



Dickinson College Children's Center May 2015

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.



- **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.

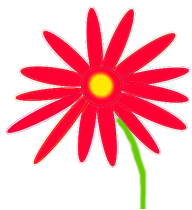
Dates to Remember:

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

May 25—DCCC Closed

May 29—Family Special Event

**May 31—25th Anniversary Open House
1—4 p.m.**



From the Director's Desk

It is hard to believe we are into the month of May already. The year was busy and continues to fly by. We are excited to be having some warmer weather but would like to see more of it.

As we enter spring and are excited about all of the busyness around us, ***I would like to ask all families to please work with your child on holding your hand or walking closely to you as you leave at the end of the night. I have witnessed some very close calls including children pushing the main door open and being seconds away from being outside of the building without a parent. All of our staff members work very hard at supervision. We spend hours teaching the children to hold onto ropes when walking inside, to use walking feet and not to be in the hallway without an adult. Please help enforce these same rules with your children. They are so very smart and they really do understand. Together we can work at continuing to keep your children safe.***

Here are a few other things happening at the center:

Class rosters for the fall have been shared with families. **(continued on next page...)**

Inside this issue:

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

**The center has decided to do a 3.5 % increase in tuition plus an additional \$3.89 increase per child in order to help cover the costs for the 2015-2016 budget year. The center will also be holding a second summer camp program in order to provide additional revenue for the center.

**The Waiting List has been taken off the website as the center proceeds in offering spots for the fall in a variety of classrooms. We continue to look forward to enrolling many new families. Applications are welcome and prospective families are encouraged to call the center for enrollment information. An Open House will be offered on August 14th from 3-4.

**Staff Appreciation will be held on Thursday, May 6th. Parents have been taking a collection and plan to provide a lunch for all staff. This is a great time of year to thank your child's teacher for a job well done.

**The Department of Human Services State Inspection will be held in May this year. The STARS Assessor visited the Children's Center three times during the month of March. The teachers and the classrooms were rated according to an assessment scale set forth in both ECERS (Preschool) and ITERS (Infant/Toddlers). The center has achieved an Average Facility Score of 5.54. A designation visit will be set up for August 2015 in order to upgrade the center to a STAR 4! The center is very excited to continue to improve in all areas.

**We are excited to be holding our annual Trike A Thon on May 7 (rain date—May 8). It is always a fun time for the children and we are hoping for nice weather!

**Parents will be invited to share in celebrating our 25th Anniversary in activities along with their child here at the center on May 29th from 3 to 5 PM at pick up times.

**Kindergarten Graduation will be held on June 3rd here at DCCC.

**Summer Camp will begin on June 8th.

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Fundraising

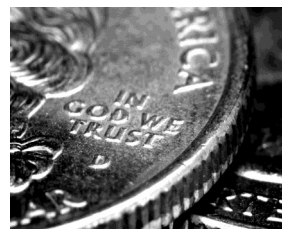
Ongoing:

*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
Original Works-waiting an amount



Total Amount Raised: \$15,119.71

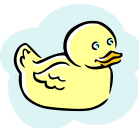
Upcoming:

Yearbooks

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



Ducklings



We can finally say, “Happy Spring!” April has been a beautiful month and we were outside with the infants nearly every day, except on those occasional rainy days. Even then, we ventured out into a light drizzle to let the babies savor the April showers. Our kites billowed in the breezes; our pinwheels spun; we smelled calming lavender and mint from our garden and we witnessed the blossoming of green grass, yellow daffodils and colorful tulips. We met with Master Gardener Ann to witness the early plantings of the Children’s Garden this season and we will continue to observe its growth, water, and harvest! Be sure to check out our bulletin board where we document some of our learning and discoveries in photos. Thanks to our parents who came in for parent-teacher conferences....we value that time to chat and share progress and expectations for your babies, as well as to plan together for transitions to new classrooms in summer.

Because of our growing fascination with things that turn and move, one of our “big ideas” for May will be “Things That GO!”....we will celebrate things that go in play, in books, songs and in our observations around our neighborhood and campus.

During the month of May, three of our classmates will reach their first birthday milestones! This is a time when infants typically have moved away from pureed baby foods and are able to enjoy the delights of table foods! We will celebrate healthy food choices this month with the “big idea”, “We Are What We Eat!” We will read Eric Carle’s The Hungry Caterpillar and other stories about healthy food habits. You will notice that now that most of the infants are self-feeding, we are eating in small social groups of four, which is such fun and we learn so much at mealtimes together.

