



Dickinson College Children's Center November 2015

From the Director's Desk



It's hard to believe we are heading into the month of November. As always, we have a lot going on here at the center. Please take the time to read the newsletter and let me know if you have any questions or concerns that I can help you out with.

We currently have openings in our Preschool and Toddler rooms. If you know of anyone interested in child care, please feel free to send them our way!

The Advisory Committee has welcomed 2 new college members, Brian Gochenour and Alyssa DeBlasio and 2 new community members, Margo Myers and Jennifer Smith. All members will meet in November. The Advisory members meet bi-monthly and take part in providing input for the center policies and procedures.

The center has begun fall conferences with parents. As always it is a great time to meet with your child's teacher to learn more about their day. The teachers share the results of ongoing observations placed with the Ounce or Work Sampling online assessments and share some had outs that will help target some of the concerns that families might have.

DCCC will be participating in a Food Drive. The Food Drive will be sponsored by our Kindergarten Class and will benefit the families served by Project SHARE. Staff also continue to donate their time for the Infant Room at Project Share during the monthly Saturday distributions.

Plans are underway to permanently improve the erosion and gaps under the fencing on the Preschool Playground. A retaining wall will be constructed on the western end of the playground. We are excited to have also purchased two metal picnic tables for the preschool playground in addition to accepting a bid to replace the main mulch area with a rubber surface by late Fall or early Spring. The installation of the Older Toddler sand box will begin hopefully by the time this newsletter comes out!

Staff have been working hard at setting individual goals and will be taking part in their annual self- assessments this month. Many staff have been taking online trainings and will continue to attend evening courses as they become available.

The Infant Room is working on purchasing a few items through the Innovation Grant that was received and will be sure to share the news once the purchases are made for the Nursing /Feeding Lounge and Family Nutrition Resource Area.

The Child Care Wellness Mini-Grant obtained for Preschool will include a number of purchases for Large Motor Play. For example, a hop-scotch carpet, bowling set, balls and wagons.

Thanks for your continued cooperation and support. Have a great month!

-GINA VANKIRK, DIRECTOR

Dates to Remember:

November 18 DCCC Turkey Trot Fundraiser (rain date 11/20)

November 19 Thanksgiving Feast for children

November 25 DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break

November 26—DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break

November 27—DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break

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HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR FAMILIES:

Health Link Online: <http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org/publications/heath-link-online>

Child Health Information: <http://www.education.com/topic/child-health/>

<http://www.zerotothree.org/>

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.

Totals:

Chicken BBQ-\$1483.18

Yearbooks- \$95.71

South Side Deli-\$50.00

Box Tops-\$444.00

Lil' Angels Photography-

Total: \$2072.89

Promotion Motion

WINNER! Congratulations to the Yellow Bears for having submitted the highest percentage of labels to send out for Promotion Motion! They will be having a Hawaiian Party on Friday 11/13 to celebrate.

Turkey Trot!

10 a.m. Wednesday 11/18 at the Dickinson Track (Biddle Field). Please come support the Bees, Bears, Bunnies and Kindergarten as they celebrate 2 weeks of activity and movement.

Mini Turkey Trot!

Wednesday 11/18 @ 11:15 a.m. on the Infant/Toddler Playground (Infants and Puppy classes).



DUCKLINGS



October has been a fun month! We welcomed fall into our classroom, exploring pumpkins, gourds, fall flowers and dried leaves and celebrating the season in song and story. We experienced our first School Picture Day and our very first Halloween! We thank pre-K teacher Miss Mandy for organizing the annual Fire Safety event. Thank you, parents, for the first of many parent-teacher conferences in the life of your little one. We value that time together to share in the progress of your baby.

In November, the Promotion Motion campaign will take place to highlight the importance of physical activity and exercise in the lives of young children. The infants will participate with music and floor play to promote rolling, creeping, crawling, standing, cruising and walking...they are becoming increasingly mobile by the day! We will continue nature strolls and exploring our neighborhood & campus, as well as daily playground or big room playtime – please think about the cooler weather and the need for warmer outdoor clothing and footwear. We will participate in the Mini-Turkey Trot on November 18..... please join us! Those older infants who have started table foods may participate in the Thanksgiving Feast on November 19 – more information on these events will follow in the coming weeks. We will talk, sing and read board books all about the fall feast of Thanksgiving.

