DCCC Says Good-bye to the Grizzly Program after 27 Years

Friday, August 1, 2014 was the last day of the Grizzly Program at DCCCC.

The first Grizzlies walked through the door in 1987. At that time, fifteen Kindergartners and two teachers occupied the room that is currently the Woolly classroom. Around 1995, the Grizzly Program moved to what is now the Koala room. In 2003, DCCCC expanded and a new classroom was created just for the Grizzlies! It was big and beautiful and had space for 18 Grizzlies rather than 15. As the field of primary education continues to evolve and change, many Kindergartens in the area became full-day programs and we eventually only had children from Hanover during the school year and welcomed children from neighboring towns during the summer. Hanover, after much study and planning, decided that full-day Kindergarten would be beneficial and they will have their first full-day program starting in September of 2014. That means that we no longer need to have a Grizzly Program at DCCCC.

We have memories of many children and staff who made their way through that program. Some of our past Grizzlies have volunteered or worked here as teenagers. We will miss the Grizzly program greatly, but we are happy that we will be able to meet the needs of a greater number of Dartmouth families who have children younger than five years old!
Thank You and Goodbye

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."
A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

It was an honor to be asked, and a privilege to spend this past year with the Grizzlies. It was a year full of gifts – of wonder and discovery, of learning and growth, of passion and creativity. Together we discovered many things about ourselves, about others, and about our world.

We read aloud more than forty chapter books, traveling far and wide to places real and imagined. We honed our powers of observation, mindfully employing all of our senses. Grizzlies have AMAZING powers of observation. We ate together and cooked together. We made giant messes and cleaned up together. We cried together and worked hard to mend frazzled ends. We laughed together and celebrated small successes and major accomplishments. We imagined and pretended WILD things, and experimented with power. We made up our own rules on a daily basis. (Did you know, “It’s a crime to make a rhyme? You have to do time!”) We made up our own Word Searches and Hidden Pictures. We climbed trees and played games and acted silly. We challenged each other to listen, to run fast, to throw high, to solve problems. We helped each other spell and read and tie shoes. We took turns and shared our stuff. We held hands a lot. Together we created community.

Thank you. Thank you, Grizzly families, for entrusting us with the care of your precious children. Thank you for sending them with spare clothing for messy play, for packing lunches to sustain and nourish their active and growing bodies, for humoring the many paper/bottle cap/tape/cardboard/glue projects that came home. Thank you for supporting them in their work, the work of finding their place in the Grizzly community. Thank you for your kind and encouraging words throughout the year, and for taking the time to check in at the end of every day.

Thank you, Grizzly Team – Kristin, Rosalind, Anna, Heather. Thank you to all of the wonderfully supportive DCCCC staff who came into the Grizzly community throughout the year. Some of you spent time with us every week, and we loved you!

Now we are off to new adventures. And we are richer people for having been together. "If ever there is tomorrow when we're not together... there is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." A.A. Milne

Ever Grateful,
Brenda
A Few Pictures of the Last Day of the Grizzly Program!
From the Director

Dear Big Jeff,
Wait! No Grizzlies next year? What happened?
Signed,
Rip Van Winkle

Dear Rip,

It’s true. Friday, August 1 was the last day of the last Grizzly group ever. The need for After-Kindergarten care was eliminated when Hanover became the last school in our catchment area to offer full-day Kindergarten for the coming school year. After 27 years we will profoundly miss our 5 and 6 year old friends who were really great at being big helpers and friends in other classrooms. Grizzlies have always been excellent back rubbers at nap time! So, too, have they taught us about being Big Kids with one foot in their preschool world and one foot in the wide world of “real school.”

But check out the Grizzly room this month – babies! Well, toddlers, actually. While you’re looking for babies, check out the Little Multi, too. The Teddies are in their “vacation rentals” while construction is underway in their wing. In short order, crib rooms will be removed creating two large rooms with sleeping areas in full view of the teachers, bringing us up to speed with current best practices.

