



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

July/August 2010

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Office: Jeff Robbins,
Sunnie McPhetres,
Terry Chase, Amy
Potter, Faith
Goodness

Floaters: Eileen
Ruml, Moya Stevens,
Amy Potter, Teresa
Hahn, Gladness
Msumanje

• A friendly reminder...

The multi closes promptly at 5:00 every day.

• DCCCC will be closed:

- August 30-31, Inservice Training/Preparation for new school year
- September 6, Labor Day
- November 25-26, Thanksgiving Day
- December 23-31, Christmas/Winter Break/New Year's Day
- March 21, 2011, Inservice Training
- May 30, 2011, Memorial Day
- July 4, 2011, Independence Day

• DCCCC Bike Parade July 2, 2010

The Panda classroom organized another hugely successful Bike Parade. We decorated our bikes, trikes, strollers, and wagons with colorful streamers and fun ribbons. We rode around the grass circle and enjoyed the beautiful weather. There was a lemonade stand with delicious refreshments for us to enjoy as well. This is one annual tradition that everyone loves!



• SEAD at DCCCC

The Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth (SEAD) Program is a multi-summer program for academically promising high school students from under-resourced urban and rural schools. Part of the experience includes a career exploration component in which students will visit local workplaces. On July 27th, Wendy Irwin organized a group tour with refreshments at DCCCC for eight students. After the tour, Sunnie McPhetres answered questions about the field of early childhood education.

• From Big Jeff

Dear families and friends of children at DCCCC,

Our 2010-11 school year will begin at DCCCC on Wednesday, September 1. Teachers have already been preparing themselves and the children for some time now. Some children will change classrooms. Some families will leave us permanently. New children and families will be joining us. It may be helpful if I pass on some of the things we have learned from having experienced this, and other, changes many times.

Many of us, children and adults, feel ambivalent about making changes. On the one hand, we are eager for the new experience and excited about the possibilities. Children may be looking forward to changing classrooms as a benchmark in the growing up process, as they might a birthday. On the other hand, we are sad to say some of the necessary good-byes, uncertain about the details of the upcoming experience and perhaps a little anxious. Let us assure you that ambivalence is normal. It is typical for us, child and adult alike, to vacillate between forward-leaning and heel-dragging. We encourage you to honor each part of the experience in its own time. Don't skimp on the good-byes or rush through the sad moments. Help your child formulate and express his or her concerns. When your child is ready, be sure to share the excitement of getting to know new friends and having new activities and experiences.

The most important thing we can do to help the children during transitions is to be confident that the changes are, on the whole, good ones. This is a job for 'grown-ups'. If you have doubts or questions, work them out with other adults, perhaps in talking with us and with other parents. When we are sure that the experience will be positive and are in a position to take pride in the children's growth, we can empathize with their fears and model confidence at the same time. We can say things like, "I'm going to miss your teachers, too" and linger there a moment, not being in too much of a rush to say, "But I like your new teachers!" and "We'll come back to visit."

Whether changing schools or classrooms, or remaining in the same place, making transitions is work. Be patient with your child and with yourself and with us, for that matter. Expect temporary behavioral changes. New routines and caretakers may create short term changes in eating, sleeping and toileting patterns. Often children revert to an earlier stage of dependency, needing extra reassurance from you when you leave them in the morning. Sometimes children seem to burst into new levels of independence, telling you that "you may go now," perhaps even before you are ready. If I were to predict one temporary change, I would imagine that your child will be more tired than usual at the end of the day. For many children, that means being grumpy or 'impossible' in the evenings. Being part of something new always takes a little extra energy. My advice: stay calm, keep familiar routines at home and plan early meals and bedtimes.

We urge you to express your concerns and ask questions of us. Knowing that the coming and going times of the day are busy ones, call us or prearrange an informal parent conference. Your child's current teacher is your best source of information about how things are going, but old teachers, other parents and I can be helpful, too. Your child's teacher will have copies of a pamphlet on this topic, "So Many Good-byes".

