



Dickinson College Children's Center October 2015

From the Director's Desk

Welcome to all of our families. We can't believe that September has come and gone so quickly this year. I think we can all agree we were waiting for cooler weather. It's been great being able to go outside every day, it is such a change from the hot weather this summer.

Our Enrollment is currently at 113 children, including 90 families. We still have a few part time toddler openings and a few preschool openings as well. The waiting list has been placed back on line for the remainder of this year.

DCCC welcomed three new substitutes and four new student workers this month. We also are excited that the Shippensburg Education Students will be joining us for one day a week for a total of 10 weeks this semester. Three of the students will be in Bunnies and one student will be in Blue Bears and one will be in Yellow Bears.

We are pleased to share that our Summer Camp Programs were very successful this past summer. The opening of our additional Summer Camp School Age Program, provided the additional revenue that we were looking for to help support our budget.

DCCC has once again received E.I.T.C (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) Scholarship funds. The Scholarships were made available through the Bravo Foundation and Success by 6 – United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County. We are delighted that a few of our families qualified for the assistance and were able to take advantage of this wonderful program.

Congratulations to Sandy Bennett in receiving the CAAEYC Innovation Grant. Ms. Bennett applied for the grant by writing about our new Nursing and Nutrition Lounge. The center received \$700.00 to put towards the cost of the new room.

There will be lots of improvements made to our playgrounds this fall. There will be some work being done to improve the drainage and the erosion of the soil around the fencing on the Toddler and Preschool Playgrounds this fall. We are also excited to share that the Preschool Playground will be having a new surface installed either this fall or in the spring due to the timing of the prior work mentioned. Please keep an eye out for the new picnic tables and the new sand box coming our way this fall. This is great news for the children!

Have a great month!

-GINA VANKIRK, DIRECTOR



Dates to Remember:

**September 29—
Advisory Committee Meeting**

October 6—Parent Meeting 4:15 p.m.

**October 7—Infant/
Toddler Portraits (& siblings)**

**October 8—Preschool/
Kindergarten Portraits**

October 29-November 2—Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 30—Class Fall Harvest Parties

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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.

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.

*Giant Bonus Card-Please make sure that you have registered your card online with our school.

Current Fundraiser:

Promotion Motion

Please continue turning the labels in. There is a board right outside of the office that is keeping track of how many labels each classroom returns. The classroom that returns the greatest percentage of labels will win a fun Hawaiian Day Party (the younger classrooms will win books)!! Keep in mind that all proceeds from this fundraiser go straight to DCCC.

Totals:

Chicken BBQ-\$1483.18
Yearbooks- \$95.71
South Side Deli- \$50
Box Tops-
Total: \$1628.89

Upcoming:

*Lil' Angels Photography (10/7 & 10/8)



DUCKLINGS



September has been a busy month of getting to know each other and adapting to our new environment. In our short month together, we have already observed so much growth and development in our babies! Our young ones have grown physically and are more alert, spending more wakeful hours with us, beginning to grasp at toys and responding to our conversations, songs and stories. Our older infants are increasingly mobile, beginning to stand and cruise, and beginning to eat solid foods.

October ushers in autumn and we will continue to venture outdoors daily to observe the changing weather, cooler temperatures, wild life and falling leaves. We will celebrate the season in song and in story. We will examine pumpkins, gourds and colorful leaves.

October is such a busy month at DCCC! The infants will have their first “School Pictures” taken! During October the Center will commemorate “Fire Safety Week” with the annual visit of our community fire-fighters and their big, shiny red fire truck, which the children love. Toward the end of the month there will be the center-wide Fall Harvest celebrations. While we do not dress in costume in the infant room, we encourage you to send your baby in a festive onesie or other seasonal outfit that can be worn comfortably all day and one that does not complicate our ability to change diapers. And finally, Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled this month and you will receive more information about this in the coming weeks.

We are moving into the cold and flu season, so be sure to discuss flu vaccination during your upcoming well baby visits. Our babies under 6 months cannot be vaccinated, therefore we depend on all others being adequately vaccinated and on our continued vigilance in hand washing and toy disinfection to help protect our smallest ones from getting sick this flu season.

Many thanks to those parents who sent in wonderful family photos. You will notice these photos displayed in the classroom. Please send in your family/friend/pet photos if you have not already done so. Reminders:

- * As temperatures drop, please send in sweaters for cool mornings outdoors, as well as protective footwear, such as the “Robeez” style soft leather bootie or a similar shoe.

