

Dickinson College Children's Center March 2016

From the Director's Desk

We are getting closer to Spring every day! We are thankful for our big room! It has been wonderful allowing the kids to continue with their large motor play even when it is too cold to go outside. The children have enjoyed using some of the new toys that were received through the grant. They came at a great time of the year.

We are in the process of finalizing our Kindergarten spots for the 2016-2017 school year. We are currently working off the wait list to fill remaining spots. If you know of anyone that may be interested in our full day or Kindergarten only day (9-3), please have them call the center office.

We had an overwhelming response for summer camp this year. Both camps will be held from June 6th to August 19th. We have hired a few new teachers to help us out for the summer and we can't wait to get started. Currently, we are scheduling buses, field trips and activities for the camp programs.

Our Bunny group and the Kindergarteners are once again going to participate in a few Sign language classes this spring with the students here at Dickinson. Both groups have been learning sign language throughout the year so it is amazing to see what they can do. They love the special visits with the students and like to show off their skills.

We have been working very hard on our projections for our fall class assignments. Class rosters will be shared at the Parent Meeting in April. An email will also be sent out to notify all parents. Spring conferences will be offered at the end of April and will be a great time to discuss your child's move up. Once class groups are set, we will begin the enrollment process for new children.

It's that time of year again to resign forms. During March, parents will be asked to review and resign each child's paper work. Additional Parent Handbooks, Emergency Plans and copies of the center Guidance Procedures will be available for parents.

During spring we will be getting some additional work done to our playgrounds! The Pre-school playground will be getting a new surface and the Bees playground will be getting a new shade structure and we will welcome back the big sandbox, we can't wait!

The center will be closed on March 18th for a training day. Teachers will be trained on Pediatric First Aid, attend a staff meeting and complete additional curriculum training.

~Gina

Dates to Remember:

MARCH

18—DCCC Closed for Staff Training Day

22—Advisory Meeting

April 1—Grandparent Visiting Day (see inside for details)

April 20—The 3 Rs of Parenting 6-7 PM (see inside for details!)

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Child Pick-Up:

When picking your child up in the evening, if possible, please pick up your younger child first. Those pick-ups usually take a bit longer and will allow you to spend the time necessary exchanging information with your child's teacher. Thank you!



Grandparent Visiting Day

Friday, April 1st

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Puppies, Bees & Bears

11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Ducklings

2:00 – 3:00 Kindergarten

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Bunnies

Grandparents (or special person in our life) are invited to spend some time at the Center reading books, doing crafts, playing and learning together!



The 3 Rs of Parenting

Wednesday April 20th 6-7 p.m. DCCC Big Play Room

Presented by Jessie Harpel-Fickes, MS LPC NCC, of Franco Psychological Associates

Most parents want their children to be healthy, well-adjusted individuals who have respect for themselves and others. At times, however, parenting a child to have these qualities can feel like a monumental task. This presentation will introduce a relationship-based guide to raising respectful, responsible, and resilient children.

Please join us at DCCC for an informative time together!

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-\$621.00
Promotion Motion- \$3591.16
Giant- \$723.30
BJ's-\$30.00
Lil' Angels Photography- \$325.00
Target- \$390.96
Total: \$7110.31

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!

March 5, 2016 8-11 a.m.

HUB Social Hall

REMINDERS:

- Please continue to invite your friends
 - tickets available at the door!
 - Usborne Book Fair!!
- Come bid on some fantastic items at our silent auction





Ducklings



We welcome the month of March with still a few more weeks of winter, but the certainty of spring! In February we celebrated Valentine's Day and took advantage of every day possible to play outdoors on the playground, but sadly, they were few. Even on those days that the temperatures crept up above 25 degrees F, the passageways around the center and on campus were too icy, snow covered or slushy to permit us to navigate our large infant strollers. We did venture out once or twice to experience the snow fall, constructed a small snowman on our playground and brought some fresh powdery snow indoors! We will be outdoors more often again as soon as conditions permit. In the meantime, the Big Room is a favorite space to practice our gross motor skills. Thank you, parents, for your beautiful and creative Valentine's Day greetings and gifts!

