



Dickinson College Children's Center February 2016



From the Director's Desk

What a crazy month it has been. We were all excited to finally get some snow and to be able to play in it was a bonus for sure! The teachers and the children got dressed in all their snow gear and were able to make it outside for a few of the mornings. Thank you all for sending in your child's winter attire so we could get their little smiling faces outside.

Enrollment

DCCC Kindergarten applications have been distributed for the next school year 2016-2017. Summer Camp applications have also been sent out. The ten week camp for both Dragons I and Dragons II will run Monday thru Friday and an additional six fulltime and three part time summer employees will be hired and oriented in order to help the center run smoothly. The camp will take part in educational field trips, special visits, crafts, swimming and daily outdoor games. The Waiting List is currently being updated and the fall classes are being projected. Once again the waiting list will not be available on line as the enrollment process begins during the month of March.

Center Happenings

The Pancake Breakfast will be held on March 5th from 8-11 at the Social Hall here at the college. We will be having crafts, special mascot visit, Martial Arts demonstration and a Book Fair. There will also be a Silent Auction for the parents to participate in. Tickets are available by calling the center.

The office will be welcoming Paige Henne, she will be completing an internship here at the Children's Center for the spring, focusing on the business end of childcare.

Staff Happenings

Two Preschool staff will be attending a Transition to Kindergarten Workshop being held in Carlisle that will provide opportunities for local Child Care Centers and School Districts to come together to communicate on how to transition children into the public schools.

Three teachers will be attending the Handwriting Without Tears Workshop. They always bring back a wealth of ideas to be implemented in both the Preschool and Older Toddler classes.

The CAEYC Conference this year will be held at Messiah College. This year two of our staff will be attending. Topics included are behavior, nutrition, advocacy and observation. Have a great month!

~Gina

Dates to Remember:

March 5—DCCC
Pancake Breakfast
Fundraiser and
Usborne Book Fair

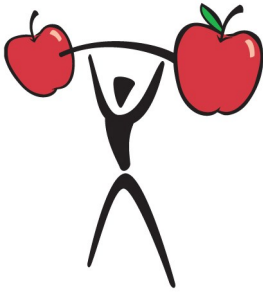
March 9 & 10—Spring
Portraits by Lil' Angels
Photography

March 18—DCCC
Closed for Staff
Training

April 1—Grandparent
Visiting Day

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Wellness Mini Grant

You may have been wondering what we purchased with the mini-grant money we were awarded as a part of the PA Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Childcare. Well, because the grant not only focused on health/nutrition, but the amount of physical activity our kids are offered, we looked into what types of new equipment could be used for our Big Room or playgrounds!

I asked a few teachers from older toddlers, preschool and kindergarten if they had anything specific they wished we had, and of course there's always that "wish list" in the back of our minds! We were able to get a few bowling sets, a hopscotch carpet, and some "trail balls" for our 3's and up. We also purchased two new wagons to haul equipment around the playground, as well as two soccer goals, more soccer balls and cones for older toddlers and preschool/kindergarten to set up outside.

We also have new dancing scarves, and some new "conversation balls" that older toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarten can use to do ALL KINDS of learning activities while they practice throwing and catching! We will be making good use of all this wonderful equipment by keeping our kids active inside and outside!

Miss Cheri



CAAEYC Innovation Grant Award

The Children's Center recently obtained an Innovation Grant Award and has created a Nursing Lounge and Childhood Nutrition Resource Center. This will be presented at the 2106 Capital Area Association for the Education of Young Children annual regional conference to be held at Messiah College on March 5. The resources will be available for check out following the conference and families are invited to peruse them.

Prior to the establishment of the new Nursing Lounge, we worked to accommodate family nursing needs in the Duckling classroom, then through a makeshift, temporary partially enclosed corner of our Large Motor Room. This solution did not provide the necessary privacy, comfort and sanitation.