So, farewell and welcome, all in the same breath,

Big Jeff

● News From Sunnie

In the last issue of the DCCCC Newsletter, I wrote my last article as a teacher. In this issue I write my first column as the Assistant Director! Life has changed for me, but not as much as I expected. I do have more work on the computer, more meetings, and more paperwork but I am still able to stay connected with the classrooms. I have been able to get into all of the classrooms to share meals with kids and sometimes just to play! I have still been able to sit down and chat with families, accompany kids on outings, and play on the playground (I even ran through the sprinklers on the very hot days)! While I have worked with all of the age groups before, it is exciting for me to go from room to room and be reminded of just how much children grow and change during their first 6 years of life! The excitement of new words in the Teddy rooms, the imagination in the Panda room, the welcoming attitudes in the Koala room, the thirst for knowledge in the Woolly room, the ability to connect in the Polar room, and the maturity and skill demonstrated in the Grizzly room are very apparent to me as a visitor! I am so excited to be able to watch and participate in this amazing process.

While I have been able to notice what is going on with children, my position change has given me new focus on staff. I've been taking lots of pictures of teachers and children together. What a privilege it is to work with such an amazing group of people. I feel welcome in every classroom and enjoy watching teachers interact so sincerely with children. Each teacher is celebrating each child and helping them to gain the tools that they need to continue to grow and move on to the next stage of their lives. While the names of past teachers may fade from the children's minds, the lessons that they learned from these sincere interactions will last a lifetime!

School Photos

Doughty Falls Photography will return on Thursday, November 11th. We'll send details when the time draws closer.

Need an employee or visitor ID card?

The Dartmouth Card Office has relocated from Thayer Dining Hall to McNutt, Room #04 (basement). They are open from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Service Awards

Congratulations to Terri Hollis and Big Jeff for their length of service to the College and to DCCCC.

Terri: 15 years

Jeff: 25 years

●Staff Highlights

We are introducing a new feature to help families better get to know our staff members and classroom teams. In this issue, Jessica Lambert and Gladness Msumanje offer us some insight into their backgrounds.



●Jessica Lambert, Koala Assistant Teacher

Hi! I am Jessica Lambert and I am the new Assistant Teacher in the Koala classroom. Before coming to DCCCC, I worked at Connecticut Valley Child Care Center in Claremont for five years. While working there, I worked as an assistant as well as the Lead Teacher for the Infant and Toddler Program. I am really looking forward to working with the Koalas; I know it will be a lot of fun.

I completed the two year program at Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center for Early Childhood Education and I am currently attending classes at Granite State College.

My boyfriend Kyle and I just recently bought a house in Claremont and we are loving every minute of the unpredictable life of home ownership. When we aren't working on the house, I love to read, especially anything from Jodi Picoult. I also love taking photos and painting, because sometimes you just need to take a break and enjoy the beauty of things.

So far, I have loved every minute of being a part of DCCCC and I can't wait to see what more there is to come!



●Gladness Msumanje, Floating Teaching Assistant

My name is Gladness Msumanje, and I am a permanent floater at DCCCC. I was born in a village called Kahe in the country of Tanzania. As an African girl I was pretty much expected to take care of all five of my younger siblings, so taking care of children comes naturally to me. When I came to the U.S. in 1997, I could not speak a word of English! I felt like I had been dropped in the middle of the ocean and told to swim. I finally decided “no more tears,” went to school, and forced myself to speak English. I have been blessed to make many wonderful friends wherever I go, and they have all encouraged my efforts. I have lived in Boston, upstate New York, St. Louis, Denver, and now here in Hanover. I have worked as a personal nanny, as well as in several childcare centers. At DCCCC, though, I have had wonderful opportunities to learn more about the profession of early childhood education. I have wonderful mentors, and I am taking courses at River Valley Community College. When I take my third course this fall, I will be qualified as an associate teacher in the state of New Hampshire! I am so happy to be at DCCCC and to work with your wonderful children! If you see me, please say hi, because I love to make new friends and get to know old ones better! Oh yes, my son Erick is 19 years old and he goes to Hampshire College in Massachusetts. My son Vincent is 10, and he is in 5th grade at the Ray School. My husband Jim teaches in the Anthropology Department at Dartmouth.

