

Dickinson College Children's Center March 2017

From the Director's Desk

We are getting closer to Spring every day! We are thankful for our big room! It has been wonderful allowing the kids to continue with their large motor play even when it is too cold to go outside. It great to also have a space for Soccer Shots, Martial Arts and Music!

We are in the process of finalizing our Kindergarten spots for the 2017-18 school year. We are currently working off the wait list to fill remaining spots. If you know of anyone that may be interested in our full day or Kindergarten only day (9-3), please have them call the center office.

We had an overwhelming response for summer camp this year! Both camps will be held from June 5th to August 18th. We will be hiring a few new teachers to help us out for the summer and we can't wait to get started. Currently, we are scheduling buses, field trips and activities and finalizing camper schedules for the camp programs.

During February, all staff and substitutes were trained in both Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Staff reviewed the hands on steps in using a fire extinguisher and discussed evacuation procedures. Emergency Relocations were also discussed and reviewed at this time.

We have been working very hard on our projections for our fall class assignments. Class rosters will be shared at the Parent Meeting in April. An email will also be sent out to notify all parents. Spring conferences will be offered at the end of April and will be a great time to discuss your child's move up. Once class groups are set, we will begin the enrollment process for new children.

It's that time of year again to resign forms. During conferences in the month of April, families will be asked to review and resign each child's paper work. Additional Family Handbooks, Emergency Plan Letters and copies of the center Guidance Procedures will be available for families.

During spring, we will be getting some additional work done to our playground. The Pre-school playground will have the new surface replaced due to some imperfections in the surface that were noted initially when it was installed.

The center will be closed on March 17th for a training day. A number of teachers will review their Pediatric First Aid certification, attend a staff meeting and complete additional training online.

~Gina

Dates to Remember:

MARCH

**March 8—Infant/
Toddler & Sibling
Portraits**

**March 9—Preschool/
Kindergarten Portraits**

**March 17—DCCC
Closed for Staff
Training Day**

**April 7—Grandparent
Visiting Day (see inside
for details)**

Inside this issue:

Announcements	1-3
Ducklings	4
Yellow Puppies/Blue Puppies	5
Yellow Bees	6
Blue Bees	7
Yellow Bears	8
Blue Bears Bunnies	8/9 9
Kindergarten	10

Fundraising Update - (super exciting news here!)

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.

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

Pancake Breakfast-\$6544.61

Total: \$14,301.13

2016-2017 Goal: \$15,000

Grandparent Visiting Day

Friday, April 7th

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Puppies, Bees & Bears

11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Ducklings

2:00 – 3:00 Kindergarten

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Bunnies

Grandparents (or special person in our life) are invited to spend some time at the Center reading books, doing crafts, playing and learning together!





Ducklings



We welcome the month of March with still a few more weeks of winter, but the promise of spring! In February we celebrated Valentine's Day with heart shapes, hugs and kisses, stories, songs and shades of red and pink in paints and crayons. We took advantage of every day possible to play outdoors. Despite a relatively mild winter, we did experience the snow fall once or twice and brought some fresh powdery snow indoors! Thank you, families, for your thoughtful Valentine greetings, flowers and gifts! We loved seeing you all at the annual Pancake Breakfast!

March is a fun month of transition to spring! We will watch for the early signs of spring, take nature walks, and experience kite-shapes and green shamrocks in our classroom environment. We will paint and color in shades of green. We will sample Irish Soda Bread and listen to Celtic music. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with board book readings from his fun, nonsensical, rhyming words. We will continue to label some of our body parts, as we learn more about ourselves.

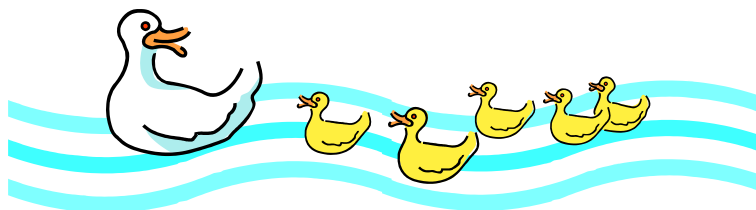
We will practice eating solids from spoons and forks, practice drinking from sippy cups and self-feeding simple table foods. Parents of older infants (9 months and older), please send in small bits of table foods from home for lunches. Older infants are ready to give up being spoon fed pureed foods and they love the new found independence of being able to feed themselves...great for their fine motor development and their self-esteem! Always introduce new foods at home before sending them in to the Center to be sure your baby doesn't have a food sensitivity. Please review the choking hazard list and remember we are a peanut-free and tree nut-free center (this includes mango, which surprisingly is considered a member of the tree nut family!). Now, let's get ready to celebrate spring!

