



Dickinson College Children's Center

January/February 2012

From the Director's Desk:

Happy New Year to all our DCCC families! It has been an exciting year so far. We re-opened the center on the 3rd and the kids all returned with mostly smiling faces for the start of the New Year. It has been great so far with only a handful of days when the weather kept us from our outside play.

Plans are in the works for the Annual Pancake Breakfast. The event will take place on February 11th from 8-11 a.m., at the Dickinson College Social Hall (HUB). Silent Auction items are rolling in and look to be like some fantastic items. Keep a look out for early opportunities to purchase books from the book fair and also an author visit here at the center.

A number of the teachers continue to participate in trainings this upcoming month. All fulltime staff members are required to obtain 24 hours of training a year. Some of the trainings they will be attending will be on Environment, Observations and Infants in Child Care. Staff members are also completing ERS assessments on other classrooms. These scores will allow staff to address specific needs within their classrooms.

During January we will kick off a 5210 Let's Go Health and Nutrition campaign and offer supplemental activities to the children. We will also be incorporating ideas and activities from the class titled, I am Moving, I Am Learning. We will be adding a lot of movement to our day as well as sharing some health and nutrition topics with both the children and the parents.

Both Soccer and Dance classes will be offered once again starting this month. Parents are asked to contact the office if interested in participating and an application will be provided. If finances for these classes are a concern, please contact the office.

Dates to

Remember:

February 1 –
Deadline for
donating Silent
Auction basket items

February 10 –
Deadline for
submitting payment
for Pancake
Breakfast tickets

February 11 –
Children's Center
Pancake Breakfast 8
– 11 a.m.

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You may have noticed a change in our closing staff at the end of the night. Jen Bucher has graduated from Shippensburg and has taken a fulltime job in Mechanicsburg. We wish her the best on her new adventure in the working world! We are pleased to have two friendly and familiar faces join us. Kalyn Campbell will take on a more consistent part time schedule and will work four days a week in the Bunny room from 4-5:30. Renate Roehl, a Dickinson Student, will work one evening a week from 4-5:30. Please join me in welcoming these two women as we go forward into this new semester. ~GINA VANKIRK

Fundraising Update

Fundraiser Totals from

November/December:

Box Tops=\$703.24

Innisbrook=\$114.18

Kids Stuff Books=\$575

Portraits=\$216

Red Robin=\$93.11

Sheetz Coupon Booklets=\$156

Babysitting Night=\$150.04

Grand Total So Far=\$5906.66

Current Fundraisers:

*Giant A-Plus Rewards-email

Michelle with your bonus card #

and the center will receive a

portion every time you shop. As of

1/4/2012 the center has received

\$525.88!

*Sheetz coupon booklets

Upcoming:

* Red Robin Night Feb. 7th 4-7 PM

* Pancake Breakfast February 11th

Safety Reminders:

- Please be cautious as you come and go from the Center. Anyone who is waiting to enter the building but does not have the door code MUST wait for an office staff member to admit them to the Center.
- It is important that everyone coming and going from the Center be mindful of general parking lot safety guidelines: drive slowly and cautiously as there are children in the area, follow proper traffic patterns and please hold hands with very young children. Please also remember that the outside of the Center is a public area and families should use caution when entering and exiting the building.



Ducklings



Happy New Year! And our very best wishes for 2012!

We welcome back our families from their holiday winter breaks, which in the young lives of our infants, was a long absence from the Center. The first week back was a week of readjustment. The New Year has brought some changes in the infant room. Our new cribs bring us into compliance with the new national standards for crib safety for infants. Although we loved our very old, cherished community dining table, it has also been discarded for new high chairs which comply more closely with Keystone Stars standards for what is appropriate and safe for infant feeding.

The biggest change we notice in our infants after their return from winter break is the dramatic increase in their mobility! Therefore, our room has been rearranged to accommodate their need to have more open space to creep and crawl and surfaces on which they can safely pull themselves up and begin to cruise.

