



## Dickinson College Children's Center March 2024

### From the Director's Desk



We had our share of cold weather, so we are ready for Spring!

The Children's Center Kindergarten Program is full for the 2024-25 school year. If interested in the Kindergarten Program, full day or Kindergarten only (9-3PM), please contact the center office because we do currently have a wait list. We

continue to offer options for tuition and will work to help create a schedule to fit your family's needs. We continue to work with the college to implement a cultural program as well as a language program within our Kindergarten curriculum for the fall and spring semester.

It's that time of year again to start preparing for our Summer School Age Program. Both camps will begin June 3<sup>rd</sup> and run until August 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be hiring a few returning students to help us out for the summer, and we cannot wait to get started. Currently, we are scheduling activities for the camp programs. If interested in enrolling in the Summer School Age Program, please feel free to call the center office for availability, we do have a wait list for this program as well.

During February, all staff and substitutes were trained in both Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Staff reviewed the hands on steps in using a fire extinguisher and discussed evacuation procedures. Emergency Relocations and the steps involved in an Intruder Drill were also discussed and reviewed at this time.

We have been working very hard on our projections for our fall class assignments. Information about the fall move ups will be shared at the Spring conferences. These conferences will be offered in the evening on April 25 with a few rooms having daytime meetings as well. It will be a great time to discuss your child's current development and their projected move up. Once all groups are set, we will begin the enrollment process for the new children.

The Children's Center will be closed on March 15<sup>th</sup> for a training day. Some of the teachers and substitutes will renew their Pediatric First Aid/CPR certification while other staff will renew online trainings, complete classroom work, and various small group teacher meetings throughout the day. At the end of the day, all staff will attend a staff meeting and complete the day with a team building game.



### Dates to Remember:

**Friday March 15**  
- DCCC CLOSED  
for staff training  
day

**April 8-12—**  
Week of the  
Young Child

**April 18—**  
Kindergarten  
Incoming Class  
Visitation! 9 a.m.

**April 25—**  
Parent Confer-  
ences in the even-  
ing—specific de-  
tails coming soon!



### **Update on DCCC Security, hours update, and staffing changes:**

The Facilities department is currently doing the work to prep for the change to card readers for the center doors and the intercom for the center.

As of April 1st we will be returning to our normal operating hours of 7:15-5:30. Please make every attempt to return to your original drop off and pick up hours as our staff will be returning to their later start times as before. It is important that we all work together in order to make sure that the staff: child ratios are met at all times during drop off and pick up times. For those of you who did need to change your schedules because of this temporary change in closing early, we thank you for your patience and support during this time. Most of you know Ms. Barb already but she will be the new door monitor in the hallway at drop off and pick up times. Please remind all alternate pick up individuals to bring a current driver's license with them in order for Ms. Barb to check ID as is the current policy.

We are very excited to share that this additional assignment within DCCC has provided an opportunity for the teachers below to move into some different age groups and in some cases, to have some better desired shift hours as well. We hope that you can share in this positive change and welcome the teachers in their new spaces over the next few weeks as they visit and prepare to move. Remember these teachers are not leaving just moving to different areas in the center and maybe your child will meet up with them again.

#### **As of April 1st Classroom Changes:**

Door Monitor: Barb Willow

Yellow Bee Assistant Teacher: Alisha Fahnestock

Yellow Pup Assistant Teacher: Bri Kemp

Blue Puppy Assistant Teacher: Tessa Vance

Blue Bees: Ms. Cassie will be returning from Maternity leave.

Preschool/KG Floater Assistant Teacher: Ms. Sondra will be substitute in this position until a new Assistant Teacher is hired

We are currently interviewing for the fulltime Assistant Teacher position for the Preschool/Kindergarten end of the building. If you know of someone that may be interested, please have them call the DCCC office.

Have a great weekend and if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to reach out.

Thanks and have a great month!!

**-GINA VANKIRK, DIRECTOR**

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# Fundraising

Pancake Breakfast was a HUGE success, totaling, over \$6,000! Stop by the fundraising bulletin board in the front hallway to see the summary, and some pictures!

