





## Dickinson College Children's Center May 2018

### DCCC Spring Reminders!

- **Snow gear:** Please take it home—it's spring!!
- **Shoe safety:** Make sure children wear shoes that protect their feet. Please make sure your children wear sneakers or sandals that cover and protect their toes. Rubber clogs and some sandals can be fun and airy, but they may also be too flimsy or loose for running, climbing, or riding trikes and can lead to accidents and injuries. 
- **Sunscreens:** Each child should have a bottle of sunscreen to be kept here at the Center. Spray sunscreen is **not** permitted. While convenient, spray sunscreen enters the air and children breathe it in to their bodies. We also apply sunscreen inside, and it creates quite a filmy build up on the floors at the Center. Please bring sunscreen for your child and remember to check expiration dates before sending them in to school. 
- **Sun Hats:** In addition to sunscreen, another good way to protect your child's head and face from the sun is a sun hat.
- **Bike Helmets:** In order for the children to be permitted to ride bikes on the playground, they must wear a helmet. Properly fitting helmets are important for the safety of your child while riding. Please check your child's helmet! Providing a helmet for your child to keep at the Center works much better than taking it back and forth from home to school.

### From the Director's Desk



As we begin the month of May, we look forward to hopefully lots of playground time. Here are a few things happening at the center.

Class rosters for the fall have been shared with families. The center has decided to do a 2% increase in tuition to help cover the costs for the 2018-2019 budget year. New Agreements, including the new weekly tuition rates, will be coming home this month.

The Waiting List has been taken off the website as the center proceeds in offering spots for the fall in a variety of classrooms. We continue to look forward to enrolling many new families. Applications are welcome and prospective families are encouraged to call the center for enrollment information. An Open House will be offered on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-4.

Staff Appreciation will be held on Monday, May 7th. Parents have been taking a collection and plan to provide a lunch for all staff. This is a great time of year to thank your child's teacher for a job well done.

### Dates to Remember:

May 3—Trike a Thon for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital  
(Rain Date: 5/4)

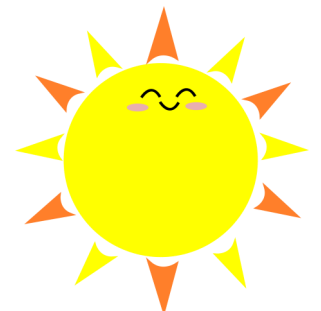
May 5—Amani Festival: DCCC will have a table in the Children's Alley until 2:30 p.m.

May 25—Family Special Event 3-5 p.m.

May 28—DCCC Closed—Memorial Day

May 30—Kindergarten End of Year Program 6:30 p.m.

June 4—First Day of Summer School-Age Program



We are excited to be holding our annual Trike A Thon on Thursday May 3rd. It is always a fun time for the children and we are hoping for nice weather! This year we are excited to have Dickinson Students volunteer to come help us out.

We will be holding an Open House on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for our Summer Camp Dragons 2 (Ritner Hwy location) from 2-4 PM.

Kindergarten Graduation will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> here at DCCC. Thank you to all the Parents and children for a fun and busy year!

Both Summer Camp Programs will begin on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Brittney will be once again moving to the Dragons 2 camp this summer. Ms. Sarah will move right into the D1 camp. We have a number of summer staff returning and some new substitutes as well. Please keep an eye out for the Welcome Bulletin Board for the summer staff which will include a picture and bio about all of our extra helpers for the summer.

Have a great month of May!



## SUMMER CHANGES!

Dear Families,

We are so excited for summer at DCCC! As we approach the summer months, there are a few staffing changes that we wanted to make you aware of.

