



Dickinson College Children's Center December 2017



From the Director's Desk

I would like to thank all families for their cooperation with the Mini Turkey Trot event. It was quite the task walking the children to the Dickinson track and back! We all had a very fun and memorable time. Thank goodness for the nice weather again this year. Your participation at the track was wonderful and the children had a fun time. I know that we came in quite a bit below our goal this year but it is such a fun experience for the children and they really do enjoy all the extra activities leading up to the trot. It is the one fundraiser that is all about the kids and it has such a positive message about being active and eating healthy!

On November 9th the children and staff enjoyed a Thanksgiving Meal prepared by Dining Services. Each of the older classes enjoyed the group meal in the big room. Our smaller children remained in their own classroom but also enjoyed the yummy food. Thanks to dining services for a delicious meal. The children were so well behaved!

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

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

As a center, we have been working on the SPEC (Supporting Positive Environments for Children) program. We volunteered to be part of the SPEC Program sponsored by the Intermediate Unit. The teachers attended a brief over view of the program last month. Assessments on a number of the teachers have been completed and the scores have been shared. After participating in some additional trainings and implementing some new strategies we will complete the assessments again and compare the scores. We are excited to get started!

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

-GINA VANKIRK, DIRECTOR

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- Dates to Remember:**
- December 5—Hearing Screening for Kindergarten**
 - December 6—Parent Meeting 4:15 p.m. Big Conference Room @ DCCC**
 - December 6—Vision Screening for children ages 2 and up**
 - December 18-January 1, 2018—DCCC Closed**
 - January 2, 2017—DCCC re-opens**

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FUNDRAISING

This just in....

Lil' Angels Photography total = \$415

Turkey Trot = \$4,225. We are short of our goal of over \$5,000, so hopefully the Pancake Breakfast will over compensate for that! We may be looking at a couple extra fundraisers in the spring. We are still accepting donations for Turkey Trot, so spread the word!

Just kicked off... Kidstuff Coupon Books

Use just a few coupons and easily save more than the \$25 cost of the book...Remember to keep KidStuff in your car! Most coupons are long-term and valid for 16 months! You will enjoy fabulous savings from: ToysRUs/BabysRUs, Weis, Disney Store, H&M, Legoland, Sesame Place, Isaac's, Subway, Carrabba's, and many many more!!!

Coming Soon.... Pancake Breakfast... If you would like to help out by volunteering your time, let us know. Planning will be starting soon!

Ongoing.... Giant A+ Rewards so far.... \$175.02

Shoparoo We have 21 supporters and so far \$23,975 Roo points. 25,000 points is \$50 for DCCC!! Just like that! Check out the website below:

<https://shoparoo.com/howitworks.html>

Remember, fundraising is the #1 way we can provide extras for your kids that help us go above and beyond the norm. Classroom wish lists are created with your child's interest and needs in mind! We ask for your help in participating when you can. We appreciate ANY participation! Our yearly goal is \$15,000, so far we are at \$5514.72.



YOU ARE INVITED...

WHAT: Parent Meeting—Pancake Breakfast &

SPEC Program Overview

WHO: All DCCC Families

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

WHERE: DCCC Big Conference Room

We hope to see some of you there!

Hallway Safety:

Families are to remain with their children in the hallway at all times...

At drop-off:

Please be sure to drop your child off in the classroom with their teacher.

At pick-up:

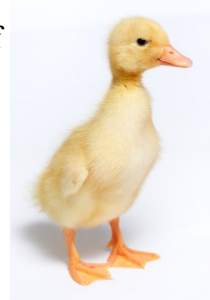
There are many families in the hallway at the end of the day and it's easy for little ones to get caught in the shuffle. Please be sure you stay with your child or children at all times.

As always., the safety of the children in our care is our number one concern. Thank you for your attention this matter.



