



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

September 2010

Teddies and Floats

Grizzlies, Polars, and Pandas

In This Issue:

Welcome	pg 1
From the Director	pg 2
Dear Big Jeff	pg 3
Sunnie Greetings	pg 5
Announcements	pg 6
Community Events	pg 7
Recently at DCCCC	pg 8
Float Team	pg 9
Teddy One	pg 10
Teddy Too	pg 11
Panda	pg 12
Koala	pg 13
Woolly	pg 14
Polar	pg 15
Grizzly	pg 16

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



**The Staff at DCCCC Welcomes you to
a new year!**



Koalas and Woollies



Teddy Toos and Office

From the Director

● Advice from Big Jeff

-Follow the speed limit on Reservoir Rd. I didn't think I could ever teach myself to go 20 mph. I've done it but it requires constant vigilance. It's better than getting stopped by HPD when half of Hanover is driving by.

-The driveway circle is off limits to children. Playing on the sidewalk isn't cool either. The Ray School playground is the safest place to congregate after picking up your child. The west lawn is sanctioned for this purpose if you promise to supervise your children.

● Got a question for Big Jeff?

Blitz me. The dog ate some of my mail. If I haven't answered your question this month, hit the resend button.

● Space available/needed at DCCCC

Space available: Some children haven't arrived yet, but additional days may be available – check with Big Jeff.

Space needed:

Koalas: Thursday

Grizzlies: Monday and Friday

● Classic DCCCC Reminders

- Label your child's clothing, each and every item.
- Keep a set of spare clothes in your child's cubby.
- Dress your child in layers. We'll peel them off and put them back on as the temperature dictates.
- Include a note in your child's lunch, every day, to let us know that it has passed your tree nut and peanut free inspection.
- Always sign in and out.
- Call to let us know if your child isn't coming for the day.
- Let your child's teacher know when you are leaving at the end of the day.
- Arrive in time to leave by 5:30.
- Keep older and younger siblings with you while they are in the building.
- Reinforce our rule, "The Multi closes at 5:00."
- Don't wait long before you ask your child's teacher about something that is worrying you.
- Let us know when your phone number, address, place of work, income or emergency contacts have changed.
- Be prepared to give your full attention to your child and your child's teacher when you drop off or pick-up – that phone call might have to wait a few minutes

• Ask Big Jeff

Dear Big Jeff,

What should I tell my 4-year-old son when he comes home from DCCCC with the claim that one of his classmates knows more about Star Wars than I do? Were this classmate of his a bit older, them'd be fightin' words, if you know what I mean. This question is probably coming across as a joke, but there's a serious subtext to it.

This Star Wars issue is just one of many wherein our son seems to be gathering external evidence to challenge our authority. I imagine this is a healthy, natural part of his growing up and creating his own independent character, and so I don't want to undermine this development. At the same time, there are moments when the claims he makes or the "evidence" he presents is plain wrong — informationally inaccurate, at best; morally repugnant, at worst. (The Star Wars issue, I think it's safe to say, belongs in the former category.)

As our children encounter (beyond their parents) "authorities" with ever greater influence over their lives, how do we handle such influences when this external message conflicts with what we're trying to teach them?

Signed

Concerned Dad

Dear Concerned,

I'm with you, Dad. It's possible that your child was fishing for a reaction, but it's also possible that the way he put his remarks meant something different to you than they did to him. Either way, in the case of the Star Wars challenge, you can proceed to the next level by sidestepping the challenge. You might acknowledge the content rather than the challenge by saying, "He knows a LOT about Star Wars, huh?" If you want to engender further conversation you can add, "Tell me more."

