



Dickinson College Children's Center February 2017



From the Director's Desk

How did we make it to February without any snow? It was a little disappointing not having any snow yet this winter, but I do not want to say that too loud or we may find ourselves in the middle of a snowstorm in February. I happen to love, love, love this month. I think it is because I always look forward to Valentine's Day! It is such a fun day, I would leave fun little notes or little treats for my kids when they were young. Although they are much bigger, I still embrace the opportunity to tell them how much I love them. In addition to giving each other valentines, we also have many other things going on here at DCCC!

Both Kindergarten 2017- 2018 and Summer School Age Camp 2017 applications have been distributed. Kindergarten will consist of 15 children and the Summer Camp Program will enroll approx. thirty children a day at both Dragons I and Dragons II. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

The Pancake Breakfast will be held on February 11th from 8-11 at the Social Hall in the Holland Union Building here on campus. We are plan to have a visit from a Children's Author, Martial Arts and United Concordia about Dental Awareness for the children (Mascots). There will be a Book Fair, Arts and Crafts and Silent Auction. Tickets are available by calling the center, they may also be purchased at the door.

A Family Survey will go out during the month of February. This feedback is essential in helping the center to identify strengths and to identify areas to improve. We hope that each family will take the time to submit a survey.

A number of our teachers will also be attending the CAAEYC Early Childhood conference that is being held at Messiah College in March.

The Staff Training Day will be held on March 17th. Some of the staff will be participating in Pediatric First Aid and AED training. All the staff and substitutes will be trained on Fire Safety and the Emergency Preparedness Plan for the center at our February staff meeting.

Thanks and have a great month!

~Gina

Dates to

Remember:

February 11—DCCC
Pancake Breakfast
Fundraiser and
Usborne Book Fair
8-11 a.m.
Holland Union Building
Social Hall

February 21—Parent
Meeting at DCCC
4:15 p.m.
Big Conference Room

March 17—DCCC
Closed for Staff
Training Day

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Center Opening Time Change!



Beginning Monday February 6, 2017 the Children's Center will be opening at 7:15 a.m. In addition, the Infant Room will be staying open until 5:30 p.m.

Please understand that although we are making these changes in staffing, if this new schedule will alter your family's drop off/pick up in a significant way, please let us know. We hope that this adjustment will be helpful for a few of our families and for newly enrolled families.

Center Closing Time...

- In consideration of our staff, the Children's Center closes promptly at 5:30 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 to help our center earn roo points.

*Giant Bonus Card-Please make sure that you have registered your card online with our school.

Current:

***Pancake Breakfast-Saturday, February 11th**

Totals:

Sandwich Fundraiser-\$349.75

Box Tops- \$223.20

Lil' Angels Photography-\$435

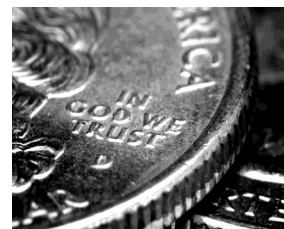
Shoparoo-\$60.90

KidStuff Books-\$575

Giant-\$495.87

Turkey Trot-\$5056.61

Holiday Cards-\$371.50



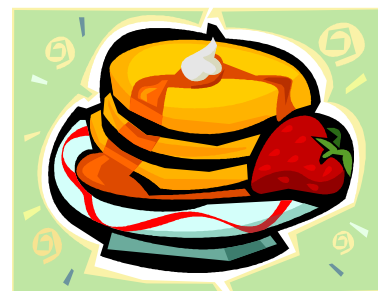
Total: \$7572.63

2016-2017 Goal: \$15,000

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!

February 11 2017 8-11 a.m.

HUB Social Hall



REMINDERS:

- Please continue to invite your friends and send in your ticket money
- Sign up in your child's classroom to bring in an item for the silent auction baskets!
 - Usborne Book Fair!!





Ducklings



January has been a month of transitions as we have all returned from a long winter break, become reacquainted and gradually resettled into our routines.

We are about half-way through our first winter together. Weather conditions so far have been fairly mild, so we have been able to play outside on a number of days. We are still waiting for our first real snowfall! We have explored ideas associated with winter through the scenes that play out beyond our windows, outdoors on our playground, during stroller walks around our neighborhood and on campus and through pictures, books, stories and song.

