



## Dickinson College Children's Center May 2022



### From the Director's Desk...

**PLAYGROUND RENOVATIONS** As we begin the month of May, we look forward to hopefully lots of playground time! Some of the new renovations that took place are the Bee/Yellow Bear Playground has a small new brick patio and an extension to the bench area. The construction of our Kindergarten Outside Classroom has begun. We are excited to also be planning a small Preschool Garden area as well.

**FALL 2022 CLASS ROSTERS** Class rosters for the fall have been shared with families during conferences. The center has decided to do a 2.5 % increase in tuition to help cover the costs for the 2022-2023 budget year. New agreements, including the new weekly tuition rates, will be coming home sometime this month.

**WAITING LIST & NEW ENROLLMENTS** 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 19<sup>th</sup> from 3-4.

**SPRING FEST** The DCCC April Spring Family Event was very well attended! Thanks to all the families and children that came out to spend time with the teachers and other center families. Thanks to the Pink Unicorn for the visit, maybe next year it won't be so cold!

**STAFF APPRECIATION** Staff Appreciation was held the week of Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A special thank you to our DCCC families that contributed funds so that the teachers and the substitutes could be treated to a special lunch from the Pretzel Spot Cafe and the Piz-za Grille. The week was topped off with Massey's gift cards too. As a center we provided all the teachers and substitutes an Early Education t-shirt and some delicious snacks and drinks for the break room. Thank you to all those who help to care for the children at DCCC, we appreciate you!

**TRIKE-A-THON** We are excited to be holding our annual Trike A Thon to support St Jude's Children's Research Hospital during the month of May. It is always a fun time for the children, and we are hoping for nice weather! Details were sent home last week.

**KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION** Kindergarten Graduation will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> on campus at the ATS building at 6:30 PM. Thank you to all the families and children for a fun and busy year!

**SUMMER CAMP!** Both Summer Camp Programs will begin on June 6th. Ms. Brittney and Ms. Carly will be once again moving to the Dragons 2 camp this summer along with our Dickinson student Ms. Bree. Ms. Ashley, Ms. Mati and Ms. Sophie will be moving to the Dragons 1 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. We will be holding an Open House on June 5<sup>th</sup> for our Summer Camp Dragons 2 (Ritner Hwy location) from 2-3 PM.

Thank you and have a wonderful month!

**-Gina VanKirk, Director**

### Dates to Remember:

May 12—Trike-a-  
thon for St. Jude's

May 18—  
Kindergarten Incom-  
ing Class Visitation  
Make-Up Time  
4:15 p.m.

May 30—DCCC  
Closed for  
Memorial Day



# Fundraising News



**April Totals: \$3,022.32**

**Original Works: Orders still being totaled!**

**Did you know Li'l Angels Photography is part of our fundraising efforts? We will be sure to let you know once those totals are finalized!**

**CHILD ABUSE POLICY UPDATE:** Our child abuse policy has been recently updated to include Shaken Baby Syndrome, Acute Head Trauma, and Child Maltreatment. Teachers have reviewed the updated policy and signed/dated an acknowledgement form. Upon hire and every five years after, all DCCC staff, teachers, and volunteers complete a required Mandated Reporter Training—because we are all mandated reporters of child abuse.

## **HiMama Billing Update**

Thanks to everyone for your patience over the past month as we transitioned from our super old billing program OfficeCenter to billing through our family communication App, HiMama.



**himama**

### **A few items to note:**

- When you submit a check that is an overpayment for future weeks of care, you will not see a running credit on your account—each family has a separate credit ledger that holds that overpayment until those weeks are current and then the credit is applied to the invoice. At this point, there is NOT a way for you to see your credit, but you can always send an e-mail ([hellerm@dickinson.edu](mailto:hellerm@dickinson.edu)) and we can check it for you.
- At this point—we do not offer payment through the app—you should continue to pay in your usual ways—check, credit card, cash, or Dickinson's automatic payroll deduction.
- If there are any other questions, please let us know but we feel that this billing program is off to a good start and is a big time saver on our end!

