



## Dickinson College Children's Center October 2016

### From the Director's Desk

Welcome to all our families. We can't believe that September has come and gone so quickly. It has been so very nice being able to go outside every day, it is such a change from the hot weather that we had this summer. We were constantly checking the temperature and trying to get the children out early when it was cooler.

Our Enrollment is currently at 110 children, including 98 families. We still have a few toddler openings and a few preschool openings, so please help us spread the word. The waiting list has been placed back on line for the remainder of this year.

DCCC welcomed two new teachers (Ms. Kendra and Ms. Cassie), one new substitute and four new student workers this month. We also are excited that the Shipensburg Education Students will be joining us for one day a week for a total of 10 weeks this semester. Four of the students will be in Bunnies and one student will be in Blue Bears. Kindergarten also has their very own intern from Dickinson that is spending time in their classroom.

I am very excited to share with you about some of the changes made to our Curriculum. Our Blue Bees have gone to monthly themes and have added Mighty Minutes (Transition activities) and the Highlights High Five to their reading corner! Pre-school has implemented the Get Set for School Curriculum and the updated Creative Curriculum this fall. I am very pleased with how the teachers have all been working together to incorporate the new ideas into their day while still emphasizing the importance of play.

We are pleased to share that our Summer Camp Programs were very successful this past summer. Results of our Parent Surveys will be shared at both the Parent Meeting and the Advisory Meeting. We will continue to work to make improvements in order to make both camps the very best that they can be.

DCCC has once again received E.I.T.C (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) Scholarship funds. The Scholarships were made available thru the Bravo Foundation and Success by 6 – United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County. We are delighted that a few of our families qualified for the assistance and were able to take advantage of this wonderful program.

Once again we will be offering Soccer Shots and Martial Arts for ages three and up. It is a great way to introduce children to new experiences while at the same time being in a familiar place.

Thanks for a great month and looking forward to a fantastic fall!

**-Gina VanKirk, Director**

---

### Dates to Remember:

**October 19-November 3—Parent/Teacher Conferences**

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

**October 27—Class Fall Harvest Parties**

**November 16-DCCC Turkey Trot Fundraiser (rain date 11/18)**

**November 17—Thanksgiving Feast for children**

**November 23—DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break**

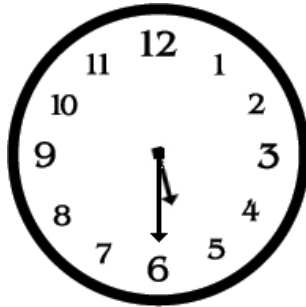
**November 24—DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break**

**November 25—DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break**



## Center Closing Time...

- In consideration of our staff, the Children's Center closes promptly at 5:30, with the Infant Room closing at 5:15, each evening. Family members should arrive at the Center with enough time to pick up their child, gather their child's belongings and exit the building by 5:30.
- At 5:30 the main Center door will be locked so please be sure to ring the bell if entry after 5:30 is needed. If you foresee arrival past our closing time, please make every effort to call the Center office.



## FUNDRAISING

### **Ongoing:**

\*Shoparoo-sign up at [shoparoo.com](http://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.

### **Upcoming:**

\*Kids Stuff Books

### **Current:**

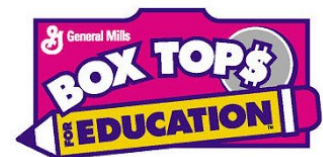
\*Turkey Trot

\*Box Tops

### **Totals:**

Sandwich Fundraiser-\$349.75

2016-2017 Goal: \$15,000





## **DUCKLINGS**



September has been a busy month of getting to know each other and adapting to our new environment. In our month together, we have already observed so much growth and development in our babies! Our young ones have grown physically and are more alert, spending more wakeful hours with us, beginning to grasp at toys and responding to our conversations, songs and stories. Our older infants are increasingly mobile, crawling and beginning to stand and cruise, and beginning to eat table foods.

October ushers in autumn and we will continue to venture outdoors daily to observe the changing weather, cooler temperatures, wild life and falling leaves. We will celebrate the season in song and in story. We will examine pumpkins, gourds and colorful leaves.