We would love your feedback, please take the Pancake Breakfast Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/CRdfvAUAP>

## Coming Soon!

Lil' Angels Photography

Original Works

2023-2024 DCCC Yearbook

### **WANTED:**

**BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS FOR:  
DCCC's 1ST ANNUAL  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 8AM-1 PM**

**IF YOU HAVE A BUSINESS CONNECTION THAT  
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING AND  
SUPPORTING DCCC ASK IN THE OFFICE ABOUT  
SPONSORSHIP LEVELS!**



## **DUCKLINGS**

### **This Month**

In February we celebrated Valentine's Day with heart shapes, hugs and kisses, stories, and songs. We are moving and shaking in the room with so many walkers and crawlers. We are enjoying reading books and singing songs. We love songs that have our names and the names of our friends in them! We are starting to clap when it is being sung and are enjoying waving and pointing at things around our classroom.

### **Our Favorite Toys This Month**



### **Baby Signs**

Browse around the baby sign language site and look for a fun sign your family would use! ([babysignlanguage.com](http://babysignlanguage.com))

### **Reminders**

\*Please sure your child has a coat and shoes or slippers for outside time as it gets warmer and we can spend more time outside!

### **Next Month**

March is a fun month of transition to spring! We will watch for the early signs of spring, and experience kite-shapes and green shamrocks in our classroom environment. We will paint and color in shades of green. We will listen to Celtic music, and dance with rainbow ribbons. We will continue to label our body parts and our feelings, as we learn more about ourselves. As of March, two of our classmates have entered officially into the stage of young toddler with their milestone first birthdays, and a few more are getting so very close! It is a stage of increasing independence. We will practice washing hands, putting away our toys, self-dressing, eating solids from spoons and forks, drinking from sippy cups and self-feeding simple table foods. Young toddlers are ready to give up being spoon fed pureed foods and they love the newfound independence of being able to feed themselves...great for their fine motor development and their self-esteem! Always introduce new foods at home before sending them in to the Center to be sure your baby doesn't have a food sensitivity. Review the choking hazard list and remember we are a peanut-free and tree nut-free center (this includes mango, which surprisingly is considered a member of the tree nut family). Our one -year-olds will gradually wean themselves from their bottle feedings over the course of the coming months. Our younger group of infants learn so much by watching and by engaging in the activities of the older ones. Now, let's get ready to celebrate spring!

**-LACI & MARYGRACE**



## **YELLOW PUPS**

February was a fun month in our room especially with the snow. We were happy to get outside when weather permitted. Kindness and how we show love was the main theme, and everyone did a wonderful job of showing it! We also talked about our body parts. The children loved pointing to their eyes, ears, mouth, nose, elbows, knees, and toes. Some of our fun art days were spent making pretty hearts, finger painting, and creating some fun Valentine's Day art. We hope you liked our creations!



March is going to be a month full of books! We will spend time listening to books by Dr. Seuss, Sandra Boynton, Eric Carle, and our favorite series of touch and feel books. We will be creating art and singing songs that go along with the themes of our books. Some of our art projects will include making handprint fish, Cat in the Hat paintings, and Very Busy Spider paintings. Most of all, we look forward to spending more time outside as it warms up! There is no question that playground time is everybody's favorite activity, especially after all that snow and ice!

### **Family Reminders:**

Make sure you are checking your child's mailbox daily so you don't miss any important information! As well as Lillio for information concerning supplies needed.

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



## **BLUE PUPPIES**

We are working on fine motor skills through puzzles, busy boards, stacking rings and block building. Other activities include art using crayons and paint brushes, and using utensils during meal times.

The puppies did so well identifying feelings through our books and puppets last month! We also talked about them when we were happy or sad.

We are also getting really good with identifying colors!

We will be listening to many books by some common authors and incorporating fun art activities!

Wear your green on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **REMINDERS**

- ~please label pouches
- ~check food labels for **peanuts/tree nuts and mangos**. We can not serve these items.
- ~bring in or e-mail 4-5 family pictures

### **PBIS**

We will be focusing on being **KIND** this month. Being kind as we play with our friends, share, take turns, give hugs, and gentle with our hands

**Cathryn & Bri**



# **YELLOW HONEY BEES**



During the month of February we talked about feelings. We talked about happiness, sadness, love, anger, and finished the month out talking about Random acts of Kindness. We talked about how we feel when having these feelings.

