



Dickinson College Children's Center April 2014

DCCC Spring Reminders!

- **Shoe safety:** Make sure children wear shoes that protect their feet. Please make sure your children wear sneakers or sandals that cover and protect their toes. Rubber clogs and some sandals can be fun and airy, but they may also be too flimsy or loose for running, climbing, or riding trikes and can lead to accidents and injuries.
- **Sunscreen:** Each child should have a bottle of sunscreen to be kept here at the Center. Spray sunscreen is **not** permitted. While convenient, spray sunscreen enters the air and children breathe it in to their bodies. We also apply sunscreen inside, and it creates quite a filmy build up on the floors at the Center. Please bring sunscreen for your child if you haven't already and remember to check expiration dates before sending them in to school.
- **Sun Hats:** In addition to sunscreen, another good way to protect your child's head and face from the sun is a sun hat.
- **Bike Helmets:** In order for the children to be permitted to ride bikes on the playground, they must wear a helmet. Properly fitting helmets are important for the safety of your child while riding. Please check your child's helmet! Providing a helmet for your child to keep at the Center works much better than taking it back and forth from home to school.



Dates to Remember:

May 6 & 7
Kindergarten
Conferences

May 8—Trike-a-Thon
for St. Jude's
Children's Hospital

May 26—DCCC
CLOSED for Memorial
Day

May 30—Family
Special Event
3:00—5:00
Big play room

From the Director's Desk

It is hard to believe we are into the month of May already. The year was busy and continues to fly by. We are excited to be having some warmer weather but would like to see more of it. Here are a few things happening at the center.

Class rosters for the fall have been shared with parents. The center has decided to do a 3.5 % increase in tuition plus an additional \$3.89 increase per child in order to help cover the costs for the 2014-15 budget year.

The Waiting List has been taken off the website as the center proceeds in offering spots for the fall in a variety of classrooms. We continue to look forward to enrolling many new families. Applications are welcome and prospective families are encouraged to call the center for enrollment information. An Open House will be offered on August 15th from 3-4.

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The State Inspection in April resulted in zero noncompliance issues. It is always good to hear that all areas are in alignment with the state regulations.

Staff Appreciation will be held on Tuesday, May 13th. Parents have been taking a collection and plan to provide a lunch for all staff. This is a great time of year to thank your child's teacher for a job well done.

A special thank you goes out to parents and children who are helping to raise money for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital Trike-a-Thon. It is always a fun time for the kids and a very big lesson to learn about helping others.

Parents will be invited to share in some garden activities along with their child here at the center on May 30th from 3 to 5 PM at pick up time.

Kindergarten Graduation will be held on June 4th here at DCCC.

Summer Camp will begin on June 9th.

~Gina

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/info/20075/children_s_center/1055/fundraisers

Totals:

Meadowbrooke Gourds- \$661.07

Total Amount Raised to date: \$13203.41

Current:

Joe Corbi's
Original Works

Upcoming:

Yearbooks

Goal for the year: \$15,000



**Look what we bought
with the bake sale
money that we raised!**



**Sand toys for all of the
playgrounds; buckets,
shovels, toy trucks, etc.**



Ducklings



We can finally say, “Happy Spring!” April has been a gorgeous month and we were outside with the infants nearly every day, except on those occasional rainy days. Even then, we ventured out into a light drizzle to let the babies savor the April showers. Our kites billowed in the breezes; our pinwheels spun; and we witnessed the blossoming of green grass, yellow daffodils and colorful tulips. We welcomed a family of frog eggs into our classroom (thanks to Miss Katie and Miss Mandy) and we are waiting for them to hatch into tadpoles! Be sure to check out our bulletin board where we document some of our learning and discoveries in photos. Thanks to our parents who came in for parent-teacher conferences....we value that time to chat and share progress and expectations for your babies.

Because we have noticed on our daily walks a growing fascination with vehicles, one of our “big ideas” for May will be “Things That GO!”...we will celebrate things that go in play, in books, songs and in our observations around our neighborhood and campus.