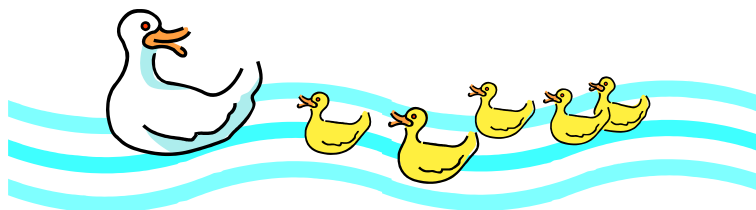
October is such a busy month at DCCC! The infants had their first “School Pictures” taken! During October the Center will commemorate “Fire Safety Week” with the annual visit of our community firefighters and their big, shiny red fire truck. Toward the end of the month there will be the center-wide Fall Harvest celebration. While we do not dress in costume in the infant room, we encourage you to send your baby in a festive onesie or other simple seasonal outfit that can be worn comfortably all day and one that does not complicate our ability to change diapers. And finally, Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled at the beginning of November and you will receive more information about this by email in the coming weeks.

We are moving into the cold and flu season, so be sure to discuss flu vaccination during your upcoming well baby visits. Our babies under 6 months cannot be vaccinated, therefore we depend on all others being adequately vaccinated and on our continued vigilance in hand washing and toy disinfection to help protect our smallest ones from getting sick this flu season. This is a good time to review health policies in your parent handbook.....everyone stay well!!

Many thanks to those parents who sent in wonderful family photos. You will notice these photos displayed in the classroom. Please send in your family/friend/pet photos if you have not already done so. Reminders:

- As temperatures drop, please send in sweaters for cool mornings outdoors, as well as protective footwear, such as the “Robeez” style soft leather bootie or a similar shoe or bootie.
- Please remember to close the classroom gate when you enter and leave our classroom to help ensure the safety of all infants.
- October 27 – Fall Harvest Celebration (simple costume optional)
- November 2—Duckling Parent-Teacher Conferences

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



# **YELLOW PUPS**

We had a great September! We spent time exploring all of the skills that we have. We clapped while we sang songs, practiced waving, showed how we use the sign language we know, and learned a few new signs. We also used our gross motor skills to crawl and walk over a pillow maze, ride the bikes on the playground, and throw balls. We also enjoyed coloring and finger painting!



October is going to a fall celebration in the puppy room! We will be exploring apples, pumpkins, gourds, and the changing fall leaves. We will be making a few special fall snacks, spending a lot of time on the playground enjoying the fall weather, and even taking a walk or two. Be on the lookout for some special fall crafts around our room! We love to make things with our hand and foot prints, and get messy from time to time! Our fall class harvest party will be on Thursday, October 27. It is sure to be a great time for everyone! ~ **LACI & ALISHA**

## **Reminders:**

- \*Please remember to cut your child's food and make sure you are familiar with the choking hazard list you received the beginning of the year.
- \*It is beginning to get chilly! A sweatshirt or jacket will keep us warm when we go to the playground in the morning!
- \*Please make sure your child has shoes for outside time!



## BLUE PUPPIES



The puppies like to dance and our favorites are “If You’re Happy and You Know It” and “Shake Your Sillies Out”



Hurry, Hurry drive the firetruck! The puppies will get to see a real ambulance and fire truck! We will have dress up outfits to wear and lots of books to look at about these interesting people and vehicles. We will paint with red to make a fire truck.

We will explore pumpkins and gourds. We will look at the different colors of gourds and feel their different textures. The puppies will get to help carve a pumpkin and have fun with the slimy insides. We will color a paper plate pumpkin and roll a gourd in paint.



The puppies will end the month with a Halloween fun week. We will paint ghost with our feet, make a paper plate spider, and color a black cat. The puppies will have a Halloween party on Thursday the 27 with kid friendly music and some fun games, wear a Halloween shirt or one that is black and/or orange. No costumes please. ~CATHRYN & DONNA

### REMEMBER....

~have a sweater or jacket, mornings are cool

~check bin for extra clothing

~check child’s folder for papers

## YELLOW HONEY BEES



Well here we are in October already. We have been really working on our shapes, and numbers. Which we will be able to continue into this month. We have loads of fun things to do in October.

colors,

The theme for this month is: FALL INTO AUTUMN.

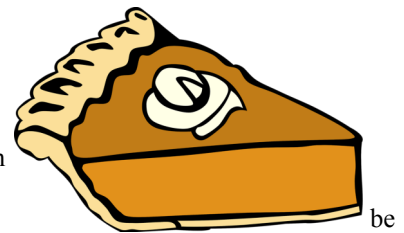
We will begin the month with some apple fun. We will talk about what colors are apples, we will pick our favorite color of apple and chart it. We will make apple pies for our snack in the afternoon one day.



