



Dickinson College Children's Center September 2016

From the Director's Desk

Summer at DCCC is always a busy time but it is also full of lots of energy. Making new friends and welcoming new summer teachers is exciting. We are always so happy to hear that the children transitioned well to their schools and wish our summer teachers the very best as they return to college or venture out to find a permanent teaching job. Welcome to the new school year here at DCCC!

We hope to post our updated waiting list on our website within the next few weeks. We still have a few openings and are excited to recently start our online advertising with Central Penn Parent! Help us spread the word that we do have a few openings and to call us if there is an interest in child care.

The center was closed on August 12th and the teachers attended and spent their days cleaning their classrooms, completing online training and taking part in an Open House at the end of their day.

All the children (new and seasoned) have seemed to adjust very well overall to their new rooms and in some cases to their very first experience in group care. The first two weeks we wipe some tears and hold some hands and after that it is all good. These kids really are happy kids and we want them all to especially feel safe and happy to be here.

We welcomed a few new student workers and some returning ones as well that will be working in the afternoons. A new substitute was also hired to help out when teachers need to take off. More details to be shared as they start this fall.

Our new hires are Ms. Cassie as the new Assistant Teacher in Blue Bees and Ms. Kendra as the new Assistant Teacher in the Blue Bears. We are so very excited to have them a part of our DCCC team!

The center has begun to focus on our 15,000.00 goal for fundraising. Fundraising information was distributed to all families. The big fall fundraiser is in the works. We are going to hold our first "Paint Day" and our annual Turkey Trot.

The center has an Advisory meeting Scheduled for September 26th at 4:15. Our first Parent Meeting will be held on October 25th at 4:15. All families are welcome to attend.

Have a great month!

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Dates to Remember:

**September 26—
Advisory Committee Meeting**

**October 5—Infant/
Toddler Portraits (&
siblings)**

**October 6—Preschool/
Kindergarten Portraits**

**October 9—Paint
'Night' 2-4 p.m. here at
DCCC**

**October 17-November
2—Parent/Teacher
Conferences**

**October 25—Parent
Meeting 4:15 p.m.**

**October 27—Class Fall
Harvest Parties**



Relief Efforts for Mrs. Katie's family...

Most of you have heard that our Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Katie and her husband's house was destroyed by a fire early this week. We, along with them are devastated with the loss and are working with others in their lives to coordinate a relief effort so that there aren't many duplicate items or overlapping. For the time being, we are collecting gift cards (visa, grocery, etc.) until we can get a better idea of what all needs to be done. As we have updates, we will be sure to let you know if you are interested in helping them. Thank you all for your concern and care for her and her family.

Fun for the Family...ReadyRosie

The Cumberland Country Library System was selected by the PA Department of Education as a pilot project site for ReadyRosie, an online resource that helps parents get their child ready for school.



Sign-up for the FREE service at: <https://readyrosie.com/register>

For a full description of the program, please see the flier that is posted on the Community Events board in the main hallway!

FUNDRAISING

Ongoing:

*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. Please let Michelle know if you have any questions about how to do this! (randalmi@dickinson.edu)

Upcoming:

*Paint Night—October 9th 2-4 p.m.

*Box Tops Competition

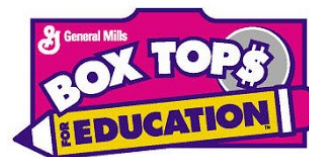
Totals:

Sandwich Fundraiser-\$349.75

2016-2017 Goal: \$15,000

BOX TOPS COMPETITION—Coming Soon!

Please be on the lookout for details regarding this exciting competition.





DUCKLINGS



We are beginning a new year together and are pleased to welcome eight new infants into the Duckling classroom. At this time our infants range from just 4 months to nearly 9 months of age. Some are working on tummy time; some just beginning to roll over; others working on sitting, some to creep and crawl, others to even pull up, stand and climb. We all have our own individual preferences and schedules for feedings, sleeping and playing, so we have a very flexible schedule in the infant room right now. However, we do try to take advantage of the beautiful last weeks of summer, getting outdoors and resting on a mat in the shade on our playground. The infants seem to love this very calming activity, sleeping outdoors, or watching the clouds shift overhead and listening to the happy sounds of chirping birds and the playful preschoolers next door.