With this grant and some donations from Dickinson we were able to transform an old storage closet to a comfortable Nursing Lounge. The removal of storage shelves, painting of the walls, laying of carpet and the addition of some furniture, wall hangings, book shelf and lamp table were the first steps to completion of the room. We later purchased new boppy pillows and covers, a white noise machine, bins for storing personal items, a few small infant toys/books and books/pamphlets on topics related to early childhood nutrition from the American Academy of Pediatrics and other vendors. A wall-mounted diaper changing table was installed in the bathroom.

The Nursing Lounge and Childhood Nutrition Resource Center meets all the needs for privacy, comfort, and sanitation for our nursing mothers with easy access to running water, electricity, and refrigeration of expressed milk. It also allows us to share with our families important information on early childhood nutrition and the community resources available to support them.

~ Sandra Bennett

Fundraising

Ongoing:

* Target Red Card-Please find information on how to register for this 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

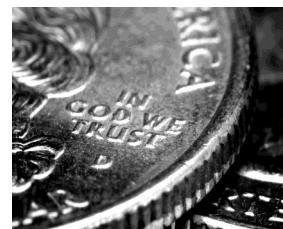
Promotion Motion- \$3591.16

Giant- \$532.43

BJ's-\$30.00

Lil' Angels Photography- \$325.00

Total: \$6551.48



Upcoming:

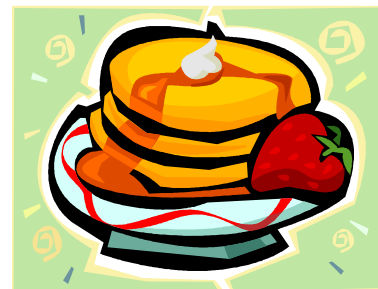
***Pancake Breakfast—see details below!**

***Box Top Competition** from January 25th-February 12th-Bring in your box tops!

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!

March 5, 2016 8-11 a.m.

HUB Social Hall



REMINDERS:

- Please continue to invite your friends and send in your ticket money
- Sign up in your child's classroom to bring in an item for the silent auction baskets!
 - Usborne Book Fair!!





Ducklings



January has been a month of transitions as we have all returned from a long winter break, have become reacquainted and gradually resettled into our routines.

We are about half-way through our first winter, and although weather conditions so far have kept us indoors for much of January, we have been able to play outside on a number of days. We are still waiting for our first real snowfall! We have explored ideas associated with winter through the scenes that play out beyond our windows, outdoors on our playground, during stroller walks around our neighborhood and on campus and through pictures, books, stories and song.

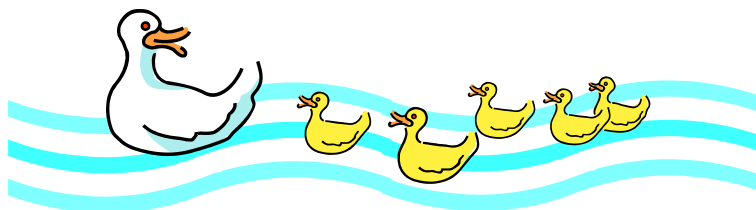
In February, we will consider the concept of shadows as we observe Ground Hog Day. We will explore shades of the color red and heart shapes in our environment, as well as thoughts of love, nurturing and caring for each other, as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day with related board books and songs. While our curriculum revolves around basic care needs, we will introduce chunky puzzles, more cause & effect toys, puppets and building blocks for the older infants. The "Big Room" will give us lots of space to practice sitting, rolling, crawling, pushing toys, walking, climbing, dancing and rolling balls. We will take nature walks whenever the temperatures permit. We will also continue to incorporate gestures and signing: waving, clapping, pointing, blowing kisses, and others that build on our emerging language development.

With each passing month now, we will celebrate another milestone birthday among our infants, marking young toddlerhood! For those young toddlers who are interested, simple art materials will be introduced, chunky crayons or paper with small blobs of colorful finger paint.

