll be inviting parents (or grandparents) to sign up to come in for any portion of our day. You may choose to read a story to the class, have lunch or snack with your child, share a special talent, or just help out with our normal kindergarten activities.

~ Ms. KATIE & Ms. CHERI