In the broader picture there are times when our children have the details garbled and there are times when they are just plain wrong. In fact there are so many times when children's reality is different from ours that we have to choose our battles. Arguing is never helpful and usually serves to polarize the issue. Here are some possible approaches to responding to erroneous remarks:

- Let it go.
- Ask for more information.
- Ask the child what HE thinks.
- Nod wisely and repeat the statement giving the correct information.
- Add additional information without contradicting the erroneous fact.
- Acknowledge that there are different opinions.
- Admit that no one knows for sure.
- Say what you believe.
- Insist (on safety issues or deeply moral matters)

Best wishes for fruitful conversation,

Big Jeff

Dear Big Jeff,

Jimmy seemed so happy and excited to be in a new classroom this year that I was the one with separation anxiety! I even availed myself of the teachers' kind offer of tissues and the opportunity to call and check on my little pumpkin in the middle of the day. I thought I was home free, but here we are in week two and the morning tears are flowing like Niagra Falls. Every morning when I try to say good-bye, my child is plastered to my leg. Did I do something wrong? Did something bad happen when I wasn't looking?

Signed,
Worried Mom

Dear Mom,

Of course you were worried – that's your job! You did the right thing to acknowledge your feelings, put confidence in your child and his teacher and bravely say good-bye. Your child did his/her job and jumped into a new situation with energy and enthusiasm, embracing change. Quite possibly he used his company manners remembering to cooperate, to flush the toilet and to say please and thank you. See, he did learn some life skills from you and from his teacher! Now, a couple weeks later, the newness is getting old. In the first place, he's probably tired and maybe a little cranky. Protesting the new and wishing for the old makes a lot of sense. He's right on target.

Now it's time to learn more about how things work. There are important questions to find the answers to. He may not have the words to ask the questions directly and the answers are more powerful in deed than in word anyway. For example:

Q. Am I safe here?

A. (Yes, the teacher DOES know where I am, even when I wandered away accidentally on purpose.)

Q. Does my teacher like me?

A. (Yes, she laughed and gave me a hug when I pretended I didn't hear her calling me.)

Q. Does this place have rules?

A. (Yes, after I dumped the Lego's on the floor because I was mad and didn't want to share them, the teacher had me pick them up. She helped me, too.)

Q. Is there any sense to what's going to happen next?

A. (Yes, every day we wash our hands first. Every day we go outside after snack. And when there's a change, the teacher says "Today, something is going to be different...")

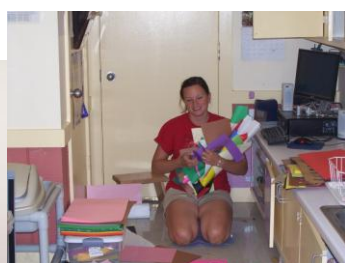
Sometimes it would be quicker and easier if we could just learn things by being told, but most of the time we learn them better if we try things out. That goes from grown-ups, too.

Best wishes,

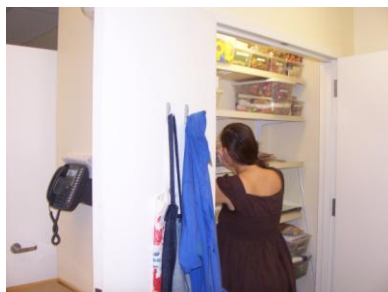
Big Jeff

Greetings from Sunnie

This is the first school year transition that I have watched from the outside! In previous years, I have been setting up my classroom, reading files and making plans for a new, younger group. This year, I was able to move throughout the building and see just what all the teams were doing. I thought that I would share what I saw with you! Here is a sampling of the amazing things that occur while the center is closed in preparation for a new year for your children!



meetings



Rearranging

- **Music with Brooke**

Brooke Wilkinson will soon begin music lessons with us on Tuesdays from October through April. Brooke was a popular addition to the DCCCC program in recent years and we look forward to making, listening to and moving to music again this year. You are always welcome to join your child's music lesson. Check with your child's teacher for time. If your child doesn't normally attend on Tuesdays, you are very welcome to bring and stay with him/her.

- **School Photo Day**

Mark your calendar for school photo day at DCCCC on November 11. More info coming soon!

