



Dickinson College Children's Center * February 2023



Welcome to February! We are so excited to be moving closer to our fun Pancake Breakfast! It is the ultimate fun event for the children at DCCC! All kids love breakfast, crafts and the special visitors. We hope to see you all there!

Thank you for your continued cooperation over the past month as we dealt with teacher sicknesses and the many viruses floating around. We continue to interview and look to add additional staff to our substitute lists and to hire the very best candidates for the Assistant Teacher positions that are currently open. Hiring takes time and so we find ourselves covering parts of the day, all working together.

DCCC Kindergarten & SSAP: We are excited to share that our 2023-2024 Kindergarten Program is full. The deadline for the Summer School Age Application is February 20th. We are currently reaching out to our last year's summer staff and looking for a few new staff as well for this year's camp programs. If you know of any college students in education looking for part time or fulltime employment for the summer, please have them contact the office.

WFSG: Staff will receive the second WFSG #2 this month from OCDEL. We are so appreciative of our staff and are happy to reward them with the extra funds. As part of our commitment to offer a monthly staff appreciation day, we all shared a fun breakfast consisting of casseroles and iced coffees to help us get through the very long month of January!

HiMama: We renewed our Agreement for HiMama for the timeframe 1/23-1/24. We are very pleased with the communication that the app offers between teachers and families.

Visitors to the Center: DCCC has many different visitors over the course of a week. Those visitors are required ring the bell and wait for a DCCC staff member to admit them to the building. If you feel inclined to allow them to enter the building, please wait with them until a DCCC staff member has been located to assist them.

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Dates to Remember:

**February 11—
DCCC Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction
Fundraiser**

Scholastic Book Fair
8:00—11:00 a.m.

**March 7 & 8—
Spring Portraits**

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



Fundraising



Here we are in February, and we already have well over \$3,000 in fundraising! This is much more than we had this time last year which was, \$2,886.66. Charleston Wrap ended with, \$654.40. The t-shirt sales were \$402.

We still have the Pancake Breakfast and silent auction yet to come! Thank you to all families who have found a way to participate in some way in the DCCC fundraising efforts!

You may be wondering how DCCC made out in February 2020 at the last Pancake Breakfast:

Ticket Sales: \$2,842

Silent Auction: \$2,225

Bake Sale: \$205

Scholastic Book Fair: \$790.84 in free books for DCCC classrooms!

We've already sold over \$3,000 in tickets! So far we feel pretty confident this Pancake Breakfast will be the most successful one yet! A shout out to many parents on the sidelines helping us to kick things off right! The super cute video, Joe O'Neill, Kara Watson for creating all of our signage at the breakfast, Liz Toth for organizing the cupcakes, the pancake flippers, Katie Oliviero, Andrew Kronenberg, Matt Madden, and Eric Shaeffer, along with ALL of the volunteers on the breakfast day to help things run smoothly! Thank you to the teachers creating such cute centerpieces to make it super decorative and special.



DUCKLINGS

This Month

January has been a month of transitions as we have all returned from a long winter break, become reacquainted, and gradually resettled into our routines. We have explored ideas associated with winter through the scenes that play out beyond our windows, by bringing the outside into our classroom, and through pictures, books, stories and songs.



DO
SMALL
THINGS
WITH
GREAT
LOVE

Reminders

- *Please continue to label all bottles and containers.
- *Remember to cut your infants table food into bite size pieces.

Next Month

In February, we will consider the concept of shadows as we observe Ground Hog Day. We will explore shades of the color red and heart shapes in our environment, as well as thoughts of love, nurturing and caring for each other, as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day with related board books and songs.