Our one-year olds will also be introduced to some simple art materials, such as finger paints and chunky crayons. These art activities can be fun and creative, while strengthening and training the little hand muscles to one day hold a pencil. We look forward to sharing our early masterpieces with you!

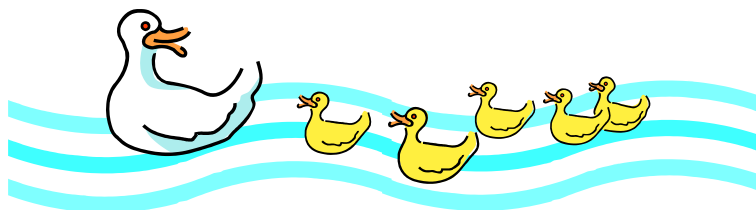
The infants will participate in the St. Jude Children’s Hospital fundraiser, a mini-trike-a-thon with our strollers and push toys, at 11:15 am on May 7 on the infant-toddler playground. You will receive more information on this and we will request that you turn in a signed permission slip to the office.

****Parent Reminders:**

- Please send in sunscreen (no sprays) and sunhats, if you have not done so
- Please refill extra clothing bags and your diaper supply bins regularly

****Important Calendar Dates:** Check the Duckling lesson plan for important dates to remember this month, including Cinco de Mayo, DCCC Memorial Day Closure (5/25) and DCCC Family Event (5/29).

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody





Parent Reminders:

- *Outside shade hats
- *Apply sunscreen as part of your morning routine
- *Make sure to have good playground shoes
- *Please label all items coming the room
- *Please make sure to call in to center if you are going to be coming in later than normal or off for the day because as the weather gets nice, we may want to take walks.

~MARSHA & DONNA

Thank you parents for taking time to meet for conferences. It is always nice to sit down and discuss how well your child is doing.

What are we enjoying?

- *Playing outside under the new shade on the playground.
- *taking mini-walks around the building on the ring rope.
- *Helping each other and our teachers and following directions from our teachers.

We are doing a week on the letter “M”. And we all know “M” stands for MOM!! We will be making a special surprise for MOM!

We will do another week on My Family. We all love to look at our family pictures, it brings comfort to us, especially on a hard day. All of the Puppies like to point to each other’s family pictures.

We will spend time having some Mmmm good food, we might even get to eat outside!

Lastly we will have fun with Music. We love to dance and will try some new songs.

Yellow Pups

Blue Puppies

Spring is here! We can see it out our window. Bright sunshine, green grass, and bunnies hopping on our playground. May brings flowers. The puppies will read Planting a Rainbow, plant flowers and color flowers. We will go for a walk to look for flowers and see what colors they are. There will be garden tools and soil in the sensory table for them to play with. Colors are everywhere, so let’s see how many we can identify. We will work on reinforcing our colors through many art activities, playing with play-doh, singing songs and having a color of the day to wear to school. The puppies love looking at books and we will be reading lots from our favorite authors. We will make a paper caterpillar (Eric Carle), paint 5 little Monkeys (Eileen Christelow), and have a barn yard dance (Sandra Boyton). If your child has a favorite book, please bring it in to share. The bugs are coming! There will be bugs in our sensory table to explore. We will also color bees, making a spider, painting with fly swatters, and looking for bugs on the playground.

SAFTY CONCERNS:

We can use the older toddler playground in the mornings. (Next to Michelle’s office) There is so much more for them to climb on, so for their safety please make sure your child has sneakers or a sturdy sport sandal or they may not be allowed to use the climber that day.

REMINDERS:

- ~Keep a jacket for those cool mornings
- ~Check their clothing bin, rotate seasonal clothing
- ~Bring in sunscreen (no sprays). Please check the expiration date and also consider a hat to help protect our heads from the sun.

~CATHRYN & LACI



Yellow Honey Bees

Does it ever feel funny writing “May” newsletter already! Wasn’t it just February five minutes ago? Let’s recap April. We started the month of April by taking the first two weeks talking about how we can help our bodies grow to be big and strong and figuring out who we are. What are our needs? How are we all different? How are we all the same? We found that like us, plants and animals also need a lot of the same things we need to grow and to thrive. During earth week we really got to delve into this. Plants need water and food just like us. They need our help to keep clean, so we went and picked up trash around our streets. We also talked about eggs and the different animals that lay eggs. We delved a little into some math concepts and did a lot with counting this month! We really enjoyed using flannel boards for our counting activities!