We will talk about pumpkins this month. What color is a pumpkin? What shape is a pumpkin? We will color pumpkins. We will look what is in the inside of a pumpkin. We will decorate our own pumpkin to have in the hallway for all to see. Yep we will make pumpkin pies too!

We will take lots of walks to see the leaves fall. We will collect some leaves to do some art projects. We also like to hear the leaves crunch when we walk in them. Guess what sneaks into the middle of October. You will never guess, so we will tell you. Firetrucks!! We will talk about community helpers, and we will have a visit from our local fire station. They will talk with us about how to be safe, and show us the fire engines.

To end the month, we will talk about spooky things. We will make ghost with our feet. With our hands, we will make bats. We will read lots of fun, spooky books, and listen to spooky music. With all the walks we do it helps us get ready for the Halloween parade. There will more information about the parade in an email. Please keep an eye out for it.



Please remember to label everything.

~**BARB & SARAH**

# **BLUE BUSY BEES**

September was a very busy month getting to know each other, learning the Blue Bees rules and settling into our new surroundings. The Blue Bees all seem to be very comfortable in their new surroundings, we all now know each other's names and are comfortable playing with each other as well. We still have some sadness at drop offs, but it is not long till the children are happy and playing with their friends and teachers. September brought us a lot of learning as we talked about colors, letters and number, shapes and opposites. We will continue to work on all these areas of learning as the year goes on and will expand on each one as the children show us the need. Also in September, we have been very excited and eagerly wait for the workers to finish our new sandbox on the playground. We have had fun watching them work.

October is sure to bring us more fun as we talk about fall and all the fun things about fall, but first we will talk about health and safety. We will talk about proper handwashing and sneezing into our elbows to keep from spreading germs and fire, bike and car safety. A visit from the fire trucks and an ambulance will also happen this month. We will explore with all our senses apples, pumpkins, leaves and spooky fun. We plan to make an apple and pumpkin pie, have an apple tasting test, carve a pumpkin, feel the gooey insides and taste the yummy pumpkin seeds. Our sense of smell, sight and touch will be used to explore leaves, small pumpkins and gourds and other outside fall items that we will find on a fall walk that we plan to take. We will talk about trees and learn why their leaves turn such beautiful red, yellow and orange colors and fall to the ground in the fall (all in preparation for the long winter nights and days). We will also have a fun walk to the HUB to show off our Halloween costumes, all are welcome to look for us as we parade to and through the HUB. Look for permission slip to sign in the days ahead.

## **Parental Reminders:**

- \*Please look for sign-up sheet for donations of apples and pumpkin items.
- \*Please remember to have your child wash his/her hands upon arrival and fill out their daily sheet as well.
- \*If your child arrives with a pacifier help them to place it in their cubby before you leave.
- \*Toys from home must go back to the car with the parent or into the child's bag or cubby.
- \*Check your child's cubby for extra clothing for the cooler days ahead.



~**JODY & CASSIE**



# YELLOW BEAR CUBS

The bears are working hard to accept the routine of our day and playing cooperatively with the materials in the various centers! We have been talking and learning a lot about pets; what animals make good pets, what they eat, and what they need!



We will be having some Fire Safety fun and have some emergency personnel and apparatus visit our school during the month of October! We will be talking about self-care tasks and have a visit from Ms. Mandy's "cousin Valerie Virus" to help us learn about germs! We will also start talking about trees and the fall season! There will be a fall fun day where the bears can come in costumes and enjoyed fun centers in



the big room, more details will come soon!



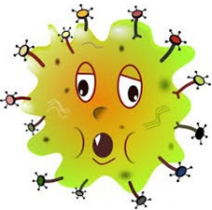
you!

Conferences to tell you how your child has transitioned into the bear room and where they are developmentally will be October 24th! I look forward to talking with all of

The fall weather is upon us and it is time to make sure we are working with our children on independent dressing skills, especially with coats/jackets! This will become a very important skill when winter weather comes with the dressing up into snow clothes!

~MANDY

# BLUE BEARS



The Teddy Bears sure did have a fun September with our pets play and props. We learned a lot about how to care for pets including what they need, what they eat and what animals make good pets. We had a lot of fun with our pet store we had in our room many of us enjoyed pretending with the pet lizards and glogs!

As we head into October we are going to be having a week on germs and talking about what germs are and how we keep from spreading them. We will review handwashing and even have fun with a glow light that makes our typically invisible germs glow!