- \* Effective May 29<sup>th</sup>, Brittney Polinka will resume her role in our Dragons II summer school-age program (Ritner Highway location) and then head into her new role at the Kindergarten teacher as of August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- \* To fill Brittney's spot for the summer will be Jessica Pope and she is excited to spend the summer in the Bunny room with Carly.
- \* As of June 4<sup>th</sup> Ms. Sarah Bostic will be one of the main teachers in our Dragons I program along with Casey Dombroski and Madisyn Palmer.
- \* Sarah's floater position will be filled by Bailey Lehman for the summer.
- \* The news you've all been waiting to hear – Sarah Bostic has been hired for the lead teacher position in the Bunny room and will begin her new role on August 13<sup>th</sup>. We are excited for this transition and are currently taking applications for the preschool/Kindergarten floater position that will be filled by August 13.

As always, summer brings many changes at DCCC and we are excited for what is to come! You can look for bios on all of our summer staff on one of our parent boards in the main hallway in the coming weeks.

## Fundraising Update

As you know, we were pleasantly surprised and overwhelmed by the generosity and turn out for our Chipotle Night Out! Chipotle has an excellent offer for fundraising, 50% of the profits! Since we were offered \$751.08, that means a grand total of \$1502.16 was spent at Chipotle! You can be sure we will do another one of these nights in the future!

Our **Li'l Angels** total was **\$425**

**Giant A+ Rewards** is now officially done for the school year, and our grand total there is, **\$1,023.99!**

We are still waiting on final totals for our T-shirt sales and Original Works orders, and we will soon have our Yearbooks ready to view and purchase. A preview of the yearbook will be near the sign in/out desk in mid-May. Remember, you can always check out our website for updates on our fundraising if you are curious before the next newsletter in June.

So far we are at a **total of \$12,410.37**

Our goal is SO CLOSE... we have **\$2,589.63** to go

Thank you, thank you for all of your attentive support!



## Ducklings

April has been a really fun month for the Ducklings: Our kites billowed in the breezes; our pinwheels spun; we planted and watered grass seeds and watched them grow in celebration of Earth Day; we witnessed the blossoming of yellow daffodils and red tulips. We examined a real bird's nest! We experienced unexpected snowfalls, as well as April showers. We learned about all sorts of animals and we celebrated the Week of the Young Child, culminating in Family Friday and a wonderful visit from our grandparents. Thanks to our parents who came in for parent-teacher conferences. We so value that time to share progress and expectations for your babies, as well as to plan together for transitions to our new classrooms in summer. We also thank Carmelo's dad, Santiago, who so generously comes in to read to us in his native Spanish. We observe how our young toddlers respond so naturally to a new language and are beginning to understand greetings in Spanish!

Because of our growing fascination with things that turn and move, one of our "big ideas" for May will be "Things That GO!"...we will celebrate things that go in play, in books, songs and in our observations around our neighborhood and campus.

This is the time of our year together when infants typically have moved away from pureed baby foods and are able to enjoy the delights of table foods! We will celebrate healthy food choices this month with the "big idea", "We Are What We Eat!" We will read Eric Carle's The Hungry Caterpillar and Today Is Monday, among other stories about healthy foods. Now that most of the infants are self-feeding, we are beginning to eat in small social groups of four or more, which is such fun and we learn so much at mealtimes together.

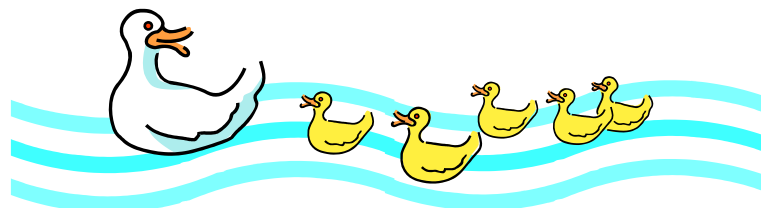
We will continue to offer our one-year olds some simple art materials, such as finger paints and chunky crayons. These art activities can be fun and creative, while strengthening and training the little hand muscles. We look forward to sharing our early masterpieces with you!