- **Need an employee or visitor ID card?**

The Dartmouth Card Office has relocated to McNutt, Room #04 (basement). They are open from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Mon. – Fri.

- **All Day Grizzlies**

When the Ray School is closed, Grizzlies may attend DCCCC from 7:30- 5:30. If you opt to come in before 11:00, the office will add a fee for the "full day difference." Amy can tell you what it is if you'd like to know in advance.

- **DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:**

- November 25 and 26, 2010 – Thanksgiving Break
- December 23-31, 2010 – Winter Break
- March 21, 2011 – In-service Training Day
- May 30, 2011 – Memorial Day
- July 4, 2011 – Independence Day

- **Working Mom's Group**

Are you a working mom trying to get it all done? Would it be helpful to have others to talk to about the issues you are facing as a mom with a career? Then, the working mom's group is for you!

We are very casual group that gets together once a month for lunch to talk about whatever is on our minds. We all know how challenging it is to balance a career and a family and it's really nice to have others to talk with and get ideas or just vent. We discuss all types of things ranging from pregnancy, potty training, tween challenges, child care options, bedtime routines, food, etc. Any topic is open for discussion and people have been so helpful in offering advice and assistance when needed. Moms in the group have all age ranges of kids and everyone is welcome. Typically we have anywhere from 5-12 women at each lunch. It would be great to have more so I hope to see some new people join our group. See below for upcoming meeting dates. All lunches will take place at 12:00 p.m. at Ramunto's in Hanover.

Wednesday, October 13

Tuesday, November 9

Thursday, December 9

Mark your calendars now and try to join us! If you have any questions or would like additional information please blitz Megan.Sobel@dartmouth.edu.

• Community Events for children and families

-20th Anniversary of the Keene Pumpkin Festival® on October 16, 2010 in Downtown Keene
<http://www.pumpkinfestival.org/>

-Cedar Circle, 8th Annual Pumpkin Festival, October 10, 2010, 10:00-4:00
<http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org/events/harvest-festivals/>

-Billings Farm and Museum, Woodstock, VT. October 2 and 3, Pumpkin and Apple Celebration. October 9 and 10, Harvest Weekend. October 16 and 17, Wagon ride weekend. October 30, A Family Halloween.

http://www.billingsfarm.org/programs-events/special_events/index.html

• Announcing the 2008-2009 HopStop Family Series

HopStops are FREE, entertaining, hands-on programs designed to introduce young audiences to the wonders of the performing arts. These hour-long performances highlight music, theater and dance in ways that are interactive, engaging and exciting for young children and their families. At each HopStop you can chat with the performers, meet other Upper Valley families and enjoy a family-friendly show in a relaxing environment. HopStops are offered one Saturday each month throughout the school year in Alumni Hall at 11:00 a.m.

Jody Diamond – Gongs and Shadows!

Learn to tell a story with Javanese shadow puppets and play the gamelan, the royal orchestra of Java. Experience community music making and learn about other cultures.

October 2 at 11:00 am

Blair String Quartet – Haydn, Shubert and Bartok, Oh My!

The Blair String Quartet shares the beautiful and powerful voices of the cello, violin and viola in this unique opportunity to hear string music in the round. Let the virtuosity of their music whisk you away!

November 6 at 11:00am

Balla and Sekou Kouyate – What sounds can a Balafon make?

Balla, who began playing the balafon at age six, shares the stage with his son Sekou (age four), accompanying his dad on the djembe drum.

January 22 at 11:00am

Dartmouth Chinese Dance Troupe: 2011: Year of the Rabbit

Dartmouth's Chinese Dance Troupe brings this festive holiday to life with traditional East Asian dances, among them the Chinese Lion Dance, and the Filipino Tinikling Dance.

February 26 at 11:00am

Dancer's Corner Dancers – Step, Kick, Plie!

Student dancers ages four and up from Dancer's Corner Dance Studio in White River Junction and Grantham will perform some of their best jazz, tap, ballet and hip hop.

