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## Dickinson College Children's Center January 2017



### From the Director's Desk

We want snow, we want snow... that is the chant we have all been cheering. Really, if it is going to be cold anyhow then bring on the snow! The children are enjoying all the extra events that were scheduled and did a terrific job keeping us singing and learning all month.

At the beginning of the month we held a Vision Screening for the children two years old and up. There was also a Hearing Screening held for the Kindergarteners. Somehow we also managed to squeeze in a Fire Drill. Thanks goodness for the nice weather at the beginning of the month.

The winning class that raised the most money during the Turkey Trot was the bunny class. Therefore, we were able to squeeze in their grand prize, a free Zumba class in the big room. We had a great turn out and enjoyed seeing all the families participate!

Our Parent Meeting was held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Plans are in the works for the February 11<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast from 8-11 held at the Social Hall on campus. More information about how to get involved will be sent home sometime in January. The Pancake Breakfast is one of our biggest Fundraisers of the year. This year we plan to have a visit from the Mascot for United Concordia and Lindsay Barrett George the author and illustrator of numerous children's books. There will also be a Martial Arts presentation, book fair, face painting and crafts. Families will also enjoy the ever famous Silent Auction!

A special thank you goes out to all the families for the wonderful lunch and gift card. It was truly appreciated! We thank you as parents for a year of fun, learning and support as we continue the journey of growth and development with your child/children. Thank you for sharing your most special gift with us!

Please remember to help guide your children in walking up and down the hall at pick up time. It can get quite busy here, so please keep them with you at all times.

Have a relaxing holiday and we'll see you all back after the new year. It is sure to be a fantastic 2017 here at DCCC!

~Gina

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### Dates to Remember:

**February 6-9—  
Usborne Book Fair  
(DCCC big play room)**

**February 11—DCCC  
Pancake Breakfast  
Fundraiser and  
Usborne Book Fair**

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## Fundraising Updates

### **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—Tickets go on sale in January!**

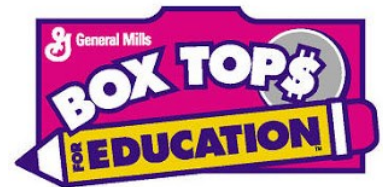


### **Totals:**

Sandwich Fundraiser-\$349.75  
Box Tops- \$254.60  
Lil' Angels Photography-\$435  
Shoparoo-\$60.90  
KidStuff Books-\$575  
Giant-\$335.63  
Turkey Trot-\$5056.61  
Holiday Cards-\$365.50

Total: \$7432.89

**2016-2017 Goal: \$15,000**



## **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!**

February 11, 2017 8-11 a.m.

HUB Social Hall

**\*\*To sign up to help with the Pancake Breakfast please go to:**

<http://slyreply.com/app/sheets/5aeb71bt4eup/>



## **HEALTH POLICY REMINDERS**

As we enter the winter season we want to remind our families of DCCC's health policies. Please see below for an excerpt from DCCC's Family Handbook.

### **HEALTH POLICIES**

The main protection of your child's health is for the Children's Center to prevent ill children from attending the Center and thus infecting your own child with the illness. The Children's Center staff members have been trained to recognize possible infectious disease symptoms, and families of children with these symptoms will be asked to keep their children at home and away from well children.

Please observe the following child care health policies:

1. **All illnesses** must be reported to the Center so the staff and Director are aware of the child's absence and/or infectious disease. Please notify the Director prior to returning to the Center after an injury, serious illness, or operation.
2. **DCCC reserves the right to exclude a child from care if they are not able to participate in all of the daily activities, if additional staff are required to provide care for the child thus compromising the health and safety of other children, or if their illness poses a risk of spread of disease to others. (According to the guidelines provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics).**
3. If your child is sent home because they are suspected of having a highly contagious illness, such as those listed below, a doctor's note, containing an actual diagnosis, will be required before the child may return to DCCC:
  - conjunctivitis, such as pink eye
  - measles, roseola, rubella, fifth disease, chicken pox, whooping cough, mumps
  - skin infections/rash, such as poison ivy
  - head lice
  - strep throat
  - hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child is diagnosed with a bacterial infection, such as **pink eye** or **strep throat**, they will be excluded from the DCCC until they have been treated with antibiotics for 24 hours. This policy is intended to prevent the spread of infection to other children and staff. If your child is diagnosed with bacterial pink-eye and prescribed an antibiotic and you choose not to follow the recommended treatment, the child cannot return to the center until the child is completely symptom free in the judgment of the DCCC. Depending on the severity, this may take a few days. An additional doctor's note may be required confirming that the child is not contagious before he or she is allowed to return to the Center.

