Well, we made it through another summer! Summer at DCCC is always a busy time but it is also full of lots of energy. Making new friends and welcoming new summer teachers is exciting. We are always so happy to hear that the children transitioned well to their schools and wish our summer teachers the very best as they return to college or venture out to find a permanent teaching job. Welcome to the new school year here at DCCC!

The current enrollment for the Children’s Center is 115 children. We have 92 families. This year we once again reached our maximum in Kindergarten enrollment, which is 15 children. We hope to post our new and updated waiting list on our website within the next few weeks.

The center had a very successful Summer School Age Program (Dragons I) that was held in the big room and consisted of field trips, crafts, outside play and many educational games and special visits. The total children for the summer school age program averaged 30 children a day for 10 weeks of care. We also opened our new SSAP (Dragons II at another site located at 1250 Ritner HWY) and it was also a huge success. We were able to run that camp as well at an average of thirty kids a day. Between both camps we were able to accommodate children ages 6 to 12 years old. If you know of anyone that would be interested in attending next summer, please encourage them to call the main office for information.

We welcomed 36 new children, some starting the school year and a few to come yet. All the children have seemed to adjust very well overall to their new rooms and in some cases to their very first experience in group care.

The center was closed on August 14th and the teachers were busy cleaning and setting up their rooms.

We welcomed 4 new student workers who will be working in the afternoons with the Bunny class from 4-5:30. Also, we will be welcoming 5 new Shippensburg students this fall. They will be working one day per week in one of the preschool rooms.

The center has begun to focus on our 15,000.00 goal for fundraising. Fundraising information was distributed to all families. The big fall fundraiser (Turkey Trot) is in the works.

The center has an Advisory Committee Meeting Scheduled for September 29th. We will be looking for 2 new college and 2 new community committee members to keep an eye out for the e-mail if you think you might be interested. We also have a Parent Meeting scheduled for October 6th at 4:15—all families are welcome to attend the Parent Meeting, it’s a great way to meet new families!

- Gina VanKirk, Director
**CENTER REMINDERS:**

- Please remember to sign your child in and out of the Center on a daily basis. The sign in book is located upon entering the building. If someone different will be picking up or dropping off, they must also sign your child in and out for the day.

- 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.

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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](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:**
* Chicken BBQ—Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser, we do not have all of the numbers calculated yet, but it looks like we made around $1200 for this fundraiser. What a great start to our fundraising year!

**Upcoming:**
- September—South Side Deli dine and donate
- Turkey Trot— we will also be starting to pass out information soon!

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**BOX TOPS COMPETITION—September 7—25**
* Classroom collection containers will be placed in the main hallway beginning on the 7th!
* Please make sure to check the expiration dates! Anything that has already expired will not be accepted by the Box Top company, therefor no money for us!
* Please trim them as much as possible. This saves on space and the weight of postage, plus makes it easier to fit in the jugs!
* We calculate the winning class by the number of Box Tops collected per child in each room, not per room. We find this to be fair for our smaller sized classrooms.

The winning group receives a class pizza party! If a younger room would win, they would receive new books in place of a pizza party. Contact as many friends and family members to collect as many as possible. This is such an easy way to earn money for our school! Each competition brings in close to $500!
We are just beginning a new year and we are pleased to welcome seven new infants into the Duckling classroom! At this time our infants range from about 8 weeks to 7 months of age. Some are working on tummy time; some just beginning to roll over; some to creep and crawl. We all have our own individual preferences and schedules for feedings, sleeping and playing, so we have a very flexible schedule in the infant room right now. However, we do try to take advantage of the beautiful last days of summer, getting outdoors and resting on a mat in the shade on our playground. The infants seem to love this very calming activity, sleeping outdoors, or watching the clouds shift overhead and listening to the sounds of happy preschoolers playing next door.

During the month of September we will continue to work on getting to know each other gradually. It takes time and patience to begin to understand each other and to build those trusting relationships! We will listen to stories and songs; look at board book pictures; explore sensory books; take nature walks to detect the early signs of autumn; listen to nursery songs and lullabies; manipulate keys, rattles & chew toys. Some of us may begin to experiment tasting pureed foods and sitting up in a high chair. And there will be lots of floor play and exploration!

You will receive a newsletter and lesson plan by email each month during the course of this year. You will also find a hard paper copy of the Infant lesson plan in your bin and one posted on the hallway bulletin board. Lesson plans are developmentally based and for infants, activities revolve largely around basic care activities. Because there is a wide age range in the infant room, you may see activities on the plan that are not developmentally appropriate for your child. The plan is designed to cover the individual needs and goals of each child.

Once again, please remember to label all of your babies’ belongings, especially bottles. Continue to monitor diapering supplies in the hallway bins and please keep them well stocked. Send in a good supply of cloth bibs if your baby tends to spit up and always one or two extra outfits …costume changes occur frequently in the infant room!

Please also send in family photos of everyone and anyone important in your baby’s life. This includes parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, pets, friends, etc. Babies love to look at photos of their families. These family photos will be hung in the classroom. As the babies get older, they begin to recognize and point to family members in photos. Such images from home can help to ease the transition from home to daycare.

