



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

January/February 2010

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Office: Jeff Robbins,
Terry Chase, Amy
Potter

Floaters: Eileen
Ruml, Moya Stevens,
Joelle Wyffels, Amy
Potter



ATTENTION!



DCCCC has new numbers effective 1/18/2009:

646-6610 (phone)

646-3232 (fax)

• It's 5:29!

We've had travel delays during the nightly exodus from DCCCC this month. Travelers are experiencing traffic pile-ups at the end of the day, both inside and out. The Eye in the Sky has been patrolling the halls offering directives like, "Really, you need to go now" and providing menu suggestions.

Seriously, please allow time to get in and get out by 5:30. I'm encouraging teachers to say things like, "I'm sorry, I have to go now" and "We close in two minutes." Our late pick-up fee is a reminder to you that my staff needs to get home to their families, too.

My advice: "arrive early" and "macaroni and cheese!"

- **Theatre Arts at DCCCC**

"Too Much Noise" played a one show run at DCCCC on January 21

FEATURING:



James Burger,
The Professor of Percussion:
As the animals!



Carol Wilson:
**As Hilda,
the Old Woman**



Big Jeff:
**As the narrator
&
The Wise Man**

- **Coming Soon to DCCCC**

"The Sounds of Woodwinds." Flute, clarinet and saxophone with Faith Goodness on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 12:30pm!

- **Snow Days**

Whenever Hanover schools close or open late due to inclement weather, DCCCC will have a late opening time of 9:00 a.m. A late opening at DCCCC will be announced on:

- WMUR TV Channel 9 and www.WMUR.com
- WCAX TV Channel 3 and www.WCAX.com, (go to weather, select school closings)
- New Hampshire Public Radio web site: www.nhpr.org and Vermont Public Radio site: www.vrp.org

***Hanover schools also announce their closing on a variety of radio stations.

- **Teaching Kids to Downhill Ski: An Article by Billie Munro Audia**

Gianluca Audia send a message from the Polar Bear room: "Read this helpful article by my Mom in Vermont Sports." You can find it at: <http://www.vtsports.com/articles/teaching-kids-downhill-ski>

- **Here Comes Tax Time**

Dartmouth College's EIN #02-0222111. You'll want that to claim a dependent care deduction.

- **Thanks to our winter term part-timers:**

Teddy One: Stephanie, Lynn

Teddy Too: Sara

Pandas: Aspen

Koalas: Gladness

Woollies: Anne

Polars: Patty, Shawna

Grizzlies: Sue, Shawna, Jessica

Floater: Raven, Heidi

- ***How To Talk So Kids Will Listen Series:***

Offered by the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center's Women's Health Resource Center and taught by seasoned instructor, Ginger Mason, this series is based on the award-winning book, *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk*. Attendees will learn practical, effective methods of communication that will make relationships with children of all ages less stressful and more rewarding. Topics to be covered include helping children deal with their feelings, engaging cooperation, alternatives to punishment, encouraging autonomy, use of praise and freeing children from playing roles. The series is scheduled for Saturdays, February 27 - March 13, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Women's Health Resource Center, On the Mall (9 Hanover Street) in Lebanon, NH. Fee is \$75 per person and includes workbook. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call (603) 650-2600.

- **“Read With Me”**

Thanks to Lori and Wendy in the Teddy rooms for bringing this Vermont Humanities Council program with storyteller Judy Witters to DCCCC families in January and February.

- **Seeking pediatric information?**

www.HealthyChildren.org

“Whether you have a question about a specific condition or are looking for general guidance, you know you can trust us. That's because HealthyChildren.org is the only site backed by 60,000 American Academy of Pediatrics member pediatricians. We're committed to offering the most reliable, up-to-the-minute health advice for proactive parents and caregivers. HealthyChildren.org is divided into multiple, user-friendly sections, including: Ages & Stages; Healthy Living; Safety & Prevention; and Health Issues.”