DUCKLINGS

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



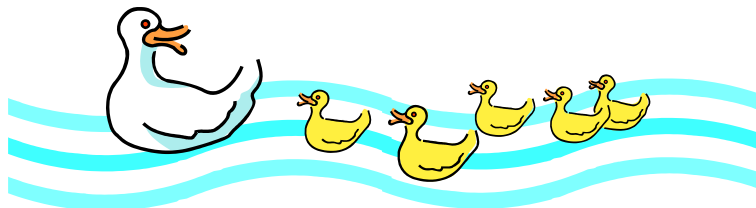
In December we will experience some of the diverse ways that families celebrate the winter holidays, adding new story board books, pictures, music, songs and finger play to our repertoire. We will continue games that involve clapping and other gestures, such as waving, pointing, blowing kisses and simple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

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

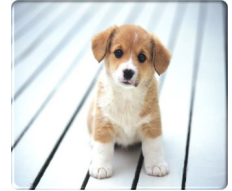
Please be sure that your baby has appropriate clothing for outdoor weather – we will be spending time outdoors if the temperature/wind chill factor is above 25 degrees F.

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

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



YELLOW PUPS



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



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

~ **LACI & ALISHA**

FAMILY REMINDERS:

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



BLUE PUPPIES



With so many sights and sounds this time of year, the Puppies are going to be doing a lot of exploring this month.

There will be pine branches and pinecones in the sensory table for us to touch. The puppies will paint with branches and roll pine cones in paint and color a pine tree.

The puppies will get to decorate a **paper** gingerbread house and color a gingerbread man, along with counting some gingerbread men.

We are going to practice on our colors as we hang a strand of colored lights in the room, we will make hand print lights and candles out of paper towel rolls.

In addition to pine cones and branches, we will have colored wrapping paper, bows, ribbon, and bottles with bells in them to explore.

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

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

FYI:

Half of the puppy room is now two years old, and with a few more birthday's on the way this month, we are now providing skim milk to those who are two.

REMINDERS:

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

~**CATHRYN & DONNA**

YELLOW HONEY BEES



Hello Yellow Bee Families!

What a wonderful month we had celebrating November. We were busy learning about Pilgrims, Native Americans, leaves, fall colors, and turkey's. The children were so adorable in their Native American Robes. They enjoyed jumping over pumpkins, exploring with feathers, and learning about the shapes and colors of leaves. The Turkey Trot was definitely the highlight. They worked so hard and did an amazing job. As always, thanks for your



support.

And here we are...in the month of December. We will begin our month learning about Animal Hibernation. The second week of December, we will be talking about Gingerbread Men; which will revolve around the story "The Gingerbread Man". We will make houses, Gingerbread Man Shapes, and Gingerbread play-doh Cookies. We will count, sort, and make patterns with our Gingerbread Men. The third week of December we will be talking about "Holidays Around the World". We will be asking you about your family traditions and sharing them with one another.

Just a reminder: Please make sure your child has an extra pair of warm clothes at school. Also, our last day will be Friday, December 15. We will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd.


~**BARB & MICHELE**

BLUE BUSY BEES



November brought the Blue Bees fall fun talking about fall leaves and their colors. We talked about animals and what they do during the winter; do they hibernate, migrate or do they tough it out through the long cold winter days and nights? We had fun talking about turkeys and making fun turkey projects. The turkey trot was a super big success and we all looked so cute in our turkey hats. The DCCC feast in the big room was quite exciting and yummy. All our turkey crafts made our room look festive and we had fun making them. We ended November talking about friends, family as many of us will soon begin to go on visits or have visits with friends and family, and how do we travel? Do we travel by car, bus, train, plane or maybe even a boat? The Holidays are here and the Blue Bees will be spending December using our senses to see, feel, taste, hear and smell because, we will spend the month of December talking about The Senses of the Season. We are planning many fun activities that will get our five senses working overtime.

Activities such as:

Making play dough and playing in ooblek to get  our in action.

I spy games and sensory bottles to work our sight.



Painting with spices to get our

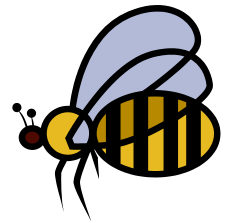


sniffing.

Listening to sounds and trying to identify the sound



Making gingerbread cookies and tasting them.



Some December Changes:

*We will start to visit the big playground with the three year olds that are potty- trained wearing underwear.

*A change in the toys as we will be able to begin to play with toys that the children must be three to play with.

*If you arrive with your child between 7:30 and 7:45, the Blue Bees will be in the Yellow Bee room.

Friendly December Reminders:

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

*Check your child's cubby for warm extra clothing

Thank You,

Cassie and Jody (Blue Bees)

YELLOW BEAR CUBS

The teddy bears seemed to especially enjoy the Turkey Trot and Turkey Trot Training activities in November! Talking about trees, food from trees, seasonal changes and who lives in trees were the highlights from November!



