



---

## Dickinson College Children's Center January 2016



### From the Director's Desk

Wow, what a fast and yet joyful month. The children enjoyed all the extra events that were scheduled and did a terrific job keeping us all focused on what is most important in life. They really do get so excited just about LIFE. One can never be too sad or down here, it just doesn't happen. Everyday is a party in their little eyes!

During December we held a Vision Screening for the children two years old and up. There was also a Hearing Screening held for the Kindergarteners.

The staff members competed in a Door Decorating Contest. They all did a fantastic job and really brightened up the center. There is so much creativity among us. Thanks to Ms. Barb who pulled together a number of Holiday Games, including giving us all elf names to go by for the month, which was quite humorous.

A special thank you goes out to all the families for the wonderful lunch and gift card. It was truly appreciated! We thank you as parents for a year of fun, learning and support as we continue the journey of growth and development with your child/children. Thank you for sharing your most special gift with us!

Somehow we also managed to squeeze in a Fire Drill. Thanks goodness for the nice weather at the beginning of the month. We are so excited that our retaining wall has finally been installed. I'm sure the kids were so very excited to get their climber back. We have a few more improvements to the playground that will take place in the spring.

Please remember to help guide your children in walking up and down the hall at pick up time. It can get quite busy here, so please keep them with you at all times.

We hope you all had a relaxing break and a Happy New Year! It is sure to be a fantastic 2016 here at DCCC!

~Gina

---

### Dates to Remember:

**January 20—  
Kindergarten  
Readiness Information  
Night 6—7 p.m.**

**March 5—DCCC  
Pancake Breakfast  
Fundraiser and  
Usborne Book Fair**

**March 9 & 10—Spring  
Portraits by Lil' Angels  
Photography**

**March 18—DCCC  
Closed for Staff  
Training**

---

### Inside this issue:

Announcements	1-2
Ducklings	3
Yellow Puppies/Blue Puppies	4
Yellow Bees	5
Blue Bees	6
Yellow Bears	7
Blue Bears	7/8
Bunnies	8
Kindergarten	9

## 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](http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20075/children_s_center/1055/fundraisers)

\*Shoparoo-sign up at shoparoo.com to help our center earn roo points.

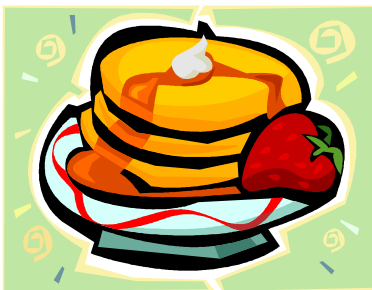
\*Giant Bonus Card-Please make sure that you have registered your card online with our school.

### Totals:

Chicken BBQ-\$1483.18  
Yearbooks- \$95.71  
South Side Deli-\$50.00  
Box Tops-\$444.00  
Promotion Motion- \$3591.16  
Giant- \$192.35  
BJ's-\$30.00  
Lil' Angels Photography- \$325.00  
Total: \$6211.40



## Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!



March 5, 2016 8-11 a.m.

HUB Social Hall

Keep alert for volunteer opportunities!



# Kindergarten Readiness Information Night

Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Room



Kindergarten is far more challenging than it used to be...

How do I know if my child is ready for the challenge?

What are some of the essential skills my child should have before entering Kindergarten?

What can I do now to help prepare my child so that he/she will have a successful Kindergarten year?

For parents of children ages 3-5 years old.

Presented by: Katie Adams, DCCC Kindergarten Teacher

**ADULTS ONLY!**

## Why choose Kindergarten at DCCC?

- *Here's what the kids had to say about why they love Kindergarten here:*
  - *"I get to learn lots of new things I haven't learned before." -SC*
    - *"I love Mrs. Katie." -ZW & MK*
    - *"I like the hermit crabs." -ES*
  - *"Centers are a fun part of our day." -GY*
    - *Small class size*
  - *Daily communication with the teacher*
- *When we're here they can be here (snow, public school closures, etc.)*
- *Daily focus on ALL subject areas (science, social studies, math, reading, writing)*
- *Individual and group academic and social needs are met where they are—progress is recognized, challenges are presented, and goals are set.*



## Ducklings



### **Happy New Year! And our very best wishes for 2016!**

December was a fun and festive time, as we experienced all the sights, sounds and beautiful aromas of the holiday seasons....so many firsts in the lives of our young infants! Thank you, parents, for your generous gifts and holiday wishes.