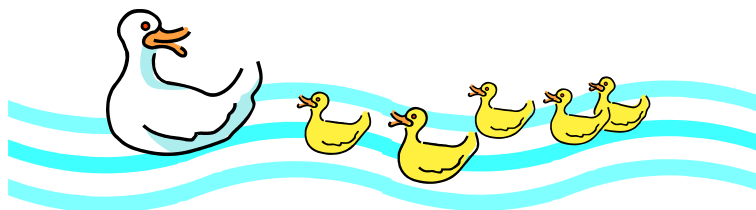
In February, we will consider the concept of shadows as we observe Ground Hog Day. We will explore shades of the color red and heart shapes in our environment, as well as thoughts of love, nurturing and caring for each other, as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day with related board books and songs. For our older infants, we will introduce chunky puzzles, more dramatic play toys, and puppet play. The "Big Room" will give us lots of space to practice crawling, pushing toys, and standing, walking, climbing, dancing and rolling & tossing balls. We will take nature walks whenever the temperatures permit. We will also continue to incorporate gestures and baby signing: waving, clapping, pointing, and blowing kisses and others gestures that build on our communication skills.

With each passing month now, we will celebrate another milestone birthday among our infants, marking young toddlerhood! For those young toddlers who are interested, simple art materials will be offered, chunky crayons or paper with small blobs of colorful finger paint, brush painting and sponge painting. This group of infants seems particularly interested in music and dancing, so we will offer more opportunities for diverse music, dancing and musical instruments.

We are excited about the February 11 Pancake Breakfast and hope that you are all planning to attend. The infants will participate in their small way toward the construction of a table center piece! The Duckling silent auction box is in the hallway by the front office if you wish to make a donation. The sign-up sheet with suggested item donations is posted on the infant room door. Our theme this year is Coffee and Chocolate. Also be sure to browse through the Scholastic book brochures that you find in your "go home" bins each month. It's a nice way to build on your baby's book library at home (they do feature board books). You may order on-line or submit your order to the office and with each book purchase you make, the Center gets points toward book purchases to enhance our own Duckling classroom library!

Now let's all hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



Yellow Puppies

January wasn't quite as cold and snowy as we had hoped, but we aren't complaining! We still talked about winter animals, snow, ice, and read some great winter books written by Jan Brett. Penguins, polar bears, walrus, and snowy owls make some fun noises that we heard and tried to replicate! We weren't lucky enough to have snow to play with, but we were able to explore ice. We watched what happens when ice gets warm, painted with ice cubes, and made some cute mitten handprints. We will be read The Mitten, The Hat, and Gingerbread Baby. We colored mittens, explored hats and gloves in our dress-up bin, and talked about the gingerbread that we had before break. We also be looked for different animals in the books, and practiced the sounds they make. Our favorite animal noises belong to farm animals! "Moo" is a fun sound to make, and we think it's pretty funny when our teachers make goat sounds!



February is a fun month in our room! We will focus on love, but we will stay busy incorporating lots of subjects into the month! We will be talking about our body parts this month. We love pointing to our eyes, ears, mouth, nose, elbows, knees, and toes. We will also talk about our teeth this month. We will be painting with tooth brushes, looking at our teeth, examining the big teeth and practicing brushing. We will spend time making pretty hearts, painting with the color red, and creating some fun individualized Valentine's day art.

Blue Puppies

We seem to be getting back to a routine after the new year break and a yucky cold virus that found it's way into the room. The rainy weather has kept us inside, but we found many things to keep us busy such as dancing, running around in the big room and lots of singing.

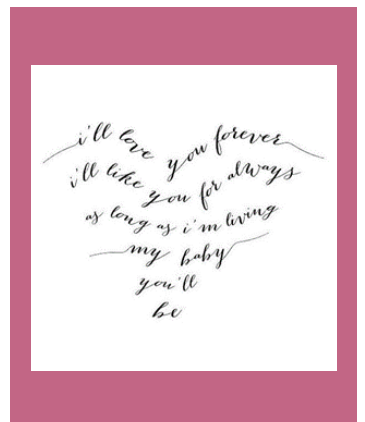
At the beginning of February we will be looking for our shadows and a groundhog, but the puppies will also be exploring our feelings, love, and being nice with our friends. We will be identifying the color red and using it in many of our art projects with paint, crayons, and paper. The puppies will be coloring hearts, painting handprint hearts, coloring a friendship collage. We will also be decorating a bag to put our Valentines in and make a love bug. I will be sending home a list of the kids names, please keep Valentines to just a card either bought or handmade.

We are hearing lots of words, full sentences, and seeing much interaction (group play) in the kitchen area. We moved the room around a little bit and the kids are enjoying the car area with a ramp/garage to send

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.



them down. There are some new blocks out and we have been excited about file folder activities. They are great for cognitive and fine motor!



REMINDERS:

- ~Items for bath fun basket
- ~hats and gloves/mittens for outside

~**CATHRYN & DONNA**

Yellow Honey Bees

Happy February everyone. I hope everyone had a great January. It is that time of year again where not only are there love bugs all around, but the germ bugs are flying around too. So please check your handbook for the sick policy. Ms. Gina does a great job letting us know what germ bugs are around. So please make sure that the children are washing their hands when dropped off. Thank you.

