



Dickinson College Children's Center January 2018



From the Director's Desk

What a fun fall and winter we had here at DCCC this year! The teachers have been keeping the children very busy and put a lot of thought into their holiday activities, from turkey dinner placemats, PJ days to making ornaments, you name it we did it! I can't wait to see what they have planned to get us through the next few weeks of winter.

This month the DCCC Kindergarten applications will be distributed for the next school year (2018-2019). Our Kindergarten Program will accept up to 15 children. As many of you may have already heard, Ms. Katie will be retiring this year. We are currently taking internal applications for her position.

Summer Camp applications will be sent out early next week. The ten week camp for both Dragons I and Dragons II will run Monday thru Friday from June 5th to August 17th. An additional six fulltime and three part time summer employees will be hired and oriented in order to help the center and camps run smoothly. The camp will take part in educational field trips, special visits, crafts, swimming and daily outdoor games.

The Waiting List is currently being updated and the fall classes are being projected. Once again the waiting list will not be available on line as the enrollment process begins during the coming months.

Center Happenings

During the month of December we had a Family Meeting that included a program overview of the SPEC Program. Kris Woody, our facilitator, shared some information and discussed some of the items that the center is already doing in order to offer a positive environment for the children. We look forward to sharing each step with families as we learn more about the program.

The Pancake Breakfast will be held on February 10th from 8-11 at the Social Hall here at the college. We will be having crafts, special Martial Arts demonstration and a Book Fair. There will also be a Silent Auction for the parents to participate in. Tickets have been distributed to current families and are also available by calling or e-mailing the center.

Staff Happenings

The Core Team (includes three teachers, Assistant Director and Director) that are part of a group that are being trained to implement the SPEC program at DCCC, attended a two hour training on Thursday the 14th of December. The training was on Prevent, Teach and Assess and we continue to look forward to implementing this program at our Center.

Have a wonderful January!

~Gina

Dates to Remember:

**February 5-8 —
Scholastic Book Fair
(DCCC big play room)**

**February 10—DCCC
Pancake Breakfast &
Silent Auction
Fundraiser and
Scholastic Book Fair**

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Fundraising Update!!

Our Kidstuff Books were a hit! We earned \$400 for the center!

Coming up....

Pancake Breakfast!!!

February 10th, 2018

8-11 a.m. HUB Social Hall



Volunteering: sign up here — ttsu.me/eaz8n5 !

Tickets: Sent home in cubbies on January 3

Silent Auction: Donation letter coming soon

There's a lot of information that is coming your way, please let us know if you have any questions! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year AND it's fun for all!

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 2018!

December was a fun and festive time for the little Ducklings, as we experienced all the sights and sounds of the holiday season....so many firsts in the lives of our young infants!

During the first week of January, we welcome everyone back from our winter holiday break, and we also welcome a new young infant into our classroom. A two week absence in the lives of our infants can seem like a long absence from the Center. It sometimes takes a few days to readjust once again to the school routine. We will gently ease back into our routines and find fun opportunities to practice the skills we have learned and 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.

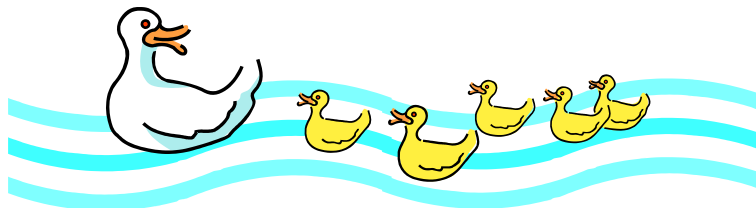
Reminders:

*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 water repellent snow suits, mittens and warm hats. We hope for snow and we love snow, but we can only go out in snow if our babies have the proper gear.

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 dived into the holiday season using our five senses. We made footprint 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 had a gingerbread snack before our holiday break, and we all thought it was yummy!

