



## Dickinson College Children's Center September 2024



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

Welcome to the new school year here at DCCC!

The current enrollment for the Children's Center is 114 children. We welcomed 25 new children to the center. Out of the total enrollments, 12 are part time and 102 are fulltime. This year our Kindergarten enrollment is 15 children. We hope to post our updated waiting list on our website within the next few weeks.

### **Center Happenings**

We are happy to announce that we have hired Christina Gerard for the Yellow Puppy assistant teacher. Her Bio and start date will be shared soon. We continue to interview for the Blue Bee Assistant Teacher and the Part Time afternoon teacher. Please share our phone –(717) 245-1088 or email - [van-kirkr@dickinson.edu](mailto:van-kirkr@dickinson.edu) if you know of anyone that may be interested in joining the DCCC team.

The Big Room is undergoing a small make over that will create another office for the position of the Social Emotional Learning Coordinator. This extra space will allow for parent meetings and small group activities.

The center was closed on August 16th. The teachers spent their day cleaning and setting up their classrooms, participating in a staff meeting and attending a training on **Inclusivity** designed by Kris Woody (Independent Program-wide PBIS Facilitator). At the end of the day everyone took part in an Open House for new and current families.

The Outside classroom is ready for activities. All classes are encouraged to use the space in addition to their outside times. We look forward to the cooler weather!

**On September 10<sup>th</sup> we held our first Family Café of the year!** There was a great turnout and we hope to host several more of these over the course of the year!

**Pick Up time Reminder:** Please arrive prior to 5:30 PM in enough time to gather your child's belongings and speak briefly to the teacher at pick up time.

~Gina VanKirk, Director DCCC

### **Dates to Remember:**

October 2—  
Infant/Toddler fall portraits

October 3—  
Preschool/Kg fall portraits

October 15—  
Evening  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

October 22—  
Trick or treat at  
DCCC!

October 29—  
Class fall harvest  
parties/parade

**safe, kind,  
responsible**



# Fundraising

BE SURE TO CHECKOUT OUR FUNDRAISING BULLETIN BOARD TO FIND OUT WHAT'S COMING FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR!



## **Coming Up:**

**Rita's Italian Ice: Thursday, Sept. 12th 4-9pm**

**Panera Night Out: Wednesday, Sept. 25th 5-9**

## **DCCC 35th Anniversary Celebration Update:**

DCCC deserves a celebration in it's 35th year! Even though our golf tournament didn't pan out, we are determined to acknowledge the importance DCCC has brought to not only the Dickinson College families past and present but to families in the Carlisle area and the surroundings communities. DCCC will have an envelope fundraiser in the Big Room. Pull an envelope, fill it with cash, get entered in a drawing to win a basket full of DCCC goodies including a \$100 tuition credit!



*Happy  
35th Anniversary*

# **DICKINSON COLLEGE** *Children's Center*

Join us for an Open House! Sunday, Sept. 22nd, 1-3pm Walk the halls, look through pictures to reminisce about the early childhood education years.

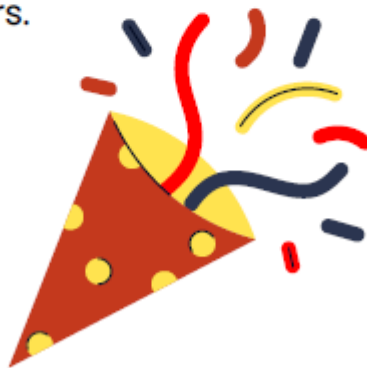
**Special teacher visits**

**PAST and Present!**

**SNACKS**

**CRAFTS**

**FACE-PAINTING**



*Participate in the brick walkway legacy fundraiser*



Dear Families,

DCCC is participating in an important initiative. It is called Program-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PW-PBIS). Mandy Gutshall, our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinator, will continue to support the DCCC staff in implementing universal PBIS materials, techniques and lessons in the classrooms, and will also have the opportunity to work with small groups/individual prevention interventions.

PW-PBIS is an evidence-based, multi-tiered framework supporting all children's social-emotional development. The goal of PW-PBIS is to help staff create and maintain a safe, supportive learning environment that promotes positive social skills and reduces negative behaviors so that all children can learn and succeed. Through a PW-PBIS approach, teachers will use a framework of practices which includes universal practices (see below) for all children, prevention practices for some children who need more support, and individualized intervention plans for children who demonstrate persistent challenging behaviors.

As part of PW-PBIS we have adopted a program-wide set of general expectations which outline the Children Center's expectations for behavior in our program. In addition, our PW-PBIS team will link location specific rules to each expectation for each classroom. We will be posting the Program-Wide expectations and behavior matrices in each classroom. Our Program-wide expectations of Be Safe, Be Kind and Be Responsible are incorporated throughout the center.

