



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

June 2013

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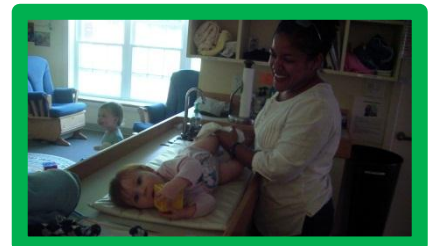
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Office: Jeff Robbins,
Sunnie McPhetres,
Terry Chase, Dawn
Cote

FUN TIMES AT DCCCC!



From the Director

Big Jeff's Buildings and Grounds news

- 3 cheers for the roofers who have worked hard to disrupt the children's schedules. Some extra work has been added to their list and we now expect that they'll be done by the end of June
- We also anticipate some repair to the siding in various places around the building and subsequent painting of those spots.
- What's up with the broken down fence in the preschool front yard? We have ordered a replacement which should arrive in about a month.
- Later this summer, the wooden curbs will be replaced with recycled plastic ones, the fall zone under the swing box will be enlarged and the drainage in the trike path will be improved.
- We are also planning on some nice new, clean sand in the sand boxes this summer
- And we have new shade structures for the preschool front yard and the infant/toddler sandbox, ready to be installed.
- Our gardener, Kirky Flynn formerly a DCCCC lead teacher, has been sprucing up our perennial beds.
- Susan is working with master gardeners from the Extension Services to create some new garden spaces outside the greenhouse in our "greenway"
- Teacher-gardeners and children are planting flowers and vegetables all over the place.
- We are in the midst of fertilizing (all organic), aerating and reseeding the playgrounds.

The following is reprinted from last Spring – it is great reminder to check for ticks often! We have found some here, but checking at home is recommended as well.

Dear Big Jeff,

I've heard that there will be lots of ticks this summer. I also heard that ticks are related to spiders. Say it ain't so.

Signed

Arachnophobe

Dear Tickster,

I attended a workshop on ticks, which I have fondly called the Tick Talk, at the Ray School earlier this month, so I've had a chance to think about the topic. It's true, ticks have 8 legs (insects have six) and are arachnids like spiders. BTW, I did get your "Say it ain't so" reference to Shoeless Joe Jackson and the Black Sox scandal of 1919, not that it has anything to do with ticks, of course.

As has been well publicized, it is the deer ticks that transmit Lyme Disease. The larger dog ticks are annoying, but if you make yourself strong of heart and just pluck them off and drop them in the toilet, they're nothing to worry about. I have a strong stomach for external parasites and some internal ones, so I'm happy to send cheerful thoughts your way. In this way it is quite helpful to have a country boy as your COO.

I found a few facts to be comforting:

- a. Deer ticks must be attached for 36-72 hours to transmit disease.
- b. Not every deer tick carries Lyme Disease.
- c. Each tick only feeds once in its life, so they aren't prowling from person to person.
- d. The rate of disease transmission is very low.
- e. Ticks avoid open sunny places like our playground

Still, deer ticks aren't to be taken lightly. Children should be checked after outdoor forays and each night. Bath time is excellent for a full body check. Lyme disease is most often transmitted by immature ticks called nymphs. They are really small, so look carefully. If you find one, remove it with fine tipped tweezers. Pull gently up and away from the skin. If the head separates from the body and stays in the skin, try to remove it with the tweezers, but don't panic. It will heal over. The germs are in the body of the tick, put ineloquently. Wash the area with soap and water or rubbing alcohol. Call your pediatrician if you have concerns.