Remember, when we reopen on Wed. August 27 it will be with reorganized age groups, reconfigured teaching teams and new names. These are exciting times!
Big Jeff
Dear Big Jeff,

My daughter seems unsettled by all the changes – children leaving, teachers on vacation, construction, new faces. Sometimes she’s excited to come to school to see who is there and other times she says she doesn’t like school anymore and wants to go to work with me. What do I say to her?

Mom at a Loss

Dear At A Loss,

Your daughter has the great talent of letting us know how she is feeling without having to find exactly the right words. She is getting her message through loud and clear – “There’s a lot going on here and I like some of it and some of it I don’t like. Sometimes I feel one way and sometimes I feel another. Please help me manage this.” Who doesn’t understand that feeling?

Teachers have been helping children prepare for the summer changes for some time, striving for the same balance you do – providing enough information so kids have a framework of understanding, but not so much as to be overwhelming. But preparation is just that, then the change happens and you feel how you feel.

Check with your child’s teachers to see which of these suggestions might be helpful for your child:

- keep routines the same. When it’s time to go to school, come ahead. We can help with “it was hard to get started this morning”
- get plenty of rest. Your child, too!
- get plenty of exercise and fresh air.
- be flexible. Let the dinner dishes wait if your child needs an extra story and a snuggle.
- help put your child’s thoughts and feelings into words (babies, too). Don’t judge, don’t editorialize. See how close you can come to just saying what your child is thinking.
- stay calm and positive. Let your child know through your words and demeanor that you are confident in everyone’s ability to successfully negotiate these changes.
- look on the bright side. What changes and surprises can you find to delight in?
- keep your child’s teacher apprised of changes and talk over the best ways to meet your child’s needs.
- when all else fails, often an indication that we’ve beaten it to death, go outside and play.

With whatever ups and downs that befit their personalities, the kids are doing great. Adults, too!

With growing excitement,

Big Jeff
The Fall Line-Up

**Chickadees (infants)**  
(current Teddy room)  
Ray Garcia  
Lori Higgins  
Denise Ayers  
To join as we gradually increase enrollment  
Teresa Hahn  
Kristin Cole  
Audrey Stout

**Owls (toddlers)**  
(current Panda room)  
Debbie Burnham  
Wendy Irwin  
April Buchanan

**Hedgehogs (toddlers)**  
(current Woolly room)  
Jennifer Sprague  
Jenn Boudro  
Anna Fuller

**Otters (preschool)**  
(current Polar room)  
Susan Young  
Joel King  
Valerie Stefani

**Badgers (preschool)**  
(current Koala room)  
Terri Hollis  
Miranda Arruda  
Melissa Horrigan

**Black Bears (preschool)**  
(current Grizzly room)  
(announcement soon)  
Barb Merchand  
Kelly Bosma

**(Wandering) Woodchucks**  

Floating Assistant Teachers  
Terri Crane (mornings only)  
Eileen Ruml (M,W,F)  
Liz Harrington  
Moya Stevens

**Administrative Team**  
Terry Chase  
Dawn Cote  
Jeff Robbins  
Sunnie McPhetres

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Where are the Teddies?

Renovations have commenced to remove Teddy crib rooms bringing us into compliance with new rules for the supervision of infant sleep. Teddy One has moved (temporarily) to the Little Multi; Teddy Too has moved (temporarily) to the Grizzly room. The Chickadee program will resume in the usual infant classrooms on August 27.

Teddy One in the Little Multi  
Teddy Too in the former Grizzly room
ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

Old Class/New Class

The last day in current classrooms will be Wednesday, August 20.

The first day in new classrooms will be Wednesday, August 27.

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

August 21,22,25,26 – Transitional days

September 1, 2014 – Labor Day

Reminder
Reservoir Road speed limit is 25 mph and 20 in the school zone when the light is flashing. It’s almost time for school to begin and the limit is quite strictly enforced.