We welcome you all to the Duckling Room and look forward to a wonderful year.

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody
**YELLOW PUPS**

We are off to a fabulous start as yellow puppies! Our first two weeks were spent getting to know each other and adjusting to a new routine. It is amazing how fast morning naps disappear when there are so many new toys to explore! We sang many songs and read lots of books as we got to know each other. “Itsy Bitsy Spider”, “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”, and “If You’re Happy and you Know it” can make any morning a little brighter!

Looking ahead to September we will spend time exploring many different textures during our texture week. We will also name parts of our bodies and play with some of our favorite toys during a week “All about me”, have a week filled with music, and we’ll round out the month with a week of balls, and a week of apples.

~ LACI & ALISHA

**REMINDERS:**

*Please label all items in lunch boxes.
*Bottles need to be placed in the classroom refrigerator.
*Place bedding on cots Monday mornings.
*Bags must be hung in the hallway.
BLUE PUPPIES

It seems like everyone is exploring the room and getting into a routine. Drop off times are getting better, we are sleeping well, and having lots of fun.

We started the month with bubbles which everyone loved chasing around the playground! The puppies even enjoyed finger painting a paper plate bubble and coloring with crayons.

Since we all like to push trucks and cars around, we thought it would be fun to explore a week of “things that go”. The puppies are going to run cars through paint and we will read books and sing songs about cars and trucks. We will also listen for the train to pass by!

We are going introduce/reinforce colors. Watch the lesson plan for the color of the day and wear it on that day. We will be using lots of colors in our art projects as well as talking about the colors we see and reading books.

Apples are so good to eat and with fall starting the puppies will do some apple taste testing to see which ones we like the best and make a yummy treat of apple crisp! We will paint with red to make an apple and color with green crayons.

REMINDEERS:
~Please take bedding home every Friday to be washed.
~Make sure foods such as cherry tomatoes, grapes, and hot dogs are cut into quarters.

YELLOW HONEY BEES

We were happy to welcome a fun loving and adventurous group of older toddlers into our classroom on August 17th! Our first week we just spent trying to help each other get accustomed to each other, our routine, and our schedule. We continue to follow the children’s pace while challenging them just enough to encourage further development. Before we knew it, we were well into our 2nd week of this school year! I know you’re thinking, 2 weeks?! That’s not a long time! But considering how time flew and how well a lot of our friends have adjusted in such a short time, is an encouraging sign to our already optimistic outlook on this school year!

We are going to take this exciting adventure and turn it into an opportunity to talk about change as we discuss the change when caterpillars turn into butterflies! As the month goes on, we’ll touch on all of the following concepts; colors, abc’s, numbers/counting, shapes, and opposites!

REMINDEERS:
-Bring in a helmet for your child so that we can start riding bikes during our outdoor play time! Please remember to label it with either their full names or initials so it doesn’t get lost in the shuffle!
-Pick up your child’s daily sheets at the end of the day. They will be hanging on the door, flipped over, with just your child’s name on them! Thank you!
-KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! It has been a pleasure getting to know you and your children these past few weeks!

~BARB & SARAH
**BLUE BUSY BEES**

We have greeted new and familiar faces and checked out all the fun things to do in our new room. We are having a good time with free play. We like having pretend picnics, building with many different blocks and trying some challenging puzzles. After snack we do a short circle time. We are always ready to go outside on the playground. Everyone remembered to bring in their own helmets to be able to ride bikes. We are enjoying singing, dancing, and reading books. We also did painting, coloring, and water play. It was fun making our own playdough. We are learning to help clean up our toys and are doing so well with our lunches. Naptime is an important part of the day, as we rest our bodies and get ready to finish up the day.

We are looking forward to September. We will spend a week on ABC’S and 123’S. Another week will be about Caterpillar – Butterflies. We are already watching in caterpillar in our room and wondering if we will have a beautiful butterfly! During the following weeks we will study Opposites and then end up the month with exploring shapes!

**Reminders:**

* Please label all items coming into the room (lunches/containers/blankets/sheets/extra clothes, etc.)
* Be sure your child washes their hands when coming into the room.
* Please complete the top portion of the daily report.
* Remember: no glass containers in your child’s lunchbox.

We are looking forward to a fun filled year!! We are ready to go!!

~ JODY & MARSHA

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**YELLOW BEAR CUBS**

Everyone is doing such a nice job settling into the rules and routine of the day! We will be starting our rainbow chart that will help us visually monitor our choices throughout the day! We will be starting our PATHS Program which will help us identify our feelings and learn to use our words for problem solving and complimenting as well! I will be sure to explain these programs more thoroughly as we go through the month!

The teddy bears will spend a lot of September getting to know their friends and how to be a good friend through our Family and Friends weeks! We will be making a yummy snack of Zucchini bread for our families to eat Friday September 4th!

They will become very aware of how to prevent the spread of germs during Germs week! We will practice good hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes! There will be a visit from Ms. Mandy’s “cousin”, Valerie Virus! Everyone in the teddy bear room will soak in the world around them using their Five Senses at the end of the month!

