



## Dickinson College Children's Center July 2016



### From the Director's Desk

It is so exciting to see our preschool playground taking shape with the new surface. What started out to be a week project turned into four weeks. Things just never go as planned but our sites are on the end results and we know it will be worth it when it is all done! The children have been taking lots of nice walks and we have been taking turns on the Bees playground. The new shade structure and the sand box should be going in once the preschool playground is complete.

We are anticipating a fun month in July! The school age campers always add much more energy to the building. It's great to see the children grow from year to year.

We continue to offer tours for fall enrollments. We still have openings in many of our rooms for this upcoming August. Please help spread the word by visiting our Facebook page and our website!

As many of you know Ms. Marsha retired and Ms. Kristen has left to take on her new role as a stay at home mom! Ms. Sandy, our long time substitute, has also decided it was time to spend time with her grandkids. We will miss them all and wish them lots of happiness on their new adventures!

Please remember to check out the Community Events Bulletin Board directly behind the sign in/out post in the main hallway. Throughout the year you can find a number of flyers posted that include community events, Dickinson campus children or family related events, babysitting information, parent classes offered locally and many more opportunities to become connected within the community.

We also have a Summer Helper Bulletin Board that includes bios for all the additional staff hired to help cover the day here. Please take the time to check them out.

As always have a wonderful month and enjoy the time with your children!

**-Gina VanKirk, Director**

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### Looking Ahead...

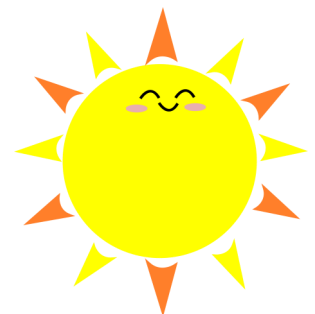
**July 4-8 – DCCC  
Closed**

**August 12—DCCC  
Closed for staff  
training**

**August 15—First  
day in new  
classrooms!**

**August 19—Last  
day of Summer  
School-Age  
Program**

**August 22—First  
Official Day of  
Kindergarten**



# Fundraising

## Totals:

Chicken BBQ-\$1483.18  
Yearbooks- \$198.45  
South Side Deli-\$50.00  
Box Tops-\$612.00  
Promotion Motion- \$3591.16  
Giant- \$1134.47  
BJ's-\$35.00  
Lil' Angels Photography- \$597.00  
Target- \$337.51  
Pancake Breakfast-\$5362.20  
Original Works-\$367.25  
Senators Baseball Tickets- \$141.00  
T-shirts-\$78.00

Total: \$13,987.22



**Thank you everyone for helping us be so close to reaching our goal for this past school year! Keep an eye out for upcoming fundraisers for the new school year.**

## Shoes for Safe Active Play



Children engage in active outdoor play every day. Sturdy shoes or sneakers help them run, climb, jump, and explore safely. The arrival of warm weather can encourage more vigorous play, but also the tendency to wear unsafe footwear.

- **Shoe safety:**

- \* **Please** make sure children wear shoes that protect their feet. Make sure your children wear sneakers or sturdy sport sandals that cover and protect their toes.

- \* Rubber clogs and some sandals/flip flops 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. Please avoid these types of footwear.

*Adapted from an excerpt from the ECELS Health Capsule*



## Ducklings



June was a busy month as the infants/young toddlers began learning more about ourselves and our friends, about our feelings and about how we live in our small community, together and respectfully. These are very big lessons for very small people, but we are learning gradually about “gentle touches”. They loved singing “Head, Shoulder, Knees and Toes”, which aided them in learning some body parts. You have probably no doubt seen them point to their noses and yours; it seems to be the most popular body part. They have also gotten very good at independently, putting their sun hats on and taking them off, especially taking their hats off by themselves. The infant/young toddlers learned about labeling feelings from our experiences, songs, pictures and books. The infants love the great outdoors! We have treasured our nature walks and opportunities to see the children’s garden and wild flowers from around campus. We excitedly point now to squirrels, rabbits, birds and dogs! We watched three of our tadpoles turn into toads and were able to release them. We released two of our toads on our playground and one in the children’s garden. We said “good-bye” to two friends and greeted two new friends. We experienced a myriad of shapes and colors of flags in recognition of “Flag Day”. It has been a great month!