## **Trike a Thon for St. Jude's Research Hospital at DCCC—May 12, 2022**

### **Event Schedule and details**

#### **For Duckling and Puppy Families:**

Duckling and Puppy rooms ONLY—will enjoy the event on their playground at the following times:

#### **Event schedule:**

9:30 – 9:50 – Blue Puppies

10:15 – 10:35 - Yellow Puppies

11:00 – 11:20 - Ducklings

#### **Event Details:**

If your child has a riding or push toy at home that they like to use, please bring it to school on Thursday 5/12 and park it on the back porch. Labeling the toy with your child's name is helpful for the teachers. If your child does not have something to bring (or you forget.... because that happens!) we do have a few that will be available for riding on our playground.

Your child will NOT be required to wear a helmet on their playground during the event (Infants, Yellow & Blue Puppies only – all other ages are required to wear a helmet).

Families are welcome to come and watch the event from the back porch but please also know that we will take and share plenty of pictures if you are unable to attend.

**RAIN DATE:** FRIDAY MAY 13<sup>th</sup>

Signed permission slip required for ALL children in order to participate – extra copies of the form are available on the sign-in desks.



#### **For Bee, Bear, Bunny, and Kindergarten Families:**

These classrooms will ride bikes or scooters in our front parking area which will be blocked off with cones at the following times:

#### **Event schedule:**

9:30 – 9:55 – Yellow Bees

10:00 – 10:25 – Blue Bees

10:30 – 10:55 – Yellow Bears

11:00 – 11:25 – Blue Bears

11:30 – 11:55 – Bunnies

12:00 – 12:25 – Kindergarten

#### **Event Details:**

Please bring a **bike or scooter** that your child is comfortable using and has ridden before and **helmet** (required for this age group – the one they have here at DCCC can be used). Please place bikes in the big playroom upon arrival and pick them up from there at the end of the day. Labeling the bike with your child's name is helpful for the teachers.

Arrive by 9:00 a.m. in order for the children to have time to eat snack and be settled in and for us to have the front parking lot clear and blocked off.

**RAIN DATE:** FRIDAY MAY 13<sup>th</sup>

Signed permission slip required for ALL children in order to participate – extra copies of the form are available on the sign-in desks.

**\*\*There are some children who attend the Center on a Mon/Wed/Fri schedule and who really look forward to this event. These children will be permitted to attend the event on Thursday, provided they always have a parent or other adult with them because for them, this is not a normally scheduled day.**



## **DUCKLINGS**

The “big idea” of our April lesson plan revolved around spring. We spent time reading books about the changes we see around us in the spring, and singing songs about rain, sunshine, and animals. We spent a lot of time on the playground observing the seasonal changes around us. We felt the wind blow in our hair and the warm sunshine. Some days it felt more like fall, but we did our best to enjoy it! We also spent time looking out our windows for birds, bunnies, and squirrels. We have seen dogs, cats, flowers, cars, and like to look for people we know walking by our windows!



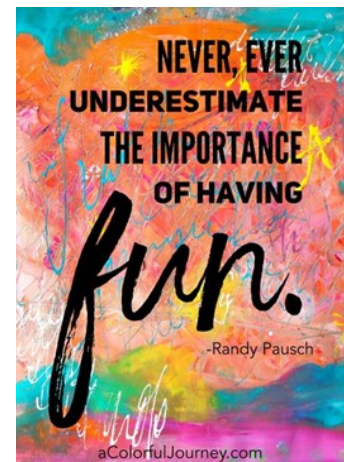
Our “big idea” for May is “Things That GO!” We will celebrate things that go in play, in books, songs and in our observations around our neighborhood. We will explore the wheels on push toys and toys cars in our room, explore ramps and tunnels, and make some exciting art with things that go! This is the time of our year together when most of the infants typically have moved away from pureed baby foods and are able to enjoy the delights of table foods! Now that most of the infants are self-feeding, we are beginning to eat in small social groups of four, which is such fun and we learn so much at mealtimes together. We will begin 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!

**LACI & STEPH**

### **Reminders:**

Please remember shoes for our time outside on the playground!

Make sure finger foods are cut in appropriate size pieces for your child. Round foods, such as grapes and hot dogs, need to be cut into quarters.







## **YELLOW PUPS**

We had a lovely April! It has been a busy month and spring has truly sprung! We spent a lot of time outside exploring flowers, dirt, leaves, bugs, and we had fun dressing up for week of the young child. Farm animals and farm toys have been a big part of our day as well. With this theme in mind, we have been reading *Little Blue Truck*, and singing “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”. We also like singing “Rain, Rain, Go Away”. We made some cute art projects of farm animals, flowers, rain and rainboots. The warmer weather has given us a chance to be outside more so we have been enjoying playing with push mowers, kicking balls around and chasing bubbles!