As part of our PW-PBIS process, all staff will be using the following evidence-based universal practices to increase student learning and decrease classroom disruptions:

- Teaching children our program-wide expectations using a variety of teaching strategies.

- Using a 5:1 ratio of positive, descriptive feedback vs correction.

- Using positive voice tone with children and each other.

- Using pre-correcting, prompting, and redirecting

- Acknowledging positive behavior using positive, descriptive feedback

We are excited about the changes we are making and hope you are too!

Gina VanKirk  
Director  
Dickinson College Children's Center



# Duckling News

## This Month

We are so pleased to report that our new infants, ranging from 3 to 8 months, are experiencing a successful adjustment to their new daycare environment. We all have our own individual preferences and schedules for feedings, sleeping and playing, so we have a very flexible schedule in the infant room at this time. During the month of September, we will continue to work on getting to know each other gradually. It takes time and patience to begin to understand each other and to build those trusting relationships! We will listen to stories and songs; look at board book pictures; explore sensory books; listen to nursery songs and lullabies; manipulate keys, rattles & teething toys. Some of us will begin to experiment tasting foods, and there will be lots of floor play and exploration! You will receive a newsletter and lesson plan on Lillio each month during the course of this year. You will also find a hard paper copy of the Infant lesson plan in the mailbox area and one posted on the hallway bulletin board. Lesson plans are developmentally based and for infants, activities revolve largely around basic care activities. Because there is a wide developmental range in the infant room, you may see activities on the plan that are not necessarily appropriate for your child. The plan is designed to cover the individual needs and developmental goals of each child.

## Reminders

\*Please remember to label all of your babies' belongings, especially bottles and milk. Please include your babies first and last name and date milk was expressed.

\*Remember to maintain a supply of extra outfits ...costume changes occur frequently in the infant room!

\*We can not serve mango and coconut. They are both part of the tree nut family.

\* And please, please send in family photos of anyone and everyone important in your baby's life: parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, pets, friends, etc. Babies love to look at photos of their families. These photos will be organized into family collages and will be hung in our classroom. As the babies get older, they begin to recognize and point to family members in photos. Such valuable images from home can help to ease the transition from home to daycare. If you have them saved in a digital format, email is the best way to get them to us! Send them to [wimerl@dickinson.edu](mailto:wimerl@dickinson.edu)

## Baby Signs

<https://babysignlanguage.com/dictionary/more>

We use this sign for lots of things! More milk, more food, more toys, and more bubbles to name a few!

## **YELLOW PUPS**

Our Yellow Pup friends had a blast in August finishing up our beach and summer fun art projects. We enjoyed our Hawaiian Luau last day playing with Leis, Grass skirts, and flowers. Our favorite song was Baby shark and Surfing USA. We celebrated Miss Linny and wish her well in Tennessee.

Our new Yellow Pup friends are adjusting well and enjoying playing with new toys. In September we will start to dive into art projects exploring paint and different textures. So far bubbles and music are a big hit.

### **Reminders:**

- If you would like to join our Family wall bring in or email a few family pictures
- Check hallway folders daily for important paperwork

### **MISS BRIANNA & MISS BREE**

#### **Additional Reminders:**

Please remember to cut your child's food and make sure you are familiar with the choking hazard list you received at the beginning of the year. Please label everything, including the sheets and blankets.



It will start soon to get chilly! Please be sure to send in a sweatshirt or jacket for when we go out to the playground in the morning!



Please make sure your child has shoes for outside time!







## **BLUE PUPPY HIGHLIGHTS!**

Please make sure to label items such as lunch containers, yogurts, pouches, bedding, stuffed animals and hats .

Feel free to bring in a water bottle for you child. It can stay here and we will offer water after being outside and through out the day. Also if your child will wear a hat please bring that in as well.

### PBIS

We will be introducing being SAFE this month. Staying safe in the room by keeping feet on the floor, sitting in chairs and keeping toys in our hands. Staying safe outside by climbing up steps and going down the slide

The puppies have adjusted very well, are busy exploring the room and getting used to the routine of the day! We are having fun getting to know you and your child! The kitchen area, baby dolls and table toys are popular play areas.

### REMINDERS

~Due to choking hazards, grapes and hot dogs must to be cut into quarters for us to serve.

~check food labels for peanuts/tree nuts and mangos. We can not serve these items.

Cathryn &  
Tessa



## **YELLOW HONEY BEES**

We have had a great start to the year here in the yellow bee room. The children are all adjusting well, with only a little drop off tears. They are even playing together inside and outside, which is fun to see, and know each other's names now too. We are hoping to get outside more in the afternoons now that the high temps seem to be gone and autumn is on the way!

Some of our September topics are Fall, apples, and colors. We have some fun art projects for September using paints and crayons. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to send us a message on Lillio, or talk with us at pick up.