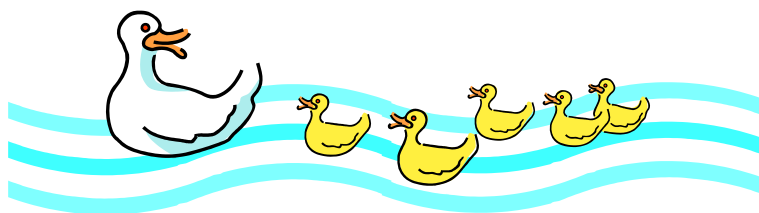
Thank you all for sending in snow suit style outdoor wear. In our first week back, we made our early New Year outdoor excursion to benefit from nature, the fresh air and sunshine. The trees are bare, the duck pond partially frozen, but the birds still sing and the infants clearly relish all the sensations of their outdoor experiences. We intend to spend more time outdoors as the infant schedules and temperatures allow. We have been reading seasonal stories: The Mitten and Snow Days, among others. The infants love our singing, including our rendition of "*Frosty the Snowman*", which permits us to practice our "bye-bye" waves and label our heads, noses and eyes.

Thank you to those of you who have sent in family pictures. We encourage all parents to do so. You will see these family photos displayed around the room. It is surprising how the very young children begin to respond to photos of mom and dad and other family members (including their furry friends!).

Watch for information regarding the DCCC Pancake Breakfast which is scheduled for February. The Ducklings will contribute a table centerpiece and we hope to see all of our Duckling families there for this important social event and fundraiser.

Again, Happy New Year to all!

~SANDY, LYNN, JILL & JODY



December was a wintery one, and may I add, a Spring like month at times! The weather was all over the place, just like us! We are all moving so fast now! Everyone is walking and becoming very independent in our daily routine!

MAKING OUR OWN CHOICES WEEK:

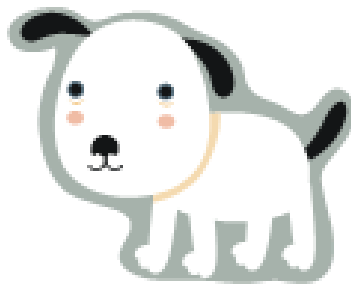
This week was a great way to kick off the New Year! We started making some changes in our daily routine that allowed for us to become more independent. At the end of every meal time, we get to tell our teachers we are "all done" with our sippy cup, get out of our chairs by ourselves, and take the cup to the sink. (Some of us need help reaching the sink, but most of us are able to make a slam-dunk!)

SNOW AND ICE WEEK:

This might have been one of the yellow pups most exciting weeks! There were a lot of texture and cold temperatures to explore! Our teachers froze HUGE blocks of ice for us with objects frozen inside! We liked rubbing our hands on the ice and watching it melt! Some of us took our COLD hands and touched our face with them! How refreshing!

OPPOSITE WEEK (FOCUS: HOT & COLD):

The weather cooperated with us this week! It was a good example of what COLD felt like. The opposite, HOT, was what our room temperature was like! We had fun practicing the words "hot" and "cold" or saying the words that correlate with them like "BRR" or "whew!" or shivering or fanning ourselves! We got to eat treats that were both



hot (warm) and cold, hot chocolate and a banana milk shake! YUM!

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO FOR FEBRUARY!

- Seasons and Shadows: We will explore groundhog day and his forecast for spring!
- Friends, Family, and Love

- Growing
- Lions and Lambs

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It was amazing to our teachers how much we had grown and how many words we picked up over our holiday break! We came back well rested and ready to learn! As stated above, we have made some small changes to

Yellow Pups

the routine, which everyone has adjusted to quite brilliantly! Our Big Room time has been moved to 9:00am which has pushed up the time of our morning snack just a little.

We celebrated Miss Sarah's 25th birthday with frozen yogurt and sprinkles! We got to put our own sprinkles on top! What independent little ones we are becoming!

THANKS A BUNCH!