Our Favorite Toys This Month



Baby Signs

<https://babysignlanguage.com/dictionary/all-done/>

Helpful Feeding Information

<https://mnmomma.com/baby-led-weaning-daycare-lunch-ideas/>

Upcoming Events

February 11th– DCCC Pancake
Breakfast



YELLOW PUPS

January was so cold that we all got a little bit of cabin fever from being stuck inside for so many days. We took every opportunity that we could to go down to the big room to get that energy out! The cold weather made it easy to talk about winter animals, snow, ice, and read some wonderful winter books written by Jan Brett. We read The Mitten, The Hat, and Gingerbread Baby. It was fun learning about penguins, polar bears, walruses, and snowy owls. We also looked for different animals in the books and practiced the sounds they make. Our favorite animal noises are “moo, baa, and nay” from farm animals. We think it’s funny when our teachers make walrus sounds too! For art we made footprint penguins, colored mittens, painted polar bears, and did handprint cardinals.



February is a fun month in our room! Our focus will be on love and kindness, but we will also be talking about our body parts this month. We love pointing to our eyes, ears, mouth, nose, elbows, knees, and toes. We will also talk about our teeth. We will be painting with toothbrushes, looking at our teeth, examining the big teeth and pretending to be brushing. Since everybody loves painting and coloring, we will spend time making pretty hearts, painting with red, and creating some fun special Valentine’s Day art. Our classroom library has variety of heart themed books with many of our favorite characters such as Elmo, Llama Llama, Clifford, and Winnie the Pooh. Hopefully we will get some more snow so we can bundle up and venture outside to play in it again!

ALISHA & MIMI

Reminders:

*Please remember to that we are a tree nut free zone. Mango and coconut are included in those foods that are allergens, so please do not send those in lunches.



BLUE PUPPIES

Blue Puppy February Highlights

Most of us can identify a color or two!

The favorite toy in the room is blocks, all kinds!

We love the song “RAM-SAM-SAM”

A ram-sam-sam, a ram-sam-sam!
Gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, ram-sam-sam!
A ram-sam-sam, a ram-sam-sam!
Gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, ram-sam-sam!
A raffi! A raffi!
Gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, ram-sam-sam!
A raffi! A raffi!
Gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, ram-sam-sam!



Funny moment:

We think the sensor on the automatic sink faucets is a button and want to push it to turn the water on and our sleeves get wet in the process!

Reminders:

- Please check the app daily for notices if your child needs supplies, we try to give a few days head up.
- We have a sizable storage cupboard if you want to bring in boxes of diaper and/or wipes.

~CATHRYN & BRI

YELLOW HONEY BEES



The Yellow Bees were hopeful for snow to correspond with our winter theme however, Mother Nature had a different plan. We were grateful for unseasonably warm playground weather and even a few January walks.

We spent our month learning about winter weather, snowstorms, and snowmen. We also learned about farms and Artic Animals. We introduced new number and shape songs. This group loves music, so incorporating music into our learning has been a great tool.

Our imaginations are certainly flourishing! We have great new ways to play with our classroom toys and more language to support our play. We are learning to engage with our peers and are following their way of playing. We are spending more time on the floor with our little ones helping them to navigate the world of play (waiting our turn for a toy and teaching the concept of trading). These skills have become more important in the recent weeks.

Potty training is progressing. We continue to encourage everyone to sit on the potty at home, as well as at school.

The month of February generally makes us think of “love”, so to bring what they love to life, we have decided to let the Yellow Bee’s choose the weekly themes. A few themes that have been named have been dinosaurs, Minnie and Micky, Construction and trains. If your child has a special interest, please let us know.

Just a few reminders:

Please make sure your child has a warm change of clothes.

We go outside if the “feels like” temp is 25 degrees, or higher, so please make sure they have hats and mittens.

Please send in snow boots and snow pants on snowy days. The children love to play in the snow.

Thanks for your support!

~BARB & MICHELE



BLUE BUSY BEES

The blue bees had a great start to the New Year, and we have been working on are putting our coats on with the coat flip method and remembering to clean up toys when we are finished playing with them before we get something else out to play with. Highlights from January are learning about

how Arctic Animals stay warm and trying out how blubber really works. We also had fun watching the snow fall and seeing the grass go from green to white in a short period of time.