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



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!! We will be keeping the snow gear at the back of the cubby area on the hooks that are labeled by names!

The bears are growing like crazy and the extra clothes bins need updated with seasonally appropriate clothes! Please bring clothes in and swap them out with the clothes in the bins before our Holiday Break!

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

~MANDY & SONDRA

BLUE BEARS



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

family traditions

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

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

* Please make sure you sign up to come share a family tradition with us in the next two weeks. If you need another paper sign up form, please see Ms. Ange or Ms. Kendra

* We love snow days here at DCCC and it typically works best when each of us has a pair of snow pants, snow gloves and boots that we leave here at the center so we can go out and enjoy the snow without getting wet and cold.

* The center will be closed December 18th–Jan.1, and will reopen January 2nd



~ANGE & KENDRA

BUNNIES



November has FLOWN by! We started the month with our apple unit where we talked about how apples grow and we did some taste testing and baking with apples. As we were preparing for the turkey trot, we moved into our week on fitness and nutrition week. During, that unit we talked about the different food groups and how it is important to eat a rainbow. We also discussed different ways to move our body so that we stay healthy. The next week, we talked about the pilgrims and what it must have been like to come over on the Mayflower to a New World, and we compared how we live today with how they lived. Most of the kids preferred to live in our time. For the short week before Thanksgiving Break, we talked about being thankful and made some great lists of the people and things in our lives we can be thankful for. We finished the month with our kindness week. During that week, we discussed different ways we can calm our bodies down when we are upset, we talked about being a bucket filler and being a kind friend.



December is a short month but we are doing many fun and exciting things. We will have two full weeks of celebrating family traditions. Every family has their own special traditions that they do during this time of year and we want to celebrate that. On our classroom door is a sign-up sheet for the weeks of December 4-8 and December 11-15. Look and see if any of those times work for you. When you sign up please put your name and what you will be doing with the class. We are so excited to learn about your traditions!!



Reminders:

- * Please make sure you are hanging your child's winter coats out in the hallway on the hook with their name on it. This just gives us a little more room in the classroom.
- * It's that time of year where we need to start thinking about snow, so as you find your child's snow gear feel free to bring it in (all items must be labeled with your child's name) and hang them on the hook with their coat.
- * Make sure your child has clothing in their extra bin that is seasonally appropriate and fits them.

Important Dates:

Friday December 15th is Pajama Day!!!!
DCCC will be closed from December 18-January 1 (re-opening January 2)

~BRITTNEY & CARLY

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



Whew! November really flew by quickly, and what a fun, busy month it was! In addition to our food drive, trip to Project S.H.A.R.E., Turkey Trot training and then our Turkey Trot, and of course DCCC's big Thanksgiving feast, we managed to squeeze quite a bit of learning in as well.

December will be a very short month and will likely speed by even faster than November did! We'll be doing both hearing and vision screenings on December 5 and 6. Otherwise, our main focus for the month will be on families and winter.

We hope to learn a bit about the holiday/winter customs celebrated by some of our classmates and their families, so we're creating a celebration chain highlighting some of our favorite traditions which will be shared by the students themselves. We're also inviting parents and grandparents to come in to share about a special family tradition sometime during the month as well. The students LOVE having family members come in, and this will be a fun way to reinforce that each family is special and unique.

On December 1 in our Dolphin room, it will be "Dress Like Someone Else in Your Family" Day. The children may come dressed either as a human member of the family or a pet. It should be interesting!

Another special day will occur on Friday, December 8. That'll be "Family Day" for the kindergarteners. Each child may invite a family member (or members) to come in to spend part of the afternoon with us for some fun family centers. In addition to a variety of other activities, we'll be creating crafty, decorative gingerbread houses which hopefully will be just as fun to create as their edible counterparts (and perhaps longer lasting). We'll be sure to have a great time! This is always one of my very favorite days in kindergarten!

The first day of winter (and the last day of school for 2017) will be celebrated with a "First Day of Winter Pajama Party" on December 15. Everyone may come to school dressed in pajamas, and we'll enjoy some winter games and special activities that day!

I wish *everyone* a wonderful holiday break with your families!

~KATIE AND SONDRA