- For collaborating to make Miss Sarah's birthday surprise a success!
- Parents who contributed to our hot and cold treats!

~**MARSHA & SARAH**

Blue Puppies

HAPPY NEW YEAR! What a fun way to welcome the New Year with a wacky week. We all looked great for our crazy hat parade down the hall, and we saw some funny looking hair and mismatched socks. Farm Show week was a fun time as we explored farm animals and the noises they make. Playing with tractors was also a hit. We enjoyed a tasty milkshake treat and having a farm lunch. A cold and icy week had us exploring things that are cold. We went for a "cold" walk, painted with ice cubes, and made snowmen with play dough. Then we looked at animals that like the winter. We made a big penguin and waddled like them, read a book about polar bears, watched birds from our window, then watched a special short movie about deer and other animals in the winter woods. Next week we will have fun looking at our shadows, coloring groundhogs and seeing if there will be an early spring.



February is going to start with a friendship week. We will count friends, make a handprint collage with all our friends' hands. Valentine's Day will be around the corner when we wear red and bring in valentines for our friends and talk about feelings; what makes us sad, happy, and silly. We will hop on board the color train and go to a Mardi Gras party where we will look at the colors of the party, (purple, yellow, green) and make fun masks! We will also talk about our families as we get ready for our grandparents to visit. It's not too late to bring in family pictures so we can hang them on the wall.

Everyone is growing so much. We are hearing so many new words. Our friends like to read books, play in the dramatic play and push cars around the room. We have been working on unzipping and taking coats off and many of us are mastering this skill. All are doing very well with manipulating spoons when eating. We will be introducing the potty at one time for now, after nap. As we see progression we will add more times.



REMINDERS:

~Due to the coats hanging under the cubbies, please look for your bedding bags in the closet/bathroom on Fridays.

~We are introducing open cups more to our meals and snack times.

~**CATHRYN & LACI**

Yellow Honey Bees

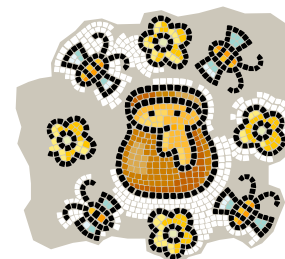
Happy New Year to all, we started the New Year going over numbers. We sang many songs and poems with numbers in them. We did a lot of counting. January is the month of the farm show in Harrisburg, so we talked about farm animals, where do they live and what sounds do they make? We had a week that we talked about people in the past who lead their lives in way that made a difference in the lives of others. We also talked about people who are still doing that today. We will learn that everyone is different. We have different hair color, eye color, skin color, and it is okay to be different. Our differences are what make each of us special. We will end January with a winter theme. We will talk about how it's colder outside, what we need to wear when outside, and snow.

During the month of February, we will learn about shadows by reading stories about groundhogs and their shadows. We will also talk about hearts, love and the colors red, white, and pink. We will move right into emotions and how they make us feel. We will learn that it is okay to feel differently and learn what to do with our feelings. We will end the month with a week on opposites.

Parental Reminders:

*Please be sure to check your child's cubby for extra clothing.

*Be sure your child has, at school, warm coat, snow pants, snow boots, warm hat and gloves.



~ **BARB AND JAMIE**

Blue Busy Bees

The Busy Bees are recharged after the holiday break and ready for the New Year. You will begin to see new changes in the Busy Bee room. The bees are all three now and that means we will have a lot of new toys to play with and explore. We will also begin to visit the big playground for the first fifteen minutes of our outside time (see new daily schedule). Cheri and Jody will start to help the children develop greater self-help skills by having the children work on putting on their own shoes when needed, independently getting dressed and undressed for outside time, independently using the bathroom and learning to make, take apart and put away their cots.