In July, we will celebrate “Summer Days” with all of the fun and new discoveries and experiences associated with this wonderful time of year: outdoor picnics, tent play, beach balls, harvesting our garden and more! We will explore our creativity through finger painting with watery blue, sponge paint, and brush paint with water. We will continue to discover our environment through nature walks. We will help water the garden and harvest from our veggie garden. We will even start picking up our toys. We will carry on our annual tradition of celebrating the French “Bastille Day” with croissants for morning snack and French nursery songs on July 14<sup>th</sup>. During the hot summer days, drop off may be on the playground some mornings, and we will post a note on the door if that is the case. Please sunscreen your child when you dress them in the morning and we will reapply every 2 hours as needed throughout the day. After summer break, we will be replacing morning naps with strolls on campus as the children begin to prepare for transitioning to their new toddler classrooms in August.

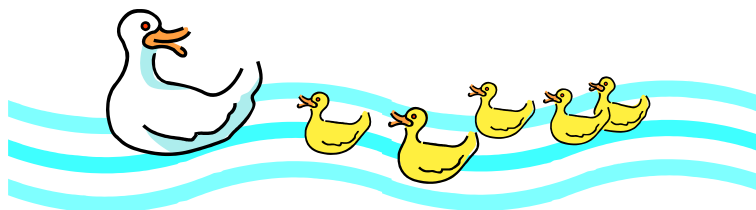
Transition is a good word for July. As we continue to explore and learn through play, we will also continue to focus on supporting growing independence and helping the infants prepare for their transitions to their new classrooms next month. This includes continued practice with self-feeding using spoons, forks and sippy cups, weaning from bottle feedings and eliminating morning naps. Remembering that each child moves at his own pace developmentally, rest assured that each one will be well prepared for their exciting move up to the next classroom.

Please remember:

- To check diaper bins regularly for supplies and restock as needed.
- To check clothing bags to resupply with clothes for the season.

We look forward to a fun July together!

Sandy, Lynn, Tory and Jody



# Yellow Puppies

The month of June found us making leaps in our development! If you stand in our room and listen to us for a few minutes, you will marvel at how far our speech development has come! Many of us are speaking in phrases and sentences! It is amazing to listen to the social skills we are developing as we tell friends “No, Mine!”, and watch as we get toys for friends to play with! We began our month with nursery rhymes. We each made our own nursery rhyme book, and enjoyed a special muffin snack that we made. The month also found us trying new foods, cooking in our kitchen, and using our imaginations to pretend to eat our creations. Our Eric Carle week was great fun as we painted in the style of Eric Carle and had a fun pancake lunch! The third week of June turned out a little differently than we had planned, but that’s what teaching toddlers is all about! Many of the kids were very interested in putting sunscreen on themselves, friends, and teachers. We took this and ran with it, as we talked about sun safety. We painted pictures of the sun, put “sunscreen” on our babies, and talked about wearing hats, glasses, and sunscreen to stay safe in the summer sun! Alisha and I learned that sunscreen comes out of the faucet in the toy kitchen, and we had enough applied to us that we should be good for the summer! We are finishing up the month by turning our room into the beach! Wait until you see our jellyfish!



July will be filled with fun! When we get back from our break we will be having a red, white, and blue week as we talk about all of the fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities that we experienced while we were on break. We will create firework painting, and have a fun snack. The next week will be full of shapes! We will go on a shape walk, paint with different shaped sponges, and go on a shape scavenger hunt in our room. The last week of July will find us camping! We will go on a bear hunt, have fun in a tent, make a s’mores snack and tell stories around the campfire! ~LACI & ALISHA

**We are hoping to start water days when we return from break! Water day will be Friday, and your child will need a bathing suit (or an extra outfit), and water shoes! Please let us know if you have any questions!**



## Family Reminders:

- Please bring in a sun hat for our outside time.
- Please cut all round items (cherry tomatoes, grapes, hot dogs, etc.) in your child’s lunch into quarters. Thanks!

