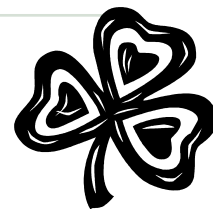




Dickinson College Children's Center March 2014



From the Director's Desk

We are getting closer to Spring every day! This winter has been a challenge for all of us as teachers and as parents. We are thankful for our big room! It has been wonderful allowing the kids to continue with their large motor play even when it is too cold to go outside. The toddlers are especially funny, asking their teachers every afternoon, "is it our big room day?" If only the room could be bigger yet...

We are in the process of finalizing our Kindergarten spots for the 2014-2015 school year. Looks like another full year here at DCCC! We were able to fill the class with 12 currently enrolled children and three from our Wait List. We had a total of 33 age eligible children for Kindergarten this year. The break down is as follows:

*DCCC Kindergarten: 12 children

*Bunnies: 8 children decided to do another year of Pre-K

*Public/Private Kindergarten: 13 children

We had an overwhelming response for summer camp. We hope to get as many children in as possible. The camp will be held June 9th to August 22nd.

I would also like to thank all the families that took the time to fill out the Family Surveys. This information is so beneficial. It provides us with some very valuable feedback for both strengths and areas to improve on.

We have a very busy month ahead of us. We have a few field trips scheduled, pictures being taken and of course Grandparent's Day at the end of the month.

We have been working very hard on our projections for our fall class assignments. Class rosters will be shared at the Parent Meeting, March 11th at 4:15 PM. An email will also be sent out to notify all parents. Once class groups are set, we will begin the enrollment process for new children.

It's that time of year again to resign forms. During the week of March 10th, parents will be asked to review and resign each child's paper work. Additional Parent Handbooks, Emergency Plans and copies of the center Guidance Procedures will be available for parents.

We are hoping the weather starts to warm up so we can start our work on our Infant/Toddler Playground.

The center will be closed on March 14th for a training day. The teachers will be trained on fire safety and assessments.

~Gina

Dates to Remember:

March 4—Infant/Toddler Portraits (with siblings)

March 5—Preschool Portraits

March 13—Center-wide PJ Day

March 14—DCCC Closed for Staff Training Day

March 21—Meadowbrooke Gourd Orders due

March 28—Grandparent Visiting Day (details on next page)

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Fundraising

Ongoing:

*Nell's Gold Card & Target Red Card-Please find information on how to register for these on our website at: <http://www.dickinson.edu/blog.aspx?blogid=235> and <http://www.dickinson.edu/about/offices/childrens-center/content/Fundraisers/>

Totals:

Giant Rewards-\$943.80

Pancake Breakfast-\$5513.79

Total Amount Raised to date: \$12098.88

Upcoming:

Meadowbrooke Gourds
Original Works

Goal for the year: \$15,000



In consideration of our staff...

The Children's Center closes promptly at 5:30 each evening. Parents should arrive at the Center with enough time to pick up their child and gather their child's belongings and exit the building by 5:30.



Grandparent Visiting Day

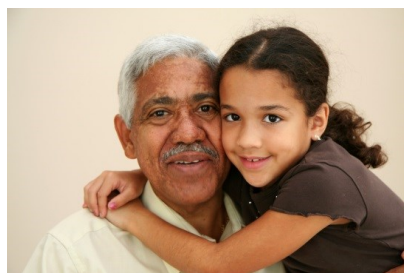
Friday, March 28th

10 – 11 a.m. Puppies, Bees & Bears

2:00 – 3:00 Kindergarten

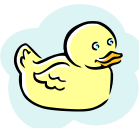
2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Bunnies

Grandparents (or special person in our life) are invited to spend some time at the Center reading books, eating snack, doing crafts, playing and learning together!





Ducklings



It looks like March may indeed come in like a lion with still some more cold days left ahead! In February we celebrated Valentine's Day and took advantage of every day possible to play outdoors, but sadly, they were very few!! Even on those days that the temperatures crept up above 25 degrees F, the passageways around the center and on campus were too icy or slushy to permit us to navigate our large infant strollers. We did venture out once in the light snow fall and will be outdoors more often again as soon as conditions permit.

March is a fun month of transition to spring! As we watch for the early signs of spring, we will plant our own grass seeds and watch them grow. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with board book readings from his fun, nonsensical, rhyming words. We will begin pointing to and labeling some of our body parts. We will continue to practice self-feeding, introducing small bits of table foods from home and from the Center snack menu, as the infants are ready. (The older infants seem to love the new found independence of being able to feed themselves...great for their fine motor development and their self esteem!) Issues of normal stranger-anxiety and separation-anxiety arise daily. We will continue to sing songs, play peek-a-boo games and comfort our infants as they learn to cope with these new feelings.