The Busy Bees have been busy going into the New Year. We have had fun talking about **Winter Wonders**, answering questions like: Where does snow come from? What do you need to wear outside when it is snowing? What fun things can you do in the snow? Mother Nature even cooperated and we had some snow to play in. During **Polar Animals** week we talked about what kind of animals live in the Polar Regions and how to they survive in that cold climate? **Snowmen and Snowflakes** week brought us two fun snowman projects, one which the children built their own snowman from paper and one where the children worked together to build a classroom snowman. We celebrated every Busy Bee being three by having a **Birthdays Fun** week. We exchanged gifts, made cake to celebrate, every bee being three and had a pajama movie pizza party. We will end January with a fun **Wacky Week** doing fun things like wearing our clothes inside out, backwards, having a silly hat day, a silly hair day and coming to school dressed in our wackiest outfit ever.

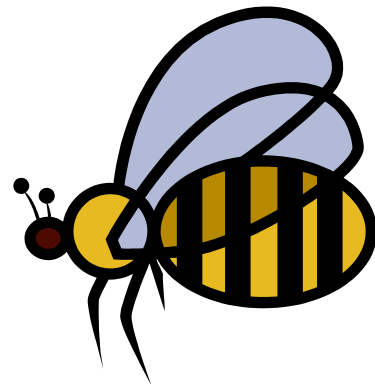
February Themes:

I Love You, You Love Me
Feelings
Art Fun
We Love Books

Parental Reminders:

- * Check your child's cubby for extra clothing (pants, shirt, socks, underwear)
- * Be sure your child has winter wear (warm coat, hat, gloves, snow pants and boots)
- * Be sure to send eating utensils in your child's lunch each day.

~JODY & CHERI





Blue Bears



Welcome back from a wonderful vacation! We hope that everyone had a great holiday and enjoyed the extra time with their families. The kids were very excited to talk about all the fun things they did over the break and the gifts they received. Some of them even brought in some to share the first week back for our Games week. We had a lot of new games like Cars Memory, Cariboo, and Toy Story Yatzee, and some of the traditional games to play like Candy Land, Hi Ho Cherry-O, and Don't Break the Ice. By the end of the week, the Teddy Bears were doing a great job taking turns and following the rules without a lot of teacher guidance. They sure are growing!



We continued January with Space week. They did a great job remembering the planet they live on, that the sun is a star, and even a few of the other planets. The following week we took a trip to the Planetarium. We saw the star show inside, and then went up on the roof to look at the big telescope. It was really fun! We then moved on to our cold weeks, Arctic Animals and Winter. We did a lot of ice experiments those two weeks, between how animals keep warm to what things can make ice melt the fastest. There was a lot of science in the Teddy

Bear room!

We will begin February with a week on hibernation. This will be perfect for the visit from our friend the Groundhog! We will also talk about and do a lot of activities with shadows. After that we'll be talking about Dental Health. Hopefully we even get a visit from Dr. Bob the Dentist! This week includes lots of fun activities having to do with brushing, flossing, and Chomp, the giant mouth! The kids get lots of time to practice brushing all of Chomp's teeth. We will then spend a week talking about Feelings just in time for Valentine's Day! Don't forget about the Pancake Breakfast on the 11th! We will have some specially made centerpieces there for you to enjoy! We finish out February talking about our Five Senses.



Please remember to label everything! With the extra snow gear here, it is very important that all gloves, boots, and snow pants are labeled as well as bedding and coats. Check to make sure your child has enough clothing in their extra clothes bin, and keep an eye on the wall above the cubbies for weekly notes and reminders! If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to us anytime.

KRISTEN & ANGE



Bunnies



We started the year and the month off with a popular theme, transportation. The children loved bringing in their cars, trains, trucks and boats to share with their friends. We also were able to classify different types of transportation into groups of things that fly, things that travel on the road or tracks, things that move in the water and things that they can travel on all by themselves. We also talked about safe travel in the car and buckling up. We then moved on to one of my favorite themes, polar bears and penguins. We talked about where these animals live, how they survive in the cold (we did a blubber mitten experiment), what they like to eat, why they live at opposite ends of the earth and how they stay protected in the snow(we did a camouflage experiment with white things). We then made a natural progression into the season of winter and talked about the changes that occur and how we and the animals stay warm during these months. We even painted a blizzard on the table and then drew pictures in it and printed them on black paper. That was great fun! Next we explored outer space, learned the names of the planets, traveled around the sun as a planet, took a trip to the stars and played with a space shuttle and astronauts. The month ended with woodland animals, identifying them, discovering where they like to make their homes and of course talking about the groundhog since groundhogs day was just around the corner.