# Blue Puppies



We hope everyone has a nice Fourth of July!

Summer is here and we are going to have some fun in the sun! We will also talk about how to stay safe in the sun. The puppies will paint with sunscreen (white paint), have hats and sunglasses in dress up. We will color a paper plate sun and sing songs about the sun.

A camping we will go so make sure you pack your flashlights! We will set up a “tent” in the room, paint a campfire, glue marshmallows (cotton balls) onto a paper stick, and listen to nature sounds at nap time.

During the last week of July, we will go to the beach and paint a sand castle, explore sea shells, watch our hermit crabs, color a starfish, make shapes in play-doh, and make a paper plate lei with crepe paper.

*(continued on the next page...)*



The puppies have been doing really well holding on to the bug rope for walks around campus. They are also doing a really good job with counting, colors, and using open cups. As the pups get more adventurous on the playground, please make sure they are wearing sneakers or a sport sandal.

### **REMINDERS:**

- ~Please bring in a hat so we can stay safe in the sun.
- ~Check bins for extra summer clothes



~CATHRYN & DONNA

## **Yellow Honey Bees**

June just flew by, with all the fun themes we had. Now it is already July. Wow! It will soon be time for your children to move on up to a new classroom. So you might hear your child talk about their new rooms or their new teachers more often. We have been talking a lot about it. Please remember that the center is closed July 4-8, we hope you will enjoy spending time with your families.

The theme for the week of July 11-15 theme is Zoo Animals. We will check with the children and make a chart of what animals they think live at the Zoo. We will read lots of books on different animals you find in a zoo and make a craft project that goes with the animals they come up with. Animal crackers will be one of our snacks this week!



July 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> we will go under the sea. We will talk about what animals we would see under the sea. We will do craft projects to go with those animals. We

will listen, dance and pretend to swim along with the Nemo CD we have in our room. There will be a special snack this week also.



The week of July 25<sup>th</sup> – July 29<sup>th</sup> we will just keep swimming, We will stay at the “beach” and talk about what you can do at the beach. We will play with beach balls in our room and do a lot of sand projects and playing in the sand.

\*Please be working hard on potty training your children, if they are not already potty trained. All the children that are transitioning to the Preschool end of the building need to be wearing underwear. We are here to work with you as much as we can.

\*The infant and toddlers teachers have come together to work on having monthly lesson plans. The Infant/Toddler end of the building will be having the same themes and you will receive just one lesson plan for each month (instead of the normal weekly format). If you have any questions, please let Sarah or Barb know.

**MS. BARB & MS. SARAH**

## Blue Busy Bees

The Blue Bees have been working hard this month preparing for the move to the blue bear room in August. We had been having a lot of fun on the big playground learning the rules such as no beanstalk unless a teacher is standing there, stay a safe distance away from the swings, sand and sand toys must stay at the sandbox, one friend at a time on the slides and crawling only on the large blocks, but the blue bees have done a tremendous job following all the rules!! During the last few weeks we took a break from that playground as it's been having some work done and we've enjoyed watching that. We have also started to work on making our cots and helping others who need it and I have to say, that we have some pretty good cot makers in the blue bee room. We have also continued working on all our self-help skills that we will need to be able to do in the blue bear room, washing hands, using the potty independently, getting our food containers from our lunch boxes and cleaning up our trash after snacks and lunch and cleaning up toys that we have played with.

