



## Dickinson College Children's Center January 2023

### From the Director's Desk



Welcome back and Happy New Year to all our DCCC Families! Hoping everyone enjoyed their time off over the holiday. It always goes so fast, but it is nice to return to a daily routine. We returned to a rainy week, but the good news is that we have the Big Room, and the children absolutely enjoy running around playing with balls, scooters and bikes and push toys for the younger groups!

**Child Health:** We are aware that the most recent surge in RSV and Flu cases has taken a toll on many teachers and families as we continue to enforce the Health Policies here at the center. Please continue to monitor your child's health in the early hours before dropping off. We continue to encourage hand washing throughout our day and each room continues to disinfect toys, sinks and tables as well.

**Kindergarten:** DCCC Kindergarten applications have been distributed for the next school year 2023-24. Our Kindergarten Program consists of 15 children. We are so excited to start planning for the next group of Kindergarten-ers! If you would like additional information, please just stop in the office. I am happy to help share what our Kindergarten Program has to offer!

**Summer School-Age Program:** Summer Camp applications will be sent out very soon. The nine-week camp for both Dragons I and Dragons II will run Monday through Friday. An additional six fulltime and three part time summer employees will be hired and oriented to help the center run smoothly. The camp will take part in educational field trips, special visits, crafts, swimming, and daily outdoor games. If anyone is aware of an individual looking for PT or FT work, including a lifeguard, please have them reach out to me at [vankirkr@dickinson.edu](mailto:vankirkr@dickinson.edu).

**Waiting List:** The Waiting List is currently being updated and the fall 2023 classes are being projected. Once again, the waiting list will not be available online as the enrollment process begins during the month of March. Please continue to look for important papers in your child's mailbox as we move forward with class move ups and other enrollment information.

**Family Activities:** As we move into the spring of the year, we are hopeful that we will be able to provide some extra activities here at DCCC for family engagement. We will be offering a Winter session for Soccer Shots and a Spring Dance session. Also, our Pancake Breakfast will be returning, and we are so pleased to be able to hold this annual event once again.

(Continued on page 2)



### Dates to Remember:

**February 11—**  
DCCC Pancake  
Breakfast Fund-  
raiser and Silent  
Auction  
8-11 a.m.

**March 7 & 8—**  
Spring Portraits

**Friday March 17**  
- DCCC CLOSED  
for staff training  
day



**New Staff Member:** I would like to share with you that Sarah Schadler has joined DCCC as the new AM Part Time/floater for the Toddler/Infant end of the building. Currently she is working in the Bee Classrooms to cover teacher breaks and planning's but will soon be working in some of the other classrooms as we move forward in the new year. Ms. Sarah comes to us with a degree and experience in working with children. She also has a child in our Bunny classroom. We are very excited to have Sarah join our DCCC family!

**Gnome ornament thank you!** Thank you families for the support you gave in our little gnome ornament fundraiser. We raised \$216 EACH for the Cure GRIN foundation and DCCC. Thank you to Ms. Barb who worked her little elf fingers so hard to create these sweet gnomes!

**Grant funds:** We continue to apply for grants available for the early childhood field. We are so excited to share that we were able to purchase all new hands-free faucets for the classrooms with our grant money. Now this is something to be excited about! Also, over the break, all DCCC staff were awarded an Education and Retention Award amount from the center ARPA Grant. We value each teacher that we have as part of our DCCC Team and look forward to a new year full of enjoyment in our workplace and good health!

**-Gina VanKirk, Director**



### DCCC's Big 3

Be Safe

be safe.

Be Kind



Be Responsible

As always, we continue to focus on DCCC's Big 3 in our classroom. We have discussions daily about how to do these things in our classroom, in the hallway, and outdoors. Focusing on these guidelines at home can help build the home-school connection. Please let us know if you have any questions about DCCC's Big 3!



Dickinson College Children's Center

# Fundraising

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST IS ALMOST HERE!**

We can hardly believe this HUGE event is back!

We can feel the excitement in the air, and the conversations in the hallway are ALL ABOUT the pancakes, the fun items appearing in the boxes, and finding our older siblings in the pictures on the posters! Clearly happy memories are created!

There will be some special visitors that you won't want to miss, plus: face-painting, crafts, and more!

Don't forget the Scholastic Book Fair and ever popular Silent Auction!

To be completely successful, we'll need all the help we can get, you can donate to the baskets, or donate a small amount of your time, a link to the time to sign up will go out on HiMama soon. We still need bakers for the fancy cupcakes as well as help at the book fair that day.

Tickets must be purchased in advance, So if you need more, let us know!

**2020 Pancake Breakfast Total: \$5,153.91**

**DCCC was able to get \$790.84 in Scholastic Books for all the classrooms!**





## DUCKLINGS

Happy New Year! And our very best wishes for 2023! 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 welcomed everyone back from our winter holiday break! 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 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 furniture.