●Upcoming Events for Children and Families

Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center: Sat.-Mon., 7/31-8/2, 9:00AM – 5:30PM

- “Through the Eyes of Raptors” program at 11:00AM and 3:30PM
- “Raptors Up Close” program at 1:30PM
- \$10.50 Adults, \$9.50 65+, \$8.50 4-17, Free 3 and under
- (802) 359-5000 or <http://www.vinsweb.org>

Montshire Museum of Science: Saturday, July 31st, various times

- Leafcutter ants, provide the colony with its supply of leaves 11:30AM
- Build a better battery, lab coat investigation (ages 9+), potato batteries 2:30PM
- Admission \$10 adults, \$8 ages 2-17, free for ages under 2 and members
- (802) 649-2200 or <http://www.montshire.org>

Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock: Sunday, August 1st, 10:00AM – 5:00PM

- Ice cream making and tasting, 12:00PM and 3:00PM
 - Different flavor every Sunday, includes a narrated explanation from scientific and historical perspectives
- \$12 adults, \$11 ages 62+, \$6 ages 5 to 15, \$3 ages 3 to 4, free ages 2 and under
- (802) 457-2355 or <http://www.billingsfarm.org>

Lyman Point Park, Hartford: 1:00PM

- Art in the Park, for children and families
- Free; (207) 807-1992 or email mbaldwin.bgcwrv@gmail.com

Claremont History Museum: Sunday, August 1st, 2:00PM – 5:00PM

- “Oh, to Be a Kid Again” exhibit, toys and children’s furnishings, Stevens High School and St. Mary’s memorabilia
- \$1, members free
- (603) 543-0068 or email claremont_historical@yahoo.com

Lockhaven 1850s School Museum: Sunday, August 1st, 2:00PM – 4:00PM

- Children’s program at 2:30PM
- (603) 632-4965 or email hgoodwin@valley.net

Lebanon Library, 9 East Park St.: Monday, August 2nd, 10:30AM – 11:30AM

- Mother Goose Play Group for up to age 2, with caregiver
- Toys, rhymes and music
- (603) 448-2459 or email carolyn.crocker@lebcity.com

Play Outdoor S’more with Vermont State Parks: Now through October 15th

- Activities include Forest Fun (collecting seeds from trees, picnics, pretend play, bark rubbings, get a signature from the County Forester or State Forester); Shape Walk (find shapes in nature); and Outdoor Adventure (color walk, meadow/forest walk, animal signs, nature sounds, rotting logs, dirt play, outside art, animal home, neighborhood walk)
- Take photos of your little ones doing the activities and keep track of points with your scorecard. Once you reach 100 points, send in photos/artwork/writings and you win a free day to visit any Vermont State Park.
- For more information: <http://www.vtstateparks.com/htm/venturevt.htm> or <http://vtstateparks.blogspot.com> – email sarah.mitchell@state.vt.us or call (802) 241-4680

News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,
Teacher

Keri Wolfe,
Assistant Teacher

Dear Teddy One families,

Last month, outside my house, we found a nest with three blue eggs in it. My whole family checked on the nest several times a day. It was the topic at supper and my daughter would even show her friends when they would come to visit. We were so excited when the birds hatched. We made frequent visits to the babies and all four of us were amazed at how quickly the birds grew. Then one day my son made the discovery that the nest was empty. We knew the birds were off into the world, on their own, but we still missed them.

This is also the way it is with the Teddies. We are so excited to watch the Teddies grow. We are amazed at the first steps and worry when they get a bruise. Then, all too soon, they move on. We know it is time, but we do miss them!

Cosima has already said her goodbye. She has taken the summer off and will return as a Koala!

Lea is speaking in full sentences and counting. Aidan is our official greeter in the morning, coming for hugs and asking for “UP” when staff arrives. Both Lea and Aidan will join the Koalas in September. The Koala team would love to see you stop by in the morning on your way to the Teddies.

We have three Teddies that will become Pandas. Grace already loves to visit her new room. As long as there are trucks there, Cooper will be happy. Tejasi has been seeing Susan, Jenn and Tatyana on the playground and in the multi. The Panda Team would love to see parents walk their children through the Panda Room in the mornings to get them used to their new space.

Amelia, Harper and Annabel will now be the “big kids”! Amelia struts around and repeats many words. She is sleeping on a mat for naptimes. Harper is proudly walking and has transitioned to a nap mat also. Annabel is working hard on crawling. She is extremely determined to succeed so it will not be long before she is on the move.

