



Dickinson College Children's Center April 2021

From the Director's Desk



As we move on into the warmer weather, we cannot help but hope to see some changes going back the other way from COVID. However, we still hold strong with not mixing of classrooms during the day and keeping our modified hours of 8-5PM. Many of our teachers have been fully vaccinated and we are at this time still participating in weekly COVID testing. We will continue to communicate as any of our

COVID policy or procedures change. Please continue to be diligent in hand-washing and monitoring the health of your child and your family.

We have been busy getting ready to inform all families of where their child or children are projected to move come August of 2021. However, if you have any questions please feel free to stop and talk with me. I would be happy to discuss any concerns that you have. Class rosters for fall (2021) have been given to the teachers. The Waiting List is currently being reviewed. Tours are being scheduled for after-hours to prospective parents and enrollments for the fall have begun. If anyone is interested in being placed on the wait list, they are encouraged to call the center office. Please keep in mind that the website **does** contain information regarding the enrollment process.

We currently are full in Kindergarten but also have a wait list if anyone is interested. Both Summer Camps are full as well and we offer a wait list with these two programs as well.

The Week of the Young Child (April 12-16th), is coming soon. The children will get to enjoy something fun for each day of the week! This is a week that we celebrate Early Childhood!

Family Conferences will begin toward the end of the month. This is a great time for Families to talk one on one with their child's teacher. For planning purposes, due to Covid, we will be holding Family Conferences on April 20th and 22nd through Zoom or TEAMS.

Summer Camp Packets (Including Activity Fee Letters) will be sent home later this month for those children scheduled to attend the D1 or D2 Summer School Age Program. Summer is quickly approaching, and we cannot wait! Ms. Brittney has planned some very fun activities for the campers.

As always please take the time to read and stay current on all the center happenings. Lots of special days coming up, so keep an eye on the calendar!

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Dates to Remember:

April 20-22—
Family conferences via Zoom

April 27—Vision
Screening for
children ages 2
and up

May 31—DCCC
Closed for
Memorial Day



Fundraising

March What A Crock Total: \$123.40

Chipotle: \$456.35

Panera: \$270.69

Total to date: \$3,701.44

Upcoming:

Original Works—Artwork has been submitted to Original Works on behalf of each child. A preview will be received in a couple of weeks and you will be given the opportunity to select from dozens of products showcasing your child's artwork. They make wonderful mementos of this time in your child's life!

T-shirt orders—hoping for the end of May on this one!

Thank you for finding ways to still help us reach our goal! We sure do look forward to Fall 2021 Turkey Trot and February 2022 Pancake Breakfast, and keeping our fingers crossed that those can happen!





DUCKLINGS

March was a busy month in the Duckling room! We spent so much time admiring the shamrocks that were dangling from our ceiling. We were sad to see them go, but the kites that replaced them are wonderful! We spent time reading Dr Seuss books, and exploring some new toys. The pop up boxes are some of our new favorites and we are rapidly figuring out how to open each compartment. We also spent a lot of our time filling up and emptying plastic containers. It is a great discovery when we find something that fits inside of them! We are beginning to practice sitting in real toddler-size chairs, feeding ourselves table foods with utensils and cups, and will continue working toward giving up bottles and morning naps. Some of our friends are beginning to transition out of morning naps, so we are being very flexible with the morning schedule during this time. We take time to rest in our cribs, and then move on to other activities if some of the children don't fall asleep.



The month of April ushers in spring and a busy month of activities. It should be safe to take home your baby's snowsuit now and replace it with more appropriate outdoor wear for nature walks and outdoor play. Bear in mind it may still be windy and chilly at times, so layering is usually best. Even though we don't worry too much about footwear indoors, we do need foot protection for outdoor play. Robeez, Pedipeds, or a similar soft sole protective shoe works well for non-walkers and something a little more supportive for walkers. We also ask that you send in sunscreen and sun hats at this time.

Introduction of table foods and self-feeding are big happenings in the infant room right now. Feeding is not only a source of vital nutrition for your baby, but mealtimes are also important learning and social and emotional experiences for young children. Always make sure that foods are cut into small infant-bite size pieces. Review the choking hazard listed posted in the classroom. Meals should include choices that are infant size portions, as well as interesting and varied in terms of flavor, texture, and food groups. Remember, a young child may need to be introduced to a new food as many as 10 times or more before they begin to develop a taste for that food. Others may be more adventurous eaters. Learning to self-feed is a process that can take time and each child has his own preferences. What is important is to expose your baby to foods when they are developmentally ready and to be patient and supportive as they explore and develop this new skill.