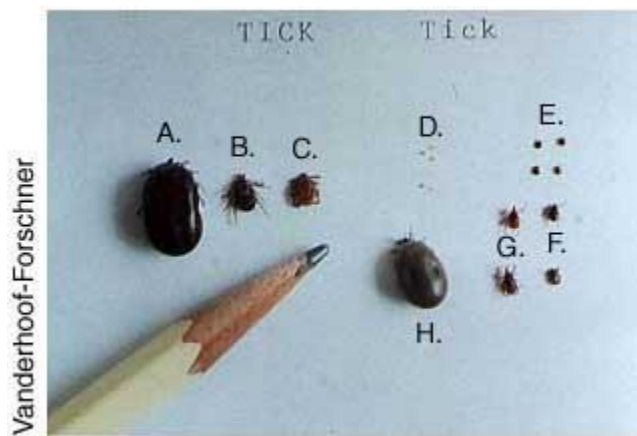
Some forms of prevention are especially well suited to home and family activities:

- a. Insect repellent with 20% DEET which must be reapplied every 2 hours. DEET is a powerful chemical, so we'd need your written permission if you want us to use it at DCCCC.
- b. Permethrin treated clothing
- c. Wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into your socks.

The CDC is an excellent source of information: <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/transmission/index.html> Check this link for a good photo of the relative size of dog ticks, deer ticks and their nymphs.

At DCCCC we will check for ticks after outdoor play. We'll let you know if we find anything interesting. In the meantime, play hard and go outside often.

Best wishes,
Big Jeff



Brown Dog Ticks	Black-Legged Ticks (Deer Ticks)
A. Engorged Female	D. Larvae
B. Female	E. Nymphs
C. Male	F. Males
	G. Females
	H. Engorged Female

Greetings From Sunnie:

Principle #3 from Bonnie Harris' *Confident Parents, Remarkable Kids*:
My Child's Greatest Need is Acceptance.

"[My daughter's] behavior was a complete mystery to me. She brought me to my knees and taught me how difficult this job of parenting really is. I had to learn to listen to my children rather than to the myriad voices around me. That meant paying attention."

I don't know if any of you are reading this book along with me, but let me tell you that this is a powerful chapter. As I sit here writing this column, I am listening to parents and children interact at the end of a long day of childcare and work. I can hear the children who feel like they need to exert more control. I can hear the parents who are worried that their children won't be happy or won't do what they are *supposed* to do. Helping children learn and grow is not an easy job.

Accepting our children (or anyone for that matter) for who they are sounds easy but it can be extremely difficult! As early childhood professionals, this is something that we work at daily. We have learned to differentiate between the person and the behavior. We have learned to say things such as "Transitions present a difficulty for her," rather than "She's difficult at transition time." We have learned that we need time to know and understand each child as an individual and that *one size* does not fit all. But how does all of the learning and knowledge actually look in a classroom?

In an infant/young toddler room you'll see and hear teachers giving a secret glance and reassuring word to children as an unfamiliar adult walks into the room. Rather than saying, "There's no reason to be worried," they will say, "You are worried because you don't know that person very well. You are safe; let's say hello to her together." Rather than seeing teachers ignore a child who is fussing or saying, "you have nothing to fuss about", you will see them acknowledge the child and talk to him/her even if they can't pick them up immediately. Rather than just assuming that a quiet child is happy by themselves, you'll see teachers engaging with all children and making sure that they all get special attention.

In an older toddler/twos classroom, you will see teachers structuring the day in ways that accept and acknowledge the special needs of their age group. There are plenty of opportunities for developing independence in a safe environment. There are times when adults are available to snuggle and read books and sing songs. Children are given opportunities to face challenges when they are ready. They are never forced to do something that will be scary for them such as climbing high in the multi; they are supported through trying if that is what they desire. For those children who really need to climb high, explore further or push boundaries in other ways, they have the opportunity to do so in a safe environment. One of the most important things that you will notice is that children are allowed to move at their own pace as much as possible. They have time to finish what they are doing and receive warning when changes will occur.

In older classrooms, children are given a great deal of support in learning to be together in a group. Teachers help children recognize that everyone has their own personality, tastes, and needs. Teachers give warnings about changes to the children who need them and refrain from giving warnings to the children who will become more anxious about the change. Teachers ask children what they need and find ways to help them see that they have a growing responsibility for their own behavior. When children think that things are not *fair* or *right*, teachers help children learn to express their feelings in ways that are useful; sometimes this takes a great deal of time. Teachers listen to children and work to find ways to meet individual needs whenever possible.