- **Looking for parenting advice?**

www.inccrra.org/parentsandpublic.aspx?id=409

The Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies publishes The Daily Parent Newsletter in English and Spanish. Check out this sample of great topics: Child Care and Biting; Parent-Caregiver Communication; Sleep: An Important Part of Healthy Development; DIFFERENT KINDS OF "SMARTS" and Supporting Children's Intelligence Styles.

News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,
Teacher

Keri Wolfe,
Assistant Teacher

Starting a new job is always exciting and a bit stressful. Thank you all for the positive support you have given me. You have made me feel comfortable and welcomed. My first day I was worried that the children would not be open to having a new person in Teddy One, but right away they were coming over to check me out or smiling at me from across the room. Now that I have been here one month we are becoming a group. I love receiving that morning smile and hug! I love spending my day singing, cuddling and reading. What a privilege it is for me to get to spend my days with your children!

I am still learning routines and rely on my sticky notes to get through parts of the day. Wendy and Keri have been very patient with me. Remembering names have always been a challenge for me, so I am still working on my goal of learning every parent's name. Please bear with me!

This first month has been so exciting. I've already seen the changes in your children. We have seen some firsts and lots of new skills have been developed. I love working with infants and am always amazed at all the important firsts that we get to see: rolling over, sitting up, crawling, standing and more. There is so much going on in the first years of their lives. And we get to share it all with them and with you!

Children are also growing FAST so please check your child's extra clothes occasionally to see if they are still the correct size. Sometimes pants become capris quickly!

Again thank you for welcoming me into your lives!

Happy New Year!
Fondly,
Debbie B.

News from Teddy Too

Terri Crane,
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins,
Teacher

Denise Ayres,
Assistant Teacher

Dear Teddy Too families,

In the last month we have welcomed three new families to the Teddy Too room. We've welcomed Nico Kim and his parents Jim and Younsook; Rowan Moody A'Ness and his parents Francine and Doug; and Liam Glenney and his parents Colleen and Brian. Liam has a brother, Noah, in the Polar room. Rowan has a brother, Dylan, who is an alum of the Teddy room. Nico has an older brother, Thomas, too.

We have also welcomed Cathy Fleming into the Teddy Too room. She and I are co-teaching. She will be here every Wed- Fri. Everyone is settling in and getting used to being here. It is a pleasure to welcome new faces and welcome back old friends.

The Teddy room has been hopping lately with all kinds of new activities to help all of the emerging skills that the Teddies are learning. We have some of the little ones finding shelves and sturdy things to pull themselves up. I think they've discovered the world view changes dramatically when you're standing up. The toddlers are an ever-changing bunch; some are fast crawlers and some are soon-to-be walkers who can almost beat you to the slightly-open gate. While others are still new to walking and are a bit cautious about moving too fast, some of the older Teddies have discovered the joy of running through the long kitchen—that is, until the “slow down police” show up and bust them! We spend a lot of time making new challenges for their ever-changing needs.

This is a group of Teddies that loves being outside in the snow. Aside from the mitten wrestling that teachers have to do, it is a fun time for everyone. We have been lucky to have so much snow to play in. Sometimes, it's a sled ride around the paths for the little ones (and some big ones too!). Some of the Teddies are very adventurous and head off into the deeper snow in search of the climber or sandbox while others are happy to push the lawn mower or sit in the pick-up truck and push it around. We also shovel and scoop snow and eat a little, too. The sledding hill for the brave ones is so much fun. We always sit in the sled with them and take turns going down the hill. When we get to the bottom, we see either ear-to-ear grins or the big eyes saying “I'm not sure if I liked that or not.” The winter here is something you just have to embrace, as it seems to last forever. So slip on those mittens (again) and head outside with your little one!

Happy winter to all,
Terri

News from the Pandas

Susan Quimby,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,
Teacher

Tatyana Bills,
Assistant Teacher

Dear Panda Families,

The holidays have come and gone and we're settling back into Pandaville with ease. We welcome Claire Reder on Tuesdays and Ollie Plans on Thursdays and Fridays as we begin 2010.

We have been talking about different dwellings and houses. Tatyana has had fun sitting with each child and talking about what might be inside a house such as rooms and furniture. During these discussions, they have been gluing basic furniture such as a bed, couch, washing machine, or stove into different areas of a paper house. It has been fun to watch this small group activity that has the children thinking about their own homes as well as promoting verbal interactions.