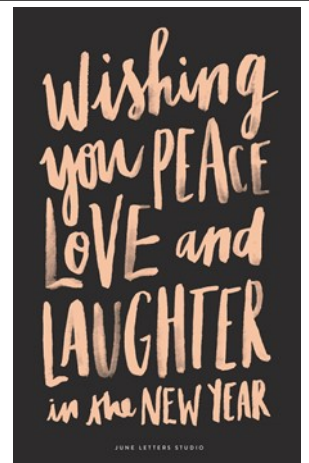


January is going to be a month all about winter and cold! We will be talking about winter animals, snow, ice, and some great winter books written by Jan Brett. Penguins, polar bears, walrus, and snowy owls will be the animals we talk about the most. It's going to be great fun to learn about the sounds 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 reading 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, 2018!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing Holiday!

The puppies got back into routine with a fun wacky. A week of silly songs and dancing, mixed matched socks, silly hats, and inside out clothes had us laughing.

The puppies will have a lot of fun talking about things that are cold like snow and ice. We made a paper plate snowman, painted with white paint, and explored ice cubes. We also talked about how we stay warm in the winter with coats, hats and gloves. We colored mittens, painted snowflakes, and enjoyed an icy treat (shaved ice).

We will end the month talking about birds, coloring birds, listening to bird noises, finger painting, and watching them outside. (continued on next page...)



We have really been working on our colors, identifying them everyday with our toys, food, clothes, and art materials. The puppies are catching on very well!

Some of our favorite songs we love to sing are the ABC's, Row Your Boat, Skid-a-ma-rink-a-dink-a-dink, and Wheels on the Bus.

REMINDERS:

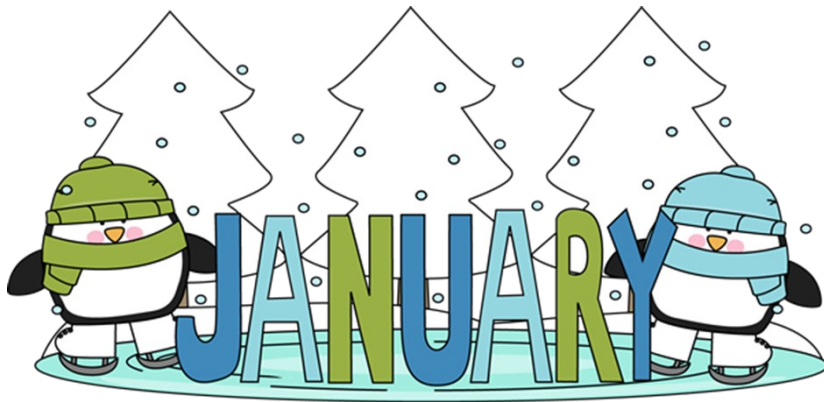
~Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, and gloves/mittens for outside play.

~In the event of snow, please bring snow pants and boots.



CATHRYN & DONNA

Yellow Honey Bees



Hello Families! Welcome to January! Barb and I hope that you and your family had a wonderful break!

Now that it is officially winter, please send in snow pants and boots for your child. Please place these items in a bag and we will store them in our classroom. If the temperature “feels like” 26 degrees, or higher, we will be going outside.

Our winter schedule will change a little

bit. We slowly start getting the children ready for their next classroom by pushing their lunch back to 11:45, instead of 11:30. Miss Jodi and Miss Mandy's children eat their lunches at 12, so this begins to help them with that transition.

January is a busy month for potty training. We will be working with your child to sit on the potty, and will give out stickers and prizes for successes.

This month the children will be learning more about numbers. We will measure, count, and identify numbers up to 5. The second week of January, our theme is “Celebrate Everyone”. We will focus on how to be a good friend. The third week in January, we will be doing activities revolving around snowmen. Finally, the fourth week we will learn about winter animals.

As always, thanks for all of your support. We appreciate it!

~ **MS. BARB & MS. MICHELE**



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.

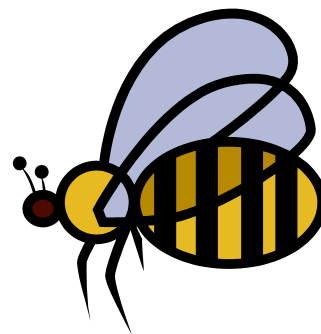
We look forward to January and the New Year talking about “Winter Wonders” We will be doing a lot of fun activities with wet stuff and will learn that snow and ice are different forms of water. We will also explore the changes outside, the changes in the clothes that we wear to stay warm and the changes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

Some new and exciting things will be taking place in the Blue Bee room also. All the blue bees are now three and we will be able to change our room around and add many new, exciting and challenging items. We 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 traffic light 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. As we grow with and learn more about the new SPEC program, we will begin to develop expectations for the Blue Bee room and will post them so that all parents, children and teachers will learn and know what they are.