Face Book Pages to check out:
Upper Valley Moms
Vermont State Parks
Upper Valley Kid Swap
Upper Valley (VT/NH)

Websites of interest
Resources for Upper Valley families
http://www.uppervalleyconnections.com/events/#resources-22

Drowning prevention
http://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/injuries-emergencies/Pages/Drowning.aspx

Healthy Children
http://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx
FESTIVAL OF EARTHY DELIGHTS: GREAT FOOD, CRAFT BREWS, FINE WINE & LIVE MUSIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10. 3 - 6PM at COURT STREET ARTS AT ALUMNI HALL, Haverhill, NH

Admission includes samples of culinary delights, a souvenir glass, door prizes, silent auction, live music with Patrick Ross, Hunter Paye and The Van Burens! This is a family-friendly event with fun for the kids! Tickets are $20 food; $25 food and drink; kids are free with an adult.

Attendees wishing to sample alcohol must provide a valid photo ID the day of the event. Non-alcohol beverages will be available.

The event will be held at the historic Alumni Hall building located in scenic Haverhill Corner. Tickets are limited so get them today - online at courtstreetarts.org OR at The Local Buzz (Bradford, VT), The Newbury Village Store (Newbury, VT), An Affair to Remember (Woodsville, NH), The Littleton Co-op (Littleton, NH).

Sponsored by Steenburgh Auctioneers and The Dead River Company


Looking for some fun new adventures? Register for the Upper Valley Farms Super Quest! http://www.vitalcommunities.org/valleyquest/superquest.cfm

The Upper Valley is full of amazing farms for you to discover. Register your team, download your clues and visit 12 farm-related destinations. Explore, learn, eat, enjoy, and find the hidden word. Solve our puzzle, earn a cool new patch, and be entered in our grand prize drawing. You have until November 1, so take your time and enjoy the journey. Special thanks to Farm-Way for sponsoring this year’s Super Quest.

Lauren Whittlesey
Valley Quest and Volunteer Manager
lauren@vitalcommunities.org
802.291.9100 x107

Sign up to take the 2014 challenge: the Upper Valley Farms Super Quest!
Pictures from the Summer Olympics
This is the absolute last newsletter for Teddy One! On Friday, August 1st Wendy, April and I said goodbye to our classroom and started work on the little multi. Saying goodbye was a little sad, but we got right to work on our temporary home for the next few weeks. We were pleased with how the multi looked and hope that you are happy with the results.

This time of year we reflect on how much the children have changed. We look at the photos we have taken over the year and remember everyone's first weeks with us. The year just flies by and the children change weekly.

Conrad has already left for the month of August. He started as a baby and is now a climbing, running, talking boy. He will return for the new year as a Hedgehog. Elliot will join him in the Hedgehog room. Elliot is now doing one piece puzzles on his own and occasionally using the potty.

Jack is learning the letters in his name and "reading" passages in our storybooks. Jack will join the Otters in the new school year. Scarlett is talking nonstop and keeps us laughing with her conversations. James is walking now: forward, backwards and on his tippy toes. He also starts dancing when he hears music. Both Scarlett and James will be Owls.

Matteo turned one and is now going on to a new adventure. We will miss his sweet smiles!

Malcolm is crawling and exploring the room. Malcolm will also be moving on to a new center as his big sister enters kindergarten.

Our youngest, Hugo, is already rolling over! Even in his short time here we see changes in his abilities.

This summer we have spent most of our time outside. We explore the gardens (beans are ready for eating), make sand castles and splash in the water tables. We have colored outside with chalk and markers, blown lots of bubbles and taken rides in the wagon.

We have truly loved spending time with your children and getting to know you all. We consider it a privilege to be a part of your family. We hope you all enjoy the last few weeks of summer. Look for us "Owls" in the fall!

Fondly,
Debbie, Wendy and April
“Hola!” Hello to all from the Teddy Too’s!