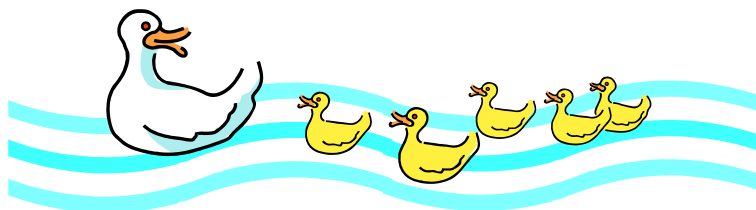
Parent Reminders:

March 4: Spring Picture Day for the infants.

March 14: In-service day for the teachers, so remember to plan ahead for alternate care arrangements.

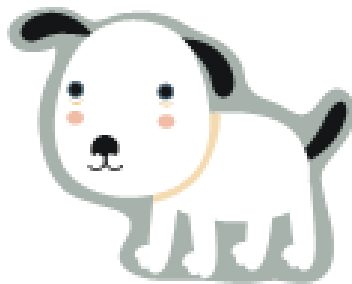
March 28: Grandparent Day. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Duckling Room door. Grandparent visitation is scheduled from 11 – 11:30 am in the infant room to accommodate morning naps and feeding schedules. We look very much forward to meeting your family!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



We are ready for some March fun!! Will we start the month with Lion Roars or Gentle Lambs?? We are hoping for some good weather as we explore during a week of weather activities. We will try to make some kites and windsocks. We want to take another week to dig in some dirt and plant some grass seeds. Weather permitting, we will go outside for some observation walks and more playground time. We are hoping for spring to come soon!! For St. Patrick's Day, we will taste some different green foods, listen to some Irish music and do a little Irish jig!! We will continue our discovery of play dough, paints, and creating our beautiful works of art. With the warmer weather we will need water breaks, so we will try drinking from a small open cup.

We have mastered our hand washing skills, walking and holding on to the ring rope and looking at our favorite books after lunch. Everyone is doing such a good job learning and working on our daily routines. We also are able to recognize our chairs by looking



for the pictures of our faces on them. This allows us to sit right down at the right spot at the right table for snacks and lunch.

Parent Reminders:

* Please check your child's daily sheet for reminders to bring in diapers, wipes or whatever is needed.

* Be sure your child has proper clothing in bin for warmer weather or layering for cool days. Please also make sure the clothing fits properly.

Yellow Pups

Thank you, parents, for your participation in your child's Weekly Lesson Plans. We appreciate it.

~MARSHA & DONNA

Blue Puppies



We had a lot of fun in February watching our shadows and painting with toothbrushes. The cold kept us in but we loved playing with balls in the big room! March is going to be full of fun activities that will be sure to keep the puppies busy!

We will start our month off with the wonderful, silly and crazy world of Dr. Seuss. We will read many of his books, paint with our feet, glue strips of paper, and have a green eggs and ham lunch. Yummy! The puppies love things that go like cars, trucks and trains, etc. We will go for a walk and look for all those things and also drive our cars in play-doh to see the tire tracks they leave behind. Please make sure to wear your green for St. Patrick's Day on Monday the 17th. We will paint a pot of gold, color a shamrock, and look for leprechans hidden around the room. We will have fun with rainbows (and review our colors) as we paint and color with lots of different colors and make a big rainbow!

We are working small motor manipulatives such as puzzles with more pieces, stringing beads, and large Legos.

REMINDERS:

~ Please take bedding home every Friday to be washed

~CATHRYN & LACI



Yellow Honey Bees

Can February March? No, but April May! Maybe, just maybe, the cold weather will *march* its way right out of here! We are ready for spring! On a positive note, it doesn't have to be warm outside or springtime for us to learn and grow, which is what we'll continue to do regardless of the weather or season! Isn't that an awesome thing?! In the month of March we'll celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday! We'll also talk about the weather a little more in depth (hopefully focusing on the sun and its warmth). Then for the holiday of St. Patrick's Day, we'll focus on the colors of the rainbow and attempt making a leprechaun trap! Lastly, we'll end March with a week full of our favorite authors and books! **We would love to have some parents come in and read us their child's favorite book!**



We'll also start focusing more on some slight routine changes that will help us transition into our next rooms come August. Some of the routine changes include:

- Making a mental effort to keep toys in the "centers" where they belong. That means keeping the food in the kitchen center, books in the book center, and puzzles at the table toy centers, etc.
- Having an "end" to lunch. 12 o'clock marks the end of lunch! If you haven't finished your lunch in the 45 minutes given to eat it, we'll have to pack it up.
- Book time before naps being enforced. Also staying on your cot to quietly read that book if you were to wake up early from nap.
- Self-help skills: Washing hands, throwing trash away, potty training, etc.

REMINDERS:

- Check your child's cubby for weather appropriate and size appropriate extra clothing.