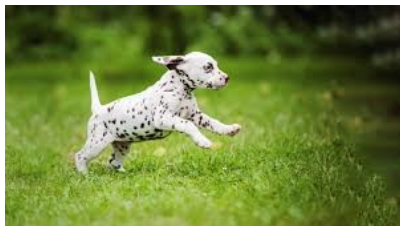
### Reminders:

**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, but we can only go outside if our babies have the proper gear.**

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



**LACI & STEPH**



## YELLOW PUPS

December was a month full of new sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and textures. Hopefully, everyone had a beautiful holiday break and a Happy New Year! We dove into the holiday season using our five senses. We painted with cookie cutters, sang holiday songs, and looked at lights that are hung in our room. We also danced to happy holiday and winter songs! We had fun reading many seasonal touch and feel books, and books with sounds and lights! All of our friends found these activities so very exciting!

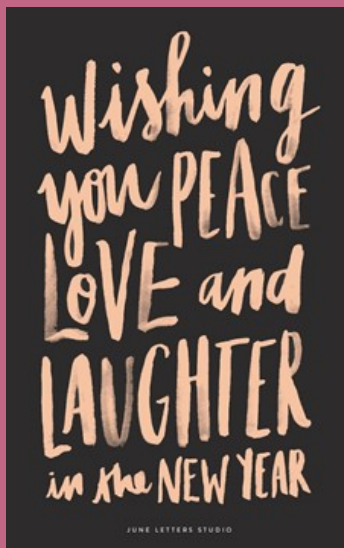


January is going to be a month all about winter and cold! We will be talking about winter animals, snow, ice, and read winter books written by Jan Brett. Penguins, polar bears, walruses, and snowy owls are some of the fun snow animals we will learn about. If we are lucky we will get more snow to explore during January! We are planning on making snow paintings with white paint and reading books all about the snow! Some books we will read are *The Mitten*, *The Hat*, and *Gingerbread Baby*. We will also be looking for different animals in our books and practicing the sounds they make. What fun in the yellow pup room! **ALISHA & MIMI**

### 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!

\*Please be sure to cut up lunch items into toddler size bites, and label pouches and yogurts.



## **BLUE PUPPIES**



Welcome back and Happy New Year! I trust everyone had a nice break with family. The puppies “ended” the year painting candles, coloring a gingerbread house, a candy cane, and painting with pine needles! We enjoyed reading the many books we had out about Hanukkah and Christmas along with dancing and singing holiday songs.

The puppies are going to start the week getting back into routine, we will have fun dancing, coloring, singing, and reading books.

We will also be talking about how cold the weather is, what we do to stay warm such as wearing coats, gloves, and hats. We will paint a mitten, and color a hat.

We will read lots of books about snow, sing songs about snow, color a snowman and paint a snowflake.

The puppies will also explore some cold weather animals such as penguins and polar bears.

We will end the month talking about birds, listen to their noises, color a bird, and make a nest to put it in.

We can't wait to have lots of fun as we work on counting, colors, and fine motor skills through puzzles, lacing toys and play-doh.

### **REMINDERS:**

- ~there is a sign up on the door for items to donate to our pancake breakfast basket.
- ~please make sure to have a warm coat, set of mittens/gloves and hat for outside play.
- ~check mail pocket at pick up for papers.
- ~in the event of snow, please bring in snow pants and boots so we can have fun outside!
- ~**CATHRYN & BRI**

**safe, kind,  
responsible**

## **YELLOW HONEY BEES**



Welcome to January! We hope that your family had a wonderful break filled with many memorable moments.

Celebrating the holiday season through the eyes of our Yellow Bees was so enjoyable this year. Our Gingerbread activities were very well liked and continued throughout the month.

January themes will be farm animals, winter, snowmen, and Arctic Animals. Built into the themes are activities that reinforce matching, identifying shapes, counting, sorting, and naming colors. Reinforcing these concepts at home can be very helpful. We are also working towards sitting on the carpet for a short circle time to listen to a story and to sing a song using visuals.

Our winter lunch schedule will be changing. We are slowly starting to get 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.

The Yellow Bees must be going through a growth spurt. We are finding that some of them need a little extra food to fill their tummies at lunch time. Please consider sending a little extra in their lunches. Thank you!

**safe, kind,  
responsible**

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

Thank you for all that you do to support our classroom.

~**BARB & MICHELE**



## **BLUE BUSY BEES**

December was a short month due to the holiday break, but the Blue Bees had fun talking about and exploring their five senses with the projects and activities that we did



to get our senses working. Activities such as smelling and tasting gingerbread and making special gifts for our very special families.

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.



### **Classroom Goals:**

\*The children will be working on cleaning toys up as they finish playing with them before they move onto another activity.

\*Working on putting on our coats, hats, and gloves.

\*Working on putting on their own shoes before asking for help.

### **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 (if the feel 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, special blanket or favorite book is fine.



**JODY & CASSIE**

**safe, kind,  
responsible**

# Preschool Pages...

## YELLOW BEAR CUBS

We kicked off December with a fun trains week, we then moved right into sharing and partaking in all the different Holiday Traditions! Thank you all for sharing your family traditions, the wonderful teacher luncheon and gifts/ gift cards!

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!