Parent Calendar Reminders:

March 8: Infant Portraits (with their older siblings)

March 17: Teacher in-service day (DCCC closed)

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



Yellow Puppies

February was a fun month in our room! We focused on love, but we stayed busy incorporating lots of subjects into the month! We talked about our body parts this month. We loved pointing to our eyes, ears, mouth, nose, elbows, knees, and toes. We also talked about our teeth this month. We made smiles and toothbrushes, looked at our teeth, and talked about brushing. We spent time making pretty hearts, painting with the color red, and creating some fun individualized Valentine's day art. We hope you liked them!

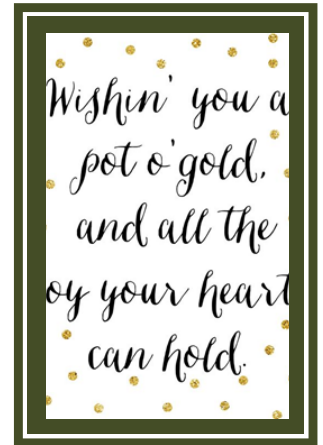
Reminders:

- Make sure you're checking your child's mailbox daily!
- Please cut round foods such as grapes, hot dogs, and carrots in quarters.



March is going to be a month full of books! We will spend time listening to books by Dr. Seuss, Sandra Boynton, Eric Carle, and our favorite series of touchy-feely books. We will create art to go with the books we read, sing songs that go with the books, and even eat some special snacks! We will be sponge painting truffula trees, making handprint fish, creating butterfly art, and we might even make our own touch and feel book!

LACI & ALISHA



Blue Puppies

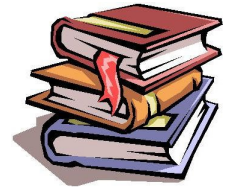
March is here, along with some wild and crazy weather! This month the Puppies will be enjoying lots of books from some popular children's authors such as Dr. Seuss, Eric Carle, Sandra Boynton, Iza Tapani, and Eileen Christelow. If you have any books by these wonderful authors please feel free to share with us! The puppies wore stripes and enjoyed some green eggs in honor of Dr. Seuss. Made our own Very Hungry Caterpillar with paper plates. The puppies will color some farm animals and do a little barnyard dancing, paint an "Itsy Bitsy Spider", and color a monkey and do some jumping (but not on the bed).

We will also have some St. Patrick's Day fun by painting with green paint, coloring a shamrock and having a special leprechaun snack. Wear green!

We are starting to see some independent problem solving skills evolving, making blocks stack, putting toys in bins/bags to carry more than one, wanting to stand on objects to reach (awesome, but not encouraged) and sharing/turn taking! Lots of interactive play between children and counting/color recognition.

Blocks, cars, and animals seem to be some of more popular objects of play for now, especially blocks that connect.

We will be starting to introduce an open cup during morning snack.



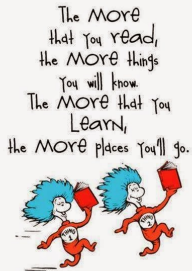
REMINDERS:

- ~Keep/bring layers (sweatshirt, jacket, coat) for outside play. Cool mornings and warm afternoons
- ~Label cheese sticks, yogurt pouches/tubes, containers, baggies.
- ~Wash bedding over the weekend. Help keep those germs away.
- ~Wear sturdy shoes, we like to go on walks in nice weather.

~ **CATHRYN & DONNA**

Yellow Honey Bees

The months just keep marching by. We just can't believe it. We hope you had fun at the pancake breakfast, we know the children love seeing their friends somewhere other than the classroom. We hope you got a chance to look and purchase a book at the book fair. The children love books. Hence the theme for this month is Bonkers for books.



At the beginning of March, we will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. We will read many books from Dr. Seuss. We will do many craft project to go with the books that we read. If your child has a favorite Dr. Seuss book, please feel welcomed to bring it in for them to share with the class.