During the month of September we will continue to work on getting to know each other gradually. It takes time and patience to begin to understand each other and to build those trusting relationships! We will listen to stories and songs; look at board book pictures; explore sensory books; take nature walks to detect the early signs of autumn; listen to nursery songs and lullabies; manipulate keys, rattles & chew toys. Some of us may begin to experiment tasting pureed foods and some of us will experiment with new table foods and sippy cups. And there will be lots of floor play and exploration! On the science front, we have adopted a classroom caterpillar and will watch in the coming weeks/months as it grows, constructs its chrysalis and eventually emerges as a butterfly.

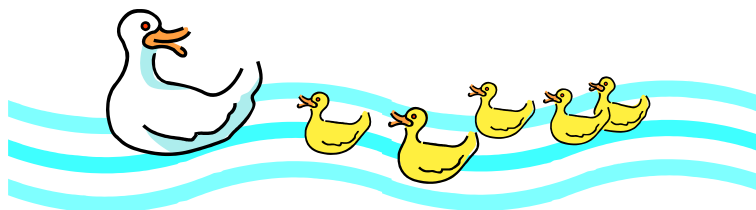
You will receive a newsletter and lesson plan by email each month during the course of this year. You will also find a hard paper copy of the Infant lesson plan in your bin and one posted on the hallway bulletin board. Lesson plans are developmentally based and for infants, activities revolve largely around basic care activities. Because there is a wide developmental range in the infant room, you may see activities on the plan that are not necessarily appropriate for your child. The plan is designed to cover the individual needs and goals of each child.

Once again, please remember to label all of your babies' belongings, especially bottles. Continue to monitor diapering supplies in the hallway bins and please keep them well stocked. Remember to maintain a supply of extra outfits ...costume changes occur frequently in the infant room!

Please also send in family photos of everyone and anyone important in your baby's life. This includes parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, pets, friends, etc. Babies love to look at photos of their families. These family photos will be hung in the classroom. As the babies get older, they begin to recognize and point to family members in photos. Such images from home can help to ease the transition from home to daycare.

We welcome you all to the Duckling Room and look forward to a wonderful year.

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



YELLOW PUPS

We are off to a fabulous start as yellow puppies! Our first two weeks were spent getting to know each other and adjusting to a new routine. It is amazing how fast morning naps disappear when there are so many new toys to explore! We sang many songs and read lots of books as we got to know each other. “Itsy Bitsy Spider”, “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”, and “If You’re Happy and you Know it” can make any morning a little brighter! We also discovered that the playground is so much fun to explore. We love the climbers, the kitchen, and the grass that tickles our fingers!



Looking ahead to September we will spend time exploring all of the skills that we have. We will clap while we sing songs, practice waving, show how we use the sign language we know, and learn a few new signs. We will also use our gross motor skills to crawl and walk over a pillow maze, ride the bikes on the playground, and throw balls. We will keep coloring and finger painting, as well! ~ **LACI & ALISHA**

Reminders:

- *Please label all items in lunch boxes
- *Please make sure your child has appropriate footwear for the playground
- *Place bedding on cots Monday mornings
- *Bags must be hung in the hallway.



BLUE PUPPIES



It seems like everyone is exploring the room and getting into a routine. Drop off times are getting better, we are sleeping well, and having lots of fun. We really like playing in the kitchen area with all the food, pots, pans, and utensils. The puppies enjoy sitting and watching the sensory bottles as the glitter and sequins float around.

The month of September will have us discovering “What I can do!” The teachers will continue observations for conferences. The puppies will have fun with puzzles, coloring, and stacking blocks to work on our fine motor skills. Running, climbing, dancing, and jumping to get our large motor skills going (most of us are pretty skilled there). We will also spend time really getting to know your child and the things they enjoy doing, reading books to them, and singing songs.

Remember to bring in 4-5 family pictures for us to hang on the wall!

SAFTEY CONCERNS: We have noticed a rising trend with some children wearing “teething” necklaces. For the safety of the children in our care we are asking that you please refrain from putting them on your child during the school day. They have the potential to get caught on something, another child could grab it and pull it off resulting in another hazard of beads on the floor for other children to put in their mouths. Thank you for understanding.