The "big idea" of our April lesson plan revolves around spring. Our stories, activities and songs will revolve around this fun theme. We will spend time on the playground observing the seasonal changes around us. We will also be exploring spring flowers, looking for bunnies and birds outside of our windows, and be creating art with a fun spring theme!

LACI & STEPH

Reminders:

Please check your classroom mailbox regularly!

Make sure finger foods are cut in appropriate size pieces for your child

Please make sure bottles, table food containers, and personal items are labeled with your baby's name.





YELLOW PUPS

March was a month full of books! We spent time listening to books by Dr. Seuss, Sandra Boynton, Eric Carle, and our favorite series of touchy-feely books. We read so many books over and over again that Diana and Alisha might just recite them while they are sleeping! We created a beautiful “Very Hungry Caterpillar”, and all of the animals from Brown Bear, Brown Bear! We also developed a love of singing in the month of March. We sing “Row, row, row your boat”, “ABC’s”, “Polar Bear, Polar Bear”, and “Shake Your Sil-lies Out” using the motions! We are growing by leaps and bounds and saying new words every day!



The theme for April is Spring has Sprung! We will be talking about changes in the sea-son, exploring flowers and dirt, and playing outside in the beautiful spring weather. April also brings Earth day. We will be playing with bubbles outside and chasing them! Dirt, wood, and rocks will lead to some great discoveries. We will have fun exploring simple weather concepts such as “April showers bring May flowers”! The week of April 12-16th is one of our favorite weeks, The Week of The Young Child. We will have some special themed days, that will be filled with fun activities. Most importantly, we will be outside much more now that the days are warmer!

ALISHA & DIANA

Family Reminders:

Please remember that raw vegetables, such as carrots and broccoli, are a choking hazard. They need to be cooked for us to be able to offer them to children in their lunches. Also, grapes and hotdogs must be cut into quarters. Thanks!

Check your child’s mailbox daily.

Please be sure to send in replacements for spare clothes if your child has needed them.

Please make sure nap-time blankets and fitted sheets have your child’s initials or name on them



BLUE PUPPIES



April showers, bring May flowers....

We will be painting raindrops, coloring an umbrella, and sing some funny songs about rain. The puppies will plant some grass so we can watch it grow, make some hand print flowers. The puppies will be doing some color matching activities with flowers, and looking at big/little flowers. There will be flowers in the sensory bin to explore.

Week of the Young Child will have us looking forward to some fun themed days and we have some nice activities planned around music, food, working together, art and families.

The puppies will finger paint a paper plate Earth for Earth Day, and sing “I’ve got the whole world” and look for nature things we find outside.

We are doing very well identifying colors, counting, and working on turn taking. The puppies are also working on independence so we will be working on some “big kid” skills such as putting our coats on and taking them off.

Be on the look out for conferences this month—April 20!

REMINDERS:

~Bring in layers for those cool mornings/warm afternoons

~Check folders for papers

~**CATHRYN & MIMI**

YELLOW HONEY BEES



Hello Spring Time!! We look forward to more sunshine and extra time outside. The month of March was busy. We enjoyed reading books written by Eric Carle and Dr. Seuss, searching for the Leprechaun, drinking green milk, taking short walks around DCCC, playing on the playground, and learning about the colors of the rainbow.

April will be another month of growth for our Yellow Bees. We will celebrate Earth Day, decorate and search for eggs, and learn about baby animals. Concepts such as colors, shapes, counting and recognizing numbers up to 10 will all be emphasized. We will also Celebrate the Week of the Young Child the Week of April 12th. Our goals for your child this month will be to continue working on potty training. We will also continue identifying emotions; as well as encouraging the children to use their words to communicate.

As always, thank you for your support!

~**BARB & MICHELE**



BLUE BUSY BEES

The Blue Bees had a lot of fun with books in the month of March. We talked about the author of a book and what the author's job is as well as the illustrator. We found out that sometimes the author and illustrator are the same person. We also learned that the front of a book is where we can find the name or names



of the author and illustrator, story title, picture that gives the reader hints about the characters in the story and the setting where the story takes place. We had fun cooking, doing art projects, retelling the story through acting the story out or using flannel board pieces to retell some of the stories. The children gained an appreciation for how to handle books, how to keep them in good condition and how to repair books that, as they say, get a boo boo. Thank you to all the families that brought in their child's favorite book. All enjoyed the books and the children did a great job sharing them with their friends. A lot of reading

took place this month and we had a lot of excitement as each day we discovered a new story and new characters.

During the month of April, the blue bees will talk about spring. We will explore the sights and sounds of spring and all the changes that we see occur as the days become longer and warmer. We will talk about flowering plants, fruits and vegetables and do some fun planting of our own. We will observe our plants closely watching them as they grow, and we plan on taking measurements and keeping records of how fast and tall they grow. We will also talk about changes that occur to animals in the spring and the first week in April, we will talk about animals that hatch from eggs and do other fun things with eggs. We will also have a week called **The Week of the Young Child**, a celebration of children and all the fun and beauty they bring into our lives.