Jenn did a fun circle. She played different "household" sounds on a cassette and kids tried to guess what made the noise. For example, there were sounds such as a vacuum, someone tooth brushing, etc. The kids had a blast trying to identify the sounds. We'll have a variety of houses to use for play including castles, tree houses and dollhouses along with furniture.

We've also talked about our bean house in the garden and we will soon go for a walk to see the Grizzly teepee-style structure in their garden. Our conversations may range from where we live to what different animals use for shelter. I was just talking to a Panda yesterday about a big snapping turtle that lives in Occum pond. I explained that I thought that the turtle was sleeping under the mud in the bottom of the pond and as the Panda pondered that thought, she came out with this: "I bet he is sleeping under a mud blanket." She was thinking about the comforts of "home" and expanding the thought of what "home" meant to her and what might in that snapping turtle's home in Occum pond!

Please take time to chat with Joelle as she fills in for me for the next several weeks. The kids adore her and she has some wonderful, positive energy as well as a bunch of experience! I'll miss the crew a ton but I'll be on Blitzmail at home so feel free to ask me anything!

So fondly,
Susan for the Panda team

News from the Koalas

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Debbie Lensing,
Teacher

Tiffany Chapman,
Assistant Teacher

Pictures are worth a thousand words!



News from the Woolly Bears

Debbie Girdwood,
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,
Teacher

Kristin Ball Cole,
Assistant Teacher

Greetings Woolly Bear Parents,

We are in a winter wonderland. Woollies were so excited to return to school on that first Monday and be the first ones to make footprints in the freshly fallen snow on our playground.

In this wonderful season of snow and ice, the Woolly Bears have been making predictions on “what will happen if?” The month has been filled with many different science experiments. We have made plain water in ice cube trays with sticks in them and then put them in the freezer over night. In the morning we got to play with the cubes in big trays with powder paint. Some of the observations that the children were making were about how the ice was melting: did the ice melt faster in their hands or faster when they just pushed it around in the pan? They sang “stir, stir the soup” during their play. They noticed while stirring and singing that the ice and water went around the same direction that they were stirring. Lots of children tapped their ice on the

metal tray. It made an interesting sound and it also made their ice fall off the stick. They noticed that the paint in the tray colored the ice cubes and the water. Woollies figured out how to play ice hockey and how to keep the ice in the tray.

Woollies experimented with fresh snow in big trays. Sometimes the snow was plain white while other times the snow had food coloring added. The children decided snow is **very** cold to play in with bare hands. They chose to play with mittens or without mittens. They were excited to figure out that snow can be made into cakes and cubes just like when we play with sand.

One day a chunk of ice was found on the playground. It was brought in to see what would happen. All of the Woollies had decided the snow would melt, but many were surprised to see how much dirt was in the ice chunk. They had not seen the dirt when the ice was frozen.

All this ice play reminded the children of summer time popsicles, so we made our own popsicles with two different types of juice. Woollies then had to decide if they would put their juice cups outside to freeze (not a very cold day) or to put their juice cups in the classroom freezer. We made our observations about which juice cups were more frozen. Children were surprised that the cups outside did not freeze in time for afternoon snack. They thought the foil on top of the cups, not the weather, had prevented the freezing process.

On another day, the children made ice rings for the birds using frozen vegetables, birdseeds and pine branches (a very cold day). They were excited to see the water freeze so quickly. Children could be heard saying, “Oh, I guess Kristin was right!” They were equally surprised to return from the weekend and find the pie plates full of water and that the ice was gone. They wondered thinks like, what had caused the change in our pie plates for the birds? We will be watching out our windows and door to see what will happen next!

-The Woolly Teachers

News from the Polar Bears

Sunnie McPhetres,
Lead Teacher

Bobbie Lynn Stone,
Teacher

Ray Garcia,
Assistant Teacher

Ode to the Head Louse

Head louse, oh, Head
Louse
How have you
survived?
More than 100,000
years you have lived
among humans
Seeking nourishment to
thrive.