REMINDERS:

- ~Please take bedding home every Friday to be washed.
- ~Make sure foods such as cherry tomatoes, grapes, and hot dogs are cut into quarters.
- ~Please remember to LABEL everything in your child’s lunch box, including food containers and pouches.
- ~CATHRYN & DONNA



YELLOW HONEY BEES

Well here we are in September already. During the first two weeks, we (the yellow Bees) got to know each other. We explored the room, as MS. Sarah and MS. Barb observed. We learned a lot about ourselves and others in these two weeks. Your children learned a lot about Ms. Sarah, and MS. Barb also.

The theme for September is: See what I can do. This theme is a great one to start the year off with. This will help Ms. Sarah and Ms. Barb to know what your children already know and what we need to work on.

Counting: We will have the children count with us throughout the day. They will help count how many napkins we need for snack, they will count how many friends came to school every day. Your children will help us to count when we line up to go for walks, and go outside, and much more.

Colors: We will go over colors every day. Your children will learn the song: what color is this? We will play I spy in the rooms with colors. Your children will also learn the color songs.

Shapes: We will go over shapes every day. Your children will learn the song: what shape is this? We will point out shapes in books, in the hallways, and when we go for walks.

Opposites: We will learn what an opposite is and will read books about opposites.

We will do many crafts and activities with counting, colors, shapes, and opposites.

Please label everything that your child brings to the Center (lunch boxes, blankets, and sheets, etc.).

~**BARB & SARAH**

BLUE BUSY BEES

The Blue Bees have spent the last couple of weeks getting to know each other and their teachers. We have been working on learning the Blue Bee schedule, what we are doing now and what we will be doing next. There has been a lot of exploring in the classroom, playing in the different interest centers and learning to clean-up when playtime is over. More independence is expected in the Blue Bee room and we have been handling it pretty well. The Blue Bees are working on washing hands independently (please remember to have your child wash his/her hands upon arrival in the Blue Bee room before beginning to play), pulling down and pulling up our pants during potty time and cleaning up after playtime, snacks and lunch time. Help your child learn these self-help independence skills by having them work on them at home as well. We have really enjoyed looking at and sharing our family pictures. If you did not have a chance to bring them in yet, please do so at any time. Be sure to check your email daily for our daily Blue Bees Buzz, to see what we do each day in the Blue Bee room.

In September, we will start to focus on learning with a month called “What Do I Know?” The children will be exploring and doing activities about colors, shapes, ABC’s & 123’s and opposites. Be sure to follow your monthly calendar so you and your child will know what the special activities we may be doing each day.

Your Blue Bee teachers are looking forward to a fun year full of learning and growth.

Reminders:

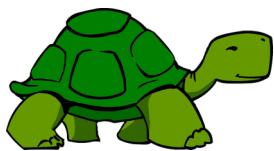
- *No toys from home except a soft lovey or small blanket for naptime.
- *Please be sure to finish any food or drink before entering the classroom in the morning.
- *Please have your child wash his/her hands upon arrival into the Blue Bee room and place any pacifiers in their cubby before they begin to play.
- * We have really enjoyed looking at and sharing our family pictures. If you did not have a chance to bring them in yet, please do so at any time.
- *Be sure to check your email daily for our daily Blue Bees Buzz, to see what we do each day in the Blue Bee room.

~**JODY & CASSIE**



YELLOW BEAR CUBS

Everyone is doing such a nice job settling into the rules and routine of the day! We will soon be starting our rainbow chart that will help us visually monitor our choices throughout the day!



We will be starting our PATHS Program which will help us identify our feelings and learn to use our words for problem solving and complimenting as well! I will be sure to explain these programs more thoroughly as we go through the month!

Our curriculum has become updated and therefore you will be seeing our thematic units will be lasting a few weeks longer and touch on several concepts. The ted-



dy bears will spend a lot of September getting to know their friends and families, how to be caring and what pets and people's needs are through our Pets unit!



~MANDY



BLUE BEARS

Welcome to the Blue Bear room! We have all officially gotten to know each other and have begun to build on old and create new friendships. We have enjoyed our first few weeks talking about our new environment and what and who we find here. We have learned about rules and how they keep us and the things around us safe. We finished up the month of August talking about ourselves and finding similarities and differences about each of us.