We would like to welcome our newest Teddy, Brendan Wheeler, and his parents, Megan and Kevin. Brendan joined up at the beginning of July and will be here full time. He is our youngest Teddy and we are looking forward to watching him grow.

As our older Teddies move on we will miss them, but we will be seeing them around the center and will continue to be amazed at all that they can do!

Happy Summer!

Fondly, Debbie Burnham



News from Teddy Too

Terri Crane,
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins,
Teacher

Denise Ayers,
Assistant Teacher

Dear Teddy Too families,

Transition time is upon us now. Big sad goodbyes will be said soon. It has been a great year! We've had a lot of fun helping your children grow, learn and develop over the past year. But, all good things must come to an end at some point. Sadly, we say goodbye to Calvin, Lila, Allie, Noah and Anaya as they will be moving to the Koala room. We will also say goodbye to Alistair, Jadon, Zachary, and Louisa as they will be moving into the Panda room. We also sadly say goodbye to Lyra; she will be spending a year at home with her nanny and will comeback in the summer as a Panda. To get the kids ready for the move we are sharing the big multi with the Pandas on some Tuesday mornings. For some it's a chance to meet the Panda teachers, and for some it's a chance to meet new classmates that they will move with. Everyone is having a good time playing together and getting to

know one another. The rest of the summer we will be taking small groups to play and visit in their new classrooms. They may even have snacks or lunch there. We will do all we can to make this transition less scary for your child.

Remember, for those of you with children moving up in late August, take time to pass through your child's new classroom and allow them a chance to see the class and visit with their new teachers. Give yourself a few extra minutes to walk through in the morning on your way in, or come a few minutes early to stop in on your way out. If you have any questions or thoughts on transitions, feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help.

A warm welcome back goes out to Rowan Moody A'Ness, his parents Doug and Francine and his big brother Dylan. They were in Mexico for the last term and are back in the Teddy room. We are happy to have them back with us.

We are lucky to have Rowan, Sophie, Liam and Simon stay for another year and will welcome some new sweet little additions to the Teddy room.

We will miss all the big Teddies deeply, and wish all of you a smooth transition into your new classrooms.

Enjoy the sunshine,

Terri



News from the Pandas

Susan Quimby,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,
Teacher

Tatyana Bills,
Assistant Teacher

WAHHHHHHHHHHH!!!! I cannot believe that almost a year has passed since your child joined the Panda room! It went by too fast!!

But.... oh how they've grown! Their language has just blossomed as they sing, play and chat most of the day. (OK... a few arguments too with their new-found language as should be expected!) Their bodies are getting stronger and stronger as they run down the hall to the big multi to jump, climb and ride bikes, or go for walks in the fields to search for that deer scat or groundhog holes or pinecones, or fly kites or bring compost out or just sit and watch the buses across the street at the Ray School. Some Pandas are recognizing letters, shapes and colors. So much has happened that it's hard to hit on everything. I think we're all in agreement that the growth between 20 months and 3 and half is amazing!!

We have been doing quite a lot of visiting in the last few weeks and you guys are great at coming through the West Wing door to give them even more exposure. I am confident that their transitions in the fall will be smooth. I have watched this year's Pandas being very helpful and sweet to the Teddies who have been visiting. I watched one Panda have a look of concern as a new friend visited and was sad and missing his parents. She went right over to a shelf and brought him a fire truck. She didn't say a single word but the look on her face was one of such empathy and caring. You guys have great kids.

We are planning our end of the year snack on Wednesday, August 25th, at 4 o'clock. We'll do some music (I'm getting them revved up for the Oopsy Daisy dance!!) and then have a nice snack. I am in hopes that you can make it.

I want to add some photos from our year... hmmmmm where to begin.....



I want to thank all of you for being such great parents and so supportive of the Panda staff. It has been such a wonderful year!!! Don't forget where we live!!! (east wing, east wing, east wing!!!)

So very fondly,
Susan for the Panda team

News from the Koalas

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Jessica Lambert,
Assistant Teacher

Memorable Koala Quotes, 2009-2010

“You know, I’m still a Koala but now I just go to the Woolly Classroom.”

“Ice cream is from cows, but milk is from the grocery store.”

“You’re ridiculously silly Terri Hollis.”

