



Dickinson College Children's Center May 2016

DCCC Spring Reminders!

- **Shoe safety:** Make sure children wear shoes that protect their feet. Please make sure your children wear sneakers or sandals that cover and protect their toes. Rubber clogs and some sandals can be fun and airy, but they may also be too flimsy or loose for running, climbing, or riding trikes and can lead to accidents and injuries. 
- **Sunscreen:** Each child should have a bottle of sunscreen to be kept here at the Center. Spray sunscreen is **not** permitted. While convenient, spray sunscreen enters the air and children breathe it in to their bodies. We also apply sunscreen inside, and it creates quite a filmy build up on the floors at the Center. Please bring sunscreen for your child and remember to check expiration dates before sending them in to school. 
- **Sun Hats:** In addition to sunscreen, another good way to protect your child's head and face from the sun is a sun hat.
- **Bike Helmets:** In order for the children to be permitted to ride bikes on the playground, they must wear a helmet. Properly fitting helmets are important for the safety of your child while riding. Please check your child's helmet! Providing a helmet for your child to keep at the Center works much better than taking it back and forth from home to school.



From the Director's Desk

It is hard to believe we are into the month of May already. The school year has really flown by. For me, this year is bitter sweet. My daughter will be graduating from high school this month, my son will be getting his driving permit and my youngest will be completing fifth grade, ugh middle school here we come! Lots of things for all of you to look forward to after you leave here, life just keeps on rolling. I find myself so very often reflecting on their early years and feeling such pride in their wonderful start. My hope for all of you, is for you to enjoy these years with your child here at DCCC and to walk away with some really special memories too.

We are very excited to be having some warmer weather but would like to see more of it at this time of the year! Here are a few things happening at the center:

Class rosters for the fall have been shared with families. The center has decided to do a 3% increase in tuition to help cover the costs for the 2016-2017 budget year.

The Waiting List has been taken off the website as the center proceeds in offering spots for the fall in a variety of classrooms. We continue to look forward to enrolling many new families. Applications are welcome and prospective families are encouraged to call the center for enrollment information. An Open House will be offered on August 12th from 3-4.

Dates to Remember:

May 5—St. Jude's
Children's Research
Hospital Trike-a-Thon

May 22—
Noon-2:00 p.m.
Kindergarten Open
House (DCCC)

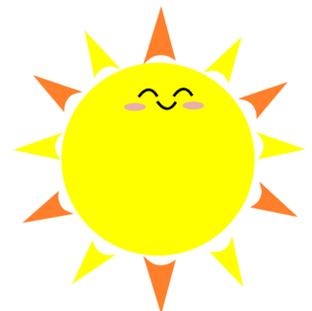
May 22—
2:00—4:00 Dragons II
Open House at 1250
Ritner Highway

May 27—Family
Special Event 3-5 p.m.

May 30—DCCC
Closed

June 1—Kindergarten
End of the Year
Program 6:30 p.m.

June 6—First Day of
Summer School-Age
Program



Staff Appreciation will be held on Wednesday, May 18th. Parents have been taking a collection and plan to provide a lunch for all staff. This is a great time of year to thank your child's teacher for a job well done.

The Department of Human Services State Inspection was held last month. We will be doing some improvements to the outside of the center within the month of May. We are hoping to start the work for the removal of the mulch on the preschool playground and hoping to get moving on installing the new surface. Once that work is completed then the new shade structure and the sandbox will be put in the Bee playground. As with any child care center, the continuous maintenance of a center is an everyday occurrence. We will be re-newing our STAR 4 this summer as well.

We are excited to be holding our annual Trike A Thon during the month of May. It is always a fun time for the children and we are hoping for nice weather! This center-wide event is to encourage and help children understand the importance of helping others.

We will be holding an Open House for Kindergarten here at the center on May 22nd from 12-2 PM and an Open House on May 22nd for our Summer Camp Dragons 2 (Ritner Hwy location) from 2-4 PM.