Some other fun changes in April are that we are now all three which means we can begin to play with big kid toys such as small cars, little Legos and some smaller and more difficult fine motor activities. We will also start to use our classroom calendar to talk about the month as well as the day and number of the week. We have been having fun the last few weeks watching the Eagle cam in Hanover and the Falcon cam in Harrisburg and will continue to watch them to observe new life and to see the beautiful baby birds grow and eventually leave their nest.

Friendly Reminders:

*Please, keep a light wait jacket or sweatshirt for your child to wear outside when it is cold in the morning but warmer in the afternoons.

*A pair of extra shoes or rain boots would be a good idea for spring muddy days outside.

JODY & CASSIE

Preschool Pages...

YELLOW BEAR CUBS

We had a BALL, learning about balls and exploring what fun we can have with them over the past 3 weeks!



We also loved rhyming and reading, especially Dr. Seuss books!



We kick off the month of April completing our Ball unit, followed by some painting fun with Eric Carle! We will love reading a lot of his books I am sure! We will also be celebrating the Week of the Young Child, look for the exciting events that will be occurring! We will spend the rest of April with an eye on our environment and how we can make a healthy impact, we will be focusing on



recycling and we plan to have a picnic lunch or many throughout the study! Conferences will be coming up in April as well, I can't wait to share the growth that has oc-

curred with your child since the fall conferences!



Teddy Bear Reminders:

- The weather is transferring to spring, dress your children in layers so as the weather turns warm throughout the day, they may be comfortable.

Replace and/or update the extra clothes in your child's bin!!

~ MANDY





BLUE TEDDY BEARS



March was full of fun in the Blue Teddy Bears class. We explored new materials and toys. We learned all about Dr. Seuss and rhyming words. We started our unit on balls and have played many fun sports. We used balls for bouncing, measuring, sorting, rolling, and floating. We have filled our Kindness jar to the top with Clovers and have been using our Kindness every day.

The month of April began with our Easter Egg hunt and the Teddy Bears had so much fun finding them. They used their small motor skills to rip off the tape to find stickers inside. They were very excited to see what was inside. Some of our other themes will be Earth Day and Plants. For Earth Day we will be talking about Recycling and protecting our Planet. We will be using recycled materials to create art projects. We will be sorting paper and plastic materials in our science center. For math we will be using bottle caps for counting. For our plant Theme we will be learning everything about Plants. We will be planting our own grass and sunflowers to water every day. The Teddy bears will be exploring different plants, plant activities, and books on plants. April is going to be so much fun and filled with more learning activities every week. Conference will be the end of April if you would like to discuss your child progress through out the year. This will be the last conference with Miss Bri, in August they will all move to Bunny classroom.

~**BRI**

BLUE BEARS

Yay for spring!!! The Blue Bears are so happy for warmer weather and cannot wait to do more activities outside! As we start April, we will be finishing up our unit on balls and continuing to have fun with how they move what we can use them for and the most fun, knocking things over with them!



I'm looking forward to conferences in late April. I enjoy having time to sit down and discuss the progress your child is making.

Our next unit we will start in April will be Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. As we move through spring and see more things growing, we will use this unit to talk about our planet and how we can keep it clean, healthy and a nice place to live. During this unit we will make our own paper and create some pretty silly art work out of what we once thought was trash.



~**KENDRA**

BUNNIES



HERE'S HOPING MARCH GOES OUT LIKE A LAMB INSTEAD OF A LION! MARCH WAS A FUN MONTH LEARNING ABOUT WEATHER. THE STUDENTS EVEN PUT THEIR OWN SPIN ON IT BY WANTING TO LEARN WEATHER WORDS IN SPANISH! THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU "SUNNY" IN SPANISH IS "SOLEADO", "PARTLY CLOUDY" IS "PARCIALMENTE NUBLADO", AND "COLD" IS "FRIO". THEIR FAVORITE WEATHER WORD, WHICH WE FORECASTED A LOT WAS, "WINDY" WHICH IS "HACE VIENTO". WE NOTICED THAT THE WEATHER TEMPERATURE WAS