“Your choices of drink are beer or water.” (during kitchen play)

“I lost my mouth.”

“I’m in a mood.”

“During dinner my Daddy lost his teeth.”

“I need to ask you a dirty question.”

“When I’m five I won’t pick my nose anymore.”

“It’s okay to pick your nose in the bathroom.”

“I only whine when it helps me get my way.”

“I wear socks at night so I won’t have bad dreams.”

“I don’t want this to get lost, so I’ll put it in the garbage...alright?”

“Carrots make your arms long, your head long and your belly button long!”

“Umm...that costs \$100,000 moneys and that could take you your whole life to make.”

“I didn’t do it, Gabriel did it!” (After he peed his pants)

“Hanover doesn’t have bugs!”

“When I was a baby, I came out of my mom’s tummy and cried for me paci.”

“When you ungrow you become a baby again!”

“Do doctors die?”

“I had a dream that Terri Hollis was in my bed. Then she left me.”

“I invented sunscreen, and Joelle helped make it. And Terri Hollis, and Ian and Beckett.”

“I like to eat crackers in the bathtub!”

“My dad has a very prickly face.”

“I pooped an X.”

As always, the Koala teaching team found it entertaining to hear what your children’s thoughts were. Thank you for a good year.

Terri Hollis



News from the Woolly Bears

Deb Girdwood,
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,
Teacher

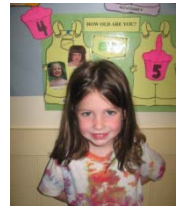
Kristin Ball Cole,
Assistant Teacher

Tick, Tock goes the Woolly Bear Clock.
It's winding slowly down to the end.
Soon it will be time to begin again.
As old friends leave and new friends come.

This is the time of year when we like to think about the children who will be leaving the Woolly Bear room by the end of the summer, and what we will remember and miss about them. So, here are our thoughts for the 2009-2010 Woolly Bear year.



~baby dolls
~outside mud pies/ice cream maker
~collages and painting



~fuse beading
~sled riding
~writer of lists



~dressing-up
~high flying tire-swinging
~yummy Summer Pasta



~soccer player
~knights
~Star Wars



~monkeys
~soccer player
~nickname: Chimmy



~swinging
~dressing up
~fuse beading



- ~investigator of the seasons
- ~fuse beading
- ~snow eater



- ~illustrator
- ~paper air planes
- ~running



- ~ballerina
- ~horses and fairies
- ~blue blanket



- ~pull-over on high bar
- ~pattern necklaces/bracelets
- ~outdoor adventurer



- ~monster chase
- ~reading
- ~singing and dancing



- ~sharing books from home
- ~princess pajamas
- ~dramatic play...vet, momma, kitty, puppy



- ~soccer player
- ~buliding with legos
- ~sharing German stories



- ~dinosaurs
- ~hiding under the climber
- ~nature lover

News from the Polar Bears

Radoyka Garcia,
Lead Teacher

Bobbie Lynn Stone,
Teacher

Assistant Teacher

The last few months have been all about changes! Although changes may bring both smiles and frowns, it still allows the opportunity to reflect and look forward to new experiences. We are celebrating Jeff's new added role, Sunnie's new position, Bobbie Lynn's new baby. Also, I am honored to be leading the Polar Bear Room. Sunnie has already begun her new role, and we in the Polar Room hold her close to our hearts in every way we can. Any chance we get, we show her how much we appreciate her. I have enjoyed greatly having Sunnie and Bobbie Lynn as team members. Going forward, I am taking with me and cherishing the many special "teaching" gifts that I have learned through Sunnie and am eager to begin an exciting new year with Bobbie Lynn.

As the summer goes on, we in the Polar room continue to miss Sunnie and Bobbie Lynn; I am delighted to be the one to hold that important bond that we created with the Polar Bears during the last couple of years. Reminding the Polars that Jeff is still "The Boss", that Sunnie is still in the building, that Bobbie Lynn is returning, and that I am staying to guide them, brings such relief to these children. We have kept in touch with Bobbie Lynn via email and even sent her a video singing "Happy Birthday, Parker" since he is now a 2-year-old big brother! Her new baby, Beckett Nicholas Dube, was born on June 19, 2010, at 5:22AM, 9 lbs. 9 oz., 20.5 inches long! Now that's a big boy! Everyone has been doing well at home and they recently visited the center. They are such cuties!