In early May, the infants will participate in the St. Jude Children's Hospital fundraiser, a mini-trike-athon with push toys on the infant-toddler playground. It is a great cause, so please join us! You will receive more information on this event and we will request that you turn in your signed permission slips to the office. We will close for the long Memorial Day weekend, which ushers in the summer fun season. We look forward to the merry month of May together!

### **\*\*Parent Reminders:**

-Please send in sunhats and sunscreen, if you have not done so.... thank you.

Sandy, Lynn, Tory & Jody



## Yellow Puppies

The theme for April was Spring has Sprung! We talked a lot about rain! We explored simple weather concepts such as rain, sun, and wind. We created rain drops, umbrellas, and sang lots of songs about rain and sun. We celebrated the week of the young child with a week full of themed days. Our favorite day was animal day when we wore our favorite animal shirts and played with special stuffed animals we brought from home. Grandparents day was so much fun! We spent time showing our grandparents our favorite toys and coloring pictures we could send home with them.

### Family Reminders:

- Please bring in a sun hat and sun-screen for your child.
- Please check your child's extra clothing to be sure it is seasonally appropriate.



May is going to be an adventure as we explore animals all around us! We will be talking about our pets, wild animals, bugs, and baby animals. We will read a lot of books about animals, make animal art projects, sing songs about animals, and pretend to be animals. If you have a pet at home, please bring in a few pictures for us! We are hoping to create a pet wall in our classroom.

**Play is the highest form of research.**  
- Albert Einstein

## Blue Puppies

This month, the puppies will be exploring animals. We will focus on a different “group” of animals each week.

Up first, farm animals where we will color a cow, glue cotton balls on paper to make sheep, finger paint “mud” for our pigs and of course sing “Old McDonald”.

The puppies will look at ocean animals. They will finger paint a starfish, color a shark, and make a paper plate octopus. We will have ocean animals in our sensory bin.

We won't have to go far to look for wild animals such as alligators, lions, and elephants. We will make paper plate snakes and color a tiger! The puppies will sing their favorite song about monkeys teasing an alligator.

If you have pets at home, bring in a picture of them as we talk about the animals we have at home. We will color a cat and/or dog, and paint a gold fish, and read the book My Pet.

Every week we will talk about what noises these animals make and where they live. We will read lots of books and sing songs. If you have any books about any of these animals, please feel free to share with us.

We are hearing lots of counting, becoming very strong with our colors, and working on matching. Next

up...letter recognition. We are getting the hang of “flipping” our coats to put them on and we hope to soon introduce open cups at snack time.

I think the weather is finally starting to warm up so please take snow gear home. We will be checking sunscreen and if it is expired we will send it home. If we don't have any for your child, please bring in a new bottle (non-aerosol). If your child will wear a sun hat, please send one in.

**REMINDERS:**

- \* Please wash your child's hands when you arrive in the mornings
- \* Label lunch items, baggies, yogurt/applesauce/fruit cups, personal containers

~CATHRYN & DONNA

**Yellow Honey Bees**



A few more sunny days in the month of April allowed for us to enjoy springtime walks and more time on the playground. As we enter the “outside season” please make sure your child has playground-friendly shoes.

Our April themes were quite enjoyable for the children. They participated in an eggstravaganza , learned about baby animals, celebrated the Week of the Young Child, and finally, learned how to better care for our Earth. It was also wonderful to meet with all of you at our parent-teacher conferences. We enjoy learning more

about the children that we work with.

During the month of May we will be learning about animals that live on a farm, live in a zoo, live in the jungle, live in the rainforest, and our pets. We have many fun crafts planned, and lots of opportunities to play in the dirt.

Our goal for this month is to continue potty training. We also continue to encourage the children to use their words during difficult moments.

Don't forget..Trike-a-thon is on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As always, thank you for your support!