**Our theme for May is pets and animals. There are so many animals in the world around us. Many of us have pets, farm animals, and some of you may have been to a zoo and seen animals there. We will listen to the different sounds they make and talk about the differences in how they look, move, and act. We will be reading books about animals *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Are You My Mother?* and *I Can Do It*. Some songs we know are “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep”, “You Are My Sunshine”, and “Five Little Ducks”. We will be making animal tracks with paint, and footprint pets. It will be having a Marvelous May! ALISHA & DIANA**

## **Family Reminders:**

**It is finally warm and sunny outside! We will let you know if you will need to send in new sunscreen or warm weather spare clothes.**



## **BLUE PUPPIES**



We had so much fun with our Spring month! The puppies enjoyed all the books we had out to read, coloring eggs, painting flowers, playing with plastic eggs and baskets and watching our grass grow!

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

The puppies are going to explore farm animals first. 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”.

Next we 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 our 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.

The puppies are becoming very strong with our colors, and wanting to count!

I think the weather is finally starting to warm up, but please keep a sweater or light jacket for those cool mornings. We are getting the hang of “flipping” our coats to put them on!

If your child will wear a hat and/or sunglasses, please send in.

### **REMINDERS:**

- \* Please make sure to label jackets/coats as we have many friends with similar items.
- \* Label lunch items, baggies, pouches, yogurt/applesauce/fruit cups, and personal containers
- \* Extra set of **seasonal** clothing

~**CATHRYN & BRI**

## **YELLOW HONEY BEES**



April was a great month for us to explore all the seasons. We experienced temperatures that felt like fall, winter, spring and summer. We took walks around the neighborhood. We found flowering trees and green grass. We loved pushing our dump trucks 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. We learned about our senses, how to eat healthy, how the weather affects what we wear and what we can do, and how to take care of our Earth. It was also wonderful to meet with all of you at our parent-teacher conferences. We enjoy getting glimpses of what our Yellow Bees are like when they are at home with you.

During the month of May, we will be learning about nutrition, animals and their babies, farm animals, and animals that live in the zoo.

Our goal for this month is to continue potty training. We are also spending more time empowering them to become more independent. Taking off and putting on their own jackets, cleaning up after themselves, and turning the water on and off when washing hands are little things that they can do. You would be surprised how proud they are of themselves when they do it “all by themselves”. Believe it or not, they will be Yellow Bears before we know it! We also continue to encourage the children to use their words during difficult moments.

As always, thank you for your support!

~**BARB & MICHELE**



## **BLUE BUSY BEES**

April brought the Blue Bees fun talking about spring. We explored the sights and sounds of spring and all the changes that we see occur as the days become longer and warmer. We also talked about flowering plants, fruits and vegetables and did some fun planting of our own. We also talked about changes that occur to animals in the spring, such as bears having their babies and emerging from the den. Animals that hatch from eggs was a fun week as we were able to watch and see real baby Eagles that hatched from eggs and have been watching them as they grow. We also had a week called **The Week of the Young Child**, a celebration of children and all the fun and beauty they bring into our lives.

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.



### **Family Reminders:**

\*Please, if you have not already done so, bring in sunscreen for your child. We will start to apply before we go outside both in the A.M and P.M.

\*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.

\*Please be sure to check your HIMAMA email each day so you know what your child has done during the day and to receive any important information you may need.



**JODY & CASSIE**

# Preschool Pages...

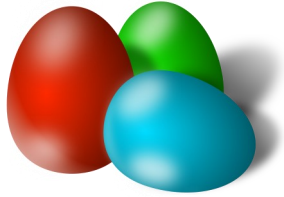
## YELLOW BEAR CUBS

We blasted through April quickly with some painting fun our, and “EGGSTRA” colorful fun during our Extravaganza week. We started learning a lot about saving the environment and recycling during our weeks of “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle”, and we will continue learning about the earth regarding flowers and gardens into the beginning of May!



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 as well as Frog and tadpole fun! We will finish off the



month of May and beginning of June with some Fairy Tale and Folk Tale fun!

**I truly enjoyed taking the opportunity to meet with 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 bring proper seasonal and fitting clothes to place in the extra clothes bin!