If the diagnosis is a **contagious or non-contagious skin infection**, please remember that a doctor's note will be required with a diagnosis and a safe return date. For **any of the other conditions (lice, chicken pox, etc.)** please contact the office as soon as possible for Center specific policies regarding that illness.

Children must be excluded from the Center for the following conditions, **and** for 24 hours after the symptom is no longer evident:

- fever 100 degrees
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- influenza

If any of the conditions listed above are present in a child while at the Center, the family will be contacted and asked to take the child home. If you are unable to pick up your child within an hour, please arrange for a friend or relative to come in your place. Repeated failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in the dismissal of your child from the center.

5. Families will be notified when their children have been in contact with an infectious disease. More information on symptoms will be made available to you as needed (fact sheets available on our website).



## Ducklings



### **Happy New Year! And our very best wishes for 2017!**

December was a fun and festive time for the little Ducklings, as we experienced all the sights, sounds, beautiful aromas and even the yummy taste of the holiday seasons....so many firsts in the lives of our young infants! Thank you, parents, for your generous gifts and holiday wishes. We also celebrated 3 milestone first birthdays and welcomed those babies to young toddlerhood.

During the first week of January, we welcome everyone back from holiday break, which in the lives of our infants, is a long absence from the Center. There are sometimes some minor readjustments as we all resume our daily schedules. We will gently ease back into our routines and find fun opportunities to practice the skills we have learned and to make new, challenging discoveries.

Lesson plans in the infant room revolve around essential daily care and the developmental needs of each individual child. With that in mind, we will add some new board books, songs and finger play games. Old seasonal favorites, such as "Frosty the Snowman," give us an opportunity to practice our "bye-bye" waves and to label our heads, noses and eyes. Winter themed stories, such as Snowy Animals, Ten Shiny Snowflakes, The Itsy Bitsy Snowman, and I Love Winter, allow us to expand vocabulary, to manipulate book pages, to point & label and to make connections to what is happening outside in our own environment (we will take lots of outdoor nature walks when temperatures permit). We will continue to gradually work toward introduction of new foods, especially table foods for our older infants, and offer opportunities for grasping spoons, sippy cups and self- feedings. We will continue to support motor development with lots of free floor space to move, roll, sit, crawl, pull up, cruise, walk and sit at toddler furniture.

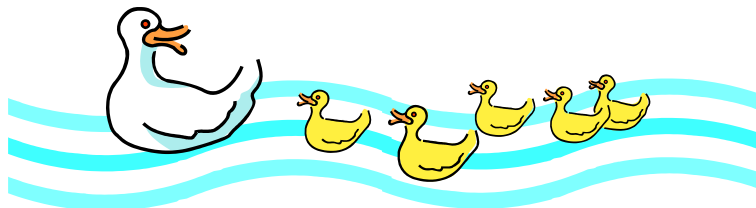
#### **Reminders:**

\*Please continue to label ALL bottles and personal clothing items.

\*Make sure your infant has at least two sets of seasonally appropriate clothing changes. Also, please think about one piece water repellent snow suits, mittens and warm hats. We love snow, but can only go out in snow if our babies have the proper gear.

Thank you and Happy New Year! We are looking forward to winter fun in the coming month!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



## Yellow Puppies

December was a month full of new sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and textures. We'll dive into the holiday season using our five senses. We made foot-print reindeer, sang holiday songs, shook jingle bells, and looked at lights that are hung in our room. We also explored wrapping paper, and colored with many different colors of crayons. We tasted some yummy potato latkes, and had a gingerbread snack before our holiday break.



January is going to be a month all about winter and cold! We will be talking about winter animals, snow, ice, and some great winter books written by Jan Brett. Our first week back after break we will be talking about winter animals. Penguins, polar bears, walrus, and snowy owls will be the focus! It's going to be great fun to learn about the sounds these animals make! If we are lucky we will get some snow to explore during January! We are planning on making snow paintings with white paint, and reading books all about the snow! We are also going to explore ice. We will watch what happens when ice gets warm, paint with ice cubes, and make some sparkly paintings. We will be focusing on a few Jan Brett books this month such as: The Mitten, The Hat, and Gingerbread Baby. We will color mittens, explore hats and gloves in our dress-up bin, and talk about the gingerbread that we had before break. We will also be looking for different animals in the books, and practicing the sounds they make.