March is a fun month of transition to spring! We will watch for the early signs of spring, take nature walks, and experience kite-shapes and green shamrocks in our classroom environment. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's 112th birthday with board book readings from his fun, nonsensical, rhyming words. We will begin pointing to and labeling some of our body parts. We will continue to practice eating solids from spoons, practice drinking from sippy cups and self-feeding simple table foods. Parents of older infants (9 months and older), please send in small bits of table foods from home for lunches. Older infants are ready to give up being spoon fed pureed foods and they love the new found independence of being able to feed themselves...great for their fine motor development and their self-esteem! Always introduce new foods at home before sending them in to the Center to be sure your baby doesn't have sensitivity to a new food. Issues of normal stranger-anxiety and separation-anxiety sometimes arise among our infants. We will continue to sing songs, play peek-a-boo games and comfort our infants as they learn to cope with these new feelings.

Parent Reminders:

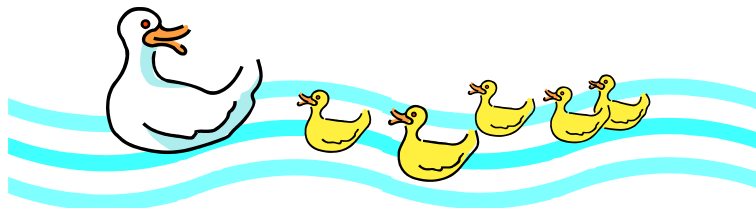
March 9: Infant Portraits (with their older siblings)

March 5: Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser & last day of Book Fair

March 18: Teacher in-service training day – DCCC closed

Please continue to clearly label baby's belongings: clothing, outdoor wear, bottles, foods containers, etc... Please be sure to leave us a supply of size- and season- appropriate clothing changes. Continue to check your diaper supply bins and keep them well stocked. And finally, for safety reasons, please be sure to close the outer door to the classroom and the kitchen gate as you enter and leave the infant play room at drop off and pick up times. Our infants are becoming very mobile and some can crawl, scoot and walk very fast now! We want to avoid babies escaping to unsafe areas or pinching little fingers in doors. Thank you!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



Yellow Puppies

We started our month with a week about our bodies. We had a great time pointing to our eyes, ears, mouth, nose, elbows, knees, and toes! It was amusing when we realized that not every one's belly button looks the same, and for some reason most adults don't want us to pull their shirts up to look at their belly's! J We spent the week of Valentine's day making pretty hearts, and individualized Valentines for our favorite people. Tooth week had us painting with tooth brushes, looking at our teeth, examining the big teeth and practicing brushing. Color week was amazing with our very messy splatter painting and sparkly sensory bottles.



During the month of March we will be having a week of crazy rhyming fun in the honor of Dr. Seuss's Birthday. We will be making one fish, two fish, red fish, and blue fish, explore oobleck, and we might even try green eggs and ham! We will take a week to learn about farms and talk about some of our favorite animals that live down on the farm. We will paint with toy tractors and create some cute animals using our hands and feet. St Patrick's day will have us searching for green and painting some beautiful shamrocks. We will round out the month with a week about bunnies and eggs, and a week of spring fun! We will grow some grass, explore plastic eggs, sing songs about bunnies, and work on our large motor skills as we hop around our room like bunnies. Hopefully spring will cooperate with our plans, and we can go on a spring walk and look for signs of the flowers and trees budding and blooming!



Blue Puppies

March is going to be full of fun activities that will be sure to keep the puppies busy!