We are excited about the March 5th Pancake Breakfast and hope that you are all planning to attend. The infants will participate in their small way toward the construction of a table center piece! The Duckling silent auction box is in the hallway by the front office if you wish to make a donation. The sign-up sheet with suggested item donations is posted on the infant room door. Our theme this year is Coffee and Chocolate. Also be sure to browse through the Scholastic book brochures that you find in your "go home" bins each month. It's a nice way to build on your baby's book library at home (they do feature board books). You may order on-line or submit your order to the office and with each book purchase you make, the Center gets points toward book purchases to enhance our own classroom library!

Now let's all hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



Yellow Puppies

January flew by in the blink of an eye! During our first week back after break we talked about winter animals. We painted some pretty great penguins and made polar bears using our handprints. We flip-flopped a few of our weeks to see if we could get the weather to cooperate with our snow week! We read Jan Brett books over and over again during our Jan Brett week! We loved to point to the animals in The Mitten! Cold, wet, slippery, smooth, and rough, were a few words we used during our ice week! We also practiced saying "brrr", and we splashed in the water that is left when ice melts!



We have been so inquisitive about body parts lately that we are starting the month with a whole week about our bodies! We will read books about belly buttons, sing about shaking our sillies out, and paint with our hands and our feet! We will take the week before Valentine's day to look for hearts, make special hearts, and talk about love. The third week of February we will talk about teeth! We will sing the "brush your teeth" song, paint with toothbrushes, talk about what we do with our teeth, and even look inside our mouths at the mirror. We will finish the month with a week of colors. We will search for colors in our room, paint and color, and read books about colors.

Reminders:

- Please label all containers and plastic bags in your child's lunch. It helps us to be more efficient and get lunches ready and into hungry bellies faster.
- Make sure you are checking your child's folder for daily reports and information from the office.

FAMILY.
WHERE LIFE BEGINS AND
LOVE NEVER ENDS.
♡

Blue Puppies



Wow! It's February already! The kitchen and block area have been the hot spots lately with serving food and pouring drinks along with pushing cars around and putting people in the house. We have a few friends using open cups and will soon introduce a few more. We had a new friend start mid January and his name is Braysen. He is a great fit to our room and all the puppies have welcomed him in.

This month will have us looking for our shadows. Look for a flashlight (please label) to bring in so we can have fun and make shadows on our wall. We will color a groundhog and see if spring is on its way. Then the puppies will talk about our teeth, what we use them for (eating) and how we keep them clean. We will paint with tooth brushes and sing songs about brushing teeth. The puppies will be talking about feelings and friends as we get ready for Valentine's Day. We will play with red play-doh, color hearts, decorate a bag, and finger paint with red paint. I will be sending home a list of all the kids names. Next we will be working on identifying our colors. We will see

(Blue Pups ctd.)

what color everyone is wearing, talk about the color of the crayons we use. The puppies will make a collage with pieces of colored paper on contact paper. We will be focusing on some cognitive skills such as matching, colors, and counting along with honing in our fine motor skills.

Watch the weather, it seems winter has finally arrived and we will go outside in the snow (temperatures permitting), please bring in snow gear.



REMINDERS:

Lunch is one of our busiest times of the day. Please remember to label **everything** in your child's lunch box/bag including containers, we have had a few accidental mix-ups and things going home with the wrong child. Also please label yogurts, applesauce/fruit bowls, pouches, and baggies.

~**CATHRYN & DONNA**

Yellow Honey Bees

Well here we are in February already. Wow, where does the time go? We have been very busy in the yellow honey bee room. We are trying to do a lot of things on our own like sitting on the potty, opening our own lunch boxes/containers and trying to get our own coats on (ask your child about the coat dive!) We will continue to work on all of those items. During the last month we accomplished a lot. We talked about penguins, farm animals, talked about how to be a good friend, and snow and we have a lot planned for this month too!

