



Dickinson College Children's Center December 2016

From the Director's Desk



I would like to thank all parents for their cooperation with the Mini Turkey Trot event. It was quite the task walking the children to the Dickinson track and back! We all had a very fun and memorable time. Thank goodness for the nice weather. Your participation was wonderful and the children had a great time.

On November 17th the children and staff enjoyed a Thanksgiving Meal prepared by Dining Services. Each of the older classes enjoyed the group meal in the big room. Our smaller children remained in their own classroom but also enjoyed the yummy food. Thanks to dining services for a delicious meal. The children showed good manners and were so well behaved!

A Vision screening will be offered to children ages 2 and up during the month of December. Vision Resources of Central PA screens approximately 90 of our older children once a year. The results are then shared with parents if the child needs to be referred to an eye doctor. Kindergarten will also take part in a Hearing Screening supported by the Carlisle Area School District.

During December two of our preschool teachers (Ms. Kendra and Ms. Cheri) will be attending the Get Set for School Preschool workshop. It is such a great training and I am sure the teachers will come back inspired and energized to implement a number of activities with the children. Staff will also begin completing their self-assessments and performance evaluations will be given throughout the month.

We are so excited to share that the center qualifies for the STARS State Grant this year. The center will be submitting a grant application in hopes of receiving a total of \$24,000 to be spent on necessary items to improve the quality of the center. Teachers will also qualify for Education and Retention Awards based on their education qualifications.

A number of center families have begun to receive funds for the EITC scholarships sponsored by the Bravo Foundation and The United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County. A few families were able to apply and receive money to be applied to their tuition from both organizations. We recognize that tuition can be a hardship for some families and we work at encouraging families to apply for CCIS state funds, DCCC scholarships and or the EITC scholarships for our preschool families. If you have any questions about these programs, please stop in the office to discuss.

As always, have a great holiday break and enjoy all the extra time with your family!

-GINA VAN KIRK, DIRECTOR



Dates to Remember:

December 6—Parent Meeting 4:15 p.m. Big Conference Room @ DCCC (more details on Page 2!)

December 7—Vision Screening for children ages 2 and up

December 8—Hearing Screening for Kindergarten

December 19-January 1, 2017—DCCC Closed

January 2, 2017—DCCC re-opens

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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.

Upcoming:

*Pancake Breakfast—Please see below—tickets available in January!

Current:

*Holiday Cards

Totals:

Sandwich Fundraiser-\$349.75

Box Tops- \$254.60

Lil' Angels Photography-\$435

Shoparoo-\$60.90

KidStuff Books-\$500

Giant-\$180.32

Turkey Trot-\$5067.10

Total: \$6,847.67

2016-2017 Goal: \$15,000



YOU ARE INVITED...

WHAT: Pancake Breakfast Meeting

WHO: Anyone interested in helping with the breakfast or has some ideas to share

WHEN: Tuesday December 6th @ 4:15 p.m.

WHERE: DCCC Big Conference Room

We hope to see some of you there!





DUCKLINGS



November was a month of thanks! Our older infants beginning table foods sampled some of the traditional holiday foods for the first time...the spicy pumpkin cookie won out as the all time favorite, followed closely by the roast turkey! We were thankful to be included in the two week Promotion Motion campaign. ...it is never too early to incorporate fun exercise into a healthy lifestyle! Thanks to the families and friends who came out to support the infants in the mini-turkey trot!

In December we will experience some of the diverse ways that families celebrate the winter holidays, adding new story board books, pictures, music, songs and finger play to our repertoire. We will continue games that involve clapping and other gestures, such as waving, pointing, blowing kisses and simple sign words. We learn through repetition, repetition, repetition! We will also continue our daily outdoor exploration to see nature and all of the late fall and early winter seasonal changes happening around us, labeling everything we see, while adding new and interesting vocabulary. Playtime will include lots of free floor time, on the playground and in the large motor room (the Big Room), with surfaces to pull up and cruise and lots of space to roll and crawl and climb. We will be celebrating several big milestone birthdays during the month of December as our oldest babies officially enter early toddlerhood!