Kindergarten Graduation will be held on June 1st here at DCCC. Thank you to all the Families and children for a fun and busy year!

Both Summer Camp Programs will begin on June 6th. Ms. Cheri and Ms. Brittney will be moving to the Dragons 2 camp this summer. We have a number of summer staff returning and some new substitutes as well. Please keep an eye out for the Welcome Bulletin Board for the summer staff which will include a picture and bio about all of our extra helpers for the summer.

Have a great month of May! -Gina VanKirk, Director

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.

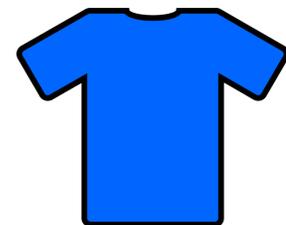
Totals:

Chicken BBQ-\$1483.18
Yearbooks- \$95.71
South Side Deli-\$50.00
Box Tops-\$573.30
Promotion Motion- \$3591.16
Giant- \$1134.47
BJ's-\$30.00
Lil' Angels Photography- \$325.00
Target- \$390.96
Pancake Breakfast-\$5362.20
Original Works - \$367.25
Senators Baseball Tickets-

Total: \$13,403.23

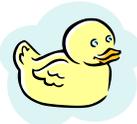
Upcoming:

** T-shirt sale!





Ducklings



April has been a beautiful month and we were outside with the infants nearly every day, climbing and playing on the playground or exploring the campus and our neighborhood on nature walks. Our kites billowed in the breezes; our pin-wheels spun; we smelled calming lilac and mint and we witnessed the blossoming of yellow daffodils and colorful tulips. We met with Master Gardener Ann to witness the early garden preparations of the Children's Garden this season and we will continue to observe its growth, water, and harvest! Thanks to our parents who came in for parent-teacher conferences....we value that time to chat and share progress and expectations for your babies, as well as to plan together for transitions to new classrooms in summer.

Because of our growing fascination with things that turn and move, one of our "big ideas" for May will be "Things That GO!"....we will celebrate things that go in play, in books, songs and in our observations around our neighborhood and campus.

During the month of May, two more of our classmates will reach their first birthday milestones! This is a time when infants typically have moved away from pureed baby foods and are able to enjoy the delights of table foods! We will celebrate healthy food choices this month with the "big idea", "We Are What We Eat!" We will read Eric Carle's The Hungry Caterpillar and Today Is Monday, among other stories about healthy food habits. You will notice that now that most of the infants are self-feeding, we are eating in small social groups of four, which is such fun and we learn so much at mealtimes together.

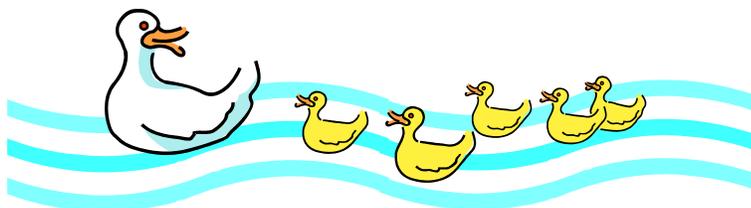
We will continue to offer our one-year olds some simple art materials, such as finger paints and chunky crayons. These art activities can be fun and creative, while strengthening and training the little hand muscles to one day hold a pencil. We look forward to sharing our early masterpieces with you!

In early May, the infants will participate in the St. Jude Children's Hospital fundraiser, a mini-trike-a-thon with our strollers and push toys on the infant-toddler playground. You will receive more information on this and we will request that you turn in a signed permission slip to the office.

****Parent Reminders:**

- Please send in sunscreen (no sprays) and sunhats, if you have not done so.
- Please refill extra clothing bags and your diaper supply bins regularly.
- Remember that mango is considered to be a member of the tree nut family and is therefore not permitted at the center due to potential tree nut allergies....save those yummy mangoes for home, please.