We continue many of the "Polar ways" of doing things, including techniques from *Conscious Discipline* by Dr. Becky Bailey, which Polars have been familiar with. We have had quite a number of new float teachers and helpers join our classroom. Eileen Ruml will continue to be with the Polars this summer and we have been really enjoying her presence! Eileen has also been conducting the "worm composting" activities including special work books, and also some wonderful "mindfulness and breathing" exercises with small groups. Polars love these special activities which have become very meaningful to them. Recently, Eileen has met with a teacher from DHMCCCC and they will start their own worm composter at their center. They need about two thousand worms (2 lbs.) to begin their work and Polars have been working on this "2,000 Worm Challenge" while they sort and count the worms out. Wow!

As far as this summer, Polar Bears have been doing wonderful during these ever-changing times. We really try and make a point about helping children connect with the summer helpers. It's not always easy, but these challenges come with change as we all continue to learn and teach every day. Polars also remain receptive as they show understanding one day at a time. Some of the fun stuff include: Beach Day! Polars came ready with all their beach gear, including pj's for cozying up after. We played games and had a picnic lunch out by the pools. We had circle time and story time on our beach towels and afternoon snack included special Blue-Beach Cupcakes with mini-gummy-floaties on top. It has been a HOT summer, so we've been getting wet a lot! Also, cooking lunch for Sunnie's

birthday, baking, making popsicles, chapter books like *Stuart Little*, Spanish songs like, “Bate-Bate-Chocolate”, creating Fenway Park, Laurie Berkner music, *The Lion King* and other Disney musicals, starting a new joke book, working with numbers and letters, colors in Spanish, a variety of audio books (a favorite, *I Lost My Bear*), hiking with Sunnie, trips to the Ray School Playground, all sorts of painting with different writing tools like quills, and Polars have shared wonderful vehicles, dinosaurs and books from their own personal collections.

We have been watching our garden grow! We planted seeds in March: salad greens which we had as part of snack, pole beans we may have soon, two tiny zucchinis and chives are on the way! Our sunflower is so tall and will soon flower. Some of our sunflower seeds and herb seeds have been dug up by little animals searching for food. We will keep trying! Some blueberries have been ripening and children loved them! We may have strawberries, but we never planted them, which must have been in the mix in the compost. The garden looks great.

On a sad note, we will be saying Goodbye to some Polar Bears that are moving on to be Grizzlies and three that are leaving the center. Some have been visiting the Grizzly room, but soon they will all have lunch there as we “swap” and I welcome the current Grizzlies (who used to be Polars) for a special time in their old preschool room. This will be fun! We have seen these Polars grow and develop such wonderful skills. However, we do know they will be enjoying their new friends and teachers and that they will come back to visit. WE WISH YOU WELL!!

We are starting the new year with five current Polars, five Koalas and six Pandas. Most Koalas and Pandas have been visiting the Polar room with parents or teachers. I have met and talked to some Koalas and Pandas as they play in the Polar room or playground; they’ve mingled with Polars too! A few have joined us for lunch. I believe it’s going to be a great year and greeting the new families through the summer has been an amazing feeling as I start my new role. Keep on visiting!

I’m looking forward to meeting and getting to know the new Polar parents on August 9th.

Glad to be a Polar,

Ray



News from the Grizzlies

Karen Gray,
Lead Teacher

Joelle Wyffels,
Teacher

Our Grizzlies are almost First Graders! It's been a terrific year getting to know each of these children and watching them grow and develop. It's been a privilege to have witnessed their many magical moments of wonder, discovery, creativity, and friendship.

This is always a difficult letter for us to write. It's not easy to say goodbye after we've been together and so close, day after day for almost a year. We hope that during this brief time of being in our care that each child has felt safe, loved, happy and free. We'll be spending these last few weeks enjoying our time together, remembering our Grizzly days and our many accomplishments, and looking forward to First Grade. Each "last day" brings a celebration and the excitement of things to come!

You have been a most supportive, generous, and remarkable group of parents. The fine job you do raising your children is very much a part of the versatile and delightful people they are becoming. We will miss you.

You'll be hearing from us for the 2009-2010 Grizzly Reunion this fall!