Please remember that February 11th is the pancake breakfast. This is a great time to come out and support the Center, and meet up with our friends outside of the classroom. The children love it. There will be books to order for your children and your children's classroom. Your children will even get to meet up with the author of the book Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse. We have been reading this book in our room. The children love it. We have a lot of friends in this room that love to read.

Feelings is our theme for this month. We will be talking about all the different feelings we have. We will talk about how it is ok to feel these feelings. We will discuss that when you feel some of these feelings it is ok /or not ok to act on them.

We will still be working on our colors and shapes. Of course this month we will focus more on RED and the Heart shape. We will do many craft projects with the color red, and the heart shape.

We will be trying to use the potties more. In the month of January, we talked about wet/dry. Now we will be sitting and trying to use the potties more. If you have any question about your child and the potty, please know that you can ask Sarah or myself at any time.

Even though the weather might be cold or snowy. We will go outside at times. So please bring in your children's snow gear.

Thank you,

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



Blue Busy Bees

January brought a lot of talk about Winter wonders but not a lot of snow to really experience the wonders of winter, maybe we will have more luck with snow in February. We did however start some new things in January that are going very well. The Blue Bees are awesome at the calendar. They quickly learned the days of the week song although they are not always accurate about the day that it is, but that is okay, they are learning and love to also count the days and help to take off and put up the new day and number. We have been having a lot of fun with our new songs that we dance to at large motor time and we are also learning them very quickly and have even developed some favorites that we ask to do each day.

We have started a new green, red and yellow behavior clip chart, green means keep going you are doing a great job, yellow means slow down, think about your choices and make better ones and red means it is time to take a break and sit down and think about the choices that you are making. This chart helps the children to visualize whether the choices they are making are a good choice or not so good choice. Jobs, jobs who wants a job? After morning clean-up, we gather on the orange carpet to pick a job for the day. This helps to motivate the children to clean-up so they can pick a job that they would like to help with. The jobs are fish feeder, line leader, door holder, AM or PM snack helper, and lunch helpers. We also met some new puppets from the Paths Program that help children with learning about feelings.

In February, we will be talking about love, kindness, feelings and community helpers. We will reintroduce the Paths Program puppets to help us recognize and manage the feelings that we feel and help us to recognize how are friends are feeling by reading their faces and body language. We will be reading books about feelings and will also be do projects that deal with feelings. Our weeks about love and kindness will also deal with feelings and we will have a Valentine exchange on February 14th. We plan to end February talking about those people in our neighborhood that we know and see working so hard around us Our Community Helpers.

If you have any questions about the changes that we have made to the room or anything that we change in the future, please do not hesitate to ask us about it.

Reminders:

*If we have snow on the ground, as long as the 'feels like' temperature is above 26 degrees, we will be going outside, so please make sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves, snow pants and boots here at school.

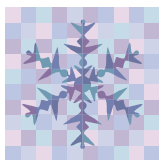
*Check your child's cubby monthly to be sure that he/she has extra clothing here at school in case of an accident. It is best to send back the next day, a replacement, of whatever sort of clothing went home. We try to send home notes when we see that a child needs some sort of clothing so if together we keep an eye on that supply of clothing, the children should be okay.

~JODY & CASSIE

Yellow Bear Cubs



We had a great time starting the New Year by playing games with our friends! We experienced some very fun games that our friends all shared nicely! We then learned about clothes that we wear in different seasons and different types of weather! We did some comparing of characteristics on our clothes. We enjoyed some great winter clothes stories by Jan Brett that also introduced us to some special animals!



In February, we will be wrapping up our clothing talks and winter weather conversations. We will talk about our feelings and learn how to “Do Turtle” throughout our feelings weeks. We will be having some



rhyming fun with some Dr. Seuss weeks at the end of the month!

Teddy Bear Reminders:

We are heading into our classroom birthdays in February, please take the time to review the birthday policy in the parent handbook, feel free to be in contact with me on any questions or suggestions if you would like to do something at school for your child.



MANDY AND CHERI

Blue Bears



The Teddy Bears sure did enjoy their unit on clothes! Who knew talking about clothes for a few weeks could be so entertaining! We learned all about different clothes for weather, clothes for different jobs. We most enjoyed the box washer and dryer and became pros at hanging clothes on the clothesline!

In February, we are change gears and talking about friends and what it means to be a friend. We will do special activities working with a friend and others as a group focusing on how we can have many friends. As we finish friendship, we will tie it in with our next topic being feelings. We will have many visits from our PATHS friends this week. Focusing on how all feelings are ok to have and how we can help ourselves or even others when we feel those uncomfortable feelings.