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



Yellow Puppies

The month of April flew by in the blink of an eye! We started the month with Grandparent's day on April 1st! We loved having so many visitors to read books, build with blocks, and help us with shape sorters! We hope all of the Grandparents enjoyed it as much as we did! We spent the first in April talking about rainbows and colors. Many of us are beginning to recognize colors and say their names. The second week of April was BUSY! We combined the NAEYC week of the young child with our train week. Music Monday included an awesome choo-choo soul dance party, and Taste-ful Tuesday was full of fun foods! We combined our Earth Day and weather weeks, because they go hand in hand! We painted rain clouds with raindrops, took our first class walk using the walking rope, and enjoyed the beautiful weather outside while we looked for clouds in the sky! We wrapped up April with a week of flowers! Painting with flowers, making a flower collage, and exploring flowers was a great learning experience!



May is going to be a month full of adventures in our room! We are starting the month with an outdoor fun week! We will be spending lots of time outside popping bubbles, using jumbo sidewalk chalk, coloring with crayons, and even painting the sidewalk with water! Then we will spend a week talking about the most important people in our world, or families! We will draw special pictures, talk about our family pictures, and read books about families. Bugs are next on our calendar! We will search the playground for them, examine them, draw pictures of them, and sing some bug songs. We will round out the month with a week of nursery rhyme fun, and a week of birds! Making our own bird feeders to hang up at home is going to be awesome! ~LACI & ALISHA

Family Reminders:

- Please bring in a sun hat and sun-screen for your child.
- Please check your child's extra clothing to be sure it is seasonally appropriate.

Play is the highest form of research.
- Albert Einstein

Blue Puppies



Spring is here! Bright sunshine and green grass!

May brings flowers. The puppies will read Planting a Rainbow, plant flowers, color flowers, and make a paper flower collage. There will be garden tools, flower pots, and soil in the sensory table for them to play with.

1..2..3! We are starting to hear a lot of counting going on. We will read some books about counting such as Clifford's 1, 2, 3, sing "5 Little Monkeys" and have some fun with stickers and counting how many we put on our paper.

The puppies love looking at books and we will be reading many from our favorite authors. We will make a paper caterpillar (Eric Carle), paint 5 little Monkeys (Eileen Christelow), and have a barn yard dance (Sandra Boyton). If your child has a favorite book, please bring it in to share.

The bugs are coming! There will be bugs in our sensory table to explore. We will also color bees, make a spider, paint with fly swatters, and look for bugs on the playground.

All aboard the choo-choo train! We LOVE to watch the train go by in the afternoons. The puppies will take a short walk around the building to look at the train tracks (from a distance). Each child will color a train car so we can put them together to make a train. If you have any empty



boxes you are willing to donate we would like to make a train to use in our classroom!

REMINDERS:

~Keep a jacket for those cool mornings

~Check their extra clothing bin, rotate so that there is seasonally appropriate clothing

~Please bring in sunscreen (no sprays). Remember to check the expiration date. You may also bring a hat to help protect their head from the sun.

~CATHRYN & DONNA

Yellow Honey Bees

Here we are in May already. We can't believe it. We had a great time with our egg-travaganza week. It was loads of fun during the week of the young child. But our favorite was dinosaur week. Ms. Barb and Ms. Sarah hope we can top that.

May 2-6- Theme will be Mother Goose- We will go over lots of mother goose rhymes, and do craft projects with those rhymes. Mother goose dates back to the 1650's. Mother Goose day is May 1st. It was founded in 1987 by Gloria T. Delamer with the Publication of her book- Mother Goose, from nursery to literature. Also on May 1st is save the rhino day. So we will write a story on Monday the 2nd about a rhino. Interesting Fact: The horn of the Rhinoceros is composed of the same materials as your fingernail

May 9-13- Birds! We will go for walks and look for many different kinds of birds. We will have lots of books in our room about birds, and yes we can't forget our favorite bird—Big Bird. We will paint our feet and make a bird from them and paint with feathers. Keep an eye out for many more different crafts this week that have to do with birds.