With all the very best,
Karen

Before they leave, the Grizzlies wanted to share some information with their friends who will be moving up from the Woollies and Polars, and so we end with a letter from them.

Dear Woollies and Polars who will soon be Grizzlies:

We hope you like it in the Grizzly Room.
Here are some things we wanted to let you know:

ELEANOR: In the beginning you might feel scared and shy because you won't know the room really well and all of the people in it. Everything is new. Having these feelings is okay and probably other Grizzlies will feel this way too. Once you spend some time playing and getting to know the room it will help you feel more comfortable. Make sure you visit this summer and remember that the teachers can always help you. When you are a Grizzly you will still be able to see your old classroom and teachers.

LOGAN: The Grizzly room is a lot of fun. They have many legos and magnetiles to build with, lots of games to play, and books to read. You will get to do many projects and have lots of choices on the paper shelves and art shelves.

MELISSA: It is important to be kind to others and be helpful. Be a good listener and make sure you take turns.

ZANE: In the Grizzly room, there are two bathrooms for both boys and girls to use. There is one toilet in each bathroom and you can close the door for privacy if you want. The hand washing sink is right outside from the bathrooms. If the door is closed, knock on it before you open it.

WYATT: The rest time is at the end of the day. You can bring a stuffy, a blanket, a pillow, books, papers, and drawing things to your mat but you can't share them or talk to friends during rest. You need to be really quiet during rest in case some friends are sleeping and to give your body a rest.

RILEY: We have a Quiet Space in our room under the stairs. It looks like a cave and it is small. This is a good place to go to if you want to be alone or rest. You could play quietly, draw, look at books, or be with a few friends in this special place. Sometimes you get to have your rest mat in the quiet space. There is a light in this space. You will need to ask a teacher to turn it on for you because it is up high.

KATE: There is a compost bin and a trash in the room. In the compost bin that has the stickers on it you put paper and food. The other bin is for trash like plastic and aluminum foil. Ask a teacher if you are not sure which bin to put your garbage in.

EMMA: There is a pretend play area in the room. The area keeps changing. It has been set up for dressing-up, playing doctor, family play with babies and pets, an office, a house/store, a restaurant, and whatever else you want to turn it into.

IAN: Make sure you walk in the room and be safe. Also, everyone can stay healthy if you remember to not bring in peanut butter and you wash your hands good. The Grizzly teachers watch to make sure you wash your hands good.

DEXTER: Ask a teacher if you can't find something or you need help. If they don't have what you want then just find something else to play with because there are a lot of good choices in the room.

ALIX: There is a great big upstairs space in the room. Sometimes it is open to play up there and sometimes it's closed. Sometimes your mat gets to be up there for rest time. Right now we get to play with blocks, K'NEX, trains, animals, cars, and people up there.

MIA: There is a Grizzly rule that you can't bring toys from home unless it is a share time. They have this rule because it might be hard to share your own toys with friends and because you would feel sad if they broke or got lost. It might hurt other friend's feelings that they don't have that toy at their house.

MICHAEL: Grizzlies don't use the multi every day. Your day at Grizzlies isn't as long since you are in Kindergarten in the morning so there isn't as much time to use the multi when we have to take turns with the other classes. We go there a couple times a week especially if it is raining outside.

SOPHIE: You will like your teachers. You get to do a lot of playing. In the summer you will get to go to swimming lessons. The teachers read lots of good stories. You will have fun.

LILY: Being the oldest kids at DCCCC you can ask about visiting other classrooms and being helpers. The Pandas love to have Grizzlies take turns to rub their backs for rest time.

ELLIE: Some days you get to go to Grizzlies all day when school is closed.

OLIVIA: We have a gathering time at Grizzlies. We read stories, sing songs, have sharing time, play movement games, and learn things in gathering. The really fun part is playing many different games to wash our hands. My favorite one is "Four Corners".

IRIS: When you take something out to play with please play with it safely and make sure you put it back away where it belongs when you are done playing. When we all take care of our things, then they won't break or get lost. It will be easy for a friend to find something if it is put back in the right place. It also keeps our room clean so that we have more space to play.

We've made a lot of friends here and had lots of fun.
You will too!

Love,
The Grizzlies of 2009-2010