Now here’s the curriculum for May. The first week we’ll talk about baby animals. We’ll practice matching the baby animal to the mommy or daddy animal. During the second week of May we’ll talk about plants and gardening. We really enjoyed the unit we did when we talked about flowers, so we decided to go back to it and focus on planting things! On our walks we see such beautiful flowers with bright colors and our school garden changing every time! We’ve been able to watch a bush bloom into yellow flowers over the last month so we have decided to plant our own flowers to see what our flowers will look like when they bloom. How long will they take to grow? How big will they get? We’ll practice our counting as we measure their growth! With more time outside on the playground, we’ll look at the different bugs that have come out now that the weather is warmer. We are intrigued by ants and baffled by bees and butterflies. We’ll look at the life cycle of our tadpoles! Lastly, we’ll do a week of bike safety as we ride our bikes for the annual trike-a-thon for St. Jude’s!



A big **THANK YOU** to all the parents that participated in parent teacher conferences!

REMINDERS:

- Please take home your snow clothes if you have not already!
- Bring in sunscreen for your children. Label the bottle with their name and **CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE**. **no aerosol or spray sunscreen please*
- Double check your child’s extra clothing for seasonal and size appropriate clothing.

MS. BARB & MS. SARAH

Blue Busy Bees

Greetings from the Blue Bee room! April came in with a small dose of showers and some unusual weather. Regardless, we were grateful for the break in the weather and have been enjoying being on the playground almost everyday. The Bees have enjoyed the new kitchen play set donated by a DCCC family. We even took some walks around the neighborhood. The Bees loved seeing all of the blooming trees and flowers. They did an excellent job walking as a group. They even sang the ABC's and entertained some of our neighbors. We had a great time with our April themes; Up, Up, and Away, Week of the Young Child and April Showers. As always, the Bees were excited to learn new things and participate in activities and create artwork.

May themes will include: Farming Fun, Creepy Crawlies, Food, and finally, May Flowers and Spring Animals. The Bees will have fun looking at bugs up close as they learn about them and how they are different from each other. Our Food theme will include learning about animals that live on the farm. We will talk about the types of animals on the farm, what they sound like and what they provide us with for food (ex. cows and milk). May Flowers and Spring Animals will include discussions about animals that we see emerge in the spring time and what happens to flowers in the spring. We will even plant our own flowers.

***Areas we continue to work on:**

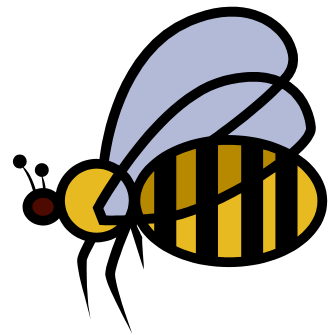
Putting on our own coats and shoes, proper hand washing, toy clean up time and lunch time manners.

*** Reminders:**

Since we have had some strange weather recently **PLEASE** send your children in the appropriate clothing for the day. Consider leaving an extra light weight jacket and even rain boots (if not already here). Dressing in layers is also a good idea as the day can warm up from the chilly mornings. **ALWAYS** label everything (i.e., cups, lunch items, hats, etc.). **Please check you child's cubby for extra clothing!**

Looking forward to May!

~**JODY & PAM**



Yellow Bear Cubs

We blasted through April quickly with some great Alphabet and number fun, and The Week of the Young Child's activities were great as well! It was an "EGGSTRA" colorful week during our Extravaganza week. We learned a lot about saving the environment and recycling during Earth Week. We wrapped up the month and started into May with some fun Folk Tales, we really enjoyed hearing the stories and then acting them out!



To come in May we will follow our Folk Tales with some enchanted fairy tales! We will watch May blossom with some planting fun during our "spring has sprung" Week! With the blossom of spring will come insects all around us, and looking at them in a safe way during creepy crawly bug week will be lots of fun! We plan to



zoom off into outer space at the end of May and maybe even visit the planetarium too!



I truly enjoyed taking the opportunity to meet with all of you at conferences; it is so great to share all the growth that we have seen in each and every one of these bears!

Teddy Bear Reminders:

Please check your child's extra clothes bin for proper seasonal and fitting clothes!

MANDY AND CHERI

Blue Bears

Thank you very much for taking the time to come to conferences! It is a great way for us to communicate about your child's progress. They all went very well, and we know you enjoyed seeing how much your child has grown over the last six months.



May will kick off with a fantastic fairy tale ball followed by some pretty fun folk tales. We will all bet out acting debut these weeks as we retell the stories. We will all become trolls that live under bridges and silly bears. One of the big events we look forward to all year will happen at the beginning of the month as we pedal our little hearts out and have fun with the trike a thon!