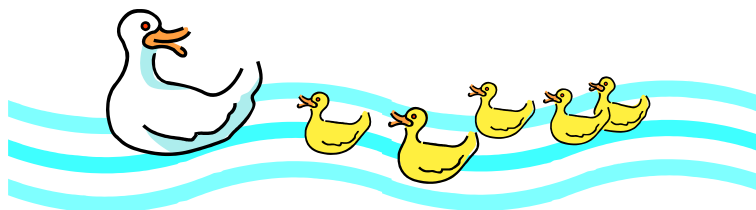
- * Please remember to close the classroom gate when you enter and leave our classroom to help ensure the safety of all infants.

- * October 7 - Infant Portraits (with older siblings)

- * October 19 – Parent-Teacher Conferences

- * October 30 – Fall Harvest Celebration (simple costume optional)

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



YELLOW PUPS

We have all settled in to our routine and our morning drop offs have become much easier! We are all starting to say “hi” and wave when we see our friends in the morning. We had a great month exploring many different textures during our texture week. We liked the soft animals in the books we read the best. We enjoyed naming parts of our body during our all about me week, and have been having fun moving and grooving during our music week! We have discovered that you can “make music” so many different ways!



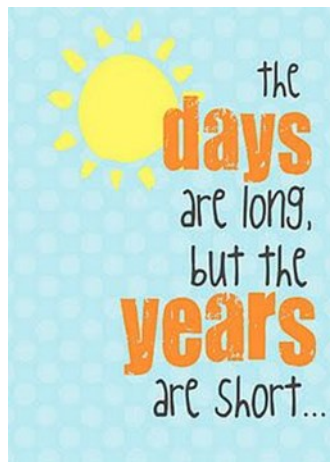
Looking ahead to October we will be spending the first week exploring trucks. The fire truck will be coming for a visit, and we will be taking a walk looking for trucks. We will also be talking about and exploring the many trucks in our classroom. We will then jump into some fun fall themes. We will explore apples, pumpkins, leaves, talk about the weather changes, and look at the many different fall colors.

~ **LACI & ALISHA**



REMINDERS:

- *As the weather gets cooler please make sure your child has seasonally appropriate extra clothing.
- *Please label all items in lunch boxes.
- *Please place jackets in the plastic bin in your child’s cubby.



BLUE PUPPIES



The puppies like to dance and we are hearing lots of singing. We will be dancing to movement songs such as head, shoulders, knees and toes and singing Nursery rhymes like Humpty Dumpty and Hey Diddle, Diddle. We will also work on our fine motor skills with puzzles and coloring.

Hurry, Hurry drive the firetruck! During our Fire Safety Week, the puppies will get to see a real ambulance and fire truck! We will have dress up outfits to wear and lots of books to look at about these interesting people and vehicles. We will paint with red to make a fire truck.

We will explore pumpkins and gourds by looking at the different colors of gourds and feel their different textures. The puppies will get to help carve a pumpkin and have fun with the slimy insides. We will color a paper plate pumpkin and roll a gourd in paint.

The puppies will end the month with a Halloween fun week. We will color a ghost, paint a spider, and color a black cat. On Friday October 30th we will have a Fall Harvest party with kid friendly music, a spider game, and play with “slime”. Wear a Halloween shirt (or a shirt that is black or orange) on that day! Thank you!

~CATHRYN & DONNA

REMEMBER:

~label utensils

~have a sweater or jacket, mornings are cool

~check bin for extra clothing

YELLOW HONEY BEES



September brought us a lot of laughter, learning, and love! Everyone seemed to start getting used to the routine, schedule, friends, and teachers in the room. Our days have been going pretty smoothly! It's hard to believe that we are already looking into the month of October! Time flies when you're having fun, they say! Kudos to our parent's for also settling into our routine nicely! We appreciate the effort that you put into filling out all the paper work, washing hands, and the ease in communication that we have formulated!

The month of October is jam packed with all sorts of hands on and interactive learning experiences for the Yellow Bees! We'll kick off the month with an exploration into the season of Fall! We hope to get a lot of crafting done with the children during this week! Recently they have shown an interest in showcasing their artistic performance; we'd like to embrace this along with the wonderful season that Fall is!

Sometime in the month of October we'll cover neighborhood friends and helpers. This is an exciting week for most of the kids because we get a visit from a local fire department and ambulance squad come to show off their equipment and teach the children about fire safety! They'll also delve into some things that we can do to keep ourselves safe and what to do in case there is an emergency! They drive to our school in their emergency vehicles and the students get to take turns as a class to see the great big machines!



REMINDERS:

Wednesday October 7th - Dress your children in their best! The Yellow Bees are having their fall portraits taken!