In March we will be bonkers for books. We will be reading a lot of books and talking about who wrote them. We have a lot of fun activities to do with the children. Spring will be hopping around the corner soon. So, we will talk about how the weather is changing, and how it is getting lighter outside longer.

The Pancake Breakfast was a huge success because of families like you. Thanks for taking the time out of your busy

schedules to be a part of this fun event.

We continue to reinforce DCCC's Big Three. We are using the language, "Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible" more and more to help them understand the meaning of the words. Maybe you can start using that language at home, too?



## **Reminders-**

- The Center will be closed on Friday, March 15th for staff training.
- Spring conferences are in April. More information will be coming.

Have a great month!

**-BARB & MIMI**



## **BLUE BUSY BEES**

### **February Highlights:**

\* Making a special Valentine for our families and passing out Valentines to our friends wearing our Pajamas.

\* Making our Pancake Breakfast Center Pieces

\* Making our feeling faces

\* Happy tooth, sad tooth activity



\* Cleaning the tooth activity

- Hospital X-Ray activity

- Watching the Arborist climb the tree and cut down tree limbs

- Community helper hats



### **What is coming up in March:**

In March, the blue bees will focus on books as we learn about authors (the person that writes the story) and illustrators (the person that draws the pictures). The Blue Bees will also learn how to handle books to keep them clean and in good repair and what to do with a book that needs repaired.

The projects and activities the children do, will center around the books that we are reading. Please feel free to bring favorite books the entire month to share at school.



The Blue Bees will continue to work on earning stickers to receive a prize from the prize box for cleaning up toys and following the rules at gathering time. We will also start to earn Hallway

Stickers for following the hallway rules when going outside and coming inside. When a total thirty stickers are earned, the children will be able to earn a special treat.



With nicer weather coming soon we would like to get bikes out again for the children to ride. **\*\*On our playground, the children must wear a helmet and be wearing close toed shoes to ride the bikes\*\* If you have not already brought a helmet in for your child to wear while riding on the bikes and you would like your child to be able to ride a bike on the playground, please bring a helmet for your child.**

In the room, we continue to work on the Big 3 (Be Safe, Kind & Responsible). Please help us by helping your child to Be Safe, Kind & Responsible when in the hallway with them at drop off and pick up. Remind your child they must use walking feet, always stay with an adult, watch for others in the hallway and that it is the parent's responsibility to open the front door using the buttons, sign the child in and out and open the classroom door as they enter.

Thank you,

**JODY, SONDRA & CASSIE**



# Preschool Pages...

## YELLOW BEAR CUBS

The Teddy Bear room has been a very busy place. In February we began using our Solution Station board in our room to help us solve our problems when our feelings become unhappy! We wrap up February with an exciting week of Dental exploration. My favorite part of February was hearing the bears give each other compliments at random and self-initiated moments!



It will be a rhyming good time with our rhyming weeks to kick off the month of March! I plan on incorporating a good bit of color concepts into our Balls unit will come after the rhyming weeks. The balls unit is where we will be talking about different balls, what they can and cannot do, their shape, color, size, and more! Be attentive to the lesson plan for special attire throughout the month!



### **Teddy Bear Reminders:**

The weather will be transferring to spring (HOPEFULLY)! Dress your children in layers so as the weather turns warm throughout the day, they may be comfortable. PLEASE UPDATE THE EXTRA CLOTHES BINS AS WELL!

**The center will be closed on Friday March 15th for staff training day!**



## **BLUE BEARS**

We will begin March by finishing up our rhyming theme. During this week we will focus on the rhyming words we hear in the stories we read. We will also focus on the different parts of a book, as well as what an author/illustrator do.

St Patrick's Day week will bring us some colorful fun! We will learn about all things color, as well as some St. Patrick Day fun on the Thursday before in-service. We will be on the lookout for that silly little leprechaun that visits us and creates a mess each year!