We will finish our month out starting with Ms. Ange’s all-time favorite’s Dr. Seuss. We will have many silly stories and of course, MANY silly things will be worn made and eaten these few weeks.

Please keep your eyes on the lesson plan these weeks so not to miss anything exciting.

Don't forget to keep the date open for the Pancake Breakfast Saturday February 11th. This is always a great time to see other families from the center and have a great breakfast.



We cannot wait for another month of fun!
~ ANGE & KENDRA



Bunnies

WOW! We are already in February of 2017, I feel like it was just New Year's yesterday! In January, we had a review of our classroom routine and rules just as a refresher after being gone for so long. We then moved into our Balls unit. The first week of the balls unit, we were exploring what we know about balls and then we figured out what we wanted to know. Then we moved on to how balls move. In this week, we discussed which ball bounces the highest and discovered if all balls roll. Then we discussed how and who uses balls. We finished out January with what are balls made of. Here we discovered how balls are made and talked about what different balls are made with.

Moving into February, we are moving into a unit about Pets. In the pets unit we will discover what animals are pets, what is the difference between pets and other animals. We will also explore what animals eat and how to take care of pets. We will also be working on our pancake centerpieces and are getting very excited for the pancake breakfast! On Tuesday February 14th, we will be doing a Valentine's Day Card exchange. We will send home a class list to help you make up the cards. Please do not send cards with candy.

Reminders:

Please make sure you signed and returned your Mid-year evaluations.

Please continue to check mailboxes daily for important information (located outside the classroom door on top of the cubbies)

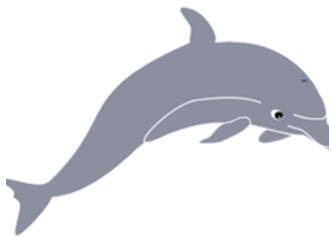
Important Dates:

February 6-9: Usborne Book Fair

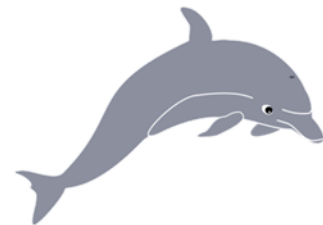
February 11- Pancake Breakfast

February 14- Valentine's Day Card Exchange

MS. BRITNEY AND MS. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



The children all did an awesome job of being teachers on our "Kids Are Teachers Day"! Each child was in charge of one part of the day. Some planned and carried out lessons and center activities, while others led our daily routines, like Meeting Time and News. It was a great leadership experience for the kids, and I saw confidence blossoming in every one of them.

We all had a great time celebrating our 100th Day of Kindergarten on January 25! We hunted for 100 hearts, broke a piñata with 100 things inside, and did lots of counting by 1s, 5s, and 10s. We had lots of parent volunteers coming in that day to volunteer and partake in our exciting festivities. We thank all who were able to come! We also created a great "100 Day Museum" in our classroom with all of the *amazing* 100 Day projects that the kids brought into school. Everyone earned an award and we had lots of DCCC and family visitors come to our museum.

We'll be celebrating Groundhog Day by learning a little bit about shadows. We're hoping the weather will cooperate with us so that we can get outside to do a few shadow experiments, but we'll settle for indoor experiments with flashlights if necessary!

Also in February we'll revisit our study about Health and Nutrition. We'll review about healthy habits and how to prevent germs from spreading. We'll also review the importance of exercise and eating nutritiously, and will learn about parts of our body and about dental health, as well.

We'll be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14. The children may all bring Valentine cards for their peers and we'll do a few Valentine-themed activities that day. We ask that you don't include candy with the cards, please.

We're planning two weeks of fun and rhyme at the end of February/ early March with "On the Loose With Dr. Seuss and Mother Goose"! We'll play around with rhyming words and alliteration, and will do our share of writing rhymes and stories. A few special days are planned during those weeks. We'll dress like a favorite nursery rhyme character, practice reciting nursery rhymes, and present our rhymes to some of the younger classes on "Nursery Rhyme Day" (Feb. 24). We'll be doing everything in a wacky way on "Wacky Wednesday" (March 1). "Dr. Seuss Day" will be on March 2, Dr. Seuss's actual birthday. That day we'll all come to school dressed like our favorite Dr. Seuss character and will enjoy a Seussy lunch of green eggs and ham and butter side up bread.

Our beloved student teacher, Lauren, will be back in February to volunteer on Thursday afternoons. We've all missed her, and it will be wonderful to have her back with us again!

If you haven't already done so, please send in boots and snow pants to keep here at DCCC. That way, your child will be ready when the snow finally decides to arrive.

~ Ms. Katie & Ms. Cheri



DCCC information on: Weather related closings, delays and early dismissals

Dear Families,

As we are entering the winter season, 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 8:15 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

On a two hour delay DCCC will open at 9:15 (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