During the week of 2/1 – 2/5 we will talk about shadows. February 2nd is Groundhog Day. We will take walks looking for our shadows while walking, play a game on the playground, trying to tag someone's shadow, make and color a groundhog craft project and make shadows in our room with our hands.

The week of 2/8 -2/12 will bring discussions about feelings. We will focus on all feelings this week, but end up on Friday talking about love. Fun activities for this week include: a lot of craft projects with hearts and talking about how things makes us feel. Please keep an eye out for the list of names for all of the children in our room for valentine's card.

Fact: Approximately 150 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually. This makes Valentine's Day the second most popular card sending holiday after Christmas.

"When I grow up" is a fun theme for the week of 2/15-2/19. We will talk with the kids about what they want to be when they grow up...you might what to keep what they tell us they want to be and show it to them when they are bigger. We will make a list of all the jobs the children can think of, read books about different kinds of jobs. We will take care of babies this week and even give our baby dolls a bath. Being the president of the United States will be a topic of discussion and we will also talk about what moms and dads do.

The theme for the week of 2/22 – 2/26 is "Music makes the world go round." We will listen to different kinds of music and dance all week long, look at and hear different instruments, and even make our own instruments. If any of our families play a musical instrument, and you would like to share with us we would love to have you come in and play

Fact: The first instrument dates back 40,000 years. It is a 40,000 year old flute made from bird bones.

Please continue to label all of your child's belongings. If you haven't already sent in winter snowsuits and boots please do so. Thank you.

~ **MS. BARB & MS. SARAH**

Blue Busy Bees

The Blue Bees have been participating in many new things this month. We are picking out what jobs we want to help with. We talk about what month it is, day of the week, and the date each morning. We have been singing many new songs. One song we like, is singing the days of the week! We have been very interested in the books (read at Circle Time) and projects we have each day. Best of all, we are forging new friendships. And we are learning to resolve conflicts and still play well together,



We are enjoying the big room. Some love to dance, ride bikes, and toss balls.

Next month's themes to look forward to:

- Art Fun
- I Love You, You Love Me
- Feelings
- Community Helpers



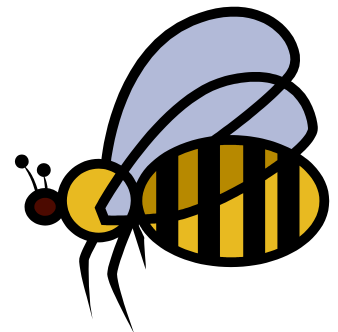
As we enter the winter season and we continue to grow and develop, our interests change and we want to try new activities. Some of the new activities that we are participating in are: more challenging puzzles, smaller manipulative items to build with, colored pencils for writing opportunities, water color paints, and soon to come: twisty crayons and thin markers. In the science and math centers, we will be adding new math and science activity games and we will add smaller cars and building blocks to the block area.



Thank you families for remembering to fill out the daily sheet, and washing your child's hands as you come into our room. Please remember to check any notes that are sent home from the classroom or office.

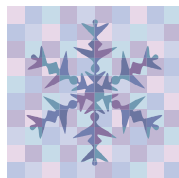
Hopefully we will get outside to enjoy some snow, so we will need boots, heavy coats, and hats and mittens (preferably water proof).

~JODY & MARSHA



Yellow Bear Cubs

We had a great time starting off the New Year by playing games with our friends! We experienced some very fun games that our friends all shared nicely! We then learned about all types of weather; windy, rainy, etc. We had a great time exploring with cold and freezing water, and learning about different arctic animals in their habitats! We wrapped up the month by diving



into some great winter stories by Jan Brett that also introduced us to some special animals!