**MS. BARB & MS. MICHELE**

## Blue Busy Bees

The Blue Bees have had a lot of fun learning about plants this month, as we learned about the parts of a plant and each parts function in helping the flower bloom and grow. We were very surprised to find out that many of our fruits and vegetables were considered the stem or flower part of the plant and that we could eat them. Our bouquet of white carnations turned into a beautiful colorful bouquet as the stem drank the colored water just like we drink from a straw. Planting seeds and watching them as they emerged from under the dirt and started to grow taller and taller was one of our favorite activities we did this month. While planting the seeds, we discovered that all the seeds that we planted were very different in color, size and shape. As, the plants become taller, we will send them home to finish growing and to be planted outside at your home. Another well enjoyed activity was, talking about, touching and tasting different types of vegetables and fruits and discovering like the seeds they grow from the fruit or vegetable they become also many different shapes and sizes.

Ms. Cassie, Ms. Jody and all the blue bees would like to thank all the Grandparents that were able to attend our Grandparent's day. It was wonderful to have you all visit and we had a great time. Also, thank you parents for attending your child's conference so we could talk about the growth that your child has had since starting in the Blue Bee room.



Next month, we will be talking about **Animals Near and Far**. We will be reading many books about animals and hope to learn about how animals live and adapt to their environment. We will also be doing many fun art projects that relate to the animals that we are talking about and plan to use the sensory



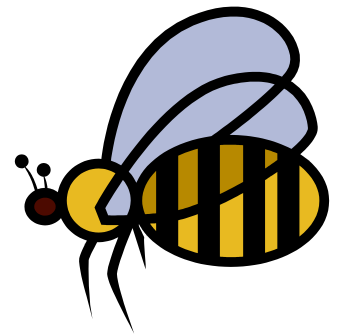
table to recreate the environment that the animals we talk about live in.

### **Parental Reminders:**

\*Please, if you have not already done so, bring in sunscreen (no sprays) for your child. We will start to apply before we go outside both in the A.M and P.M.

\*Check your child's cubby for extra clothing for warmer weather. You may wish to bring a sweatshirt or light jacket for your child to wear in the A.M. when it is still cool outside and in the P.M. when the sun is not so hot and the playground is a little cooler.

**MISS JODY AND MISS CASSIE**



## Yellow Bear Cubs

We blasted through April quickly with some the completion of our Balls unit, painting fun with our Eric Carle week, and “EGGSTRA” colorful fun during our Extravaganza week. We started learning a lot about saving the environment and recycling during our week of “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle”, and we



will continue this learning into the beginning of May!



Also to come in May we will explore gardens; what is in them, how to make them grow, and more! With the garden exploration will come some insect exploration! We will finish off the Month of May with some theatrical fun with Fairy

Tales and Folk Tales!

**I truly enjoyed taking the opportunity to meet with all of you at conferences; it is so great to share all the growth that we have seen in every one of these bears!**

### Teddy Bear Reminders:

Please check your child’s extra clothes bin in the bathroom for proper seasonal and fitting clothes!

**MANDY AND SARAH**

## Blue Bears

Yay it is May and the weather is finally getting warmer! The teddy bears sure have enjoyed some extra time outside in the sunshine! We enjoyed April and all the activities as we finished up our balls unit and had fun making them move and explore. We learned a lot about how to take care of our earth, as we talked about reducing reusing and recycling. We have had many lunch conversations on what our containers are made out of and what goes in the trash and what does not.



As we head into May we will talk about bike safety just in time for Trike-a-thon, then we will have some fun with folk tales and fairy tales for a few weeks.

We will end the month with a unit on gardening. We will talk about plants and flowers and what they need to grow. This will be a great transition into next month with our exploration of dirt, worms, frogs and bugs.



**~ANGE & KENDRA**



## Bunnies



Thank you to everyone who came in and had a conference. It was great to get to talk to you all! April has been a busy month. We spent the first week of April talking about shapes. We learned all about how many sides and corners different shapes had, found them around the room and created them out of different materials. Then we moved into our unit on Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. This week took us through the rest of April. During this unit we talked about how we can protect our environment, what we can do in our school/classroom to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and created a project using only recycled materials. We had a great no trash lunch and the weather cooperated and we had a beautiful afternoon with only a few pieces of trash!