During the first week of January, we welcome everyone back from holiday break, which in the lives of our infants, is a long absence from the Center. There are sometimes some minor readjustments as we all resume our daily schedules. We will gently ease back into our routines and find fun opportunities to practice the skills we have learned and to make new, challenging discoveries.

Lesson plans in the infant room revolve around essential daily care and the developmental needs of each individual child. With that in mind, we will add some new board books, songs and finger play games. Old seasonal favorites, such as "Frosty the Snowman," give us an opportunity to practice our "bye-bye" waves and to label our heads, noses and eyes. Winter themed stories, such as Snowy Animals, Ten Shiny Snowflakes, The Itsy Bitsy Snowman, and I Love Winter, allow us to expand vocabulary, to manipulate book pages, to point & label and to make connections to what is happening outside in our own environment (we will take lots of outdoor nature walks when temperatures permit). We will continue to gradually work toward introduction of new foods, especially table foods for our older infants, and offer opportunities for grasping spoons, sippy cups and beginning self-feedings. We will continue to support motor development with lots of free floor space to move, roll, sit, crawl, pull up, cruise and soon walk.

#### **Reminders:**

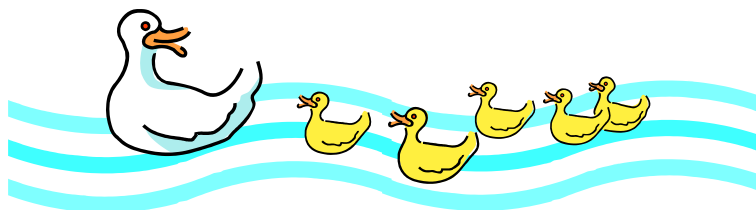
\*Please continue to label ALL bottles and personal clothing items.

\*Make sure your infant has at least two sets of seasonally appropriate clothing changes

\*For infants with siblings, please try to drop off your older child first and be sure to close all doors and gates behind you at drop off and pick up times. These efforts are to avoid accidents and injuries to our immobile and mobile infants playing on the floor.

Thank you and Happy New Year! We are looking forward to winter fun in the coming month!

~SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY



## Yellow Puppies

December was a busy month of exploring the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the holiday season that were all around us! We made finger painted lights, enjoyed singing holiday songs, shaking jingle bells, and playing with the monkey and chipmunk that sang and danced. We also thought the pine branches, wrapping paper, and pinecones, were exciting additions to our room. Tasting potato latkes, and gingerbread were the highlight of our week before our holiday break. We love special snacks!



January is going to be a month all about the cold! We will be talking about winter animals, snow, ice, and some great winter books written by Jan Brett. Our first week back after break we will be talking about winter animals. Penguins, polar bears, walrus, and snowy owls will be the focus of our winter animal week! It's going to be great fun to learn about the sounds these animals make! If we are lucky we will get some snow to explore during our week all about snow! We are planning on making snow paintings with white paint, and reading books all about the snow! Our ice week will have us watching what happens when ice gets warm, painting with ice cubes, and making some sparkly paintings. We will be reading The Mitten, The Hat, and Gingerbread Baby during our Jan Brett week. We will color mittens, explore hats and gloves in our dress-up bin, and talk about the gingerbread that we had before break. We will also be looking for different animals in the books, and practicing the sounds they make.

### Reminders:

\* Please label all containers, and plastic bags in your child's lunch.

\* Remember to bring in boots and snow suits if there is snow on the ground. We love to play in the snow!



