



Dickinson College Children's Center October 2017

From the Director's Desk

Welcome to all our families. We cannot believe that September has come and gone so quickly. Wow the weather sure was unpredictable these past few weeks. We are hoping the cooler weather is here to stay.

Our Enrollment is currently at 116 children, including 97 families. We have filled our last spot with a previously enrolled family who will be returning to our Kindergarten Program. The wait list is back on line for the remainder of this year.

DCCC welcomed one new substitute (Patty Taylor) and four new student workers (Maya, Mackenzie, Rachel and Dineydi) this month (please see page 2 for their bios). We also are excited that the Shippensburg Education students will be joining us for one day a week for a total of 10 weeks this semester. Two of the students will be in each of the preschool rooms.

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 available through the United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County. We are delighted that a handful of our families qualified for the assistance and were able to take advantage of this wonderful program.

Once again, we are offering Soccer Shots and Martial Arts for ages three and up (Yellow Bears-Kindergarten). It is a great way to introduce children to new experiences while at the same time being in a familiar place. We hope to be offering a small dance class through the Pennsylvania Central Youth Ballet within the next few weeks.

We are excited to continue our work within the SPEC (Supporting Positive Environments for Children) program. Our core group has been meeting as well as completing a few classroom assessments. Staff will participate in an overall training for PBS (Positive Behavior Supports) at the October Staff Meeting.

It is such a busy time with lots of fun activities coming up right around the corner!

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Dates to Remember:

October 16-November 1—Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 24—Parent Meeting 4:15 p.m.

October 26—Class Fall Harvest Parties

November 15-DCCC Turkey Trot Fundraiser (rain date 11/17)

November 16—Thanksgiving Feast for children

November 22—DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break

November 23—DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break

November 24—DCCC Closed – Thanksgiving break





Important safety reminders:

- When parking in the morning or evening, please be sure to avoid parking on the yellow curb. This is an area that is blocked off in order for cars to drive and park safely. Please use an alternate parking area toward the east end of the building or on Louthier Street.
- Please remember to turn your car's engine OFF when arriving at the Children's Center. We don't want to risk any accidents happening because cars are left on when the owner is inside of the building.

As always, the safety of the children and our families is our number one priority. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Fundraising Update

As you know, our goal for the year is \$15,000. As always we have the "No Effort" Fundraisers like **Box Tops**, **GiantA+** rewards, and **Shoparoo**. Last year, those fundraisers alone helped raise \$1,152.45. So I hope your family has been collecting **Tops**, connected their **Giant** card, and has the **Shoparoo** app!



We've already raised \$494 from the Southside Deli Sandwich sale.

During the first week of October, we will have pictures taken by Lil' Angels, which is another fundraiser that a portion of the picture cost comes right back to us. The pictures turn out so unbelievably cute, so of course you'll want to participate in that!

Throughout the year, we have **TWO major fundraisers**: the Turkey Trot in the fall and Pancake Breakfast in the spring. If your family only participates in the BIG ONES, then your first opportunity is coming up quickly! We have been collecting labels to send out to family or friends far away to sponsor your children in the Turkey Trot on November 15th. With their donations we will be able to purchase new equipment for the playgrounds and other classroom necessities. Last year we raised \$5,056.61! We hope to do A LOT better this year, and if we can do that, as well as beat last year's Pancake Breakfast (\$6,544.61) we will have to do a smaller amount of tiny fundraisers throughout the year! We hope you're able to help us out!

Introducing some new (and returning) faces!!



New Substitute:

Patty Taylor

My Name is Patty Taylor and I graduated from Shippensburg University with a BA in Elementary Education and a minor in Early Childhood.

I subbed for many years in the CASD then focused my energy on touching the lives of preschoolers for over 10 years in the Carlisle community. I currently am a substitute at DCCC and a receptionist at 5th Avenue Salon. My husband and I additionally host dancers from CPYB year round. I love to spend time my family and enjoy planning parties in my spare time.

Student Workers:

Mackenzie Gallant: My name is Mackenzie and I am a sophomore at Dickinson majoring in neuroscience. I am from a small town in Massachusetts. When I came to Dickinson I fell in love with the campus and the science programs they offer. This is my first year at the Children's Center and I am so excited to be working and playing with kids. I have been babysitting the same family since I was 16 years old, and was a nanny this past summer. I love to hike, play with my dogs, and was a competitive gymnast for 13 years.

Maya Cromwell: Hello! My name is Maya Cromwell and I am a sophomore at Dickinson College. I am a sociology major and educational studies minor. I love working with kids and have lots of experience. I have been babysitting since I was 13, have worked at a camp counselor at a co-ed overnight camp the past 4 years, and I teach swim lessons to children of all ages! I am first-aid and CPR certified (as well as lifeguard and water safety instructor certified).