Next we will move on to Eric Carle books. Again we will read several of his books and do many crafts with those books. I know we all have a favorite Eric Carle book. Mine is "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?" This was the book that my granddaughter read first which brings great memories. I also like this book because we will write our very own book in our room called "Yellow Bees, Yellow Bees, What Do You See?"

We will read many, many, many more books this month. Sarah and I love this month because we will have the children make a cover for their very own book, that we will help them write. This is always fun! We will end the month with your children bring in their favorite books from home. More information about this to come.

Important Dates for March:

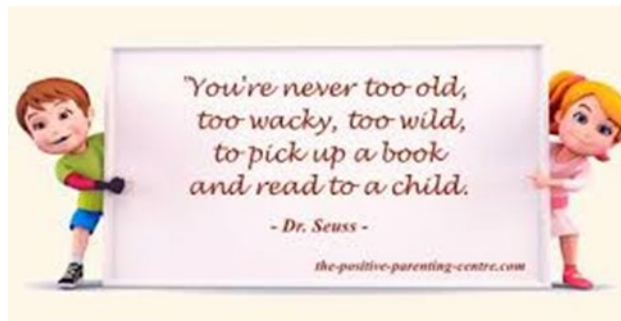
March 8th– Infant/Toddler & Sibling Portraits

March 17th– Center will be closed for teacher training

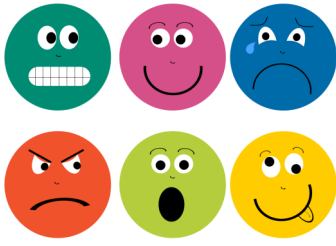
The weather is hopefully starting to get nice. By the end of this month (hopefully) is when your child will need to wear a heavy coat in the morning, but by the afternoon maybe a lighter coat, so please make sure we have both.

Please be sure to label, label everything. Soon the children will be opening their own lunches up and telling us if they have something to be heated. (it won't be long until they are moving on from us!) so we will be working on a lot of things that they will be doing next year.

MS. BARB & MS. SARAH



Blue Busy Bees



In February, the blue bees explored many emotions – happy, sad, angry, surprised, excited, scared. They talked about how each emotion makes you feel and what it looks like on your face. They also had fun with many feelings projects that required them to think about how the emotion makes a person look on the outside and feel on the inside. Our best emotion was the emotion of Love during the week of Valentines Day. The blue bees felt happy and were very excited to pass out their valentines to each other. We ended the month of February talking about community helpers.

We discussed the type of jobs that community helpers do, how they dress for those jobs, what they do while working at their job, whether or not they must be brave to do their job and if they would like to grow up to do some of these jobs.

In March, the blue bees will be talking about books. We will learn about authors and illustrators, how to handle books to keep them clean and in good repair. All of our projects and activities will center around the books that we are reading. Please feel free to bring favorite books the entire month to share at school.



****The Blue bees now have enough three year olds in underwear, so we will be able to go out and make some short visits to the big kids playground. All children visiting the big kids playground must be 3 and be in underwear.** This tends to be a great motivating factor for our friends who just need a little extra encouragement in this area so please be working with them at home as we work here in our room. Please let us know if you have any questions about this or any other matter!

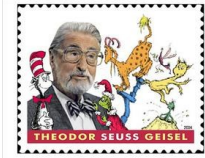
JODY AND CASSIE



Yellow Bear Cubs

The Teddy Bear room has been a very busy place, in February! We talked about our feelings, and how to keep our friends feeling happy! We finished our week on Dental health and we are now dental experts as well!

We will be looking forward to a rhyming good time with our two Dr. Seuss/ rhyming weeks to kick off the month of



March! We will be jumping into our Balls unit where we will be talking about different balls, what they can and cannot do, their shape, color size, and more!



Teddy Bear Reminders:

The weather will be transferring to spring (HOPEFULLY)! Dress your children in lay-

ers so as the weather turns warm throughout the day, they may be comfortable. PLEASE UPDATE THE EXTRA CLOTHES BINS AS WELL!



As we head into our season of birthdays, please take the time to review the healthful birthday policy in the parent handbook or ask Ms. Mandy!

Dates to Remember:

The center will be closed on Friday March 17th for staff development!

&

Grandparents Visiting Day is Friday April 7th!