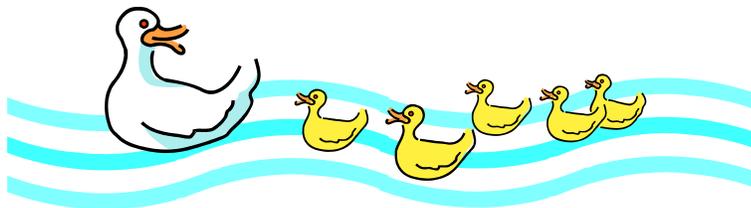
Please think about sending in family photos, if you have not already done so.....we love to post your family holiday photos on our bulletin board to help spread the cheer!

Please remember:

- *To be sure your baby has appropriate, well fitting clothing for outdoor weather – we will be outdoors if the temperature/wind chill factor is above 25 degrees F.
- *To supply at least one change of season- and size- appropriate clothing for back up needs.
- *To keep diaper bins well stocked.

December will pass quickly with winter break approaching and so much to do and to learn! We wish you all a safe and happy winter holiday season with your baby and family. The New Year will bring lots of fun and exciting new milestones for the little Ducklings.

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



YELLOW PUPS

November flew by in the blink of an eye. We spent the month talking about all we have to be thankful for! We read some special books, sang some songs, and made a special family art project. We talked about friendships and colored together. We practiced pointing to our friends when we heard their names, and we worked on saying names, too. Thank you all for attending parent teacher conferences. Whether they were in person or by phone, it was great to have the opportunity to discuss how special your child is and how well they are doing in the room. It was great fun to eat our turkey feast together! It's fun to try new foods! We also had a great time at our mini turkey trot!



We always look forward to December! It is a month full of new sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and textures. We'll dive into the holiday season using our five senses. A special bulletin board will be a fun addition to our room as we learn about special family holiday traditions. We will be making handprint lights, signing holiday songs, shaking jingle bells, and looking at lights that are hung in our room, just for a start! We will also be exploring pine branches, wrapping paper, and pinecones. We will also be tasting some yummy potato latkes, and a gingerbread snack before our holiday break. ~ **LACI & ALISHA**



FAMILY REMINDERS:

- * We will be going outside as long as it is above 26°. Please make sure your child has a hat, gloves/mittens, and a warm coat!
- * Please place your child's coat in the plastic bin in their cubby.



BLUE PUPPIES



The Puppies are welcoming the upcoming season with lots of fun activities.

MMMM! What's that smell? Gingerbread! We will color a gingerbread man, count gingerbread men, and make a (paper) gingerbread house.

We will then be exploring pine branches and pine cones, they will be put in the sensory table for us to touch. We painted with branches and rolled pine cones in paint and colored a pine tree.

We had fun in the room with the lights off and a strand of colored lights on, we made hand print lights and candles out of paper towel rolls and finger painted candles on paper. We also painted stars, colored bells, and had fun with stickers. Along with pine cones and branches, we will have colored wrapping paper, bows, ribbon, and bottles with bells in them to explore.

If you have any family traditions for the holidays, please feel free to share with us.

We are going outside every day; (weather and temperatures permitting) please make sure to have a warm coat, hats, and glove/mittens for your child. The children like to take them off, we do our best to keep them on while outside.

REMINDERS:

~Make sure to label all lunch containers, yogurt/applesauce and baggies

~Check/ask to see if your child has extra seasonal clothes

~**CATHRYN & DONNA**

YELLOW HONEY BEES



We had a great November working on sharing in our room. We know we will have a wonderful time in December. This month is a short one too. We will only have three weeks of school. Starting the week of December 19th, the center is closed for two weeks and will re-open on January 2, 2017



During the three weeks of school, we will have lots of fun. The theme for this month is senses of the season. Who doesn't like cooking around this time of year? We will do some baking and using our senses of smell and taste. Yum Yum! To go along with cooking (cookies), we will read different versions of the gingerbread man books.