## Blue Puppies

The puppies welcomed 2016 with a fun wacky to get back into our routine. A week of mixed matched socks, silly hats, inside out clothes, and crazy hair had us laughing. The Farm Show is in town! We will have fun looking at books and singing songs about farm animals, making their noises, rolling tractors in paint and making a milk shake. Brrrrr! During another week we will study animals that live in cold places. Some activities include: handprint polar bears, coloring a paper plate penguin and exploring ice cubes. We will end the month talking about birds, coloring birds, listening to bird noises, and making a bird feeder to take home! *(continued on next page)*



## (Blue Pups ctd. )

We will be working on opposites, matching, counting activities, and fine motor skills such as stringing beads and more complicated puzzles. Introducing open cups during snack time will be another skill we will start to work on.

### **REMINDERS:**

~Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, and gloves/mittens for outside play.

~In the event of snow, please bring snow gear-boots, pants so we can go and play.

~Label all items in lunches, including yogurts, applesauce, and items in baggies. ~**CATHRYN & DONNA**



## **Yellow Honey Bees**

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a great time off. Ms. Sarah and Ms. Barb are glad to see everyone again. We have a lot planned for you during the month of January. First, please make sure you have snowsuits and boots here at the center. We do go outside even if there is snow on the ground. If the temps are above 26 we will go out! We might not stay outside as long, but we do go out to get fresh air, and if there is snow it is fun to play with them in it!

During the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> we will talk about penguins. We will review the colors black and white. We will make many different penguins, even some with our feet. That should be fun!

The week of the 11<sup>th</sup>- 15 is the farm show in Harrisburg. This week MS. Sarah and Ms. Barb love to do the theme- Down on the yellow honey bee farm. We will talk about all the animals that might be at the farm show or on a farm. We will paint a barn this week. Most of the crafts will be animals that you see at a farm. We do encourage you to take your child to the farm show. The farm show is the largest agricultural event in the United States. In January 1917 the "Pennsylvania corn, fruit, vegetable, dairy, and Wool show was held in Harrisburg. In 1921, they presented livestock for the first time. 1925, they started raising money to build a new building. The new building, which is where it is today, was opened in 1931. (Just a little bit of information for you!)

The week of the 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> will be Friendship week. We will talk about how to be kind to all people. We will show ways on how to be nice, kind, and friendly. We will do a lot of craft project as a whole group.

Do you want to build a snowman? We will find out the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>. Let's just hope the weather cooperates with us. We will even bring some snow inside to play with. We will make a large snowman for our room.



~ **MS. BARB & MS. SARAH**

## Blue Busy Bees

The Busy Bees came back happy, healthy, and ready to play!! The New Year will bring some new changes.

We will introduce our new Circle Time. At Circle time we:

- talk about the month, date, and day of the week
- Child helpers will assist with the calendar time
- Choose the jobs we would like to do for the day (i.e. line leader, door holder, snack helpers, etc. )

We will try hard to have everyone potty trained, so when everyone is three we can try out the big playground which is so exciting!!

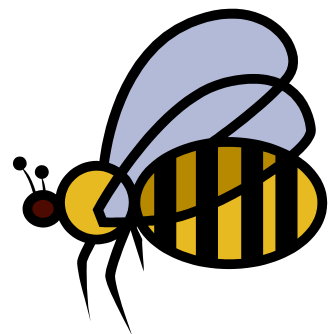
Our room has some other changes. We now have play dough, scissors (for cutting paper), and markers out on shelves.

The January themes will be Winter Wonder, Polar Animals, Snowmen and Snowflakes, and ending the month with Wacky Week.

Parent reminder: Make sure your child's slip is filled out each morning. Hand washing is so important, so make sure your child continues washing their hands coming into the room. This time of year is so important in keeping extra clothing in your child's bin. And remember to have hats, mittens, and boots with your child's coat. Weather permitting we do go outside.

Good times are coming as we explore some new toys and enjoy the old favorites!