We have really enjoyed learning all about our beginning tools for our Get Set for School curriculum as we met Big Line, Little Line, Big Curve and Little Curve with our wood pieces. We will use and talk about these pieces all throughout the year. We have even met another friend that we will see a lot of, Mat Man. These new "friends" will be great tools to make us more aware when we are writing our letters.

In September we will switch gears a little and talk more about family and pets that we find at our homes. During our study we will learn about how to care for others and pets, what each eats and what makes a great pet. Pets are a big part of our families so learning good care is important.



Along with our pets we will meet some more new friends when we introduce the PATH lessons. The PATHS lessons will happen every week and will take us step by step through each one of our feelings. We will learn that each feeling is ok in its own way. Some feelings are comfortable and others are uncomfortable. By the end of the year, we will know how we feel with each one and what to do with those uncomfortable feelings. September is going to be a busy and fun month!!!

~ANGE & KENDRA



BUNNIES



We are off to a great start in the Bunny Room! We have spent the last few weeks getting acclimated to the classroom and learning about our school. We have learned about all the different centers in the classroom as well as the school. We have been practicing finding our names in the room (they are everywhere!) and also writing our names. We have made new friends and reconnected with old friends. We met Mat Man and have started using our special writing journals. The journals will help us learn how to hold our crayons and teach us how to make the letters. We have been doing a lot of singing and fine motor practice to get our fingers ready for writing. We have done really well with our center rotation for our kindergarten readiness centers in the afternoon.

This month we will finish our beginning of the year unit and then move into clothes. In the clothing unit we will learn about different types of clothing, how to care for clothing and who makes clothing. Also during this unit we will be talking about clothing people wear for different jobs and what we wear for different seasons. We will also do more writing and drawing practice in our journals. They all really love using their journals. I cannot wait to see all the different things we get to learn about in the month to come.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to ask us.

A few reminders:

- Make sure to check your child's mailbox every day for information from the teachers, the office and things we have been working on.
- Make sure the heat ups are in the black heat up bin, so that we are able to serve lunch promptly.
- Please be checking your child's extra clothes bin
- Our classroom gets a little chilly so having a sweater or sweatshirt is helpful.

~**BRITTNEY & CARLY**



KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS

Miss Cheri and I are really enjoying getting to know all of our new kindergarten students and are so happy to welcome them and their families into our kindergarten family. We had a great little kindergarten get-together with students and their families on August 31. The kids all had fun playing together, and it was a great chance for parents to get to know each other and to welcome the families who are brand new to the center.

Our hope for this kindergarten year is to create a family away from home in a room filled with love, respect, and kindness where our learners are respectful, helpful, responsible, and excited about learning. During the first few weeks of kindergarten, our class has been working on establishing class rules, practicing routines, and creating a sense of class community. Friendship will be one of our themes for the month of September as we practice kindness, respect, and peaceful conflict resolution skills. We'll also be introducing our "Fill Your Bucket" character building program in early September. The children will earn pompoms to put in their own individual buckets in our classroom for showing kindness and respect to others through words and deeds. When a bucket is "filled" the child will be recognized by the class and will receive a "bucket filler" certificate to take home.

In September we'll also continue to work on learning and practicing our letter-sound-action associations and will continue to improve our name printing skills. We'll also begin journaling each day and will work on rhyming, proper letter formation, sight words, patterning, categorizing, shapes, and numbers.... just to name a few! September will also bring on a study of living things. We'll learn about what all living things need to survive, and will watch the way they grow and move. We'll explore our garden and learn about parts of plants and what plants need to survive. We'll compare, collect, and taste vegetables from the garden and will hunt for little garden invertebrates who happen to be crawling, hopping, and flying among them. The children are encouraged to bring in garden invertebrates that they find in their own gardens at home as well for closer investigation. We plan to create a cricket habitat in our classroom, watch the metamorphosis of caterpillars into butterflies, and continue daily observations of our hermit crabs pets! At the end of September we'll be studying about healthy habits. We'll practice proper hand washing, and will learn more about germs, nutrition, and fitness.

Toward the end of September, we'll also begin our Color Days. The kindergartners are encouraged to wear as many things in the designated color each day. They will be graphing the number of items in that color each day. Please refer to the Kindergarten Calendar for designated days.

We're looking forward to a great year!

Katie and Cheri