We will have fun with many crafts like cutting out trees and using our fingers to paint snow on them. We will also make a wreath with our hands, decorate a paper gingerbread man, paint with an evergreen branch, and much more.

We will talk about how people celebrate different holidays. Reading books about Hanukah, Kwanzaa and Christmas will help us learn more about them! We will sing songs that they might already know, and we will learn new songs and do different crafts to go along with these holidays.

Ms. Sarah and myself would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday. Enjoy your break with your families!

~**BARB & SARAH**

BLUE BUSY BEES



November brought the Blue Bees fun talking about animals and what they do during the winter. Do they hibernate, migrate or do they tough it out through the long cold winter days and nights? We also talked about friends and family and how many of us will soon begin to go on visits or have visits with friends and family and how do we travel? Do we travel by car, bus, train, plane or maybe even a boat? We ended the month with turkeys. Our turkey trot was a super big success and we all looked so cute in our turkey hats. We also had a fun afternoon celebrating, bringing in the most promotion motion envelopes, with a Hawaiian Lou All and of course the DCCC feast in the big room was quite exciting and yummy. All our turkey crafts made our room look festive and we had fun making them.

The Holidays are here and the Blue Bees will be spending December using our senses to see, feel, taste, hear and smell because, we will spend the month of December talking about The Senses of the Season. We are planning a lot of fun activities that will get our 5 senses working overtime.

Activities such as:

A feely boxes to get our in



action. I spy games to work our sight.



Painting with spices to get our



sniffing. Bubble wrap painting, do you



the pop?

Making gingerbread cookies and tasting

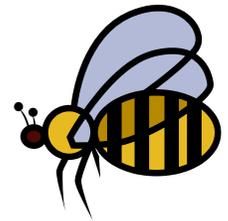


them.

Friendly December Reminders:

*Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat and gloves at school and label them (snow boots and snow pants for snowy days)

*Check your child's cubby for warm extra clothing



Thank You, Cassie and Jody (Blue Bees)

YELLOW BEAR CUBS

The teddy bears seemed to really enjoy the Turkey Trot and Promotion Motion activities in November! Talking about trees, food from trees, having fun with the corn cobs were highlights of November.



partaking in all the different Holiday Traditions that our families have and do, we look forward to having families come and share some with us! So be sure to complete the family traditions sign-up sheet and return it as soon as possible! We will be making Candy Houses with the bears so to make it easy and less hassle on all of you we will be asking that you send in \$3.00 to cover the cost of the supplies and we will do the peanut free shopping!



We will kick off December with a great week of Trains; I am sure the bears will especially love the Box Train! We will end our train week in our pajamas having hot chocolate and watching part of The Polar Express! We will be moving right into sharing and



Please remember to send in hats, gloves/ mittens (preferably water proof), boots, snow pants and coats. We will go outside as long as the temper-

YELLOW BEAR CUBS CTD.



ature feels like 26 degrees or more. We need the water proof clothing to protect us from the wet melting snow followed by the mud!! We will be keeping the snow gear at the back of the cubby area on the hooks that are labeled by names!

If you would like to bring in hand lotion and/or Chap Stick for our chapped hands and lips that is fine, we will label them with your child's name and place them in a basket in my locked cabinet above my teacher sink. We will make it a routine to apply them before rest time and anytime your child requests throughout the day. **It may not stay in the cubby, bag/backpack, or child's pocket; due to safety reasons!**

~MANDY & CHERI

BLUE BEARS



Wow we can't believe it is December already!! Last month was so great and so busy with so much fun going on. We sure did enjoy the Turkey Trot and everyone who came out to support us in our fun trot around the track. Then there was feast day!! We sure did had full bellies that afternoon. We had a lot of Teddy Bears coming in and talking about Thanksgiving and the family they visited.