We will finish up the month of March with fairy tale and farm themes! During our fairy tale week we will read different fairy tales and compare/contrast them, as well as discuss what character and setting mean. Then we will jump into our farm theme and learn about different farm

animals and what different types of jobs farmers have.

Our letters for the month of March will be: K, A, M, and N. We will also continue to do our monthly name writing and self-portraits. We are so proud of how far their name



writing has come since August and look forward to their continued progress!



### **Reminders:**

\*DCCC will be closed Friday, March 15th, for a staff training day.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

- As we move closer to spring, the weather will be warming up and we will be spending more time outside. Spring temperatures can be tricky, so please keep an eye on the weather to ensure your child has proper outerwear.

**ASHLEY & GUNNER**

## **BUNNIES**



February gave us all the feels! February brought us Valentine's Day, where we discussed ways to show other people how much we care. We took the time to discuss all our emotions-- big ones, little ones, and all the feelings in between. We are showing our teachers how we can manage our own emotions and how to seek help when our emotions get too big to handle all by ourselves. It made us all feel so proud to spread kindness around our school!



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We will kick off March celebrating Read Across America! Our Creative Curriculum Books unit will introduce us to authors and illustrators. We'll explore books inside and out, learning about what makes a story. We will be able to tell the difference between a fiction book and a nonfiction book. We'll even create our own classroom book!

Here is hoping March comes in like a lamb instead of a lion (February was COLD and SNOWY!) March will be a fun month learning about the weather. The students will 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 forecast a lot is, "windy" which is "hace viento". We noticed that the weather temperature was starting to gradually rise towards the end of February, 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 will jump right into this study with a lot of interest! We used non-fiction books to give us facts about frogs. We will learn about their habitats, what the difference is between a frog and a toad, and that frogs are a kind of Amphibian! We will also read some fiction books that are silly but teach us useful life lessons! You might hear that we have a special visitor in our room, who happens to be a frog, and his name is Hoppy (Stuffed animal □). He helps us remember and rewards us when we follow our DCCC 3B rules; Be safe, be kind, be responsible!



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### **RECAP:**

Responding promptly to replacing your children's extra clothing is very helpful to us. Our classroom extra clothing bin is running slim, but we won't need to dip into it if your child's extra clothing bin is equipped with what they need. If you are unsure of what your child's extra clothing bin has inside it, we can double check it at drop off or pick up. On a day-to-day basis if they use any clothing from their extra clothing bins, we are sure to put a note on the soiled clothing letting you know what they will need in order to replace what we used.

**~CARLY & SARAH**



# **KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS**



Happy March! The year is flying by! I wonder if we will have true spring or if we will continue to have fake spring and continue to flop back and forth with winter. We are hoping to be able to spend more time outside in our outdoor classroom as hopefully the weather will start to stay warmer. We love getting outside and doing our kindergarten work in the sunshine!



In March, I had the privilege of attending the PATTAN conference called "Making a Difference: Educational Practices that Work!" This was a three-day conference in Hershey where I got to participate in a variety of training sessions put on by the Department of Education and the Bureau of Special Education.

In Kindergarten, we are working on the "be kind and be responsible" components of DCCCs big 3. We are working hard on problem solving and conflict resolution. It is important to practice and really draw attention to learning how to appropriately work through a problem with a friend, listen to someone else's ideas, and how to keep working through something that might feel frustrating. We are also working on being responsible and following the classroom rules and making sure our work is done.

Get Outside.

Move your Body.

Enjoy Nature.

**Here are a few fun outdoor ideas:**

Play in the rain. Put on your rain gear and play in puddles!

Catch the wind. Create a windsock, kite, pinwheel, or weathervane and learn all about the wind.

Go on a walk, bike ride, or hike

Plant a garden. Make signs to label the plants.

Watch for wildlife. (birds, bugs, flowers/plants)

Look to the skies, observe the clouds.

Go on a picnic.

Write with chalk (names, sight words, letters, pictures, math problems)



DCCC will be Closed on March 15<sup>th</sup> for staff Training.

**-BRITTNEY & TESSA**