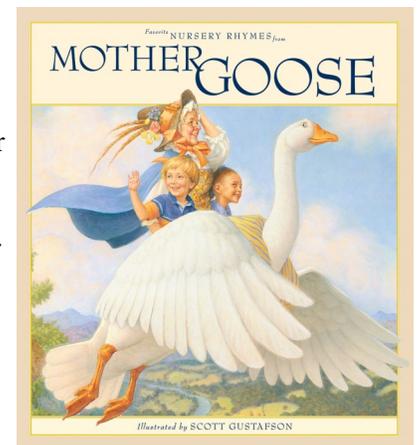
May 16-20- Flowers! We will review our colors while we do many crafts like paintings, gluing, and we will plant flowers that week too.

May 23- 27—Protecting ourselves from the sun. This week we will talk about what we need to wear and do when we are outside in the hot sunny weather. We will discuss the importance of drinking lots of water when in the heat. We will complete various craft projects including making a sun and sunglasses. Some other fun will be had when we experiment by putting blocks on a piece of paper and putting it outside in the sun. What will happen?



May 30— June 3—Let's plant a garden! We will talk about different types of gardens. We will find out who all plants a garden at home. Please bring in pictures. What is your favorite food to eat out of a garden we will make a chart. We will plant an herb garden here at school. Which is great for a sensory project. We can smell them, and try them.

If you haven't brought in summer clothes yet, please do. Please label. We already checked everyone's sunscreen, and if you were asked to bring in sunscreen, please make sure it is labeled with your children's name. Please bring in summer hats, and sunglasses for your children.



MS. BARB & MS. SARAH

Blue Busy Bees



The Blue Bees are ready to enjoy the warm, sunny days of outdoor fun! Please provide sunscreen for your child that is labeled with their name. When the weather gets much hotter, we will ask that you apply the sunscreen as you arrive with your child. This will allow us to get outside earlier than normal to beat the heat! We will reapply sunscreen during the rest of the day. Please remember that on the playground, toes must be covered to ride bikes and climb the climber. It is summer and of course we all want to wear our fancy summer sandals or flip flops. If this is the



case, you may bring in sneakers to change into for the playground.

Thank you to all the Grandparents that were able to come visit for Grandparent Visiting Day, it was a fun time for all! The activity we did with our grandparents was to make a cloud using cotton balls, glue and paint. We also built with blocks, read books, raced cars and did all of our puzzles. It was so much fun watching the excitement on each child's face as their grandparent walked into the classroom as they showed them around. Please take time to take a peek at the picture on our door of all of the grandparents and their Blue Bees.

April brought us a lot of fun activities and learning. We enjoyed making a classroom star during the Week of the Young Child and also enjoyed Taco Tuesday where we made and ate delicious tacos. We received some new math and science toys that the children have been having fun working with and mastering. The keys and locks seem to be the favorite, where the children must count the number of stars on the lock and then find the key with the matching number in able to unlock it. We have been working on 1-10 and will soon be able to move onto 11-20 before our move to the next classroom. We also really enjoy the magnetic science game that the children must place the animal in their correct environment, how they move (by air, land or sea) and match the baby with the correct mom.

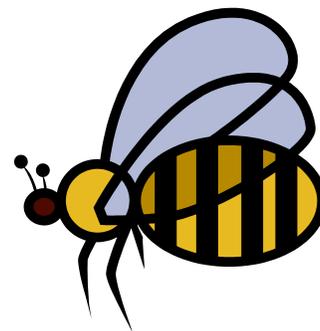
The highlight of the month was getting a new fish that we voted to name Blue Fin, after our dear fish friend Flipper passed away. We have also bene having fun watching our gardens grow, and watching the tiny tadpoles that Ms. Mandy brought to us. We are excited to see them turn into tiny frogs.