Reminders:

*Please be sure to send in extra clothing that is appropriate for your baby's size (we grow fast!) and the cooler weather ahead.

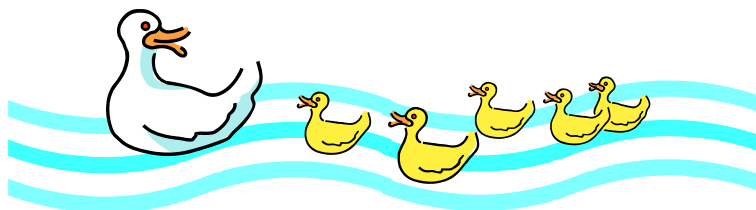
*Please take care when entering and leaving the room - close gates and doors carefully behind you - our older infants are becoming very mobile now and we want to avoid injuries, pinched fingers, or crawling babies escaping to unsafe areas.

*Please send in family photos, if you have not already done so. We love to talk about family members, friends, pets and all that we are thankful for during the month of November.

*Please avoid cluttering the hallway with infant carriers unnecessarily. We understand that it may be necessary to leave your infant carrier at the Center during the day if, for example, another parent is picking up your baby at the end of the day. In such cases, we welcome you to park your infant carrier in the hallway. However, if the same parent is doing drop off and pick up and you are able to keep your carrier in the car, we would prefer this to avoid hallway obstructions. Thanks for your understanding.

Happy November!

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



YELLOW PUPS

October flew by! We are all accomplishing so many new gross motor skills! From scooting and walking to climbing and starting to run, we are keeping on the move! It was a pleasure to see so many parents at conferences and discuss how everyone is growing and developing. This month we spent time making applesauce, looking at an ambulance and fire truck, and talking about the fall weather! We like going outside and feeling the breeze on our faces, and looking for leaves that are falling from the trees all around us!



Looking ahead, November will be a month of being thankful! We are going to spend a week focusing on our families. We will look at our family pictures, and talk about how families are different. Then we are going to spend a week focusing on our friends. We will make a special friendship wreath, and a special snack to share. After that we will talk about our pets! It will be such fun to share pictures of them and make some fun pet art! We will wrap up the month with a few days of turkeys! This month will also include our “turkey trot” and Thanksgiving feast lunch!

~ LACI & ALISHA



REMINDERS:

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





BLUE PUPPIES



Ahhhh! Fall, a great time of year! So many neat things happening!

We will have fun with leaves as we paint with them count them, identify their colors and make a leaf collage on contact paper. We will have them in our sensory table as well.

With Thanksgiving around the corner the puppies will be painting an Indian corn cob, color fruit for our cornucopia, and talk about being a nice friend. We will make a friendship wreath with our handprints.

Gobble, Gobble, turkeys are on the menu! The puppies will paint with feathers and make a hand print turkey and sing some funny turkey songs, have our Turkey Trot, and enjoy a Thanksgiving feast together!

What are those funny, fuzzy animals outside our window? Squirrels! They are everywhere. We are having fun watching them run around on our playground, we will also finger paint a squirrel and sing silly songs about them.

The puppies are still very interested in the kitchen area as we play with pots and pans, make coffee, and wrap up baby dolls and pat them. We like to stack blocks, look at books, put coins in the piggy banks, push the chairs around the room, and dance.

REMINDERS:

~Turkey Trot—11/18

~check to make sure your child has seasonal extra clothes.

~Please start thinking about bringing in hats and gloves/mittens as the mornings are cooler.

~CATHRYN & DONNA

YELLOW HONEY BEES

We can't believe that it is already November. We have enjoyed all the great fun that we had in October, so I know they are going to love what November brings.

We will start November out with getting our bodies ready for the Turkey Trot. Ms. Michelle has a lot of fun activities for us to do in the big room for the two week before the trot. The Turkey Trot will be on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015. (Rain date is Nov. 20, 2015)



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During the first week we will be focusing on the season of autumn (fall) how is it changing? What are seasons? We will also review colors that we associate with fall. We will use different objects to paint leaves on a tree, and color animals we see most around this time of year.

The second week we will talk about pilgrims and Native Americans. We talk about sharing. How did the pilgrims and Native Americans share, and what they shared. We will talk about how we share, and what we can share. We will do some cooking this week also.