The puppies will start our month off with the wonderful, silly and crazy world of Dr. Seuss. We will read many of his books and paint with our feet, glue strips of paper, and color fish. Any one have a pet? We will talk about pets, read books, and share pictures of our pets. Make sure to wear your **GREEN** on Thursday the 17th. We will paint a pot of gold, color a shamrock, make a leprechaun hat, and look for/count leprechauns hidden around the room. Hippity, hoppity Easter's on it's way... with plastic eggs and baskets in the room to play with and paper Easter grass in the sensory table. Boil some eggs and we will color them. The puppies will also paint with cotton balls. Let's hope spring is on it's way as we color flowers and plant grass seed in a cup to watch it grow.

We are working small motor manipulatives such as puzzles with more pieces, stringing beads, and Legos. We are consistently working on self-help skills during lunch time.

REMINDERS:

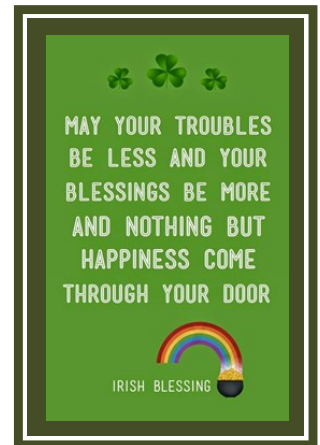
- ~Picture Day is March 9th, wear your smile!
- ~Label **ALL** items in lunch boxes.
- ~Check in on your child's extra clothing.

Think Spring! ~ CATHRYN & DONNA

Reminders:

The Fantastic DCCC pancake breakfast is on March 5th!

Please check your child's extra clothing for size and seasonal appropriateness



Yellow Honey Bees

Here we are in March. We had a great February talking about shadows, feelings, what we want to be when we grow up. And yes, we loved music. We danced, danced and danced to all different kinds of music. During March we will have so much fun just knowing that spring is coming!

Guess who is having a birthday? Here is a clue. A person is a person no matter how small! That's right. Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss would have been 112 this March. So the first week of March the theme will be Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss. We will have many Dr. Seuss books in our library. If your child has a favorite please have them bring it in to share with us. We will match colored fish with their colored fishbowls. We will paint with our feet, and we will draw pictures of our families. Friday we will be pj day and funky socks.

During the second week of March we will talk about weather.



We will talk about how March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. We will make a lion from a paper plate. We will make a lamb. We will talk about how windy March can be. We will make a kite from construction paper. Ms. Sarah and I hope to have a real kite here to fly outside.



During the week of 3/14 – 3/18 our theme will be the rainbow connection. We will go over all the colors of the rainbow. We will even wear different colors that week. We will talk about St. Patrick's Day. And let's not forget about listening to Ms. Barb's favorite song: Some where over the rainbow.

The week of 3/21 – 3/25 we will get hooked on books. We will read all kinds of books and do a lot of activities from the books we read like, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see? We will write our own Yellow Honey Bee Book. Let's not forget about Friday. Yes, It is a very special day, Grandparents Day! More information to come.

Let's end the Month of March talking about what we need to help us grow. We will talk about vegetables, and fruit. We will even taste many different kinds of veggies, and fruit this week. We will talk about why we should drink water. We will measure ourselves to see how tall we are. In the Yellow Honey Bee library we will have many books about healthy foods that help us to grow.



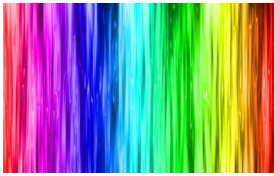
MS. BARB & MS. SARAH

Blue Busy Bees

The Blue Bees are having a great time playing with many friends. We are learning new routines; most are using the potty, and picking out helper jobs! At circle time we are enjoying:

- using the calendar to talk about what month it is
- Singing our special “Days of the Week” song
- Figuring out the date by counting out the numbers
- Deciding which color will come next in our calendar pattern

We are now all three years old! That brings us to using the big playground—we will be using the swings, sandbox and big slide! All of us know the rules for the big playground so that we can play safely. We also switch out to different age appropriate toys: legos, matchbox cars, scissors, small math manipulatives and much more! Please feel free to check out what is available for your child to do.



March themes will be: We Love Books, Rainbows, Shamrocks and The Color Green and we will end the month with Up, Up and Away!