The Polars are learning
So much about you,
They actually enjoy
Looking through hair
for you.

The children think
You are pretty cool,
They think it fun having
You in school.

Their attitudes are great
Yet they dislike being questioned
By grown-ups at home
Hoping names will be mentioned.

The adults among us
Have a much harder time
Accepting that you
Do not mean grime.

We fear being shunned,
So we shun you each day.
When we discover you presence
We force you away.

You hide from the light
Are you from the dark side?
You scurry in hair looking for
Places to hide.

So small, hardly seen,
Just the mention of your name,
Pediculus humanus capitis,
Causes us to itch and to maim.

The CDC tells us that
We should not fear,
That you are only trying
To keep your species here.

How do you find
Our very clean hair?
Our hair and your young
You think a wonderful pair.

One month to us is
A lifetime to you,
So many eggs to lay,
So much to do.

We come at you with poisons,
Oils, and small combs,
To stop your young from emerging,
From invading our homes.

We try and we try
To relieve our distress
Yet you reappear and attempt to
Impress.

You are nuisance, not dangerous
I know this is true
But all the same, little Head Louse,
I just can't like you.

Old habits break hard,
But I can stop asking, "Who?"
I can accept that you happen
And do what I must do.

Head Louse, oh Head Louse,
Good luck to you and yours.
But if you come to visit me,
I'll curse as I do the extra chores.

We fear thee, oh Head Louse
Though you mean us no harm,
I don't want my family
To become a Head Louse farm!

You have such persistence,
Tiny little louse.
I admire you and I loathe you,
Just stay out of my house!

News from the Grizzlies

Carolynn Wilson,
Lead Teacher

Karen Gray,
Teacher

Grizzlies enjoy using their “thinking muscles.” Since the beginning of the year, we have been playing a variety of guessing games, with a favorite game being what we call Mystery Word. In this game, much like the unfortunately titled Hangman, we challenge the children to guess letters to reveal a familiar word or phrase. The alphabet is written out and each letter is erased as it is guessed. If the letter that this children guess is in the mystery word, we fill in the blank. If the letter is not in the mystery word, we add another line to a drawing. Another teacher we know calls this game Build A House, with the correctly guessed letters filling in the word and the incorrect guesses becoming the floor, wall, roof, etc. of the house.

When we came back to Grizzlies at the beginning of January, it was a great opportunity to talk about the form of measurement called time. We talked about days, weeks, months, and years. We looked at calendars, and some children chose to make their own. We also talked about seconds, minutes, and hours, and we are working on learning how to read a clock and tell time.

For some weeks now, a group of children have a daily after-lunch ritual that involves getting out the MagnaTiles to build rooms, homes, and other dwellings for the Playmobil people and the small animal figures. There are a lot of spatial and geometric problems being solved in this activity, as well as imaginative storytelling, laughter and arguments, sharing and compromise. But as the children wisely understand, this is play.

We’ve also introduced some dice games recently, to much enthusiasm and interest. One game we play involves the child and the teacher each rolling one or two dice. Whoever rolls the highest amount gets a button. Very exciting! Another game called Tile Flipping uses dice and double-sided cards. One player has half the cards of one side/ pattern, and the other player has the other half of the other side/pattern. It is a fast-paced game with the goal of getting all the cards flipped to your side/pattern. The number of cards you flip is determined by the number you roll on the die. In addition to counting, we are also introducing some multiplication as we arrange an even number of cards in rows across and down.

A few of the children are interested in learning how to play checkers and chess. Being that these games require more patience and control, we play to coach the children—talking them through the moves, pointing out options and strategies. It’s beautiful to see their “A-ha!” moments of understanding.

The 100th day of Grizzlies arrives on January 27th so we will be doing lots of math and counting activities involving that big number.

And speaking of counting, 2010 is the year that many Grizzlies reach their 6th birthday. Starting us off, we’ll celebrate Matthew’s birthday on January 26th. Then we celebrate Ellie’s birthday on February 5th... With that in mind, can you guess these mystery words?