### Reminders:

\*We will be going outside as long as the temperature is above 26° (including wind chill). Remember to bring in boots and snowsuits if there is snow on the ground! We try to go outside every day!

\*Please label all containers in your child's lunch.



## Blue Puppies

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The puppies welcomed 2017 with a fun wacky to get back into our routine. A week of silly songs and dancing, mixed matched socks, silly hats, inside out clothes, and crazy hair had us laughing.

The Farm Show is in town! We will have fun looking at books and singing songs about farm animals, making their noises, coloring a pig, making a sheep, and painting a cow.

Burrrrrr! The puppies will talk about things that are cold like snow and ice. We will make a paper plate snowman, painted with white paint, and explored ice cubes. We will also talk about how to stay warm in the winter with coats, hats and gloves and colored mittens.

We will end the month talking about birds, coloring birds, listening to bird noises, and making a bird feeder to take home! (continued on next page)



## **REMINDERS:**

- ~Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, and gloves/mittens for outside play.
- ~In the event of snow, please bring snow gear-boots, pants so we can go and play.
- ~Label all items in lunches, including yogurts, applesauce, and items in baggies.

**CATHRYN & DONNA**



## **Yellow Honey Bees**



Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a great time off with your families. Ms. Sarah and Ms. Barb are glad to see everyone again. We have a lot planned for your children during the month of January. First, please make sure you have snowsuits and boots here at the center. We do go outside even if there is snow on the ground. If the temps are above 26 we do go out. We might not stay outside as long, but we do go out to get fresh air, and if there

is snow let them play in it.

Here are a few things we will be doing to help your child. We will be really focusing on potty training. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Sarah or Ms. Barb. If your child has a pacifier, we will start to wean them from it (very slowly) We will continue to go over colors, shapes, and counting.

This month's theme is winter wonders. We will talk about how the weather is very cold. We will discuss what we wear in winter time, and how it is different then what we wear in summertime. We will make a chart to see what they wear in wintertime.

We will make different crafts throughout the month. Melting snowman, ice painting, painting on foil and snowflakes are just a few projects for this month.

The children love to read books. So in our classroom library we will have books about winter, mittens, hats, and what kind of animals like the winter weather.

Ms. Sarah and Ms. Barb will share snowman cheese sticks with the children one day for snack.

**~ MS. BARB & MS. SARAH**





## Blue Busy Bees

December has ended and the Blue Bees had fun talking about our five senses and had fun exploring them with the projects and activities that we did to get our senses working. Activities such as using our eyes to find objects during “I Spy with my Little Eye”, using our hands to make a feely hand texture page, using our ears to guess “What Is That Sound?”, and using our sense of smell and tastes when we made gingerbread cookies. The cookies smelled delicious and tasted even better.

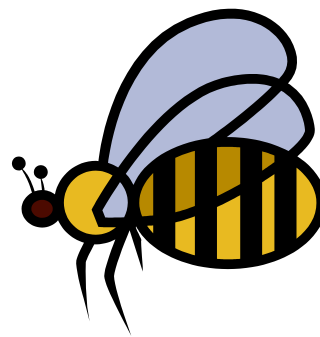
We look forward to January and the New Year talking about “Winter Wonders” We will be doing a lot of fun activities with wet stuff and will learn that snow and ice are different forms of water. We will also explore the changes outside, the changes in the clothes that we wear to stay warm and the changes that we make in our house to stay warm.

We also plan to make some small changes to our art area by adding markers, scissors and play dough that will be available to the children when they choose to use it. As we learn to use these items correctly at the tables, we will add more fun art making things for free choice. We will also start to choose jobs and do calendar at gathering time. We plan to start working more on feelings and how our actions and words affect our friends and will get to know some puppet friends that will help us with this. To help us with making good choices, we will start with a stop sign clip chart. Everyone will start on green and move to yellow or red if we need to slow down and think about our choices or stop and take some time to sit and think about the choices that we are making.