The week of the 16th will be so busy for us. We will be talking about turkeys. What is a turkey? What noise does it make? We will be making lots of craft turkeys. This week also is the turkey trot on the 18th (rain date 11-20) the 19th is our Turkey feast. More information to come on these two events.

The last week of November (11/23 and 11/24) is our short week. We will talk about giving thanks. Also we will continue to go over colors, shapes and counting.

Please continue to label all of your children's belongings. Please check your child's extra clothes to make sure it fits with the season.

~BARB & SARAH

BLUE BUSY BEES



The Blue Bees are “falling” into their routines. We are doing a great job of remembering to wash hands! We are listening to the timer, so we can begin to pick up our toys. Our lunch routine is going smoothly, we are learning to take our lunches out of our lunchbox and we can also pick up and put our lunchboxes in our cubbies. We are trying to put on our own coats. Some are potty trained, while others are learning this process. Please continue to work on these self-help skills at home!

We all love to dance and sing and most of us are really into the puzzles. Play dough is another fun activity as well. Everyone is always eager to do the art projects we have. Sometimes we like just making messes and that is ok! Most days we do try and get outside and this time of year is tricky, please make sure we have warm clothing to wear. We don't always need hats and mittens, but is a good idea to keep them available.

Our November Themes will be Hibernation, Fall Colors, Music and Movement, and Turkey Time! We are looking forward to doing the Turkey Trot on 11/18!

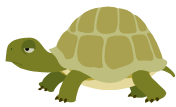
Reminders:

- Please check your child's cubby and making sure they have warmer changes of clothing
- Please try and let us know if your child will be off.
- Everything that comes into the room should be labeled with your child's name or initials.

We hope everyone has a great Turkey Day!

~**JODY & MARSHA**

YELLOW BEAR CUBS



The Teddy Bears have been learning about feelings and giving compliments with help from the PATHS puppets, and we will be learning to “Do Turtle” when we are upset within the next few weeks!

We loved dressing and acting like firefighters during fire safety week! We had a lot of fun playing with leaves and going on a leaf hunt as well as exploring the inside and outside of pumpkins! Everyone enjoyed our spooky week and playing Trick-or-Treat!

I loved talking with everyone at conferences in October, and sharing all the exciting growth we have been seeing. I am looking forward to watching them grow throughout the rest of the year!

We will all become food experts in November, since we will be learning about the different farms that our food comes from as well as the various food groups and healthy eating habits! We will have a great time



Living off the land and playing the Little House on the Prairie movie clip, to learn how farming and life has changed over the years. The Turkey Trot will be here before we know it and we will be creating something fun to wear to that in addition to participating in some great activities to prepare our bodies!

With the winter weather upon us please remember to send in hats, gloves/mittens, and seasonally appropriate coats. We will go outside as long as the temperature FEELS like 25 degrees or more! Please send boots, snow pants, and waterproof mittens in by the end of November, so we are ready for winter weather! Also check the extra clothes bins for seasonally appropriate clothing!



~**MANDY**

BLUE BEARS

We had such a blast in October! It is one of our favorite months with all the fall themes. The apples smelled delicious, the pumpkins were gooey, and as always Halloween is a blast! November is another fun filled month! We have so many activities planned to squeeze into this short month. We will begin the month with our nutrition



week. Every day at lunch we will put up stickers on our “My Plate” poster depending on what food groups we find in our lunches. We will then talk about life on the farm and different types of farm animals. The kids love playing with all the different farm animals and barns in the room. This leads into living off the land, where we talk about what it was like to live long ago and have to live off the land. We have activities set up in our room for farming, fishing, cooking over a fire, washing clothes and living in a tent. The kids love all these activities and pretending to be pilgrims. We spend the last short week doing a few thankful activities and getting ready to spend time with family and friends!

A few dates to remember for the month:

November 18th is the Turkey Trot (rain date November 20th) to coincide with our Promotion Motion fundraiser.

November 19th is the Thanksgiving feast. We will let you know the cost when we know!

DCCC will be closed November 25th -29th for Thanksgiving Break. Enjoy the extra time with your families!

Thank you for taking the time to come to conferences. We enjoy spending the time talking with each of you! We can’t believe we are writing this, but the hooks in the hallway are ready for snow pants and boots, so please bring in an extra pair for your child towards the end of the month to leave here at the center. Check your child’s extra clothes bin to make sure they have seasonally appropriate clothing and enough of it. Also keep your eye on the bulletin board above the cubbies for notes, upcoming events and permission slips that we may have up throughout the weeks.