We are adding to our PATHS lessons by taking turns being the PATHS Helper of the Day! We will learn how to give and receive compliments. The PATHS Helper will receive compliments and then their job is to help in various ways throughout the day such as checking over the room at clean-up time and passing out the napkin bins at

mealtimes. The compliments sheet will be sent home in their take home folder outside the classroom door.

The winter weather is HERE! Please remember to send in hats, gloves/mittens (preferably waterproof), boots, snow pants and coats. We will go outside as long as the temperature feels like 25 degrees or more. We need the waterproof 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 and size clothes!



We will be working hard to improve our independence skills, by getting ourselves dressed and undressed for the outdoor play!

~ MANDY





# BLUE BEARS

The Blue Bears sure are rested up after a nice holiday break with family and friends! We started off 2023, enjoying some great board games. We practiced playing many types of games and learning rules including taking turns, sharing, and good teamwork.



After we finish with games, we will start a new four week study on clothing. 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 of.

As we finish clothing, we will start to get ready for all the fun coming up in February including feelings and friendship. We will also spend some time talking about winter, such as winter sports and activities and touch on how some animals prepare for winter.



## 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.

~KENDRA & CHRISTA

BE  
KIND

### DCCC's Big 3

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## **BUNNIES**



As we wrapped up our seasonal celebrations in December and looked back at all the great and unique learning experiences we have had in 2022, we can't help but anticipate the fun that lies ahead in 2023. December brought so much joy to our classroom because of all the giving and sharing that was going on! A heartfelt thanks to the families that contributed to our delicious holiday luncheon or blessed us with gifts for the holiday season! Upon our return on January 2nd, we BoUnCeD right back into the swing of things and are

exploring balls and 2D/3D shapes! Why investigate balls, you may ask? There is no doubt that children love balls! They play with them in so many different ways. Through this play, they can discover how natural forces, like gravity and friction affect the movement of balls. We'll roll with the ball study through the remainder of January. We'll expand a little bit on this study by looking into our galaxy and learn about space!



At the end of January, we, the teachers, will be filling out a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment on each child. These forms will then be placed in each child's mailbox with a form for you to sign and return to us. This is simply a halfway check point to get a better idea of where we are at this point in the year and where we need to get to before summer sneaks up on us. Can you tell we are thinking about warmer weather already!

When cold weather hits, so does snow. We ask that each child keep an extra set of snow gear here at the center. That should include the following items: boots, snow pants, extra socks, hat, and gloves. Please try to label each piece of clothing as best you can. The plan will be to hang those items on the hooks in the hallway in a reusable bag (not a plastic grocery bag) if you have one. If you need one, please reach out to Miss Sarah or Miss Carly!

**~CARLY & SARAH**

As always, we continue to focus on DCCC's Big 3 in our classroom. We have discussions daily about how to do these things in our classroom, in the hallway, and outdoors. Focus-

be safe.  
♥

BE  
KIND

be  
responsible

ing on these guidelines at home can help build the home-school connection. Please let us know if you have any questions about DCCC's Big 3!

# KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS

Happy New Year! 2022 has officially come to an end and 2023 is here.



December flew by as it always does. We started December with our gingerbread unit. This unit is a lot of fun because we read several different versions of the gingerbread man story and then we compared them. Who were the characters? Where did it take place? Was there anything that was the same or different? Then we moved into Family Traditions and Holidays Around the World. So many families came in and shared their special traditions that they do around the

holidays, it was so fun! We also learned about holidays that are celebrated in different places. We talked about Hanukkah, Las Posadas, Kwanza, St. Lucia's Day and Christmas.

We said goodbye to both Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Julia. We loved having a student teacher and our language lessons and we were sad to see them both go.

In January, we have a lot of special things in store! We started off the month talking about how we were feeling about



**100  
DAYS OF  
SCHOOL!**

a new year. We explored all the different ways feelings and emotions people have and figured out how we were each feeling going into a brand-new year. We also talked about setting goals for ourselves. We talked about different kinds of goals and made some examples and the children each thought of some new things they wanted to learn, try, or do in 2023.

The biggest thing we will be doing this month is celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> day of kindergarten! We will spend most of the month getting ready to celebrate by practicing, creating, writing, and drawing everything that has to do with 100. Our 100<sup>th</sup> day will take place on January 27<sup>th</sup>! The children will complete their second project of the year which will be their 100<sup>th</sup> day project. This project is always a favorite for everyone because the children and families can be creative and represent 100 in so many fun and different ways.



We will also be learning all about snow and polar animals in our science unit this month. We will learn about the life cycle of a snowflake, how snow is formed, different kinds of winter weather and hopefully we will get to see a little bit of snow firsthand! We will talk about what people and animals do in winter to keep warm. We will also learn about the different polar animals and their habitats.

## **Reminders:**

- Please make sure your child is bringing their red folders and backpacks to school each day.
- It is also a good idea to check your child's extra cloths bin in their cubby to make sure their clothes fit and are seasonally appropriate.
- As we move into colder months, please make sure that your child has a warm coat, a hat and gloves or mittens all labeled with their names.
- If it does snow you can bring in snow pants and boots in addition to the hats, gloves, and jacket because we do go out and play in the snow if we can.

**BRITTNEY & ASHLEY**