We will be having conferences in October, which we will be sharing more information on later.



### **Reminders:**

Please make sure your child's belongings are labeled, as well as their lunch boxes. Please drop off at the gate in the morning and don't come in the room, as that makes the transition longer and more difficult for the child, and the others in the room. If we are on the playground at the end of the day, please come outside but remain by the door with your other children, and don't attempt to go get your child from the playground. We will get them for you to make the process go smoother and quicker.

~**MIMI & ALISHA**





## **BLUE BUSY BEES**

### **August Highlights:**

\*Getting to know each other and exploring the room. Most of the Blue Bees moved up from the Blue Puppies but we do have some new friends also.



\*Watching the train go by, Zebra swim in his tank and the big kids on the big kid playground

\*We love to dance and listen to stories.

\*The blue bees have had a great start to the year. We have also been learning what the expectations are in the classroom, hallway, and the playground (which is a part of our SPEC Program). Ms. Sondra and Ms. Jody are learning about each child so we can help your child succeed and do their best in the blue bee room. **The Blue Bees love looking at each other's family pictures, so keep them coming if you have not had a chance to bring pictures in, please do.** We are working on learning to use our words to tell our teachers and peers what we want and need. Other areas that we are working on are using the potty independently, learning to clean up our toys when playtime is over and washing our hands (using soap, scrubbing, and then rinsing all the soap off before we dry with a paper towel.) As a parent, you can help with these skills by having your child work on them at home.

### **What is Coming Up in September:**



\*Caterpillar to butterfly (learning about and watching Monarch and Swallowtail butterflies go from caterpillar, into chrysalis, emerging as butterflies and then releasing them on the playground)

\*Colors, shapes, opposites and 123's and ABC's



### **Family Reminders:**

\*Please be sure to wear close-toed shoes for outside play

**\*All children must have a helmet to ride bikes, if your child does not have one, please bring one in**

\*Please provide utensils in your child's lunch. We do have spoons but do not have forks if you forget to put utensils in your child's lunch

**\*Please make sure to check food labels for traces of peanuts and or tree nuts**

**\*Please no glass containers.** In the Blue Bee room, we encourage the children to open their own lunch boxes and take out their own containers and we do not want to take the chance of a glass container hitting the floor and breaking

\*If your child has a heat-up please place it or the cold items in a different container to make it easier to warm up foods.

**JODY & SONDRA**

# Preschool Pages...

## YELLOW BEAR CUBS

### **August was fun..**

We got to know each other and learned about the different centers and toys in our classroom. We love learning and singing about the calendar. Who knew the Days of the Week and Months of the Year could be so much fun! We got to explore the larger playground for the first time. Boy, was that exciting! We love the swings- especially when we can get a big push from our teachers and go so high! One of our favorite things to do is act like dinosaurs- ROAR! We really enjoy following along with "Danny Go!" when he sings and acts like a dinosaur.

### **What's happening in September?**

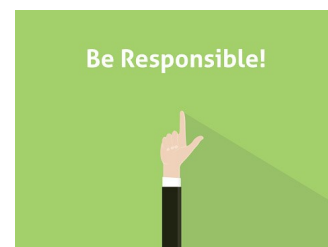
In September, we are looking forward to learning more about ourselves and our friends, by sorting out our similarities and differences, as well as seeing the similarities and differences in the world around us. We plan to practice more of how to share, use kind words with our friends, and play safe.

### **Reminders:**

When we are playing, it is important that when we get that feeling in our bodies to use the potty, we stop what we are doing and go to the potty to try to avoid having an accident. We understand that accidents will happen, but our goal is to have less of them. Please encourage your child at home to do the same!

### **Fun ideas for a weekend adventure!**

Speaking of dinosaurs and animals, if you haven't had a chance to visit Lake Tobias Zoo in Halifax, I would highly recommend it. I had an opportunity to visit with my daughter, and we really enjoyed the Reptile & Exotic Animals Show, along with feeding the giraffes, and going on their Safari Tour. It was a lot of fun to be up close and interact with all of these beautiful and amazing animals.



## **BLUE BEARS**



Welcome to the Blue Bear Room! We have all officially gotten to know each other and have begun to build on old friendships and create new ones. We have all enjoyed our first few weeks talking about our new environment. We have learned about rules and how they keep us and the things around us safe.



We will start learning about our beginning tools for our Get Set for School curriculum as we meet Big Line, Little Line, Big Curve, and Little Curve with our wooden pieces. We will use and talk about these pieces all throughout the year. We will meet another friend that we will see a lot, Mat Man. This new “friend” will be a great tool to make us aware when we are writing our letters.



In September we will talk about what makes each of us special and we will also talk about our families and our pets. During our pet study we will learn about how to care for pets, what they eat, and what makes a great pet. Pets are a big part of our families so learning proper care is important. To wrap up the month of September we will learn about germs and ways to prevent them

with proper hygiene.