~ MANDY
The Blue Bears have had a wonderful beginning to the school year. Everyone is a veteran of the Center so there were no new faces, just good old friends! The first week we adjusted to our new surroundings. We talked about the rules and schedule for the day and did a lot of practicing! We washed hands, walked in the hallway, did a fire drill and sat quietly for circle. The kids really do know the rules! Our second week we talked all about ourselves. We spent circle time making child models for each of the Blue Bears. They are hanging around the room; try to guess which one belongs to you!

We look forward to September when we will talk about our families. We will draw pictures of them and our houses and put on puppet shows to show everyone how many people are in our families. We will also make frames to go around the family photos that everyone will be asked to bring in. We hang these inside the house so when your child misses you they can snuggle up and look at their family photos. Next up will be friends! We will try drawing with our hands tied together, playing Blue Bear Bingo, draw on our friends faces (on paper of course!) and make a lot of friendly art work for the hall. We will also talk about how we should treat our friends. This is a great week to introduce our PATHS friends, so look for paper work about that. Following family week is the popular germ week. We think Ms. Mandy’s cousin Valerie Virus might pay us a visit to talk about coughing and sneezing in our elbows. We will finish out September with a week on the five senses and start our fall fun with apples!

We will begin our letter of the week as well. Our letter song we sing everyday helps us to remember the letter’s sound. We read our letter book, read a poem, play a letter game and even practice writing letters. Make sure to take a look at the word wall, where the kids make a list of words that begin with that week’s letter sound.

We will be posting sign-ups and special event flyers above the cubbies on the bulletin boards. Please keep your eyes peeled for those announcements. Check your child’s extra clothes bin for seasonally appropriate clothing and remember to label, label, label! If you have any questions about anything please feel free to talk to Ms. Ange or Ms. Kristen. Thank you!

~ ANGE & KRISTEN
We have had a great start to the bunny room so far. The first week we explored the room and got to know the rules and some new faces. The following week we talked about ourselves a little bit and learned what makes us different, what makes us the same and discovered some emotions we all have.

In September, we will start out the month learning our colors and what happens when different colors are mixed together. Next we will talk about friendship and we will work on building our new friendships within our classroom as well as the yellow and blue bear rooms. Then we will move into shapes. We will learn the names of the shapes as well as learning how to make them out of various things. After that we will move into a week on apples. We will have a taste test of different kinds of apples, make apple juice and some apple crisp. Finally we will finish the month with a week of fire safety by learning how we can stay safe and what to do if there is a fire.

Each week we will be learning a new letter. So in September we will learn B, C, D E and F. We will learn the signs for those letters, what sounds they make, how to write them and what words start with those letters. We will also be working on writing our names and holding the pencil/crayon correctly.

**Reminders:**
* Please continue to put the heat up in the black crate on the 3rd shelf in the silver refrigerator.
* Check your child’s mailbox daily for important information about upcoming events in the classroom.
* Double check your child’s extra clothes bin to make sure they have clothes and that they are seasonally appropriate and they fit.
* As the weather starts to get chilly make sure your child has a sweatshirt or sweater to wear in the classroom or outside.

*CARLY & BRITTNEY*

**Fall 2015 Student Workers**

In the fall we have a few student workers scheduled to help out our preschool teachers at the end of the day. Please take a minute to greet them and help them feel welcome!

Monday: Moriah
Tuesday: Lily
Wednesday: Lily
Thursday: Tiffany
Friday: Rachel
Welcome to the Dolphin Room, new kindergartners and families! We extend a very special welcome to the families of Rex, Noah, MinHo, and Zander, as they are all brand new to the center.

This is quite a bright and energetic group of kindergartners! Miss Cheri already knew some of the children quite well from the Bee and Bear classes, but we're both enjoying getting to know all of them, and look forward to working with them all this school year.

During the first few weeks of kindergarten, our class has been establishing class rules, practicing routines, establishing a sense of class community, and sharing our hopes and dreams for our kindergarten year. This will all continue throughout September. We'll continue to talk about what it means to be a good friend, and will practice resolving peer conflicts. We'll also be exploring about our world through our senses as we learn about living things. We'll explore our garden and learn about parts of plants and what plants need to survive. We'll compare, collect, and taste vegetables from the garden and will hunt for little garden invertebrates who happen to be crawling, hopping, and flying among them. The children are encouraged to bring in garden invertebrates that they find in their own gardens at home as well for closer investigation. We plan to create a cricket habitat in our classroom, watch the metamorphosis of caterpillars into butterflies, and continue daily observations of our hermit crabs pets!

We will begin our "Fill Your Bucket" character building program in September. The children will earn pompons to put in their own individual buckets in our classroom for showing kindness and respect to others through words and deeds. When a bucket is "filled" the child will be recognized by the class and will receive a "bucket filler" certificate to take home.

Believe it or not, we've already celebrated two birthdays in August and have five more to celebrate in September (including Miss Cheri’s!)

Toward the end of September, we'll begin our Color Days. The kindergartners are encouraged to wear as many things in the designated color each day. They will be graphing the number of items in that color each day. Please refer to the Kindergarten Calendar for designated days.

We're looking forward to a great year!

Katie and Cheri