During the month of February we will be talking about Dental Health, feelings, famous

Americans, and rhyming with Dr. Seuss. We will celebrate Valentine's Day so look for a class list in your mail folders. Don't forget to attend the pancake breakfast on the 11th.

We have been very busy working on some kindergarten readiness skills. We are getting very good at illustrating and writing books, writing our names in lower case letters, and doing quite a bit of exploring in science and math. We have a very nice math and science center set up in the classroom and the materials are assessable to the children whenever they are interested in using them.

A few reminders:

Please make sure that your child's extra clothes bin has seasonal clothing in it. An extra pair of socks would be a good idea in case we get snow and go out and play.

Please make sure all snow gear is labeled so we know whose is whose.

Make sure you check your child's mail folder daily for important papers and reminders.

Check your lesson plan daily for highlighted items. If you forget there are two lesson plans, one outside the classroom door above the mail folders and one right inside the classroom door on the bulletin board.

As always, thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns be sure to see one or us.

~ Ms. DEBBIE & Ms. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



Happy New Year! The Dolphins began the new year with a review of our classroom rules. With a focus on fairness, cooperation, and respect we've been practicing our conflict resolution skills through everyday situations, as well as planned role-playing. We have been learning about some famous American heroes and heroines and have updated our own hopes and dreams (goals) for the year. The children wrote about their own personal heroes (see below) and will each have an opportunity to lead the class on our "Kids Are Teachers Day" on January 18.

Believe it or not, our 100th Day of Kindergarten will take place on Monday, January 23. The children will bring in collections of 100 things to display in our 100 Day Museum. Please do stop in to see it! Lots of fun activities are planned for that day, including a piñata which will be filled with 100 items and a snack of 100 pieces of food!

As we end the month of January, we'll focus on the states of matter and the season of winter. Plenty of experiments are planned, and hopefully we'll get some snow by that time so that we can incorporate that into some of our experiments! We're planning a trip to the Chemistry Lab on January 27, where Hannah's Mom, Katie, will do some chemistry demonstrations and lead us in the making of slime! Fun!

We'll begin February with a focus on animal habitats and shadows, in honor of Groundhog Day. That will be followed up with a study on health and nutrition, a Valentine party, and then a week honoring Dr. Seuss and Mother Goose as we move into March.

Our Heroes and Heroines:

Ella K: "My hero is Elizabeth Blackwell because she was the first woman doctor."

Justin: "My hero is Martin Luther King, Jr.. He was an important man and someone shot him. He was a nice man."

Simon: "My heroes are the presidents because they know where all of the states are, and one of them lived at the White House."

Devon: "My hero is Tim Tebow. He is a great football player. He is a great man."

Hannah: "My hero is my Daddy. He keeps us safe. He is in the Air Force."

Bodie: "My heroes are the Patriots because they won. They are my team."

Dominique: "My hero is my Grandfather because he takes good care of me and because he is nice and kind."

Nikki: "My hero is my Dad, a firefighter. He saves people and he takes out the fire and he cuts a hole."

JT: "My hero is an army man because they go in a battle. And he gets to rescue people."

Kaden: "My hero is Martin Luther King, Jr.. He made the town better. A couple years later he got shot."

Cayden: "My hero is my Mommy because she gives me money. I like that."

Danny: "My hero is people who save animals because I like God's creatures. They are cool."

~ **KATIE AND BRITTNEY**

P.S. SUMMER CAMP APPLICATIONS WILL BE COMING OUT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY. KEEP AN EYE OUT!