During the month of May, two more of our classmates will reach their first birthday milestones! This is a time when infants typically have moved away from pureed baby foods and are able to enjoy the delights of table foods! We will celebrate healthy food choices this month with the “big idea”, “We Are What We Eat!” We will read Eric Carle’s The Hungry Caterpillar and other stories about healthy food habits. For our infants on table foods, we will borrow Miss Marsha’s Fresh Fruit Friday idea and serve a fresh fruit every Friday at snack, such as kiwi, strawberries, blueberries (you will be asked to sign a permission slip authorizing your baby to partake). We encourage you to send in healthy table food lunches for your older baby/young toddler. Please send in fresh foods and try to limit processed and canned foods which tend to be more highly salted and less nutritious. Always read food labels. And be sure that foods are cut into small toddler-bite size pieces.

The infants will participate in the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital fundraiser, a mini-trike-a-thon with our strollers and push toys, at 11 am on May 8 on the infant-toddler playground. Be sure to turn in your signed permission slip to the office.

Sadly, we will say good-bye this month to our dear classmate, Aleah...we will certainly miss her and the Jones family. But, we will welcome little Madeline, who joins our classroom mid-May.

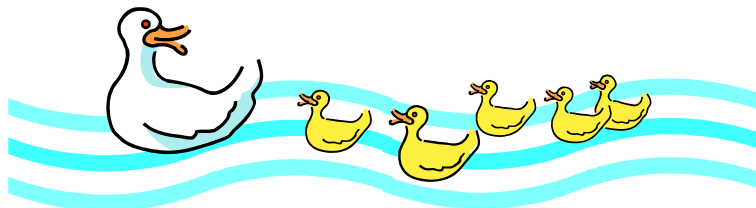
Miss Sandy will be away during the second half of May, and Miss Ann and Miss Deb will be covering in her place.

****Parent Reminders:**

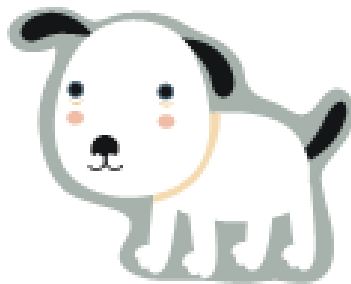
- Please send in sunscreen (no sprays) and sunhats
- Please label all your child’s belongings/clothing/bottles
- Please refill extra clothing bags and diaper supplies regularly

***Important Calendar Dates:** Check the Duckling lesson plan for important dates to remember this month, including May 11 – Mothers’ Day!! **Please send in photos of moms and grandmas to share.**

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



The Yellow Puppies are ready for some springtime weather and sun! We are doing more sand and water play. For now, the water play is inside. But, as the weather gets nicer we will move it outside. We did open the sand box outside to parents, be ready for sand sand everywhere on your child! Trying to brush it off helps us a little bit but be prepared! Soon we will be sending home some information on what will be needed for water play outside. As weather permits we will bring out the soft mat for reading books. The children have also started to try drinking water from open ups.



ground. If you don't have a bike at home, we can use one of the bikes here for your child to ride.

* Please remember that our playground will be getting some work done to it. We will do our best to come up with some other outside activities.

* Applying sunscreen is an important part of your child's morning routine. This does help us get outside more quickly in the morning. We will reapply for later morning play and afternoon play.

* Thank you for taking time to attend your child's conference. It is always nice to review all that your child has accomplished during the year. Please come to us with any questions or concerns you may have about your child. They are

becoming very independent toddlers!

Thank good weather and fun! We are ready!

~MARSHA & DONNA

For the month we will make a May Pole and dance around it. We will talk about Mothers and how special they are to us, make our own flags to wave around and have a special picnic.

Yellow Pups

We will also be participating in the Trike-a-thon for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. It is fun for the children to bring in their own bikes to ride around the play-

Blue Puppies

Spring is here! We can see it out our window. Bright sunshine, green grass, and bunnies hopping on our playground. Now, only if the weather was a little bit warmer.