Next we will learn all about fire safety and how to keep safe in the event of a fire and what to do. We will talk about 911 and teach all teddy bears their addresses. We always look forward to the fire truck visit then talking to and wearing real fire fighter clothes!

We will end our month by starting a new study on trees. We will look at trees for several weeks and learn about how they grow food we get from them and how they change. This few weeks will be full of hands on cooking projects walks and of course as soon as it is time we will go jumping in some leaves!!! We will end our month with a harvest party and a parade around campus. Look for more information at the end of the month.



Fall is a great season and in the classroom we have a lot of fun coming up. At home please remember that as the weather changes we are outside for an hour every morning and then again in the afternoon. Sweatshirts a jackets are always good to bring along. We can take them off if it warms up but not having them really puts a damper on our play because we are cold. Also when packing lunches please keep in mind that the center does provide plastic spoons however we do not have forks. Some of us have had a little trouble eating some of our longer pasta and other heat ups with a plastic spoon so if you want to send a fork along we will make sure it gets returned in your child's lunch box.

~ANGE & KENDRA



# **BUNNIES**



September has come to an end and we are finally feeling some Fall temperatures, woo hoo! We were very busy in September learning all about clothing. We talked about the different features of clothing including sizes, fasteners, and patterns/designs. We did some experiments to see which type of soap makes more bubbles when we were talking about how to take care of our clothing. We took a walk past a laundromat and talked about what people do there. The end of September we talked about the jobs that people do where they have to wear special clothing. During this time, we discussed fire safety and we will be finishing up our clothing unit during the first weeks of October with community helpers and finding out what we want to be when we grow up.

After we finish up our clothing unit, we will move into a unit on trees for the second half of October and end with a PJ DAY. During this unit we will learn about different types of trees, who lives in trees, what food comes from trees, how trees change in different seasons and what we can do with different types of trees. We will also be discussing other things that we typically grow or see happening in the fall. We will be doing some baking in this unit, which is always a lot of fun for the class.

## **Reminders:**

- \*As the weather is getting a little cooler please go through your child's extra clothes bin to make sure the clothing is seasonally appropriate and still fits.
- \* Please make sure you are checking your child's mailbox **DAILY**, so that you are not missing out on any fun activities or reminders.
- \* If your child has a heat up, place the labeled container in the black crate marked Bunny heat ups.
- \*Also, make sure you are checking labels of what goes into your child's lunch box. We cannot serve anything that says "contains peanuts or tree nuts", "may contain peanuts or tree nuts", "Processed in a facility with peanuts or tree nuts", or mango (it is a tree nut).

## **Important Dates:**

October 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>: **Bunny Room Conferences** (Wednesday and Friday) Michelle will send out an email so you can sign up for a time.

October 27<sup>th</sup>: **Fall Harvest Party** (check mailboxes closer to the time for more information)

If you have any questions, please let us know.

~**BRITTNEY & CARLY**





## **KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS**

September was a busy and productive month. We're becoming quite an awesome community of learners and expert bucket-fillers! In addition to our units on living/non-living things and healthy habits, we've done activities with shapes, patterns, symmetry, classifying, graphing, counting, numbers, measurement, and money.

We've also worked on letter printing, letter-sound associations, rhyming, and learning some sight words. We'll continue our color days throughout the month of October, with a goal of learning to read all of them by the end of the month.

In October we'll be focusing on our community: safety, occupations, and our neighborhood community. Visits from the fire and ambulance departments are planned for October 11, and we would also love to have parents come into our classroom to share about their own careers some time during the month as well. Please let Miss Katie know if you're interested. On October 21 in the Kindergarten Room, we'll have a Career Day, where the children will dress to represent a career they would like to have when they grow up. During our community unit, we'll also learn a little about money and resources and will learn the difference between needs and wants. We'll plan a center-wide Food Drive for Project S.H.A.R. E. and will be given a tour of their facility when we deliver the food. Please keep in mind that we also have a Project S.H.A.R.E. Penny Pail outside the Kindergarten Room for monetary donations which will be delivered to Project S.H.A.R.E. in April or May.

On October 27, we'll celebrate Halloween with our Halloween/ Fall Harvest Party. We ask that children dress in costumes without masks or accessories. Parents will be invited to our parade around the DCCC parking lot, and we will enjoy party games in the Big Room that afternoon.

~ **MISS KATIE & MISS CHERI**

**REMINDER:** Please be sure your child has a full set of extra clothes in his/her bin to fit the season.