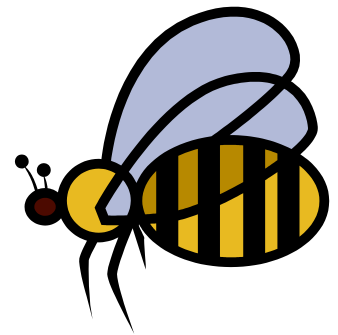


Please remember that we go outside as much as possible, but the weather can be unpredictable in the month of March. Sometime heavier coats and gloves are still needed. But then again, it might be warm and a lighter coat is needed. Please be sure to check the weather. There are times when boots are still needed because of mud. And check your child’s clothing bin, to provide lighter cloths if needed.

Please remember, if you bring anything into our room in plastic bags. They must be placed high in the cubbies. No plastic bags are to be within your child’s reach.

Your child is becoming so independent. So we encourage more self-help skills. We can follow simple directions, use our listening ears, and use words to let us know how we feel. We are now THREE!

JODY AND MARSHA



Yellow Bear Cubs

The Teddy Bear room has been a very busy place, in February! Hibernation week was fun with lots of bear and animal fun, and wrapping it up with a hibernation party with bears from home! We reviewed our feelings and how to keep our friends feeling happy and loved!



Our Dinosaur week was a huge success as we are now officially dinosaur experts! We finished our week on Dental health and we are now dental experts as well!

We will be looking forward to a rhyming good time with our two Dr. Seuss/rhyming weeks to kick off the month of March! We will be having two beautiful weeks of colors as well! Be on the lookout for some tricky Leprechaun fun around St. Patrick's Day! We will wrap up the month with our Eggstravaganza week!



Teddy Bear Reminders:

The weather will be transferring to spring (HOPEFULLY), dress your children in layers so as

the weather turns warm throughout the day, they may be comfortable. UPDATE THE EXTRA CLOTHES BINS AS WELL!

As we head into our season of birthdays, please take the time to review the healthful birthday policy in the parent handbook or ask Ms. Mandy!

The center will be closed on Friday March 18th for staff development!

&

Grandparents Visiting Day is Friday April 1st!

MANDY AND CHERI

Blue Bears

Wow! We can't believe it's March already! It doesn't seem possible to be here already, we didn't have much of cold snowy winter. It all came on one weekend! We were able to get outside and play on our playground for a few days. Valentine's Day was fun with our friends and we learned a lot about our feelings while practicing doing Turtle. Dental Health week was a lot of fun as we learned about how to take care of our teeth and our two weeks around the world were phenomenal! Thank you for all your interesting stories, pictures and treasures that you took the time to come in and share!

The Blue Bears have a very exciting March planned! We will start the month with 2 weeks of Dr. Seuss and Rhyming. We will talk about all of his different books, how he rhymed words, and even have a taste of green eggs and ham. We will play Pin the Ham on the Plate from Green Eggs and Ham, tic-tac-toe with green eggs and ham pieces, and make Cat in the Hat hats.

We will move on to colors just in time for St. Patrick's Day. We will be dressing in specific colors that week so check the lesson plan! Mixed into our color weeks is St. Patrick's Day where that tricky leprechaun comes out to make a mess of our room and turn our milk and toilet water green! Because Easter is so early this year we will be enjoying our Eggstravaganza a little earlier than normal. We will dye eggs and have an egg hunt on the playground. We finish the month with ABC123. We have made it through the entire alphabet so we use this week to review all the letters. We do lots of activities about writing letters, their sounds, and counting things around the room.

Dates to Remember:

Picture Day March 10th (9th for siblings)

Staff training day March 18th (Center Closed)

Grandparents Day April 1st 10-11am

Please remember to check your child's extra clothes bin for seasonally appropriate clothing. Remember to check the wall above the cubbies for notes and sign-ups throughout the week. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to talk to Kristen or Ange.

Thank you for everything you do!