April showers bring May flowers and with flowers popping up, we will have fun exploring gardens. The puppies will read Planting a Rainbow, plant flowers and color flowers. We will go for a walk to look for flowers and see what colors they are. There will be garden tools and soil in the sensory table for them to play with. It is National Book Week and we will be reading lots of books from our favorite authors, the puppies will make a caterpillar (Eric Carle), paint 5 little Monkeys (Eileen Christelow), and have a barn yard dance (Sandra Boyton). We have tadpoles in our room and they will eventually turn into frogs so we will be reading books about frogs, sing "Five Green and Speckled Frogs", finger painting tadpoles and making a paper plate frog. HAPPY BIRTHDAY! All the puppies will be 2 at the end of the month! We are going to have fun with a birthday week. We will make party hats, make a birthday treat, color a birthday cake, and paint candles.

SAFETY Information:

At the end of the month we can use the older toddler playground in the mornings. (Next to Michelle's office) There is so much more for them to climb on, so for their safety please make sure your child has sneakers or a sturdy sport sandal or they will not be allowed to use the climber that day.

REMINDERS:

- ~Keep a jacket for those cool mornings
- ~Check their clothing bin, rotate seasonal clothing
- ~Take bedding home EVERY Friday to be washed

~CATHRYN & LACI



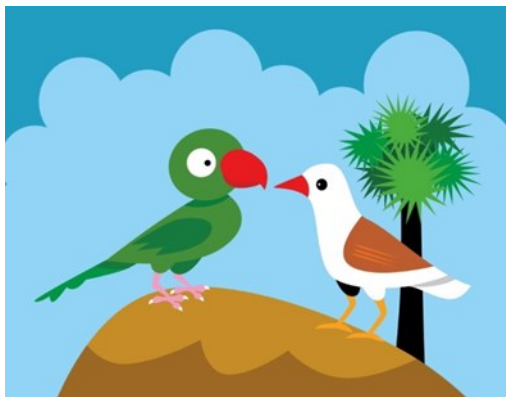
Yellow Honey Bees



It feels so funny to be writing a May newsletter already! Wasn't it just February five minutes ago? Let's recap April. We started the month of April by taking the first two weeks talking about how we can help our bodies grow to be big and strong and figuring out who we are. What are our needs? How are we all different? How are we all the same? We found that like us, plants and animals also need a lot of the same things we need to grow and to thrive. During earth week we really got to delve into this. Plants need water and food just like us. They need our help to keep clean, so we went and picked up trash around our streets. We also talked about eggs and the different animals that lay eggs. We delved a little into some math concepts and did a lot with counting this month!

We really enjoyed using flannel boards for our counting activities!

Now here's the plan for May. During the first week we'll talk about baby animals. We'll practice matching the baby animal to the mommy or daddy animal. During the second week of May we'll talk about flowers. We really enjoyed the unit we did when we talked about plants, so we decided to go back to it and focus on flowers! On our walks we see such beautiful flowers with bright colors that catch our eyes! We've been able to watch a bush bloom into



yellow flowers over the last month so we have decided to plant our own flowers to see what our flowers will look like when they bloom. How long will they take to grow? How big will they get? We'll practice our counting as we measure their growth! With more time outside on the playground, we'll look at the different bugs that have come out now that the weather is warmer. We are intrigued by ants and baffled by bees and butterflies. We'll look at the life cycle of one or two of these bugs and maybe get to see them transform before our eyes (just like we have over these past couple months!) Lastly, we'll let the month take flight with some observations of birds. We'll look at big birds, little birds, round birds,



and tall birds. This week we'll focus on opposites!

A big **THANK YOU** to all the parents that participated in parent teacher conferences!

REMINDERS:

- Bring home your snow clothes if you have not already!
- Bring in sunscreen for your children. Label the bottle with their name and **CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE.** **no aerosol or spray sunscreen please*
- Double check your child's extra clothing for seasonal and size appropriate clothing.