We are enjoying the summer with our Teddies! Every child has blossomed and has developed so many skills! Everyone is officially mobile—and they can go really fast! Some are even talking in sentences (or babbling), signing favorite words, remembering routines on their own and saying their friends’ names!

It is also that time of year when we prepare our children to learn about their new classrooms and teachers. There are many lunch times and play times spent, in which they have a chance to engage with their new teachers. So far, it has been going great for our children. But, honestly, it’s really hard for us Teddy Teachers to ‘let go’ as we have seen these children grow from just a few months old until now. A few have turned one already, but most of our Teddies are two years old and that is not an easy thing to do…to let go! One baby will turn one this winter, so we get to keep one, yeah! But we know that eventually life will change for them, no matter what and you can see when they spread their wings towards the adventures that await!

After many weeks of teamwork of packing and sorting, we’ve made lots of progress in our temporary classroom of the Grizzlies. Lori made it really comfy for us to continue our routine in the huge space of the old kindergartners and Denise has made a few transformations around the gorgeous Grizzly gardens bringing toddler-friendly items to the outdoors! Most importantly, we see how happy our children are as they make new discoveries in this beautiful space.

Speaking of spreading wings; this is the last of our classroom name as we reach the end of August. So many, many, many years as “Teddy Too’s” to the new “Chickadees!” We are getting ready to enjoy the new journey (in our new setup) this fall. New babies have been visiting and others are on the way! Come the fall, I’m sure we’ll find some time to peek at our old Teddies once they have adjusted to their new rooms. It will be very exciting!
Teddies, we will miss you soooooo very much and we hope that you somehow remember us! We will never forget you as you all made this last Teddy year very memorable!

Thank you from our hearts!!!
Ray, Lori and Denise
(The current Teddy Too team; soon to be the: “Chickadees”)

…and special thanks to all the helpers, floats, staff and volunteers that made it possible for us!
Hi Panda Families!
What a great year we have had together. From going apple and pumpkin picking in the fall, to birthday snacks, all the way up to walking to the fire station! We would like to thank all parents for a wonderful year together and we are looking forward to seeing your children next year in the Otter and Badger classrooms. We will be celebrating our year together during our family snack on Wed. August 20th at 4:00. The Pandas will be making a delicious snack to enjoy and we will be showing a video of pictures from the year. If you cannot attend please let a teacher know so that we can give your child there photo book and video to take home to enjoy.

Now let’s look back at how much they have all grown this year.

News from the Panda Bears

Jennifer Sprague, Lead Teacher
Jenn Boudro, Teacher
Teresa Hahn, Assistant Teacher
Hey Families,

WOW, the year is coming to its conclusion and the anticipation of the new classes is swiftly gaining traction. This Koala class has been full of great memories and fascinating development, with a mix of diversity and culture unmatched to any other.

This year in particular has exhibited the power of learning through play and social interactions. The in depth conversations, complex play and scenario creation are clear demonstrations of the cognitive and social development that has taken place over the past 11 months.

For this final KOALA newsletter we just wanted to mention some of the most memorable moments and highlights of the year:

😊 Air mattress Sliding
😊 Apple Picking
😊 Flying Kites
😊 Hiking the trail and creating the Koala Woods
😊 Building the Garden Boxes
😊 The First Koala garden harvest and making squash chips
😊 Teaching English….and learning Chinese: 水 Shuǐ 警察 Jǐngchá 茶 Chá
😊 洗手 Xǐshǒu 哭 Kū
😊 Story times on the couch
😊 The love for Buses, fire trucks, trains and all things with wheels
😊 The police officer dramatic play
😊 The cooking projects
😊 Tons and tons and tons and tons of DIRT play
😊 Rocking out with the guitar, drums, piano and maracas
😊 The emails to mommies and daddies when the Koalas missed them

Thank you to all the families for making the 2013/2014 Koala class – the last one – a fantastic unforgettable experience. Also, for Raven who was able to spend the summer with us before she heads off for her senior year in college – Thank you Raven you are an amazing individual.