### **Family Reminders:**

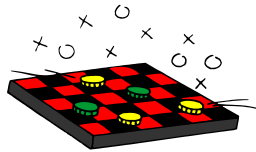
- \*Please be sure that your child has extra clothing for the winter months (underwear, pants, socks and long sleeve shirts)
- \*Please be sure that your child has a warm coat, snow pants, warm boots, hat and mittens for playing in the snow
- \*Please label, label, label your child’s belongings
- \*Remember toys should stay at home or in the car. A lovey or favorite book is fine.

~JODY & CASSIE



## Yellow Bear Cubs

We kicked off December with a great week of Trains; we especially loved the Box Train! We then moved right into sharing and partaking in all the different Holiday Traditions, thanks to all the parents who took the time to come and share some family traditions with us!



During the month of January, we will be advancing our co-operative social skills by taking turns and following rules to play games! We will be exploring the concept of seasons through a Clothing theme! We will also be looking at what clothes are made of, and different clothes people wear for their jobs!

The winter weather is HERE! Please remember to send in hats, gloves/mittens (preferably water proof), boots, snow pants and coats. We will

go outside as long as the temperature feels like 26 degrees or more. We need the water proof clothing to protect us from the wet melting snow followed by the mud!! While you are bringing in snow gear, make sure you check the extra clothes bins for seasonally appropriate clothes!



We will be working hard to improve our independence skills, by getting ourselves dressed and undressed for the outdoor play!

**MANDY AND CHERI**

## Blue Bears

The Teddy bears sure are rested up after a nice holiday break with family and friends! As we start off 2017 we will enjoy some great board games. We will practice playing many types of games and learning great rules including taking turns, sharing, and good team work. Please feel free to bring in a game and share it with the class on our first week back.



As we finish with games we will start a new four week study on clothes. We will start by talking about different seasons and what clothes are most appropriate for each one and how they look and feel different. Then we will start looking at clothes that are used for different jobs or activities. We will explore where clothes come from and what they are made out of.

As we finish clothes we will start go get ready for all the fun coming up in February including feelings and the pancake breakfast! More information will be sent out soon.

### Some notes to remember

\*Please bring your child a set of clothes for snow play. This includes snow pants, boots, and snow gloves. (continued on next page)





These items may be placed on the labeled hooks outside our classroom door.

\* We provide spoons at lunch if you have packed your child something that requires a fork please send it along. It is often very tough for us to eat long spaghetti with a plastic spoon.



\* Nap bedding needs to go home every week to be washed and sent back in the following week. Even when we are not sleeping we are still resting on our cots and sheets.

~ **ANGE & KENDRA**

## **Bunnies**

Welcome back! We hope you all had an amazing break!

Before break we learned what it means to be a bucket filler and a bucket dipper and we got really good at it and earned a lot of hearts on our friend The Grinch! We really enjoyed hearing from those of you who were able to come in and share your holiday traditions with us! It is always fun to hear what other families do during the holidays.



When we come back from break, we will kick off January with a



welcome back and review week. We will go over the classroom rules, discuss being a bucket filler, we will review the letters we have learned so far as well as the shapes and colors. We will then move into our unit about balls. We will be doing a lot of problem solving and experiments during this unit. We will figure out if all balls bounce, if they all roll, how do they move, what we can do with balls, what they are made of and which type of ball will bounce the highest. This unit will take us through the end of January.

We will also be assessing the children again to send you a progress report and our recommendations on kindergarten within the next few weeks. Please keep your eyes out for them in the mailboxes. Read over them and then please sign and return them to us.

### **Reminders:**

Make sure your child has winter clothing labeled with their name (hat, coat, gloves, boots, snow pants). We try to go outside as much as possible weather permitting.

Make sure to check your child's mailbox for information on upcoming events.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please let us know

**MS. BRITTNEY AND MS. CARLY**



## Kindergarten Dolphins



We had an exciting December, and were very thankful to the parents and grandparents who came in to share family traditions with our class, and to the family members who came in on our special Family Day. It was a rather crafty month for us, as we made lots of gifts for our parents and created gingerbread houses with our family members on Family Day.

It's hard to imagine that January could match the excitement that December brought to us, but we've got so much in store for this month as well! For starters, we'll talk about resolutions and will update the goals we created at the beginning of the school year.

In early January, we'll also continue our study about the season of winter, which we started at the end of December, and will learn more about the states of matter. Maybe by then we'll get some snow and will be able to get in a few good experiments with ice and snow and discover first-hand about how matter changes. We'll also experiment with other mixtures, we'll play in some "glop" (cornstarch and water), and we'll follow a recipe to make our very own play dough.