March 12 at 11:00 am

Susie Burke – Spring sing-a-long!

Drawing on her unique background as both a professional musician and an early childhood teacher, she presents a program that is entertaining, educational, and of high musical caliber.

April 2 at 11:00 am

Gumbo Loco – Let the Good Times Roll!

Spice up your Saturday morning routine with local musicians Andy Stewart, Mary Jo Slattery and Ivan Goguen.

May 21 at 11:00 am

All programs are subject to change.

For more information, call 603.646.2010 or visit:

<http://www.hop.dartmouth.edu/outreach>

Recent Events At DCCCC

What's Been Happening at DCCCC?

Service Awards!
Congratulations to Terri Hollis and Jeff Robbins who received recognition for their length of service to the College and DCCCC!

Terri: 15 years!

Jeff: 25 years!

Thank you for your dedication to the children and families at DCCCC!

Congratulations to Gladness!

In June we welcomed Gladness Msumanje to the DCCCC team of floaters. Gladness has worked as a DCCCC substitute since 2008. She has prior experience as a teaching assistant at the Montessori Children's House of Denver as well as other child care centers in Colorado and Missouri. Gladness has additional experience as a nanny.

Read Gladness' article in this newsletter on page 9



Welcoming the Grizzlies back to DCCCC on the first day of kindergarten



The fire fighters stay after a fire drill



Story telling with Big Jeff and James Burger which included a slide show on the ceiling and the gruesome details of the "The Three Billy Goats Gruff"



We said good-bye to Faith Goodness

News from the Float Team

Eileen Ruml
Teresa Hahn
Moya Stevens
Gladness
Msumanje

I am so excited to write our first floater newsletter! I have been looking forward to this for such a long time! At my first floater team meeting I was "welcomed with two hands," as we say in Tanzania. In my culture this means that someone accepts you from the bottom of their heart. This made me feel so good that at the next meeting I said that I would like to write something about assistant floaters for the newsletter.

Being a floater means floating. It means we have to go with the flow. You will find us here, there, and everywhere. Being able to float like this takes a lot of special skills. We adjust quickly to the different classroom cultures. We learn a lot about the styles and personalities of all the teachers at DCCCC. We get to know all the children, and all the children get to know us. That is why you will see them calling out our names when we meet them in the building and the playground.

Floater are also important because we support the work of other teachers and help make DCCC run smoothly. When lead teachers have meetings we come into the classroom to cover for them. If a teacher is sick or has a family emergency we quickly go where we are needed. This means that sometimes we have to adjust very quickly to new situations.

But we floaters do more than just float around! We plan activities in the classrooms. Last week I was teaching with Moya and she taught the children about gardens and flowers. She sang a song with them about flowers blowing in the wind, and the children stood up and stretched their arms as high and tall as they could go. When the song was over they clapped their hands and cried out for more. I felt so much energy and happiness being in that classroom with her.

As for me, I have been working in the Koala room lately. I love watching how intelligent and creative the children are when they play. And I love playing with them! One day we were building train tracks and roads. The children made tunnels with blocks for the cars to go through, and stop signs so that the cars would not run into the trains. Later we played outside and the children gathered at the sandbox. One of them shouted, "let's build a dinosaur island!" Some children started bringing tools and others started bringing dinosaurs. One of them shouted, "Gladness can you help us?" "Of course!" I said, smiling from ear to ear. We made a wonderful island with water all around it. Then we made an erupting volcano and a chocolate factory.

I learn so much when I play with children like this. They remind me the importance of staying in the present. Us grown-ups are always worrying about so many things in the future, even things that will never happen. It makes coming to work every day a wonder and a joy. And now I am so happy to share a few of these things with you in our floater newsletter!

Gladness Msumanje

News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,
Teacher

Keri Wolfe,
Assistant Teacher

"One little, two little, three little children.....ten little children in
Teddy One"!