The one thing that you will not see or hear teachers doing is making children feel badly for what they feel or who they are. If a child is screaming or crying or lashing out or running away or hiding or withdrawing, teachers will always validate the child's feelings, give them time (and assistance if needed) to regain control, and then they will move on to working out the situation so that the child feels heard, loved, and valued. Isn't that what we all desire – really?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

- July 4, 2013** – Independence Day
- August 26 and 27, 2013** – Staff training and preparation for the new year!
- September 2, 2013** – Labor Day
- November 28, 2013** – Thanksgiving Day
- November 29, 2013** – Day after Thanksgiving
- December 23, 2013 – January 1, 2014** – Winter Break

The Bike Parade is Coming!

Mark your calendars!

Date: July 1 at 10:30

Rain Date: July 2

Bring Your Cameras!!!

Kids bring bikes or other wheeled vehicles from home and join in an all-out celebration of fun!



Now on Display
Artwork created by
children from DCCCC
will be on display at the
Howe Library during
the month of June.

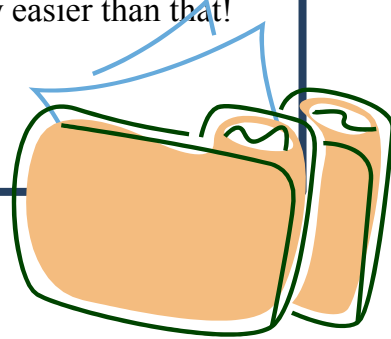


StoryTime in June

June 17 at 12:30
StoryTime will present:
"Can You Dig It?"
Stories about digging

Annual Form Updating Extraveganza!!

Back by popular demand.
We will once again be making it easy for you to
update your state required paperwork!
We'll be in the Multi July 8 and 9, 7:30-10:00
Stop by, look over your forms, initial and/or make
changes. It doesn't get any easier than that!



THANK YOU

A HUGE THANK YOU

TO ALL DCCCC
FAMILIES
FOR YOUR GESTURES OF APPRECIATION
ON
CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY!

Another Day to Mark on Your Calendar!
Picture Day!
Friday, October 11, 2013!
Details will follow as we get
closer to the date!



Resources for Families

For more information and schedule for the JazzFest
<http://hartlandcommunityarts.org>

2nd annual
HARTLAND JAZZFEST
 Library field, Hartland VT

**1 - 8PM
 Saturday
 June 22**

Featuring:

Skunk Hollow Jazz
 Fred Haas & Sabrina Brown
 Eric Bronstein's
 Thundering Muskrats
 Dr. Burma
 Cyn Barrette
 Billy Rosen & Shayma
 Carlos Ocasio
 WUHS Jazz Band
 Ed & Dixie Eastridge
 Pierre Fournier &
 Dave Wysocki Quartet

- Rain and sun shelter
- Food and drink vendors
- Bring a picnic
- Bring a chair
- Bring your family
- See you there!

Gate opens at noon
 Suggested Donation: \$10

Presented by Hartland Community Arts
FOR INFO AND UPDATES:
www.hartlandcommunityarts.org

FIND US ON  [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HartlandJazzFest) [@HartlandJazzFest](https://twitter.com/HartlandJazzFest) 

SPONSORED BY:  Mascoma Savings Bank
 Cynergy Productions
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 Plan well. Live well.

Book Sale

7/20/2013
 (10:00AM)

Event Fee: Free

Description:

Over 20,000 books for sale Saturday and Sunday. Sunday we open at 9:00 and close at 2:00 PM. Books include: trade fiction, children's books, nature, travel, special interest, non-fiction, history, pets, etc. Clean, well organized and fun sale! Refreshments will be available.