MS. BARB & MS. SARAH

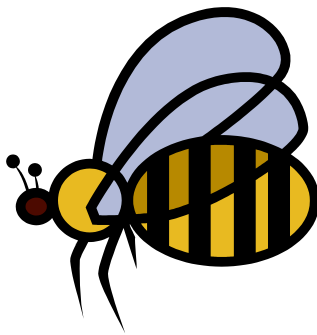
Blue Busy Bees

Hooray for our Blue Bees! Everyone is now potty trained. This is a huge step for our little bees. In April we were busy celebrating Birthdays, Week of the Young Child and learning about Eggs, Eggs, Eggs as some of our themes. Our bees have also been exploring the Big Playground as we start to get them ready for their transition in August. They love their time on the new playground and often ask when we are going back.

In May we will start of with the theme of My Mother is Mine. This is a special time for the children to talk about mommies, grandmothers, aunts or any other mommy figure that is important in their lives. We will be asking our bees to bring in pictures of themselves with that special person. We will also be discovering "Creepy Crawlies" in May. The Blue Bees will learn language through identification of bugs (arachnids, insects, big, small, long, short, spots, bug's body parts, ect.). The children will have fun looking at bugs up close and be able to see how they differ from each other. We will enjoy bug songs, books and bug art! Another theme will be May Flowers and Spring Animals. This is a time to discuss the animals and flowers that we see emerge in the spring time. We will learn about the flowers, how they grow and visit our flower garden in front of the center. The bees will have a great time with art projects and songs. As the weather warms up June will begin with the theme of Sun Safety. Children will learn how to be safe in the sun.

Our Blue Bees continue to grow and learn. We have been working on teaching them to open their lunch containers, clean up after themselves, zipper their coats and put on their bike helmets. Soon the bees will be starting to make their own cots for nap time. This is a great time of year to take stock of your little bees extra clothing. Some of our mornings are chilly but, the afternoon can be warm. Please consider dressing your child in layers so that they will be comfortable all day.

~JODY & PAM



Yellow Bear Cubs

We blasted through April quickly with some great Alphabet and number fun, and The Week of the Young Child's activities was great as well! It was an "EGGSTRA" colorful week during our Extravaganza week. We learned a lot about saving the environment and recycling during Earth Week. April wrapped up and started into May with some fun Folk Tales, we really enjoyed hearing the stories and then acting them out!

To come in May we will follow our Folk Tales with some enchanted fairy tales! We will watch May blossom with some planting fun during our "spring has sprung" Week! We plan to zoom off into outer space in May and maybe even visit the planetarium too! The teddy bears will wrap up May by being extra noisy with the instruments during our Music week; we hope to line up some special guests!

I truly enjoyed taking the opportunity to meet with all of you at conferences; it is so great to share all the growth that we have seen in each and every one of these bears!

Teddy Bear Reminders:

Please check your child's extra clothes bin for proper seasonal and fitting clothes!

-MANDY



Blue Bears

We want to thank you for attending conferences. It is a great way for us to communicate about your child's progress. We know you enjoy seeing how much your child has grown over the last six months.

April was very fun. We started the number of the week which is going well, had a lot of fun with the messy experiments during Week of the Young Child and took care of the Earth during our environment week.

The Teddy Bears are looking forward to an imaginative May! We started off May with our fairy tale and folk tale weeks. They love dressing up in princess dresses, playing in the big castle in the house center, and acting out stories. When we do folk tales the class will go into the big room everyday and acted out stories like The Three Little Pigs, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The next week we talk about spring gardens and will have a special visit from Ms. Ann, who is in charge of everything in our Center garden, who will help us plant flowers in the special Teddy Bear section. Keep watching them grow all summer long! Last is Miss Kristen's fa-





avorite, music week. It is filled with different music to dance to and lots of instruments being played (mostly by Ms. Kristen, and not well!). Some of them were real and some of them we made ourselves.

Looking ahead, with summer around the corner and water play on the horizon, please plan on bringing in a bathing suit and towel to leave here for our random water play days. It is easiest to have an extra suit here so we can plan accordingly with the weather. The Trike a Thon is May 8th! Please check your child's bin for seasonally appropriate clothing, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to talk to Ange or Kristen.