We have some old timers :

Amelia and her mom: Becca

Annabel and her mom and dad: Gina and Archer, and sister Eliza

Harper and her mom and dad: Liz and Ethan

Brendan and his mom and dad: Megan and Kevin

We also have some new additions:

Guillem and his mom and dad:

Helen and Sergi

Greta and her mom and dad:

Jenn and Britton

Leilani and her mom and dad: Amy and Andrew

Kirsten and her mom and dad: Ana and Andrew

Katherine and her mom and dad: Lindsay and Jamie

Roxana and her mom and dad: Julia and Jeff



Happy to be a Teddy!



Big activities for big kids!

The children are busy exploring the room, watching each other and getting to know us. Wendy, Keri and I are busy feeding, cuddling, singing and getting to know everyone. We have been fortunate to have some extra help in the room, but this transition time is still busy and, at times, LOUD! It does take a few weeks to really settle in and develop a routine, but we are already enjoying the new smiles and giggles.

Our newest "toy" in the room is for the adults to enjoy. We hope that you have spotted our new digital frame on the right hand wall as you enter Teddy One. We are still working out some problems, but our goal is to have new pictures weekly. This will allow you to see all that goes on throughout our day.

We are excited about our new group and look forward to the fun times ahead.

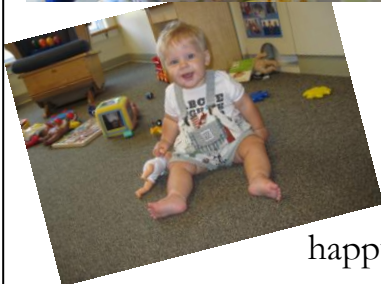
Fondly,
Debbie B.

News from Teddy Too

Terri Crane,
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins,
Teacher

Denise Ayres,
Assistant Teacher



Our room has been buzzing with new babies. At the time of this writing we have welcomed 5 new Teddies, Camilla, Lily, Xavier, Emma and Maddie. So far everyone seems to be settling in just fine. As to be expected there have been some tears and sadness, but also many happy times playing and having fun.

The Teddies that stayed Teddies are Liam, Sophie, Simon, Rowan and Louisa. We are happy to report that everyone is

settling in to all the new faces and are happily getting to know one another.



At the end of this month we will be saying goodbye to Louisa and her family. It has been a pleasure having them in the Teddy room this past year. We will miss Louisa's big smiles and all of her funny business. We wish them well in their new home in Tennessee.

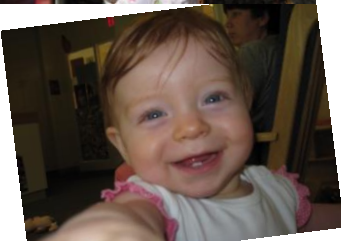
This time of year we are faced with cold mornings and warm afternoons. Please send in appropriate clothes for the weather and we will add or remove clothing as the temperature dictates. We will be going outside as much as possible during the day and like to be prepared.



Some other quick Teddy reminders please remember to wash hands upon arrival into the Teddy room also please sign in and out on the clipboard.

During this transition time if anyone has a question or concern please feel free to contact me.

Happy Fall,
Terri, Lori and Denise



News from the Panda Bears

Susan Young,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,
Teacher

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!!! And what fun we will have! You will see such growth this year in so many ways for your child. Their bodies will grow taller and stronger and faster. Their language will expand as their verbal skills emerge. They will begin conversing more with their peers as the year goes on. They will begin to identify colors and shapes and all sorts of things. They will go "on tour" outside in the field and learn about animal tracks, homes and all sorts of things that happen out there! Some will learn to use the potty! Anyway.... it will be a great year for sure!



I am adding some pictures of what is happening on a daily basis. I must tell you that one of my favorite views is one of the new Pandas running down the hall as they head to the big multi which is favorite for all. Some of the challenges they will work on in the big multi is jumping, climbing, using stairs, throwing and kicking balls and foam frizbees, balancing, using

stepping stones and balancing hats on our heads as we act out "Caps for Sale"! This is just to name a few!