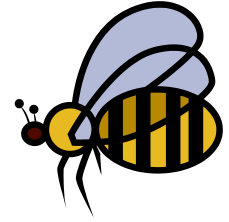
Tuesday October 22nd - parent teacher conferences! We look forward to meeting with you all!

Wednesday October 30th - fall harvest parade! Look for more information regarding this in the near future. A little birdie told me we might be doing a “zoo” theme this year J

Keep checking your child's cubbies to make sure there is weather appropriate clothing in their bins! Please continue to remember to LABEL the children's clothing!

~BARB & SARAH

BLUE BUSY BEES



The Blue Bees have had a wonderful month getting to know their teachers and routines. It has been amazing having a child call to us as that child observes a butterfly emerge from the chrysalis. Another child mastered a more difficult puzzle and said, "I did it all by myself!" As we talked about colors, another child pointed to yellow and red and said, "together those colors make orange!" Other children have been excited about going to dance class! We have been learning to socialize with other children and do a lot of pretending. We pretend to be doctors and take care of our babies. We love to do pretend picnics and the best is when a child leads the others in a pretend Circle Time! We are always ready to do art projects, even if we do sometimes paint our arms!

Themes to come: Health & Safety (fire truck visit!), Apples, Pumpkins, Spooky Fun!

Just a few parent reminders:

Please make sure to remember cool mornings and sometimes warm afternoons. Layering clothing seems to work best for your child.

Also, it is always a good idea to label any items coming into our room. It is most helpful for anyone working in our room.

Most of our Lesson Plan activities take place in the mornings. If your child would like to participate in those activities, it is a good idea to have them come in before we go outside for morning playground time.

~**JODY & MARSHA**

YELLOW BEAR CUBS

The bears enjoyed learning about each others' families through puppet shows. It was a lot of fun playing games that helped us be better friends! Ms. Mandy's cousin Valerie Virus sure made an impression about germ spreading on her visit to the classroom! The bears seem to have earned their sensory masters awards for identifying objects throughout their world with the use of their five senses!



We will be tasting and making lots of good treats with apples during our apples week the last week of September/ first days of October. We will be dressing and acting like firefighters and having special visitors during fire safety week! We look forward to a lot of fun playing with leaves and going on a leaf hunt. I hope everyone will take the time to check out our hard work with the pumpkin carving contest, the bears will enjoy helping prepare the pumpkins for the carving and then eating the baked seeds during our pumpkin week! The fall fun day where the bears can come in costumes and

enjoyed fun centers in the big room will be Friday October 30st!

Fall portraits will take place on October 8th!



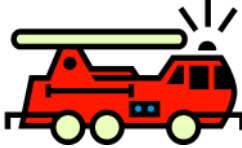
Conferences to tell you how your child has transitioned into the bear room and where they are developmentally will be October 26th! I look forward to talking with all of you!

The fall weather is upon us and it is time to make sure we are working with our children on independent dressing skills, especially with coats/jackets! This will become a very important skill when winter weather comes with the dressing up into snow clothes!

~**MANDY**

BLUE BEARS

Everyone seems to have adjusted well throughout September. We enjoyed the germ week and our visit from Valerie Virus. It's been fun getting to know each other and talk about ourselves and our families. We are looking forward to an exciting October. This is one of our favorite months. Ange and Kristen love all the fall themes, and are really looking forward to sharing our ideas with your children!



We are really looking forward to the visit from the fire truck and Firefighter Rusty! He will bring his gang with him for Fire Prevention Week and talk about smoke alarms, getting out safely and having a meeting place outside. We will start to memorize our home addresses that week as well.

After that we will be talking about lots of leaves! We plan trips to jump in leaves around campus and collect some to look at throughout the week. Feel free to bring in some from home as well! We will then have a week dedicated to the pumpkin. We plan on decorating, carving and eating pumpkins that week. Everyone will need to bring in a pumpkin that week to decorate, so look for that on the lesson plan too. Our final week in October will be all about Spooky fun to go along with Halloween! Our fall party will be on Friday October 30th. Children may come in costume, but please do not send in any accessories or masks. We will take a walk around campus and then parade in the parking lot for families. Feel free to join us for our walk! The time will be on the lesson plan.



We will continue our letter of the week throughout the month as well. The kids love all the games and activities we play, and they really get into the song we sing about letter sounds. I hope you are enjoying the letter of the week craft in the hallway, they get cuter every week!

Days to Remember:

Picture Day is October 8th, October 7th with younger siblings.

Parent Teacher conferences - October 27th and 29th.