This month, we'll also be learning about leadership and the qualities that make a good leader as we study about some famous American heroes and heroines. We'll also be revisiting the topics of friendship and respect as we further explore anti-bullying strategies. The kindergarten students will have a chance to practice their leadership skills on our "Kids Are Teachers Day" on January 17! On that day, the children will each have an opportunity to plan a lesson or activity and lead the class as "teacher" during part of the day.

Our biggest January event will occur at the end of the month. As long as DCCC is not closed for any winter storms during the month of January, our 100th Day of Kindergarten will take place on Wednesday, January 25. The children will bring in collections of 100 things to display in our 100 Day Museum. We welcome everyone to come and stop in to see it! Lots of fun activities are planned for that day, including a piñata which will be filled with 100 items!

\*\*\*Please be sure to send in a set of winter gear for your child to keep at DCCC. Cubbies are labeled in the Big Room for these items to be stored. Also, please be sure that your child has a complete set of extra seasonal clothing in his/her bin.

~ Ms. Katie & Ms. Cheri

# Kindergarten Readiness Information Night

Wednesday January 18th

(snow date: 1/19/17)

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Kindergarten Room



Kindergarten is far more challenging than it used to be...

How do I know if my child is ready for the challenge?

What are some of the essential skills my child should have before entering Kindergarten?

What can I do now to help prepare my child so that he/she will have a successful Kindergarten year?

For parents of children ages 3-5 years old.

Presented by: Katie Adams, DCCC Kindergarten Teacher

**ADULTS ONLY!**

## Why choose Kindergarten at DCCC?

- *Here's what the kids had to say about why they love Kindergarten here:*
  - *"I get to learn lots of new things I haven't learned before."*
    - *"I love Mrs. Katie."*
    - *"I like the hermit crabs."*
  - *"Centers are a fun part of our day."*
    - *Small class size*
  - *Daily communication with the teacher*
- *When we're here they can be here (snow, public school closures, etc.)*
- *Daily focus on ALL subject areas (science, social studies, math, reading, writing)*
- *Individual and group academic and social needs are met where they are—progress is recognized, challenges are presented, and goals are set.*



# DCCC information on:

## Weather related closings, delays and early dismissals

Dear Families,

As we anticipate entering the winter season soon, I want remind you of the following guidelines that pertain to weather related closings, delays and early dismissals.

### **Closing/delay due to bad weather:**

DCCC will be closed when the college is closed due to bad weather (snow/ice). We will continue to notify families via the e-mail distribution list and through the following media outlets:

TV Stations: WGAL Channel 8 (NBC), WHTM Channel 27 (ABC), WPMT FOX 43, WHP Channel 21 (CBS), and WLYH Channel 15 (UPN)

Radio Stations: WHP 580 AM, WRVW 97.3 FM The River, WRBT 94.9 FM BOB, WHKF 99.3 FM KISS, WITF FM 89.5 NPR, WINK 104 FM, WROZ 101.3 FM The Rose, and WI00 1000 AM (Carlisle Station).

In order to provide the utmost safety to the children within the Center, DCCC also reserves the right to decide to close even if the college would remain open.

If the College decides to delay, DCCC too will delay.

On a one hour delay DCCC will open at 8:30 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

On a two hour delay DCCC will open at 9:30 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

**DCCC opening at 10:00 a.m. – the 11:00 arrival policy will be extended to 11:30 a.m. to help accommodate the number of children at drop-off.**

Once again, if possible we will notify families via the e-mail distribution list and local TV stations.

### **Early Dismissal:**

When the college decides to close early due to worsening weather conditions, DCCC will close as well. However, we will add an hour to our closing time in relation to the college time to allow parents within the community enough time to make arrangements to pick up their child safely. (For example, if the college decides to close at 3:00 p.m., the Center will close at 4:00.)

This message will go out via e-mail distribution list, local TV stations and, when necessary the classroom teachers will call their individual families.

Please keep in mind that the college does not decide to close very frequently. However, when they do, it is necessary that we now follow their same schedule in order to provide the utmost safety to the DCCC staff as well. **We will be certain to make sure that the Children's Center is specifically stated in order to avoid confusion.**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter,

Gina VanKirk, Director