**~JODY & MARSHA**



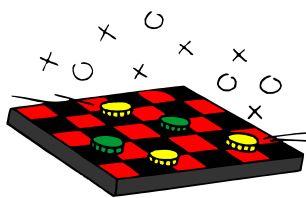


## Yellow Bear Cubs

We kicked off December with a great week of Trains; we especially loved the Box Train! We then moved right into sharing and partaking in all the different Holiday Traditions, thanks to all the parents who took the time to come and share some family traditions with us! There were some great new traditions that were introduced to me this year, and I am sure that the teddy bears all took some new information away from the two week long experience!



During the month of January we will be advancing our cooperative social skills by taking turns and following rules to play games! We will be exploring the whole winter weather concept by having activities that give us a hands-on feel for cool, cold and freezing! We will also be talking about hibernation and the effects that the



winter weather has on animals, as well as Polar locations and arctic animals.



The winter weather is HERE! Please remember to send in hats, gloves/mittens (preferably water proof), boots, snow pants and coats. We will go outside as long as the temperature feels like 25 degrees or more. We need the water proof clothing to protect us from the wet melting snow followed by the mud!! While you are bringing in snow gear, make sure you check the extra clothes bins for seasonally appropriate clothes!

We will be working hard to improve our independence skills, by getting ourselves dressed and undressed for the outdoor play!

**MANDY AND CHERI**

## Blue Bears

December has been a blast! We really enjoy all the Christmas time activities, traditions and fun artwork! Thank you to so many who took time to come in and share a tradition! We hope you had a wonderful break with your families!

January is going to be a busy start to 2016! We will spend our first week back playing lots of games. Please feel free to bring in a game from home for your child to share. It's a nice way to ease back into school after such a long vacation!



The following week we will be talking about those changes outside in the winter time. Hopefully we will get some more snow this week so we can truly get hands on! Next we stick with the winter theme and talk about arctic animals. We will learn all about how they keep warm with all of their blubber as well as why they are all white. This week will



have lots of ice in the water table to explore.

The last week of January we will be talking about hibernation, just in time to predict whether or not that pesky groundhog will see his shadow.

Just a reminder to please make sure you have a pair of snow pants and boots here for your child at all times. Water proof gloves are also nice when there is snow outside. There are labeled hooks outside the class room door for them. Check your child's extra clothes bin for seasonally appropriate clothing as well. If you have any questions feel free to talk with either of us! ~**KRISTEN & ANGE**



## Bunnies



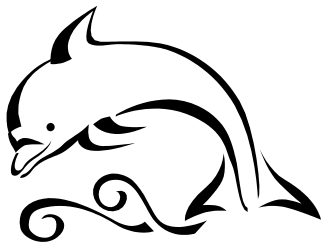
Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a wonderful break. I cannot believe January is here already. December was a very busy but fun month. We started off talking about kindness and what it means to be bucket fillers. We played games and acted things out so that we could really understand how to be kind to one another. We then spent two weeks talking about family traditions with our sights, sounds, and tastes of the season unit. We had so many families come in to share what they do during the holidays. We learned about different places, listened to a variety of music, played games and did crafts. We have learned the letters A - P so far. We have also really enjoyed our ASL (American Sign Language) sessions where we have learned many words in sign language.

We will be starting 2016 off with a week review week. We will be talking about our classroom rules, review letters we have learned so far, and reviewing how to be bucket fillers. We will transition into our winter wonderland unit. We will discuss what normally happens in winter (maybe we will have more winter like weather), and what changes we can see and feel around us. We will then move into our space unit where we will discuss the planets and their differences, the sun, moon and the stars. We will round out the month with a dental health unit where we will figure out how to keep our teeth clean and what foods will help and who we to go if we have a problem with our teeth. We will learn the letters Q, R, S and T.