Keep yourselves familiar with the centers choking hazard list. Please keep your children's heat-ups in one container and have all food READY TO SERVE (ex. Cut food into bite-size pieces—apples cut, oranges peeled, etc. Sandwiches, chicken nuggets, etc. are okay to leave whole for dipping purposes). If you have a specific concern about this, please see Ms. Barb or Ms. Sarah! Thank you so much for your cooperation on this topic, with the amount of lunches that need to be prepared and served in a timely manner, it helps us out immensely!

- Continue to encourage potty use! We are so impressed with the progress that is being made here at school! Keep up the good work!

MS. BARB & MS. SARAH

Blue Busy Bees

As we recapped January it was difficult to think of anything but snow! With so much of it outside it made it difficult to enjoy the playground. However, our bees had fun when the temperatures allowed for us to be out. We bundled up in our winter gear looking like little Michelin Tire people in order to keep the chill away. One cold snowy day we even made a snowman. Perhaps March will be a better month for the playground!

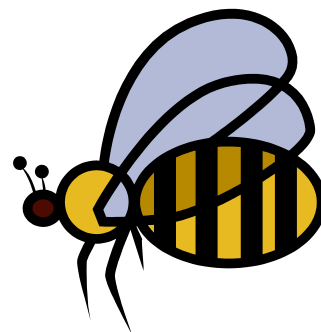
Our Blue Bees were busy in the classroom learning and having fun throughout the month of February. We enjoyed our art theme, exchanging valentines, learning about feelings and how to take care of books. We even had three new little friends join the Blue Bees room. Of course, these are our new hermit crabs, Popcorn, Rusty and Leopard. The children helped to name the hermit crabs and have been having a great time watching them.

March opens with our Rainbows theme. We will work to improve our color recognition, color mixing, counting and fine and large motor development. We will introduce the Bees to Saint Patrick's day and talk about the color green. We will have some fun with those tricky leprechauns too. Our themes at the end of March will include "Things in the Sky" and "Birthday Fun," as we celebrate everyone being 3. We will also be working with our Bees to learn about calendars and the days of the week. With such a variety of subjects, March will be sure to be a fun month!

Things to work on for our Bees: hand washing, putting on and taking off coats, mittens, hats and shoes. We continue to encourage the children to help clean up and follow simple rules in the classroom when prompted. Also, potty training is still underway and almost all of our Bees are out of diapers!

Reminders: Unfortunately, we still have some winter weather to come...Please check your child's extra clothing bin to assure they have seasonal appropriate clothing. Thank you for labeling your child's clothing and lunch items. Please continue to do this as it is very helpful.

~JODY & PAM



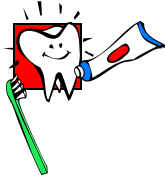
Yellow Bear Cubs

The Teddy Bear room has been a very busy place in February! We enjoyed our week of Olympics as we participated in many Olympic events! We reviewed our feelings and how to keep our friends feeling



on Dental health we will be dental experts as well!

happy and loved! Our Dinosaur week was a huge success as we are now officially dinosaur experts! By the time we finish our week



spring, dress your children in layers so as the weather turns warm throughout the day, they may be comfortable.

As we head into our birthday season please take the time to review the healthful birthday policy in the parent handbook or ask Ms. Mandy!

The center will be closed on Friday March 14th for staff development!

&

Grandparents Visiting Day is Friday March 28th!

We will be looking forward to a rhyming good time with our Dr. Seuss week to kick off the month of March! After that we will be having two beautiful weeks of colors. Be on the lookout for some tricky Leprechaun fun as well! We will be exploring the world around us through the use of our 5 senses during our Senses Week! We will wrap up the month with some alphabet and number fun and review!



~MANDY

Teddy Bear Reminders:

The weather will (hopefully soon) be transferring to

Blue Bears

Wow! We can't believe it's March already! After the winter we've had we never thought this day would come! February was a lot of fun, even with the snow. We were able to get outside and play on our playground for a few days. We enjoyed talking about woodland animals and hibernation, and playing with that groundhog! We enjoyed sharing Valentine's with our friends and talking about our feelings. We have been practicing doing Turtle when we are upset in the classroom too. We loved watching the Olympics on the computer and playing games we brought from home, and that special visit from a dentist and all the experiments we did with Dental Health week were a lot of fun.



The Blue Bears have a very exciting March planned! We will start the month with Dr. Seuss and Rhyming. We will talk about all of his different books, how he rhymed words, and even had a taste of green eggs and ham and the Yink's Pink Ink Drink from One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. We will play Pin the Ham on the Plate from Green Eggs and Ham, tic-tac-toe with green eggs and ham pieces, and make Cat in the Hat hats.