Cougar Court (1st left off Pleasant St)
 New London, NH 03257

Phone: 603-526-6368

Email: kcoaseniiorcenter@comcast.net

Website: kearsargecoa.com

34th Annual Quechee Hot Air Balloon Craft and Music Festival

Featuring Music, Fine Art, and Crafters on the Quechee Village Green

Father's Day Weekend - June 14, 15 and 16, 2013

For more information and schedule of events
<http://www.quecheeballoonfestival.com/>





MT. KEARSARGE INDIAN MUSEUM

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14th Annual Powwow

July 13 & 14, 2013



Head Man Dancer
Dave Jacques

Host Drum: Walking Bear Singers
 Black Thunder Singers
 Powder Horn Singers
 Lone Cry Singers
 Emcee: Ed Bullock
 Arena Director: James Edgell
 Gates Open at 10:00
 Grand Entry at noon
 Formal Saturday Evening Session

Hand Drum Competition

Sponsored by The Wandering Bull, LLC
 Register Saturday Morning
 1st Place: \$100.00, 2nd Place: \$50.00,
 Third Place: \$25.00

Craft Contest Sunday Morning

Ribbons will be awarded.

Food, Craft Vendors, Tour the Museum, Walk the Medicine Woods Trail, listen to Traditional Story Tellers, and more!

Admission

MKIM members admitted free
 Adults: \$8.50
 Seniors/Students: \$7.50
 Children: \$6.50
 Family: \$26.00
 Native Americans admitted free



Head Lady Dancer
Kim Caron

18 Highlawn Road, Warner, NH



21ST ANNUAL



OLD-FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH
FROM 10 AM 'TIL 1:00 PM
PARADE AT 10 AM
ACTIVITIES ON THE GREEN 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM
GAMES! PIE EATING CONTEST! FOOD! PARADE!
PONY RIDES! ENTERTAINMENT! LIVE MUSIC!

JOIN THE PARADE!
REGISTER YOUR CLUB, GROUP OR MARCH AS A FAMILY!
DECORATE YOUR BICYCLE!
BRING YOUR PATRIOTIC PET FOR THE PET PARADE!
REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT
HANOVER PARKS & RECREATION

LINE UP FOR THE PARADE ON HOVEY LANE AT 9:15 AM, STEP OFF AT 10 AM
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL LIZ BURDETTE AT 643-5315
 PARADE REGISTRATION FORMS ONLINE AT WWW.HANOVERNH.ORG

Recent Events at DCCCC





*Thank You
Bill Boyer*





**Arbor Day Celebration
Planting a Sugar Maple
Tree**



News from the Float Team

Eileen Ruml
Gladness Msumanje
Liz Harrington
Terri Crane

From Liz:

It's been awhile since I've written something for the newsletter! These past few months, I've had the pleasure of spending my days as a Woolly Bear. We explored light, practiced weaving on a loom, went on many small walks, and shared many songs and stories. Now the "wind" has blown me down to the Teddies! As a float, my time within a classroom can vary: from just a few hours to a few months. Since my time is so brief, I place a great deal of importance in relationship building. It can be anything from singing the names of everyone in a Teddy's family or bringing in an instrument or activity because a Grizzly showed interest in it after a conversation at lunchtime. These interactions build trust, which is especially important when you are not in a classroom full time. If I

walk through the Big Multi and a child greets me and wants to show me a trick, I feel successful. If a child asks me when I'm going to play with them in their room, even after months of not seeing them, I feel successful. It's moments like these that keep me going!

From Gladness (written while she was with the Teddies – she is now in Polar Room covering for Barb's vacation)

Hi families and friends. I am happy to have this chance to connect with you in this moment. I am Gladness, one of the floating assistant teachers here at our Center. I am currently working with Teddy Toos in the infant room and toddlers end of the building.

In this room each child has their own different schedules, and I find it very challenging! There is feeding time for toddlers, bottle feeding, diaper time, nap time, and outside time. More challenging to plan activities! Supervising an activity, take the walkers outside, rock three different children for morning nap! Change the diapers and serve snacks. Believe me we have our hands full!

These children are learning to explore the world. They are crawlers who climb the chairs, climb trucks, go inside the shelf and crawl under the table and try to stand up. All this exploring is very fascinating to watch and brings the smile in my busy day. So while I am smiling and enjoy the healthy growth and development; I squat, I bent, I crawl, I lift and carry throughout the day for guidance and support. The infant room is very intense from my experience, it needs focus, attention, physical strength, support for each other and the children. Most of all, working in Teddy takes presence of mind. Teddy teachers deserve special recognition for all of the complex work that they do. They are real multi-taskers!