~ MANDY





## **BLUE BEARS**



Yay it is May and the weather is finally getting warmer! The Blue bears sure have enjoyed some extra time outside in the sunshine!

We enjoyed April and all the activities as we finished up balls and had fun making them move and explore. We learned a lot out how to take care of our earth,

as we talked about reducing reusing and recycling.

We spent the last week of April studying farms. We learned about some farm animals and some of the crops farmers grow.



As we head into May, we will spend a week talking about plants and flowers. We will learn about different parts of plants and what they need to grow. We will even get the chance to plant some flowers.



During the remainder of the month, we will focus on new life in the spring. We will touch on the life cycle of lady bugs, birds, frogs and butterflies.

We are very excited for the Trike a thon this month. The children have so much fun participating in this event.



~**KENDRA & CHRISTA**

## **BUNNIES**



April was full of adventure for the bunnies! We took a ride back in time to the beginning of the year to revisit our 3B Rules; Be safe, be kind, be responsible. With April fools falling around that time we took the opportunity to talk about how to have fun and be funny without being hurtful. We talked a lot about how to be kind and safe with our words and our actions. We also discussed the differences between what's true and what's false. Being responsible with our bodies and choices rolled nicely into our reduce, reuse, and recycle theme. We celebrated earth day by learning how to keep it clean and how to take care of all the things it provides for us! We also celebrated all our classmates during the Week of the Young Child. Lastly, we kicked off our life cycles unit by talking about eggs and baby animals!



We've been watching our tadpoles closely and have noticed they are growing in size but have not spotted any legs yet!

Talking about eggs and baby animals led us nicely into the month of May where we began talking about Life on a farm. We'll spend several weeks investigating farms. Farms give us a lot of things! On a farm there are a lot of jobs to be done, a lot of responsibility to be had! A fun week of gardening will be squeezed in before the end of May where we'll take a STEM approach to things and be investigating architecture and buildings!

May also marks the beginning of the end for some of our bunny friends. The official pre-k academic year will be over and some of our friends will be taking the summer off before the start of kindergarten. It's a bittersweet month as we bid farewell to long time friendships but are excited for the next chapter to begin!



### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

May 12—Trike a Thon for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

May 18—Kindergarten Incoming Class Visitation Make-up day 4:15

May 30—DCCC Closed for Memorial Day

~CARLY & SARAH

# KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



April has flown by in a blur of learning and fun. We completed our final project of the year which was our Endangered Animal research project. Each child picked an endangered animal and researched their animal to find out things like their habitat, why they are endangered, what they eat etc. Then each child created a project and gave a report to the class. Their projects were AMAZING! I am so proud of how hard they worked and how excited they were to share their information. We also talked about how we can take care of the Earth and everything that lives there by reducing, reusing, and recycling. We also practiced sorting “trash” into categories like paper, plastic, compost, metals etc. We talked about why that was important to make sure we take care of the Earth and how some little changes can have a big impact.



At the end of April we had a parent visitor come in and share with us about Ramadan. We learned so much. We made special lanterns or Fanoos, tried Dates (not to be confused with dates on a calendar), saw how our names would look in Arabic and learned about the big celebration called Eid al' Fitr.



We had to say good-bye to our Spanish teacher Ms. Leslie. We had so much fun learning from her this semester. The class loved learning how to say so many things in Spanish!

Talk of the end of the year and GRADUATION has begun! We will be starting a Kindergarten Countdown this year where each day will have a special theme and we will be trying to figure out a secret phrase.



We are excited to be graduating at the ATS building on Dickinson's Campus this year. Being able to use a special place on Dickinson's Campus really makes graduation from DCCC that much more special for the students. The class will get to stand on the stage as we celebrate all their achievements this year. We are writing books about our favorite Kindergarten Memories and working on learning some songs for graduation. We are all getting so excited. I am going to be sad to see this group of kids go! We have had a wonderful year.



Kindergarten conferences will be the second week in May, keep checking ClassTag for more information.

**Dates to Remember:** \*\*Check the special Kindergarten Countdown for all the fun classroom dates.

Trike-a-Thon: May 12<sup>th</sup>

Last Day of Kindergarten: June 1<sup>st</sup>

Kindergarten Graduation: June 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30

**Ms. BRITTNEY & Ms. ASHLEY**