After Dr. Seuss's week we will do two weeks of colors. Check the lesson plan for the Color of the Day and have your child dress accordingly. We will talk about color mixing and making pastels, and do a lot of colorful activities for those two weeks. Mixed into our color weeks is St. Patrick's Day where that



tricky leprechaun comes out to make a mess of our room and turn our milk and toilet water green! We will finish the month talking about our 5 senses. This will also be the last letter of the week, so we will begin April with an ABC123 week to review all the letters. We do lots of activities about writing letters, their sounds, and counting things around the room.

Dates to Remember:

- *Picture Day March 5th (4th for siblings)
- *Staff training day March 14th (Center Closed)
- *Grandparents Day March 28th 10-11am

Please remember to check your child's extra clothes bin for seasonally appropriate clothing. Remember to check the wall above the cubbies for notes and sign-ups throughout the week. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to talk to Kristen or Ange.

Thank you for everything you do!

~**KRISTEN & ANGE**



Bunnies



Oh how time flies! February has been a crazy month full of freezing temperatures, snow, ice and delays and closing BUT even through all of that we did manage to learn a lot! We learned about dental health, feelings, famous Americans and all about books. We learned the letters U,V,W and X.

Hopefully March will bring nicer weather and we will be able to enjoy some sunshine and outside time. We will start out the month learning about Dr. Seuss and having a wacky week while we practice things like imagination and rhyming skills. Then we will be learning about dinosaurs which is always fun. We will find out what types of dinosaurs there were, what they ate, and how big they were. Following that we will learn about Shamrocks and Leprechauns. We will learn about Ireland and some folk tales that the Irish tell, and try to catch that silly leprechaun! Following that we will be welcoming spring back as we talk about spring and weather. We will chart the weather we see, talk about the changes that happen in spring and hopefully enjoy some sunshine. March will wrap up with a garden week. We will plant some flowers and maybe do some work in the garden. Some predictions will be made with an experiment using a plant to find out what they need to grow.

In March we will be finishing up the alphabet with the letters Y and Z and we will then start some extra practicing with different letters just to really help them get to know the letters and sounds better.

Reminders:

- With weather hopefully getting warmer please make sure your child has weather appropriate extra clothes that fit.
- Please make sure you check the mailboxes and the write ups for important information about activities.

(IMPORTANT DATES ON NEXT PAGE!)

Bunnies—continued

Important Dates:

March 5: Pre-K and Kindergarten pictures

March 6: Field trip to the Carlisle Theater **PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE CENTER NO LATER THAN 8:45** so that we can serve snack and get ready to walk.

March 14: DCCC Closed for staff training day

March 28: Grandparents day 2:30-3:30



~Ms. BRITTNEY AND Ms. CARLY



Kindergarten Dolphins



February started off on a serious note as we talked about friendship, and practiced bucket filling and peaceful conflict resolution skills. We talked a bit about bullying --what it looks and sounds like, what we should do if we're bullied, and what to do if we see someone else getting bullied. We also learned about dental health this month, and were thankful to have two dental hygienist students from HACC come in to do a presentation for us and other classes about dental health.

February was a month of learning AND fun! During our Mother Goose and Dr. Seuss weeks we practiced reading and writing rhymes and creating and performing alliterative sentences and stories for our classmates. We're practicing to decode unfamiliar words by looking for familiar little chunks within the words. We had a great time dressing up and performing our nursery rhymes on Nursery Rhyme Day. Dressing up and planning crazy activities on Wacky Wednesday and Dr. Seuss Day were also a highlight of the month. Our Seussy lunch of green eggs and ham and butter-side-up bread was a hit with many of the children, too!

The Kindergartners will be stomping into April with a study about dinosaurs. To commence our unit and to ignite a yearning to learn about these amazing creatures, we'll be taking a walking trip on March 3 to Professor Marcus Key's lab. There we'll have the opportunity to examine and handle some dinosaur fossils first hand. We're looking so forward to this trip! Back in the classroom, we'll measure and compare the lengths of various dinosaurs, and we'll learn about the differences between carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. We'll read If the Dinosaurs Came Back and will create our own class book about some amazing and rather outrageous things we could do with dinosaurs if they came back!

With a little positive thinking, we'll be preparing for the first glorious days of spring as we begin looking for signs of the season. We'll learn about cycles of growth with both plants and animals (including humans!), and the children will each create a "This is My Life" book. Using photos or drawings of themselves from birth through the present, they'll write about how they've grown each year. We'll learn about how other animals grow, too. We'll find out about the various animals that hatch from eggs, and will discover that some animals are more dependent upon their parents than others.

We're all looking forward to Grandparent Day on March 28, when grandparents or substitute grandparents are welcome to come in to spend part of the afternoon with their kindergartner. We're sure to have tons of fun!

~ Ms. Katie & Ms. Cheri