News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,
Teacher

April Buchanan,
Assistant Teacher

The letters to parents have been sent, our enrollment lists have been updated and we can no longer deny that the end of our school year is coming. There is always sadness that some of our "babies" are moving on, but we do realize that it is time for them to have new challenges and experiences. Luckily we get to keep some of our Teddies for another year!

Over the summer we will spend more time outside and more time with the Pandas so that our older Teddies can get used to their new teachers. We will make sure that those of you moving on will meet the teachers and see your child's new room. We will meet with you to answer any questions that you have and one of the Panda teachers will be on hand to answer any questions that you have for them. Please do not hesitate to discuss concerns with any of us. We have our first two year old in the room! Kallen had a birthday this month while Xaxi turned one in May. Jack will be the next one to turn one!

Our summer help is back just in time for Wendy, April and I to use our vacation times. While you see many new faces, one of us "regulars" are always here.

Water play is a big part of outside play with the warmer weather. We have water tables with shovels and buckets in them. Some days we set up tubs on the ground for a more involved water experience. We sunscreen and dress the Teddies in t-shirts, hats and diapers. Water shoes such as crocs are great for the outside time. When everyone is awake in the afternoon we even go out then so, if the room is empty, you know where to find us!

Hope you are enjoying the warmer weather.

Fondly,
Debbie, Wendy and April



News from Teddy Too

Radoyka Garcia,
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins,
Teacher

Denise Ayres,
Assistant Teacher

.¡Saludos!

Greetings from the Teddy Too's!

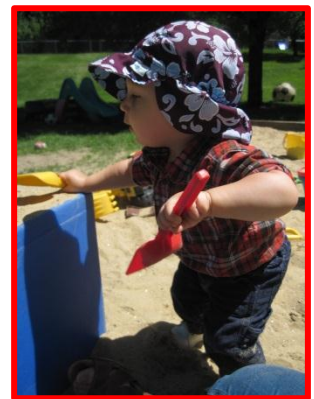
As you can see, our infants are toddling around with lots of balance and our 'young' toddlers are really getting older...more independent. This may have to do with the many birthdays we have celebrated... Charlotte and Eleanor have turned 2, Auggie, Henry, Joshua and Brody have turned 1 and upcoming summer birthdays are Sophia (1) and Arabella (1). Fall/Winter birthdays will be Gates, Caterina and Nivi who will celebrate as 'Pandas'. Jaclyn will be 2 in the winter but will be moving with her family...we will miss you lots Jackie!!!

Lori checked us out a few weeks ago and is slowly recovering— she sends her regards to all of our families. We have said our goodbyes to Gladness—we'll miss her! We have now welcomed another Assistant

Float, "Liz" and we are enjoying her a lot! We have begun with a wonderful crew this summer and we appreciate their help.

We look forward to more sunshine and lots of water play throughout the coming months!

Wishing you well,
Ray for the Teddy Too's





News from the Panda Bears

Jennifer Sprague,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,
Teacher

Teresa Hahn
Assistant Teacher

Hello Panda Families! Wow time is going by so fast in the Panda room I can't believe it is already June! The Pandas have been super busy with visiting the fire station, planting seeds and plants in the garden with Teresa, putting birdseed in feeders (which we have noticed the chipmunks enjoy the most), coloring to music, rowing in the kayak in the big multi, blowing bubbles, building a sunflower house, making glitter butterflies, having a fire truck wash, watching the daddy long legs on the plants, playing red light green light and playing catch with balls. We have just begun to learn about music and musical instruments. We have been playing with rain sticks, music boxes, tapping sticks, and with drums.

Here is a look at the pandas making the stepping stones for the floor of the sunflower house, moving the stones to the sunflower house area, and putting them down in the soil.





Stay tuned to see more about the sunflower house!

Quick Notes: Please have bathing suits in your child's cubby for water play outside and if you have a lighter blanket for your panda to use during rest time as it is getting warmer outside.