In February we will be looking online at a hibernating bear and her cubs during Hibernation week, hopefully the den cams will be up and running. We will look forward to reviewing feelings and encourage more "Doing Turtle" throughout our feelings week and all of February. We will be taking a trip back in time to Dinosaur land where we will learn a lot about several



dinosaurs, measurement and comparisons! We will wrap up the month by learning about dental health and

hopefully have Dr. Joe or some Dental assistant students visit us.



Teddy Bear Reminders:

We are heading into our classroom birthdays in March, please take the time to review the birthday policy in the parent handbook, feel free to touch base with me on any questions or suggestions if you would like to do something at school for your child.



MANDY AND CHERI

Blue Bears

We had a fantastic January! The weather could have been a little warmer, but it was fun to get out and play when we had the chance. The kids had a great time playing games they brought from home, talking about Polar Regions and animals, and especially playing in the ice cold water in the water table! We ended the month predicting whether the Groundhog would see his shadow...



We are looking forward to our short but busy month of February. We begin the month talking about dental health and all the great ways we take care of our teeth. We will have fun with dental props and dress ups. We then move on to feelings, just in time for Valentine's Day. Look for a class list soon in cubbies to fill out those Valentines; we'll have a small party to exchange Valentines on February 12th.



We will finish the month with an around the world theme. We would love to talk about the families in our classroom and find out where you may have visited or even lived in the past. Is there something special you could share from home to show and talk about this area? Or maybe a different type of food you would be able to make with the class. Look for papers

and more information in cubbies later in the month to sign up for different things.

We will end February and start March with the always so exciting Dr. Seuss full of silly books rhymes and fun activities!

Upcoming events:

Pancake Breakfast and Usborne Book Fair March 5th 8-11am

Picture Day – March 10th

Grandparents Day April 1st 10-11am

As always, check extra clothes bins for seasonally appropriate clothes, make sure your child has snow pants and boots here at all times, and label, label, label! If you have any questions please talk with Ms. Ange or Ms. Kristen. Thank you!

~**KRISTEN & ANGE**

Bunnies

It is crazy to think that it is already February, time sure does fly! We started out January with a welcome back week after a long holiday vacation. We reviewed the classroom rules and the letters we already learned and discussed what we did while we were home. We moved into our week on winter. It was a little bit of a bummer to not have actual snow on the ground but we made it work. We talked about what happens in the winter, what clothes we wear, and how snow forms. Next we moved into our week on space. We talked about all the planets, our galaxy and comets. We finished the month talking about dental health. We talked about foods that are good for our teeth and how to take care of them.

Also in January everyone should have received a letter about their child's kindergarten readiness. Please review those papers and sign and date them, then return them to the Bunny Room. If you have any questions please let us know.

We will start February off with a week on numbers. We will learn how to write them, we will practice counting and matching number words with their numbers. Next, we will move into our feelings week. We will discuss various feelings like happy, sad, scared, mad, surprised, loved etc. and talk about how to show those emotions and how to make ourselves feel better when we are upset. Then, we will have a week on famous Americans. We will talk about the presidents and other famous Americans that changed the way we live. Following that we will talk about books. We will learn the different parts of books, fiction vs. non-fiction, how to take care of our books and we will read a variety of types of books. Finally we will end the month with learning about Dr. Seuss. We will learn who he was, we will practice rhymes, and celebrate his birthday.

Reminders:

*Check your child's extra clothes bin to make sure they have clothing that fits them and is seasonally appropriate.

*Continue to check your child's mailbox daily for important information about the center and our classroom.

Important Dates:

February 12- Valentine Exchange- More information to come closer to the time

February 29-March 3- Usborne Book Fair

March 5 (Saturday)- Pancake Breakfast

MS. BRITNEY AND MS. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



The children all did an awesome job of being teachers on our "Kids Are Teachers Day"! Each child was in charge of one part of the day. Some planned and carried out lessons and center activities, while others led our daily routines, like Meeting Time and News. It was a great leadership experience for the kids, and I saw confidence blossoming in every one of them.