~KRISTEN & ANGE



Bunnies



I cannot believe it is May already! April just zoomed by so quickly! In April we talked about Gardens and we talked about planting and growing various things and we even did some planting of our own. Following the week of gardening we entered the Week of the Young Child where we had a theme everyday which was a lot of fun. Following that we talked about ovals and pastels and different animals that hatch from eggs in the spring time. Then we moved right into recycling week where we celebrated Earth day and talked about what we can do to protect our Earth. Finally we rounded out the month with frogs and tadpoles and have enjoyed watching our tadpoles grow.

In May we have some more exciting things planned. We will start out the month with our week on nutrition. We will be doing a lot of healthy baking and eating, exercising with the trike a thon and trying new foods. Following nutrition we will be learning about music. We will talk about the various instruments, make our own instruments and make our own music. Next we roll into zoo animals where we talk about the difference between pets and zoo animals and learn about many of them. Finally we will have a week on letter and number review. We have been working hard on our letters, sounds, and numbers all year but we will have a week to review them by playing fun games and activities.

Reminders

- *The weather is FINALLY getting warmer so please make sure you are checking the type and size of the clothes in your child's extra clothes bin.
- *Also even though it is warmer outside, sometimes our room gets a little chilly so it might be a good idea to have a light sweater or sweatshirt in your child's cubby if they get cold in our room.
- *Please be checking your child's mailbox daily and be on the lookout of permission slips and sign-up sheets

Bunnies—continued

Important Dates

Thursday May 8: Trike-a-Thon at 11:30 (bring in your child's bike and helmet)

Friday May 9: Muffins with Mom at 3:30 (sign-up sheet hanging on the classroom door)

Monday May 26: DCCC will be closed for Memorial Day

Friday May 30: Family Event 3:00-5:15 in the big room

~Ms. BRITNEY AND Ms. CARLY





Kindergarten Dolphins



April zoomed by with a multitude of activities! From our endangered animal projects and Earth Day celebration to our Week of the Young Child festivities, we've been quite busy! And another action-packed month is heading our way!

Weather will be our science focus during the first half of May. We'll do a number of experiments with wind, rain, and the sun's energy, so we're hoping for some varied weather days! This is also a good time to review what we learned about keeping our bodies protected from the sun. Be on the lookout for some sun safety posters that the children will be creating and hanging on the walls all around DCCC. A unit on space will follow our weather unit. We'll learn lots of interesting things about the planets and will do a few fun experiments as well. We're also hoping to schedule a trip to the college's planetarium. We'll end the month (and school year!) with a "Memories and Moving On" theme. We'll share some of our favorite kindergarten memories, will turn our Drama Center into a school cafeteria, and will work on our program for our Kindergarten Graduation on June 4!

In addition to our themes, we've got a few special events in the works before the end of our school year. We're looking very forward to the St. Jude's Trike-a-thon on May 8. Please be sure to send a bike or scooter for your child as well as a helmet and permission slip.

I'm working with Mooreland Elementary School's principal to schedule a date for a class trip in May. As soon as we have a date, I'll let you know. We're hoping to plan a little tour of the school, the opportunity to buy lunch in the cafeteria, and a little time to play on their playground. Hopefully this visit will ease the anxiety that some children will experience when they transition into elementary school.

To culminate our study about money this year, we'll be having a Kindergarten Yard Sale in middle or late May for kindergarten shoppers. The children will have the opportunity to use the knowledge they've acquired about money and addition to buy items that they can really keep. This is a really fun and educational event and we welcome parent volunteers help out with it!

It's hard to believe that kindergarten is almost over! Our Kindergarten Graduation will be held at 6:30 PM on June 4 for our families. There will be a slide show highlighting some of our favorite kindergarten moments, and other specifics are in the works. With such a talented and theatrical group of kindergartners, we may put on a talent show either as part of the graduation program or sometime in middle May.

~ Ms. Katie & Ms. Cheri