



Dickinson College Children's Center March 2025

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 2025-26 school year! If interested in the Kindergarten Program, full day or Kindergarten only (9-3PM), please contact the center office and we will be glad to add you to the waiting list. We continue to offer options for tuition and will work to help create a schedule to fit your family's needs.

It's that time of year again to start preparing for our Summer School Age Program, our one camp this year will begin June 2nd and run until August 8th. We will be hiring a few returning students to help us out for the summer here at DCCC and in camp, and we cannot wait to get started. Currently, we are scheduling activities for the camp program.

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 22nd and 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 14th for a staff training day. Some of the teachers and substitutes will renew their Pediatric First Aid/CPR certification while other staff will complete online trainings, classroom organization and toy and book exchanges within their rooms. At the end of the day, all staff will attend a staff meeting and enjoy a training by Jennifer Poole on "Big Emotions".

As always, we thank you for your continued support in helping to keep the children and teachers safe here at DCCC! Please remind any visitors who come to pick up your child to ring the bell and to bring along their ID for documentation purposes.

Have a great month and enjoy the warmer weather.

-GINA VANKIRK, DIRECTOR



Dates to Remember:

Friday March 14
- DCCC CLOSED
for staff training
day

April 7-11—
Week of the
Young Child

April 17—
Kindergarten
Incoming Class
Visitation! 9 a.m.

April 22—
Parent Confer-
ences in the even-
ing—specific de-
tails coming soon!



PBIS CORNER

Every child will have moments when their behavior is challenging, in those moments it is important for adults to remember that **EVERY BEHAVIOR HAS A PURPOSE!** Figuring out what the purpose of the behavior is will help guide the reaction and solution to the behavior. Sometimes replacing an unsafe behavior with a safe behavior is the easiest solution.

****The resources below can be found as a handout in a folder on the PBIS Bulletin Board beside DCCC's Main Entrance!***



Unsafe	Safe Choices
Pushing	Wall push ups
Pulling	Pushing / pulling basket with toys in it on the carpet
Wrestling	Row your boat game
Squeezing	Chair push ups/pull ups
	Yoga poses
	Bear hugs
	Rolling on a ball with belly on ball and arms/legs stretched out
Spitting	Gargle water, spit in sink
	Blowing bubbles
	Drink through a straw
	Blow a pinwheel
Running	Balancing on alternate legs
Kicking	Kicking or bouncing feet on exercise bands on legs of chair
Climbing	Skating on carpet with paper plates
	Rocket Jumps
	Jumping jacks
Throwing	Hitting soft pillow
Hitting	Throwing "snow balls", bean bags, or rolled up socks into a basket
Scratching	Play doh
Pinching	Clay
	Threading activities
	Coloring
	Tearing paper

Be
Safer

be
kind

be
responsible

Fundraising

Pancake Breakfast Total: \$5,548 This includes silent auction, ticket sales, and cupcake sales. Scholastic Book total is, \$1,400 which equals over \$400 for new books for classrooms!

If your family was able to participate in the Pancake Breakfast, DCCC teachers and children thank you!

These funds go towards new updates in the classrooms and playgrounds including new equipment, toys, and large motor toys for the Big Room or Playgrounds.

DCCC has a variety of fundraisers so that your family can choose when to participate or not. We thank you for your continued support in reaching our goal

2024-2025 Fundraising Goal: \$15,000

Total so far: \$10,955.57

**Get your
Senators
Tickets!**



Coming Soon!



Are you ready for SPRING?!!!

We have some Spring fundraising family events that you won't want to miss!

March 5th & 6th—Lil' Angels portraits

April 1st: Panera Night Out, 4-8pm 40 Noble Blvd. Use code, FUND4U at online checkout. Enjoy a dinner out, or order and take home! Maybe it'll be nice enough to take it to a local park!

April 26th: Trick or Treat Night at the Senators Game! Kids 12 and under, wear your Halloween costumes and do some trick or treating while taking in a baseball game! DCCC earns \$4 on every ticket sold! Tell your friends!

Get your Senator game ticket questions answered here:

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Dickinsoncollege2>



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 friends walking cruising, and crawling. 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 absolute favorite thing to do right now is trying to make elephant noises! Some of us can do it really well!

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)

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, three 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! Please 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!

Reminders

DCCC closed March 14th for staff training day

***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!**

YELLOW PUPS

During February we spent a lot of our time in the classroom but we were able to keep the puppies busy with new activities. Some of their favorites were using pop beads to make snakes, painting hearts, puzzles, tents, tunnels, and climbing mats.

PBIS- Be Safe

We are working with the puppies to keep their feet on the floor and not on the tables. We set up climbing foam pieces, big pillows, stools at the window and our toy boxes creating a safe spot to climb.

We are also practicing holding on to our ring rope so we are ready to take walks this spring.

Welcome Miss Alisha!!! The puppies did well adjusting to our new teacher. We were able to see her in the hallway and always said hi to her which really helped this transition. She also brought a pet fish (Jalen) with her and the puppies enjoy watching him swim around.

For the Start of March we are going to be focusing on different authors. First up is Dr. Suess. Stay tuned for some silly dress up days coming up next week. We will post a sign on the door by end of the week. We will be learning the color green and making fun crafts for St. Patrick's Day.

If you any books by Dr. Suess, Eric Carle, or Sandra Boynton please feel free to bring them in. We will read them during storytime. Thank you

Family Reminders:

Reminders: Please feel free to take home your snow gear.

As the weather warms up please bring in a lighter jacket for your puppy. You may leave both here so that we have them.



Important Dates:

March 14th- DCCC Closed for staff training day

March 13th- Wear Green

MISS BRI & MISS ALISHA

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.