As always, check your child's extra clothes bin for seasonally appropriate clothing. It's getting cooler, so having an extra sweatshirt here may not be a bad idea. Please label everything! Lunch containers, clothes, hats, bike helmets, bedding and stuffed animals need to have your child's name on them! If you have questions or concerns, please talk to Ange or Kristen. Thanks for all you do!

~ANGE & KRISTEN

OPENINGS AVAILABLE!

WE HAVE FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME OPENINGS AVAILABLE IN THE BLUE BEAR ROOM. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD TO FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN OUR PROGRAM. INTERESTED FAMILIES SHOULD CALL THE DCCC OFFICE AT 245-1088. THANKS!

BUNNIES



I cannot believe that September is over now! We have learned so much already. We started off September learning about colors. We learned about primary colors, how to make secondary colors, tints, and shades. Then we talked about friendship and learned how to be kind to our friends by being a super friend. Next we learned about different shapes, how many sides and corners they have and we even made some shapes with our bodies. Apple week was great! We talked about and tasted several different types of apples and then we made apple crisp, YUMMY! We rounded out the month with a week on fire safety. We talked about what fire fighters do, and how to stay safe if there is a fire.

We also have been working hard on learning the letters B, C, D, E, and F. We have learned the sounds they make and how to write them. Also when we are writing we have been practicing how to hold our pencil/marker/crayon correctly.

October also holds many fun themes and activities. We will start out the month by discussing community helpers. Who are they? What do they do? We will have a visit from a fire truck and an ambulance. Next we will explore leaves and what happens in the fall to the trees, leaves and animals. We will also talk about pumpkins. We will explore what they look like, feel like, how they grow and will carve a few and cook the seeds for a yummy fall treat. Finally we will wrap up the month with learning about bats and spiders.

The letters we will be working on are G, H, I, and J. We will learn their sounds and practice writing them.

Important dates:

October 2: Promotion Motion labels are due to the office

October 7-8: Fall pictures (more specific information will be coming soon)

October 28-29: Bunny Room Conferences

October 30: Fall Harvest Parties (more information about the parade, big room time and costumes will be in your mailbox closer to the time)

Important information:

*Please make sure you are checking your child's mailbox daily for important papers about events happening in the center and our classroom

*Make sure your child has clothes in their clothes bin that are seasonally appropriate and that still fit them

~BRITTNEY & CARLY

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



September certainly was a busy and productive month! We're learning to print letters properly, make letter-sound associations, recognize rhyming words, read some sight words, and understand basic concepts of print. In math so far, we've done activities with shapes, patterns, symmetry, classifying, graphing, counting, numbers, measurement, and money! In addition to our daily math lesson and math centers, we consider some of our everyday routines of attendance, weather, calendar, and number of the day to be part of our math curriculum.

In Science this past month we learned the difference between living and non-living things and spent quite a bit of time exploring living things through our senses. Thanks to our kindergarten families, we had a nice variety of invertebrates to observe. So far we've had one caterpillar complete her metamorphosis into a Monarch butterfly, and the kids were in awe as she took flight over the building to start her long journey to Mexico! We hope to release another Monarch very soon, and will have three Black Swallowtails that may decide to wait until Spring to emerge.

At the beginning of October we will be talking about Healthy Habits... germ prevention, eating nutritious foods, and the importance of rest and exercise. For the remainder of the month we'll focus on safety, occupations, and our neighborhood community. On October 23 in the Kindergarten Room, we'll have a Career Day, where the children will dress to represent a career they would like to have when they grow up. During our community unit, we'll also learn a little about money and resources and will learn the difference between needs and wants. We hope to plan a center-wide Food Drive for Project S.H.A.R.E. and will be given a tour of their facility when we deliver the food. Please keep in mind that we also have a Project S.H.A.R.E. Penny Pail outside the Kindergarten Room for monetary donations which will be delivered to Project S.H.A.R.E. in April or May.

In addition to our scheduled themes for the month of October, we'll continue to promote "bucket filling" behaviors, and will take some time to work on conflict resolution skills and other pro-social skills.

Our Color Days began at the end of September, and will continue throughout October, with a goal of learning to read all of the color words by the end of the month. On each featured color day, students should wear as many items as they can with the designated color, and we'll graph the number they're wearing each day.

On October 30, we'll celebrate Halloween with our Halloween/ Fall Harvest Party. We ask that children dress in costumes without masks or accessories. Parents will be invited to our parade around the DCCC parking lot, and we will enjoy party games in the Big Room that afternoon.

REMINDER: Please be sure your child has a full set of extra clothes in his/her bin to fit the season.

Katie and Cheri