**Ms. BRITNEY AND Ms. CARLY**





## Kindergarten Dolphins



We had an exciting December, and were very thankful to the parents and grandparents who came in to share family traditions with our class, and to the family members who came in on our special Family Day. It was a rather crafty month for us, as we worked on our winter door decoration, made gifts for our parents, and created gingerbread houses with our family members on Family Day.

It's hard to imagine that January could match the excitement that December brought to us, but we've got so much in store for this month as well! For starters, we'll be celebrating a few *half* birthdays for our children with July birthdays, since kindergarten won't be in session during their actual birthdays. We'll also talk about resolutions and will update our goals for the rest of the school year.

In early January, we'll also continue our study about the season of winter, which we started at the end of December, and will learn more about the states of matter. Maybe by then we'll get some snow and will be able to get in a few good experiments with ice and snow and discover first-hand about how matter changes. We'll also experiment with other mixtures, we'll play in some "glop" (cornstarch and water), and we'll follow a recipe to make our very own play dough.

This month, we'll also be learning about leadership and the qualities that make a good leader as we study about some famous American heroes and heroines. We'll also be revisiting the topics of friendship and respect as we further explore anti-bullying strategies. The kindergarten students will have a chance to practice their leadership skills on our "Kids Are Teachers Day" on January 19! On that day, the children will each have an opportunity to plan a lesson or activity and lead the class as "teacher" during part of the day.

Our biggest January event will occur at the end of the month. As long as DCCC is not closed for any winter storms during the month of January, our 100th Day of Kindergarten will take place on Wednesday, January 27. The children will bring in collections of 100 things to display in our 100 Day Museum. We welcome everyone to come and stop in to see it! Lots of fun activities are planned for that day, including a piñata which will be filled with 100 items!

\*\*\*Please be sure to send in a set of winter gear for your child to keep at DCCC. Cubbies are labeled in the Big Room for these items to be stored. Also, please be sure that your child has a complete set of extra seasonal clothing in his/her bin.

~ Ms. Katie & Ms. Cheri



# DCCC information on: Weather related closings, delays and early dismissals

Dear Families,

As we are entering the winter season, I want remind you of the following guidelines that pertain to weather related closings, delays and early dismissals.

## **Closing/delay due to bad weather:**

DCCC will be closed when the college is closed due to bad weather (snow/ice). We will continue to notify families via the e-mail distribution list and through the following media outlets:

TV Stations: WGAL Channel 8 (NBC), WHTM Channel 27 (ABC), WPMT FOX 43, WHP Channel 21 (CBS), and WLYH Channel 15 (UPN)

Radio Stations: WHP 580 AM, WRVW 97.3 FM The River, WRBT 94.9 FM BOB, WHKF 99.3 FM KISS, WITF FM 89.5 NPR, WINK 104 FM, WROZ 101.3 FM The Rose, and WI00 1000 AM (Carlisle Station).

In order to provide the utmost safety to the children within the Center, DCCC also reserves the right to decide to close even if the college would remain open.

If the College decides to delay, DCCC too will delay.

On a one hour delay DCCC will open at 8:30 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

On a two hour delay DCCC will open at 9:30 (11:00 arrival policy remains in effect)

DCCC opening at 10:00 a.m. – the 11:00 arrival policy will be extended to 11:30 a.m. to help accommodate the number of children at drop-off.

Once again, if possible we will notify families via the e-mail distribution list and local TV stations.

## **Early Dismissal:**

When the college decides to close early due to worsening weather conditions, DCCC will close as well. However, we will add an hour to our closing time in relation to the college time to allow parents within the community enough time to make arrangements to pick up their child safely. (For example, if the college decides to close at 3:00 p.m., the Center will close at 4:00.)

This message will go out via e-mail distribution list, local TV stations and, when necessary the classroom teachers will call their individual families.

Please keep in mind that the college does not decide to close very frequently. However, when they do, it is necessary that we now follow their same schedule in order to provide the utmost safety to the DCCC staff as well. **We will be certain to make sure that the Children's Center is specifically stated in order to avoid confusion.**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter,

Gina VanKirk, Director