So.. welcome to the Panda room and off we go!!



Fondly
Susan.



News from the Koalas

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Bobbie Lynn Stone,
Teacher

Jessica Lambert,
Assistant Teacher

Hello and welcome Koala Families,

Phew! We all did it. We managed to get through our first few days of our transition period. Remembering that a transition is defined as a period of time that it takes to get from one form or state to another.....and that we are.

Each year, as teachers, we immediately see how individual children are. How they handle change is no exception. Some barely seemed bothered by the changes at all, as they came in eager and ready to explore new materials and new activities. Others came in with a little apprehension before allowing themselves the fun of exploring. We have others yet that just need more time. Time to realize what we already know, and that is that they will be fine, and they are indeed safe.

They all have found things that they are really enjoying. The high heeled dress up shoes with the frilly skirts have been a real hit. The trains with tracks have been used each end every day. They have really loved the sensory things such as shaving cream, “magic” sand, wood shavings, playdough and.....

By far the most awesome thing for all has been exploring the big kid playground. The climber is so very big with many places to get away and hide. The ability as a little person to climb really high and see the tops of things has seemed magical. The swings are fun, but watch out they can also be dangerous. So many shovels, trucks and tubes in the oversized sand area. Then there is the stage and playhouse in which to create and use their imaginations. Then there are really big bikes where for some feet can barely reach the pedals if at all, no worries they just push and scoot if need be. They will grow into them soon enough.

All of our jobs right now and for a few more days will be just to learn about each other in our new spaces. But we really are off to a great start! Hang in there parents you are also doing great.

On behalf of the Koala Team
Terri Hollis

News from the Woolly Bears

Deb Girdwood,
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,
Teacher

Kristin Ball,
Assistant Teacher

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

We would like to welcome you all to the 2010-2011 Woolly bear school year! It has started off with lots of excitement and a few tears. The new group is settling in nicely to the routines of their day.

We are welcoming each other as a group during gathering. We sing songs like Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar which promotes the learning of names. They love to sing Head and Shoulder backwards. Woollies can often be found "Rocking Out" to dance music. This is a group of dancers and air guitar players.

We are excited about welcoming new life into our room as we watch our caterpillar; now chrysalis, soon turn into a monarch butterfly. The children have been learning about their habitats and life cycle. We have also been doing crafts to support our learning.



We are welcoming in season changes as well. The children have been noticing that some leaves are beginning to fall and the weather is cooler in the morning and afternoons. We are looking forward to watching these changes over the next two months. We will venture out to the Woolly Bear woods to chart the changes in the world around us.

We are looking forward to working with you and your children during this school year. Please contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns about your child.

We have scheduled our conference dates and several field trips in advance this year. Keep a look out for our WB calendar soon to be published.

From your Woolly Bear Team,

Deb, Barb and Kristin

News from the Polar Bears

Radoyka Garcia,
Lead Teacher

Tatyana Bills,
Teacher

Once again: “Welcome Polar Bears!”

We have moved right into the new year with smiles and giggles! Transitioning into the Polar Room went better than we expected! Not very many tears...just lots of bright eyes discovering new toys and friends! Continuing “Conscious Discipline” as the ‘Polar way of life’ has made Polars aware about their new environment and the new people that surround them. They have been excited about having daily jobs--some even want to do multiple jobs every day, but also the style in language and expectations of this new ‘school family’.

Polar parents have been very supportive during arrival and departure. Most children come in with a ‘super greeting!’ Others come in quietly and want their parents to play or read to them. It has been great!