Rachel Lockwood: Hello! My name is Rachel Lockwood. I am a Junior at Dickinson College and this is my second year as a student worker at DCCC. I am a Psychology major with a minor in English. I spent this past summer in Portland, Maine (where I'm originally from), working on a small, family-owned vegetable farm leading interactive camps for kids centered around sustainable farming. When I am not at DCCC, I am taking ballet classes at Central PA Youth Ballet, hiking with friends, or taking advantage of the delicious restaurants in town. I'm looking forward to continuing the experience I was able to have last year getting to know the wonderful students at DCCC!

Dineydi Matos: Hi! My name is Dineydi Matos I am a sophomore at Dickinson College. I am an Educational Studies Major and an Africana Studies Minor. I aspire to be a teacher. I am glad to be working a second year at the Children Center.

Jessica Pope: I am a senior at Shippensburg University majoring in early childhood education. I have been working here at DCCC for over two years and have really enjoyed my experience. I have also worked with children while on a mission trip to Haiti trice where I taught a week long program to Kindergarteners and third graders. I am looking forward to spending some time here this fall working with your children!





DUCKLINGS



September has been a time of adapting to our new environment and to each other. 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, some crawling and some beginning to stand and cruise, all evermore curious and ready to explore. There are very few tears at morning drop-off now. We are getting to know each other.

This month 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. Carmelo's daddy will come in and read to us in Spanish during the month of October!

October is always a busy month at DCCC! The infants will have their first "School Pictures"! The Center will commemorate "Fire Safety Week" with the annual visit of community firefighters and their big, shiny red fire truck. Later in the month there will be the center-wide Fall Harvest celebration. While we do not dress in Halloween costumes in the infant room, we invite 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 hamper our ability to change diapers. And finally, we will meet for Parent-Teacher Conferences.

We are moving into the cold and flu season, so be sure to discuss flu vaccination during your upcoming well baby visits if you have not already done so. Our babies under 6 months cannot be vaccinated against the flu, 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. 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 around our classroom.

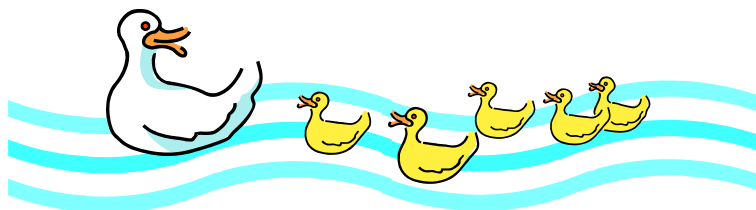
* As temperatures drop, please send in sweaters for cool mornings outdoors, as well as protective footwear, such as a "Robeez" style soft bootie or a similar shoe or bootie. Babies grow so fast...make sure back-up clothing remains size-appropriate.

* October 4 - Infant Portraits

* October 16 – Duckling Parent-Teacher Conferences

* October 26 – Fall Harvest Celebration (simple costume optional)

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 searching for colorful leaves. 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 26. 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!



CoghillCartooning.com



BLUE PUPPIES



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



This month we will explore apples, 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.

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.

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 26 with kid friendly music and some fun games, wear a Halloween shirt or one that is black and/or orange. No costumes please.



A sign up was sent via e-mail for your child’s conference, the Blue Puppies will be on October 18th. Please fill out the pre-conference form and return before their conference. We can’t wait to talk about all the fun things your child has been doing!

Please make sure round foods such as hotdogs and grapes are cut into “quarters”. These foods when whole or halved, are a choking hazard. They are smooth and can slide down their throat easily and cutting them helps prevent this. If they are not, we will send them back home with a reminder.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- ~have a sweater or jacket for those cool mornings
- ~check bin for extra clothing
- ~check child’s folder for papers
- ~bring in 4-5 family pictures to hang up

~CATHRYN & DONNA



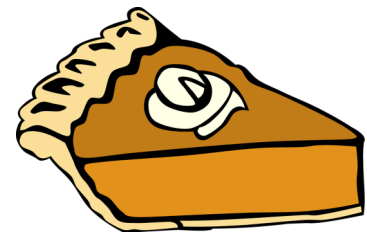
YELLOW HONEY BEES



Can you believe that October is upon us? We have had a busy month learning our shapes and our colors, and have done many activities to reinforce these concepts. The children are doing such a nice job and are so eager to learn more. They are enjoying the new addition to our classroom...dramatic play. It’s a blast to watch them transform into ballerinas, firefighters, police officers, and so much more.

Our theme for October is “Fall into Autumn”. We will be learning about apples, leaves, community helpers, fall colors, and Halloween. We have many fun crafts, fine motor, science activities, songs, and many books to read throughout the month. At the end of the month we will have a fall party.

More information will be coming. Just a reminder, if you have not brought in family photos to share, please do so. We are in the process of making a collage for each child. Thank you!



~BARB & MICHELE

BLUE BUSY BEES



As September ends and we start the month of October, Cassie and Jody would like to thank all the parents for making sure that their child has family pictures to hang in the room. The children love looking at them and pointing out their loved ones to their friends. We had fun in September talking and learning about colors. We love how colors change as they mix. Counting numbers, matching numbers to amount of items, counting 1-10 and figuring out the amount when items are added or removed. Letters, learning the letter that starts our name and learning to recognize our name in print. Shapes being able to name them and beginning to compose and decompose shapes. The week of opposites, was

full of opposite fun our most favorite activity that week was sink or float.