In the month of February, the blue bees will talk about valentines, feelings, and community helpers. We will have a **Valentine exchange on Tuesday February 14th as well as a Pajama Day**. When we talk about feelings, we will talk about how our feelings make us feel on the inside and how they make us look on the outside. When we talk about community helpers, we will talk about the importance of each of them in our communities.



We continue to talk with the children, about **Being Safe, Being Kind, and Being Responsible** and are learning a song that will help the children remember DCCC's big 3. As parents, you can help us by reminding your child each day in the hallway what it looks like to Be Safe, Kind and Responsible

when walking your child to their classroom in the morning, leaving in the evening, and even at home.

As of February 25th, all the Blue Bees will be three so, we will start to do more small fine motor play such as cutting with scissors, beading with small beads on pipe cleaners, working with more difficult puzzles and having more art supplies such as markers, watercolor paints, and stampers available on a more regular basis. We will also be able to start playing with different toys that are geared for children over 3.

Family Reminders:

*Bring your child's snow gear (warm coat, snow pants, snow boots, gloves, and hat) and please label it.

*If your child has a food that requires a fork to eat it, please send a fork in their lunch box

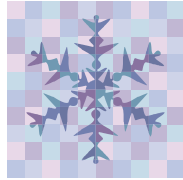
JODY & CASSIE



Preschool Pages...

YELLOW BEAR CUBS

We had a great time starting the New Year by playing games with our friends! Some of our favorite games were Hullabaloo, Race to the treasure and various forms of BINGO! We then



learned about clothes that we wear in different seasons and different types of weather! The bears were very focused on the vari-

ous types of clouds, so we made a cloud viewer for them to bring the conversation home!

We enjoyed some great winter stories by Jan Brett that also introduced us to some special animals!



In February, we will be strengthening our problem-solving skills and reviewing our feelings. To support your child's social and emotional development at home as well as

school, I will be sending home some visual cards that we are using in the classroom to help us work through our problem-solving.

February is also Dental Health Month, and we will be having a week on Dental Health!



Continue to be encouraging self help skills such as putting on their clothing, and practicing how to snap, button and zipper our own clothing!

~ MANDY



BLUE BEARS



uniforms they wear.

Happy 2023! We hope everyone's holidays were great! We all were so excited to see each other when we came back! We spent the last two weeks talking about clothes. In our centers, we worked on why we wear clothes and how our wardrobe changes with the seasons and weather. We even discussed community helpers and the different



In February, we will change gears and talk about winter as well as have a friendship week. During our winter lessons, we will talk about ways animals and people prepare for winter, we will learn about different winter animals and talk about things we do in the wintertime. Our friendship week will be during Valentine's Day week, and we will hit on ways to be a good friend, how friends make us feel and problems that can occur when playing with friends. We will take some time and revisit our solution station to make sure we are solving conflicts in a kind, safe and responsible way. During that week, we will create Valentine bags and friends will be able to bring in Valentine's for each of their friends.



The last of the month, we will finish our month out with Dr. Seuss. We will read fun stories, do silly things and learn all about rhyming! Please keep your eyes on the lesson plan these weeks!



Lastly, in the middle of February, Ms. Kendra will be switching gears and moving to work with the babies. We will miss her in our classroom but know she will pop in to say hi often! Ms. Ashley, who is in our room daily for breaks and planning, will be in our room full time! The blue bears know her and she knows us, so we are excited to welcome her to our class!

~**KENDRA & CHRISTA**

BUNNIES

January came and went so quickly! But the old saying rings true, time flies when you are having fun! It sounded like we had several travelers in our classroom this month who came back to tell us all about their adventures! Some went to water parks, hit the ski slopes, or visited family and friends from far away. We also celebrated a few birthdays in January! Tommy turned 5 on January 11th while Paige celebrated her 5th birthday just 2 days later on the 13th of January! We had fun celebrating Miss Sarah's birthday on the 19th of January by signing her shirt and having extended dance parties with her ALL day. We topped off the celebration with some yummy treats like frozen popsicles and snow cones!