Sincerely,

Joel for the Koala Team
Hello Families!

My, my… how the time does fly! Can you believe that it's already August and our Woolly Bear time is coming to a close? Some of our wonderful Woollies will be wandering on to big and bright things in Kindergarten! Even though they will not be with us, we will always have many memories of them in our minds and our hearts.

We will remember…

Sophie for her love of sparkles and cooking.

Jason for his expertise on all things trains and love of Pigeon books.

Cathy for her assistance in helping friends follow the Woolly Bear Way and her swan, "Goosie."

Rowan for his scientific mind and his compassionate friendships.

Lily for her strong spirit and kind heart.

Anya for her leadership and love of teaching others to write.

Ashika for her love of art and contagious smile.
Owen S. for his sense of humor and his helpful heart.

And Klil for her creativity and her love of dramatic play.

We celebrate and remember Woollies who are becoming Black Bears…

Nate for his love of science and his Freddy.

Carter for his delivery of factual information and contagious laugh.

Owen O. for his dedication to dramatic play and the love he shares for his family.

Greta for her warm snuggles and pride in becoming a super big sister.

Katharine for her bounty of knowledge and big smile.

Simon for his inquisitive mind and his Cheetah and Cheeta-Jag.
Yirang for her compassion and enthusiasm for all things.

Faith for her flexibility and love of all Woollies big and small.

Noah for his love of the outdoors and his dedication.

Rafael for his interest in all outdoor environments and his wonderful questions.

Black Bears will also be welcoming Annabel, Liam, Angus, and Maddie from Polars and Remi, Caroline, and Rena from Koalas. What a wonderful Black Bear family it will be!

As we close the book on the Woolly Room for the last time, we’d like to thank all of our helpers like Brian, Jane, Laura, Bergina, and all of the others who have stepped in to help Woollies move smoothly throughout our day. We also thank you, our families, as many of our wonderful experiences would not be possible without you! We hope to be able to still visit with all of you from time to time, no matter where you are!

Sending you all lots of love,

The Woolly Bear Team
Barb, Liz, and Melissa
Hello Families!

This has been a very exciting summer in the Polar Bear Room! The kids have enjoyed Zumba in the multi, splatter painting with pool noodles, an ice cream trip, DCCC Summer Olympics, the Bike Parade, a trip to the Howe Library, nature walks, lots of art projects, water play, plus so much more! We said goodbye to some friends, but got to say hello to a few faces we hadn’t seen in a while. We are all looking forward to our upcoming field trips to the Montshire Museum, VINS, and the Hanover Fire Department! Busy, but worth it! We’ve missed our Terri Hollis, but we are very excited to see her soon!

This has been a year of growth for the Polar Bears. Everyone worked so hard (whether they knew it or not) to learn new things. Emotional awareness, cognitive ability, and social navigation were explored and gained through lots and lots of play. It is truly an amazing thing to witness. The children are not the only ones who have grown though. The teachers throughout the center were faced with new challenges as DCCC began its transition. I think I speak for everyone when I say it wasn’t always easy. One of the best aspects to DCCC is the teamwork among staff, and because of that the transition happened, is happening, and will continue to happen smoothly. The children are getting excited about moving on to their next step as well, whether it be kindergarten or the Black Bear room here at DCCC.

Thanks to all our support staff, we so appreciate all you do! Thanks to all our families for giving us the opportunity to love your children. We feel very lucky to do the work we do every day. Thanks to the DCCC staff for being a great team. It has been quite a year and it wouldn't have been possible without the support we give each other.

We remember the year and appreciate the challenges we faced and cherish the memories we made. We look forward to the future with excitement and anticipation, but mostly we are really, really enjoying where we are now, and that is having a blast in the Polar Bear Room!

Miranda,
On behalf of the Polar Bear Team