As always if you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Thanks again!

~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 it is November already! October just flew by. We started out the month learning about community helpers and talked about what we wanted to be when we grew up. Next we talked about fall and what happens during this season. We had fun discovering pumpkins and all of their different parts and even ate some pumpkin seeds. Finally, we moved into the last week of October where we talked about Halloween and all about bats and spiders. Our fall harvest part was a great time! We enjoyed seeing everyone all dressed up in their costumes.

November is equally jam packed with fun and excitement. The first week we will learn about those dirty, nasty, down-right disgusting germs. We will practice proper hand washing, learn how easily germs can spread, and how to prevent that from happening in our day to day routines. We can't forget about being thankful during this month so we will talk about what that means and throw in some turkey arts and crafts as well. The children always seem to enjoy our Living Off of the Land theme. They will learn about what it was like when the settlers came to America and how different times are now. During this week, will have the Turkey Trot and our Thanksgiving Feast. See, we told you this would be an exciting month! For those couple of days before the holiday break we will have some fun activities planned such as a PJ DAY!!!

Reminders: The first two weeks in November we are dedicating some time to Promotion Motion Activities. Each day we will head down to the big room for some extra exercise. The kids will enjoy parachute fun, ZUMBA, yoga, and relay races. All of these great exercises are preparing us for the Turkey Trot.

**Check those extra clothes bins!! Some are empty and some have shorts in them. Unfortunately the chilly weather is upon us and the clothes need updated. **

Important Dates:

Weeks of Nov. 2nd and 9th -Promotion Motion activities

Wednesday, November 18th - TURKEY TROT!!!

Thursday, November 19th - Thanksgiving Feast

Friday, November 20th - Turkey Trot Rain Date

November 25, 26, 27- DCCC closed for Thanksgiving Break

~BRITTNEY & CARLY

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



October was quite a busy month with our "color days", our visits from the paramedics and the fire company, our Career Day, and of course, our Halloween Party! Between all that, we managed to learn a bit about safety and our community, blending sounds to read words, teen numbers, and conflict resolution and respecting other people's personal space (just to name a few!). We'll continue working on many of these important topics throughout the next month. In fact, we'll be devoting a week to "Friendship and Respect".

As November begins, we'll also be focusing on the changes we see occurring outside. We'll examine leaves and learn about why they change colors and fall to the ground in the fall, and we'll find out what

various animals do over the winter.

Also in November we'll look at what life was like long ago for the early settlers and Native Americans, and will compare that to our life now.

We look forward to starting the Promotion Motion Program this month, and are really excited about making turkey costumes and hiking over to Biddle Field for the Turkey Trot! We hope you will be able to come over to surprise your child and watch us all "trot" around the track!

Please be thinking ahead to December. We'd love to invite parents to come in to our classroom to share about a special tradition that your family shares (holiday or otherwise). Perhaps your family gathers around the piano to sing songs together... or makes reindeer food to set out on Christmas Eve... or lights a menorah for Hanukkah... or reads stories before bedtime. You might even be able to share about one of your family's traditions that has roots in another country. We'd all love to learn more about our friends' families and their special traditions.

As the weather begins to turn cooler, it's time to think about warmer clothing, and yes, even winter gear. Please check the bin at the bottom of your child's cubby and make sure that he/she has long pants, a shirt, a sweatshirt, socks, and underwear. We recommend that you have an extra set of boots, snow pants, mittens, and a hat to keep at DCCC. There will be cubbies labeled in the Big Room where your child can keep his/her winter gear.

~KATIE AND CHERI

Sign Language for Preschool and Kindergarten

Over the next few months, Dickinson students will be coming to the Center to work with our Preschool and Kindergarten classes on learning sign language. There are many benefits to providing a sign language learning experience to our young children:

1. Sign language enhances brain activity and brain functioning
2. Sign language enhances fine motor coordination
3. Sign language raises awareness of diversity
4. Sign language enhances and increases children's vocabulary and reading skills
5. Sign language helps infants and toddlers communicate their preverbal wants and needs
6. Sign language serves as a language bridge for children with special needs and children for whom English is a second language.

Information taken from an article appearing on highscope.org from their Resource Winter edition 2010-2011 edition.