In May we have a lot of fun things planned as well. We will start off the month with our unit on buildings. This unit will be a few weeks long. We will talk about what buildings are made out of, how are they the same and different, what are some different types of houses, and who lives in different types of buildings. We will build and draw our own buildings and look at buildings from all over the world. \*\*Please bring in pictures of your house and different buildings and places you like to go with your child. You can email them to Ms. Brittney if that is easier. We will finish up the month with our garden and bug week. We will talk about different types of bugs and why they are helpful in the garden. We will also talk about different kinds of plants we can grow and what plants need to live.



### Reminders

- \*Please bring home your child's snow clothes if you haven't already.
- \* Please check your child's extra clothes bin to make sure they all fit and that they are seasonally appropriate now that the weather is finally getting warmer!
- \*It might be a good idea to have your child keep a sweatshirt or sweater here at school. When the air is on in the building it can sometimes get a little chilly at times.

### Dates to Remember

Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Trike-a-Thon (please make sure you return the permission form that was sent home, bring a bike or a scooter, and helmet for your child to ride, we ride at 11:30)

Friday May 25<sup>th</sup>: Ms. Brittney's Last Day

Monday May 28<sup>th</sup>: DCCC Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday May 29<sup>th</sup>: Ms. Jess starts. She will be working from 8:30-5:00 during the summer with Ms. Carly  
Please let me know if you have any questions about anything!

~Ms. BRITTNEY AND Ms. CARLY





# Kindergarten Dolphins



Oh, how quickly April sped by, and what a busy month it was! The kindergartners all did an amazing job on their endangered animal T-shirts and projects and I was so impressed with their presentations to the class. We all learned a lot about a variety of endangered animals, and it's so touching to see how passionate they are about animals and about caring for our environment. You'll find some of the posters the kindergartners created all around DCCC about "going green"!

Speaking of energy, weather will be our science focus during the first week of May. We'll do a number of experiments with wind, rain, and the sun's energy, so we're hoping for some varied weather days! This is also a good time to review what we learned about keeping our bodies protected from the sun. Be on the lookout for some sun safety posters that the children will be creating and hanging on the walls all around DCCC, too.

A unit on space will follow our weather unit. We'll learn lots of interesting things about the planets and will do a few fun experiments as well.

We'll end the month (and school year!) with a "Memories and Moving On" theme. We'll share some of our favorite kindergarten memories and will work on our program for our Magical Kindergarten Celebration which will occur on May 30 at 6:30. Our families are all invited to the event. There will be a slide show highlighting some of our favorite kindergarten moments, and there will be magic acts performed by our talented kindergartners. Other specifics are in the works.

In addition to our themes, we've got a few special events in the works before the end of our school year. We're looking very forward to the St. Jude's Trike-a-thon on May 3. Please be sure to send a bike or scooter for your child as well as a helmet and permission slip. We'll celebrate May 4 with a "May the Fourth Be With You" Day! Students should come dressed as their own invented Star Wars characters, and we'll do a few fun Star Wars activities that day.

On May 18, weather permitting, the kindergartners will hike over to Mooreland Elementary School for a short tour of the school and the opportunity to eat lunch in their cafeteria. Even for those who will not be attending Mooreland in the fall, this trip will serve as a great opportunity to experience an elementary school setting.

To culminate our study about money this year, we will have a little "yard sale" for our kindergartners. It's such a fun educational event where the children will have the opportunity to use the knowledge they've acquired about money and addition to buy items that they can really keep. The children will each bring fifty cents, and items will be priced between one and twenty five cents.

It's hard to believe that this is the very last newsletter of my teaching career. Throughout my (almost) 29 years at DCCC, I have been blessed with the most amazing students, families, and co-workers. This place and these people will forever hold a dear spot in my heart.

~ **MS. KATIE & MS. SARAH**