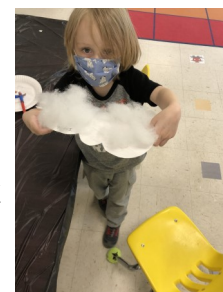
STARTING TO GRADUALLY RISE FROM THE BEGINNING OF MARCH TO THE END OF MARCH, AND THAT THE WARMER WEATHER SIGNALS TO A LOT OF THE ANIMALS THAT WERE HIBERNATING THAT IT IS WAKE UP TIME SOON. AN ANIMAL THAT HIBERNATES IS THE FROG! WE JUMPED RIGHT INTO THIS STUDY WITH A LOT OF INTEREST! WE USED NON-FICTION BOOKS TO GIVE US FACTS ABOUT FROGS (WHICH WAS A GREAT REFRESHER FROM OUR VERY RECENT BOOK STUDY!). WE LEARNED ABOUT THEIR HABITATS, WHAT THE DIFFERENCE WAS BETWEEN A FROG AND A TOAD, AND THAT FROGS ARE A KIND OF AMPHIBIAN! WE ALSO READ SOME FICTION BOOKS THAT WERE SILLY BUT TAUGHT US USEFUL LIFE LESSONS!



LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR PLANS FOR APRIL! REVIEWING OUR 3B RULES IS SOMETHING WE'LL TAKE THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL DOING. WE WILL OPEN UP THE MONTH CELEBRATING A SILLY HOLIDAY WE KNOW AS APRIL FOOL'S DAY. WE'LL FACILITATE WAYS TO HAVE FUN WITHOUT BEING HURTEFUL (BEING KIND & SAFE). WE'LL ALSO TAKE IT AS A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUE AND FALSE AND WHY IT'S RESPONSIBLE TO TELL THE TRUTH.



DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL WE WILL HELP CELEBRATE THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD. THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD IS AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION HOSTED BY NAEYC TO SPOTLIGHT EARLY LEARNING, YOUNG CHILDREN, THEIR TEACHERS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES. BY THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL MORE ANIMALS SHOULD BE COMING OUT OF HIBERNATION. ANIMALS THAT LAY EGGS WILL



BE A FOCUS, AS WELL AS THE BABIES THAT HATCH FROM EGGS. DO ALL BABY ANIMALS HAVE THE SAME NAME AS THEIR ADULT ANIMAL PARENT? WE'LL GO FOR AN EGG HUNT OUT ON OUR PLAYGROUND THIS WEEK AS WELL! MORE INFORMATION ON THE EGG HUNT TO COME!



WE'LL WRAP UP THE MONTH OF APRIL CELEBRATING OUR PLANET, THE EARTH! REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE WILL BE A FOCUS FOR THIS STUDY!



WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING CONFERENCES AND GETTING TO MEET WITH YOU ALL VIRTUALLY TO DISCUSS YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS AND READINESS FOR KINDERGARTEN!

SPECIAL DATES:

APRIL 12-16: WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

APRIL 20TH & 22ND: PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

APRIL 21: DCC INCOMING KINDERGARTEN CLASS VISITATION @9:00AM

APRIL (DATE TBD): VISION SCREENING

~CARLY & SARAH



KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



I cannot believe that this year is going by so quickly! What a fun March we had. We started March with 2 full weeks celebrating “Read Across America”. We read so many new books about so many amazing and wonderful people from all over the world. We also enjoyed 2 weeks of spirit days! Our favorites were dress up like your favorite book character and silly day. We then moved to talking about St. Patrick’s Day. We also created traps and tried to catch a leprechaun. We were close to catching one, but they escaped again! They did however leave us some gold coins! The Trout Gallery “came” to our classroom for a virtual field trip. We traveled all over the world being “art detectives” and learning about different types of art. We then talked about shadow puppets and got to create our own.



During literacy, we have been talking about rhyming words, poems, and consonant blends. We read books and poems filled with rhymes and even created our own. Writing has been a lot of fun. Everyone has come so far with their writing and has



really been enjoying it. We are continuing to work our sentence structure with capitals at the beginning and punctuation at the end. We have now been adding some detail but including some describing words in our stories. In Math, we have been talking about measurement with non-standard measurements, number bonds, addition, and subtraction. They have been LOVING learning addition and subtraction. Science we started our unit on colors and color mixing to go with our spring theme. In social studies we have continued to work on DCCC’s big three which is being safe, kind, and responsible. We also have been talking about Ruby our superhero that teaches us how to be resilient. During workstations we have been practicing all those skills we learn throughout the day. Guided reading we have been working on some nursery rhymes, reading with fluency, and identifying things like sight words, rhyming words, blends, and digraphs.



April is bringing even more fun! We will be talking about life cycles, water cycles, how we can protect the Earth, and completing our last project which is a research project about endangered animals.



In April, I will also complete the formal Spring assessment on all of the students and will create time slots on ClassTag to sign up for a virtual parent teacher conference to end the year (on Teams or Zoom). Conferences will be held at the end of April.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about anything.



MS. BRITTNEY