Starting this month we will begin to introduce a weekly letter of the alphabet. Throughout the week we will do different activities based on our letter of the week to become more familiar with it. We will do this until we have learned all 26 letters!

We are off to a great start and looking forward to a wonderful year in the Blue Bear Room!

**~Ms. ASHLEY & MR. GUNNER**

**DCCC Big 3**

**-Be Safe**

**-Be Kind**

**-Be Responsible**

# **BUNNIES**



August came and went in the blink of an eye! We have been together as a bunny family for only 3 weeks, but it feels like we all have been friends forever! When we started our time in the bunny room, we learned how to make new friends and keep the old. We discovered some new names and faces around our school and on campus. We wrapped up August by showing off our beautiful families! Everyone is transitioning so well into the BIG Bunny room! We've had some new challenges to overcome but we are learning that for every problem there is a solution. We are already showing an understanding of these new routines and before we know it, it will all become second nature to us!

We also introduced and implemented our classroom management strategy! It's titled "Get your game on!" The children were introduced to DCCC's 3 B's and to our classroom's Big 3—(Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible). When they display an understanding and actively show that they are completing any of the Big 3, they get to move UP on the game board because "They have their game on!" There is no way to move "back", we can only move forward on the game board. There are numerous opportunities to move up on the game board throughout our day.

If a child is having a particularly difficult time recognizing their emotions or how to appropriately handle them, we walk them to an area of our room called the "Quiet Space". Here they have ample materials and visuals on how to help them calm their bodies so that they can return to the group in a manner that is acceptable and so that they can learn at their optimal ability. We are confident most of our days spent in the bunny room will be enjoyable and it will be a learning filled environment with this strategy in place. Any questions or concerns about anything taking place in our room, please feel free to contact Ms. Sam or Ms. Sarah at any time!



In the bunny room, we follow Creative Curriculum. Creative Curriculum uses a balance of both play directed and teacher directed activities. These activities have goals and objectives that are developmentally appropriate and fall in to 4 main developmental categories: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language. If you have any questions about the curriculum, feel free to ask us! We will also dive feet first into our Handwriting Without Tears workbooks. We are eager to explore these new activities with your children!

September marks the start of our first preschool curriculum study, "Clothing"! As we enter the new month our hopes are that we'll be diving into some cooler weather and we'll discuss what changes we see, hear, and feel. We'll talk about clothing, its purpose, the similarities and differences in our clothing as compared to other cultures, and how we can use our clothing to express ourselves!

Before we get started with our first Creative Curriculum study, we'll spend an extra week building some necessary social/emotional groundwork with a furry classroom friend named "Pip". Pip is a stuffed animal dalmatian dog who will walk us through classroom rules and expectations before we dive into our kindergarten readiness learning. Pip will also teach us about BIG and small problems and help give us some tools to become problem solvers!

## **A few friendly reminders:**

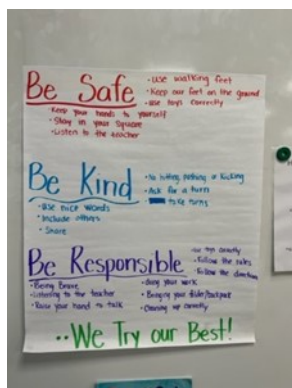
Please continue to check your child's mailbox located to the left of our classroom door. There is a BLUE BUNNY bin and a YELLOW BUNNY bin (if you are unsure what color bunny your child is, ask them! They know)

Talk to your child about their day! You'd be surprised at what they can recall! They all love to talk, we know!

## **SARAH & SAM**



# **KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS**



Kindergarten is off to a great start this year! It is always hard when you move to a new classroom or a new school and have to get to know new people, so we are really practicing being kind friends to each other as we get to know everyone.

We have been working learning about our classroom routines and rules, DCCC's Big 3. The Big 3 include Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible. In kindergarten we also practice trying our best!

We have been learning our names and learning how to use the different classrooms tools like pencils, markers, scissors and glue during our kindergarten boot camp.



We started talking about our first SEL superhero, her name is Harper, and she helps us with being kind to others. In kindergarten we are always looking for ways to help others at school. We ask people how their days are going, clean up, hold the door, be good listeners and more!



In September, we have a lot of exciting things coming up as we start to dig more into our curriculum. We will be talking about trees/fall as well as our apple unit. We will also be starting visits from the Bosler Library, which is always a lot of fun.

We will continue practicing letters and their sounds, phonics skills, and writing.

## **Kindergarten Challenge**

The kindergarten dolphins challenge you to find 3 ways this month where you can be a helper to someone else and let us know what you do!

**Ms. BRITTNEY & Ms. MANDY**