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

Wear your **green** on Monday
March 17th!

Cathryn &
Tessa



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

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

We also had a lot of fun learning how to brush our teeth and are getting really good with identifying colors!

Our favorite song to dance to right now is the Hokey Pokey!

REMINDERS

~please label pouches

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

~With the warmer weather coming, it is still chilly in the morning. It would not be a bad idea to have both a heavy jacket and light jacket here.

YELLOW HONEY BEES



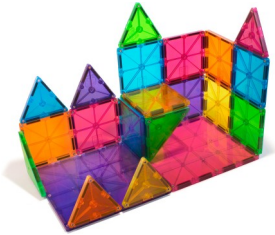
Greetings Families!

We said goodbye to Miss Alisha in February, which was hard, but we still see her in the hallway and say hi. We have had wonderful substitutes (Sondra & Antoinette) and the children seem to be adjusting well. We welcomed a new friend to our class (Reed), and everyone has been great about sharing and including him in their play.



This month:

We will continue doing center time after our outside time in the morning. The children are enjoying it, and I like to group them with different friends each time, so they learn to play with others, and that has been working well. We usually have our art project during center time, as well as building with legos, playing with people and houses, play dough, or magnatiles



SHAPES & COLORS



are some of our favorite things to do. Art this month will include tissue paper rainbows, paper plate frogs, painting four leaf clovers, and other paintings as the children really enjoy painting. March is also the start of everyone beginning to turn 3! I'm planning on doing a short circle time after our center time each day. We will talk about the weather using our sense of sight and how we felt outside. We will also practice shapes, colors or counting at that time.

The center has begun having morning announcements, and the children love listening to the older children talk overhead each day. There is always a question of the day too which we can talk about together.

Reminders:

Please remember to always hold your child's hand in the hallway and don't let them run off. We've been talking about being safe in the hallway, and lining up outside and not running away.



-MIMI & SONDR



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

*Elephant toothpaste experiment

*Hospital X-Ray activity



Feelings week and the fun science experiments Ms. Ashley did with us. Learning what feelings look like on the outside, how they feel on the inside, and learning how to calm our bodies were all items that we discussed!



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 manage books to keep them clean and in good repair and what to do with a book that needs to be 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.

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.

The Blue Bees have all turned three so that means we can get our three-year-old toys out. Trains, matchbox cars, more challenging math activities as well as more challenging manipulative toys.

Thank you,

JODY & ASHLEY

Preschool Pages...



YELLOW BEAR CUBS



WARMTH!!! We are excited for spring temperatures to get here, and to play outside and get some fresh air! We have started the month of March with the celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday and learning about rhyming words. We plan to learn about ending sounds and word families and how they

help us to identify words that rhyme.

Our next theme will be about learning the colors of the rainbow and wearing green on March 17th to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. One of the stories we will be reading is the book Green Eggs and Ham by Dr Seuss.

By this time, spring sports will be in full swing and we will be learning all about the different types of balls that are used: what makes a baseball different from a soccer ball or a football, what are the different ways that they move, and what are some new games we can create with them? What game that uses a ball will your family play together?

As we learn about different games, we will continue to learn how to apply our Solution Station tools and the different ways we can help solve our problems calmly and peacefully when they arise. One tool the children are using to help them share toys during class is by using a sand timer. I am very proud of their efforts. Keep up the great work!

REMINDERS:



The Center will be CLOSED on Friday, March 14th



Wear **GREEN** on Monday, March 17th

~ERICA

BLUE BEARS

Thank you all for being patient with our new teacher transition and welcoming Ms. Alex to the Blue Bear room!

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

St Patrick's Day week will bring us some color fun! We will learn about all things color like primary colors and secondary colors!

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, and M. 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!



This Photo by Unknown Author is

Something that the Blue Bears have been working on as a whole group is keeping our hands and feet to ourselves. We have been working on staying in our own "bubbles" and staying out of our friend's "bubbles." Talk with your child at home about what personal space means and remind them about asking for hugs from friends and that it's even okay to tell someone they don't want a hug if asked!

Reminders:

*DCCC will be closed on Friday, March 14th, for a staff development day.

*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 & ALEX



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!



Also, our Creative Curriculum Books unit introduced us to authors and illustrators. We'll explore books inside and out and learned about what makes a story. We can tell the difference between a fiction book and a nonfiction book.

Here is a list of some of our favorite books:



Vivian- Cinderella
Kemba- Spiderman
Sophia- Rubble and Crew
Hudson- Rubble and Crew
Avianna- Gabby's Dollhouse
William- Story Bots
Juliette- Just Try one Bite
Jayce- Dogman
Leo- Blaze and the Monster Machines
Anders- Blaze and the Monster Machines
Tessa- Any book about princesses
Brave- Rubble and Crew
Hannah- Berenstain Bears
Dawson- Thomas The Train
Charie- The Wasp



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's Big 3: Be safe, be kind, be responsible.



~**SARAH & SAM**

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS

Happy March! The year is flying by! Hopefully the weather will continue to get warmer, and we can spend more time outside in the fresh air and sunshine. It is crazy to think that we are in our final 3 months on kindergarten, can you believe how quickly the year has gone by?

In February, 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 presented by the Department of Education and the Bureau of Special Education.

In the classroom we have really been focusing on DCCC’s big 3, specifically focusing on being kind and responsible. Since we have been focusing on those skills, we are working on problem solving, conflict resolution and social and emotional skills. We have also been learning about our “personal space bubbles” and the zones of regulation.

Since the weather is getting warmer and the sun is shining longer 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)

Important Date:

DCCC will be Closed on March 14th for Staff Training

-BRITTNEY & MANDY