News from the Koalas

Susan Quimby Young,
Lead Teacher

Joel King,
Teacher

Assistant Teacher

WOW!!!! What a great month the Koalas have had! We've been hauling compost and gardening and will continue as the summer goes on.. waiting for the fruits of our labor!! We're working on a "bean tunnel house" on the Grizzly playground. We're planting tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, carrots, basil and lots of salad stuff. A couple of children actually asked for salad for a snack next week. You can bet we'll do just that!

Coming into the Koala room at the end of January, I have seen so much growth with this group. They sure can talk and they sure can negotiate with each other. Now this goes in a variety of forms. There's the "May I please have a turn after you?". This obviously is what we're striving for and we do see that sometimes. However.. these guys are 3 and 4 and it is so hard to wait so often we hear a loud voice saying "I waaaaaaaaaant it" or "I had it first" or "It's mine." As teachers, we work with the kids on this on a daily basis. We acknowledge that we do understand that it's hard to wait. We try to determine who actually did have it first which is a feat in itself sometimes!! We work with the

children to lower their voice and use more appropriate language. Sometimes we need to give them the words. And ultimately, we make sure the other child does have a turn. We often use a large visual timer that dings when the time is up. Some children actually ask for this. I feel that being sure the waiting child is offered a turn is crucial as they learn to trust us. This has helped the children to develop relationships with each other as well as with us as teachers.

We had an awesome field trip to Storr's pond with Brad Taylor, Nate's dad. He is a biologist who showed us so many different kinds of bugs that were in the stream. We were gathered around white pans looking at the variety with magnifying glasses. Ask your child what a "catalyst bug" is. Ask them where does the water in the brook come from? I knowwwwww!!

We are planning to go to the Dartmouth greenhouse on the 11th as guests of Becky Irwin. I have always wanted to go and can't wait. We'll take lots of pictures.

You might want to check out Howe library children's art display. You'll see some great work by your children. They did the project with Joel and clearly enjoyed themselves.

WAHHHHHHH..... it's the time of year that we have to say goodbye to some children who either are gone for the summer or moving to a new home. Nate will be gone for the summer with his parents but will return as a Woolly. Gabriel and Yirang's last day as a Koala will be July 19th but will return as a Woollies as well. A few are taking 4-5 weeks off but returning in August.

We will miss Kirsten so much. She is such a force in the Koala room and is loved by all. She is moving at the end of June. We wish her family well!

I just love Koalas!
Susan for the Koala team

News from the Woolly Bears

Jo Brambles,
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,
Teacher

Moya Stevens,
Assistant Teacher

We have been busy in the Woolly Room! Jo is here and ready for fun! Barb is on a well-earned vacation! Moya, Rosalind, and Brian are helping everyone stay on track! Here are a some pictures to show you a few of the things that we have been doing!

Jo knows many fun songs



There were several parts of our Arbor Day celebration

Listening



Posing



Watching



And Planting



We had fun in the mud



We made and ate butterflies with Irene and Emilia



And we just had fun!



News from the Polar Bears

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Miranda Arruda,
Teacher

Kelly Bosma,
Assistant Teacher

Hello and Farewell Polar Families,

By the time the next newsletter is written some families will be taking lengthy vacations and not returning for quite some time. Other Families will be leaving and not returning at all. It is a time of so many changes. This feels bittersweet. It is great that your children have grown to a place that they are ready to start new adventures and be given new opportunities to explore and learn. The flip side of that of course is we will miss your child and you. It is so hard to let go of the comforts of knowing who, what, where, when, and how. But they are ready!

The changes are happening to all the children, even those children that will continue on as a Polar. Peers that they see and interact with are no longer present. Separation is something that we need practice in because it will always be a part of our lives. Remember your children look to you as parents to guide their emotions. If you become overly anxious and not being positive, you will validate that they have a reason to worry. The good news is transitions are usually for a short period of time.

In the meantime the Polars are going to continue what we do best, explore learn and play together. As you know a highlight of the classroom is learning and observing the stages of chick hatching. We **HOPE** the chicks will start hatching on the 20 and 21st of this month. Some years I have been very successful, other years not so much. This is something that I am honest with the children about. We hope to have chicks but sometimes it does not happen that way. I then get to answer a swarm of questions such as. Why? Why not? Was the Temperature right Terri Hollis? Did the eggs break? Will they hatch another time? So I have come to realize that I most love the outcome to be the hatching of chicks, but it is a great learning opportunity regardless.