MANDY AND CHERI

Blue Bears

We have had a great start into March as we celebrate Dr. Seuss and many of his wonderful stories. We have enjoyed being silly with the things we wear to school and the silly activities we have done. We will continue Dr. Seuss so be looking for more silly things on the lesson plan.



Next, we will begin to explore balls and different sizes and uses. We will explore how they move and roll and how others bounce. We will be very hands on with this unit as we learn how even though balls are all round they can be very different from each other.

As we move closer to spring, the weather will also be warming up and we will be spending more time outside. The spring temperatures can be tricky please watch the weather so your child has a warm enough or a lighter coat for the playground.



We will also be on the lookout for that crazy little leprechaun that visits us and creates a mess each year. St. Patrick's day is always fun and full of surprises! Please note that the center will be closed March 17th for a staff development day.



~ANGE & KENDRA



Bunnies

March really came in like a lion! This has had to be one of the craziest winters we have had in a while. Back in the beginning of February, we wrapped up our unit about balls. We learned that a golf ball actually bounces the highest, despite its small size, what the circumference of a ball was and what balls are made of. Then we moved into our unit about pets. During our pet unit, we learned about how to take care of pets, the difference between domestic and wild animals, what and how pets eat, and even had a special visitor! Tex, the pony came to visit.

Rilyn showed us how she takes care of him and we got to watch her ride Tex around the parking lot! We also spent a few days on feelings and dental health. The children loved passing out their Valentine's Day cards to each other!

In March, we have a lot planned as well. The first two weeks we will have some wacky silly fun talking about Dr. Seuss. We will read some of his books and we will learn about rhyming. Then we will move into just a week on books where we will learn about the parts of books and what is fiction and non-fiction. After that, we will have a week on spring and weather as we celebrate the first official day of spring on March 20th. Rounding out the month will be a week about frogs and tadpoles. We will learn about their life cycle, where they live and all about the different types of frogs. If we are lucky, Ms. Mandy will bring some tadpoles in to our classroom for us to observe!

Important Dates:

March 8th and 9th-Spring Portraits

March 17th - DCCC CLOSED for a staff-training day

Reminders:

Please make sure that your child has extra clothes in their bin that fit and are seasonally appropriate.

Please check your child's mailbox DAILY for important information

MS. BRITTNEY AND MS. CARLY





Kindergarten Dolphins



February was the month of our Chinese Dragon parade and Valentines galore. By the end of the month we reached our goal of performing 100 acts of kindness... not a difficult task for this group of sweethearts! It was also the perfect month for learning about how to care for our bodies. We were very fortunate to have a visit from two dentists this year. Matthew's Mom (Dr. Keri) and Lauren's Mom (Dr. Amy) come in to teach us about dental health. We also learned about general health and germ prevention, and the function of various parts of our bodies from our skin to our hearts. The kids were fascinated with these topics!

We are celebrating the music of rhyme during our "On the Loose with Dr. Seuss and Mother Goose" weeks during the last part of February and the beginning of March. We're learning to recognize familiar rimes in print and to decode unfamiliar words by looking for familiar little chunks within the words. We've been practicing reading and writing rhymes and will be creating and performing alliterative sentences and stories for our classmates. We had/ are having three special days connected to this fun theme. On Nursery Rhyme Day, we had a great time dressing up and performing our nursery rhymes for other classes. On Dr. Seuss Day the children came to school dressed up as their favorite Dr. Seuss characters. We read lots of Dr. Seuss books and made a delicious Seussy lunch of green eggs and ham and butter-side-up bread. On Wacky Wednesday we hope to see some very wacky dressers, and we'll have some crazy activities to make the day even more fun!

In mid-March, the Kindergartners will begin a study about dinosaurs. We'll measure and compare the lengths of various dinosaurs, and we'll learn about the differences between carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. We'll read If the Dinosaurs Came Back and will create our own class book about some amazing and rather outrageous things we could do with dinosaurs if they came back!

Winter's nearly over now and some signs of spring have already begun to pop up. Towards the end of the month we'll learn about cycles of growth with both plants and animals (including humans!), and the children will each create a "This is My Life" book. Using photos or drawings of themselves from birth through the present, they'll write about how they've grown each year. We'll learn about how other animals grow, too. We'll find out about the various animals that hatch from eggs, and will discover that some animals are more dependent upon their parents than others.

~ MS. KATIE & MS. CHERI