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, hat and mittens for playing outside in the cold and snow pants and snow boots for playing in the snow (as long as the feels like temp is above 26, we will go outside to play)
- *Please, label your child’s belongings
- *Remember toys should stay at home or in the car. A lovey or favorite book is fine.

~JODY & CASSIE

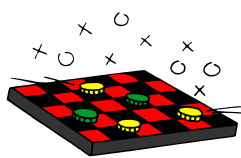


Yellow Bear Cubs

We kicked off December with a great week of Hibernation! 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 cooperative 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!



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 SARAH

The winter weather is HERE! Please remember to send in hats, gloves/mittens (preferably

Blue Bears

The Teddy bears sure are rested up after a nice holiday break with family and friends! As we start off 2018 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. 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



December was a blast! We started the month by talking about being a “Bucket Filler”. We learned that everyone has an invisible bucket and you can fill someone’s bucket by simply being kind, waving or smiling at someone and that in turn fills your own bucket. When your bucket is full then you feel happy. If someone is doing unkind things like not listening, hitting, taking toys etc. they are dipping into your bucket making you feel sad. We did many things such as role-play, read stories, made charts and practiced being bucket fillers. Then we moved on to our two weeks of Gingerbread, mixed with our family traditions. We used gingerbread men to help us with counting, letters, beginning sounds, sorting, and fine motor activities. We also compared 4 different gingerbread stories; The Gingerbread Man, The Gingerbread Girl, The Gingerbread Baby and the Gingerbread Cowboy. They all did a great job finding the similarities and differences and retelling all the stories. I wanted to take a moment to thank all of the families who were able to come in and share a holiday tradition with us. Do not worry, if it did not fit in to your schedule this time, there will be more opportunities in the future.



January is here! Happy 2018!! We are starting the year off with a week called “Welcome Back Review” and this week we will review the classroom expectations and routines, talk about being a bucket filler, and review our letters, numbers and shapes that we learned last year before we start learning anything new. Then we will move into our unit on Balls. During the Ball Unit, we will be answering a few essential questions. Those questions are; “Do all balls bounce?” “Do all balls roll?”, “What makes balls move?” and we will be coming up with a few of our own questions along the way. We will be answering these questions by doing experiments, hands on activities and more. The Ball unit will take us through the rest of January.

ABCDEFGHIJ
KLMNOPQ
RSTUVWXYZ



Important Reminders:

- *Make sure you bring in your child’s snow things (snow pants, boots, waterproof gloves, hats and coats) and hang them in the hallway on their hook. Please make sure that EVERYTHING is labeled with your child’s name.
- *Please check your child’s extra clothing bin to make sure they have warm clothes that fit.
- *Please make sure that you are checking your child’s mailbox daily

MS. BRITNEY AND MS. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



We had an exciting December, and were very thankful to the parents 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 worked on our winter door decoration, made gifts for our parents, and created gingerbread houses with our family members on Family Day.

We're also thankful to Miss Sondra for all of her love and support these past few months while Miss Sarah was on maternity leave. We will really miss her but are equally eager for Miss Sarah to return in January.

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 be celebrating a few *half* birthdays for our children with July birthdays, since kindergarten won't be in session during their actual birthdays. We'll also talk about resolutions and will update our goals for the rest 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. We hope to get at least a little snow so that we can 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 some of our classroom rules and procedures as well as 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 16! 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 Thursday, 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 at the bottom of his/ her cubby.

~ Ms. KATIE & Ms. SARAH



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 outlet:

TV Station: WHTM Channel 27 (ABC)

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)

If DCCC would decide to open at 10:00 a.m. (rare case) – 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 a local TV station.

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

* **11:00 Arrival Policy:** In order to staff appropriately for the day, as well as for the teachers to plan accordingly for their instruction and morning activities, children will not be admitted to the Center after 11:00 AM unless the office was given prior notice due to a medical/dental appointment.