~**KRISTEN & ANGE**



Bunnies

Wow February is over and into March we go! In February we started with numbers. We learned the ASL sign of the number 1-20 and the Spanish words for the numbers 1-10. We also did a lot of counting, matching the numeral to the word and learned how to write them. Next we discovered various feelings like shy, excited, bored, embarrassed and determined. We talked about when we feel this way, why and what it looks like. We had a great time showing each other how much we care by passing out Valentine's Day cards to everyone. Then we moved into talking about famous Americans like Barack Obama, Rosa Parks, Ben Franklin, George Washington and a few others. We ended our month talking about books. We learned the difference between fiction and non-fiction, the different parts of a book, what the authors and illustrators do and how to care for books.

In March we will start out with two full weeks of Dr. Seuss fun! We will learn about rhyming, read some of his books, have some fun days like Funky Friday and dress like a character day as well as a field trip. Then after the first two weeks we will move into a week on dinosaurs. We will learn what they ate, where they lived and all the different kinds. Then we will move into a week about eggs and other ovals. We will discuss different animals that lay eggs, and decorate some eggs as well. We will finish out the month with a week on spring, talking about what the weather is like, what we can do in the spring and what animals we will start to see.

Important Dates:

Saturday March 5th- Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday March 9- Infant/Toddler Portraits (& siblings)

Thursday March 10- Preschool/Kindergarten Portraits

Friday March 18-DCCC Closed for teacher training

Reminders:

*Always check child's mailbox

*Please check your child's extra clothes bin to make sure they have a good supply of seasonally appropriate clothing that fits.



MS. BRITTNEY AND MS. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



The Kindergarten Dolphins were very sad this month to say goodbye to our very good friend, Minho, who is heading back to Korea for a few months before his family moves to Sweden. He will be greatly missed, but we plan to keep in touch as we practice our letter writing skills.

February, Valentine month, called upon us to revisit the topics of friendship and respect. We read some great books, learned a little more about bully prevention, and of course, celebrated Valentine's Day! It's wonderful to see how much little things mean to our young children. After opening all of the valentines from her classmates, one student joyfully announced, "This is the best day of my life!"

February was also the perfect month for learning about how to care for our own bodies. We learned about dental health, general health and germ prevention, and the function of various parts of our bodies from our skin to our hearts. The kids were fascinated with these topics!

We are celebrating the music of rhyme during our "On the Loose with Dr. Seuss and Mother Goose" weeks during the last part of February and the beginning of March. We're learning to recognize familiar rimes in print and to decode unfamiliar words by looking for familiar little chunks within the words. We've been practicing reading and writing rhymes and will be creating and performing alliterative sentences and stories for our classmates at the end of our unit. We had/ are having three special days connected to this fun theme. Wacky Wednesday brought forth some mighty wacky dressers, and some crazy activities made the day even more fun! On Nursery Rhyme Day, we had a great time dressing up and performing our nursery rhymes for other classes. The best day, however, is yet to come! On Dr. Seuss Day, which will be celebrated on March 2, we will all be dressing up as our favorite Dr. Seuss characters. We'll read lots of Dr. Seuss books and will make a delicious Seussy lunch of green eggs and ham, butter-side-up bread, and pink ink (strawberry milkshakes).

In mid-March, the Kindergartners will begin a study about dinosaurs. We'll measure and compare the lengths of various dinosaurs, and we'll learn about the differences between carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. We'll read If the Dinosaurs Came Back and will create our own class book about some amazing and rather outrageous things we could do with dinosaurs if they came back!

With a little positive thinking, we'll be preparing for the first glorious days of spring as we begin looking for signs of the season at the end of the month. We'll learn about cycles of growth with both plants and animals (including humans!), and the children will each create a "This is My Life" book. Using photos or drawings of themselves from birth through the present, they'll write about how they've grown each year. We'll learn about how other animals grow, too. We'll find out about the various animals that hatch from eggs, and will discover that some animals are more dependent upon their parents than others.

~ Ms. KATIE & Ms. CHERI