In the weeks preceding our 100th Day of Kindergarten we did a bundle of 100-themed activities. We've done LOTS of counting... by ones, tens, and fives.. and are learning more about place value. Our actual 100th Day, which we will celebrate on January 27, should be tons of fun! We'll hunt for 100 hearts, break a piñata with 100 things inside, and we'll fill our "museum" with the children's 100 Day projects. We're hoping for lots of visitors to come in to visit our 100 Day Museum!

We'll be celebrating Groundhog Day by learning a little bit about shadows. We're hoping the weather will cooperate with us so that we can get outside to do a few shadow experiments, but we'll settle for indoor experiments with flashlights if necessary!

Also in February we'll revisit our study about Health and Nutrition. We'll review about healthy habits and how to prevent germs from spreading. We'll also review the importance of exercise and eating nutritiously, and will learn about dental health, as well.

We'll be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 12. The children may all bring Valentine cards for their peers and we'll do a few Valentine-themed activities that day.

We're planning two weeks of fun and rhyme at the end of February/ early March with "On the Loose With Dr. Seuss and Mother Goose"! We'll play around with rhyming words and alliteration, as we do our share of writing rhymes and stories. A few special days are planned during those weeks. We'll be doing everything in a wacky way on "Wacky Wednesday" (Feb, 24). We'll practice reciting nursery rhymes, dress like a favorite nursery rhyme character, and present our rhymes to some of the younger classes on "Nursery Rhyme Day" (Feb. 26). "Dr. Seuss Day" will be on March 2, Dr. Seuss's actual birthday. That day we'll all come to school dressed like our favorite Dr. Seuss character and will enjoy a Seussy lunch of green eggs and ham and butter side up bread.

if you haven't already done so, please send in boots and snow pants to keep here at DCCC. That way, your child will be ready when the snow beckons us to go out to play.

~ Ms. Katie & Ms. Cheri



DCCC information on: Weather related closings, delays and early dismissals

Dear Families,

As we are entering the winter season, I want remind you of the following guidelines that pertain to weather related closings, delays and early dismissals.

Closing/delay due to bad weather:

DCCC will be closed when the college is closed due to bad weather (snow/ice). We will continue to notify families via the e-mail distribution list and through the following media outlets:

TV Stations: WGAL Channel 8 (NBC), WHTM Channel 27 (ABC), WPMT FOX 43, WHP Channel 21 (CBS), and WLYH Channel 15 (UPN)

Radio Stations: WHP 580 AM, WRVW 97.3 FM The River, WRBT 94.9 FM BOB, WHKF 99.3 FM KISS, WITF FM 89.5 NPR, WINK 104 FM, WROZ 101.3 FM The Rose, and WI00 1000 AM (Carlisle Station).

In order to provide the utmost safety to the children within the Center, DCCC also reserves the right to decide to close even if the college would remain open.

If the College decides to delay, DCCC too will delay.

On a one hour delay DCCC will open at 8:30 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

On a two hour delay DCCC will open at 9:30 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

DCCC opening at 10:00 a.m. – the 11:00 arrival policy will be extended to 11:30 a.m. to help accommodate the number of children at drop-off.

Once again, if possible we will notify families via the e-mail distribution list and local TV stations.

Early Dismissal:

When the college decides to close early due to worsening weather conditions, DCCC will close as well. However, we will add an hour to our closing time in relation to the college time to allow parents within the community enough time to make arrangements to pick up their child safely. (For example, if the college decides to close at 3:00 p.m., the Center will close at 4:00.)

This message will go out via e-mail distribution list, local TV stations and, when necessary the classroom teachers will call their individual families.

Please keep in mind that the college does not decide to close very frequently. However, when they do, it is necessary that we now follow their same schedule in order to provide the utmost safety to the DCCC staff as well. **We will be certain to make sure that the Children's Center is specifically stated in order to avoid confusion.**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter,

Gina VanKirk, Director