All good things must come to end and open doors to even more enriching learning experiences! February may be one of our shorter months, but we are sure to pack it full! To help keep our topics consistent from home to school, I'll be sending articles home about what we are discussing at school. The packet is a family guide to *A Little Spot of Feelings and Emotion*. February's going to start out with discussions on feelings. Helping children to identify and label emotions is an important first step. Many preschoolers do not yet have the vocabulary to identify feeling words like angry or frustrated or have the skills to "read" facial cues or to interpret body language. We strive to support children's social-emotional development as we label and talk about emotions.

A LITTLE SPOT by Diane Alber



Love is in the air, and we'll be commemorating this important feeling by having a Valentine's Day celebration. If you wish to participate in our classroom Valentine's Day celebration, a class list will be sent home for your child to decorate or send in cards or trinkets for their friends. We do ask to refrain from sending in food related treats, thank you!

We'll also dabble in dental health and talk about our teeth! We've had several friends who have begun losing teeth and there's been lots of talk about the tooth fairy!



We'll wrap up February by preparing for a celebration! A wonderful well-loved author in our room, Dr. Seuss celebrates his birthday early in March. One thing is for sure, and that's that the bunnyies sure do know how to celebrate! We'll celebrate by having a week dedicated to doing random acts of kindness. More details to come, so stay tuned!

On a more serious note, Kindergarten readiness assessments will be going home in February. Miss Sarah and Miss Carly spent January re-assessing each student with the same assessment we used in the fall to track their progression. These will be placed in your child's mailbox outside our classroom door. Please review, sign, and return the cover page to Ms. Sarah or Ms. Carly by February 21st. We are happy to set up a conference with any families who'd like to discuss the

assessments in further detail. We will be meeting again in April for parent teacher conferences as well.

Reminders:

- We enjoy our outdoor time so much and we like to get outside even when the weather is cold! If the thermostat reads 26F or higher, we go outside (other weather conditions permitting). Make sure your child has boots, snow pants, gloves and a hat for those extra snowy days!
- Miss Sarah and Miss Carly will be going through and checking each child's extra clothing bin for seasonally appropriate clothing. If your child is low or in need of any essentials, we'll be placing a note in your child's mailbox.
- We kindly ask that you continue to be vigilant; check and double check all the food labels of the food you send in your child's lunch. Food that "may contain" or "also produced in a facility" peanuts or tree nuts (coconut, mango, etc.. included) are not permitted in our center. If you have any questions about this policy, please don't hesitate to talk to Miss Sarah or Miss Carly.

~CARLY & SARAH

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



Kindergarten just wrapped up their 100-day celebrations. The children created and presented their 100 projects, and they did a great job! We had special 100 related centers (i.e., building with 100 cups, 100 workouts, coloring pages, writing etc.)

In the first few weeks of February, we will be talking about feelings and friendships leading up to Valentine's Day.

We will be doing acts of kindness in our classroom, and you can do some too! The kindergarten class has a Kindness challenge for you, how many acts of can your family do!



BRITTNEY & ASHLEY





kid's kindness **CHALLENGE**

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| PICK UP LITTER IN THE PARK | SMILE AT EVERYONE YOU SEE TODAY | PICK A FEW TOYS TO DONATE | COMPLIMENT 5 PEOPLE TODAY |
| SAY THANK YOU TO YOUR TEACHERS | LET SOMEONE GO AHEAD OF YOU IN LINE | PLAY WITH SOMEONE NEW | HOLD THE DOOR FOR SOMEONE |
| GIVE SOMEONE A FLOWER | GIVE SOMEONE A HUG | CLEAN UP WITHOUT BEING ASKED | WRITE A THANK YOU LETTER |
| DO A SIBLING'S CHORE | CREATE A CARE PACKAGE | DONATE A CAN OF FOOD | OFFER TO HELP A FRIEND |