We cannot forget the milestone that many of the Blue Bees have been able to partake in and that is visiting the big playground. We have had so much fun exploring, climbing, jumping and running and still have not even tried out the swings or the big sandbox. We will also begin making our own cots starting in May. All of this is to prepare us for the big move to the Blue Bear Room this fall.

May Themes: Flowers and Spring Animals
Creepy Crawlers (hint Miss Jody likes them)!!
Senses
Nursery Rhymes
Pets

We hope the conferences provided families for time to discuss all the progress each child has made this year. Thank you for the time you took to sit down together!

MISS JODY AND MISS MARSHA



Yellow Bear Cubs

We blasted through April quickly with some out-of-this-world space activities and The Week of the Young Child's activities was outstanding as well! It was an "EGGSTRA" colorful week during our Extravaganza week. We learned a lot about saving the environment and recycling during Earth Week. We wrapped up the month and started into May with some fun Folk Tales, we really enjoyed hearing the stories and then acting them out!

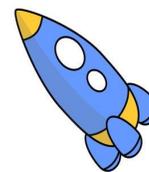


To come in May we will follow our Folk Tales with some enchanted fairy tales! We will watch May blossom with some planting fun during our "spring has sprung" Week! With the blossom of spring will come insects all around us, and looking at them in a safe way during creepy crawly bug week will be lots of fun! We plan to complete our letters of the week by the end of May and have a great time reviewing them in our Alphabet week.



every one of these bears!

I am also very excited and honored to have received the Terri Lynne Lokoff National Child Care Teacher's Award, and with this honor our pre-school rooms will be able to implement more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) into our classrooms. I will be able to purchase some special materials for not only my preschool classroom, but for the Blue Bears and Bunny classrooms as well with the grant money I received.



Teddy Bear Reminders:

- Please check your child's extra clothes bin for proper seasonal and fitting clothes!
- Bring in sunscreen if you haven't already (labeled with child's name, no spray sunscreen)

MANDY AND CHERI

I truly enjoyed taking the opportunity to meet with all of you at conferences; it is so great to share all the growth that we have seen in each and

Blue Bears

We want to thank you for attending conferences. It is a great way for us to communicate about your child's progress. We know you enjoy seeing how much your child has grown over the last six months.

April was very fun. Everyone enjoyed all the topics we discussed. They loved space and the rockets and the spaceship we built. They also became experts on the planets. Our body week was fun too. They enjoyed watching the videos of Moby and Annie, learning how things work inside of them. We finished the month learning about taking care of our earth.

The Teddy Bears are looking forward to an imaginative May! We start off the month with our fairy tale and folk tale weeks. We will focus on stories every day, and finding different ways to act them out. We then move into the garden. We will have a special visit from Ms. Ann, who is in charge of everything in our Center garden, who will help us plant flowers in the special Teddy Bear section. Keep watching them grow all summer long! Then it's Miss Kristen's favorite, music week. It is filled with different music to dance to and lots of instruments being played (mostly by Ms. Kristen, and not well!). We finish out May with insects and dinosaurs. We do a lot of measuring activities and just playing with dinosaurs.

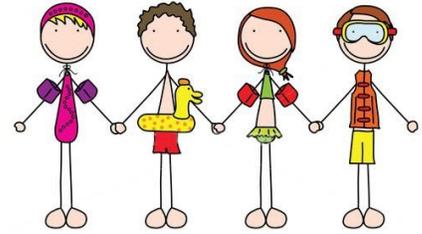


Dates to Remember:

Trike-A-Thon – May 5th

Memorial Day – May 30th CENTER CLOSED

Looking ahead, with summer around the corner and water play on the horizon, please plan on bringing in a bathing suit and towel to leave here for our random water play days. It is easiest to have an extra suit here so we can plan accordingly with the weather. Please check your child's bin for seasonally appropriate clothing, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to talk to Ange or Kristen.