And now for more fun things that we have been doing in the Blue bee room, we started June with sun safety and learned how to be safe in the hot summer sun. We played fun games like shade/sun learning how we should seek shade and have a cold drink of water when we feel really hot so our bodies can cool down, we also had fun shadowing dancing outside with our shadows. We learned what happens to your skin if you do not wear sun-



screen with our sun safety cards activity and we talked about other ways to protect ourselves from the sun such as wearing a sun hat, sun glasses and a thin long sleeve shirt. During art fun week we talked about different ways that we could produce art and had fun with the supplies that he had available to make our own art projects. The two favorites turned out to be fly swatter painting and painting with colored ice. Camping Fun and Woodland Animals brought us a lot of talk about our own experiences with camping and the animals that we would see when we go camping in the woods. We also had fun making our very own campsite on paper and the all-time favorite camping snack of s'mores. YUMMY!!!! We ended June with a BOOM and a BANG!! We worked together to make a Blue Bee classroom flag, had fun using our feet to make red, white and blue prints outside on the sidewalk, of course colorful fireworks and a yummy red, white and blue snack. \*\*HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY\*\*



July will bring us more preparation for the blue bear room, **A Week at the Beach**, a fun **Jungle Safari** and a fun **Summer Picnic** week. We will have sprinkler days on Tuesday and Wednesday and try to visit the big playground Monday, Thursday and Friday. We will continue to work on our cot making skills, counting 1-10 and recognizing those numbers, picking out the letters in our name and placing them in the correct order to spell our name and other skills that we will work on through art, movement, reading and just having fun playing. Enjoy your summer and remember to be sun safe.

Cassie and Jody



## Yellow Bear Cubs

Starting off the month of June with the week of FUN activities was awesome! The Teddy Bears had a great time with our Glow in the Dark and Science Weeks, everyone enjoyed the experiments and the black light activities! We learned a lot about America during our Patriotic week! We also became aware of things to do to keep us safe under the sun with the help of Sun Guard Man!



### Reminders:

We are having Water play every week, therefore having suits, towels and close-toed water play shoes are needed!

~MANDY

We will be sailing the high seas with a bunch of teddy bear pirates once we return from our Fourth of July break! We will then stay at the ocean for some Beach Week fun! The fun will continue with a Camping Adventure Week at the end of July!



## Blue Bears

What a great summer we have had so far. We enjoyed bugs space and of loved glowing in the dark. We finished off our June with some patriotic fun!

In July we plan to come back from our week off and have fun with pirate week. As we jump into pirate week we will have silly pirate talk and dress up. We will make some fun hooks and hats to use during the week and we will finish with a pretty awesome treasure hunt. Then we will move from pirate open seas to the shore with some beach fun we will have a lot of water play and sand castles out in the sandbox. Make sure your child has water clothes here for the entire week.



After we finish that excitement we will get even more exciting with a week of camping and campfires activities! We will make s'mores and go on a Bear Hunt!!

At the end of the month we will finish off with some summer cooking activities! We will make smoothies and dirt desert and other yummy treats!

We sure are excited about summer in the Blue Bear room and plan to make it as fun as possible!

# Bunnies



June has come and gone in the blink of an eye! We were very busy Bunnies last month. We took several walks around campus, stopped at some local parks, took some more walks, threw in a few water play days, and had a great time making memories with our friends! Ms Jess has fit right into our classroom.

We ended our “school year” with a Week of Fun theme. The children had a great time sharing board games. Wacky Wednesday was a success as usual and this year we threw in a costume party. Boy did we get some funny looks walking around campus that day! Next up was sports and then camping. The children learned about good sportsmanship, a tennis lesson from Sonoma’s dad, and we decorated our own jerseys. Everyone had a good time camping in the classroom with our little pop up tents and flashlights. We made pet rocks, stick people, and a yummy s’mores snack bag. June was wrapped up with a week of stars and stripes to prepare for the upcoming holiday break. Our room was totally decked out in red, white, and blue crafts! We even made a delicious and healthy patriotic yogurt parfait!