Mother Nature also provided the Polars with what is the best activity ever. After the storm a deeper and longer than usual mud puddle appeared on the playground. OH MY, Fun fun fun! Rolling in, running through, scooping, dumping, splashing, sheer genuine giggles of enjoyment were had. Thank You Mother Nature.

Miranda had just as much fun as your children while tie dyeing T-shirts with your children. How great and colorful they turned out. They wore them with lots of smiles and pride.

Remember our family Bar-B-Que will be on the 18th of this month (rain date 20th). I am hoping as many of you as possible will be able to come. It should be great fun. DCCCC will be purchasing the most of the food. Notice I said most. Closer to the time and those of you who would like, I will ask for one piece of fruit and one salad vegetable. I would like to involve your children in the process. We will have the children help us chop and dice and prepare a fruit and green salad for the festivities. We will be having hot dogs, Burgers, veggie burgers and dogs, along with all the fixings, chips and salads.

One last thing.....One last great thing

Join Miranda and Myself in welcoming a new addition to the Polar room. We hope you are as happy as we are in welcoming Kelly Bosma to the Polar Bear Room. She will make the Polar team complete. She joins us as our new teaching assistant.

Happy Adventures for all
On behalf of the Polar Room
Terri Hollis



News from the Grizzlies

Karen Gray,
Lead Teacher

Kristin Ball Cole,
Teacher

The countdown to graduating from Kindergarten has begun and it's beginning to feel real to the Grizzlies now! Our summer information packet has been distributed and we have begun talking to the Grizzlies about our all day summer plans which begins on June 20th. Sadly, we prepare to say goodbye to Lily Smith, Zabava Halchenko, Lauren Evans and Ezra Kleinbaum at the end of June followed by Pablo Martin-Asensio and Sean Nam in the middle of July. We hope we will get to keep in touch with them over the summer. We are excited to be welcoming some old preschool friends back to DCCCC including: Claire Reder, William Hopkins and Ethan St. Laurence. There will be lots of comings and goings with family vacations and varying official last days. We appreciate knowing in advance days you know your child will not be attending Grizzlies.

Our garden is underway! Grizzlies helped to plant beans, carrots, tomatoes, peas, cucumbers, potatoes and various flowers. We will spend a lot of time in there noticing the changes and growth happening and taking our part in watering and weeding and of course the most exciting part...eating! We are enjoying reading many gardening books and doing various projects with flowers. Please ask your child to bring you into the garden to look around.

We look forward to having more time to spend together during the summer months. We will begin a curriculum on water...animals that live in or near water...water experiments...swimming safety...keeping hydrated and keeping cool during the hot days ahead! We will make some changes in our room and hope to create a new feel for "Summer Camp" versus school (but don't worry, we'll continue to work on the academics throughout the summer too)! Several Grizzlies have mastered riding a 2-wheeler here this spring and we will provide more opportunities to practice! Along with all of the other interests outdoors, new games will be added this month to our outdoor space for exploration: Frisbees, jump ropes, bocce ball and play n' catch Velcro mitts/balls.

Grizzly families will soon be receiving more information regarding our trips to Storrs. There will be three adults walking the Grizzlies to Storrs on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning July 2nd and ending August 8th. Although we know that the children are very excited for this opportunity, we want you to know how seriously we take this excursion and we have already been discussing with the Grizzlies water safety and important rules we must all follow to remain safe in and around water. We hope we can relieve any fears you or your child may have by being organized, having the children prepared with clear expectations and thoroughly explaining details to you. Remember, you are welcomed to join us there!

The last few weeks of June will be busy with all of us adjusting to the new schedule, new group dynamics and celebrations. We leave you with this wonderful group photo. It was our hope to have every Grizzly in it but unfortunately Lily Smith was absent. Congratulations to both the Grizzlies and all of you for successfully completing the 1st of many school years to come!

Happy 6th Birthday to Jasper on June 27th!