Polar Bears show lots of enthusiasm learning gathering songs in Spanish through me and in Russian through Tatyana like, “Lets all come to Circle” and “We Wish you Well”. Having Tatyana has brought a great new twist to getting to know each other, especially when we are all together. She also plays our Polar Room piano which helps those children with shorter attention spans. Eileen has brought ‘mindfulness’ into the Polar Room. She does many calming and breathing exercises using gentle bells and a soft tone of voice. Children are very curious about this and enjoy the effects of being mindful within themselves and of others.

Our five older Polars have shown amazing skills to help the newer children become familiar with the room, our routines and how to use certain items. They have also noticed that many items are no longer available at children’s reach, like scissors, tape dispensers and glue sticks. Such items are available but they must ask a teacher, if and when they need them for creating things. We have made small changes in our daily schedule in order to help those who need potty-training and be able to monitor this effectively.

Our newer Polars have been doing wonderfully and show interest in everything in our room! Particularly lunch time, children like to socialize and have time to talk about the things they like to eat and what they want their parents to pack for them. We have also been rhyming, painting, learning finger-plays, even counting and recognizing colors in Spanish. Some children have begun to write their own names and recognize other Polars’ names.

A little sad news...Andrew Sun Chen (ex-Koala and now 2nd year Polar) is leaving DCCCC at the end of September. We’ll get to celebrate his 5th birthday before he leaves and we will be wishing him well while he joins a new child care. Andrew, you’ll be missed and you will always be a Polar in our hearts!

Way to go Polars! You are all a part of this ‘newness’ and I am so glad that you are present!

Glad to be Polars,
Ray, Tatyana & Eileen

News from the Grizzlies

Karen Gray,
Lead Teacher

Joelle Wyffels,
Teacher

Congratulations! Your children (and you!) have made the transition to this new and busy routine of morning Kindergarten followed by an afternoon of friends and fun in the Grizzly room. What a huge accomplishment...with so many new people, environments, routines, rules and things to remember and do (and all of it being introduced at one time)!

Our main emphasis in the Grizzly Room is on helping children develop their social competence. Our room is set up to encourage lots of social interaction, giving children the chance to move about and freely explore, build, pretend, and play. Children have responsibilities for taking care of their own things and for taking care of our room and each other. We have a predictable routine and consistent guidelines to encourage safe and respectful behavior. We want each child to feel safe and comfortable, and to establish a sense of trust in their new teachers and a sense of belonging in their new situation as Grizzlies. As we establish the pattern of the Grizzly day, we hope to create a balance of active and quiet play, inside and outside time, free choice and teacher-directed activities.

MEET THE GRIZZLIES!

(Friends would like to share with you what they are enjoying about their new experiences and what they would like to do/learn this year)

NELL: My name is Nell Casey and I am 5. I will be the first Grizzly to turn 6 on October 2nd. I just started Kindergarten at the Ray School in Mrs. McCoy's class. I enjoy going to Art class there. At Grizzlies I like to trace things. This year I want to learn to read.

CAMERON: My name is Cameron Bonner. I love going to Grizzlies and especially playing upstairs and building with legos. Mrs. James is my Kindergarten teacher at the Ray School. In school, I like studying at the science center where they have dead wasps and hives where the bees make honey. They also have cool shells set up there. At Grizzlies I want to learn how to call people on the telephone and learn telephone numbers.

VIDUSHI: My name is Vidushi Sharma. I like Kindergarten. I like my teacher. Her name is Mrs. Orland. I like having meeting with her and the circle rug. We greet each other by giving high 5's. I like having recess and I know to stand in line when the 3 whistles blow. I like when Karen and Joelle pick me up and walk me to Grizzlies. At Grizzlies I think rest time is fun because we get to look at books and color and it is later in the day and so short. I also like snack time, painting, the marble track, and reading books. I want to have more practice drawing people, especially painting them like artists do.

BEN: My name is Ben Williams. Mrs. Orlen is my Kindergarten teacher and I love to have recess and play soccer there. At Grizzlies I like playing Rush Hour and building with the marble track and legos. We have a lot of legos at Grizzlies! I want to learn to spell new words this year.