The center is closed from July 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and will reopen July 11<sup>th</sup>. Ms Carly will be away on vacation from July 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> but your children will be in good hands with Ms Jess and Ms Debbie that week. Our themes this month are Pirates, Beach and Travel. The kids will go on a pirate adventure to find the hidden treasure... arrrggh. We will make our own treasure map, pirate hats and a pet parrot. The following week we will head to the beach! We will have a beach party, make sand castles, and take a look at what animals live in the ocean. The last week of July we will jet set around the world with our travel theme. The children will make their own passports and we will learn about several different countries while collecting stamps in our passport along the way. I don’t know about you, but July sounds like it is going to be a blast!!



## Reminders:

\*DCCC closed July 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

\*Swim items and bedding need to go home every Friday to be washed and returned again on Monday.

\*No flip flops for water play. They become extremely slippery when wet and cause lots of falls.

~MS. CARLY & MS. JESSICA



# Dragons I



The month of June in “Camp Dragons” was very busy! It was full of new introductions, hugs and shared smiles between old friends, and exciting adventures at our “campground.” During our first week, we were unable to swim at the Dickinson Pool. However, we took a field trip to Massey’s and played Water Limbo to cool off in the summer heat.

The following week, we took our first bus field trip to Lake Tobias. At the outdoor zoo, we were able to see many animals. We took an up-close safari tour and touched both an alligator and a snake at a live reptile show. We loved watching and laughing at the chimpanzees playing on the human slide in their exhibit.

The third week of camp, we enjoyed both the funny comedy and amazing magic tricks of Magical Nick, who traveled to see us at the Center. We also got to tie-dye our own shirts with Miss Abby, which was so neat. During the final week of June, we focused on our theme of “When I Grow Up” by traveling to the Carlisle Borough Police Station.

In between our big adventures, we enjoyed watching movies, listening to Book of the Day, playing at the local parks, and learning new camp songs. We are looking forward to a busy July, with a bus field trip scheduled to visit the “Turkey Hill Experience.” During the last two weeks of July, we will learn about our artistic abilities through a visit from Create-A-Palooza and try out new science experiments during “The Wonders of Science” week.

We hope you have a fun-filled Fourth of July!

**MISS ABBY, MISS LINDSAY, AND MISS MADISYN**



## Dragons II

Our first month of summer camp has gone by so quickly! We've been busy making new friends, reuniting with old ones, and learning new games. So far our favorite games are, Jump the Creek, Everybody's It Tag, and Nuke 'Em.

In our first week alone we had lots of "trainings" to be ready for summer. We talked about Sun-Safety, and how important sunscreen is for our skin, what that number means on our bottle, how to properly apply it, and how long our sunscreen will last (it needs to be reapplied every 2 hours). We also had "Upstander" Training. We had a skit about being the bully, victim, bystander, and Upstander. We definitely want to be the Upstander! Finally, we had bike safety training, followed by our first bike day. We will have another bike day in July on a Tuesday or Thursday.

In our second week we toured all of our parks, had a visit from Miss Elaine from the Bosler Library, and had a tour of Project Share. We learned 3 new easy games from Miss Elaine, and we set up a donation drive of backpacks and lunch food for kids in our community. Hopefully we will collect lots of new or gently used backpacks to offer to Project Share to give those kids a successful start to their school year.

In our third week we went to the Catoctin Zoo in Maryland! At the end of the week we created our own salsa, guacamole and smoothies! YUMMY!!! Our last week of June we will be making parachutes and experimenting with letting them fly at a park. We will also tie-dye some pillowcases and have a visit from Miss Kathy for some Martial Arts Training!

As we look forward to July here are some highlights:

~Walk to Bosler Library

~ Another visitor from Bosler Library

~ A field trip to Whitaker Center

~ Bike Day

~MDA HOP-A-THON!!! Stay tuned for your parent packet coming home soon! We will be Olympic athlete hoppers!!!

Thank you,

**BRITTNEY POLINKA**

**CHERI KOCISKO**

**GRANT LAY**