In the month of October, we will be talking about Health and Safety. The children will participate in fall related activities as well as talk about the colors of fall red, green, yellow, orange and brown. The children will also participate in two cooking activities (apple crisp and pumpkin bread.) and will have fun exploring apples, leaves, pumpkins and gourds. During the last full week of the month, we will have a Spooky fun week where we will go on a walk to the HUB for a parade and learn some new spooky songs. We will also have a visit from a fire company and ambulance rescue team (date TBD).



Family Reminders:

- *Be sure to sign up for a parent-teacher conference
- *If your child needs a fork for their lunch, please provide on from home
- *Take your child's bedding home at the end of your child's week and bring new on your child's first day the following week
- *Please, leave toys from home at home
- *With cooler weather just around the corner, it would be a good idea to keep a light coat or sweatshirt at school for cool mornings outside on the playground
- *Please, be sure to have your blue bee wash his/her hands upon arrival in the blue bee room before beginning to play



~**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!



fun day where the bears can come in costumes and enjoyed fun centers in the big room, more details will come soon!



We will be having some Fire Safety and Community Helper fun, as well as having 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



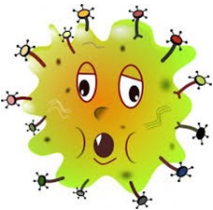
Conferences to tell you how your child has transitioned into the bear room and where they are developmentally will be October 23rd! I look forward to talking with all of you!

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 sue 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 pretending to be veterinarians and take good care of our pets 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!

Next 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!

We will finish up our month with talking all about fall changes in weather and how we need to dress to come to school or go outside. We will talk about fall foods like apples and pumpkins and make a few fall treats to eat. We will end with some spooky fun and our fall parties on October 26th. More detail will be sent out closer to the date.



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 s plastic spoon. If you want to send a fork along we will make sure it gets returned in your child's lunch box.



~ANGE & KENDRA

BUNNIES



We had a great month in September. We started our clothing unit where we learned how to make clothing, what we use clothing for, different types of clothing, clothing from around the world and clothing that is necessary for a variety of types of jobs. This helped us transition into our community helpers weeks. We started our question of the day activity and the children are doing great with spelling and recognizing the words Yes and No. In our journals we practiced holding the crayon correctly and sitting in our chair the proper way for writing time. We moved into our color pages, which taught us how to control our crayons by going slowing and looking at the paper. We talked about the pictures on the paper, how to spell the color, and the beginning sounds of the words on each page. We also talked about the sign for each color using ASL. We also welcomed two Shippensburg Student teachers Ms. Kelly and Mr. Levi who will be helping in our class for a few weeks.



In October, we have many things coming up! We welcomed Ms. Carly back and everyone was excited to see her again! We will finish out our clothing unit with community helpers, fire safety, and then celebrating with a PJ day! Then we will move into a week about fall and the changes we are seeing outside. We will then move into our tree unit where we will be talking about different parts of a tree, leaves, and food from trees. In October, we will be carving pumpkins, doing some science experiments, and making some delicious apple crisp. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets on donations closer to the time. We will have some fun activities with pumpkins when we get closer to our Fall Harvest Party. During this month, we will also have a visit from a Police Dog, Ambulance and a Fire Truck!



Reminders

- *Make sure all lunch boxes and heat up containers (no glass) end up in the heat up bin and are LABELED with your child's name
- *Make sure you are cooking your child's food at home and we are just REHEATING it
- *Make sure you are checking your child's mailbox daily
- *Check your child's extra clothing bins frequently to make sure there are extra clothes that fit and are seasonally appropriate

Dates to Remember

Friday October 4th and 5th: Picture Day

Thursday October 26th: Fall Harvest Parties (More information to come closer to the time)

Friday October 27th and Monday October 30th: Bunny Conferences

~**BRITTNEY & CARLY**



KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS

September was a busy and productive month. We're becoming quite an awesome community of learners and expert bucket-fillers! Our "Awesome Points" behavior plan is working quite well. We have already earned the letters we needed to complete our "We are awesome" chart once and chose to have a Stuffed Animal Day as our reward. We're now on our way toward our second goal.

We are all very excited to welcome a new member to our Dolphin class on October 9. Nalini attended DCCC last year, so many of the kindergarten students already know her quite well.

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. An ambulance visit is planned for October 10 and the fire department will come to visit on October 20. On October 19, we'll have a visit from police officers and their police dog. We are also looking forward to visits from other parents who have signed up to come in and share about their occupations. On October 20 in the Kindergarten Room (same day as the firefighter visit), 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. at the end of October and will be given a tour of their facility when we deliver the food in November. 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 May.

On October 26, 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.

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

~ **MS. KATIE & MS. SONDR**A