~KRISTEN & ANGE

Bunnies



April has flown by! We started out the month with learning about bugs and insects. We talked about what makes something an insect and learned how to identify those characteristics. We then moved into the week of the young child where we learned about Music, nutrition by making tacos, working together and what that means, art, and fitness. That week was a lot of fun! Then we moved into reduce, reuse, and recycle week. We talked about the Earth and how to care for it, intentionally reduced, reused and recycled during the week and had a no trash/heat up lunch outside. Our Earth day project is still under construction and as soon as it is finished it will be hanging in the hallway. Finally, we rounded out the month with gardens and talked about what things we grow and how to work in a garden.

In May we have a lot of fun lined up as well. We will start off with nutrition where we talk about different food groups, how to eat a balanced meal and how fitness can help our bodies. Then we will move into frogs and tadpoles as we watch them grow in our classroom. We will talk about the life cycle of a frog, what they eat and their habitat. Next, we will move into nursery rhymes and fairy tales. We will focus on a few stories or poems and study how they are similar or different. Finally, we will finish the month with a week on letter and number fun. We will fill up our week with letter games, writing, counting and patterns.

****Reminders:**

- Bring in sunscreen for your child that is NOT spray and make sure it is labeled with their name. Ms. Carly is working on a list to find out who is missing or has an expired sunscreen.
- Check your child's mailbox daily.
- Closed toe shoes for the playground.
- Check your child's extra clothes bin. They should have extra shorts/pants, shirt, socks and underwear. If you have any clothes you would like to donate to the center, we would greatly appreciate it because our supply has diminished greatly.

****Dates to Remember:**

May 5th (Thursday) - Trike-a-Thon

June 3rd (Friday) - Ms. Brittney's last day in the Bunny room before she goes to the summer camp program.

~MS. BRITNEY AND MS. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



Oh, how quickly April sped by, and what a busy month it was! The kindergartners all did an amazing job on their endangered animal T-shirts and projects and I was so impressed with their presentations to the class. We all learned a lot about a variety of endangered animals, and it's so touching to see how passionate they are about animals and about caring for our environment. You'll find some of the posters the kindergartners created all around DCCC about "going green"!

Weather will be our science focus through the first week of May. We'll do a number of experiments with wind, rain, and the sun's energy, so we're hoping for some varied weather days! This is also a good time to review what we learned about keeping our bodies protected from the sun. Be on the lookout for some sun safety posters that the children will be creating and hanging on the walls all around DCCC, too.

We'll also kick off our unit on space that week with a little Star Wars fun as we celebrate our "May the Fourth Be With You Day" on - you guessed it! - May 4th! We'll be celebrating in a non-violent way, with a few crafts and games. On that day, the kids may come to school dressed as a new character that they invent for the yet-to-be created Episode 8. It should be a fun day! During our space unit in the following weeks, we'll learn lots of interesting things about the planets and will do a few fun experiments as well.

We'll end the month (and school year!) with a "Memories and Moving On" theme. We'll share some of our favorite kindergarten memories and will work on our program for our Kindergarten Graduation. Families and friends are invited to attend our program on June 1 at 6:30 PM. In addition to the program by the kindergartners, there will be a slide show highlighting some of our favorite kindergarten moments.

In addition to our themes, we've got a few special events in the works before the end of our school year. We're looking very forward to the St. Jude's Trike-a-thon on May 5. Please be sure to send a bike or scooter for your child as well as a helmet, permission slip, and pledge sheet.

We've scheduled a trip to Mooreland Elementary School for May 26. We'll have a little tour of the school, the opportunity to buy lunch in the cafeteria, and possibly a little time to play on their playground. Hopefully this visit will ease the anxiety that some children will experience when they transition into elementary school.

To culminate our study about money this year, we'll be having a Kindergarten Yard Sale on May 20 for kindergarten shoppers. The children will have the opportunity to use the knowledge they've acquired about money and addition to buy items that they can really keep. This is a really fun and educational event and one to which the children really look forward.

~ Ms. KATIE & Ms. CHERI