In December we are going to be looking at different types of traditions you do as a family. We will have two weeks for you to sign up and come into the classroom to read us a story, do an activity with us or talk to the class about something you do together as a family during this time of year or one you do throughout the year. It is always a great way to get to know a little more about many different families in the room.

family traditions

We have several reminders for this month to start looking ahead and planning for:

- *Please make sure you sign up to come share a family tradition with us in the next two weeks. If you need another paper sign up form, please see Ms. Ange or Ms. Kendra
- *We love snow days here at DCCC and it typically works best when each of us has a pair of snow pants, snow gloves and boots that we leave here at the center so we can go out and enjoy the snow without getting wet and cold.
- *The center will be closed from December 19th and will reopen January 2nd

~ANGE & KRISTEN



BUNNIES



Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday! November has been so busy but we have had so much fun. We started the month with our tree unit, where we had discussions on foods that come from trees. We had an apple taste test (we have a lot of apple lovers in here!) and we made a delicious apple crisp. We then moved into what lives in trees. We made a list of all the animals we could think of and looked up some new animals. Then we moved into living off the land. We talked about the differences between living today and living in Plymouth when the pilgrims came. We learned about the chores and different responsibilities that children had back then compared to now, like churning butter, bagging spices, and standing to eat meals. We made a graph and discovered that 5 kids would rather live in the past.

During that time, we really enjoyed our promotion motion activities, the turkey trot and the Thanksgiving feast! The week of Thanksgiving break we talked about what we are thankful for. We will wrap up the month with kindness and bucket filling. We will learn what it means to be a bucket filler and a bucket dipper.

As we move into December we will finish our week on kindness and bucket filling and then we will move into 2 weeks of family traditions. We invite you to come in to the classroom and share a story, craft, song or other family tradition you do during the holidays. There is a sign-up sheet on the door where you can sign up for a 30-minute time slot. If you think you might need more than that or have any other questions, please let us know and we will accommodate if possible. We are planning a PJ Day for December 16th and we will be making gingerbread cookies!



Reminders:

*We go outside if the temperature/wind chill is 25 degrees or above so please make sure your child has hats, coats, gloves, etc.

It is helpful if hats, gloves, scarfs, etc. are labeled with your child's name.

Please hang coats in the hallway

Start thinking about snow gear that can be left at the center (pants, hats, gloves, boots)

Important dates:

Monday December 19-Friday December 30 2016- DCCC CLOSED Holiday break (will return January 2nd)

~BRITTNEY & CARLY

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



November seemed to have flown by in a flash and, oh my, it was busy! In addition to our classroom election, our trip to the Trout Gallery, our Promotion Motion activities, the Turkey Trot, and DCCC's big Thanksgiving Feast, we were actually able to squeeze in quite a bit of learning!

December will be a very short month and will likely speed by as quickly as November did! We'll be doing both vision and hearing screenings during the second week. Otherwise, our main focus for the month will be on families. The students will be creating individual family posters, so please bring a few family photos for your child to use for this.

We hope to learn a bit about customs celebrated by others around the world, and are eager for parents or grandparents to come in to share about their own special family traditions. If you're interested in doing this there's a sign-up sheet in front of the children's "take-home" file box in the hallway. On December 2 in our room, it'll be "Dress Like Someone Else in Your Family" Day. The children may come dressed either as a human member of the family or a pet. It should be interesting! Another special day will occur on Friday, December 9. That'll be "Family Day" for the kindergarteners. Each child may invite a family member to come in to spend part of the afternoon with us for some fun family centers. Please save the date! We'll be sure to have a great time! In addition to a variety of other activities, we'll be creating crafty, decorative gingerbread houses which hopefully will be just as fun to create as their edible counterparts (and perhaps longer lasting). This is always one of my very favorite days in kindergarten!

The first day of winter (and the last day of school for 2016) will be celebrated with a "First Day of Winter Pajama Party" on December 16. Everyone may come to school dressed in pajamas, and we'll enjoy some winter games and special activities that day!

And we wish *everyone* a wonderful holiday break with your families!

~KATIE AND CHERI