We will hope for some spring weather to finally come so we can head outside for our gardening week and plant some flowers and watch them grow. We will explore our children's garden that is already begun being planted outback and look forward to trying some of the vegetables later this summer.



In May we will also get into some silly bug activities and hopefully our ladybugs and praying mantis will be ready to be released. We sure have had fun waiting and watching how they will change. Many of us have made some pretty great predictions on how they will look. On the pay ground we will be looking for more bugs to examine and learn from. If you find any cool bugs at home we are always excited to see something new. The bigger the bug the better!





We will end our month blasting off into space and learning about planets constellations and do some pretty silly rocket ship activities. We will enjoy q-tip constellations and helmets made out of milk jugs. May sure is looking to be a really busy month!

~**KRISTEN, ANGE & ALISHA**

Bunnies



April was a busy and fun month. We started off learning about spring and eggs. We learned what hatches from eggs and what animals lay eggs. After that we moved right into bug week where discussed different types of bugs and insects. We learned what the difference is between insects and other bugs. After that we moved into The Week of the Young Child. The children loved that. Taco Tuesday was a hit for everyone and they loved artsy Thursday as well. Next we moved into Reduce, Reuse, Recycle week in honor of Earth day.

We discussed how to keep the Earth clean and how in our classroom we can do our part by turning off the lights when we are out of the room, recycling paper and turning off the water when we are done. Finally, we finished off April and will start May with a week about gardening. We will learn what we can grow in our gardens and how to care for plants.

May will start out with Nutrition and we will learn about the different food groups and how to grow and eat balanced meals. Then we will move into music week. We will discuss different instruments, learn the difference between string, woodwind, brass and percussion. Next we will move into Zoo animals and discuss how they differ from pets, and will learn about the animals natural habitats. We will wind down the month with a review of letter and numbers. We will play some games and do various activities where we can practice counting, identifying numbers and letters and working on the letter sounds.

Reminders

*Check your child's mailbox daily for important information and lesson plans.

*Go through your child's clothes bin to make sure they have clothes that fit and are appropriate for the season.

Days to Remember:

Trike-a-Thon: May 7th

DCCC Closed- May 25th (Memorial Day)

~**MS. BRITNEY AND MS. CARLY**



Kindergarten Dolphins



Oh, how quickly April sped by, and what a busy month it was! The kindergartners all did an amazing job on their endangered animal T-shirts and projects and I was so impressed with their presentations to the class. We all learned a lot about a variety of endangered animals, and it's so touching to see how passionate they are about animals and about caring for our environment. You'll find some of the posters the kindergartners created all around DCCC about "going green"!

Weather will be our science focus during the first week of May. We'll do a number of experiments with wind, rain, and the sun's energy, so we're hoping for some varied weather days! This is also a good time to review what we learned about keeping our bodies protected from the sun. Be on the lookout for some sun safety posters that the children will be creating and hanging on the walls all around DCCC, too.

A unit on space will follow our weather unit. We'll learn lots of interesting things about the planets and will do a few fun experiments as well. We're also hoping to schedule a trip to the college's planetarium.

We'll end the month (and school year!) with celebration of DCCC's 25th Anniversary and a "Memories and Moving On" theme. We'll share some of our favorite kindergarten memories, will turn our Drama Center into a school cafeteria, and will work on our program for our Kindergarten Graduation which will occur on June 3. We'll also work on cleaning our room and decorating the center for our big 25th Anniversary Open House!

In addition to our themes, we've got a few special events in the works before the end of our school year. We're looking very forward to the St. Jude's Trike-a-thon on May 7. Please be sure to send a bike or scooter for your child as well as a helmet and permission slip.

I'm working with Mooreland Elementary School's principal to schedule a date for a class trip in May. As soon as we have a date, I'll let you know. We're hoping to plan a little tour of the school, the opportunity to buy lunch in the cafeteria, and a little time to play on their playground. Hopefully this visit will ease the anxiety that some children will experience when they transition into elementary school.

To culminate our study about money this year, we'll be having a Kindergarten Yard Sale on May 22 for kindergarten shoppers. The children will have the opportunity to use the knowledge they've acquired about money and addition to buy items that they can really keep. This is a really fun and educational event and one to which the children really look forward.

It's hard to believe that kindergarten is almost over! Our Kindergarten Graduation will be held at 6:30 PM on June 3 for our families. There will be a slide show highlighting some of our favorite kindergarten moments, and other specifics are in the works.

~ Ms. KATIE & Ms. CHERI