AMINA: My name is Amina Ajwang'. I am getting used to going to Kindergarten in Mrs. Schimke's classroom. Going to art and sing-along have been my favorite. In Grizzlies I like to color and look at books. I would like to do different art projects this year.

EMILIA: My name is Emilia Torresani. I like going to art class at the Ray School. I am in Mrs. McCoy's Kindergarten. I like picking big beans at Grizzlies and having the teachers read me stories. I would like to learn how to read this year and also be able to make fuse beads.

IAN: My name is Ian Marks. I go to the Lyme School and am in Mrs. Fleming's class. I like eating lunch there at the hexagon tables and it is fun having morning meeting in the gym so I can see my sister. My class has a nice rug. I like playing the octopus chase game. At Grizzlies I like to play with the water hoses in the sandbox, go on the tire swing and climbers, and go in the garden.

ELLA: My name is Ella Zinman. I am in Mrs. Alberta's Kindergarten at the Ray School. At school I like to look at books. At Grizzlies I like to dress-up. I want to practice cutting better this year.

CASEY: My name is Casey Havrda. I like Mrs. Landry's room. I like having recess time so I can play with my friends. At Grizzlies I love the whole day especially the marble track and getting to rest upstairs and in the quiet space. I want to spend more time in the Grizzly garden and yard.

NATALIA: My name is Natalia Somoff. I go to Kindergarten at the Ray School. My teacher's name is Mrs. Shimkee. At school I like to read books, go to sing-along, and do math. At Grizzlies I love to play upstairs with the legos, blocks, people, and animals. I also like to color and read books in the quiet space. I wish to do fuse beads at Grizzlies.

CARTER: My name is Carter Hawke. Mrs. McCoy is my teacher. I love riding the school bus to Kindergarten. I like to play with the trucks at recess. At Grizzlies my favorite things to do are play with the legos upstairs and learn how to play new games. I want to learn how to be a scientist.

ADAM: My name is Adam Gilbert-Diamond. My teacher is Mrs. Landry. In Kindergarten I like having recess but it is too short. At Grizzlies I like to play with my Polar Bear friends. The marble track is fun. I hope we can make paper flowers this year.

GIANLUCA: My name is Gianluca Audia. At Kindergarten I am in Mrs. Landry's class and I like to play soccer at recess time. At Grizzlies I like to build with the legos, pick and eat beans in the garden, and play with my friends. I want to have time to play on the Grizzly playground this year and play baseball.

ASHLEY: My name is Ashley Cotter. Mrs. Alberta is my Kindergarten teacher. Reading books and having snack is what I like to do there. At Grizzlies, I like looking at the I Spy books. I wish we could have quiet time all afternoon, it is fun!

AUDREY: My name is Audrey Lewellen. I am in Kindergarten at Crossroads Academy in Mrs. McPherson's room. In school I like playing with the globe and going outside for recess. When I get to Grizzlies after lunch I like to color and read books upstairs and also go outside to play. I hope to learn to draw better this year and do math.

MORITZ: My name is Moritz Makosch. Mrs. Connolly is my teacher. I like doing projects and having recess time. At Grizzlies I like having rest time because it is quiet. I want to learn to draw better.

KATE: My name is Kate Valentino. I am in Mrs. Alberta's Kindergarten class with Ashley. I think music class is fun and swinging at recess time. I like Grizzlies. I like to color. I want to have multi time.

LIAM: My name is Liam Worden. Mrs. Connolly is my teacher. I like having recess time and I mostly like to shoot baskets. I like building legos and making necklaces at Grizzlies. I also like picking beans. This year I want to learn about space, planets, and rocket ships.

There is so much learning, discovery, growing, and connecting in the year ahead!

Happy 5th Birthday to Moritz Makosch on September 20th!



Looking ahead to a great year,
Karen & Joelle

The Wonderful 2010-2011 Grizzly Group
(not present: Moritz Makosch and Sophia Shi)